

Warning from ECB regarding a scam that has been circulated to some UK cricket clubs

Dear Club Chairmen, Secretaries and Treasurers,

Unfortunately, it seems that since June clubs across the country have started to become targeted with a very believable email scam. Clubs have actioned the email due to its honest seeming nature and as a consequence have lost considerable amounts of money. This has now hit Gloucestershire and very sadly a club has paid out, and therefore lost, over £3k due to this scam.

It seems that an email is sent from the Chairman (or other senior Officer) of the club to the Treasurer requesting them to set up a payment – the correct email addresses are shown and the appropriate names of Officers are used. A couple of days later the Treasurer receives a second email asking for the balance to be settled. The beneficiary in Gloucestershire's case was a sports equipment company called Marrant Group Ltd. and the Chairman had not sent any such email to the treasurer.

During the last week the Gloucestershire Cricket Board became aware of this issue and on the 12th November retweeted a tweet from Bristol United Banks CC (<https://twitter.com/BUBCC1886/status/929788806135508992>) indicating that a local club had been contacted in such a way. The following link also shows that clubs in Lancashire were targeted in the same way in June 2017 <http://www.palaceshieldcricket.co.uk/index.php/news/executive-news/item/1438-scam-warning>.

Please can I ask all clubs to be more diligent if you receive such a request from an officer in your club? If you receive a message of this type, or of a similar nature that purports to be from a club, league or board official, check that the email address from which it originates is the one by which you 'know' them. If you have any doubts about the authenticity of the message then contact them direct by phone to make sure that it is a genuine request before making any payment.

Can I please ask that if any other clubs have received such communications then you let me know at your earliest convenience.

Kind regards

Andy

Andy Fairbairn
Cricket Development Manager, Somerset Cricket Board.
01823 352266