

CWO newsletter Spring 2017

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2. All Stars programme
3. DBS checks both paper and online
4. Discipline matters
5. Anything else !!

1. Welcome

I would like to extend a warm welcome to those new Club Welfare Officer who undertook training over the winter and to remind everyone that I am always available for advice, however trivial it may seem.

I hope that the playing side of the game is now well underway and with this beautiful weather many games are being played and enjoyed.

Yesterday I attended a County Welfare Officer meeting in Sheffield so I will update you on changes etc in offing.

A lovely drive over to Sheffield via the Snake pass A57 was only ruined when I found coming back in the evening that it was closed from 7pm overnight for roadworks.

I've found some previously undiscovered roads to the 'right side' of the Pennines.

2 All Stars Programme.

This has recently commenced and a big thank you to all the clubs who signed up. The future senior club players come from our junior ranks and I hope that this will inspire a new generation of players.

Information about the scheme to the County Welfare Officer has been scant, to say the least and you probably know a lot more about the programme than I do.

Having said that if you have a problem I know someone who can help, she can thank me later !!!!

Denise Richards is the All Stars project officer who I met yesterday.

She can be contacted via email denise.richards@ecb.co.uk

There is also a Help line phone number which I hope to have in the next few days incase you do not have it to hand.

The ECB Safeguarding team were surprised that the CoWOs (County Welfare Officers) had not been full briefed about the programme.

3. DBS paper and online

We had a presentation about the new online DBS system which is now available solely for the All Stars programme at the moment, but which should be rolled out to every club during the current season.

A recent application took 24 hours for the form to be filled in and the certificate issued and received a couple of days later.

Even to me, a dinosaur whose computer skills are limited to say the least it, looks fantastic and so much more efficient than the paper system.

When it is available to all clubs I will let you know as paper ID Evidence checkers will have to register to become online checkers (not too hard and I managed it).

4 Discipline matters

Sad to say we have had a number of criminal incidents which are being dealt with by the police as we speak.

One club was targeted on its Facebook Page after an adult player at the club was suspected and subsequently arrested for online grooming.

It's a reminder to check up on the clubs social media sites to make sure that only those approved individuals can post messages and anything put on the site is viewed by an administrator prior to it being available to view publicly.

The club dealt with this matter very professionally it is unfair to target them just because the alleged offender played cricket and the person who posted the comments was able to identify the club. The alleged victim was not within cricket.

I'm sure that many clubs deal with minor disciplinary issues daily and I thank you for that. If you need help or advice, and I'm not drumming up business, as I've already plenty to do, don't be afraid to ask!!

5 Anything else

There have been some slight changes or amendments to the wording of some sections within Safe Hands

- a) Club Action Plan – for clubs just starting out on safeguarding
- b) Juniors in open age cricket – includes nets and training (and also include Regional Teams in Wales)
- c) Photography and filming – also includes live social media broadcasts (so if your live streaming a junior match for example to need specific parental consent for that)
- d) Showering/Changing – the option to seek parental consent is removed – children and adults should use the facilities at a different time.
- e) Creating **and formally adopting** a Club Policy statement (that is done by holding an EGM or during the business of an AGM. I think most if not all of our clubs have done this as part of Clubmark)

As some of you may be aware I intend to step down from my role at County Welfare Officer at the end of the year.

I have been in post for almost 20 years when the idea of Safeguarding was first discussed by the ECB and have seen it blossom from ideas on papers to a fully functioning policy and procedure which aims to keep children safe in sport.

At times it has been difficult with a number of adults convicted and in many cases receiving significant prison sentences for offences against young people. One person offending is too many in my eyes, but I know, from information I received and work done at clubs that a number of people who may have thought about abusing children shied away from clubs because of the clubs robust policies on Safeguarding, proper training, DBS checks etc.

I have worked with some fantastic clubs and many great people at those clubs and I can't thank you enough for making my role so much easier. It's easier preaching to the converted!!!

I informed the Cheshire Cricket Board of my decision towards the end of last year and I know that they are looking to find a replacement.

I will still be tutoring the Safe Hands courses, when required and will be acting as Welfare officer for Cheshire Youth Cricket.

Thank you for all your help, support and actions not just this season but in the years gone by.

I wish you all a very successful 2017 season and don't forget.....

I haven't finished yet so keep ringing, emailing and chatting to me. We still have work to be done !!!!!

Best Wishes

Andy