THE CHESHIRE ASSOCIATION OF CRICKET OFFICIALS

Chairman	Secretary	Treasurer	Membership Secretary
Martin Roberts	Brian Horrocks	Barry Harwood	Graham Church
martin.t.roberts@btinternet.com	cclsecretary.comms@gmail.com	bazccl@icloud.com	graham_p_church@hotmail.com
07831320516	07772558761	07901648435	07740742830

CACO UMPIRES END OF SEASON MEETING NOTES 15TH SEPTEMBER 2026 7.30pm GRAPPENHALL CC

Present: Martin Roberts, Brian Horrocks, Graham Church, Cliff Hall, Sandra Mason, Ian Greensmith, Parth Kapoor, Barrie Burns, Terry Marnick, Craig Cooke, Tony Sayle, Phil Thomas, Ian Dutton, Kevin Taylor, Alistair Davies, Simon Cooper, Jeremy Clein, Robin Farmer, Ian McDowell, Ray Hunt, Debayan Dey, David Gane, James Emerson, Mike Woollard, Ian Wilkinson, John Potts, Oliver Passant, Ben Murray, Emma Mallinson, Phil Gibbon, David Tate, Brian Boys, Darren Sutcliffe, Keith Tysall, Chris Rigg, Ian Wilson, David Hughes, Simon Burley, Graham Pugh, Dave Barnes, Simon Clarke, Dominic Larkin, Darren Walker, Robin Farmer, Graham Pashley, Steve Vose, Simon Clarke, Geoff Douse

Apologies: Ashleigh Wood, Shaun Carlton, Bob Sabberton, Nick Remon, Shahrukh Awan, Keith Wells, Ingeborg Bevers, Derek Barnett, Peter Hayes, Trevor Burnett, Gary Everatt, Chris Hyde, Phil Barlow, Phil Greasby, Ian Goldstone, Andy Crick, David Williams, Jason Pawluk, Dion Kelly, Mike Chidgey, David Page, John Bowler, Mathew George, David Forster, Steve Wilkins, Phil Lowe, Anthony Jarvis, Jeff Langham, Lyndon Woodcock, Tom Nelson, David Croft, Mike Sedley, Andy Marsland, Simon Smith, David Holdsworth

Meeting started: 7.30

Chairman – Martin Roberts

Martin opened with a couple of notices about the sad passing of Steve Wright who was a scorer at Grappenhall for many years.

Martin reflected on the number of standing umpires available in 2026. In 2025 we had 104 active umpires- 10 members stood down due to health issues/family commitments, 7 moved to other leagues, and 3 retired. We did however have 4 umpires join from other leagues with 6 new umpires join the panel, giving an active membership of 94 in 2026. Average availability was down to 60% from 70% in 2025

Martin paid tribute to some of our colleagues. Three of our scorers (Sandy Mason, James Emerson and Inge Beevers) were appointed to women's worlds cup matches. Debayan Dey was selected for the Hundred Rising Umpires Opportunities. Pathway Umpires Emma Mallinson and Chris Hyde were appointed to regional ECB finals matches, Chris being appointed to an ECB 3 day match at the time of the meeting. Graham Church and Ankit Jain have been given Women's matches at W2 level including games in the Thunder cup. We wish them all well and hope to provide an update on

Chairman	Secretary	Treasurer	Membership Secretary
Martin Roberts	Brian Horrocks	Barry Harwood	Graham Church
martin.t.roberts@btinternet.com	cclsecretary.comms@gmail.com	bazccl@icloud.com	graham_p_church@hotmail.com
07831320516	07772558761	07901648435	07740742830

their progress at the AGM.

Martin thanked those umpires who had continued to umpire despite ongoing medical conditions. In addition thanks were extended to those umpires who found themselves standing alone in matches during the season due to restricted availability. Their efforts are appreciated not only by the committee but by the captains who, in most cases, have been very complimentary. We received feedback from those umpires who have stood alone that when matters get out of hand it is always easier to have a colleague present to consult, guide and support. The meeting was asked whether the policy of appointing two umpires from the top division downward should continue and was roundly supported.

Martin mentioned that he had received some complaints from umpires during the season concerning appointments including: not being allocated to certain matches, the quality of matches appointed to, certainly at Cheshire Age groups, and a perceived bias in appointments. The meeting was asked for their experiences. With the exception of one or two members who reported that they had received less appointment this year compared to 2025 the majority were extremely happy with the current processes.

Turning to the use of WTU Martin thanked umpires for submitting their match reports within timeframe. There have been very few instances of chasing inputs from umpires.

With the use of WTU now well embedded, captains and officials are automatically looking at WTU for up to date information. If you do find that you will not be able to make an appointment please remember to decline the appointment formally in WTU. The reason is two-fold: It makes it easier for the appointments secretary to reappoint, subject to availability, and it doesn't frustrate the captains who are requested to mark an umpire who doesn't attend.

The match reports that umpires complete each week are not seen by the clubs. A summary is sent to league officers/competition secretaries of the respective league so they can monitor trends in pitch marking and administer fines for maladministration for example in the case of no scorers. Thanks to those umpires who have been honest in their reporting when clubs have had no scorers. We are, however, aware on many occasions this season of under reporting of scorer presence because the one scorer has been paid by both clubs. It is not acceptable not to report the lack of a scorer. In the CCCL for the first three occasions it a £40 fine, thereafter it is a 2-point deduction. There are consequences.

Match reports are no substitute for Disciplinary reports. In reading match reports and where there have been clear dissent and serious dissent cases, it surprising that no disciplinary reports have been issued. It is a topic that has been raised frequently for the last three seasons and there seems little improvement. The identification of offences and the process to follow is quite straightforward and detailed on the guidance card issued to all umpires at the pre-season meeting. Match reports are not the place to detail a disciplinary situation although it is reasonable to make reference to a separate disciplinary report being submitted.

In terms of Captain's feedback there are some recurring themes. Poor knowledge of regulations for the competition and inconsistent calling of leg side wides. We will continue to offer advice in CPD

sessions where we can.

Turning to the 2027 season Martin advised the meeting that the two current leagues will formally look to dissolve these leagues and create the new league on October 12th. There will be a vote on whether to adopt Open Structure with a changed divisional structure or to continue with current divisions. In 2027 Hybrid cricket clubs will be in coloured clothing and umpires shall be in coloured kit including blue hats. We will have sponsored jackets - blue so we all look the same. All umpires were invited to submit their jacket size to

Brian Horrocks – brian.horrocks1954@btinternet.com to allow us to order.

Current match expenses have been held for the last three years. We will propose to the league increased expenses for 2027. These will reflect sensible levels given cost of living pressures.
It is understood that not all umpires wish to stand in 50 over matches and there will be the option to stand in 45 over matches in the 2027 irrespective of the vote for Open structure. Each umpire is a valuable resource to league cricket, and we must aim to keep umpires in the game as much as for players.

Martin thanked all the officers for their dedicated work behind the scenes in performing their functions including the time taken to prepare presentations, to securing venues for meetings and seminars, for the endless phone calls that are made to secure appointments, to attend various meetings etc. What we all see is the end product. 80%+ of the work to get to this tends to be unseen and takes significant time, patience and effort from all volunteers and maybe unappreciated. Should any officials wish to help with the roles we will be more than pleased to accept your nominations for officer positions later this year ahead of the AGM.

Secretary – Brian Horrocks

Correspondence across the Secretary's desk has been relatively low. The main categories have been: Club contact changes, Umpire availability requests, Appointment clarifications/queries, ECBACO membership queries and notices, Team card requests, Discipline reporting and Meeting notices. There are no outstanding secretarial issues post season.

Membership Services – Graham Church

The 2026 season saw the use of WTU for the first time making appointments for Cheshire Youth Cricket and Cheshire Women's Cricket League Division 1 fixtures. A total of 148 umpire appointments and re-appointments were made for 59 CYC fixtures in 2026 season, and 132 umpire appointments and re-appointments were made for 54 CWCL Division 1 fixtures in 2026 season were made using WTU. Some of the re-appointments arose from CYC and CWCL rescheduling matches but there were a significant proportion of umpires first accepting, then declining appointments which causes significant additional work. I'm grateful to the 40 umpires standing in CYC fixtures and 33 umpires standing in CWCL Division 1 fixtures during the season.

The overall number of CYC appointments was down on previous years by about 1/3rd due to Cheshire Cricket Board withdrawing umpire funding for District matches. In addition, appointments

were made to 13 Cheshire Disability Cricket matches and 48 miscellaneous fixtures (including semi-finals / finals for Hayes Knight cup, NCJCA, SCJCL, Women's Softball, Boys U19, CWCL; other CWCL fixtures, schools' fixtures and a Police regional final) during the season.

152 emails were responded to on subjects including:

- requests for additional umpire score cards
- umpire development pathways
- umpire training courses
- ACO clothing
- How to use WTU
- DBS renewals
- ground weather & light regulations
- match regulations for CYC and ECB appointments
- umpire match expenses.

Throughout the season, I circulated emails to members for CACO & AGM meetings, along with miscellaneous information as and when requested by CACO Chair and CACO Secretary.
To ensure that CACO communications adhere to GDPR for using your personal data, the database used for CACO emails is the one provided by ECB ACO. Please ensure your personal contact details are kept up to date with the ECB, otherwise you may not receive regular communications or invitations to meetings. The email address for ECB ACO membership enquiries is: ecb.aco@ecb.co.uk

Appointments Secretary – Ian Greensmith (League) and Ian Goldstone (Cup)

This has been another difficult season with umpire availability limited in many weeks. Whilst we have a healthy number of names on WTU, many umpires can only commit to limited numbers of fixtures. In any week we would have needed 74 umpires, however, rarely did the actual availability approach this. The Cheshire League division 3 received a very small number of appointments. Division 2 in the Cheshire League often had non umpired games, and in some weeks the County league has non umpired games.

It has been recognised, however, that we have had numerous cases of illness and injury limiting availability and Ian thanked all those umpires who continued to stand even carrying injuries and illness.

A recurring theme amongst clubs is the use of single umpires. In their view it is OK for an umpire to stand alone. In general the captains make an effort to assist in every way possible. However, common consensus amongst the umpiring population is that the 2 umpire policy is the right one. In the main, we feel that doing matches alone is too demanding. It is CACO policy to stick with this policy.

Ian received many thanks through the season for his services which are widely recognised by all umpires as being extremely valuable. An open question to the floor asked if there were any

Chairman	Secretary	Treasurer	Membership Secretary
Martin Roberts	Brian Horrocks	Barry Harwood	Graham Church
martin.t.roberts@btinternet.com	cclsecretary.comms@gmail.com	bazccl@icloud.com	graham_p_church@hotmail.com
07831320516	07772558761	07901648435	07740742830

observations about appointment policy that would help improve our lot. Travel distances, repetitive ground visits, repetitive club visits, repetitive colleague pairings were mentioned – all of which Ian has attempted to avoid. The use of WTU may help us expand our tool set to avoid such pitfalls.

Ian Goldstone reported in terms of the cup competitions. On a few occasions there were clashes of dates between CCCL and CCL competitions which caused some concerns. However, the cups were generally well covered in all competitions, occasionally using single umpires (which for a 40 over midweek match is easier to handle)

In a wider context, Cheshire is better off than many counties for umpiring numbers. This does not alter the fact that we are not generating enough new recruits to cover our retirement rate. This is an ongoing discussion with the Board, The Leagues and ECB.

Education Officer – Inge Beevers

(as provided in advance by Inge Beevers but represented at the meeting by Martin Roberts)

During the 2026 cricket season, as in previous years, no training sessions were organised by CACO. The Board, however, organised three New Umpire Training Courses. Over the next few days, the Education Team and I will decide on the areas to cover during our Thrilling Thursdays, pre-season refresher sessions and the programme around the Law changes coming into effect on 1 October 2026.

We will also organise a Level 4 to Level 3 course during this training season. In principle, registration will be by invitation only and the course will probably be run in February or March.

Also on the programme are CPD sessions covering the playing conditions within the new league structure in Cheshire, together with sessions on **Law Changes and how they affect umpires in their activities and decisions**. We would be expecting umpires to have some pre-knowledge of these when attending. It is understood that a new Tom Smiths will be issued and a new ‘blue’ laws book available. The CACO executive will discuss this.

As previously announced, we expect umpires to attend a CPD session at least once every three years, although we would strongly recommend making professional development an annual part of your umpiring. The session dealing with the changes to the Laws will be mandatory. We will also expect those attending to arrive with a basic understanding of the changes themselves; the purpose of the session will not simply be to work through a list of amended Laws, but to consider what those changes mean in practice — how they affect what we do, what we observe and, ultimately, the decisions we make on the field. It would therefore be unfortunate if attendance at the Law Changes session were regarded simply as 'ticking the box' for another three years. Continuing development is part of an umpire's individual responsibility, regardless of experience or level. Laws, playing conditions and their interpretations develop, and keeping abreast of those developments is part of being properly prepared to officiate a match. This is particularly relevant because one of the recurring observations within captains' reports remains that umpires' knowledge of playing conditions is sometimes below the standard expected. That is not a criticism of every umpire, nor does attending more courses automatically make someone a better official, but it does underline

why we cannot regard qualification as the end of our learning.

Every umpire has a responsibility — to themselves, their colleagues and the other stakeholders in our sport — to keep their knowledge of the Laws, regulations, playing conditions and their practical interpretation current. The sessions we offer are also an opportunity to share situations and experiences, compare interpretations and learn from tutors as well as fellow umpires. Much of the value of CPD comes not from being told something new, but from discovering that a situation we thought was straightforward looks rather different when viewed through another umpire's eyes.
As soon as the programme has been agreed, we will publish the dates. We will attempt to hold the Law Changes sessions across all four corners of the county, using a mixture of weekends and Monday or Tuesday evenings to make attendance as practical as possible.
The wider schedule trialled last year did not, however, result in increased attendance. We will therefore continue to offer CPD sessions on weekends and on selected Monday or Tuesday evenings, but on a slightly smaller scale. Once venues have been confirmed, the full programme will be published and registration will open shortly afterwards. Please be aware that sessions may be cancelled where registrations are particularly low. We have agreed a minimum attendance of five people per session, which will help us keep attendance fees as low as possible.

Disciplinary Team (as provided by Derek Barnett and Chris Rigg)

This report covers the period 18th April- 12th September 2026 (Weeks 1- 22) and includes all cases dealt with under the provisions of the ECB GCR for the following leagues:
Cheshire County Cricket League, Cheshire Cricket League, Cheshire Women's Cricket League

Reported Cases

League	Reported	Concluded	Outstanding
CCCL	21	20	1
CCL	10	10	0
CWCL	3	3	0
Misc	4	4	0
Total	38	37	1

The overall number of cases shows a small increase in cases compare with previous seasons, primarily because of third-party reporting in games played at the lower tiers of the leagues in the absence of independently appointed panel umpires. Most reported breaches have been at L1, a small number at L2 and two L3/4. All sanctions have been accepted by the clubs except for two cases which have been appealed arguing the sanction was too severe. One appeal failed at the hearing and one remains outstanding. Sanctions have been applied in line with the GCR tariff and ranged from official reprimand to suspensions. Where appropriate, players have been suspended from playing within a range of one week to 24 weeks. All suspensions are applied from midnight on the Friday following the date on which the breach occurred and include all forms of cricket played under the auspices of the ECB.

In terms of the Cricket Regulator - All serious or complex cases are referred to the Cricket Regulator and the County Safeguarding Officer. There have two cases where the Regulator has been

Chairman	Secretary	Treasurer	Membership Secretary
Martin Roberts	Brian Horrocks	Barry Harwood	Graham Church
martin.t.roberts@btinternet.com	cclsecretary.comms@gmail.com	bazccl@icloud.com	graham_p_church@hotmail.com
07831320516	07772558761	07901648435	07740742830

involved and successfully concluded. One case has been referred to the County Safeguarding Officer to note. As reported in the mid-season overview, in conjunction with the Cheshire Cricket Board, we have conducted an audit of how the discipline results, ECB GCR documents and templates are published on the three respective Play cricket sites. This has provided easier access and visibility of discipline matters, and the format is now consistent across the three leagues.
The Cricket Regulator has recently completed an inspection of the Cheshire Cricket Board, including discipline arrangements. It concluded that Cheshire are on track for this standard, and then some. The impression gained, not only discipline, but about the league's engagement generally, is that is handled incredibly professionally. I am sure it is not coincidental that the Cheshire leagues are by far the best I have experienced with regard to publication of procedures and disciplinary documents. Cheshire is clearly a candidate for leading status in this standard. Cheshire are currently a leading organisation with T/Cs acceptance rate from clubs 100%.

Some Emerging Trends - The ECB GCR provides the opportunity for the reporting of breaches of the regulations other than by appointed umpires. In games without panel umpires we are seeing an increasing number of 'third party' complaints. These invariably are more complex and challenging in the absence of independent umpire accounts, often leading to a 'tit for tat' response. Wherever possible discipline sanctions are applied, where on the balance of probability a clear breach has occurred. What is apparent in each of the third-party complaints, is a failure to observe the spirit of cricket. This includes lack of respect for opponents and players who undertake the role of umpire, and clear examples of player umpires failing to apply the laws of cricket fairly. This leads to allegations of cheating and results in heightened tensions on the field of play. The CCL Chair recently wrote to all club chairs emphasising the responsibility of clubs to ensure that their players abide by the spirit of cricket.

Overall, the standard of reporting from CACO panel umpires has improved significantly this season, with concise and clear reports using the ECB GCR template. Colleagues are reminded however, that if, for some reason, they are unable to access the template, an email to the Discipline Officer will suffice. For clarification, the Discipline Officer does not ordinarily receive a copy of the umpire's match report. It must not be used for reporting a discipline matter as this introduces a delay into the discipline process which has on occasions been prejudicial to the resolution of the case. Similarly, colleagues are reminded that when umpires are considering submitting a discipline report, unless there are exceptional circumstances, the team captain or senior club official must be informed before leaving the ground.

It is our policy to seek an early resolution so that players who have breached the GCR may, where appropriate, receive a sanction that becomes effective by midnight the Friday following the report. Colleagues are urged to submit a report at the earliest after the game and no later 36 hours.

Development Officer – Barrie Burns

Barrie reported that 27 observations had been carried out in support of this season's pathway applications. This was facilitated by 9 developers (7 Cheshire and 2 Lancashire). Some participants failed to meet the time deadlines, these are required to fulfil all of the expectations of a promotion. In summary, based on completed observations, we had:

Chairman	Secretary	Treasurer	Membership Secretary
Martin Roberts	Brian Horrocks	Barry Harwood	Graham Church
martin.t.roberts@btinternet.com	cclsecretary.comms@gmail.com	bazccl@icloud.com	graham_p_church@hotmail.com
07831320516	07772558761	07901648435	07740742830

9 M6 to M5
4 W6 to W5
5 W5 to W4
14 M5 to M4
2 M4 to M3
1 M3 to M2
6 W3 to W2

Umpires marks are still filtering through from the last weekend. All umpires may ask to see their marks and comments (marks and comments are randomised so that it is not possible to work back to their origin). Anyone who wishes to receive their marks can do so by asking Barrie or Chris Rigg.

Scorers Officer – Sandy Mason

Sandy reported a good season for scoring training. 6 scorers are on the pathway. There has been a healthy take up of training places. The team are already planning the 2027 training programme and has asked clubs for indicative numbers of interested people.

Whilst most of us associate Sandy with the Macclesfield club, be aware that she will now be connected to the Bollington club. Contact details remain the same. It was noted that the 2026 handbook did have an error, every effort will be made to ensure 2027 handbook (in whatever form the new league choose) has full and correct details.

It has been a league rule that first teams should always have a scorer (Division 1 only in CCL). This sometimes does not happen. It is a task for umpires to record this in the WTU report. In some cases these penalties may have been missed (fines or points deductions). Whilst the leagues merge and the rules may change, it is likely there will be sanctions for not providing scorers in future at some level in the new structure, in which case the umpire report does need to reflect this. The WTU format currently does not give us a tick box for this so we need to use comments. This may change in due course.

Women's Cricket – Emma Mallinson

A mid-season review was conducted to gather feedback on umpiring appointments, consistency of decision-making, application of playing regulations, and future development of the umpire panel. Discussions also considered potential regulatory changes, match management improvements, and mechanisms for structured feedback from clubs and captains.

The current appointment process aims to provide neutral umpires for Division One fixtures while balancing opportunities across the available umpire pool. Availability remains a key factor in appointments, particularly for weekend fixtures, and consideration is given to both development opportunities and maintaining engagement across the wider umpire community. The panel system continues to be valued for promoting neutrality and reducing perceptions of bias by rotating umpires across clubs and venues. There was broad recognition of the importance of educating players, spectators and club representatives about the role of neutral umpires within the competition

Chairman	Secretary	Treasurer	Membership Secretary
Martin Roberts	Brian Horrocks	Barry Harwood	Graham Church
martin.t.roberts@btinternet.com	cclsecretary.comms@gmail.com	bazccl@icloud.com	graham_p_church@hotmail.com
07831320516	07772558761	07901648435	07740742830

structure. Discussion highlighted the importance of maintaining an equitable distribution of appointments to support volunteer motivation and retention. Participants agreed that clubs should continue to raise any concerns regarding appointments or umpire experiences. Professional standards were also discussed, with a reminder that any concerns regarding conduct or behaviour. All feedback can be discussed and reported to CACO Chair Martin Roberts martin.t.roberts@btinternet.com 07831 320516 or Emma Mallinson esmallinson@yahoo.co.uk 07976460130.

Consistency in the Application of Playing Regulations was a recurring theme, the need for greater consistency in the interpretation and application of playing conditions, particularly around wides and no balls. Leg Side Wides There remains variation in how leg side wides are interpreted by individual umpires. Consideration was given to adopting a stricter and more clearly defined interpretation to improve consistency and reduce confusion for players and captains. Training resources, including video examples of decision-making scenarios, were identified as a useful tool to support a common understanding of expectations among both umpires and participants. Will be raised with Umpire Development team as well. CWCL Div1 wide leg side example at 3:30min https://youtu.be/lOLbVSVtQvA?is=3xYsAN0SOuer50z3 “All deliveries that pass to the leg side of the batter - based on her normal stance – and which do not touch the batter’s bat or person, shall be called 'wide'” No Balls Questions were raised regarding interpretation of waist-height no balls, particularly around the reference point used when judging full-pitched deliveries. Law 41.7.1 Any delivery, which passes or would have passed, without pitching, above waist height of the striker standing upright at the popping crease, is unfair. Whenever such a delivery is bowled, the umpire shall call and signal No ball. Waist height is the top of the trousers when the batter is standing upright at the crease from ECB ACO training material, Tom Smith's Cricket Umpiring and Scoring. Will be raised with Umpire Development team as well. Ground Preparation Feedback indicated that pitch markings and ground preparation can vary between venues. Clear and visible markings are important in supporting accurate decision-making and match management. It was suggested that clubs be reminded of the importance of preparing grounds to a consistent standard across all competitions.

Panel Umpiring and Future Development covering the potential expansion of panel umpiring beyond Division One was discussed. At present, many teams outside the existing panel structure rely on club-based umpires. Before any future expansion is considered, there is a need to better understand:

- The number of available umpires
- Willingness to officiate outside home clubs
- Sustainability of a wider panel structure
- Recruitment and retention challenges.

Given current umpire numbers, the immediate priority remains strengthening recruitment and increasing the availability of trained officials. A broader review will be undertaken at the end of the season to assess future options.

Playing Regulation and Match Management Considerations were reviewed and several potential regulatory changes were considered for future seasons, to align more closely to ECB generic

regulations. Wide Ball Interpretation Further tightening of leg side and off-side wide interpretations was discussed. While this could improve consistency, there was recognition that any changes should be carefully managed to allow clubs and players sufficient time to adapt. CWCL regulations do not currently refer to “Blue lines” as a visual guide for offside wides, these should be judged in accordance with MCC Laws of Cricket 22.1. Examples from ECB Generic Regulations:

Umpires are instructed to apply a very strict and consistent interpretation in regard to this Law in order to prevent negative bowling wide of the wicket. Any offside or leg side delivery which in the opinion of the umpire does not give the batter a reasonable opportunity to score shall be called a wide. For guidance purposes, a leg side wide shall be called if a ball passes on the leg side outside the pads of the batter standing in a normal batting position. Note: Blue lines are usually marked 17 inches (43.18 cm) inside each return crease. They're intended as a visual guide for: Off-side wides: A delivery landing or passing outside those lines will often be judged a wide because the batter has little opportunity to play a normal shot. Not leg-side wides: They are not intended to determine leg-side wides. That's a common misunderstanding. The leg-side wide assessment is separate. Over Rate Management Measures to improve match efficiency were considered, including possible penalties for slow over rates and approaches to minimise unnecessary delays during matches. Examples from ECB Generic Regulations contains mechanisms to penalise slow over rates, typically through fielding restrictions or match management provisions depending on the format. Future Rule Changes A gradual, phased implementation of any significant regulatory changes was supported. A staggered approach would allow clubs, umpires and players to adjust over time and minimise disruption. A proposal identifying areas where the CWCL regulations could be aligned with the ECB Generic Playing Conditions will be submitted to the Committee in advance of the regulation review and voting timetable.

Current feedback and reporting mechanisms rely largely on informal communication, resulting in relatively limited input from clubs. There was broad support for introducing a more structured feedback mechanism in the future. Formal captain's reports via WTU (who’s the umpire), providing feedback on:
• Umpiring standards and consistency.
• Player respect and conduct.
• Ground and pitch preparation.
• General match experience.

Structured reporting would provide valuable information for umpire development, training priorities and overall competition improvement, while also enabling positive feedback to be captured and shared. To be submitted to Committee in advance of the regulation review and voting timetable.
Key Areas of Focus for the Remainder of the Season:
1. Promote greater consistency in the application of leg side wides and other key playing regulations.

2. Provide additional training resources and guidance to umpires
3. Improve awareness of ground preparation standards and pitch marking requirements
4. Gather evidence on the feasibility of expanding panel umpiring in the future
5. Explore the introduction of structured captain feedback and reporting processes
6. Continue recruitment and retention efforts to strengthen the umpire pathway and long-term

Chairman	Secretary	Treasurer	Membership Secretary
Martin Roberts	Brian Horrocks	Barry Harwood	Graham Church
martin.t.roberts@btinternet.com	cclsecretary.comms@gmail.com	bazccl@icloud.com	graham_p_church@hotmail.com
07831320516	07772558761	07901648435	07740742830

sustainability of the panel.

In conclusion the review identified broad support for the current panel system and recognised the positive contribution neutral umpires make to the competition. Opportunities remain to improve consistency, communication and feedback mechanisms, while longer-term discussions will focus on umpire recruitment, development and the potential expansion of panel appointments. The remainder of the season will provide an opportunity to implement targeted improvements and gather evidence to inform planning for future years.

AOB

- Whilst the meeting had covered most aspects of cricket in the county we neglected to mention 'Seniors'. Graham Church and David Gane were thanked for their support for this section of the playing population.
- We are all acquainted with the banter and commentary provided by players of all clubs in all games. Sometimes this is constant and deafening, sometimes muted and sporadic. However, players seem to believe it is all part of the game. Our role is to ensure this does not escalate to personal attacks or attempts to undermine the batsmen's concentration and confidence levels. We have some experience that broaching the topic in the pre-match captain's discussion can improve the situation. Spirit of Cricket is an absolute and necessary topic in the meeting, the use of banter can be specifically raised at this point if it is felt it can improve the tenor of the game.
- League rules and guidelines currently stipulate that clubs should provide a basic hospitality to visiting umpires and scorers. In many cases this is not forthcoming. We are encouraged to use the umpires report in WTU to record any comments that either acknowledge good hospitality or report the lack of it. The very basic need is to offer a hot drink to an official who may have travelled some distance to officiate.
- We are hoping to hold the AGM early this year to capitalise on the decision to merge the leagues (and to offer Open Structure Cricket potentially). News of this should be coming round soon.
- Fair play results are still to be finalised following the last matches. Thanks to umpires who diligently reported in WTU. The two leagues will handle the outcome in their own ways for the last time (pre-merger). The results should be available on the web sites.