

March 2008



**Welcome to the ECB ACO. We are pleased to confirm that Roger Knight has accepted the role of the Chairman of the Interim Board. Of the new association he said:**

*“The creation by ECB of this new organisation, bringing together the strengths of ACU&S and the ECB OA, recognises the vitally important role played by Officials from the school playing fields to the Test arena. It enables a unified approach to the training, support and recruitment of umpires and scorers.”*

**He also emphasised the important reasons behind the move**

*“Following recent high profile international incidents it is essential that the highest standards are seen to be maintained at all levels of the game, that there is a program for development, and that one body takes responsibility for maintaining and reinforcing the respect in which Officials are held.”*

**Roger is looking forward to working with the ECB ACO to achieve these goals and enhance the services and support available to Officials at all levels of the game.**

### ECB ACO Interim Board

The Interim Board has been appointed under the Chairmanship of Roger Knight. It is in place to manage the transition period and to help put in place a permanent board for the 2009 season. The first meeting of the Interim Board was held on Tuesday 11th March 2008.

The board included the following:  
Roger Knight, Chris Kelly, Peter Mitchell, David Moseby, Nick Cousins, Geoff Lowden, Peter Willey, and Lynn Allen.

### Membership Cards

Membership cards will be distributed once all the membership criteria have been met - payment, qualifications, and CRB. Delays will occur while we wait for these to be approved. Your membership card will consist of:

- Membership type
- Valid from date (all membership are valid for 1 year)
- Membership number

### Merchandise

In order for a smooth transition to take place, and holding your interests at heart, we will wait until we have the right merchandise product line before it is produced. We will inform all members once items are available for sale.

### Membership Services

#### Goodform

- We would like to introduce Goodform to the ECB ACO. Goodform operates in the sport and leisure industry, working with national governing bodies, sports clubs, sporting bodies, companies and organisations to improve their commercial performance.

- It provides a variety of services but will be running membership services to help the start of the ECB ACO.

### **Directives and Team Sheet Cards**

- Each County Association should have a stock of all the cards. You will receive one of each directive/card in your membership pack. To order more cards please contact your County Boards Officials Association or your County Premier League.

### **Database**

- As some of you will be aware we have been installing a new database. The database will allow all members to access their membership details online and also improve efficiency of our membership services.

### **Education**

With the result of the ballot by the ACU&S membership to choose to join with ECB Officials Association and to create the new body, a unique opportunity has become available to redesign the delivery of the training of officials in order to maintain pace with the fast development of the modern game.

With effect from 1st February 2008 the ECB ACO Level 2 course for cricket umpires was approved by the awarding body (1st4Sport) and accredited by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA). The equivalent qualification for ECB ACO scorers at Level 2 is nearing completion and is to be submitted to 1st4Sport for approval before going forward for accreditation by the QCA.

The official title of the qualifications will be:  
Level 2 Certificate for Sports Officials in Cricket (Scorer)  
Level 2 Certificate for Sports Officials in Cricket (Umpire)

The Umpiring Level 2 has already been through its preliminary trial which will be followed by a Pilot Course of the course in early April 2008. If there is anyone who would like to be involved in this exercise then please get in touch.

Following the pilot course the qualification will be available for delivery by accredited tutors throughout the country. It will not be possible to roll out the course to all counties at the same time and a programme of when you will be able to access the courses will be published in due course.

ECB recognise that current training based on existing ACU&S courses is being run and not all applicants will be successful in being selected for the initial Level 2 courses.

ECB ACO is currently reviewing all current ACU&S qualifications and will issue a statement on how training, accreditation and recruitment will be managed in future. The key to the success will be the ability of us all to inspire and attract a new generation of officials to join us. This will be achieved by careful planning at county board level which addresses the recruitment and support of the existing and potential members. The impact of successful implementation will have the effect of increasing the number of officials.

*All ACU&S qualifications will be recognised by ECB ACO up to 30 April 2008. After that date individual cases will be considered with ECB ACO reserving the right to make the appropriate judgements.*

### **ECB ACO Qualifications**

ECB ACO is the only body with QCA approved qualifications. No qualifications from any other bodies have the approval of QCA.

### **FAQ**

We have a new FAQ page on our website. The majority of queries can be answered here. We will also be updating the website constantly with recent news regarding the ECB ACO.

### **Contact Details**

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I would like to wish you all the best for 2008 and welcome you to a new and exciting era in officiating.

Many thanks

**Sam Greaves**

**Membership, ECB Association of Cricket Officials**