

CWO newsletter Winter 2016

- 1) **Safe Hands courses 2017**
- 2) **Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006**
- 3) **Proposed changes to the constitution of clubs in the `pyramid`**
- 4) **Other matters and the future**

1.

The Safe Hands course for new and established CWOs will be changing from Feb 2017. The old course has been run for a number of years, and like most things, changes happen.

I went to Loughborough last week, with other tutors, to listen to the new course and to be able to give our feelings on the course content and how we can deliver it.

The main points are still included but the delivery will be slightly different and it is more geared towards a club `listening to children` and how we can achieve that.

We all know that the future of any club is in the strength of its junior players, who in the future will be players, administrators or just supporters, and without that bedrock of support no club can expect to survive.

2.

The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 clearly defines the roles which require vetting checks and also the summary penalty, at the moment a max £5000 fine for clubs who allow people to work in roles which should be vetted and don't have them checked.

The law was due to change in Oct 2016 to alter the penalty from a financial one to a criminal conviction. The decision to delay the change was made when the new Prime Minister came into office, and although the change has been put on hold we have not been told when it will be implemented.

3,

I have forwarded a proposal to all the leagues in the Cheshire pyramid to consider at their AGMs as an amendment to the league constitution, which will set up a framework to work with clubs to ensure that legal requirements are complied with in regards to the SVGA 2006.

At the present time those liable for fines are the Clubs, the leagues and the Cheshire Cricket Board.

The document I have circulated, which has been drafted by Cricket Wales, after consultation with their various legal departments, removes the liability from the league, but also requires a `league welfare officer` to be supplied with details of those who require vetting checks prior to the start of the season.

It also gives a framework of how clubs who fail to comply to requirements can be dealt with.

Some leagues have told me that there is nothing in their own constitutions which allows them to penalise clubs who allow people to work with young people, so this is looking at addressing that problem.

In April 2016 there were over 60 clubs who had people in roles who should have been vetted.

In Sept there were still more that 20 clubs who had allowed adults to work with children through the season and not been vetted.

In a number of clubs nothing had changed from April till Sept and in one club the captain of a team has now moved to another club, whilst another adult has indicated he no longer wishes to captain a team.

With the lessons learned from recent sporting revelations as well as a number of cases in the country, as well as in Cheshire where adults have been convicted and sent to prison for offences against children, I feel that DBS checks should be very high on a clubs agenda.

4.

a) I have decided that 2017 will be my last season as County Welfare Officer.

Having been in post for almost 20 years I feel that the time is right to hand over to someone who can perhaps take a different view of matters and approach things in a different way, maintaining the high quality of service I hope I have been able to give you whilst I have been in post.

I informed the Cheshire Cricket Board in Sept and again in Dec and I am having a meeting with them in January so they can advertise the post.

I will continue to tutor Safe Hands course so you won't get rid of me that easily.

One of my reasons for stepping down is the possible changes to the SVGA 2006.. Having been a police officer for 30 years it is in my DNA to deal with criminals and I would find it hard, if not impossible to work with people whom I know are committing criminal offences.

I also feel that everyone in every role has a 'sell by' date and that there might be people out there who can do a far better job, than you think you are doing.

b) It is great to see so many clubs working over the winter to get things in place for the start of the season.

For those of you reading this in April, sorry you have missed the boat.

I will be holding 2 more Safe Hands course in feb/march 2017. There will be a course for new CWOs in the Stockport/Poynton area as there is quite a high demand for new CWOs in that area, who have replied to my request during the summer and autumn.

There are a few clubs whom I know do not have trained CWOs and those clubs will be required to have a trained CWO in place before the start of the season.

I will be taking a more proactive role with clubs, in conjunction with the leagues they play in to ensure that they comply with legal as well as league requirements.

Last year 4 clubs lost Clubmark, and I anticipate that a similar number may suffer the same fate again in 2017.

I will be asking the leagues to sanction those clubs who do not have Clubmark. As an example, in a league in Wales, clubs who do not have everyone vetted before the start of the season in April are allowed to play matches but receive no points and are fined for each match they have unvetted adults.

c)

The ECB are introducing a new computer system, which we were told was going to start going live in Nov 2016, but it hasn't happened yet

The main part of it will be that clubs who used to have to enter details on the CDP (club development plan) will still have to enter the same details but the new system will be linked to the DBS database and play-cricket.

The advantage of that will be that we will be easy to identify those who are in roles who aren't vetted.

OK...you say... we don't put the manager, of say our U13s, on the list as he isn't vetted.

If your club is entered into a league which is affiliated to the ECB, and most, if not all in Cheshire are, it will show that you have an u13 team entered in a league and an adult who runs it isn't vetted.

As an ECB Database it will also identify Clubmark clubs and those who aren't vetted.

One positive of the new database is that DBS applications will be available online, although Evidence checker verification will have to be done as before.

When that strand of the database is available to us I will let you know.

d)

This is the last and most important part of my winter newsletter

Thank you for all the good works you do at your club. I hope and wish that the support you get from others within your club is in the best traditions of sport, and that they all know that 'Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility'

If you don't get the support from your club, members, committee or chairman I would like to know.

It's not whistle blowing it's something I need to address, and I will look forward to coming to your club meetings and having a 'chat' to put things right !

Thanks also to Sarah and Mark who have acted as my wing(men) persons !!! and helped run the Safe Hands courses for your benefit .

Mark has recently trained as a tutor so in 2017 I might just sit back and let him run the show on a course.

This year I had to miss a couple of courses due to illness and it was great that the lads from Lancs stepped in. Thanks to them as well and I would enjoy hearing from those who have heard my ramblings over the years and the delivery of the course from Lancs so I can pick the best bits out of each to make the courses more interesting for the future.

Thank you again for all the hard work you have done at your club in the last year.

I wish you, your families and everyone at your club a Happy Xmas, a peaceful New Year and a successful 2017.

Andy