South Metropolitan Cricket Association

MINUTES for the SMCA Executive Meeting
12 October 2026

Venue: Thornlie Clubrooms, 6:32pm

PRESENT:

Peter Anderson, David King, Mario Baeli, Mark Iannello, Ian Del Rosso, Sean Ingram, Joe Covic and Jacob Landsmeer (Teams), Gary Hartman (minutes), Ian Hale (Life Member),

APOLOGIES: Shamez Rashid, Saba Pillai, Andrew Ring, Steve Kemp

ABSENT: Nil

MINUTES of PREVIOUS EXECUTIVE MEETING:

Moved: Mark Iannello Seconded: Mario Baeli that the minutes of the previous meeting *held on 21 September 2026* — be accepted as a true and accurate record. **CARRIED**

MATTERS ARISING:

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

The 2026/27 season is well underway, and as we embark on Week 3 of the competition, it is pleasing to see the season getting off to such a positive start.

Our new Umpires Advisor has hit the ground running, visiting several clubs and reaching out to Captains and Presidents to introduce himself and thank them for their feedback. This is an encouraging start and an important step in continuing to strengthen the relationship between our clubs, players and umpires.

I would also like to take this opportunity to formally acknowledge and thank our Administrator, Gary Hartman, for the incredible work he has undertaken over recent weeks in preparing the fixtures for the season.
Gary has been busy coordinating fixtures across our grades, from First Grade through to Seventh Grade, and from One Day A Grade through to One Day I Grade. Yes, we will have a One Day I Grade competition this season!

Fixture preparation is no mean feat. It requires hours of planning, reviewing, adjusting and reworking to accommodate ground availability and the needs of the competition. As an Association, our fixtures remain a work in progress until Round 1 has been scheduled for each grade. The Executive provides Gary with the necessary framework to make adjustments where required, and Gary regularly consults with us when further amendments are needed. The Committee considers these requests and supports changes where appropriate.

The patience, persistence and commitment required to coordinate such a complex schedule should not be underestimated. On behalf of the Executive and the entire Association, thank you, Gary, for the enormous amount of work you put into ensuring our competition gets underway as smoothly as possible. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

I had the privilege of attending Cannington Tigers Cricket Club's 100-year celebration with both Senior Vice President David King and Association Life Member Ian Hale, marking an extraordinary milestone in the club's history. It was a fantastic evening celebrating the players, volunteers and supporters who have helped shape the club over the past century. However, just as important was the recognition that a club's legacy is not only defined by those who have come before us, but also by those who will continue to serve and build the club into the future. Congratulations to Cannington Tigers on reaching this remarkable milestone, and I wish the club every success for the next 100 years.

The CricketWest carnival is fast approaching, and this season we have an exciting opportunity to prepare through our proposed fixture against Gosnells District Cricket Club on Sunday, 29 November. With only six weeks to go, this will provide our Seniors, Colts and Veterans with the opportunity to play turf cricket as preparation for the carnival, which takes place over the weekend of 19–20 December. The Carnival in December also involves the Women, so please I encourage all to register your interest. It would be fantastic to win all four competitions at the Carnival, as we came close last season.

If you are interested in representing the SMCA at any of these levels, please register your interest by contacting secretary@smcacricket.com.au. We are also seeking volunteers to assist across both days of the carnival. These events take considerable effort to organise and deliver, and I encourage anyone who can spare some time to get involved. As the saying goes, many hands make light work, and the support of our cricketing community is invaluable.

On a more serious note, a match within our Association was unfortunately interrupted over the weekend when a participant experienced a medical episode. Sadly, these incidents are becoming an increasingly important consideration within community sport, and they serve as a timely reminder that being prepared for a medical emergency can save a life.

I ask all clubs to review their medical kits, check that their defibrillators are present, accessible and ready for use, and encourage members to install the St John First Responder app on their mobile phones. The app can help users locate nearby defibrillators and identify their accessibility, which can be critical in an emergency.
Clubs should also consider reviewing which members hold current first aid qualifications so that this information is readily available when needed.

These are relatively simple steps, but they could make an enormous difference in a life-threatening situation. While we all want our cricket season to be remembered for the performances on the field, we also have a responsibility to look after the people who make our competition possible.

I would also like to remind everyone that our SMCA Mental Health Round will take place on Saturday, 14 November, coinciding with the final fixtured one-day match for our Two-Day Competition grades, First Grade through to Fifth Grade.

Clubs were provided with blue stumps by the Association last season, and I encourage everyone to use these on the day as a visible show of support for mental health awareness within our cricketing community.

Mental health impacts all of us in some way, whether through a family member, friend, work colleague or someone within our cricket club. Much like the message behind R U OK? Day, we should never underestimate the value of simply checking in with someone and asking, “Are you okay?” or “Is everything alright? You don't seem to be yourself lately.” These questions may seem small, but they can open the door to important conversations and let someone know that others care about their wellbeing.

I encourage everyone to look out for one another, both on and off the field. Remember, you are not alone. Family, friends and those around you may be willing to listen and offer support when you need it. If you don't feel comfortable talking with someone you know, professional support is also available through services such as:

- Lifeline: 13 11 14
- Beyond Blue: 1300 22 4636
- 13 YARN: 13 92 76

These services provide support 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

As a cricketing community, we have an opportunity to do more than simply wear our colours and compete each weekend. We can create an environment where people feel comfortable speaking up, asking for help and supporting one another. I encourage all clubs, players, umpires and supporters to embrace the Mental Health Round and help reinforce the message that looking after each other is just as important as what happens on the field.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge a particularly special moment in our competition, with the recent appearance of former Australian Test cricketer and Western Australian coach Adam Voges. It was pleasing to see Adam take the field in the SMCA competition, particularly given his son plays senior cricket with one of our member clubs.

While the news attracted attention on social media, what stood out to me was the opportunity for a father and son to share the experience of playing cricket together. These are the moments that make community cricket so special. Beyond the grades, the results and the individual achievements, our Association provides opportunities for families and friends to share their passion for the game.

To have the opportunity to take the field alongside your son or daughter is something truly special, and I hope we continue to see these family connections flourish throughout our competition for many seasons to come.

I wish all clubs, players, umpires and volunteers the very best for the remainder of October and the season ahead. Thank you to everyone who continues to contribute to making the SMCA a strong, inclusive and enjoyable cricketing community.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Most of my recent time has been spent finalising the fixtures. As always, while no fixture list is ever entirely perfect, this represents the best possible outcome within our operational constraints. To ensure long-term continuity, I have created a Fixtures Construction Report (with assistance from AI). This document provides a clear, step-by-step record of the process to assist anyone who may step into this role in future seasons. Creating the fixtures continues to bring both immense frustration and great satisfaction, and despite the inevitable challenges, I remain fully committed to delivering the best possible outcome for the competition.

Ground availability presented several challenges again this season—most notably the initial conflict where both Champion Lakes (now in a different Association) and Forrestdale were granted access to Rushton Park Lower. Overall, however, the situation was improved compared to last season; notably, we avoided the need to delay the start of our lowest one-day grade by a week due to ground shortages.

On the administrative front, fines have been issued to clubs that failed to attend recent General Meetings. Additional fines were sent to CBC 1st Grade and Perth Tamil 4th Grade for failing to submit a Captain's Report on the umpire. Kardinya Lakes 6th Grade was fined for playing an unregistered player using the Fill-In Player feature. This matter was referred to the Review Committee, where the appeal was dismissed.

Three clubs forfeited their opening one-day matches: Perth Tamil ODB against East Fremantle, Kwinana ODD against East Fremantle, and Leeming Spartan ODA against Canning Vale. Because two of these forfeits occurred in a team's non-lowest grade, the mandatory $200 fine will be applied to those respective clubs in accordance with competition rules.

I would like to thank the Fixtures and Gradings Committee for their support throughout the fixture construction process, with a special acknowledgment to Shamez for his solid assistance. The Info for Captains and Club Handbook have both been distributed. Remarkably, only a couple of days after distribution, a club reached out to ask how to submit a forfeit—a moment that certainly makes you shake your head and wonder why we put so much effort into documentation!

F15, 4 teams have nominated

I'm unsure what points to award to the team that has the bye in ODI. In the past, when teams had played a different number of games, they were given average winning points. This season some teams have three byes and others have two, so what should the bye team receive in the case of a forfeit? It was agreed that teams having the bye will receive 8 points which is average winning points.

Clubs are reminded that incomplete matches must be entered as a draw. At present, many clubs are submitting these games as *abandoned*. In PlayHQ the result cannot be changed once entered, and an abandoned match allocates 4 points to each team, which is the same as a

draw, so the ladder outcome is effectively identical. However, recording the match as *abandoned* creates an operational issue because the captains' report on umpires is not activated. To ensure correct reporting and compliance, clubs are to enter any incomplete match as a draw.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mario advised that fines have now been issued. Club affiliations have been sent out, with sixteen already paid. Team affiliations will be sent out shortly.

The Umpires Advisor is to provide the Treasurer with a list of umpire appointments, enabling payments to be made to umpires in a timely manner.

Mario advised that he and Ian Del Rosso were still looking into the Storage Locker.

Cash Reserve: $40,413.03

Community Reserve: $59,390.44

UMPIRE'S ADVISOR:

The first ideals I have put in place are based on communication. I have contacted all 1st and 2nd Grade prior to the season and had contact with nearly all of them. I won't name and shame, but I'm hoping to get some more engagement from a couple of clubs in the next couple of weeks.

On the back of asking for match reports, in Round 1, only two incidents of not returning the report (CBC 1st Grade and Perth Tamil 4th Grade). I will continue to ask for these reports. All in all, the reports have been completed with reasonable feedback. Once I have received these, I have been reading them, averaging the score for the umpire (6 categories out of 10 (Communication, Player and Match Management, Decision Making – Other, Decision Making – Appeals, Knowledge of Laws of Cricket, Knowledge of SMCA By-laws)) and am recording these on a spreadsheet. This will aid with umpire placement as the data and feedback builds and will help decide who is the Umpire of the Year and aid the Most Improved Umpire decisions. A wonderful example of a match report was from Kwinana 3rd Grade from the 10th October. They had 0.1 deducted for slow over rate, but the captain in the report advised that the umpire had given plenty of advice regarding how they were going and the repercussions and used commonsense throughout this situation and the game. This sort of feedback truly helps our umpiring fraternity and the relationship between umpires, clubs, and captains.

On top of taking note of the information provided by the reports, I have been sending feedback to the captains (thanks, asking for clarification, providing clarification) as well as using the feedback in the reports to tell the umpires how they are going and things for consideration and learning.

I have selected what is considered by the SMCA Executive Committee the 4 best umpires, and I will have one of them in each 1st Grade game, and I will put other umpires with them, as part of the shared knowledge and mentoring program. As the games go by, I plan to give umpires who

have started the season in 2nd grade a chance in 1st grade if their scores and feedback warrant it. This will be the same of 3rd to 2nd and so forth.

My last strategy is sending emails out to the panel. I sent one at the end of the first round providing advice and clarity regarding some of the feedback (communication around over rates, LBWs, and time of arrival). I also sent another email on Friday to the panel about the weather and things they may need to consider, such as delayed starts and rain delays, reducing overs.

Regarding numbers, our numbers have been less than hoped (15 in round 2), but I'm hoping that will build over the next couple of weeks. We've had some returning umpires, and I will be reaching out to umpires who have not yet umpired this season to see if we can get them back on deck.
Lastly, we have the new shirts with our new sponsor, Knight Health. They look great, and Scott Knight has advised that he's really happy with the outcome and how quickly we organised them.

There was discussion regarding the points awarded in the McKenna and Hale Medals when a match is abandoned. It was agreed that points will only be awarded if at least one innings has been completed.

There was also discussion on suspended players being able to reduce their sentence by umpiring.

Joe suggested that if a club requests an umpire for a particular match, then they must provide a suitable person to umpire another game.

It was agreed that an official umpire appointed by the SMCA may override a non-official square-leg umpire if he is 100% certain that the square-leg umpire has made an incorrect decision.

CRICKETWEST:

Kelly Loakes from WACA presented new Integrity Process Code. I have asked for a copy of the presentation. She wants to present to individual associations. It revolves around the escalation process and assistance with non-playing issues.

Tom Atkinson promoted Coaching 360 website. I have asked for information pack and links that could be put on our website.

CricketWest looking at potential grounds for CricketWest Cup - 19/20 December. We have requested an opportunity to use WACA for finals. If not possible, then most likely competition will be same as last season, but will be reviewed going forward. Pete asked about speaking to Gosnells.

Cricket West received Affiliation Agreement. We had an online meeting with WACA about making agreement relevant - fell a little on deaf ears. Will be discussed for signing next meeting - 20/10. CricketWest can then put together and issue CricketWest/Assoc agreements.

I also attended Statewide Development Meeting.

GRADINGS AND FIXTURES:

Gradings and fixtures have been completed.

East Fremantle have been notified that Fremantle Park is unavailable on several dates. Two of these dates have been covered through ground swaps. The second day of a two-day match in February has no obvious option to free up the second day. There was discussion regarding the possibility of playing the match on a Saturday/Sunday, or alternatively playing it on the one available day under two-day rules. Mario mentioned the availability of South Coogee, which is not being used this season. He will contact the City of Cockburn and advise the outcome.

David raised concerns about some of the scores being recorded by lower-grade one-day sides. The two-day grades appear to be progressing well.

CONSTITUTION AND BY LAWS:

Peter presented the updated By-Law 12, with an additional clause proposed as By-Law 12(f). This confirms that the trial in place for the 2025–26 season is to be continued and formally incorporated into the By-Laws.

> f. Where a club forfeits a One-Day team other than the lowest One-Day team within its club structure, the club shall be fined two hundred dollars ($200.00).

Further By-Law 69 was amended to allow for the fine for the new By-Law.

> 15 Forfeiting a One-Day team other than the lowest One-Day team within the club structure $200

It was moved by David King and seconded by Mario that the amended By-Laws be accepted.
CARRIED

PROTESTS AND DISPUTES:

Nil

AGENDA ITEMS:

Shamez requested a review of the Secretary remuneration. It is a particularly busy role throughout the season and serves as the primary point of contact for the Association, carrying a significant workload and responsibility. There was discussion on this matter and, although some adjustment to remuneration may be warranted, these decisions fall under Clause 40 of the Constitution and must be made by the Executive prior to the Annual General Meeting. The matter will therefore be discussed further in the new year.

GENERAL BUSINESS

A representative from the Wellard Bulls contacted David King requesting confirmation of the two rounds in which Kookaburra Crown balls will be trialled in 40-over matches this season. After discussion, it was agreed that the Wellard Bulls v Cannington Tigers Round 3 ODD match would be one of the trial games, and the Jandakot Park v Kwinana Round 5 Sixth Grade match would be the other.

The SMCA will supply the balls, with Mario to arrange the purchase. These balls are to be handed back to the SMCA at the conclusion of each match for inspection.

Gary advised that the updated PlayHQ website is a work in progress.

Jacob discussed the issue of advising clubs of McKenna and Hale vote tallies. It was agreed that this would occur at the completion of Round 7 of the Two-Day Grades.

Jacob further advised that he had appointed Noah Preston as captain of the SMCA Colts representative side.

There was discussion on naming First and Second Grade Teams of the Year. It was noted that forming selection panels without committee members having club affiliations is difficult. It was agreed that Peter Anderson would present the two teams as the President's XI, assisted by Sean Ingram and any others he considers appropriate.

Mario discussed the complications involved in dropping players through the grades, noting that the current system can be unfair on some clubs. There was discussion on this matter, and it was generally agreed that, as the season has already commenced, the system cannot be changed at this stage. Any changes, if considered necessary, will be reviewed prior to the 2026–27 season.

Ian Hale provided an update on the SMCA Radio Show.

CLOSURE: As there was no further business the meeting closed at 8:31pm.

NEXT MEETING:

Executive Meeting 9 November at Thornlie – 6:30pm