

2025-26 BUCS CRICKET SAG - MEETING 2 - MINUTES

Date Thursday 8th January 2026
Time 09:00-11:00
Location Microsoft Teams

ATTENDEES

Ian Read	Chair
Gethin Smart	Cardiff Met University
David Graveney	Former NGB Rep (Consultant)
Dan Roberts	BUCS
Erin Simmonds	BUCS
Hannah Underhill	BUCS
Max Bergin	BUCS
Nick Burley	BUCS
Gaby Reeves	Student Rep
Gugan Muralitharan	Student Rep

APOLOGIES

Laura Macleod	Bears Women's Cricket
Scott Dale	Canterbury Christ Church Uni
Paul Bedford	Former NGB Rep (Consultant)

ORGANISATION

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Item	Action
<p>1. Apologies / Welcome</p> <p>Apologies were received from Laura Macleod and Paul Bedford. The group welcomed Gethin Smart.</p>	
<p>2. Minutes and Matters Arising (Meeting 3rd November 2025)</p> <p>There were several minutes and matters arising that were covered in agenda items for this meeting. The following actions and matters arising were discussed:</p> <p>At the previous meeting, a discussion took place regarding teams for the finals bringing more than the 12 players they are permitted to name under the current regulations. The group had proposed that the teams for both National Championship finals should be able to name 14 players, with an action for ES to speak with NB about changing the regulation. NB brought some questions to the group as to the reasoning behind the increase, which led to further discussion including whether there was an expectation that these extra players could be used as concussion substitutes – something not currently permitted in BUCS's regulations and not in the MCC Laws – and whether this should just apply for these two finals, or for more fixtures. It was agreed that a change to regulation CRI 2 should be drafted to increase the team size for all Premier Tier, National Championship and National Trophy fixtures from 12 to 14, where teams tend to have larger squads who would train together and travel, but being clear that the</p>	NB

12th-14th players would only be available to be used as substitute fielders, as per regulations. A proposed amendment to CRI 11 will also be drafted to cover hospitality provision – where relevant – for these additional players. The group did not recommend that BUCS introduces concussion substitutes at this time.

There was one respondent to the request for indoor cricket venues. All final venues have now been sourced and booked.

3. Final's Venues & Dates 2026

ES met with the MCC to discuss finals venues. An appetite to host at Lord's is still there but the opportunities are limited due to the amount of usage. Lord's may well be added but on a 3/4-year cycle.

An agreement for Wormsley to host and be paid for by the MCC is now in place. The finals will be held on the following dates.

Women's Championship Final – Monday 15th June 2026

Men's Championship Final – Monday 22nd June 2026

The Trophy finals will take place at Kibworth on Wednesday 10th June with a reserve date of Thursday 11th June. Although there was some confusion on date.

ES

Action: ES to clarify these dates a.s.a.p.

4. Participation/T10 Update

In the absence of SD, IR fed back on this. SD sent through an email outlining his thoughts on creating a SE Championships as a pilot, along with the premise behind creating a survey:

T10 SE Champs:

- Aim: To deliver a more accessible form of competitive cricket that targets non-BUCS players.
- Format: Multiple matches to take place on one day using two pitches. Aim is to provide as many games as possible to teams (e.g., all teams compete against one another, or teams split into two smaller groups with the top teams playing against one another in a final).
- This competition will form part of the Southeast Championships, which is already in place to engage non-BUCS players and development squads across sports such as Netball, 3x3 Basketball, mixed hockey and Volleyball.

DG/SD

Survey:

- Aim: try to find out the number of students who would like to represent their university within competitive cricket but play little or limited BUCS cricket.
- Aim: understand why students don't engage in BUCS cricket despite enjoying the sport.
- Aim: find out whether a T10 one day event is a more appealing format for those not currently engaged in BUCS cricket.

We would use the SE Champs as a pilot event and proof of concept before potentially rolling out nationally. We would still require 3rd party delivery as there isn't capacity within BUCS to run this.

Could we get ECB backing?

<p>Action – DG to sound out ECB appetite to support this</p> <p>Action – SD to send through full details of pilot proposal.</p>	
<p>5. UCCE Structure – What do they look like now?</p> <p>IR gathered some information from 5 current UCCE's and fed back to the group. Broadly speaking, very little has changed this year within the UCCE's in terms of the delivery of their programmes following the loss of ECB funding. Most institutions have absorbed the cost of the programme for this first year, with some happy to continue to do this for the foreseeable future and others having to review how income can be generated beyond 2026. The main area of concern on costs seems to be the ability to afford to play the county fixtures at the start of the summer.</p> <p>DG asked if DR could keep him informed about any UCCE's that may be struggling.</p> <p>GS asked what the premise of being a UCCE is. DR explained that previously the ECB would complete an audit against a set of standards, it's being explored whether BUCS could take this on similar to current national league MOS documents to create some kind of BUCS cricket accreditation to validate UCCE status. BUCS will be working on a potential MOS for UCCE's for 2026-27.</p>	DR
<p>Action – DR to provide details of this once drafted.</p> <p>Further discussions were had relating to what would happen if those that currently run joint programmes, split up. DR explained that a process should probably be created to formalise joint team each season as well as decide where each institutions team should be placed in the structure if they re-enter. This could be similar to the process for collision sports, where new or existing teams can apply to be entered at a different tier based on safety. NB mentioned that this process has been drafted before and could also impact other joint teams, not just UCCEs.</p>	DR
<p>Action – BUCS to create a formal process</p> <p>GS raised where other non-UCCE cricket programmes are at and what they do/don't offer in terms of cricket provision.</p> <p>Action – GS & DG to discuss where other UCCE's are at</p> <p>Ultimately, we need to have further discussions on what all of this means to the future of the UCCE programmes, along with further discussions around the potential creation of a Women's National League.</p> <p>Action – DR to convene a meeting with IR/GS and Neal Kington (BUCS) to discuss further and bring back to the group.</p>	GS/DG
<p>6. Cricket Regulations Tracker</p> <p>Several items for consideration were raised by NB and discussed by the group:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clothing (CRI 7) – The group were asked whether it was felt that more clarity was needed on what colour batting pads could/should be. The group did not feel that there was a need to require that pads match the tops and or/trousers of a team's kit but agreed that for fixtures where a pink ball is used, pink pads should not be permitted, and where a white ball is used, white pads should not be permitted. • Umpires (CRI 8) – NB informed that group that he and DR met with David Elworthy (Senior Manager Recreational Officiating, ECB) back in August to discuss potential improvements to the appointments process for Premier Tier, National Championship, National Trophy and Playoff matches, based on negative feedback received from the ECB ACO in the past few seasons, primarily to do with poor communication from teams. Plans are in progress to 	DR

<p>potentially change the process and if any changes are deemed appropriate the regulations will be updated accordingly prior to the season starting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • G50 coefficient used for Duckworth-Lewis calculations (CRI 16.8.5.4/CRI 17.8.4.3/CRI 18.8.4.3) – NB raised that an umpire had queried why BUCS uses 245 for all matches, regardless of if they involve Female or Open teams or the standard number of overs for the competition. The group discussed that to come up with a custom number for each competition would require a review of past BUCS fixtures to see what the average score expected from the team batting first in an uninterrupted 50 overs-per-innings match would be (or fewer overs-per-innings where applicable, which it is not worth doing as the impact is likely to be minimal. However, it was agreed that, if BUCS Play – which has a built-in calculator – can be amended, then for fixtures involving Female teams, the G50 should be amended to 200, which is in line with the ECB's default for such fixtures on "Play-Cricket". • Coaching from sidelines (no current regulation) – NB raised that in the past few years when BUCS's regulations were more closely aligned to the ECB's rules and playing conditions for recreational cricket, one matter that was not addressed at the time was that BUCS does not have a regulation regarding coaching from the sidelines. NB proposed that BUCS introduces a regulation closely resembling ECB rule 12, which does not permit coaching from the sidelines. The group stated that such a regulation would be welcomed, but GS stated that it would be helpful to get more clarity as to what is meant by "coaching from the sidelines". <p>Action – NB to draft proposed regulation changes regarding the colour of batting pads, a change to the G50 coefficient used in Duckworth-Lewis calculations for matches involving Female teams and coaching from the sidelines not being permitted. Proposed changes to be circulated to the membership for feedback and subsequent review by National Competitions Group at the meeting on 02/03/2026.</p> <p>GS asked if BUCS would consider asking all teams to use Play Cricket for scoring. Could we trial Play Cricket at a certain level?</p> <p>Action – BUCS to look at the feasibility of building this in.</p>	NB BUCS
<p>7. AOB</p> <p>DG asked where the new Cricket Regulator may fit into BUCS fixtures. Further discussions need to take place as to whether this is feasible or whether they would ask BUCS to create their own regulator.</p> <p>Action – NB with the help of DG to have a discussion with the Cricket Regulator to see if they would be willing to oversee BUCS fixtures.</p> <p>Action – IR to send out doodle poll for the next meeting.</p>	NB/DG IR

Dates and times of meetings for 2025-26 season.

Meeting 1 – 3rd November 2025

Meeting 2 – 8th January 2026

Meeting 3 – TBC

Meeting 4 – TBC