



CCUSA AGM Minutes

Date: Thursday 25 March 2021 at 19h30 via Zoom (due to Covid restrictions)

Attendees: Ben Whyall | Keith Coburn | Linda Hobbs | Ian Reid | Peter Laughlin | Alun Bedding
Chris Fuller | Frank Appleyard | Joshua Blanchard-Lewis | Helen Hyde | Rob Benson
Rupert Bull | Simon Seabrook | Alan Lamb | Graham Parry | Les Mills | John Wallis
Ken Smart | Richard Powell | Simon Smith Steve | Ian Liversedge | Andrew McLean

Apologies: Dave Pimblett | Duncan Morgan | Gary Nichols | Roy Fountain

Item		Action
1.	Chairman's Welcome	
1.1	Pete Laughlin welcomed all to the meeting	
2.	Minutes of Previous AGM – 05/12/2019	
2.1	These were accepted as a true record	
3.	Matters Arising	
3.1	None	
4.	Proposals	
4.1	None	
5.	Officers Reports	
5.1	Chairman – Pete Laughlin	
5.1.1	It is well over a year since our last meeting, and I think we have all seen a real change to our lifestyles within that period, a number of us have seen friends or family affected by this awful virus. At long last there does seem to be some hope that we are	

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	slowly learning to live with the virus and let's hope the vaccine allows us to return to some form of normal.	
5.1.2	Last year as an association we were badly affected and large numbers of umpires both locally and nationally did not umpire at all, this has put massive pressure on our association and recruitment is now a major issue everywhere. We have 75 members of the association locally but the active participants in both umpiring has fallen drastically.	
5.1.3	For those that did umpire and score last year we learnt to live with an environment of no teas, scores relegated to outdoor activity and umpires sanitising every 6 overs. I did enjoy not having to be a walking coat hanger though!	
5.1.4	As an association with the funding changes and having to work more closely with the County Board we have had to implement changes in the way we run our organisation, we have a development plan, minutes of all meetings, a constitution that needs again updating and are looking to align to the needs of the modern game, hence WTU as an appointment system that is a challenge for us all. I believe we are in a good place but are desperately short of members.	
5.1.5	I would personally like to thank all the committee for their efforts and support in implantation of the changes. I hope by the time that I deliver this report that I can update you, on what we have to look forward to in 2021, hopefully a full season, I suspect with some restrictions as per last year.	
5.2	Secretary and Treasurer – Andrew McLean	
5.2.1	I would like to reiterate the thanks from the other members of the Committee for all your efforts of last season. This season will hopefully be a full one with some of the restrictions lifted as we progress through the summer.	
5.2.2	The ECB Covid-19 Roadmap continues to be updated in line with the government guidelines with the biggest threat to the start of the season being the travel restrictions, although these are under constant review and will change on a regular basis.	

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5.2.3	Currently in Step 1B – Organised outdoor cricket can resume – in line with last years guidance of 30 participants with the hope that this number will increase soon.	
5.2.4	There was a significant reduction in Expenses and Income over the last year mainly due to Covid and the associated restrictions, with the Annual Dinner breaking even	
5.2.5	Accounts from previous two years currently being verified.	Ben
5.2.6	Education rebate received for £890.00 Education expenditure for the year of £420.23	
5.2.7	Total Income of £1136.00 Total Expenditure of £774.06 Surplus for the year of £361.94 Account balance stands at £4,173.41	
5.2.8	Membership fees on hold again for 2021 (as last year) until we know more on what the current season holds.	
5.3	Appointment Officer – Keith Coburn	
5.3.1	I start my report with the sad news of the recent death of Rod Leney. Rod played, Captained and was groundsman at Godmanchester CC for over 50 years. He served on our umpires panel for 20 of those years and was a friend to all who stood with him.	
5.3.2	As the World experienced something it hadn't witnessed for 100 years, what the toll the pandemic has had on the umpiring community is unprecedented. Like the economy, I've no idea how long it will take to recover.	
5.3.3	However, despite the warnings over the previous three years, when all I have done is paper over the cracks in our active membership, other things like WTU seems to have had more importance than recruitment and retention to certain members of the Committee.	

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5.3.4	<p>We will be operating both WTU and the CCUSA system this season, but if the same interest was shown by the aforementioned Committee and had taken the time to understand “our system” perhaps they would agree it’s something worth celebrating. The time spent building it proves it’s less clunky and has more benefits than WTU, and what it hadn’t could have been added by our own software designers. Unfortunately, something that could have challenged WTU to make money for the Association has been disregarded.</p>	
5.3.5	<p>In the thirty-five years that I have done this job for the Association I have always been fair and open in giving everyone a fair proportion of the appointments available.</p>	
5.3.6	<p>Having said that, of course a private Members Clubs have the ability to appoint their own officials. After thirty years Cambridge University has decided to do just that this season with a select group of umpires, two of whom are not officiating any other matches for our Association. Of those appointments there has been no consideration given for the development and progression of our members, especially those who require the experience of multi-day cricket. Those who have accepted appointments know who they are, but in the main are Officers of this Association. Some in my opinion to an excessive amount, which simply isn’t fair on our membership.</p> <p>Anthony Hyde responded that WTU has worked well for the University with all involved pleased with system. Thanks to Peter Hinstridge and others who helped with this smooth transition.</p> <p>Simon Smith asked if appointments will only be done through WTU? No, as Keith still appoints.</p> <p>Linda Hobbs asked if Scorers are to be part of WTU this year? Pete answered not this year and Ben added that anyone can register for WTU.</p>	
5.3.7	<p>With the vast majority of appointments of which we’ve been asked to cover we are still awaiting advice on what the coming season will look like? Whatever formats and conditions we will be permitted to operate in, we will as usual do our best to cover as many games as possible.</p>	

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5.4	Education – Ben Whyall	
5.4.1	A very quiet year caused by the effects of Covid and a lack of interest from candidates for the stage 2 umpires course saw us run the following courses.	
5.4.2	Scorers course attended by 7 people and an umpires stage 1 attended by 16.	
5.4.3	We had 21 people complete the stage 1 umpires course online after its release last year.	
5.4.4	Moving forward the plan is to run an online stage 2 course between Peter and myself to try and convert some of the online stage 1 candidates.	
5.4.5	In addition, there is a plan to run some ready to call play courses for the new umpires, to get them field ready.	
5.5	Performance – Steve Kent-Philips	
5.5.1	Pete Laughlin thanked Steve Kent-Philips for all his efforts and said he was really sad to see Steve step down.	
5.5.2	Nothing happened. No grades were issued and no observations made. Nobody wanted mentoring either. I am not standing for re-election.	
5.5.3	We only have 33 active umpires left and I fundamentally disagree with assessing and marking them. Anyone who has been assessed will tell you it is a stressful experience (sometimes deliberately so).	
5.5.4	The majority of CCUSA umpires do it for fun. We should be trying to make the experience more enjoyable, not less.	
5.5.5	We have already had people refusing appointments where they will be marked in the past.	
5.5.6	There is no reason whatsoever to mark umpires and we take no notice of the marks when assigning grades as they are based on the level of games stood in, as per ECB policy. Experience has shown they are irrelevant for progression onto the EAPL panel,	

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	despite all the dire warnings, as the EAPL, too, is desperate for umpires. We have managed to identify umpires for progression perfectly well for over 50 years without marks. Marks serve no purpose.	
5.5.7	The current debacle over university cherry-picked appointments show that marks would be irrelevant there as well.	
5.5.8	The possible introduction of EAPL Div 2 (with marking) will make the availability situation more acute and may possibly destroy local umpiring.	
5.5.9	We are a tiny independent association of local, mostly rural, umpires and scorers, which is far, far more important than being a tiny cog in a massive ECB machine. CCUSA serves it's members first, then Cambridgeshire, then ECB a remote third. People should try to remember that.	
5.5.10	Who's The Umpire (WTU) is demand fed – people use it because they want Prem & National appointments and are prepared to jump through hoops for progression and prestige games.	
5.5.11	The majority of CCUSA umpires are not in that situation by a long way. They umpire for fun, and the occasional “big game” is a Billy Bonus that we should be sharing around.	
5.5.12	We know full well many local umpires have other things to do on Saturdays (never mind the disaster area that is Sundays) and are quite ambivalent whether the umpire, play, or do something else. Many are standing as a personal favour to Keith.	
5.5.13	CCUSA is demand led – it is us that wants the umpires, not the umpires wanting the games.	
5.5.14	We are extremely grateful to the guys who pull on a coat on a Saturday, and we should not be forcing them to do more work enrolling in WTU and keeping their availabilities up to date, especially given their age profile and IT skillsets; simply because “ECB wants it and everyone else is doing it”. We can't even say “but it helps appointments”, because in our case, it doubles the amount of work for Keith.	
5.5.15	Pitch marking is a joke from the start. I reported St Ives for having mushrooms and thistles growing on the square and Mycelium under it, and St Ives were told “if you don't like it, play	

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	elsewhere". While we have that situation, what possible purpose does pitch marking have?	
5.5.16	Very few clubs are lucky enough to have a professional groundsmen, most are hardworking volunteers. We even have CCA awards for them. What does it say to a guy who has been working on his pitch for three nights in the week after work, and some umpire who has never painted a crease in his life rocks up and gives him a bad mark? We even have some umpires who have never played the game, so how do they tell a good from a bad pitch in the first place?	
5.5.17	Some Whiting One teams can't even remark their lines at tea. What hope do we have for pitch marks? Who will care, and it is yet another piece of bother for our umpires.	
5.5.18	This AGM marks the end of 18 years of me being on the CCUSA Committee. I could give a long list of thanks to all the people who have been involved and given their time for free over the years, but I will simply thank Keith for everything he does and has done over even more years than me.	
5.5.19	I am not standing for Education Officer either, but I will keep the website running.	
5.5.20	<p>Ken Smart commented that Norfolk has a similar age profile to Cambs and that their umpires have embraced change.</p> <p>Communication with the ECB is fundamental as the organisation receives funding from the ECB.</p> <p>Marking is an integral part of umpire progression and seen as essential in the EAPL.</p> <p>Allan Lamb added that 13 years ago when he started umpiring there are more umpires now due to efforts of Keith and Steve.</p> <p>Alan added that there is a need to attract younger umpires that are used to marking and being appraised.</p> <p>Alan respects all views but pleased change is happening as the aspirations are out of step with other associations.</p> <p>Alan would also to see the organization address the inequalities within the CCUSA and hopes we can increase BAME and other minorities within the membership.</p>	

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5.5.21	<p>Simon Seabrook added that there is no regional education or other officers which is partly responsible for associations decline, and that change is needed. Peter Laughlin responded that he agrees and younger officials are being targeted but this doesn't fill the middle ground. Shortage of officials is a Nationwide issue that may need counties to think differently and that one course of action is for counties to combine, something that potentially Cambs and Hunts should consider.</p>	
5.5.22	<p>Simon Smith added his thanks to Steve. On WTU we need to ensure the system keeps improving and fit for purpose. Marking and assessments are important but needs to be appropriate.</p>	
5.5.23	<p>Others remarked that Marking is important to allow umpires to prove and identify their own training needs. This is part of process to get onto the panels of leagues above the EAPL.</p> <p>Anthony Hyde added that marking needs to be respectful and appropriate and that this needs to be reinforced with the Captains.</p>	
5.5.24	<p>Graham Parry added his thanks to Steve and Ken. Also added that he hasn't heard of WTU and disappointed that Cambridge University has not offered their games to the CCUSA umpires.</p> <p>Helen Hyde responded that this untrue and is disappointed that this misinformation has been communicated in this way to members of the CCUSA.</p>	
5.6	Scorers – Helen Hyde	
5.6.1	<p>It is over a year since the last AGM. Thanks to the pandemic all face to face courses have been put on indefinite hold. However we did manage to hold an Electronic scoring workshop just before the pandemic hit. This was very successful and everyone involved was looking forward to the upcoming season ready and raring to go with PCSPRO. I organised this course at Bury St Edmund's CC on a regional basis. Working with CSOs of neighbouring counties we decided that going forward, it would be better to organise regional based courses rather than county based courses. This would result in increased numbers of attendees – teaching a course to a dozen or more candidates is much more efficient than teaching to 2 or 3.</p>	

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5.6.2	<p>Play Cricket – updates have been ongoing during the winter. Videoing and streaming of matches is now very popular and has seen an increase during the curtailed season. Protocols – currently there is guidance on videoing and streaming on the ECB website, under both safeguarding and the ACO section. Advice and guidance is being updated by the ECB.</p>	
5.6.3	<p>The ACO is continuing with work to transfer courses and modules to online versions. The summer saw Sue Drinkwater deliver some very helpful online workshops. There were also several podcasts for scorers. As more and more tutoring is likely to take place online, I have attended a tutor training session on delivery of online virtual training.</p>	
5.6.4	<p>The start of the “mini- season” was very welcome. Guidance from the ECB helped clubs put measures in to place to ensure a safe environment. Some facilities for scorers were better than others. Should restrictions continue I consider that some clubs will need to be reminded by their respective leagues to ensure that facilities are suitable for scorers. Given that most scorers were scoring outside then clubs need to provide as a minimum some form of shelter such as a gazebo. With many scorers now using laptops and/or iPad both sunshine and rain cause issues for scorers. Clubs where possible should also try to provide power source for laptops and Wi-Fi.</p>	
5.6.5	<p>Heather Vernon, the National Scoring Officer has asked CSOs to compile a register of scorers in their counties. The registration form and the guidance of storage of the register has been checked for compliance with GDPR. As such I have been sending forms out to scorers and also reaching out to those people in our county who have completed online courses/ modules. Return of the form is a bit sporadic. It would help to have a county list in order to target information re courses etc. I sent out information re Sue Drinkwater’s online workshops and podcasts using contacts on this county register. Although it is not necessary to be an ACO member to go on to the County register it is a way of promoting membership of the ACO. This is very much a work in progress.</p>	
5.6.6	<p>I have attended the following virtual meetings – ECBACO AGM on 24th January, National CSO meeting on 28th January and the Regional CSO meeting 23rd February as well as the online tutor</p>	

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	session. I continue to communicate regularly with CSOs within our region.	
5.6.7	Pete commented that the concerns raised on live video streaming is under review, and that currently, the onus is on the home club to gain permission from all those on the field of play including the umpires.	
5.7	Safeguarding – Rob Benson	
5.7.1	All DBS are to be in place for umpiring this season. Ben and Andrew commented that they have checked the current membership, and all are either in place or in the process of being completed.	
5.7.2	Filming and streaming – Rob reiterated that if one player or official says no then it's a NO, and that the responsibility is with the home club to gain this permission.	
5.7.3	ECB Roadmap– areas being reviewed constantly and that imminent changes may include increasing the bubble above the 30 person limit, removing travel restrictions but no overnight stays, use of the changing rooms increasing numbers in lieu of the rule of 6.	
5.8	CCA – Ian Reid	
5.8.1	Ian mentioned other leagues that require all clubs to have a qualified umpire or get fined. Clubs feel Cambs is too small to implement and this has not happened to date. Such a scheme would increase the number of umpires and would be especially beneficial in the CCA.	
5.8.2	Steve K-P highlighted the fact that big clubs such as Saffron Walden have not provided any umpires in the past 30 years.	

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5.9	Whiting League – Ken Smart	
5.9.1	As Whiting League Umpires rep I have nothing to report. There's been no League AGM as yet.	
5.9.2	To the best of my knowledge there have been no Committee Meetings in the three or four years I've been the rep. If there have I've not been invited or seen any minutes.	
5.9.3	In fact the position seems pointless given that since Keith asked me to take it on I've only been invited to the AGM because I found out about it from my own Club. I'm happy to continue if that's what people want although I'm sure some of you would prefer to see the back of me from an irritant point of view!	
6.	Election of Officers	
6.1	President – Frank Appleyard Chairman – Pete Laughlin Vice Chairman – Chris Wilson Secretary and Treasurer – Andrew McLean Appointments Officer – Keith Coburn Education Officer – Ben Whyall Performance Officer – Steve Kent-Phillips stood down Scorer's Rep – Helen Hyde Whiting League Rep – Ken Smart CCA Rep – Ian Reid Welfare – Rob Benson	
7	Any Other Business	
7.1	Rob Benson mentioned that Safeguarding Online awareness may be required for Committee members, company director etc. Safeguarding in higher positions will need appropriate people in those positions and Rob will keep the Committee posted.	



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7.2	<p>Steve Kent-Philips proposed that John Mersch be appointed as a Life Vice-President for all his help to the Association over many years without reward or remuneration. Seconded by Ben Whyall.</p> <p>Pete Laughlin confirmed that this had been raised at Committee meetings prior to the AGM and apologised that it had not been included on the Agenda.</p>	
7.3	<p>Linda Hobbs raised the question if that scorers are required to score electronically in the Whiting League as there may be some games that still need to be done in the book.</p>	
7.4	<p>The question was raised if there would be an AGM in December 2021 – Yes, date to be confirmed</p>	
7.5	<p>Summer BBQ and Annual Dinner will go ahead if possible, dates TBC</p>	
7.6	<p>The Chairman brought the meeting to a close at 21h34</p>	
	<p>End.</p>	