

# ACO National Conference

Lord's, Saturday 20th November



**“The Association is an excellent example of ‘the Big Society’ with our executive staff and volunteers working closely together to show continued progress. May I take this opportunity to thank everyone for the support, which has been very apparent over the last twelve months?”**

*Roger Knight, ACO Chairman*

## A summary of the day by the main organiser, Sam Greaves...

“ALL STARTED BRIGHTLY at 09.30 when the rain that was forecast did not show but unfortunately the cold arrived promptly. Members quickly moved through the reception to get their hands on a warm drink. This time also gave the attendees an opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new ones.

At 10.20 all attendees were herded into the main room for the start of the AGM. **Roger Knight**, Chairman of the ACO, **Nick Cousins**, Senior Executive Officer, and **Peter Mitchell**, Deputy-Chairman and Midlands Regional Representative, presented on different issues regarding the management and running of the ACO. Following this the attendees were invited to put forward their

views regarding the constitution to the Board, and there was also a vote on the subscription fee increase, which was approved by a very substantial majority.

Unfortunately the 30 minutes scheduled for the AGM was not long enough and the Conference began at 10.25 with Hawkeye, presented **Paul Hawkins** in the Nursery Pavilion and Total Cricket Scorer, presented by **Lee Marmara** and **Paul Thurstance** in the Indoor School. Hawkeye is one of the most complicated systems in cricket, and it showed when Paul Hawkins was unable to access his presentation for the meeting. However this did not stop him from explaining exactly how the system he designed actually worked. Total Cricket

*Continued on page 2*

## The enclosures with this Newsletter:

- A two-sided sheet explaining what to do about your Direct Debit or Card payment for the 2011 fee
- A two-sided leaflet showing the new Kit packs and offers, so order quickly for Christmas!
- Also, on the reverse of the address sheet is an explanation of the ‘Renewal’ process.

## Powerplays

Conference Reports	p2/3
Grading	p8/9
Fee debate	p10
Crosswords	p16/17



Chairman, Roger Knight, gives his opening address

Scorer was very well attended and gave an insight into the current system and new versions which TCS will be bringing out in time for the 2011 season.

Following the two sessions aimed at giving attendees an insight into how technology affects both scoring and umpiring, we had Duckworth Lewis presented by **Frank Duckworth** and **Tony Lewis** in the Nursery Pavilion, and Scoring in the Media by **Malcolm Ashton** in the Indoor School. Duckworth Lewis successfully explained to umpires how one of the most complicated equations actually came about and how it is used today in the professional game. Malcolm Ashton gave another excellent presentation about his role in the Test Match Special commentary box.

After Malcolm the 'terrible twins' members were directed to the reception hall for lunch. With time to be made up, lunch was pushed through much more quickly so that the speaker – **Henry Blowers** could start. As all cricket fans know, Blowers is an avid cricket fan and great presenter/commentator. We won't ruin it for those who didn't attend, but suffice to say that he was wonderfully entertaining, because his talk will also be on the Conference DVD. He also brought along some of his merchandise which he signed and personalised for our members.

Following Blowers, **Ian Gould** took to the stage in the Nursery Pavilion and Duckworth Lewis moved to the indoor school. Nick Cousins led a question and answer session for Ian regarding issues that he faces in today's professional game and opened to the floor for members to ask their questions – a sort of 'cricket Question Time'. The terrible twins presented a scorer-specific session with interactive



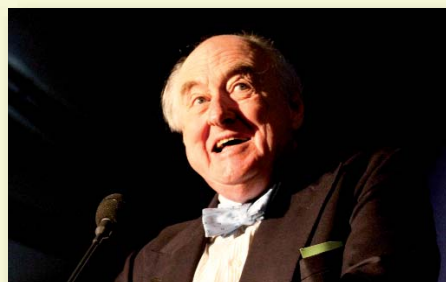
"It really does go like this" ... insists Paul Hawkins

questions and worksheets for attendees to complete.

The final session in the Nursery Pavilion was 'Practical Umpiring' presented by **John Holder** and 'Inside the Sky Commentary Box' presented by **Benedict Bermange** in the Indoor School. John's presentation looked at how he prepared before a game and how he felt he could better himself as an umpire. He also gave lots of tips for effective officiating at all levels. Benedict gave an insight into how he collates his stats and what he looks at as the official Sky statistician. He also described how it was his dream job working with his heroes in the Sky commentary box. Both Malcolm Ashton and Benedict rushed off after the last session as they had flights to catch to Australia!

185 attendees braved the cold and toured Lord's in one of their walkabout sessions, and 24 officials were invited to compete against Hawkeye. This session was very popular again and we will be looking into how we can improve the availability for all officials in 2011.

**Nick Cousins** closed the Conference and thanked all those who helped put the event together, the presenters, the executives and the caterers. He finished by presenting the Shepherd-Frindall Award winners with



"In full flow Dear Old Thing" ... says whimsical and mischievous 'Blowers'

their trophies. The winners were;

\* League and Panels – **Keith Coburn & Cambridgeshire League Panel**

\* Young Volunteer – **Alasdair Shaikh**, Sussex

\* Lifetime Achiever – **Jeff Levick**, Hampshire

\* Behind the Scenes – **David Kirk**, Hampshire

\* OSCA's Official Award – **Peter Marshall**, Blind Cricket Umpires Association

(A more in-depth review of the Shepherd-Frindall awards and the 2010 winners, will be in the first edition of the 2011 newsletter)

We will produce a DVD of each seminar in 2011. This will be available to all ACO members through our licensed merchandise manufacturers, Duncan Fearnley. All 2010 Conference attendees will receive a copy free of charge. Keep an eye out in the next newsletter".

## The Conference – by numbers

2009 – 300 attendees

2010 – 364 attendees (max capacity)

Repeat attendees – 172 (47.25%)

### County breakdown...

Bedfordshire	6
Berkshire	14
Buckinghamshire	16
Cambridgeshire	5
Cheshire	14
Combined Services	4
Cornwall	2
Cumbria	4
Derbyshire	3
Devon	7
Dorset	2
Durham	3
Essex	13
Gloucestershire	9
Hampshire	6
Herefordshire	4
Hertfordshire	20
Huntingdonshire	
ICC Europe	15
Isle of Wight	1
Kent	21
Lancashire	12
Leicestershire & Rutland	3
Lincolnshire	3
Middlesex	22
Norfolk	2
Northamptonshire	4
Northumberland	1
Nottinghamshire	7
Oxfordshire	9
Shropshire	11
Somerset	3
Staffordshire	2
Suffolk	1
Surrey	21
Sussex	16
Wales	7
Warwickshire	9
Wiltshire	7
Worcestershire	14
Yorkshire	19
India	1
Canada	1
Regional Reps	6
Walk-ins	12

# The Conference – your response

“It was a brilliant day. Coming to the home of cricket to mingle with top cricket officials – what more could an umpire want? I started with the Lord’s tour and especially enjoyed seeing the ‘away’ changing room. Next were the legends Duckworth and Lewis, who presented a witty talk and gave autographs like stars. Then I tested myself against Hawkeye and was gratified that it (mostly) backed up my calls. Finally I heard words of wisdom from John Holder, telling us above all to appear composed and assured, no matter what doubts we might experience. I left with increased confidence in my own abil-



John Holder tells us how it is

ities and the reassurance that umpires face similar problems at whatever level they stand.” **Peter Gillman**, from south-east London and Kent.

“National conference 2010 – A personal view – arrived at Lord’s at 9.30am after a 3 1/2 hour car journey from Cheshire; what better place to hold a conference than the home of cricket. After the introductions and AGM speeches we were into the seminars. I waited in anticipation for the Hawkeye lecture and at first was disappointed that the PC wouldn’t work. However this proved to be a blessing in disguise as Paul Hawkins did a wonderful job with his flipchart. Having attended the Hawkeye lecture at Lord’s earlier in the year it had a different slant with him just talking about it.

Moving on to “you v Hawkeye” this was a real eye opener and I was happy to get 2 out of 3 right on the day. Will be recommending to our panel that we book a further session with Fraser and Ash in the Lord’s indoor centre, and get 10 of our umps assessed and sharpened up for the new season!

A wonderful buffet lunch was had at 1.15 followed by an excellent session from Blowers. He hasn’t lost any of his magic.

The afternoon consisted of Gunner and John Holder sharing their experiences and



Q&A with ‘Gunner’ Ian Gould

giving advice on practical umpiring. It always amazes me that no matter how long you have been umpiring you always learn something from listening to guys like these with all their experience - although Gunner’s fitness regime of beer and fags might raise a few eyebrows!!

The day finally came to end just after 4.30 after the closing speeches and awards, Keith Coburn managing to keep a low profile on the day (!), and me thinking that the day just went far too quickly. A great day had by all, very well run and professional. A pleasure to meet friends and colleagues that you haven’t seen for a while, and to catch up with Chris Kelly, Paul Bedford and Glyn Pearson. I can only echo Roger Knight’s special thanks to Sam who organised the event brilliantly on the day. Looking forward to the 2011 event already.” **Alistair Davies**, from Stockport.

## What you all thought about it...

Having enjoyed a 40% return of the questionnaires, and having analysed them all, this is a summary of the six main elements on which we asked for your views, and the words used for each comment have only been listed because they were made by more than 5 members...

### General

- ‘Very good, informative, much better and more interesting than 2009’
- Poor access for disabled and those not good at stairs and walking
- Feedback form needs attention
- ACO video – inspirational and a great way to end
- ‘Congratulations to all the ECB ACO staff’

### Timings

- Earlier notification/confirmation of conference place
- Timings poorly stuck to, maybe need to start earlier
- Time between sessions managed better, could have a short gap?
- The AGM needs to be shorter or no AGM at all.
- More time for AGM should include a Q&A session next time.

### Cost

- Price is just right and would expect it to rise slightly with improved content/food: however should never rise above £50.
- Would pay more for a sit-down meal and after-dinner speaker.
- Wouldn’t pay for accommodation in London unless reasonably priced.

### Food

- Food needs to be improved – more of it, more hot options (sausage rolls/pies), increase the number of ‘food stations’, could have two sittings, increase vegetarian choice.
- Some people went hungry and there was a lack of plates

### Venue

- Could the idea of Regional conferences/dinners or equivalent be considered
- Lord’s to remain the venue, the tour needs to be more specific to the umpires and scorers e.g. umpires’ changing room and scorers’ box – could have an umpire

and scorer in the room talking about their match day preparation etc?

### Seminars

- Groups were too large; smaller groups to make sessions more intimate
- New seminar - 1<sup>st</sup> class player – their view of the umpire and the player/umpire relationship?
- New seminar - Use of video – match incidents (Q&A/ best practice)
- New seminar - Clarifying the laws of cricket? (Q&A/ best practice)
- More practical help for umpires maybe more from tutors and less from ‘celebrities’
- More practical/interactive sessions
- Increase numbers for practical you-vs-Hawkeye but great experience to test myself
- Increase number of sessions – smaller numbers more intimate
- Check technology before the day – Hawkeye presentation limited
- More information from first-class umpires such as John Holder who was brilliant.

# Groundsmanship – in ‘this green and pleasant land’

Now here is a seriously important topic regarding an element that we tread all over without much notice or concern. This needs to change!

Fortunately enough, we have two experts on hand to talk us through the subject between this season’s end and the new growths of next year, and the two Newsletter issues of Christmas and early-spring will carry features, ideas, and ‘best-practice’ suggestions from the ECB and IoG experts, Chris Wood and Martin Ford.

So, to start, here is a summary of their roles and areas of responsibility...

**Chris Wood**, is the ECB Pitches Consultant, who, as he most adequately puts it, is usually to be found ‘on the motorways of Britain’ bustling between county grounds, manufacturers, suppliers, inventors, and academic institutions. His main remit is the ever-improving condition of all grounds where international matches are to be played, and then, the first-class and other county locations to which he adds that he is ‘...also Technical Advisor to Pitch Panel hearings, and a member of the Pitches Research Group. In addition, I have a monitoring and advisory role in all forms of recreational cricket and liaise with universities, organisations, sporting bodies, projects and companies within the turf trade, constantly looking for innovative equipment, materials and ideas that will lend towards improving our pitches and the livelihoods of the grounds managers who look after our facilities in an ever-challenging and changing social environment.’

**Martin Ford**, is a leading light on cricket matters in the IoG (Institute of Groundsmanship), with a wide role which is part-funded by the ECB for his contribution to many topics within the ‘recreational’ game – and indeed he made the recent presentation to the ‘Premier Leagues Chairmen’s Committee’. He is also the ‘go-to’ man in respect of the new ‘Pitch marking’ reports that are now part of umpires’ post-match assessments

and reporting procedures across the land. He has also overseen the continuance of the ‘PQS’ (Performance Quality Standards) programme of Premier League assessments, and he now also is the line-manager with supervision over the newly-appointed ‘Regional Pitch Advisors’. All this work, quite naturally, is meant to educate club ground-staff but, for ACO, it is a subject which all members interested in the improvement of playing conditions, need to know about and be able to comment on.

In this Christmas issue, we commence with **Martin Ford** and his overview of the need that most of us have been made more aware of this last season by which he explains the ‘why’ behind what we have been asked to record...

“The game of cricket is dependent on the quality of the playing surface, particularly the pitch, more so than perhaps any other sport. Good cricket can only be played and learned on pitches that are safe and provide consistent bounce and pace to provide an equal contest between bat and ball – and lively entertainment for spectators.

The interaction of the cricket ball and the pitch is one of the key factors affecting the outcome of a cricket match, and this interaction is the key to influencing the four main playing characteristics of a cricket pitch, namely pace, bounce, turn and consistency. A unique characteristic of a natural turf pitch is that it changes character during a match which in turn will influence this interaction.

One of the big debates in cricket is; what is a good pitch? The answer may differ on whether you are batsman or bowler, whether you are spectator and only want to see runs and sixes, whether the pitch is for a 20/20, a one day game or longer, and of course the standard of the cricket being played.

Many describe a good pitch as invariably one that is good for batting; one that is flat, offering even bounce and little spin, and where batsmen can score runs with ease. It might not seem like a big issue, but calling such pitches ‘good’ is symptomatic of an attitude that cricket is all about scoring runs,

In club cricket the bat

may never dominate the ball quite as it does in the first-class game but the better club pitches should still have enough in them to encourage sides to be bowled out whilst still playing on a decent surface. To win a game in Premier league cricket you have to bowl the side out and this skill and opportunity should never be taken away from club cricket.

So what are umpires looking for when marking the limited-over one-day club league pitch? Ideally the pitch should match the following key objectives:-

- The whole surface of the pitch should be completely dry, firm and true for the duration of the match
- Provide good carry, and even and consistent bounce throughout
- There should be little or no turn and little or no seam movement
- (There is no stipulation that one-day pitches *must* be dry, although it is expected that this and the other stated objectives are aspired to in the preparation of the match pitch. In all cases pitches should be judged on **how they play**, and not whether they are dry or what colour they are).

The pitch will be rated as one of the following:

- 5 - Very good
- 4 - Good
- 3 - Above average
- 2 - Below average
- 1 - Poor
- 0 - Unsatisfactory or unfit

In rating the pitch, umpires will judge against the objectives outlined above in the marking sheet columns for:-

- Inconsistency of bounce
- Seam movement
- Carry and/or bounce
- Turn

Of these criteria, seam and turn are the aspects that appear to cause confusion when marking the form.

The key issue here is that **any movement of the ball should be as a result of the quality of the pitch only. Always take into consideration the ability of the bowlers, newness of the ball, any slope across the pitch, and prevailing atmospheric conditions. All of these factors may influence the amount of movement.**

It’s usual for the new ball to move around at the start of play. At Premier league level good opening bowlers using a new ball will get movement in the air and off the seam, especially in English conditions; and there are skilled spinners who can turn the ball even on a flat surface. The pitch may even have a slope across the line of play that can influence sideways movement, and as it wears, the spinners will gain extra friction to help the ball bite and turn.



‘Not another salad lunch?’

These factors don't necessarily mean the pitch is poor in any way or that it should be marked down.

Consistency of bounce is arguably the most important quality in a pitch, whatever the pace. Batsmen don't worry so much about sideways movement of the ball from seam and spin as usually this is a measure of the bowler's skill - but they must be able to trust the bounce. So even a slow low pitch, though not ideal, can be more acceptable if the bounce is consistent throughout the game than one that is fast and bouncy but variable: one ball that's up around the batsman's chin and then ankle high the next!

Umpires need only to assess the pitch as it plays, as the game unfolds, and the pitch characteristics change. Umpires appointed in the higher leagues are usually neutral and in a unique position as being the only parties completely independent in the game. They must avoid taking preconceived ideas to the match about the pitch, disregarding rumours that may suggest pitches at a certain club will be poor or indeed very good - you can only mark what you see on the day, and not what you think might happen or what happened last week.

Pre-judging how a pitch will play is as much an art as a science. Leave this to the captains; it's their job to assess how the pitch will play and, if they win the toss, can decide whether to bat or bowl considering the talents available in their team, and the likely behaviour of the pitch. A notoriously difficult task as many captains, even at international level, will have discovered to their embarrassment.

Another factor can influence opinion - namely the presentation of the ground. There's no doubt that presentation is important; players, umpires, and spectators cannot help but have a better impression of a ground when they arrive if it's well presented by the groundsman. Neatly cut, clearly and correctly marked out, the pitch properly aligned and squared with stumps correctly placed, and the outfield closely mown and maybe even striped with a clearly defined boundary. An all-round clean, tidy, and well prepared ground makes everyone feel better about the game.

However, the acid test is - how does the pitch play! For example, the ideal pitch should have an even and uniform cover of grass, and hopefully for Premier league matches a fresh pitch will be available. However, as the season progresses this may not be possible on some grounds because of crowded fixture lists, and late in the season the square becomes worn and bare with the groundsman unable to find an unused pitch. But what really matters is; whether the footholes are correctly and safely repaired, is it clearly and correctly marked out in accordance with the laws of the game, and, most importantly, how does the pitch play during the match.



Martin Ford with one of his smart machines.

Most groundsmen I know do their very best to produce a good playing surface within the resources available to them, but occasionally the gods are against them and things go wrong, Very heavy rain during the week getting under the covers and leaving a damp pitch for example. As long as it's safe to play most players will want a game, and the pitch can only be marked as it plays, so use the comments section to mention the wet conditions, and if possible the reasons.

But what about the genuinely poor pitch; the 'bunsen burner', the 'ENT', the 'minefield'? Well, the pitch Performance Quality Standard (PQS) programme introduced into Premier leagues has as a key ob-

jective to improve the standards of pitches at top club level. As stated in the opening lines of this article, good cricket can only be played on good pitches, and to support this objective and develop our best young cricketers, it's important to identify poor pitches so that the Leagues can take action to help those clubs improve, and importantly pass the message to defaulters that if they wish to remain a Premier league side or aspire to Premier league status they need more than just good results - they need suitable quality playing facilities as well. The key word here is *help!* There can be many reasons why a club may be producing poor pitches, but it's rarely deliberate - actually 'doctoring' a pitch is a surprisingly skilled operation - in fact most times the club just needs help and advice.

The difficulty many umpires will face is making the decision to mark down a poor pitch, knowing it may have repercussions on the club, and may even make them unpopular! However it's vital they mark accurately what they see on the day, to be fair to the other clubs in the league and importantly, so the league can take action where appropriate armed with independent evidence. Anecdotal evidence and bar room chat about poor pitches - even when true - is not always sufficient. Where poor pitch results at a club are becoming a pattern, the leagues also have access to the ECB County pitch advisors who are able to visit the club and offer expert independent help and advice.

In the ECB publication TS4<sup>1</sup>, there are guidelines describing the pitch standards expected of Premier league pitches with the overriding purpose of raising pitch standards to produce players of the highest technical ability. Both groundsmen and umpires play a vital role in achieving the objective of producing the best possible playing surfaces."

## Wishing all scorers the best of Christmas...

*(it is singable in the usual manner!)*

"On the 12th Day of Christmas I happily gave to me...

...Twelve Laws applying  
eleven players naming  
ten factor screening  
nine rotating numbers  
eight clips a'clamping  
seven pigeons fluttering  
six balls allowing...

... **five Coloured Pens...**  
four spotting eyes  
three rubbers rubbing  
two comfy cushions

**... and a clo-ock that I can clearly see...!**

(technos among you can change this last line to...

.. and a car-artridge in my HP3)

*(This has been compiled by Pierre, Sam and Ben while waiting for Nick to come out of 'another' meeting! If you have nothing better to do, please send us an alternative)*

# 'Spirit' – concluding the debate this year

Having created this debate - and, indirectly, the 'delinquent-tendency' which some of you have identified that lies within the character of Andy Smith - it is right, as the Editor, that I should give my own end-of-season summary.

These comments also encompass my reactions as a panel umpire for the Surrey Championship, which, hopefully might show we are not so 'soft' down-south!

First of all, let us not kid ourselves. In league matches we should expect a combative edge, else why should they (or we) bother. And I for one would much rather know that I have one or both captains up for the battle, on their toes, and looking for the thinnest of advantages if that's what it takes to add maximum points to that day's labours. So I would neither assume they are saints, nor would I expect - as Billy Bowden emphasised to us a few weeks ago - that they are going to like us whatever we say or do - and that's even before we upset them by saying 'No' in the first over!. Fine, so let us get going.

The members who have commented that Andy's style of 'debate' with an umpire after a decision has been given is wrong, should read between the lines of what he said and what is in his mind - which is that only uncertain umpires change their minds! And that that uncertainty is likely to be part of his character (even momentarily) and would manifest itself more than once. The other side of his coin is also true - that the 'I-cannot-be-wrong' officials are even worse in the running of a match environment which is supposed to be at least 'polite' if not 'friendly', as, due to their *uber-confidence*, their minds are closed to any query or debate no matter how reasonably expressed.

So this means that to control captains (similar to Andy) and 'hot' matches effectively we need a balanced sense of toughness tempered with the confidence of knowing how to make the right decision, and broadcasting it in a similar manner. A useful part of the skill in doing this is to repeat to yourself your reasons for giving or not giving the nod to the request. On occasion, I have amused bowlers by telling them I was totting up the reasons for not giving an 'out' reply. Let me also add a very personal note to this part of the debate; my captains' marks this season were my lowest ever, and the result of 4 matches involving teams who were 'up-for-trouble' on those late weeks of the season, and where, having stood my ground when questioned, was marked poorly for it. Now,

did this mean that my decisions were wrong? No. Does it mean that I am nervous for next season? No. This is the responsibility we accept; we are there to know and apply the Laws fairly and consistently - and take the flak!

Where I would mildly rebuke Andy is his expectation - popular also with the majority of bowlers, close-in captains, keepers, and, especially from the deep fine-leg fielder for a tight 'lbw' shout - to expect an umpire to fully justify his reasoning. Not only is this not in the 'Spirit' but is most un-nerving to even a resolute umpire, let alone the more sensitive of our colleagues.

For our other contributors, Sarah enthuses, soothes and refreshes us with tales from a less aggressive world, for which we are grateful - and, maybe, slightly envious of. And Mark, who has set out his neat and evocative stall hoping to peddle his high-class mixture of training and management, seems to have avoided a blitzing, ensuring that he starts next year no less happy and hopeful than he did for this one now past.

Which means, by and large, that the Spirit is still alive and well, and though might be needing an MoT next season, should pass with little trouble.

We will, of course, still be watching! Meanwhile, all our thanks, I am sure, to all three of them - Andy, Sarah and Mark - for their enthusiasm and honesty, and the hope that they enjoyed it all as much as we have.

*From Keith Hopper, of Darlington, horrified by what he read...*

"I have just read the article from Andy Smith with such disbelief that a player could have such an arrogant and high opinion of himself that he feels that he can make judgements on decisions without any form of self-awareness.

My first reaction is that, as most - say 95% - of umpires are qualified through course work and exams, what if any does, Smithy - as he obviously likes to be called - have that warrants his attitude. To query any decision, he, as captain should know that such action by any player is against the Spirit of Cricket as defined in the Tom Smith manual page 26

To continue by stating that having harboured a grudge against any umpire who dares cross him suggests that he has very little to do with his time in the winter. Suggestion; he could take an umpires' course and he might learn something. Then to suggest that he can only move on once the of-

fending umpire has agreed that he, Smithy, is right gives an insight to his real motives. Steve Barker sums it up nicely in his paragraphs 2/3.

Regarding wides, Smithy would do well to read Law 25. Why should the bowler be punished because the batsman has made a huge trigger movement when he doesn't hit the ball through incompetence.

Two final points. Does Smithy want to play or umpire - he cant do both in the same game. You, your team, or the opposition have asked the opinion of the umpire. That you disagree with his decision is an irrelevance."

As a little seasonal reminder from 'Santa' here are a couple of letters that have come in since the last issue...

*From Harry F Rose about the 'Spirit', and lack of it...*

"I quite enjoyed reading and digesting the epistle by Peter Ray, formerly an outstanding bowler with the Wembley and Richmond clubs and a fellow with whom I have had the privilege - but not always the pleasure - of being acquainted for over 40 years.

Whilst endorsing every point he made, I feel that taking him to task over his alluding to 'umpires getting into the game' might be appropriate!

In the early 90s, I umpired a match between the 1st XIs of Richmond and Hornsey at Old Deer Park, a Middx CCL encounter between two strong competitive teams. During the Hornsey innings I had occasion to deny an appeal for 'caught behind' off Peter's bowling when, suddenly, he went berserk over my refusal (and that the batsman chose not to 'walk') - resorting to much abusive language,. Deciding to 'get into the game' I had to restrain him physically let alone verbally as the incident accelerated out of proportion. Though wondering whether I might have been wrong, I decided I had not been, and the game proceeded to its conclusion.

I shudder to think what might or would have happened had I not restrained him by asserting my so-called authority as he was almost legendary for his histrionics!

As a point of interest, I (think) I am the last remaining member of the 'original' panel inaugurated by the late Jim Conroy in 1976."

*.... and naturally enough, we invited Peter Ray to respond...*

"I am not sure that my response, as a player, to a Harry Rose decision is particularly relevant to advice offered in comradely spirit to a young umpire who appeared to be picking up some quirks of behaviour likely to work against him!

It is no secret that I was a very committed and demonstrative player but, if anything, that helped me when umpiring because I could read the symptoms before a player

came to the boil, and I could sometimes help him to avert that with an appropriate word or sympathetic raising of the eyebrows.

I would much prefer the newsletter to apply itself to disseminating timely information and advice and to issues which remain unresolved despite frequent requests made of Nick Cousins/Roger Knight for clarification and justification.”

*(Ed; so there you have both sides... and, yes, we do give Peter plenty of time and latitude in our exchanges, and will continue to do so.)*

From **Steve Fletcher**, of Bedington, in *The Wirral*...

“The Spirit of Cricket must not be diluted by anybody. I have just been reading an article by one certain Mr A. Smith. Cricket umpires are not there to be treated like football officials, which is tantamount to his behaviour/attitude. Of course we make mistakes, but we are not scrutinised by TV replays so the game moves on, whether you like the decision or not, however, you and everybody else have to accept it in the well-meaning way it was made.

We do not make the laws, we merely implement them and, of course, see that the players adhere to them. His apparent proud boast of getting an umpire to change his decision - sounds as if it may have come from a no-stroke offer - meant his team won by one run, so I would certainly hope that he would be gracious enough to accept, in the same manner, if he was to find the boot on the other foot?

I would however agree with the ‘wide’ issue. Putting lines between the popping crease and the bowling crease, as they do in the West Indies, would help, as this would give the players a better understanding of the law and would stop any potential upsets. Failing that, it would be useful if certain players made themselves acquainted with the Laws.”

## The Government's views on the ‘CRB’ process

You may have heard the news that the Government have commissioned an immediate review of the vetting and barring service, and in particular the role of the ISA and CRB.

‘F.A.C.T. UK’ are a campaigning organisation on issues of personal integrity, and this is their overview of the current situation:

“You can find the Government press release concerning their announcement on <http://www.factuk.org/2010/10/the-government-announces-a-review-of-the-isa-and-crb-disclosures/>

. Please keep in mind that there are two issues; vetting and barring and CRB disclosures

FACTS position will be along the lines that.

### Vetting and Barring:

1. That there is a need for a vetting and barring scheme but that the present scheme has become unwieldy and has created a climate of fear amongst the general public that those who work with children and/or vulnerable adults whether in a paid or unpaid role, cannot be trusted. This has not only diminished the role of professionals (carers, teachers, health care workers etc) but also weakened community cohesion in that it has led to a reduction in volunteering (especially in respect of men) and to serious recruitment problems in youth and community work and also in sports coaching.
2. The ISA (and other listing bodies) fail to give sufficient recognition to the overwhelming evidence that many referrals to them are based on false allegations. The working presumption seems always to be ‘there is no smoke without fire’ and the allegations made against the person must be true. As a result there is now widespread fear in many professions, in communities, and to some extent families of being falsely accused. As a result men are not only reluctant to work with children but more importantly children are denied access to male role models. It is now not uncommon for pupils of primary school age not to have a male teachers at any time throughout their career. Similarly there is an absence of male foster carers and male workers in early years work.
3. There should be an entirely new V&B scheme aimed primarily at those people who **directly** work with children or have **unsupervised** or **closed** contact with them.
4. People who have been convicted of sexual or physical assault should automatically be banned from working with children subject to them having the right of review every 10 years

5. People who are otherwise considered unsuitable to work with children perhaps because of ill health (mental or physical), addictions, or because of minor breaches of trust (e.g. some thefts) etc should be barred for a predetermined period but have the right of review every 3 years
6. The scheme should be more concerned with the occupational nature of a persons involvement with children/vulnerable adults rather than with frequency of casual contact. In general the present requirements, in so far as they relate to work settings, are reasonable. What is not reasonable is the way the way in which the scheme has expanded beyond these parameters.

### CRB

1. The CRB system is need of a major overhaul.
2. Although there is a need for enhanced disclosures the present system is unjust.
3. Specific action is required to ensure that employers do not take advantage of the scheme (by applying for enhanced CRB’s in cases where one is not required) and to ensure their compliance with the Code of Practice and relevant Statutory Instrument.
4. The Chief Constables discretion to provide supplementary information should be severely limited to indicating that the person has **relevant** convictions. Notifications of any cautions or police warnings should only be made if they were issued in the preceding 5 years. Soft intelligence should be severely restricted.
5. Individuals should have the right to add their own written response to the disclosure and a right of appeal (and not just a right to make representations) against any additional comments made by a Chief Constable.
6. Chief Constables should confine their remarks to issues of crime. If they are aware of public safety issues (e.g. child protection) they should merely make a statement to the effect that he/she would advise/strongly advise the employer to contact a named agency for further details.
7. Greater efforts are needed to ensure that employers fully understand that the decision of whether or not to employ someone is entirely theirs. (Far too many employers regard the present CRB arrangements as a ‘police check’ rather than one informing recruitment decisions).
8. The present law which makes it a criminal offence for certain people (with convictions) to apply for jobs with children/vulnerable adults should be retained.”

‘By the close of play on Tuesday, having been set a target to win of just 194, England were 40 for eight off 14.5 overs. It was a collapse even more humiliating than that of John Major over voting rights in Brussels. Next morning the remaining wickets were taken quicker than a stray fiver in Portobello Road. There were by now enough ducks on the field to feed an average family for the duration of Christmas and the New Year...’

From ‘The Times’ expressing a ‘profile’ on the England Team...

# Grading and Classification

Two words that mean most to each of those umpires who have aspirations to progress perhaps to higher divisions, premier leagues, county 2nds, and the occasional multi-day or ECB competition matches!

We reported on the innovation of the 'classification' marking system way back in March (issue 4), where we first outlined the 'C' for 'county' and 'D' for 'development potential' levels and tiers. Then, Nick Cousins, in the last issue, as part of his post-season analysis, reinforced our commitment to seeing this through even though it had the look of becoming the most controversial slice of 'legislation' that could be imagined!

In the intervening months, the discussions between the executives of ACO and ECB have been concluded, and the basic structure is now established – and, after, a final check and a little bit of polishing, will be ready to roll out from January.

So it will be a help for all of you to know the outline now, and, in the next issue, we will give more detail about 'how' it is all to happen.

These then are the relevant comments extracted from the letter that is being prepared for all ACO Chairmen... but please note, the criteria generally are being discussed again and especially the 'tiers' relating to all grades.

## The new procedure...

- Classification and grading was first introduced by Chris Kelly, the ECB Umpires' Manager in 2007 as the start of a development pathway for experienced umpires, and has been used as a basis for ECB, Premier League and ACO appointments since then.
- The appointment of five Regional Appointment Co-ordinators (RACs) in 2009 working with the Umpires' Manager, consolidated the ECB appointments process.
- The recent formation of a complementary Regional Performance Officers (RPOs) committee and the transfer of all responsibility for officiating in the recreational game to ECB ACO, allows us the opportunity to further modify the classification and grading process in line with the feedback from county ACOs.
- Because from 2011, ECB ACO is assuming responsibility for the RACs, it was decided to re-write the job description and re-advertise these posts. This having been done and interviews having been held, we are delighted to announce that the following appointments have been made:

London & East – Terry Burstow

South & West – Les Clemenson

Midlands – Peter McKenzie

North – Glyn Pearson

(It is most appropriate that we take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank **John Owen** and **Peter Tomlin** who were both in-post prior to the re-organisation but decided not to re-apply. They have both worked tirelessly on behalf of the Association and we salute them for their efforts).

- Moving forward, the RACs will work much more closely with the RPOs and the ACO Appointments Officers to enable them to appoint more independently without central direction, but within the auspices of the ECB ACO infrastructure.
- The introduction in 2011 of an on-line appointments system known as "Who's The Umpire" (WTU) for ECB appointments will greatly assist this process (it is already in successful trials in the WEPL area).
- As far as simplifying the process; before this can occur, there needs to be an appreciation that classification (and grading) of umpires is of no real value unless the matches to which they are, or aspire to be appointed to, are similarly classified. The Umpires Manager began this process last year by classifying umpires and games as follows: **E = ECB contracted umpires; D = Development umpires (umpires able to officiate in mid-week ECB appointed matches); C = County umpires;** and then grading them to tiers; **E 1-7; D 1-4; C 1-3** - and producing a list of classified matches to which the graded D and C umpires could aspire to be appointed.
- As most of our existing members would be 'C', the real interest is in the 'next step' into 'D', so here is the D grade list – starting at the highest tier;

Grade Match Type	
<b>D1</b>	Women's ODIs
<b>D2</b>	Second Eleven Championship (Multiple Day) Second Eleven Trophy
<b>D3</b>	Second Eleven Friendly (Multiple Day) MCC Universities (Multiple Day) MCCA Championship
<b>D4</b>	Elite Player Development Second Eleven Friendly T20 MCCA Knock Out Cockspur T20 Regional

- As far as nomination for 'D' tiers are concerned, for 2011 these arrangements will similarly remain the same. The Umpires' Manager will decide which umpires he wishes to use in the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI Championship and Elite Player Development games, and the MCCA will select their panel for MCCA Championship matches. (*You will know that ECB ACO is developing a structure for Level 3 Umpire courses and the boundary assessment of D grade umpires, and will have a properly constituted Performance Committee in place in 2011 – which, among other things, will enable us to better support both MCCA and the Umpires' Manager in the future.*)
- We have altered the tiers for 'C' classified umpires – and this involves two significant changes; Umpires classified as C (county) will be graded **evidentially 1-6** dependent upon which matches they officiate in most regularly - and with due attention paid to which umpires have the potential to be promoted to the next level. These decisions will be the sole responsibility of the county ACOs – who will thus be both responsible and accountable. To facilitate this it will be necessary for each county ACO to classify the games to which its umpires are appointed. This will be done on the basis of a generic table entitled 'Classification & Grading –Recreational Cricket' (which will also be circulated to county ACO chairmen)
- The classification of matches within any county is a matter for that county ACO, (and incidentally is a drawn up by the ACO for the ACO – it has no ECB sanction), but obviously there needs to be a general consistency applied nationwide and a specific consistency applied where umpires are appointed to ECB Leagues from more than one ACO. Therefore, there is a document (second attachment) which outlines a general picture for the country as a whole, which can be used for guidance.

Three further points of clarification:

- The evidence that determines an individual umpire's grade is a minimum of 6 appointments at the requisite (highest) level.
- Grade 1 can only be given to umpires who have been appointed a minimum of 6 times to Premier Division 1 games.
- Grades 1-4 can only be given to those umpires who officiate regularly in the League cricket that is part of the ECB/ACO pyramid.

**These are our first steps in 2010. Let us be patient but committed to completing the task in 2011.**

## A Woman's perspective of officiating

A very rare and very welcome insight by **Anne Roberts**, of Leeds, into our short-sighted male-ness...!

"Nick Cousins' front-page article (September – issue 6) demonstrates a lack of knowledge of the history of the women's game. Hoping to 'perhaps find the first UK women umpires to officiate in the women's world cup' is a somewhat outdated hope – it was fulfilled in 1973!

Since then, women regularly officiated in all rounds of the competition until the Women's Cricket Association was absorbed by the ECB. For the first few years of the alliance, a compromise ensured that matches were staffed by one of the ECB panel and one from the WCA panel. Eventually the ECB insisted on their rather bizarre equal-opportunities policy which ensured that the men on the ECB panel have equal opportunity to umpire all top matches whether men's or women's.

This has effectively ensured the end of women officials for top games. Whatever theories may be quoted, reality makes it perfectly obvious that the chances of a woman umpire making it onto the first-class list are somewhat less than remote.

I personally have no axe to grind, but am very concerned about the prospects for aspiring women officials. I'm one of the lucky ones and have umpired Test Matches and ODIs for some twelve years, both with another woman official and with members of the first-class list. The latter experiences have in some cases been enriching, for example when standing with David Shepherd and John Holder, both of



Anne Roberts

whom accepted me as an equal partner and were an absolute joy to have as a colleague. But I have also shared the stage with other members who felt it was beneath them to officiate in a mere women's match, and made that abundantly clear by their attitude and their body language.

The net result of the policy is that girls coming through the ranks of the women's game rarely see a woman official, and the concept of women umpires rising to the top games has been lost. Partly because of time commitments (I work full time) I no longer umpire men's league matches, so presumably do not feature in the grading system. I am still umpiring Yorkshire's home games, as the team management has been accustomed to my umpiring skills for many years, and have insisted they want at least one top woman umpire at each of their games. My colleague and I were warmly congratulated on our performance after one game this season by the manager of the visiting side, who stressed what a treat it had been to have such competent umpires on duty.

Encouragement like that keeps us going, but I am unsure what will motivate up and coming women umpires. The glass ceiling needs to be removed."

*(Ed: as this letter demands a proper and all-encompassing reply to the subject as a whole, we will publish Nick's response in the next issue.)*

## Our three, their three

Having had the joy of taking part in the Q&A session here at Lord's with our Elite trio of **Billy Bowden**, **Steve Davis** and **Tony Hill** a couple of months ago, and hearing from them that their main on-field problems are much the same as ours, it was equally fascinating to be in the audience with the London Society of Rugby Football Referees, to hear three of their 'elite' answer similar questions.

The three concerned were... **Craig Joubert** (South Africa), **Stuart Dickinson** (Australia) and **Wayne Barnes** (England) – and the timing was perfect in that Craig was here to referee the England vs Australia match that very weekend.

Listening to them, these were the salient points that rang familiar...

'Coping with pressure' – Craig suggested that the long-term solution was always to be patient and listen to good advice first of all, and not to try to please the players by being condescending.

'Living with mistakes' – Wayne reminded us that having started in the Premiership at the age of 21, he was able to say that the more matches he or any of them officiated, the more mistakes they would be making – but this could be positive by learning from them and becoming better.

'Handling the responsibility' – was answered by Stuart whose best advice was never to take comments personally, and not be suckered by managers, coaches, players or media, being kind and friendly one week, when he knew they would be back-stabbing the next. In other words, always try to manage an even-handed balance in our reactions with those in authority or persuasion around us.

'Abuse' was a subject they all commented on, and Wayne was the most forthright by insisting we all have to take responsibility for enforcing and reporting, so must take this subject 'front-on'.

In all, it was about 40 minutes of fascinating banter between officials at a variety of levels, all speaking the same topic language – indeed, more than one in the audience remarked on how similar their roles were irrespective of the gulf of status between them.

Virtually identical with what Billy told us, and how the umpires/scorers present at ours reacted to him and the others.

There was one fact though that most of us could not cope with – Craig said he would run about 8km during the match!

## It's 'Haka' time - in Wales!

Though not strictly foreign (!), this wonderful picture deserves to be here in the 'Seasonal Greetings' and 'Friends Afar' section as it encompasses all these facets – so enjoy the picture of our South Wales colleagues hopping about! And here is some background on how it all happened...

"ACO members based in Wales have recently won a prestigious TV award for taking part in a trailer. During the trailer, cricket and rugby were combined as cricket umpires took on the famous New Zealand ritual – the Haka – with recognised umpire gestures. The Haka is used to try and intimidate some of Wales' best-known rugby players, including Adam Jones, Jamie Roberts and Alun-Wyn Jones.

This sport-trailer was awarded the Gold award in the Best Sports Promo Originated category at this year's Promax UK Award in London.

The on-screen campaign was used as part of S4C's cricket campaign to promote broadcasts of Glamorgan's home Friends Provident Twenty20 games and highlights of Wales' rugby tour of New Zealand." (Ed; if you need a laugh after the turkey and Christmas pudding, you can watch the promo in full by clicking on the following link – and you can also try [www.walesaco.org.uk](http://www.walesaco.org.uk) where Peter Williams has added more detail) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O0Fg-wOdtHWY>

*see picture on back cover*

# What are our labours worth?

The debate on match fees and or expenses will run through 2011 with the ease of a France winger though the England back rows... and with a similar volume of outcry. So we might as well 'kick-off' on it, and are thankful to Brian Shepherd, of the East Anglian League, to punt away...

**“Reading the excellent articles from Nick Cousins (ECB ACO) and from John Wadsworth (Devon ACO) in Newsletter No 6 September 2010 on the subject of umpires’ expenses, I thought my fellow ECB members may like a view from an Umpire colleague from the East Anglian ECB Premier League.**

Our league covers the vast area out to the Wash; this takes in Huntingdonshire, Cambridgeshire, Suffolk, Norfolk and North Essex. We have twelve clubs in this ECB Premier League and in 2011 will host Norwich CC (sharing two grounds) at Ingham (206) and Postwick (180), Clacton on Sea CC(198), Great Witchingham CC(190), Vauxhall Mallards CC (184), Horsford CC (180) Swardeston CC (172), Halstead CC (148) , Sudbury CC (134), Bury St Edmunds CC (100), Burwell CC (80), Saffron Walden CC (78) and Cambridge Granta CC (52).

I live in south-west Cambridgeshire and the return mileage for each match is shown

## We need to know how good we are

One of the best ways of measuring our training is to view how other sports and their officials learn and develop in parallel with us as it were. Not just in the methods, but how they are absorbed, and what then happens ‘out there’ on the field of play, and then back in the classroom for the next stage, and so on.

We are delighted to start with **David Jones** – a 19 yo rugby football referee from Surrey. He has just started at Kingston University reading chemistry, and has been refereeing for 2 years.

As a fortunate coincidence in his development, he is one of the pool of referees young, old, experienced and novice, going out to Dubai for the 7s in the first week of December. He says he sees his role as cannon-fodder but is anticipating that if he does well, he will be elevated in reward.... so we will follow his progress in tandem with one of our own young officials from the next issue at the start of 2011, and compare their development in light of the techniques used. We will also be adding another two officials from other sports – probably football and hockey – and then be able to compare the quartet more fully.

in parentheses against each club. Many colleagues have even further distances to travel. As John Wadsworth advises, we too, have many C1’s (but no C2’s) in this league panel but also have more senior ECB ‘D’ grades as well.

John Wadsworth does not make it clear in his letter what standard the premier league is in Devon; whether it is ECB accredited or otherwise. It is also unclear as to what time his premier league matches commence in Devon, or in fact the number of overs played, to allow others to judge the value of his fee of £26 per match plus 21p / mile allowance.

In the EAPL, in at least nine of the locations listed above, I am up at seven, leave at eight, on the ground for sharp ten o’clock to meet and greet, witness the toss at ten-thirty and start at eleven o’clock. Our fee is £55.00 ‘all-in’, zero mileage allowance and if you arrive at the ground and there is no play whatsoever up to 3pm when it is mandatorily cancelled, you will get £30.00 in the 2011 season. It is currently £27.50 – a half fee. We have enjoyed a 10% increase in the last six seasons.

John Wadsworth’s scenario suggests that an umpire making a round trip of say 100 miles and who officiates the match will receive £47.00 (£26.00+100x21p) for his efforts but as stated above, it is not clear what time his match commences and what time the umpire actually stands in the middle.

Nick Cousins, from his personal perspective, states that “a Premier League game is a Premier League game (assumed as ECB accredited, i.e. a minimum of 120 overs in the day) and therefore the fee commanded for all Premier League games should be the same and with some consideration of a local element in relation to distance travelled”. He later goes on to say that “the general recommendation was, in fact, made before this season began (2010) that a reasonable figure for leagues to use in respect of umpires fees and expenses was a £30.00 fee plus 30p/mile”.

There is clearly a massive disparity here and it would be interesting to know how the other ECB leagues are dealing with this prickly subject in order to retain their senior members. After all, the players insist on having the best umpires officiate their matches and think nothing of transporting players from all over UK and abroad (paid coaches/professionals) at great expense, all to bolster their club playing staff. Yet, when it comes to shelling out an additional

£25.00/match to the guy who has been out there since ten in the morning and who does not get home until ten (or even later) at night, the bar till is bare!

I sense that this subject is currently driving a wedge through our ECB EAPL umpires’ panel; this is unnecessarily disrupting a normally unified bunch of loyal guys. Clearly, half the members feel that the clubs cannot reasonably afford to pay any more (despite the modest 10% rise in the last six seasons) and the rest, who see major sums being paid out via alleged ‘sponsorships’ to coaches/pros etc, feel that the clubs can and should pay more. These ‘protestors’ generally cover the most miles.

Personally, I would not want our EAPL panel ‘regionalised’ in any way whereby Norfolk umpires, who have five clubs on their doorstep and do not cover anywhere near the same number of miles as their Cambridgeshire counterparts, only service Norfolk-based clubs - and I strongly believe that the Norfolk based clubs would not want that scenario either. Seeing different faces each week does help keep the league ‘fresh’ from a captain’s perspective. .

Rather than have this matter discussed locally at the ‘End of Season Umpires’ Meeting’ each year, where we generally get a split vote with the losers going away disgruntled and annoyed, I believe that the ECB should now make the future decisions on this on a year-by-year basis, play a more proactive part in their umpires’ well-being and take a firm grip on future policy.

As Nick Cousins eminently states, “a Premier (ECB) League game is a Premier League game” - so if this is so, surely we should have a clear ‘fee plan and expenses format’ cast in stone for each season start, so that all ECB accredited Premier League clubs in UK are singing from the same hymn sheet and captains know what their clubs have to pay? To avoid petty monetary problems on match days, perhaps the League/ACO, based upon pre-agreed mileages for each umpire on the panel, could/should pay their umpires directly mid-season and/or end of season and then charge the clubs by invoice at the season end?

This is merely a personal view – I’m not advocating that it is a correct synopsis – but the wound is festering and needs lancing, globally from within the ECBACO. Your comments, adverse or otherwise, would be appreciated in Newsletter No 8 in the New Year.”

## Another Law query

**if you have eaten sufficient turkey and pudding and cannot get to sleep as the TV is too loud... you could try reading this through and seeing if you agree...?**

*The question posed by Cliff Loverock, Secretary to Burton-on-Trent & District U&S*

“Conclusion of the match – Implications of the 2010 Code.

Under the new 2010 Code of the Laws of Cricket I am concerned by some anomalies that have been created at the conclusion of the game.

Under the old Code it was quite clearly defined as when this was to be – on the completion of the run securing a win the umpire would call “Time” and the match would be over. On the call of “Time” the ball would become Dead. Per Law 21.6 *as soon as result is reached...the match is at an end. Nothing that happens thereafter etc... shall be a part of it.*

**Example 1:** A team require 1 run to win and a Wide is bowled from which the striker is stumped. The umpire would call “Wide Ball and Time”. On the call of Time the ball would become Dead. The stumping would not count as the Wide had produced a result and the subsequent action was not valid.

However under the new Code I have a problem justifying the above as correct as under the new Law 23.3 viz:-

The umpire will call “Wide Ball” but cannot make the call of “Time” per Law 23.3 “*until the ball is dead*” which is not until the stumping has occurred and therefore now legitimate. [leaving one more wicket down and still one run to get]. This is a complete reversal of the 2008 Code. Am I correct?

Also what would be the result in this situation:-

**Example 2:** The side batting require 3 runs to win. The number 11 batsman is batting with a runner. The injured striker plays the ball and both his runner and the non-striker run and complete 3 runs. Whilst they are running the injured striker leaves his ground and is still out of his ground when the ball is returned to the wicket-keeper, after the non-striker has made good his ground, and he breaks the wicket fairly and appeals. Has the batting side won? Is the injured striker out – giving the win to the fielding side?

My interpretation of this scenario is:-

1. Law 21.6(a) tells us that “*as soon as a result is reached etc... the match is at an end*” in that statement there is no implication that “Time” should be called as soon as the third (winning) run is completed.

2. A “result” cannot be reached until both sides have had the opportunity to play out any particular delivery – especially if there is the opportunity for the fielding side to obtain a wicket.
3. Law 16.2 states “Time” is to be called “*at the conclusion of the match*”.
4. Additionally the wording in the 2010 Code is that “Time” is to be called “*when the ball becomes dead* etc.
5. In our situation at the completion of the third run the injured striker is in a vulnerable position, the ball is not dead and the wicket-keeper on taking the ball breaks the wicket cleanly.
6. An appeal is made and must be answered – Law 2.8(c) advises that if an injured striker is “*out of his ground at the wicket-keeper’s end and the wicket is fairly put down etc... and additionally “if he is thus dismissed any runs completed by the runner and non-striker will be disallowed”.*
7. At this stage a result has not been reached – unless the injured striker was the 10<sup>th</sup> wicket, which in this case it is.

I believe that the above interpretation of the Laws is the only equitable answer. One should not read Law 21 on face value and always assume that the completion of a run taking a side beyond the others total is the “*Completion*” of the match.”

*... and the reply, by Fraser Stewart of the MCC...*

“Thank you for your email to MCC and, as promised, the matter was discussed by the Laws sub-committee last week. Here is their response:

The purpose of the call of Time is not to bring play to an end. It is to inform the players that play has ceased already and no appeal can now be made for incidents which happened before play came to an end. It has no other effect.

Law 21 sets out quite clearly when a result is reached. One case is when one side has scored a total of runs in excess of its opponents. In the first scenario described, the bowling of the Wide secures the one run wanted to win. *A result has been reached.* In Law 16.9 one of the situations in which a match is concluded is that a result has been reached. Hence, in the situation quoted, the match is concluded and the umpire is to call Time as required by Law 16.2, to indicate that play has now ceased. Moreover, in Law 21.6, it is stated that as soon as a result is reached the match is at an end and nothing that happens thereafter shall be regarded as part of the match. The umpires must not allow any further play to take place. It would not be part of the match. The umpire must regard the ball as dead.

The statement that “*a result cannot be reached until both sides have had an opportunity to play out any particular delivery – particularly if there is an opportunity*

*for the fielding side to obtain a wicket*’ is contrary to Law. A result will be reached whenever one of the situations listed in Law 21 obtains. It is true that Over or Time should not be called while the ball is in play and further runs or a wicket *could* accrue. That cannot be the case when a result is reached and the match is therefore concluded. Then, nothing that happens thereafter is part of the match – no runs can accrue and no wickets can fall. There is no opportunity for the fielding side to obtain a wicket, or for the batsmen to take further runs.

It is true that there are a number of situations where the simple completion of a run does not mean a result has been reached. One of these is the case of the run being an illegal Leg bye, to be disallowed immediately on completion. Another is spelt out specifically in Law 21.6(b). If the ball is in the air while the batsmen are running, and is subsequently caught, no runs will be scored and so the hoped-for total will not be achieved. These are not the only cases. However, what characterizes all such situations is that the action leading to loss of runs *is already in progress before the desired total is achieved.*

This is not so in the two cases cited, both involving the wicket-keeper. He cannot take any action until he receives the ball which is after the completion of the runs or the award of the 1 run penalty for the Wide. His action would therefore be a new initiative attempted after the conclusion of the match and therefore not part of the match.

The misunderstanding appears to have arisen because Law 23 does not list ‘conclusion of the match’ as one of the situations causing the ball to become dead. However, as already explained, because the conclusion of the match means that no further play can take place, the ball has to be regarded as dead.

I hope that this helps to clarify the Laws for you. In the next re-draft, we may consider adding something to Law 23.1 for additional clarity, but not at this stage.”

Another topical quote...



“I cant really say I'm batting badly. I'm not batting long enough to be batting badly”

... attributed to Greg Chappell

# Friends Afar –

to all of whom – and you too – we wish  
a very Happy & Peaceful Christmas



**Now that this Newsletter** reaches across the world by the electronic wizardry of e-mail, web pages, and links through other sites – we wish to involve our ‘European’ colleagues close at hand, and those ‘Overseas’ friends further afield in more tropical climes!

We will heartily welcome contributions from you out there, so send your club notes, personal stories, pictures of pavilions (and scoreboxes!), and anything else your colleagues would enjoy reading about.

In this issue we are proud to give space to our friends in the Combined Services...



**From Lieutenant Andy Stancliffe Royal Navy, Director, Royal Navy Association of Cricket Officials.**



The majority of readers should understand some of the basic nuances of how each of the Regions, Counties and Leagues carry out their training and appointing of officials, but for those under the umbrella of the Armed Forces, who does this for us and how does this mirror across to the wider ECB organisation? Let me give you a brief insight into the way in which ‘We’ do our business.

Whilst there is much furore over the Ashes Series down-under, life for the majority of us will continue unabated, albeit maybe with slightly blurry eyes in the mornings. For those of us in the UK Armed Forces, there will also be a very limited im-

pact as the myriad of deployments, courses & staff work all continue apace. For those additionally deployed into Afghanistan, the tempo is very high... but some are still finding time to play the beautiful game. As part of the handover of Sangin from UK to US control, a charity cricket match was organised by Somerset County Cricket Club between the British contingent and the US Marines. Now that the Ashes have also started, the British forces are taking on their Australian counterparts at one of the many Forward Operating Bases in a strangely familiar 5 match series. The first, a 16ov 8-a-side match, with everybody batting and bowling, played on a beautifully prepared flat gravel and shingle surface with coir matting (see photo), resulted in a narrow victory for the British, but whilst the challenge of a game of cricket on a planned relaxation period is a welcome break, adding to the friendly banter

amongst nations, when the cricket ends, they all return to the more serious nature in hand and that of their professional lives.

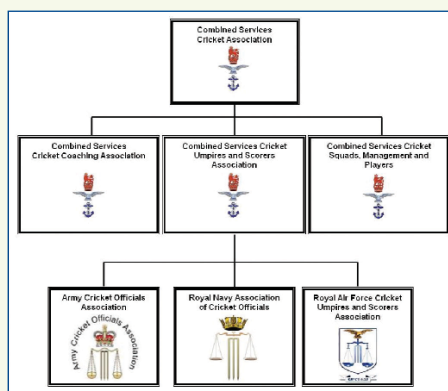
Whilst these deployed troops keep the game alive in a grass-roots style, for those of us involved in the more formal aspects of Services cricket, the closing of one season merely brings on the transition to the next, in a similar way to that of our civilian counterparts.



*British and Australian soldiers playing for the Ashes – Afghanistan 2010*

## So how are we organised and how do we do our business?

Heading up Services cricket is the Combined Services (CS) Cricket Association who have the CS Cricket Umpires and Scorers Association (CSCU&SA), Coaching Association (CSCA) and CS Squads under their umbrella. Concentrating on our fellow officials, each single Service, Royal Navy (RN), Army and Royal Air Force (RAF), has its own CUS&A who individually deal with the requirements of their own Service but also assist in the progression of all officials. In a similar way to that of our governing body the ECB, the CSCU&SA has a recognised pathway which will give those officials who show the Aspiration, Capability and Commitment required, a path for progression up into higher levels of Services cricket. To alleviate any immediate fears, this is by no means a separate process to that of the ECB Officials Pathway, but is in addition to it, and acts as an additional tool in which we can assist in the continued development/mentoring of our in-Service officials.

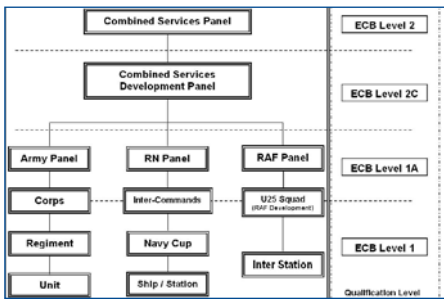


*Combined Services Cricket Association Structure*

## So what is this pathway and what is the method of progression?

The three single Services, have their own Umpires & Scorers Associations who seek to provide the required number of officials to support their own Services cricket. As you would expect, on the field of play between the cricketers, a great deal of Inter-Service rivalry exists but between the Officials Associations, training courses, mentoring and ideas are looked to be shared, ensuring we maximise the experience on offer via our own tutors and experienced officials, further capitalising on the training benefits on offer.

Each association runs both umpires and scorers training courses during the closed season using the ECB ACO syllabus up to Level 2, using primarily our own ECB ACO accredited tutors. The Royal Navy led Level 1 course always runs in the first week of February and is now incorporated



*Combined and Single Services Umpire Development Pathway with ECB Qualification mapped alongside*

into the Hampshire ACO training plan, open for both servicemen and civilians to attend. The Army and RAF also run and lead courses and these normally occur late in the calendar year. Within the Level 1 Course, one of the Army tutors has developed a section that includes a practical element that covers Law 36 – LBW. The photos show examples of how the sessions are structured using velcro, half balls and a willing volunteer to act as our fateful batsman. Each candidate is run in turn through a series of set-up scenarios covering most eventualities and I can personally vouch, that even after the in-depth discussions in the classroom, the decision for the ball delivered fairly to a left-handed batsman, pitching just outside leg stump, but showing to have finally hit directly in front of and half way up the centre stump, normally results in the wrong decision from the candidates. However, that is the place we learn and hopefully (for the future batsmen), this scenario is one that has stuck. For all candidates, once they are successful on the course, the in-Service pathway begins.

As with our civilian colleagues, for those candidates who gain their Level 1 qualification, the on-field training starts with the Appointment Officers within each single Service appointing them to fixtures alongside their more experienced colleagues. For each match, whether for a new or experienced official, an Umpire's report form is generated via the Captains / Manager of both sides, allowing for feedback into the individual training systems. These are passed back to the respective training officers to assist with the continual development process and mentoring requirements.

Progression up through the pathway is achieved using these feedback reports plus on-field and boundary assessments and subject to recommendation from the train-



*Army Course Practical: Mike Cornwell explains how the session will work*

ing officers, each candidate will be appointed further up the pathway to take on the more challenging matches as they develop their on-field skills and knowledge.

Although each single Service has its own appointing and training officers to consider and implement this process, when it comes to moving up onto the CS Development Panel (CSDP), it is the CSCU&SA committee who consider each official in turn. The Director/Chairman of each single Service Association, brings along his nominations and it is the CSCU&SA committee who consider those nominated for progression. After careful consideration of their performance, capability and commitment, and once agreement has been reached, the respective official is invited to join the CSDP. Nomination to the Full Panel (CSP)

is carried out in the same way but is via the CSDP, consideration normally being undertaken when the official is standing in regular civilian cricket at Premier League level, therefore demonstrating the additional level of competence and commitment required. As an example, for those within the Hampshire ACO Region, this will be recognised when selected to the South Coast Panel of Umpires and Scorers and standing regularly in the SEPL Divisions 1 (Premier League), 2 & 3.



*Maj Stu Brown, Chairman ACOA – the fateful batsman*

### So to what level and where do we Umpire and Score in-Service?

Burnaby Road, Portsmouth (RN), Vine Lane, Uxbridge (RAF) and the Army Cricket Ground, Aldershot (Army) are the home grounds for each single Service and stage the majority of their matches throughout the season against, for example, County 2nd XI's, London Universities, Stragglers of

lected for the successful 2010 tournament.

We are also fortunate enough to undertake tours at both single Service and CS level. Last year saw Royal Marines touring South Africa playing 8 matches in 2 weeks (an exceptional tour with some stunning cricket) and I was fortunate to go as the touring umpire with Polly Rhodes as scorer. (Memories of a sweet hit straight drive for 6 crossing the



*The Royal Marines at Newlands during their tour of South Africa, February 2010. Author and tour Umpire far left.*

Asia, the British Police & Civil Service. For those who have been elected to the CSDP and CSP, a variety of additional matches and locations are available with matches for the CS against the MCC, Cambridge University, Duke of Norfolk's XI and Somerset (ladies' matches) as additional examples. There are also a number of Inter-Service tournaments held throughout the season featuring U25s, Ladies' and Men's sides, held on a rotational basis at the home grounds. Following the success of the Centenary Army v Navy Match at Lord's, the CS are also now extremely fortunate to be able to hold their T20 tournament at Lord's, so the chance of standing and scoring at the home of cricket for Service personnel has now become a realistic aspiration: Nigel Langhorn, Rory Slater and Mal Miller (Umpires); Peter Danks, Lee Murrell & Sam Macaulay (Scorers) and Ray Holyer (Tournament Referee) were se-

lected for the successful 2010 tournament. top of table mountain alongside the vineyards seemed a long way off whilst standing during my first match of the SEPL 2010 season at Liphook & Risley on a cold, damp afternoon with intermittent drizzle). The Royal Navy are planning a tour to Perth, Australia with a number of matches in the offing, one at the WACA against the President's XI ... volunteers for the umpire and scorer positions still to be sought!!

Even though there is the quantity and level of matches available within Service, all of our officials are still encouraged to join and align themselves with their respective County ACOs to help with their continued development, progression and grading. Whilst the majority will probably stay officiating both in Service and civilian cricket between the recreational and Premier League Level, some of our Service officials have continued their progression and officiating further.

# 'By-the-Byes'

## A measured response to sporadic lightning

**AFTER a previous enquiry (from Ian Fraser in Issue 6) as to us giving advice - or even a 'Best Practice' suggestion - for moments of heaven-rending thunder, we are now print a further enquiry - and, also the comments from Fraser Stewart of the MCC;**

*The enquiry... is from Lorraine Elgar, L&E Board Member*

"Following an incident in the L&E region, it was requested that specific advice be considered for cricketing activities with regards to thunderstorms. Lightning is a particularly difficult weather hazard to agree upon and our understanding of what to do would be enhanced by some 'official' guidance to all those in control of cricket matches and/or coaching.

This season the incident involved one of our members in a disagreement over the fitness of playing conditions due to lightning in the vicinity. There can be no doubt that our member was correct in his actions in getting the players off the field, but the dispute arose over the resumption of play in safe conditions. This raises an issue of general concern, related to the umpires' duty of care.

We have searched every playing condi-

tion we can find, ranging from test matches down to local leagues, and can find no guidance for umpires in relation to lightning. The only reference we could find was a 2008 document published by IICUS which recommends the use of the 30/30 rule thus:

*'If thunder follows a lightning flash by 30 seconds or less, people in the open are at risk of being struck by lightning. In these circumstances play must cease immediately. All players and umpires must immediately leave the field and must not return to the field until 30 minutes after the last lightning flash.'*

UK RoSPA also offers guidance... *'Research shows that people struck by lightning are predominantly hit before and after the peak of the storm. This means that you should be thinking about the proximity of the lightning, not the occurrence of rain. The 30/30 rule provides a good way of ensuring one is sheltering during the most risky parts of the storm. It proposes that if the flash-to-bang is 30 seconds in length or less you should seek shelter. Staying inside this shelter is advised until 30 minutes past the last clap of thunder. This ensures that any distant strikes at the beginning of the storm (lightning can travel up to 10 miles), or trailing storm clouds at the back of the storm, do not take anyone by surprise.'*

We understand that the ECB is planning to give some sort of advice to umpires as to what constitutes unfit playing conditions. Perhaps they could consider specifically mentioning the 30/30 rule or issue some sort of similar guidance on lightning.'

### *The comments... by Fraser Stewart of the MCC...*

"MCC cannot really go into more detail than what is already written in the Law. If we start to list scenarios that we consider are dangerous, then anything not on the list may be deemed by some to be not dangerous. Law 3.8(b) places the onus on the umpires to assess the risk to players and umpires. Umpires are acutely aware of their duty of care towards those on the field of play and make their assessment of conditions on that basis. However, guidance on such a potentially dangerous situation is clearly important. There seems to be plenty of such guidance, including that from UK RoSPA, in places where it can be looked up as a specific topic. This is how it should be, rather than buried in a necessarily incomplete, and so possibly misleading, list in the Laws. MCC believes it is for those training umpires, rather than the Lawmakers, to put out such guidance - or at least draw attention to where it can be found."

## The recent MCC Law changes

AS YOU WILL have noticed, we did publish these at length in the last issue. Since then, the MCC have produced a disc outlining visual examples of the main 'policy' changes - and, as we always try to be helpful - we have sent a copy of this disc to each County Education Officer. So, if you ever have a detailed query on any element of those main changes, do phone or e-mail your CEO.

## Another fiery subject... Fee increases

SUCCESS costs money, it really does. Especially as our absolute priority is 'training' which is a huge portion of our budget, and one that will peak in 2011 as each of our new 'Level' courses comes into being.

In very round publicly-known figures, our 8,000 membership is made up of about 6,500 'Full' and 'EU', 1,500 'associate', and 300 'Overseas'. To contrast this, just our Level 1 umpires/scorers courses cost about £80,000, and, yes, for the first time as many of you know, we are being paid £30 for every candidate who starts, so our potential for this winter should be about 800 of them, which should give us an income of about £25,000. But we have this income only once, so it matters not whether we show it as 'course payments' or 'new members', it is the same money - and not enough.

So, if we take our membership total and add £10 for each, this gives us an extra £80,000. Our expenditure - strictly controlled and the same for next year as for this - is static.

When the MSC discussed this and agreed to suggest that the fees should be increased in 2011 to the level at which they finished at ACU&S in 2006, the Board subsequently agreed. So, now, the detail... of the increased rates as from 1 January 2011...

- 'Full' will be £30 (£32 by cheque or card)
- 'ICC-EU' - also £30 (£32 by card)
- 'Associate' - £15 (£17 by cheque or card)
- 'Young Official' - £15 (£17 cheque or card)
- 'Overseas' - £15 (£17 by card)

These fee changes were pre-circulated to all Conference attendees for them to be able to know them beforehand in order to vote at the AGM - which they did (on a majority show of hands).

## Belonging to your County Board

WHICHEVER county you live in, we do try to make sure you are known to the County Board, and that they, in happy recognition of your presence, do contact you either to say 'welcome' or to invite you to meetings or events. What they are also there to do is to 'classify' you (from

## Name our Magazine

Thanks to the hundreds of you that did slip your title choice into the box as you left the Conference. For the sake of all others who will not know what we were doing, let me explain.

We have had a 'Newsletter' now for two years. That was then, when it was a mere moth with potential. Now it is beginning to hatch into a beautiful butterfly, full of colour and attraction - and we need to give it a proper name to reflect its smarter look and progressive content.

Naturally enough, long-time members cry out for 'How's That' in remembrance of the ACU&S publication, but we will not re-visit that title.

Of the 20-or-so suggestions put forward by members during this year - which was the list you at the Conference chose from - over 40% went for 'View from the Middle' and about 24% for 'Fair Play'. Unhappily, we are not now able to use either of these as they 'belong' to other ECB media formats.

So, the entomological quest continues. Meanwhile, one that was suggested at the Conference has a very subtle background... 'Nelson's Column'?

Do let us have your views, so that by the time we publish in January, we will have a title for it. Thank you.

match reports and colleagues' assessments), and this data is subsequently used by them in making appointments and passed to us for the same purpose. You can guess then that making sure they know you exist is vital – and though we do send monthly listing updates, it is still possible that you may have been missed either at our end or their's. So, do please contact your ACO secretary or CB liaison and make sure they have your name, address, phone and e-mail.

### To strike or not to strike?

THE RECENT - still current at time of going to press – disagreement within the **Scottish Football Association** between the administration and the panel of SFA referees is at best a natural debate concerning 'match-management' which affects many officials in most sports. At worst it also adds the imbalance of disappearing standards of respect for authority, the negative mentality of overpaid players, and the appetite of the mass media for a 'row'.

Because for us such on-field conflict is part of the debate of the 'Spirit of Cricket' ideal, it is one that we will continue to write about next season as much as we have done this year. The difference now is that the tongue-in-cheek good humour is being replaced by a more urgent agenda of management and discipline which we will address. And to help, we have invited **Drew Herbertson**, the Administration Manager of the SFA Referees, to exchange opinions and data with us - once, of course, his desk and diary are less traumatic than they are in these weeks!

Significantly enough, much of the more-measured and considered media response revolved around the 'who suffers most' question, and, as with one or two cricket league umpire panels that we know of who had thought of a withdrawal of labour over the issue of poor fees, the similarity is an obvious one – should the players have to suffer the break-down between the administration and the officials? Probably not, but please let us have your views...

### Using the Members' 'Portal'

LATEST figure of 'registered' members who have logged-on to view (and correct) their personal data is 1,209.... So where are the rest of you?

Please 'register' (using your ACO number and e-mail address), and the system will respond by sending you a password – which you can then change to one you prefer. Then you go back to 'log-in' and then you can... change your address or phone or e-mail.

In a few months (as we have promised before) you will also be able to add other data and, maybe, pay your fee on-line by card.

### Time for a Photo then?

A USEFUL comment from **Raymond Wood**, the Chairman of the Home Counties League, that they have started the process of asking for a photograph from every umpire who wishes to join – or stay on – their panel, in order to make identification clearer for all administrative matters. Are other leagues adopting this safeguard we wonder?

### 'Lost sheep'

NO MATTER which way we might try to explain it, the simple fact is that there are thousands of officials out there that we know nothing of. Though this is a recurring nightmare at ACO HQ, it is rare that we receive comments about it from members generally, so it is timely that **David Mason** should highlight the plight in his home county of Surrey with these words...

*"I would also like to suggest a possible change in umpiring training. Perhaps the first winter course undertaken by trainee umpires should be geared to qualify them to stand at striker's end throughout the match. Thus, if panels accepted this as an interim qualification, the trainee would have an active season standing with a qualified partner involved in the decision-making process. This might put some extra pressure on the qualified partner being at the bowler's end throughout, but would enable panels to spread their members over many more matches. This practice would not only help the standard of umpiring and cover more matches, but would help the trainee and indeed act as an incentive to achieve full qualification. The Surrey Panel, for example, manages most Saturdays to just about cover 20 matches. There are usually 83 matches each Saturday in this Championship, needing 166 umpires. They are only 126 short, on a good day! They are many other leagues in Surrey, all requiring umpires, and I was told there are probably a total of 400 umpires residing in the county. We have to do something to spread those 400 around and encourage others to be active in the umpiring arena, if the numbers are to be at least kept constant."*

Now, this situation - for certain – is replicated throughout the land and so, even with a 'wild' guess, it must mean that there is at least a similar number of active umpires and scorers out there who are not members of ACO. So; not covered by insurance, possibly not even with crb clearance, and probably not 'qualified' in a programmed tuition sense – and 8,000 of them at the very least.

A very sobering thought when recalling that every football or rugby on-field official has to be registered with the FA or RFU regardless of the level of match they are running. We have a very long road to travel! Suggestions of how to make the journey less harrowing would be most welcome...

## Team List

We are aware that as our 'new' membership grows, the names (and faces) of the 'regulars' may be less well-known, and so we start this issue with a 'Team List' which details all the Board members, elected officers, and ECB staffers, who constitute the ACO management. This list will then appear in every issue, so that we will always display the current and correct details.

Please note the one major change – that from 4 January, we merge with the Coaches Association and 12thMan and have our database administration in the new ECB offices at Edgbaston – more of which in the next edition!

### The Board

Roger Knight – Chairman  
Lorraine Elgar – London & East  
Tony Hemmings – South & West (*acting*)  
Peter Mitchell – Midlands (and Dep Chairman)  
Philip Radcliffe – North  
Dave Carter – Wales  
Richard Holdsworth – ICC/Europe  
Fraser Stewart – MCC  
Paul Bedford – ECB Executive  
Chris Kelly – ECB Umpires' Manager  
Peter Willey - 1st-class Umpires  
Alan West – ACCS – 1st Class scorers (*vacancy*) – Independent Director  
Nick Cousins – ACO SEO

### The ECB ACO Executive

Nick Cousins – Senior Executive Officer  
Eddie Lunn – Education Manager (South)  
Glyn Pearson – Education Manager (North)  
Sam Greaves – Finance & Project Officer  
Pierre Tartari – Membership Officer  
James Dexter – Membership Services  
Ben Francis – Administrator  
Charlie Jewell – Young Officials Development Officer

### ACO Sub -Committees

Education  
Appointments and Grading  
Membership Services  
Performance  
Scorers

### ACO office contact

Phone – 0208 432 1240  
(from 4 January – 0121 446 2710)

E-mail – [ecbaco@ecb.co.uk](mailto:ecbaco@ecb.co.uk)

Address; ECB ACO, Lord's Cricket Ground, London, NW8 8QZ.  
(from 4 January – ECB ACO Membership, ECB Offices, Warwickshire County Cricket Ground, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B5 7QX)

# Crosswords & Puzzles...

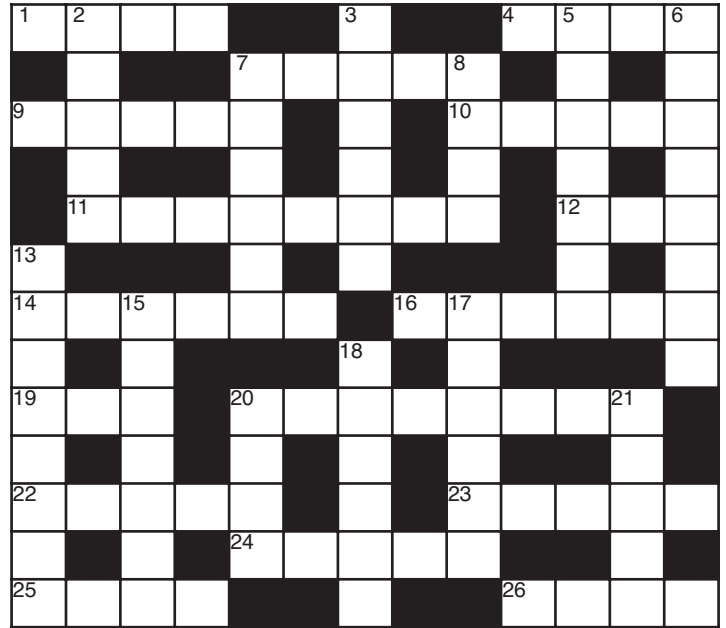


## 1. Malcolm Howard's crossword



### Clues Across

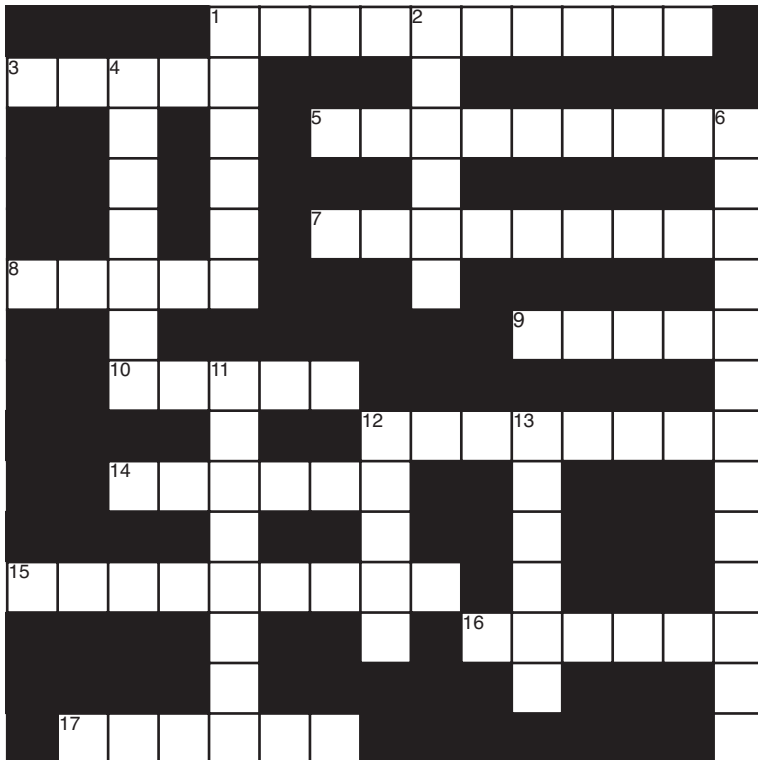
- 1 (and 20 down) Umpire signalling these upsets batsman "because he hit it." (4)
- 4 Blemish bowlers aim to hit (4)
- 7 In decorate and more so than distinction (5)
- 9 Wicket had to be drained because the umpire could not find his tea (5)
- 10 Making an effort to measure one-twelfth of an inch to get through the door (5)
- 11 Captain said the pavilion could be made secure while using this to protect his neck from the sun (8)
- 12 (and 15 down) To get this in, batsman has often to be this (3)
- 14 Disagreement as to who should pose for the painting (6)
- 16 The cricketer forcing the bowler's end umpire to move towards his colleague at all times when judging a run out (6)
- 19 Mixed up rat trying to be creative (3)
- 20 What umpires should do to young people when meeting with the captains according to ECB ACO guidelines (8)
- 22 Supposed to be peaceful if you are Greek (5)
- 23 Painful to most people but to cricketers they like a good one. (see 3 down) (5)
- 25 Often sets the right tone, in a mixed-up sort of way (4)
- 26 Wagering causing the cricket authorities much grief (4)



### Clues down

- 2 Type of bowler, not disabled, still allowed to bounce the ball more than once and still deliver a fair ball (5)
- 3 (and 24 across) Law 43 (6)
- 5 Decorative design found in a little round painting (7)
- 6 Fruit found in ferry going between Portsmouth and Jersey (8)
- 7 Establish suitability (6)
- 8 Cricketers who stick this out risk ridicule (4)
- 13 What Lords would become if the ACO National Conference were filmed (8)
- 18 Type of acid which is sweet-tasting (6)
- 21 Type of boat owned by very rich sportsmen (5)

## 2. Rob Jones' crossword



### Clues Across

1. Umpire who stood with Barrie Meyer in the 1981 Headingly Ashes Test. (5,5)
3. 'Soul \_\_\_\_\_' - Booker T and The MGs tune used as the BBC's cricket theme. (5)
5. County with most County Championship wins. (9)
7. Home ground of Leicestershire CCC. (5,4)
8. Real first name of 'Billy' Bowden. (5)
9. When awarding penalty runs, the amount usually given. (4)
10. Tony \_\_\_\_\_ - England Test captain and BBC cricket presenter. (5)
12. Sponsor of one-day trophy, 1963-80. (8)
14. Surname of umpiring brothers Ken and Roy. (6)
15. Method of dismissal covered by Law 35. (3,6)
16. Score that caused David Shepherd to hop around. (6)
17. Geoff \_\_\_\_\_ - Australian bowler with 180 Test wickets. (6)

### Clues down

1. 2010 Minor Counties Championship winners. (6)
2. County given first class status in 1991. (6)
4. Jim \_\_\_\_\_ - Australian commentator heard on Test Match Special. (7)
6. Notts player who struck a last-ball boundary to win the 1989 B&H final. (5,8)
11. Neil \_\_\_\_\_ - Bowler with one Test appearance for England v India in 1990. (8)
12. Colour worn by country winning the 1992 World Cup. (5)
13. Australian Test legend who tried to use an aluminium bat v. England in 1979. (surname) (6)



1. Malcolm's answers  
 Across 1. Bye, 4. Spot, 7. Adam, 9. Sumps, 10. Entry, 11. Havelock, 12. Eye, 14. Oppose, 16. Runner, 19. Art, 20. Identity, 22. Irene, 23. Knock, 24. Sense, 25. Note, 26. Bets  
 Down 2. Youth, 3. Common, 5. Pattern, 6. Tayberry, 7. Assess, 8. Neck, 13. Location, 15. Patient, 17. Uptake, 18. Serene, 20. Res, 21. Yacht

1. Rob's answers  
 Across 1. David Evans, 3. Limbo, 5. Yorkshire, 7. Grace Road, 8. Brent, 9. Five, 10. Lewis, 12. Gillette, 14. Palmer, 15. Hit wicket, 16. Nelson, 17. Lawson  
 Down 1. Durham, 2. Durham, 4. Maxwell, 6. Eddie Hemmings, 11. Williams, 12. Green, 13. Lillee

# A Christmas Challenge



The 'Notchers' have challenged the 'Scratchers' to yet another fireside fixture this year. Readers are invited to accept the Challenge by completing the scorecard and giving the result of the following match. Please send your entry (limited to one per reader, please) to The Third Umpire, 60 The Lawns, Rolleston-on-Dove, Staffordshire, DE13 9DB to arrive by first post on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2011 (or email johnmbrown60@gmail.com): please **mark your entry ACO**. All entries will be examined and the names of all those whose entries are correct will be put into the Umpire's hat, from which the winner of the prize will be drawn at random.

*You are invited to solve the clues in order to discover how many runs each player scores. You should record all these scores in batting order, and complete your solution by giving the result of the match. Normal Laws of Cricket (updated on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2010) apply (no special regulations). There are no trick questions, and all relevant information is provided in the clues.*

## The Notchers' XI (batting first)

1. In a match scheduled to start at 2pm, the captains toss at 1.36pm: at how many minutes after 1 o'clock is the latest time the captain winning the toss must notify his decision to bat or to field?
  2. In a two-day match Side A declares their first innings closed at 227 for 8: how many runs must Side B score to avoid the possibility of being asked to follow on?
  3. A member of the fielding side tells the umpires he is leaving the field for treatment; he is soon ready to return and is waiting on the boundary edge when the fourth ball of the over is hit in his direction. He runs onto the field, picks the ball up as the batsmen turn for their second run, throws the ball to the wicket-keeper who removes the bails and appeals with the striker just short of his ground. How many runs should be added to the total?
  4. ... and how many of those runs would be credited to the striker?
  5. ... and which batsman would face the next ball: striker (15), non-striker (10), either (5)?
  6. ... and how many balls remain to be bowled in the over?
  7. What is the area of the protected area (in square feet)?
  8. The striker makes a legitimate second strike at the third ball of the over to protect his wicket; the batsmen run and, after they have crossed, the fielder throws the ball in an attempt to run the non-striker out; the throw misses and the batsmen complete three runs. How many runs should be added to the score?
  9. ... and which batsman should face the next ball – Striker (15), non-striker (10), either (5)?
  10. A member of the fielding side leaves the field (with permission) at 3.04pm; it starts to rain at 3.17pm and the players leave the field. All members of the fielding side return to the field to resume play at 3.28pm: At how many minutes after 3pm would the fielder who had earlier left the field before be allowed to bowl?
  11. The batting side have received a first warning for causing avoidable damage to the pitch. The umpire calls and signals Wide Ball, the batsmen run 3, but, in running, cause further avoidable damage to the pitch. How many runs should be added to the total?
- Extras: ... and which batsman should face the next ball: Striker (15), non-striker (10), either (5)?

## The Scratchers' XI

1. A member of the fielding side leaves the field (with permission) at 3.04pm; it starts to rain at 3.21pm and the players leave the field. All members of the fielding side return to the field to resume play at 3.28pm: at how many minutes after 3pm would the fielder who had earlier left the field be allowed to bowl?
  2. A member of the fielding side leaves the field (with permission) at 3.04pm; it starts to rain at 3.17pm and the players leave the field. Play resumes at 3.28pm, but the fielder who earlier left the field does not return until 3.30pm: at how many minutes after 3pm would he be allowed to bowl?
  3. Side B needs one run to win from the last ball of the match. The injured striker is batting with a runner: he hits the ball and runs, the runner and the non-striker both run. They all reach the other end safely, but a fielder returns the ball to the wicket-keeper who removes the bails and appeals. How many runs should be scored?
  4. The scores are level: the striker hits the ball high in the air, and the batsmen complete one run before the ball is caught by extra-cover. How many runs should be scored?
  5. How many inches wide is a cricket pitch?
  6. In a match scheduled to start at 1.45pm, at how many minutes after 1pm is the earliest time at which the toss may be made?
  7. The last hour starts at 6.30pm: at 6.41, after 3.2 overs have been bowled, the players leave the field for rain. Play resumes at 6.52pm: what is the minimum number of legitimate balls which remain to be bowled?
  8. The striker hits the ball high over long-on where the fielder steps back over the rope, then jumps and, while in the air, parries the ball back into the field. After doing so, the fielder lands with both feet in the field of play: the batsmen have completed two runs by the time the ball is returned. How many runs should be added to the total?
  9. The striker hits the ball high over mid-wicket: a fielder knocks the ball in the air, steps back over the boundary rope, and returns to complete a catch. How many runs should be scored?
  10. The striker hits the fifth ball of an over, the batsmen complete two runs and turn for a third when the bowler deliberately trips the non-striker who remains on the ground. The ball is thrown to the wicket-keeper who removes the bails and appeals: how many runs should be scored?
  11. ... and which batsman should face the next ball: striker (15), non-striker (10), either (5)?
- Extras: ... and how many balls remain in the over?

**Result:** \_\_\_\_\_

# Your letters...

*From Simon Green, of Tredegar, on bails... as it came out of an exchange of e-mails within the MSC members...on which we welcome your feedback...*

"Quality seems fine although I would agree with Geoff's comment on the spigots of the ash bails being too thick. But seeing the bails did remind me of something I've been wondering for years now - which is **why do we use anything but heavy bails??**

They make no difference to the game and save umpires carrying standard and heavy bails about and particularly save messing about if the wind does get up i.e. if you only use heavy bails and they get blown off you know to dispense with the bails altogether rather than spend time trying others, etc? Seems simple to me?"

*From Joe Varghese, of Chennai and formerly Bangalore, on improving our decisions...*

"This is a suggestion to improve umpiring decisions in cricket from an ardent follower of the game.

*From Stuart Granger, Chairman of South Yorkshire League Umpires, and a citizen of Barnsley, on 'Red' cards!*

"Despite the article on page 7 of the September newsletter by Terry Bentham, secretary of the South Yorkshire Senior Cricket League Umpires Association, I am afraid our discipline committee will not be made redundant just yet. As tensions mounted in the last month of the season, over promotion, relegation and the winning of trophies, we had two serious incidents of violence on the field of play.

I was personally involved in the first one while umpiring a relegation game between two bottom teams in our premier league when they both needed to win. During the first over of the side batting second there was an exchange of words between the bowler and the opening batsman which resulted in the batsman raising his bat and hitting the bowler on his back as he turned away from him. Although he did not try to hit him for a six, he hit him sufficiently hard enough to have got two runs if it had been the ball that he had hit. As a result of this it created anger among the fielding side who then gathered round him. Eventually together with my colleague the matter was sorted out and both captains were warned to control their players. The batsman and his captain were told they would be reported and in accordance with our league rules I awarded five penalty runs to the fielding side. This had little impact on the batting side as they were only chasing a low score and eventually won the game.

In the current cricketing scenario, the contesting of umpires' decisions was tried in a few series and then shelved, while some few test series' continue to follow it. However the current system of contesting decisions looks inefficient, given the simple reason that it hasn't worked well and players are not so happy with the method. And why hasn't it worked well is a known fact to the cricketing fraternity.

Here's a solution that I thought of, and to the best of my mind should work well, and believe if thoroughly tested and executed should make it a lot more easy and fair with the help of technology

Let's take the case of LBW, where it often leads to a controversy. In the current scenario the umpire makes a decision, then a post-facto slow-motion proves it right or wrong. If gone wrong, the ardent followers have something on their plate to talk about and if followers happen to be on the losing side, then even more so. Instead of the post-facto operation, imagine if this information gets relayed immediately to the umpire,

At the time both my colleague and I would have liked to have sent the batsman off the field for this violent act and to take no further part in the game. Unfortunately there is nothing that would allow us to have done this other than to call time, pull out the stumps and allow the league to decide the outcome of the game.

The second incident took place in a Yorkshire-play off final between two clubs from our premier league. During the innings of the side batting second there was an appeal from the fielding side for a caught behind. The umpire gave his decision of 'Not out'. This was immediately followed by a verbal exchange between the fielding side and the batsman. He was then surrounded by fielders, one of whom took hold of his helmet guard and pulled him to the ground. Play was eventually resumed and played to a finish with the fielding side winning.

Although I was not at this game to witness this incident, I was later approached by several people who had done so and who asked me why the player had not been sent off. I explained to them that there was nothing in the Laws of Cricket or local rules to have allowed this. The outcome of these matters resulted in both the guilty players being banned from playing for lengthy parts of next season by the league committees.

This then set me thinking about what advantage had been given to the two teams who had been the innocent parties in the acts of violence from their opponents, 'None'. As a result of this I have thought

prior to the umpire making the decision, with the help of the technology, mentioning was the ball pitching in line, was the ball going to hit the stumps, was there a nick or edge and then to the pad etc

Technology would involve using cameras or live telecast feed, use of customized software to determine the decision and relay it back to the field umpire. Umpires can carry a PDA or any gadget, which would have the ability to receive the information in a fast and seamless fashion.

And when I mean fast and seamless, the entire process should all happen in a few seconds; let's say 10 seconds to start with, and further improving it if possible. Also the information should be sent to the gadget with the umpire, immaterial of whether the umpire wants to look at it or not to make the decision, instead of the umpire requesting for the information, which may, result in wastage of time.

Also the technology could be used for

*Joe Varghese ... continued on page 23*

of the following suggestions of what action the umpires could be given under local league rules to deal with acts of violence on the field:

1. Send the offending player off and not allow them to take any further part in the game.
2. Ask the offending player's captain to send them off. If he does not, then call time and abandon the game. Let the league committee decide the outcome.
3. Send the player off for a certain number of overs. (Let the league decide how many, but it should be a minimum of at least 10.)
4. Award penalty runs. (Let the league decide how many, but it should be a minimum of at least 25.) In 99.9% of cases awarding 5 penalty runs has no effect on the result of a game.
5. If it happens in a league match then the league should make it clear in the rules that where physical violence is involved, then a minimum number of points should be deducted from the offending team. (Suggest a minimum of 10 points.)
6. On all occasions that physical violence occurs then we should abandon the game and let the league decide the outcome.

I am sure that my fellow umpires out there will probably have other suggestions, or give reasons why we should not do it, but my opinion is that we must have some deterrent to try and prevent physical violence occurring on the cricket field. It has no place in the game of cricket. Your views would be appreciated."

## 'Leaving the Crease'

*A tribute of Roger Williamson sent to us by Gordon Hubbard, which is an extract from the eulogy given by John Edmonds (CEO, Leics&Ruiland) at Roger's funeral on 4 November 2010...*

"Roger always had a smile on his face. When he greeted you, and as he was talking or listening, that same smile lingered. It was a quiet, unassuming smile that offered friendship and reassurance; for someone so widely known there was almost an air of shyness in his manner.

On the one hand, Roger was a very private person but, in contrast, very gregarious on the other. He had many friends as can be seen at his funeral today but it is perhaps surprising how little we really knew about him. I heard him speak about his days in the RAF - but he didn't dwell on the subject. He would mention his family with warmth, and he would talk freely on many subjects, but he always made you feel that you were the important one; he always wanted to remain in the background, to listen rather than to dominate a conversation.

He loved rugby and spent many happy hours watching Leicester Tigers with his friends. He even travelled to France, Italy and Ireland in his support of their Heineken Cup exploits. But Roger's great love was cricket. For those of you who might not have been fully aware of just how much cricket dominated his life let me try to give you a brief understanding of his love for the game.

He started to play the game for his work's team but, as he freely acknowledged, a lack of playing skill mostly kept him out of the team. However, it was at this point he discovered as much enjoyment in umpiring as playing. For the next 46 seasons he practiced the art of umpiring, winning the admiration of players and colleagues alike. His success as an umpire was rewarded by being invited to officiate in Leicestershire cup finals and to



stand at County 2nd XI matches and in many ESCA competitions. He stood regularly in the Everards Leicestershire County League and the Leicester Evening Leagues. Very few local umpires could match his record over the years, if at all.

But his dedication to umpiring was not just on the field of play. He was one of the founder members of the Leicester CUA that later became the Leicester ACU&S. Roger's most notable contribution; apart from being our local secretary for many years and Branch President for the last eight years, was his devotion to teaching the art of umpiring to others. I guess that nearly every umpire in Leicestershire has been trained at some time by Roger during the last 35 years or so. In fact, teaching was the ideal vehicle for Roger's anecdotes about the game as he had experienced it, and he had one for every occasion.

His administrative skills took him beyond the local forum, where he was a central figure, to the regional and national stage. He was the East Midlands Public Relations Officer and then Secretary for five years. He then became the Regional Finance Officer for 20 years and also sat on the Association's Finance Committee at Headquarters. He was awarded a Commemorative Plaque for Services to ACU&S in 2007 - a richly and well-deserved honour.

Since then he had been committed to Oakham School in his other role that

tended to get overlooked, namely as a scorer. There he was widely respected by the staff, the cricketers and their parents. A recent tribute on the Leicester Mercury web site described him, rightly, as a "true gentleman with a wealth of cricketing anecdotes".

Roger also had a strong connection with the ACU&S Jarvis Cup Competition, both as a committee member, and as a competitor. The Jarvis Cup was a national quiz where participants stood to answer complex and devious questions on the 42 laws of cricket in front of an audience of a hundred or more. Cricket's answer to 'Mastermind'! Again, Roger used to take it in his stride, unruffled, calm, with precise and accurate answers. The rest of us, shaking like leaves just took heart from his leadership.

The reason he handed over the reins was that he had a slight stroke. This had affected his speech quite badly at the time and sometimes caused confusion with his choice of words. It was a measure of the man that he was prepared to come back to a teaching role, obviously centred on verbal abilities. With Roger it was simply endearing when he sometimes confused his words. Most notably the occasion when he told the students to place the bowler back on top of the stumps, rather than the bails. Many would have submitted to the problems resulting from the stroke, not Roger.

There will be many personal memories that each of us has about Roger; many will be shared today and in the months to come; many more worthy and meaningful than those I've mentioned. But "life goes on" as it says in the Joyce Grenfell poem under the cricket picture on the front of today's service paper, but none of us will forget Roger or his contribution in the many areas of his life. It is equally true that his absence will be a silent grief to us all."

*(Ed: somewhat of a longer piece but so fascinating it is worth every centimetre! The photo, taken at Grace Road in 1990, shows Roger at far right)*

## ...more 'Byes'

### Spigots really are 13/16ths!

Thanks to the eagle-eyed of you who noticed the day after the new MCC Law booklet was distributed, the erroneous '1/16<sup>th</sup>' with the diagram!

### Incidents on TV

Please do remember to tell us whenever you see an incident which is then checked and re-checked either via the DRS, or TMO, or Sky slow-mo... as we can usually obtain these and put them in our 'incident' library for future use in training videos. Thanks

### 'Didn't he do well?'

High scores in matches are much the norm, so occasionally, it is good to comment on a single official's achievement when it is measured by his peers - so, well done, to **David White**, panel member of the Parker Building Supplies East Sussex Cricket League, who gained captains' marks averaging out at 9.3>10 over this season. The photograph shows David receiving his trophy from fellow panel umpire and Vice-Chairman of the League Management Committee, Vic Prior.



David White

# Scorers News

## Our 'NSAO' – Geoff Trett

As previously mentioned, our priority for 2011 is the mammoth task of finding, classifying, and generally assisting those thousands of scorer-members we already have but also finding many hundreds of 'missing' scorers up and down the shires – and to spear-head this drive, we had identified a need for a new administrative supremo to take responsibility for all matters relating to scorers. This has been followed-up by the role being advertised in the newsletter and on the web-site, from which we had a good response which was then turned into a short-list of 9 candidates, and after interviews here a few weeks ago, we have now made a choice.

So, let us introduce you to Geoff Trett, from Cheltenham, our first 'National Scorers Administration Officer'...



Geoff Trett

"I am currently the scorer at Cheltenham CC in Gloucestershire but hail originally from metropolitan Essex. When I was 12, I went along to Valentine's Park in Ilford to watch a Gillette Cup match between Essex and Glamorgan, more out of curiosity than anything else. I sat next to someone who was scoring the match and was immediately hooked. I then spent summer holidays watching Essex play at Leyton and got my first scoring opportunity when my best friend asked me to score for the school at Buckhurst Hill. I still have the score book from that year and note that in my first match we were bowled out for 26 with batsmen 3 to 10 (we only had 10 players) all scoring 0! My club scoring career started at Woodford Wells CC, where I enjoyed 2 very happy seasons scoring for the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI before moving to Cheltenham to take up employment.

There was then a bit of gap before I was persuaded by colleagues to form an office cricket team which went on to become the National 6-a-side Civil Service cricket champions, giving me some of my proudest moments in cricket. This got me back into scoring, and I joined Hatherley & Reddings CC, on the edge of Cheltenham, who played in the 3-Counties League covering Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and Gwent. I took the ACU&S scoring exam in 1989 and spent the next 16 years contentedly scoring every Saturday and Sunday for the club.

In 2005 an opportunity came up to score for Cheltenham in the WEPL Division 1, and after much heart-searching, I decided to make the move across town. This sent

me to a new set of venues and gave me wider scoring opportunities. I like the variety of scoring for different teams and so have joined the MCC scorers' register, have volunteered to score for County & District youth teams and the Gloucestershire Gipsies and am currently involved in scoring in the Gloucestershire Indoor Cricket League, one of the most exciting forms of the game. In 2009 I was delighted to be voted "Gloucestershire Scorer of the Year".

This summer, a vacancy occurred at the Gloucestershire ACO for a scorers' representative and I was fortunate enough to be selected. Shortly afterwards I saw the vacancy for the National Scorers Appointments Co-ordinator – I am hoping that these roles will be complementary. I am excited about these opportunities and am looking forward to getting my teeth stuck into the roles.

I have always loved scoring and struggle to see why so few other people catch the bug. I have always felt very appreciated by umpires and the teams with which I have been involved, and am very grateful for the chances that I've had."

*(Ed: For the sharp-eyed among you – especially scorers of course – you will have noticed that the title of this 'Honorary' role has changed. Originally, we had thought that 'appointments co-ordinator' would reflect the primary element, but after listing those tasks we knew we needed to be encompassed by the role, decided that 'administration officer' was more relevant.)*

*In the spirit of Christmas make-believe, here is a tale with a Dickensian twist almost... thanks to Sebastian Stroller, of we-know-not-where (and invite him to contact us again)...*

"The club chairman announces to the club committee...'We have a bit of spare cash so I thought we might upgrade our score-box - and go electric.' These words have spelt both pleasure and pain as I have viewed the results on my wanderings!

One location was a ground where I had scored in the box with a colleague. The previous time, I remembered it to have been dry, you could see the pitch, and the pull-boxes worked - and two scorers could both score in and operate it. As I knew the game was 'going-electric' I thought it worth a visit to see the result if they had. Visually, I could see the box was still there and I could see the now-electronic numbers; nearer and I thought, the opening has gone - it had. So I looked in and - no scorers, just the groundsman's tackle, and stakes and mesh and all sorts. Outside again I looked for the scorer - ahaaa... over there. but just out in the open, at a table - so no cover, and no power.

My next scoreboard was approached with new nervousness... but this time, the box was still in full use though now 'powered-up' and with the digital numbers silently whirring in the same holes where the slate and wood 'clacking' previously heralded a run, wicket or over, plus a new and very useful cupboard... so just as before but better.

Why the difference? Well, I guess in the first, the committee decided that it knew what was needed and just got on with it; the second, they asked their scorer (long-term club member, stalwart, and ACU&S/ACO supporter).

So we might ask the first club chairman... would his players tolerate poor pitches? Of course not. How many ECB Premier Leagues check on the scorers' facilities at their grounds? "

*(Ed: not just a concise tale of good and bad, but a timely one as this is another initiative we are taking on in 2011, in our encompassing 'soothe-our-scorers' programme, more of which in the next issue.)*

**From John Goodman, on recognition and reward for scorers...**

"You quite rightly mention in the latest edition of the newsletter, the lack of recognition received by scorers. I would like to mention two leagues that I am involved in where the scorers do receive some recognition.

In the Serious Cricket ECB Home Counties Premier Cricket League, each player in the team that wins the league or comes runners up receives an individual trophy. The scorer of those teams also receives a trophy from the league. Also, in the same league, when a scorer has completed 100 matches, they get recognised by the league. They

are presented with a clock which is engraved with their name thereon.

In the Marrant Thames Valley Cricket league, each league winner receives a number of trophies for the players, plus a separate one for the scorer, if they have one. In the lower divisions of the league where panel umpires are not appointed, each winning club's umpire also receives a trophy from the league.

It is correct that these important members of the game are recognised."

*From Phillip Stallard, about the 'PORTCAWL' ball....*

"Although I knew Byron Denning, I never had the pleasure of scoring with him. How-

ever, I did score on a couple of occasions with Gordon Lewis, who was his successor as the Glamorgan First Team Scorer. Gordon told me that the full list of names was: Newport – Cardiff – Bridgend – Porthcawl – Neath - Swansea.

They're not all ports (Bridgend and Porthcawl are the exceptions) but, with the exception of Porthcawl, they are all stations on the South Wales main railway line. I can't remember why Porthcawl was used instead of Port Talbot (which is the "proper" fourth station on the line), but may be someone else can?"

*From Simon Phillips, who came across the 'Notchers' website last summer...*

... and has been catching up with past issues of the newsletter. The article in Issue 5 May 2009 about unusual names for unusual overs caught his eye. He writes:

"In a Mercantile Cricket Association match in Melbourne last summer, Gunbower United CC v Burnley CYMS CC, my fellow scorer asked him what to call an over in which a bowler concedes runs off every ball. Not uncommon, of course, but what is the opposite of a 'maiden' over? We decided that, as a maiden is 'chaste', the opposite would be a 'hussey'. Works on many levels! So what would you call an over where extras are scored off every ball?"



... These show the enthusiasm of the young people involved in the recent 'Cricket4change' course... and their enjoyment of it. Story about it all in the next issue.

## Indoor cricket

Though many of our umpires and scorer members do regularly officiate indoors, it is a topic that we have not written much about – but will be doing during next year.

So, the question posed by our Shepherd-Frindall 'ICC' award-winner Wraye Wenigmann from Bonn – illustrates the scoring oddities that this format challenges us with...

In 'Notchers' issue 10, Wraye asked for readers experiences or opinions with regard to the dismissal described as 'roofed'.

What happens in the indoor cricket leagues and competitions in your area? Do any of you score Indoor Cricket? In the absence of feedback your Editor (of Notchers News) searched the net and found some indoor regulations regarding the ball hitting the

roof. They vary; scorers should read the League or Competition Special Regulations carefully before scoring matches, and here are some of the variations...

**The Bath Indoor Cricket League** say... 'If the batsman strikes the ball which hits the ceiling/stanchion or part thereof, either directly or indirectly, then he shall be given out and no runs scored.'

**DCB League (East Anglia)** say... 'The batter shall be given out if the ball strikes the wall above the agreed line and if it goes above the suspended lights.'

**Crewe-Nantwich** say... 'There will be a continuous line around the hall marked on the walls, 8 feet from the floor. A ball off the bat hitting the wall above this mark, or hitting the roof or girders, will be given out unless the ball is deflected by a fieldsmen.'

**The 4th Bavaria International Junior Championships (Germany)** say...

'The batter can be out 'roofed' only from a fair delivery. The batter shall be out 'roofed'

if, after making contact with the batter's person or bat, the ball hits the ceiling, or any apparatus attached to the ceiling. If the batter is given out 'roofed', no runs shall be scored'.

**Serious Cricket League at the Dummer Cricket Centre (Basingstoke)** say...

'A batsman shall be adjudged 'caught' if a fielder catches a ball rebounding off either the off-side and leg-side netting/walls. This also applies to the ceiling and the netting/walls behind the wicket-keeper, but NOT the bowler.'

**ICC Europe** (Their regulations include 'The side walls above a line drawn approximately 2.5 to 3m, shall be considered part of the ceiling')

'The striker shall be out 'roofed' if, after making contact with his person or bat, the ball hits the ceiling, or any apparatus attached to the ceiling, without intervention by a fielder. The striker can be out 'roofed' only from a fair delivery.'

# Scorers – One out, two in!

As we begin to hear from and learn more about our scorer members, it gives us the opportunity of highlighting them as individuals within our larger 'family'. And as with any family, there are always arrivals and departures to record – and it is timely that we first do this in our Christmas issue when family matters are more in focus.

*This is from Pamela Cranefield, from the Isle of Wight, and came as a result of a question to her about the reason for her cancellation of membership...*

"My finger hovers over the "Send" button on the email page – and my cricket life flashes before me.

It all began in the 1980's, while teaching, when I was asked to take a group of 11 year olds to Ilford Indoor Cricket School, run by the late Joe Hussain (Nasser's father), which offered coaching and match opportunities to Redbridge schools. Inspired by the skills developed and the support of Joe and the coaches, I became involved with schools cricket, providing transport, umpiring and scoring at the wicket! Studying to be an Umpire and Scorer was followed by membership of ACU&S, attending training sessions and building relationships with umpires. From this not-so-humble start, I joined Essex clubs Ilford, Harold Wood and finally Loughton, all great traditional clubs, with devoted memberships, who are moving forward as the present game demands.

The turning point was meeting Barry Clayden, Essex Amateurs' Manager, who urgently needed a scorer. What performances! Giles Ecclestone's 150, 5 wickets and 4 catches in one match or Graham Napier at 16 magnificently opening the batting and bowling! When the Amateurs became the Board XI, Tony Debenham (Essex CCCB) invited me to score. There followed several years of travelling the country, meeting wonderful people, seeing amazing places from Belfast and Barrow-in-Furness to Brighton and Billerica, being part of the world of representative cricket and always learning something new of the Scorer's Art - hospitality to visiting teams and completing the Captain's more onerous paperwork tasks.

The County Boards' restructuring offered the chance to extend my scoring experiences. I am so grateful to Liz Wirth, who organised the Officials Rota from 2<sup>nd</sup> XI to U9 County sides, and who supported me so much. Because of school holidays and subsequent retirement, I could step into the breach if needed; my responsibilities eventually included Academy, Development, U19 and U17 matches. It was a joy to work with ex-Essex players Graham Saville, John Childs, Barry Hyam, Keith Fletcher, Alan Lilley and Brian Hardie as they coached and managed these sides. My experiences with Essex were "The Best" – to recall the runs I entered into scorebooks for Alistair Cook and Ravi Bopara, all those years ago as they emerged into cricket's higher echelons, will always be a source of pride. I am glad I scored during the era of coloured pens and scorebooks; they were more personal than the current computers ...but perhaps not always so accurate, I hesitate to admit!!!!

...and then we moved house, far from Essex. The cricket friends I had "grown up with" were no longer there. I realised that those years had been an important part of my life but trying to re-captivate them would be impossible. Unexpectedly came a decision to write to ACO and end my membership.

So, I sit and watch the cruise ships sail past, "tread the boards" and help backstage at the local theatre, try to inspire visitors at the nearby Zoo, develop art and craft skills and entertain visitors in our home - and the sound of leather hitting willow seems far away.

But ...is that small tear in my eye a touch of regret or just acknowledging we all must move forward?

The finger moves and, having pressed "Send", moves on"

## Jessica Levy

*As one of our newest members, Jessica is also one of our youngest qualified scorers – at 14 yo – and hails from Barnet in Herts...*

If you had told me that I would be scoring a match at Lord's for the ECB vs MCC staff cricket match, I would never have believed you, but I did, and it was great fun. I became a scorer as there wasn't really much else to do while my dad and brother were playing, and having sat with a variety of scorers and then scoring for our club, we decided that I should take the Level 1 correspondence course, and at the end of the 2009 season our club president presented me with my Level 1 Certificate.



I was invited to score this game as my mum had seen something on the web-site about Young officials, she contacted Ben Francis and I was put on the list of people interested in scoring. I was away when the email inviting me to score arrived, but mum texted me to ask if I wanted to score at Lord's... of course the answer was yes. I was very excited, everyone was so helpful when we arrived (they even arranged a car parking place for us) after arranging my pens, and an inspection of the team sheet the game started. I was scoring for the ECB, once the game started it was just like any other match between friendly rivals, there was a really good atmosphere, and it was great to see MCC field a woman wicket keeper. The MCC failed to reach the 161 run target set by the ECB although they put up a respectable fight and finished up 3 runs short with 158 and what was really good was that both score books added up! The BBQ 'tea' at the end of the match was excellent and Ben made sure I



*Pamela as Salieri's widow in 'Amadeus'*

had enough to eat and drink – as a scorer I am used getting to the pavilion after the players and having ‘what ever is left over’; so it made a really nice change to be looked after. I really appreciated the fact that the captains and some of the players thanked me for scoring. The next day I was back scoring for our club. It was a less impressive venue but I realised that it does not matter what level you score for, it is really important that you produce the best book you are capable of. We scorers may not share the limelight with the players but our book is what everyone turns to as a historical record of the game.

## David Hagger

*David is not quite as ‘young’ at 21yo and hails from Sutton in Surrey...*

“I first started scoring when I was at school. It all happened very quickly, one minute I was being asked if I could score and the next thing I knew I was for my year’s B team. The next season I was asked to score for my school 1st team, at the age of 13, because I was the only scorer in the school. I’ve now been scoring for 9 seasons and

I’ve just completed the ACO’s Level 2 Scorer qualification. This year I’ve scored at lots of interesting places including The Parks in Oxford and Mitcham Cricket Club (reputably the oldest cricket club in the world).

One of the most interesting days this season was scoring at the Last Man Stands finals played on the Nursery Ground at Lord’s. In case you don’t know the format, Last Man Stands is an 8-a-side competition where each team has the opportunity to face twenty 5-ball over’s. Batsmen retire not-out at 50 and there are ‘double plays’, which mean that if someone is out caught, the non-striker must be in his ground at the non-striker’s end.

From a scorer’s point of view, it’s a very quick game (there’s 65 minutes to bowl the 20 over’s and 10 over’s are bowled from one end then the other 10 from the other), there are lots of boundaries and there is potential for lots of confusion especially because the penalty for a wide or no ball (known as a penalty ball in this format) changes depending on whether it’s the first penalty ball of the over or not. Another quirk is that every run scored, except byes, counts towards the batsman on strike, so you can get some pretty quick fifties!

The day itself was really exciting; there were lots of big hits including 2 into the top tier of the Compton Stand. The first game was a Corporate League Final, in which Urban Projects triumphed over Hogan Lovells by 12 runs having made a mammoth 215-4 off 20 overs. The second game was the Save The Children Charity match. This was a 15 overs a side game featuring Devon Malcolm and Lou Vincent which saw a tie between UBS and Herbert Smith with both teams scoring 140. Devon Malcolm got UBS’s innings back on track after a stumbling start with a quick-fire 25 and took 1-23 with the ball, while Lou Vincent’s unbeaten 51 didn’t quite get Herbert Smith over the line. The final game of the day was the England Champions League Final. Chris Pringle easily beat Fancy Dans, who were bowled out for 131 off 15 over’s, and progressed to the LMS World Championships.

It was most certainly a good but hectic day. I was in charge of operating the scoreboard, which took a while to get used to but by the end it was really easy to use. The three games were the last of the season for me, now I’m thinking about next year; perhaps I’ll try to score for my university team...”

## Your Letters *continued from page 18*

*Joe Varghese ... Letter continued from page 18*

making caught-behind decisions by the umpire. It would also be important to wipe away earlier information from the umpire’s gadget to avoid any confusion. This, if successful should help in making fair decisions in the cricketing world, given so many followers.”

*From Gareth Kingston, from Flitwick in Beds, on ‘new’ bad habits...*

“So there I was, waiting expectantly for the first ball of Ashes to be bowled. A delivery that would signal the start of weeks of sleep deprivation but satisfyingly great cricket. The ball was in the hands of Ben Hilfenhaus. The start of the Ashes was moments away. And then he started contorting. Surely he won’t, I thought. But he did.

Hilfenhaus took a practice delivery, deliberately bowling the ball into the ground in contravention of the revised Law 42.3. The umpires did nothing except put on some lip salve.

This season, ACO members around the country will be applying the revised Laws of the game. It was always going to be controversial to enforce this particular Law change at the recreational level. ‘Elite’ umpires turning a blind eye will only make our task harder.

The key reference point on the Laws for most recreational players is what they see on television and hear on radio. When we give a no-ball for a bouncer that passes above head height, players think we have got it wrong because on tv it is a wide. When we correctly apply the Laws in respect of a bowler (not in his delivery stride) running out a non-striker, players think we have got it wrong because Messrs Gower and Hussain have spouted forth incorrectly on tv. To this we now have to add the world’s best umpires failing to apply the newly-revised Laws. Good luck to all ACO members next season. We are going to need it!”

*From Basil Mann, of Isleworth, in reply to a query about him umpiring in ‘3 continents’...*

“Thank you for your E Mail. Herewith more information. Wycombe House 2nd XI play in the 3rd Division of the Middlesex County League. They have over the years had boys who started as colts then played for their county - such as Owais Shah and Ben Scott.. They played Cross Arrows last year and I umpired.

The Israel connection was the Maccabi Games – taking place every 4 years. The only criterion is that you have to be Jewish. There were 40 countries competing and approximately 15,000 participants. The cricket was of a very high standard and South Africa – captained by Adam Bacher, nephew of Ali Bacher - won the competition beating India, who also had some top players. I was the first Jewish person to umpire from Britain.

The Uganda connection is that my wife and I flew to Uganda in mid-October. Penny, my wife, to teach primary school children, and me to be involved in cricket. Added to this I was pleased to be able to donate a large amount of cricket equipment. To my surprise, the Ealing cricket team were there when I arrived and I umpired one of their matches. Cricket is well organised in Kampala but not in other cities. We were based in Masindi, 3 hours by coach from Kampala, and I went round to approximately 30 primary schools to coach boys and girls. My main idea is to try and bring an U19 team from Uganda to tour England - any suggestions? My wife and I are returning to Uganda next February for 2 months. .

Uganda and Israel are both members of the International Cricket Council and more information can be found on their web sites. I am one of the regular umpires with London Schools Cricket Association and each year Southern Schools play Croydon Schools for the Hobbs Trophy, and if possible at the Oval - and I umpired them there this summer.

I was trained attending Ealing Umpires and Scorers course a good while ago - and even though I am 72 years old I hope to carry on umpiring for another few seasons.”



Bill Holdstock and our National Education Officer, Glyn Pearson after a lunch that was much too good. Are they assessing? We invite captions for this photo, which we will publish in the next issue - so serve them right!

We have not had the opportunity previously of making any book recommendations so it is good to have such a topical one to start with

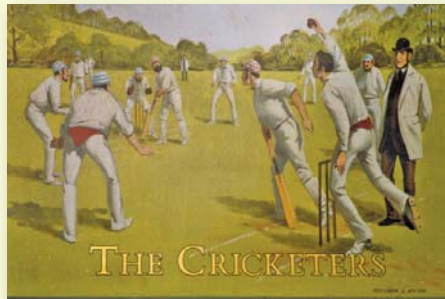
### 'Inns and Outs'

A new book about 'Cricket pubs' Geoff Wellsted is the Secretary of the Cheshire County Cricket League and an umpire on the League's panel. Chris Weston is the Secretary of the Liverpool & District Competition and an umpire on their panel. The similarities do not end there. At one time they both played for Caldby CC and both are former Chairmen of the club (Geoff was in the chair when Caldby won the National Village Cup in 1997).

This is Chris' summary of the book and its contents...

"This book about pubs and pub signs is based wholly on cricket themes and has to be a strong candidate for some sort of book award. It's very different and boy is it addictive!

It's not often that one book ticks so many different boxes. This one does. You can read it at so many different levels. You can dip in and out. You can use it purely as a reference book or, perhaps, as a source of quiz material but it's much more fun to read it for longer periods and blissfully lose yourself in



the detail as you admire the meticulous research that underpins the whole book - or you can just smile at nearly five hundred photographs of the pub signs and goggle at the sheer artistry on display.

What a collection. It puts me in mind of the epitaph to John Arlott taken from one of his own poems, "so clear you see those timeless things that, like a bird, the vision sings".

Now we've all heard of Sir Hugh Munro's list haven't we - you know, the list of Scottish mountains over 3,000 feet and the 'bagging' effect that had. I wonder if this book may produce a similarly loyal band of followers trooping around the country as they

seek out these cricketing watering-holes far and wide. The book is in no way a guide to public houses, but you never know, the raw numbers are much the same and the challenge - and challenge it would be - would not be insurmountable. I was quietly amazed to see how many of the public houses I have already "ticked off" and saddened to see how many have closed.

Curiously, given its nature, at no time does the book feel repetitive. The anecdotes are fascinating, carefully chosen and measured but it is inevitably a slightly self-overlapping and formulaic book to give readers a sense of security as they navigate within it - unlike it must be said the security of navigation to The Willow Tree Inn in Pilsley Derbyshire. There are two Pilsleys, the "correct" one near Chesterfield, the other distressingly nearby at Bakewell!

Inn signs are part of our culture and, as the cover says, are to be seen throughout the land. They are so familiar that we tend to filter them out as we hurtle past in our jam jars largely insulated from our surroundings - which is a great if understandable pity as every pub sign tells a story. And we are the richer for having this archive at our disposal; it doesn't matter if you're a cricket fan or not, there is much here to learn and to love.

For generations, cricketers have gathered in public houses, and this book does that tradition proud as it faithfully charts the public houses named after the who and the where and the why. A delight to have on the shelf and strongly recommended, this is a book for all seasons."

Copies of the book can be obtained direct from Geoff at his home address (3 Beatty Close, Caldby, Wirral, CH48 2JT - 0151 625 6470, geoffwellsted@hotmail.com). The 190page hardback book contains nearly 500 colour photographs, and retails at £18 but is available to ACO members at the discounted rate of £15 (plus £5 postage). The ideal Christmas present for the umpire who has everything!

(Ed; and we have Geoff's kind permission to show some of his signs, so thanks)



It's 'Haka' time - in Wales! - see page 9