

“Our Year so far”

“It was no less a god-fearing man than the 98th Archbishop of Canterbury, William Temple, who, when answering a question about our noble game replied... ‘*I always looked on cricket as organised loafing*’. Stern words perhaps, but a solid reminder that we need to strive constantly to counter the ills and temptations around in this media and money-soaked environment! Which is the reason I am taking this opportunity of bringing you all up to date with the many works in progress and the projects we have initiated this year.

A priority in my role here is to place our aims and objectives for cricket officiating in the UK into the ECB’s ‘Partnership Agreement & Action Plan with Skills Active’ (the Sector Skills Council for Active Leisure, Learning and Well-Being). Effectively this has set out the ‘Officiating Plan’ as our part of the overall 2009/13 ‘Strategy for Cricket’. There is little new or startling here and it is simply a re-affirmation of the messages that have been expressed previously, but nevertheless, I think it is reasonable to share it all with you.

The **strategy** is founded on the establishment of an efficient overarching infrastructure which enables the ECB ACO to identify cricket’s officiating needs on both a national and local basis and to deliver against them. Our officiating ‘model’ therefore relies on a partnership between the National Executive and the local ACOs to identify how the development of umpires and scorers, match observers (coaches & assessors); educators (course tutors) and the creation of a transparent system for the classification, grading and appointment of all officials will meet those needs. As you will appreciate, within the model there is also an education framework that aims to support officials at all stages of their development. This includes CPD (continuous professional development) for all and enhanced training for those who are upwardly mobile on the appointments pathway. The profile of the next generation of officials (16-25 year



ACO Senior Executive Officer, Nick Cousins

olds) has already been raised (not least through the work of the YODO and the creation of a Development Squad of Young Officials) and a further aim is to provide clearer routes into officiating for the other under-represented groups, namely women and those from our ethnic minorities. The overall objective, unsurprisingly, is simply to create and maintain a sustainable network of officials at national, regional, county and club level which facilitates where possible, the best officials to be involved with the best games.

The strategy also talks of our involvement and interaction with other component parts of the recreational game - namely volunteering, disability cricket, womens’ and girls’ cricket, and competitions. On the face of it this may sound a bit like ‘stating the obvious’ - after all nearly all officials are ‘volunteers’ and none of the other three can happen without officials of one sort or another. The point is, to what extent can the ACO be active in the promotion of those other components - and vice versa?

On this particular point, I was delighted to see the extent of our involvement in disability cricket, and humbled by my lack of knowledge of our contribution to this area of cricket. I acclaim Peter Marshall’s work for and with the **BCEW** (hopefully you saw his letter and the press release in the last newsletter) and I also commend to you Les Clemenson’s article (*on page 18*). I was delighted to be a guest at the Lady Taverners Table Cricket competition at Lord’s and again where our members were to the fore. Our challenge is can we, could we, should we, do more?

As far as **women’s cricket** is concerned, we have all been thrilled by the success achieved by the national team and the corresponding growth of the women’s and girls’ cricket at club level, but the fact is that as yet, this has not been matched by a corresponding growth in the number of women officials. We aim to change that - and in the process perhaps find the first UK women umpires to officiate in the women’s world cup.

We have promised the **establishment of an appointments system** throughout the game which puts the right official in the right place at the right time within the context of a clear national strategy which can be delivered at local, regional and national levels. A tall order, but from the beginning of next season ECB ACO will take complete responsibility for officiating in the recreational game. (Chris Kelly, the Umpire Manager, will of course retain responsibility for all aspects of officiating in the professional game). One consequence of this is that the Regional Appointments Co-ordinators will come under the aegis of ECB ACO and will form an Appointments, Classification & Grading sub-committee of the Board - more of that later - but in this context it follows that regional and national appointments will become a fully-functioning part of the ECB ACO infrastructure, not least in terms of appointment to the various ECB competitions. Recently we ran a very successful U13 club finals festival using the Young Officials Development Squad as a group of officials. We aim to build on this next season by using both these and other groups of officials (umpires and scorers) in similar Festivals.

We already have a close relationship with **volunteering** in its widest context through the work of Ben and Krishan in their capacities as ‘volunteers’ working in the office through the auspices of the Youth Sport Trust. A couple of recent examples of this would be the recruitment of

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Our Education Programme from 1 January 2011

The ECB ACO has, as its primary role, the training and education of all who wish to become, and remain, cricket officials. To this end it is the responsibility of the ACO to create, administer, evaluate and accredit training programmes for new and current members, and over the past two years we have refined the elements of the various courses we have trialled, so that now we have an 'established' set of inter-locking courses that become the 'pathway'.

This then is the first publication of the new and complete Training Programme that our various education task-force and education committees have assembled under the guidance of Nick Cousins and the two National Education managers, Eddie Lunn and Glyn Pearson.

Some of these courses are entirely new. Some are changed by revision, addition or deletion. All elements of these (tutor cds and participants' materials) will be ready by the target date of 1 January. Also, it will be left to each individual county to use whichever Levels they need, but the ab-

solute requirement will be that any single participant must adhere to the required sequence once he has entered the programme path.

The new administration structure for all courses

Over the past three years, the system for distributing the entry-point 'Level 1' course and its earlier equivalent, was quite sporadic as its efficiency depended on the tutors advising where their courses were and how many participants they were expecting. This resulted in quite a few



'Level 2' Assessors hard at it in Derby
'misses' (where we did not know) which were both frustrating and regrettable.

ECB ACO offers the following programmes:

Introductory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides for supporters, parents and players who want to know more about the game of cricket as either an Umpire or Scorer. • No prior knowledge or experience is required • Duration is 2-4 hours • An ECB ACO 'Certificate of Attendance' is awarded on successful completion
Young Officials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides for individuals between the age of 14 and 25 who would like to umpire or score • No prior knowledge or experience is required • Duration is 2-4 hours • An ECB ACO 'Certificate of Attendance' is awarded on successful completion
Level 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides for umpires and scorers who wish to umpire or score matches for their Club or introductory-level League cricket • No prior knowledge or experience is required • Duration is 12-16 hours, usually weekly evenings, or over one or two weekends • An ECB ACO 'Level 1 - Umpire' Certificate is awarded on passing a 50 question, multi-choice examination • An ECB ACO Level 1 - Scorer' Certificate is awarded on successful completion of a match record based on a script provided.
Level 1A ('A' = Advanced)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relevant for an umpire or scorer who has passed Level 1 and wishes to progress to the League panel • Level 1 pass is required • Duration is 10-12 hours • An ECB ACO 'Level 1A' Certificate is awarded on successful completion and discussion of the course workbook
Level 2C ('C' = County)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-development opportunity for those who do not wish to progress through L2 to L3 • By invitation only • Level 1 and Level 1A passes are required • Coursework is the 6 L2 modules to be completed in candidate's own time-scale • Certificates of attendance will be given for each module completed, and a 'L2-County' Certificate awarded on successful completion of all.
Level 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For suitably experienced and qualified umpires and scorers who wish to progress and who are known to their County • Level 1 and Level 1A passes are required • Duration is 10-12 hours • An ECB ACO 'Level 2' Certificate is awarded on successful completion of the course, followed by acceptable assessments, and a concluding interview and discussion of their course workbook
Level 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For highly experienced Level 2 umpires and scorers who aspire to multi-day cricket - By invitation only - Duration is 6 half-day modules over 18-24 months - An ECB ACO 'Level 3' Certificate is awarded after successful completion of the course and the presentation of a technical report.

Though this was improved for the training season 09/10, it was always felt that there had to be a better way - a more 'local' way of doing better.

This is now what we hope to have as we work towards the final stages of a new and very desirable link with each County Cricket Board. The system then will become entirely 'local', and as such very beneficial to the administrators, tutors and participants – all of whom will link together in their own county.

It will work by a simple 'upwards' request sequence; the tutor nominates his course to his CEO/REO, and then the ACO/CCB officers order and pay for the materials, which are then supplied from a stock the CCB will hold. This will cover all L1 needs.

For Levels 2 and 3, as these are by invitation only and involve much smaller numbers, the system will be similar, but much of the organisation will be run by each REO in liaison with each of his CEOs.

Even before the first pack is sent, we are already hugely grateful to all CCB officers, and as well to Nick Marriner and to his regional development team who have worked hard to become the bond between the CCBs and ourselves. Not only is this a considerable step forward in inter-departmental relationships, but is another 'plus' for every member in being more involved with his County hierarchy.



'Young Officials' (+Nick) at U13s Finals festival at Oakham

“How is That”

The facts and questions box

- For those who think back over the last few years, for the sake of continual 'goodwill', all ACU&S tutors were given the dispensation of continuing to teach their version of 'GL6' in place of or in parallel with our then first-stage course and workbook.
- This continued into last winter 09/10 though the percentage of courses being run using the 'Its Your Call' tutor dvd increased to about 80% of the total.
- In all, there were a similar number of courses in each of those years – about 130.
- For this winter season, 10/11, some courses starting in October/November, will be using the 'old' Level 1 material, and those starting from January, will be using the new discs, workbooks, and techniques.

Tech-Tactic #004

POSITIONING: THE INJURED STRIKER AND HIS RUNNER

Questions are continually being asked of the correct procedures that the on-field umpires should implement in situations when an injured striker has a runner. On further investigation it became clear that there are different strategies adopted and so it is appropriate for ECB ACO to describe their recommended course of action when such an event arises on the field of play.

Inevitably the previous best practice relating to the positioning of the umpire at the bowler's end still applies (Tech-Tactic #002, December 2009), but there will be a need to modify this as your priorities change when a runner is on the field.

The following positions of the umpires, injured striker and runner are best practice and what we would expect from all members of ECB ACO to apply on field:

Injured Striker on Strike

Umpire at Striker's End Umpire at Bowler's End

Decide which side of the wicket you will stand taking into account everything that you would normally do to be in the best possible position – this will more often than not be the off side of the wicket.

Position the runner at square leg (the side opposite to where you are positioned) as this is most likely to be the side where he will cause minimal disruption to the fielding side.

You should now be in a position where you will have the wicket, injured striker and runner all clearly in your view as a minimum requirement.

Umpire at Bowler's End

This is the most difficult aspect of managing this whole scenario and a test of each umpire's focus and concentration levels.

AT ALL TIMES the umpire at the bowler's end is to move to the side of his colleague when moving to adjudicate on run outs. People often repeat to themselves during this time – “run to my mate”

This movement will ensure that you will never find yourself in the situation of having to answer an appeal for a run out with the runner out of your view and running behind you!

Injured Striker Not on Strike

Umpire at Striker's End Umpire at Bowler's End

With the injured striker not facing the bowling he is now out of the game unless he wilfully brings himself into it. He needs to be positioned so that this state is emphasised.

The umpire should revert to his normal position at the striker's end and he should take the injured striker with him. The best position for the injured striker will be next to the umpire and slightly behind him. This is an opportunity for this umpire to be proactive in the smooth running of the game.

This position emphasises the point that the injured striker is not involved in play and makes any adjudication of his wilful involvement easier to identify.

To have the injured striker positioned in any other place increases the chances of him distracting with the fielding side at the very least and is an unnecessary risk.

Umpire at Bowler's End

No change to your normal routines.

MCC Law changes

This is the official 'Explanation of the changes between the 3rd Edition and 4th Edition of the 2000 Code of the Laws of Cricket' as given to us by the MCC.

There are in excess of 160 changes to the wording of paragraphs, so it is not feasible for us to run all of them here in detail, but – to be helpful – here is the summary of which laws are affected, plus the texts of the 'significant' items where there are 'Policy' changes to the Laws themselves....

Law 2 - 2.3 - 2.6 - 2.8 - 2.9

Law 3 - 3.6 - 3.8 + 3.9 – POLICY CHANGES

The changes to Laws 3.8 and 3.9 relate to the umpires suspending play as a result of the fitness of the ground, weather or light. The main change is that the umpires will no longer "offer the light" to the batting side. It was felt that, at present, the decision to stay on or come off the field was often made on tactical grounds based on what best suits the batting side, rather than on grounds of safety or visibility. In bad light, umpires will now only suspend play when they consider it to be unreasonable or dangerous. Unreasonable is to be regarded as being inappropriate, rather than conditions simply not being very good. The new Law should result in less playing time being lost, as has been evidenced through the playing regulation introduced by the ECB in county cricket.

Law 3.10 - 3.11 - 3.13 - 3.14 - 3.15

Law 5

Law 6

Law 7 - 7.2

Law 9 - 9.3

Law 10 - 10.1 - 10.2 - 10.3 - 10.4

Law 12 - 12.1 - 12.3

Laws 12.4 + 12.5 – POLICY CHANGES

The changes to Laws 12.4 and 12.5 involve the toss. In Law 12.4, it was felt that it would be good practice to say that the toss should be made in the presence of one or both of the umpires. Law 3.1 already states that the umpires shall be at the ground at least 45 minutes before the scheduled start of play. Furthermore, Laws 1.2, 3.3 and 3.4 lay down a number of points that need to be agreed between the umpires and the captains before the toss and MCC thought that having at least one umpire at the toss would help to formalise the whole process. Some people have expressed concerns over this new Law for certain games at amateur level where there are no formal umpires but the Laws must set out what is best practice. Laws 1.2, 3.3 and 3.4 have 4 been in the Code since 2000 without drawing complaints. The new 12.5 forces the captain winning the toss to notify his decision to bat or field to the other captain straight away. The current Law states the notification could be delayed until 10 minutes before the scheduled start of play and MCC heard of examples where this Law was being exploited as a means of gamesmanship to give the other team less time to prepare.

Law 14 - 14.1 - 14.2

Law 15 - 15.4 - 15.5 - 15.7 - 15.8 - 15.9 - 15.10

Law 16 - 16.2 - 16.5 - 16.8 - 16.9 - 16.11

Law 17 – POLICY CHANGE

Law 17 concerns practice on the field. Law 17.1 has clarified the area that can never be used for practice as being the pitch and the two strips either side of it. Laws 17.2 and 17.3 clearly outline when and what practice may take place on the rest of the square (17.2) and on the outfield (17.3). A ban has been placed on fielders partaking in practice with a coach or 12th man during play. MCC has noticed that such practice is becoming more prevalent and felt it should not be allowed. With slow over rates becoming an increasing problem, the fact that practice should not waste any time is reinforced more strongly than before. It is also clarified that deliberately bowling the ball into the ground in practice will contravene Law 42.3 (The match ball – changing its condition).

Law 18 - 18.2 - 18.3 - 18.4 - 18.5 - 18.9 - 18.10 - 18.11 - 18.12

Law 19 - Law 19.4 – POLICY CHANGE

A new 19.4 has been created to clarify further when the ball is beyond the boundary. In recent years, increasingly athletic pieces of fielding on the boundary have brought this area of the Law into the spotlight. MCC felt that it would be wrong to allow a fielder, seeing a ball flying over his head and over the boundary, to retreat beyond the boundary and then to jump up and parry the ball back towards the field of play. Consequently, Law 19.4(i) requires that the fielder's first contact with the ball must be when some part of his person is grounded within the boundary or, if he is airborne, that his final contact with the ground before touching the ball was within the boundary.

Law 19.6 - 19.7

Law 20 - 20.1 - 20.3

Law 21 - 21.1 - 21.2 - 21.3 - 21.4 - 21.5 - 21.6 - 21.7 - 21.9

Law 22 - 22.2 - 22.3 - 22.5 - 22.6 - 22.8

Law 23 - 23.1 - 23.3 - 23.4

Law 24 - 24.2

Law 24.5 – POLICY CHANGE Law 24.5 (Fair delivery – the feet) has been amended in relation to the landing of the bowler's front foot. It became apparent that some slow bowlers were bowling with their front foot going right across to the other side of the stumps. This meant that a bowler could,

for example, say that he was bowling over the wicket but release the ball as though bowling round the wicket. MCC felt that this is not fair, particularly taking into account the positioning of the sight-screen, and consequently altered the Law so that the bowler's front foot must land with some part of his foot, whether grounded or raised, on the same side as an imaginary line joining the two middle stumps as the side of the wicket on which he has stated he will bowl.

Law - 24.8 - 24.9 - 24.13 - 24.14

Law 25 - 25.5 - 25.6

Law 26 - 26.1 - 26.2 - 26.3

Law 27 - 27.5 - 27.6 - 27.8

Law 28 – POLICY CHANGE Law 28.1 (Wicket put down) has been amended so that any part of the striker's bat is capable of putting the wicket down. Although it is a rare occurrence, MCC is aware of situations where the bat has broken while hitting the ball and a part of the bat has hit the stumps, putting the wicket down. MCC felt that, whilst this would be an unfortunate method of dismissal for a batsman, a part of a bat that has broken off should be treated in the same way as a bat that has fallen out of the batsman's hand.

Law 28.3 - 28.4

Law 29 - Law 29.1 – POLICY CHANGE

(When out of his ground) has been amended so that a batsman who has been running to make his ground will be considered to be in his ground if, having grounded some part of his foot behind the popping crease, and still with continuing forward momentum, he loses contact with the ground. This will particularly be useful in televised games where a player has clearly made his ground but, at the moment that the wicket was put down, he is not in contact with the ground because he is running and, for example, his bat has flicked up off the ground after passing through a bowler's foothole. It is in the nature of running that in every stride, both feet are simultaneously not in contact with the ground. It would therefore be unjust if batsman were to be out in such circumstances. This new Law is added as a new subsection(b).

Law 31 - 31.1

Law 32 - 32.3 - 32.4 - 32.5

Law 33 - 33.1 - 33.3

Law 34 - 34.2 - 34.3 - 34.4 - 34.5

Law 35 - 35.2

Law 36 - 36.1 36.3

Law 37 - 37.1 - 37.4 - 37.5

Law 38 - 38.1 - 38.2 - 38.4

Law 39 - 39.1 - 39.2 - 39.3

Law 40 - 40.5.

Law 41 - 41.2 - 41.3 - 41.4 - 41.6

Law 42 - 42.3 - 42.4 - 42.5 - 42.6 - 42.7 - 42.8 - 42.9 - 42.10 - 42.12 - 42.13

Law 42.14 - POLICY CHANGE (Batsman damaging the pitch) has been amended so that the batting side receives one less warning than under the current Law. Currently, on the first offence the side is warned; on the second offence, there is a further warning and any runs scored are disallowed; on all subsequent offences, any runs scored are disallowed, 5 penalty runs are awarded to the fielding side and a report is lodged with the appropriate governing body. In the proposed new version, there is a warning on the first offence but any repetition will see any runs scored disallowed, 5 penalty runs awarded to the fielding side and a report being lodged with the appropriate governing body. This is consistent with Law 42.13 (Fielder damaging pitch), where there is only one warning before penalty runs are issued.

Law 42.15 - 42.16 - 42.17 - 42.18

Appendix D

Appendix E

ECB Playing Regulation change...

This relates to Law 24.4 dealing with deliveries bouncing more than once. And, which, in essence, now bars the bowling of any previously 'fair' delivery bouncing twice or more.

It is, of course, obvious that this is the view and wish of the ECB for all matches involving 1st-Class cricket and most of 'Recreational' cricket – and it is equally visible that it was not the intention of the MCC that this should apply to other forms of cricket, where, for example, matches involving under-age men's, or women's teams, or junior or disabled, where this would have been an 'unfair' change.

This is the wording...

LV= County Championship Playing Condition 24.4

Law 24.6 is replaced by:

The umpire at the bowlers' end shall call and signal No ball if a ball which he considers to have been delivered, without having previously touched bat or person of the striker, either

- bounces more than **ONCE** or
- rolls along the ground before it reaches the popping crease.

Nick Cousins ... continued from front page

volunteers for the ASDA Kwik-Cricket Finals in July - working with the Derbyshire Volunteer Officer, and the recruitment of volunteers for finals in Leicestershire and Rutland - working with the Leicestershire Volunteer Officer. We will continue to build these relationships as well as develop our YODO and YEVD0 programmes.

There are other issues that have come up this season – again none of them new, but all worthy of addressing and commenting upon. Firstly **Fair Play and Discipline**. In response to an increasing number of incidents reported by members (sadly many in Junior Cricket) where there has been no obvious reporting system, or no apparent response to a report submitted, ECB ACO has initiated a generic report form that can be distributed to all umpires, used in any circumstance and sent back to Lord's for action. This is not intended to replace the discipline forms and good practice that already emanate from many leagues and ACOs, but to supplement them, particularly where such practice, for whatever reason, does not exist. The bottom line is that there is absolutely no place in cricket for umpire abuse anywhere, from Test match areas to the park pitches – and to ignore individual instances or not address the issue as a whole is not an option.

Secondly, **pitch assessment reports**. Following an excellent presentation from Martin Ford (ECB Pitch Adviser) at the recent Premier League Chairmen's meeting, it was obvious that whilst the pitch marks reported this season had enabled leagues to tackle clubs over poor pitches, there had also been a demonstrable inconsistency in the umpires' marking and that more training on how to mark pitches using the ECB form is required. Allegedly, one of the the biggest problems is the confusion of umpires to judge a pitch as 'debatable' when the ball seams, swings, and turns – the question being is it the bowlers' skill or a poor pitch - and if this occurs, the pitch should be marked down? It was suggested that joint presentations from a combination of the local County Pitch Advisers (or one of the ECB Regional Advisers), and a known and respected umpire would be best – and this is what we propose to do.

The League Chairmen's meeting not surprisingly also had exchanges over the varying amounts paid to umpires up and down the country in terms of **match fees and expenses**. I am firmly of the view that no umpire standing in any match should be 'out of pocket' and should receive appropriate expenses to cover his/her travel costs to and from the game. If a game commands a match fee then that should be agreed in advance - and in addition to any expenses paid. A Premier League game is a Premier League game wherever it is played 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.. Whilst it was accepted that this is a matter for each individual league, a general recommendation was, in fact, made before this season began that a reasonable figure for leagues to use in respect of umpires fees and expenses was £30 fee plus 30p per mile –and indeed this is the figure used for some ECB Matches, and this still stands. However, the ECB ACO view at present is to accept that it is the right of local leagues to make local decisions. Having said that, since the meeting a number of Chairmen have asked if a simple table can be published showing what the premier leagues pay, so that they can make more informed decisions for the 2011 season – and we will publish this as soon as we are able.

There is little doubt that **computer scoring** is the way forward and certainly a means to get more (young) people involved in this aspect of the game. Whilst some leagues already insist on computer scoring, it was not felt that imposition would be helpful or productive at this stage, but ECB ACO was encouraged to increase the number of computer courses that it runs. Once again this message set me thinking about the issue of scoring in general and why we have been singularly less successful in attracting scorers to courses than we have in attracting umpires? Scorers make a valuable and valued contribution to the game of cricket although it is often not obvious that this is the case – why is it that we never see the scorers given commemorative medals at the end of Test matches? To help address this oversight we are launching an initiative intended to; identify and recognise all club, league and free-lance scorers, register scorers with Counties and Regions, encourage membership of ECB ACO, and, recognise, grade and certificate individuals - and through the National Scorers Appointments Coordinator, offer relevant County or ECB appointments where required

To facilitate this, from September 2010 through to April 2011 we will be inviting all scorers to make themselves known to the NSAC and their County, Regional and National officers. We will then arrange for individuals or groups of scorers to attend either a scorer seminar or workshop or one-to-one meeting with the relevant local contacts who will be able to discuss the experience, knowledge and skills required for Level 1, Level 2 and Level 3 certification. This will enable those who score matches but for whatever reason have not taken any courses, exams or other forms of assessment to gain an ECB ACO recognised grade based on their current experience, knowledge and skills.

In terms of **research & development**, the creation of a 'learning culture' incorporating on-going research and development programmes, particularly in terms of the use of

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'The 'Spirit of Cricket' debate – what actually happened...

From Andy Smith, the 'Player'...

Firstly I should probably start by acknowledging the fact I have upset a number of readers with my previous article. Although this wasn't the intention from the outset I am going to stop short of apologizing because I don't think I need to. Part of me was excited at first because I had obviously sparked a talking point and that's surely the idea behind this publication but the more I received complaints from Leicestershire Umpires the more disheartened I became. What is their problem, I thought to myself? I will point out now that only one umpire spoke to me directly and passed his negative comments on, himself. He also added that his wife thought my writing style to be poor and that she should know. (I assumed his wife was a teacher?). Anyway I don't know what the problem is, I think my spelling is perfect and my England is also top drawer. I aint had any complaints in the past anyway.

Other than that single bit of feedback all other negative comments have been passed on by Umpires who know me well (yes believe it or not I do get on well with some Umpires!) who have had other Umpires pass their thoughts to them. My Dad has also been stopped a few times and had his ear bent on the subject as well. Now he likes nothing more than a conversation where criticising me is the topic and even he felt bound to defend my honour. Those that know 'Big Pete Smith' (as most of the County seem to) and the relationship we have will know that I will not get a more ringing endorsement than his defence. I just hope Umpires don't take it out on his bowling because if he stops getting LB's for the ball that would have just clipped a second leg stump he will have his wickets tally for the summer reduced significantly!

Other than that the feedback has been positive. Although playing Devil's Advocate I suppose this has come from the Umpires I know well and they are maybe just telling me what I want to hear? I think the main issue with what I said was that Umpires do make mistakes and that I will question decisions if I think they are wrong. If there are Umpires out there who think they are perfect and don't make mistakes then sorry, I have got some bad news for you! All players make mistakes. I make mistakes as a captain and as a batsman so why shouldn't Umpires make mistakes? It's the bullet proof



nature of some Umpires that winds players up. Those that give a bad decision one season and still insist they were right the following season. I am sure there are a few of them all over the country. If the Umpire was to admit down the line, 'sorry, I might have got that one wrong' then what more can you say than that? You put it behind you and we all move on.

Earlier this season I questioned an Umpire's decision which ultimately led to him reversing his decision and runs not being awarded to the opposition. We went on to win the game by 1 run so my actions were vindicated completely. Surely there is no better example of why captains should be allowed to question Umpire's decisions? I could have stood idle and just shrugged my shoulders and we'd have lost the game! The Umpire in question had a pretty poor game all round but the next time we had him he admitted that he might have got a couple of things wrong in the previous game. I said 'not a problem' and we got on with it.

Thus far this season the Umpiring has been mixed; some excellent and some indifferent. One recurring theme has been wides and in particular legside wides. Not just because Kibworth bowl so many of them but because of the lack of consistency in deciding on what is a legside wide. If I had my way it should be treated like Professional one-day cricket and everything down the leg side is a wide. That would make it a lot easier for Umpires as there is no grey area and everyone involved in the game knows exactly what to expect. The feedback I normally get to that suggestion is "oh we'll be here all day Smithy" which I can understand to some extent but that isn't really going to improve our cricket. If that's too harsh then decide on a distance past leg stump that is acceptable (eg. 12") and mark it on the crease so the Umpires have a guide. The league administrators/committees just need do something to make it easier for Umpires to make a non-subjective call. As

it stands too many Umpires use whether the batsman has played a shot at the ball as a factor in their decision. Nonsense. Too many Umpires also say it's not a legside wide if the ball would have struck the batsman had he not moved inside it. Also nonsense. Batsmen who have a leg stump guard or who move across with a

big trigger movement are going to be penalised as a result. I know from speaking to friends who play cricket in different parts of the country that this is not just restricted to Leicestershire cricket and so something needs to be done.

From Sarah Coldicott, the 'Scorer'...

The end of the season is rapidly approaching and having scored over twenty-five matches for the Old Elizabethans U10, U13 and U14 teams there has been plenty of activity to reflect upon. Our U13 team has



played exceptionally well and I am looking forward to scoring at the ECB U13 National Club Championship Regional Final at Wolverhampton.

The U10's have experienced their first season of competitive cricket. It has been wonderful to watch them starting to function as a team rather than a bunch of individuals. One particular incident springs to mind when thinking about the 'Spirit of Cricket'; one of our bowlers injured a batsman during a competitive pairs game (not enough to require opening the first aid kit I hasten to add) with a fast ball that connected with a thigh rather than the bat. The bowler showed genuine concern for the batsman, walking up the pitch to offer his apology and ensure the lad on the receiving end wasn't too badly injured.

The U13's and U14's have played together now for a few years, relatively speaking, and work well as a team. As they approach adolescence at an alarming rate it has been satisfying to see them stick together and continue to turn up to practice night regularly. With regard to their season and picking only one incident, it would have to be one of our U13 batsmen walking when he believed he'd been caught by the wicket keeper rather than waiting to be dismissed. Maybe many would believe this to have been a foolish act but personally I believe it showed maturity and sportsmanship.

I am also pleased to say I have only seen one helmet and bat fly after a dismissal this season which was swiftly dealt with by the coach. Not one of our lads this time although they are more than capable of demonstrating their disappointment in this way but hopefully only in the changing rooms!

So as our season draws to its conclusion, it has been a pleasure to be a part of the community of volunteers that ensure junior cricket continues to thrive and provide young men and women the opportunity to play competitive sport.

From Mark Gumbley, the 'Umpire'...

I look back at my article prior to the start of the season, and it is fair to say it is written with the keen optimism that probably greets us all in April each year.

It is the same optimism that makes us all believe that the snowy cold winter is sure to mean the sun will be splitting the paving slabs for 4½ months, and cricket pitches will start to look like those we see on the tv during the rain breaks in the Test Match, as Derek Underwood takes the final wicket and throngs of young boys in flared trousers and polyester t-shirts run across the boundary to hug their sideburn wearing, floppy-haired heroes. I digress, but I'm sure you get the point.

Well all the waiting was over come 1 May and I marched head-first into a new season with my first appointment in the Birmingham and District Premier Cricket League. Two teams I knew a little, but a colleague I didn't. But it wasn't raining! Bonus. So far, so good.

I must say that that game passed pleasantly enough, the only incident of note being my colleague having to formally warn a bowler for encroaching on the protected area in the middle of a fairly mediocre spell.

However, no sooner had he done so than the bowler in question immediately stopped his transgression, something he could have done following the friendly quiet word he had benefited from a few balls earlier.

At the end of the over, he sidled up to my

colleague, apologised (not that one was needed) and explained that he'd spent all winter bowling in the indoor nets and didn't know he had developed a bad habit. He thanked my colleague, and then proceeded to bowl a decent spell without further incident. How strange that within a few weeks this same chap was playing for the County in 20-over cricket and taking a bag full of wickets. Did my colleague that day help this bowler find his line? How's that for the spirit of the game!

Joking aside, by the half-way point in the season things have pretty much gone as I expected. The odd stropky fast bowler, vexed batsman or peeved captain, but as far as my games have gone, nothing that I can recall that hasn't stayed on the field at the end, or if it hasn't, I've had no real feeling that I'm about to get axe-murdered or have my tyres slashed.

Perhaps I'm lucky, or better still too naïve to notice, for I know that colleagues have had far more difficult days than me but how those have developed and played out, I'm afraid I have no idea. I'm still finding my games to be played in a decent spirit.

Granted they will be played hard at times, the odd transgression or con trick employed here and there, but generally, most club players seem to me to want to play cricket, get 'fair' or at least 'fairly considered' decisions, and get on with the game.

One thing that has concerned me this sea-



son more than previously however, is a developing trend amongst batsmen to immediately attempt to persuade me that they have got an inside edge prior to being struck on the pad in front of all three. It's a worrying trend. Waving the willow at me isn't going to change my mind, but there may be those who are influenced and its something that needs to be addressed, and quickly.

In closing this piece, and by way of an example to sum up my season to date, I will relay a conversation I had with one of the aforementioned 'stropky fast bowlers' shortly after turning down what he thought was a nailed-on LBW appeal. I could see all three stumps and was confident the ball was doing too much and missing leg stump. "Not out. Over". As we wandered off to square leg, he put his hand on my shoulder and asked me why I turned it down. I explained my view (albeit with slight trepidation as he towered over me) and in reply he made it clear he didn't agree (without any malice or dissent). He then thought for a moment and said "Thanks Mark. I was gonna have a go at you, but then I thought, he aint gonna change his mind now is he, so what the point. Were not gonna agree and its your call, so fair enough". With that, he popped his cap on his head and trotted off to fine leg.

Refreshing, and the sort of attitude that makes me think its all worthwhile week in, week out. I hope I'm not saying something different come the end of the season!

From Steve Barker... joining in the debate...

"In the latest (May) edition of the excellent newsletter I read with interest the piece written by Andy Smith, skipper of Kibworth CC. As a relatively new Umpire (this is my third season) my playing days are not that far behind me and I can remember clearly the joys and frustrations of playing.

What sparked my interest were Andy's comments regarding 'having a word' with an Umpire who, in Andy's opinion had 'wronged' him or his team in the past with the intention of putting doubt in the Umpire's mind if he should be 'struck bang in front' later. Would Andy really want an Umpire who could be swayed in such a manner?

How would he feel if the opposition skipper did the same and the decision went against Kibworth? In the current climate where every player feels he has the right to question the Umpires decisions (and they do!) surely Andy would want a strong minded Umpire who gave it as he saw it and even if the Umpire made a mistake (we do sometimes, being human!) he would put that behind him and not try and 'balance' things out in his future decisions.

Andy also makes the point that he has no hesitation in questioning decisions if he feels they are wrong. I am happy to explain decisions to skippers or any player as long as the question is asked in the right way as I believe it helps foster a good spirit and can sometimes be helpful if a Law is explained to a

player. However Andy's assertion that if he is not satisfied with the answer he presses the matter may, in my personal opinion be taking things too far. Nowhere in the Laws of the game does it say that the skipper has a right to question the decisions. It has long been an unwritten rule that he can seek clarification but there is a difference between clarifying and questioning and some players may take this as a sign that they can do the same if they don't get the answer they want to hear or get the decision they think they deserve.

Of course Umpires make mistakes but then again so do players. A very wise Umpire once said when questioned after the match about one of his decisions "do you realise that today I haven't bowled a bad ball, played a bad shot or misfielded a ball all game" I think this was a good point well made. Something for us all to think about, don't you agree?"

From Terry Bentham, Chairman of Ben Bailey Homes South Yorkshire Senior Cricket league and Secretary of the league's umpires association....

"I read the article re the Spirit Of cricket with great interest. I have now been officiating 36 years from junior leagues to ECB county board games and late stages of national and village comps. Attitudes of players to each other have changed along with society as a whole, most of the changes not being as we would like. I have seen the standards of umpiring improve considerably over

these years to cope with those changes. I am firmly of the opinion that training is responsible for the improvements. When I first started, umpires would appear at the ground 15 minutes before the start, white coat in hand and that was it.

In the league I am in we have added to the Spirit of Cricket the following. A player must not dispute a decision by word, action or gesture' and 'A player must not direct foul or abusive language towards an opponent or umpire, or use such language not directed at either, which is loud enough, in the opinion of either umpire, to be heard by spectators.' If the above is infringed, either umpire may award 5 penalty runs to the aggrieved team. This addition has worked well so far and all umpires bring it to the attention of captains at the pre-toss discussion. This season we have had at least 3 cases of captains taking a lead on the Spirit of Cricket. Two weeks ago a captain sent off one of his players for a "cooling off" period following the player's disputing a decision. I personally, on two of the warmest days so far, have seen batting captains provide substitute fielders when an injury has taken place. In both cases the gesture was quite voluntary. The odd case of bad behaviour has never gone to a hearing, and the offender has been satisfactorily dealt with at club level. I do believe that we are winning the battle in South Yorkshire and our disciplinary team may well become redundant."

Friends Afar

Continuing our coverage of the way things are abroad and in the regions...

'Eye-opening cricket in Queensland' by Quentin Jones

"My life as a scorer took a somewhat strange turn in the late summer of 2009 when my family and I ended up in Queensland for eight months. It goes without saying that one of the first things we did on obtaining our rented house was to find a cricket club. The nearest was Sandgate-Redcliffe District CC and within days my son had joined their junior ranks and I'd become one of their scorers. Sandgate-Redcliffe is a Brisbane grade club with three Queensland Bulls players in their ranks. There were many players at the club, both male and female, who have turned out at state level in various age groups. Sandgate-Redcliffe runs a staggering seven grade sides at the weekend and the junior membership is massive. But, when I joined as a scorer it doubled that particular department. Yes, this huge district cricket club had only one grade scorer.

It soon became apparent that there was a desperate shortage of cricket scorers in and around Brisbane. Brisbane 1st grade is the strongest, most high-profile cricket league in Queensland which the state side is selected from. But as the season commenced in September, there were, to my knowledge, two 1st grade clubs who could not find a scorer. Personally, the reason for this was staring me right in the face and at a meeting of the Queensland Cricket Scorers Association which I attended at the Allan Border Field, I raised it – pay and conditions. Let me try and explain.

Brisbane 1st grade is an incredibly high standard of league cricket. During my season with Sandgate-Redcliffe I officiated games which included names such as James Hopes, Lou Vincent, Maurice Chambers, and practically the entire current Queensland squad. I scored games with test and state scorers and had direct contact with state selectors and officials. I was treated as an equal by them all, for which I am grateful. I got the feeling, even more so at this level, that players fully appreciated scorers and the job we do. But, and it is a big but; when scoring for our grade clubs, our work was unpaid. If you throw in the fact that in Brisbane 1st grade the task and cost of contacting the media falls on the home scorer as well, then someone, somewhere, is really taking the mickey. If you add in the sometimes long distances you have to travel then is it any wonder that there was a shortage of scorers? If I were to produce my coloured score sheets on a daily basis for a company such as a bank then I would be paid for my skill. So why not cricket?

There were so many highlights of my season scoring Brisbane 1st and 2nd grade that there are not enough pages here to document them all. Perhaps the most memorable was the privilege of scoring with Brian Fitzgerald. On two of these occasions it was at the beautiful WEP Harris Oval in St Lucia – home of Queensland University Cricket Club. Brian and I complemented each other well, he scoring the Queensland second sheet method and I my tried and trusted ACUS system. Not many people outside of Brisbane will have heard of Brian but his skills are regularly used both at state and international level. He was a fascinating man to work with and on the second occasion I scored with him Brian got into a conversation with a man standing close to us. When I turned round and saw who he was talking to the hairs on the back of my neck stood on end. It was Mike Kasproicz. Instantly my memory went back to Edgbaston in 2005 when Geraint Jones caught him down the leg-side.

During January I was asked by Queensland Cricket/Cricket Australia to score for Western Australia in a women's state tournament held in Brisbane. This only came about after I had come to an agreement with Queensland Cricket that I would use their second sheet method of scoring for which I am not a fan. This tournament, for which the scorers were paid, consisted of seven games per state, four of which were T20 games.

By the end of the tournament I can safely say that unless you are lucky enough to score electronically with good software then T20 is not a game designed for scorers. Whilst scoring the women's state tournament there were several instances of scorers being unable to keep up with the game as bowlers came off two paces and new batsmen ran out to the middle. In the Queensland v Western Australia fixture I was scoring with Brian Fitzgerald and it was impossible for either of us to actually record what was happening. The Queensland innings lasted just sixty-five minutes. With the wides and no balls that were bowled, it meant that the equivalent of twenty-two and a half overs had gone down in little over an hour. There was a point in that innings where neither Brian nor I balanced and we simply did not have time to check our sheets. What a ludicrous state of affairs. Due to our combined experience we somehow balanced that game. Don't ask me how. I know one thing; life would have been much easier if I had been allowed to have used my ACUS system. I found that the second sheet system we had

to use duplicated much data and the official Cricket Australia sheets were far too detailed and had data columns that were totally unnecessary.

Another T20 game went ahead at such an intense pace that the two scorers completely lost the game when wickets started tumbling. They somehow got the game back by one continuing to score the unfolding game whilst the other stopped scoring and went back over what he believed had happened. In my second T20 game, I officiated with a grade scorer from South Brisbane. I know this lady is a good scorer but long before the end of the Western Australia v Victoria match she had reverted to recording only the most basic of information due to the intense pace of the game.

As this was a national tournament the scorers used by Queensland Cricket/Cricket Australia were some of the best in southern Queensland. Alarmingly, one of these scorers stated that they never wished to score another T20 game ever again after officiating two state T20s in a day. Others were starting to have doubts.

In spite of the frenetic pace of the tournament and the resulting problems I felt it a great honour to have been asked to officiate. I would not have missed it for the world and the icing on the cake came in my last game when my fellow scorer and I had the privilege of recording the highest ever partnership for any wicket in women's U17 state history.

I am now back scoring for Bletchley Town in somewhat cooler conditions and still have to pinch myself that last winter really did happen. I, a humble cricket scorer from the northerly tip of Buckinghamshire actually rubbed shoulders with some of the best cricketers in Australia and others whom I have no doubt will represent their country in the near future. What a privilege."

European ECB ACO Shepherd-Frindall regional award winners announced

In memory of two great personalities from the world of cricket officials – David Shepherd and Bill Frindall, the ECB Association of Cricket Officials (ACO) has announced the introduction of the ECB ACO Shepherd – Frindall Awards 2010, and ICC Europe is delighted to announce the European regional winners for these awards. The two regional winners are for the 'Behind the Scenes' and 'Lifetime Achiever' categories.

Wraye Wenigmann (Germany) was named as European winner in the 'Behind the Scenes' category. Wraye has been an extremely experienced scorer for the Deutscher Cricket Bund and is now a member of the ICC European Scorers' Panel. She was the Women's cricket officer for three years and has contributed a significant amount to the communications side of the DCB, producing many articles, photos and statistics for the website. She has also attended many umpire courses and is now

qualified to deliver scoring courses. She was also very instrumental in getting women's cricket up and running in Germany.

Duco Ohm (Netherlands) was the winner in the 'Lifetime Achiever' category. Duco has 60 years of experience and is a well respected member of the Amsterdam Cricket Club. He still plays enthusiastically and holds administrative roles both with the ACC and KNCB. He has officiated more than 650 official national and international matches. Ohm has been a member of the KNCB Game Rule Committee for two years, has been a part of the KNCB Accommodation Committee for four years and has been a member of the Umpire Committee for the past 10 years; he most recently joined the Disciplinary Committee.

ICC Regional Development Manager, Richard Holdsworth was delighted for both winners: "Both Wraye and Duco really deserve their awards for contributing so much towards the development of cricket in their respective countries as well as the rest of Europe. Wraye has contributed so much to many different aspects including communications and the officiating side of the game and really helped develop Women's cricket when ICC first integrated the men's and women's games in 2005."

"Similarly, Duco has been an outstanding member of cricket development having spent over 60 years in the game and having played an important part in all processes within his numerous roles."

The European winners will receive from the ECB ACO a 'Reward and Recognition' prize of a ticket for the England v Pakistan ODI on 20th September at Lord's, with flights and accommodation supplied by ICC Europe. The two regional winners will now go forward to the ECB ACO Awards Committee to be considered for the overall national winner.

From John Wadsworth ... Appointments Officer for Devon ACO

"Well! All I did was ring up Lord's to enquire about a CRB clearance, and I ended up with a load of homework. And call me old-fashioned, but what's a Frenchman doing working in a cricket office? Anyway, Pierre thought that it might be a good idea for me to write about how things are organised in Devon, which may surprise many of our members who are blissfully unaware that a state of organisation actually exists.

We are fortunate in Devon in many respects, not least that we are not short of umpires because...

- we are a large county, split into four areas and imaginatively named North, South, East and West, we have four training centres operating through the winter, churning out young Turks eager to grasp the nettle of Saturday afternoon crowd control, and - being a retirement area, we have a steady supply of newly-retired (and therefore good for at least another 20 years) trained um-

pires, keen to tell us how things were done in their neck of the woods.

Our other good fortune is that we are a self-contained County, and our leagues operate solely within Devon, avoiding the cross-border difficulties sometimes experienced by others. I say 'leagues' because as well as the main Saturday Devon Cricket League there is also the thriving North Devon League and others which operate on Sundays, and of course a whole raft of evening leagues centred on the main conurbations.

In my capacity of Appointments Officer I appoint to the top four divisions (ten teams in each) of the Devon Cricket League, with whom we have a very cordial working relationship, and who are very supportive in matters of discipline. This season we are successfully tackling the problem of bad language. Captains are reminded of their responsibilities in the pre-match get together, and then the rule of thumb is that if an expletive can be heard by both umpires, then it is deemed to be audible from the boundary, and attracts an immediate first and final warning. Any further instance is subject to a disciplinary report to the DCL, who will fine or even suspend according to the severity of the offence.

As I say, we work very closely with the DCL and I sit on their Committee as DACO representative. We also have a seat on the Devon Cricket Board, filled by our Chairman. We have a hard core of around 65 league umpires, of whom a dozen or so form an elite panel who operate mainly in the Premier division, and who are designated C1 for ECB purposes - everyone else who stands on the League panel is C2. Of course there is a vast amount of cricket played outside these four divisions - around 12 more divisions including 2nd XI and 3rd XIs, and then there are a multitude of other competitions taking place throughout the season; local and evening leagues, and lately a proliferation of T20s. These games (apart from ECB competitions) will all be handled by club umpires. The North Devon League centrally appoints its own umpires, several of whom stand in the DCL on Saturdays and then the NDCL on Sundays.

League panel umpires are paid a fee on the day, which varies according to Division (Prem = £26, A Div = £22, B & C = £18) plus a mileage allowance of 21p per mile claimed halfway and at the end of the season. I believe these payments when combined will compare favourably with other leagues, although as the split payments do generate mounds of paperwork for both DACO and DCL we are investigating for next season whether a flat fee could be pitched at a level acceptable to those who may have well over 100 miles round trip most weeks. Other games are charged at £16 for Juniors from U10 to U14 rising to a ceiling of £25 generally for all other games. Ladies (County and a thriving two Division Sunday League) pay £20, although for the

Sunday league we provide just one umpire who does both ends.

It will be appreciated that being Devon where it never rains, we get many visits from Grockles CC, and we try to find umpires for them if requested. It's an interesting observation that these visiting teams are happy to pay for an umpire, whereas their home opponents expect their local umpires to turn out for the privilege of a free tea. And of course I daren't even get started on the question of payment for scorers, but I would make a request that when County Boards are dishing out little plaques at the end of their competitions and kindly include the umpires, please don't forget the poor souls who gave up a day to sit in the scoreboard swatting flies.

All in all I estimate that DACO, with a growing membership of over 300, makes around 2,500 appointments each year, which means a lot of work for those involved. Still, as a wise man once said "It's something to do 'til the pubs open". Cheers from down-Devon way!"

Nick Cousins ... continued from page 5

technology to support best officiating and match observation is an essential component moving forward. To this end we have started work on two very exciting pilot projects: the development of an on-line appointments system that can be implemented locally, regionally or nationally as appropriate, and the use of performance analysis tools which not only include listening devices and video cameras but the possible use of more sophisticated technology, that has been developed for TV audiences.

The issue though that has generated the largest post-bag, and the most controversy, has been the introduction of a **classification and grading system** for all umpires and scorers. Moving forward - because it has been agreed that we (ECB ACO) now have complete responsibility for officiating in the recreational game - an obvious consequence of this decision is that the responsibility for classification and grading of umpires also falls within our remit. The aim is to build on the foundation that the Umpire Manager has created, but to create a more inclusive, open and transparent process.

Finally, the elements and functions I have detailed above were mostly those that we have expected to create and influence. The taking-on of other responsibilities is good news, as it shows our ability to become the single officiating body in this country, and the beacon of 'Best-Practice' worldwide. It remains a privilege and a pleasure to lead ECB ACO. Thank you for your patience in reading these notes, and my very best wishes to you all - and I hope to see as many of you as possible at the National Conference."

(Ed: As always, if you have any comments on any of this please e mail to ecbaco@ecb.co.uk)

'By-the-Byes'

Welcome to a new and regular 'odds-and-ends' column with snippets of news and random information. Many items may be just comments muttered, or extracts from e-mails received, even pieces from other news media. Anyway, they will always be interesting.

A 'Best Practice' Card

Just produced and available, and all about what you should be thinking of before the match starts - and will be included in all Level 1 training packs this winter. Also, readable and downloadable from our web pages.



South Wales Premier League

The names of the 10 clubs making up the new 'SWALEC Premier Cricket League' are... Ammanford, Cardiff, Newport, Pontarddulais, Port Talbot town, St. Fagans, Sully Centurions, Swansea, Usk, and Ynysygerwyn.

Geographical correction

Delighted to confirm that 'Hunts' is indeed in the 'London & East' region - and not the Midlands as has appeared on one Course Listing!

PCA hot-line for 'Bunging' calls

Absolutely true; the PCA are still so concerned after rumours and allegations arising from matches overseas, that they have listed a 'confidential' line to report such suspicions of 'brown envelopes' and the like. On our side of the fence, have any members been approached in any way?

'In' or 'out' on Club insurance?

Colin Pearson says that his club's insurance (for a 'public liability' claim from him for a ball denting his car) told him that their policy contains 'an exclusion for sports activities'. As this appears to be rather silly for a cricket club insurance, perhaps members should enquire of their own club's insurance wording?

Anybody out there who fancies visiting Lord's and being paid for it...?

We are seeking a minute-taker for our sub-committee meetings, most of which are held at Lord's (though some are regional)... and obviously we would pay travel expenses. So please tell anyone who might be interested to contact Pierre or Sam.

Official Sports London: Closure of Bursary Scheme

A statement by Grace Clancey, Director of the Operating resource...

"As you will hopefully be aware, Year Two of Official Sports London closed for new applications during May 2010 having awarded 322 bursaries to Londoners, many of whom have now completed their courses and are volunteering to support sport at all levels across London.

Having exceeded its targets and provided funding to hundreds of Londoners over its two year lifespan, the Official Sports London Bursary Scheme will formally come to an end on 31st August 2010

Officiating is still very much on the skills agenda for London. Its importance has been formally recognised within the Mayor's Sports Legacy Plan which prioritises work to build the capacity of the sports workforce to address skills shortages and encourage and support volunteering. The delivery of this element of the plan will be led by the National Skills Academy for Sport and Active Leisure. To find out more about the skills programme and specifically how officiating can/will benefit please email us or call 020 7632 2000 and ask to be put through to the Legacy Team. (mayorslegacy@sportactivena.co.uk)"

(Ed: it will interest you to know that the take-up by cricket officials has been very low and, in the 2nd year, amounted to only '20' participants (3 central, 5 east, 3 north, 2 south, and 7 west) - which put our total at 10th on the 'popular' list which, considering we are the national summer sport, is not good news.)

Law 42 paras 4/5 needing adjustment?

This interesting item... "This is the scene when a man stopped his village cricket team playing by driving his 4x4 on to the pitch and walking away. Neil Cutts lost his cool after five balls were thumped into his



garden in a single match. So Neil, 38, a father of two, drove his Toyota Rav 4 on to the village green at St Helens, Isle of Wight, scattering players and officials. Neil said later he was worried about the safety of his son and baby as they played in the garden."

BBC 'Mastermind'

They are filming a 'special subject' set on the 'Life & career of Douglas Jardine' to be screened in the autumn, and they asked if Douglas had been a President of the ACU&S, and our Geoff Lowden was able to be absolutely informative - but you will need to watch the programme for the answers!

BBC coverage

The story of our new youngest qualified umpire, Hugo Blogg, appeared on BBC London (TV) at the end of June, and is also on their website... view it via our own web pages. As they have an average audience of 1m viewers and around 500,000 hits a day on their iplayer, this is excellent marketing for the ACO.

More names...

'Ins and Outs' - from Clive Jones
And just to repeat previous ones as we hope to have a decision by year-end - so please comment on which you prefer...
'View from the Middle'
'Play'
'Over to you'
'No Ball'
'Stand and Record'
'Flick through the Covers'

Neologism

As this is a more academic pastime than Suduko, perhaps Members may wish to contribute a few 'cricket' examples? Remember, you may take out, add, or move one letter of the word in question, thereby creating its new meaning. Example... 'Hover' - the agonising moment an umpire is about to call, but shoots a quick glance at his colleague watching for that first step to confirm...?

'Test Match Very Special'

A loud cheer and congratulations all round - as, for the first time, the ACO appears in a Test Match programme!

Yes indeed. A double-page spread in the 1st Test programme of the England-Pakistan contest at Trent Bridge recently. You

can see what it looks like here, but you can view the full spread on our web-site. It is headed 'Decision Makers Wanted' basing the text on being involved in the game, and also has 3 umpiring questions as 'teasers'. It really is excellent news.



'A moment to reflect on' Quotations

Each issue from now on will include one quotation from a celebrity in the game on another person or element of the game. Though there are many, the mentions of 'officials' are few. but here is one - and, it is at least still topical...

"Cricket needs umpires who grace the general scene with sartorial elegance - instead of resembling a pair of Balkan refugees clad by Oxfam". (*uttered by WI player John Shepherd a few decades ago*)

Meanwhile though, here is a really thoughtful one that could have been written by an umpire...

"I passed Cowdrey and Bailey as they went in on the Friday morning. I said 'Good luck', Cowdrey replied 'Thank you sir'. Bailey said nothing. In 5 balls Bailey was out, and in 5 hours Cowdrey had made 152. The thought struck me... the God of cricket likes good manners!" (*attributed to George Lyttleton, teacher and essayist*)

**Christmas is a-coming,
the goose is getting fat,
we've got 24 pages of content
for you to wonder at"**

**... so we really need your help
to fill them and make them fun!**

(We also need a crossword or two, and if there are any cartoonists out there, please shout!)

The Shepherd-Frindall Awards

The ECB awards are titled the Cricket 'OSCAS', but in that two of the game's greatest celebrities, David Shepherd and Bill Frindall, have passed from England's green fields recently, it was obvious that they should be remembered, and we have renamed the 'Officials Award' for them - in a way, continuing their joyful involvement, and refreshing their memory by honouring those who also give much to the game.

The four ACO nomination categories are as follows:

- * **Behind the Scenes**
- * **League Panels and Associations**
- * **Lifetime Achiever**
- * **Young Volunteer**

We have established afresh the judging criteria for all of the above categories; the characteristics and achievements that separate some nominees from others in the same category. Below are the outlines and minimum standards all nominations must satisfy:

- * **Evidence in the nomination form of the criteria having been achieved**
- * **Evidence that the person has had a positive and sustainable impact on their club/panel/association**
- * **A demonstration of the volunteer going 'beyond the call of duty' and exceeding expectations for the good of the club/panel/association/game of cricket**
- * **An ongoing commitment to the club/panel/association and its members**

There is a multi-point scoring system for all categories. In each of the first five criteria for each category, there is a score of up to 15 available at the discretion of the judging panel. The last criterion in each of the categories is a 'WOW' factor score; this refers to something which is extraordinary and catches the eye, and up to 25 marks can be awarded for this. Essentially, the nominees with the highest scores (out of 100) shall be deemed to be the winners, though further discussions may be necessary when totals are identical.

The nominations then go to the County and Region, who create a short-list that then comes to the ACO Board for discussion and decision.

Starting this year, we now give the nominees from each Region a 'Day-Out' in recognition of their effort, and these 'special' days are now settled. Here is the list of fortunate nominees and the dates and location of their day (please note that not all categories for each Region have had nominations accepted);

- * London & East... **Frank Appleyard, George Ferguson, Alasdair Shaikh, and Keith Coburn...** all come to Lord's on 20 September;
- * South & West... **David Kirk, Jeff Levick, and Chris Fortune...** are off to the Rose Bowl on 22 September;
- * Midlands... **Mike Sheehy and Graham Pickering...** go to the Oval on 17 September;
- * North... **Stephen Sykes and Terry Bentham...** will enjoy Headingley on 12 September;
- * Wales... **Derek Dennis...** should not be too lonely at the SWALEC Stadium on 5 September;
- * ICC-Europe... **Wraye Wenigmann and Duco Ohm,** will also be joining us here at Lord's on 20 September.

We are looking forward to hearing about their visits, and will reproduce comments and photographs in the Christmas issue.

Membership Year

As we end the 2010 playing season, we are ready to introduce a major change to our membership 'year' - namely that it will run from 01 January-31 December for the entire membership, and this will come into effect from 01 January 2011. And this is how it will affect you individually...

If your membership expiry date was between **1 January 2010 and 31 August 2010**, you would have paid the full subscription for 2010 and we have changed your 'year' expiry date to 31 December 2010.

If your expiry date is between **01 September and 31 December 2010** your membership date will be moved forward to 01 January 2011. Your payment, for the full subscription, will not then be taken until January 2011, thus giving you three months of membership in 2010 free of charge.

Once the process is complete, you will be sent a new '2011' membership card for the year ahead - please look after it carefully as there will be a £15 replacement fee if you ask us to replace it.

Renewal letters will be sent out to all members in November, and direct debits will be taken on or around 15 January 2011.

We have also implemented an 'AUTO LAPSE' facility on our membership database. Therefore if you have not paid for your membership by 01 April your membership will automatically expire.

More 'Byes'...

A trio of ICC Umpires

"Be the ball..." was the enthusiastic 'best-advice' response by Billy Bowden at last night's very special evening, spent as a 'Q&A' session with the Test umpires **Billy Bowden, Steve Davis, and Tony Hill**.

It all came about in just a few days as it was realised that the team that had officiated the Oval Test would also be doing the Lord's Test, and so (being in an hotel close by) a quick invite was most graciously accepted by them, to come down to the ECB office, and take part. There was sufficient time to inform the neighbouring counties, and the ECB Boardroom was well-filled by 40 or so umpires and scorers, who enjoyed a fascinating exchange of opinions and some humorous banter - and considerable serious debate on the main issues that affect us all.



Billy's remark was in reply to a question of how to concentrate during a multi-day match, when he told us that it was not possible to be focused all the time, so, for him, the trigger was to 'be the ball' by watching it. In similar fashion, Tony insisted that the prime function of the bowler's end umpire was to see and absorb that split-second when the ball arrived at or near the batsman - and he made this point on a question of coping with the chance of a front foot 'no-ball' by reminding all that at Test pace the ball was almost in the keeper's gloves by the time the bowler had made his first follow-through footfall.

And in a reply to the last question of the evening, Steve's comment of only umpiring if you enjoyed it was immediately echoed by his colleagues as the most important aspect of their pressured programme of world travel.

Perhaps the surprise of the evening was that in reply to the question of which laws would they amend or add to or scrub, each said 'no changes'! And they were equally unanimous on the need for DRS to be available for all Test series.

In all, there had been about 30 questions - with time in the middle for refreshments, and for the guests to chat to them - and have their photos taken.

All in all, a magical evening, with a very

'personal' feel and warmth to it - we were indeed very privileged to share their time and thoughts, and we thank them.

This, by the way, is the first in what we plan to schedule as a regular nation-wide programme, involving ICC umpires at 'Test' locations in the regions, and our own ECB 1st-class listers too - so watch out for announcements in the Newsletter and on the web next spring.

From John Flatley.... who was there...

"Congratulations on a great event last night. It was fascinating to hear from the umpires and I thought the format worked very well. PS. I have put a photo and note about the event, linking to our forthcoming event at the Oval on the East Surrey umpires website; <http://www.esacus.org.uk/index>.

Other comments by our CEO, not included on the front page...

"On more administrative matters, I would like to highlight some of the other work that we have been doing, beginning with the creation of a single dvd 'suite' of all ECB ACO umpire and scorer training courses, which will be available as a 'boxed set' or as individual courses. Also, for those of you involved in tutoring, I hope that you will know already that we are offering CTS training (Certificate of Tutoring in Sport) for all Level 1 tutors, and introducing a more streamlined administrative process to support course delivery. We are considering a paperless direct-debit system (if it proves economical) which would allow members' direct-debit details to be automatically updated. We continue to work with Duncan Fearnley to improve the quality of our merchandise by improved quality-control, and with our colleagues in the Coaches Association to ensure a common approach to trouble-shooting and problem solving as their kit range is also produced by Fearnley.

In terms of marketing, we aim to produce a promotional dvd to support recruitment, and we have sent out to all CEOs a dvd of the 2009 National Conference key-note presentations, that can be shown at local meetings. Though we have a 'hold' situation on our pilot Facebook page for the moment, we still have our live 'bloggers' on view - I hope you have enjoyed their pieces."

ACO Website News

The website is updated as soon as there are any news articles regarding our Association or Officials in the world of cricket. Keep an eye on the **new home page** for interviews and stories

Blogs

We have three regular bloggers:

- * Alasdair Shaikh - Young Official
- * Alan Pearce - Recreational Umpire
- * Lin Martin - Recreational Scorer

And we are always happy for any ACO member to have an input. If you have an interesting piece (not just a diary entry of the games you have done) that you think would interest all ACO members please send it to ecbaco@ecb.co.uk and we might post it on the website.

Events

Please do check the website forth-coming events. Recently we held a Q&A session with Steve Davis, Tony Hill and Billy Bowden, and though arranged only a week in advance, the web-page helped draw a full-house for them. All events, Regional or National, can be viewed on our website.

Portal

The portal has now been updated. All information regarding any available Umpire and Scorer Level 1 & 2 courses can be viewed in the ACO portal. In order to view the courses simply visit www.ecb.co.uk/ecbaco and view the portal. At the portal you can search for courses through the COURSE SEARCH menu.

Over 1,200 of you have experienced the following benefits by accessing your data via our online portal:

- Updating your address and contact information.
- Updating your e mail address or other preferences for communication
- Viewing the County Association to which you are registered
- Viewing your membership type and membership period.
- Viewing your CRB cleared and its expiry date
- Changing the format you receive the newsletter (ACO Communication Preference)

You can now also let us know whether you are active or not. How can you do this?

Follow the instructions below:

- To get your login and password simply visit www.ecb.co.uk/ecbaco and view the membership page
- At the top of this page click 'View my Membership'
- Select 'Register' on the menu and follow the instructions

PLEASE NOTE: You must have your membership number to hand. It is printed on your membership card and all correspondence sent to you from the ACO.

Your username is the original email address you signed up with, not necessarily your current email address - so you would need to update this when you first log-in afterwards..

If you have any problems with this process, please contact ECB ACO Membership Services team on 0207 432 1240.

Officials' Fees – the debate starts

To switch sports for a moment. If this was a title fight, the boxing authorities would ban it as a 'miss-match' – heavyweight vs light-weight! In the one corner, the power of the leagues and clubs, in the other, the freckled-faced 'just-turned-pro' ACO committees. In which case, best we put aside our 'match-maker' sun-hat, to don the blue metal of 'UN peacekeeper'! But, no matter how tolerant, patient, and undemanding all our officials may be, the fight seems to be about not conceding one round to us let alone the bout, and so we must prepare ourselves for this winter's effort – and for us to do this, we need your comments and suggestions, so please send them in. And, to be fair, many league committees have been talking earnestly with their officials' committees, so, by the approach of next season, the picture may be far more positive than it looks at the moment.

Our '12th Man'

We are happy to announce a new arrival to the ACO squad... in the form of Charlie Jewell, our new 'Youth Sport Trust Volunteer' – in place of our now good friend Krishan Solanki who, in completing his 40 weeks with us, returns to Loughborough University.

Here is a short bio on each of them...

Krishan Solanki - completes his 40 weeks volunteer role within the ECB ACO team on 17 September and will be returning to Loughborough University to complete his degree. Those of you who know Krishan or have worked with him will know that he has done much more than simply fulfil the basic requirements of his job description. Aside from setting up the Young Volunteers at Events all over the country, he has acted as assistant to the Competitions Manager and administrator for the ACO. We thank him for all that he has done; wish him well in the next year and look forward to seeing him next summer.



Charlie Jewell – replaces Krishan and has just started with us in a similar capacity as a Youth Sport Trust Volunteer. Charlie has recently graduated from Loughborough with a degree in Sport Science and Management and in the first instance he will be concentrating on coordinating our Young Officials and volunteer programmes with the Young Leaders Award as well as rolling out our own Young Officials courses. We welcome him and trust that he will have an enjoyable time at ECB.

We wish them both the joy and success of youthful participation in all that they do!

Situations Vacant

We are delighted to advise and publicise the first string of situations which will now come under the supervision and control of the ACO.

These are for the **Regional Appointments Co-ordinators** – one each for **London & East, South & West, Midlands, and North** regions*. It is expected that the current incumbents would re-apply, but we wish to be open and inclusive and so also invite applications from experienced officials who have the time, energy and enthusiasm to both take on the role and help us develop it.

Here are the criteria...

The Role:

To support the progression and development of senior officials by co-ordinating appointments to ECB matches within each relevant Region.

Principal responsibilities are;

- * Management of appointments in their designated region to ECB matches and competitions;
- * Establishing effective communication links with key personnel (Appointments Officers and Performance Officers) within their region
- * Implementation of the appointments in accordance with competition rules and ECB grading structures
- * Attendance at a minimum of four Appointments & Grading meetings per year (chaired by ECB ACO Senior Executive Officer).
- * To actively monitor assessment and feedback and recommend officials for promotion along the 'Pathway' and to input relevant information on performances within the region on umpires from their region.

The Strategy:

ECB has a vision of becoming and remaining the most successful and respected cricket authority in the world. This aspiration is supported by a mission of developing the game in England and Wales from the playground to the Test arena. The Regional Appointment Co-ordinators play a critical role in building a vibrant domestic game by:

- * ensuring that the appropriate umpires are given the best opportunities that their abilities suggest, and that all officials are dealt with equally
- * contributing to ensure that the officials' gradings are supported with robust and effective structures allowing ECB ACO to lead in this field
- * providing opportunities for all those involved in the structure to enjoy their involvement and enthuse about the roles they perform

Knowledge & Experience: applicants need to have...

- * strong communication and inter-personal skills
- * demonstrable organisational and good time-management skills
- * excellent computer literacy, including MS Office
- * ability to use online appointments systems and embrace change in the appointing procedures.
- * a desire to make appointments in an open, inclusive and equitable manner
- * a good knowledge and understanding of recreational cricket structures
- * significant experience as a cricket official.

Reward:

As this is neither a contractual nor permanent role, an 'Honorarium' is payable for this function, which is £1,500pa, plus in addition, all reasonable travel expenses relating to the role.

Time-scale of appointing:

Clearly, these appointments need to be in place by the turn of the year so that our preparations can be complete well ahead of the start of the 2011 season, so we request that all applications are received in writing (not by e-mail) by 24 October. Please address them to Nick Cousins, and mark the top-left of the envelope with 'RAC'.

(* Though Wales is properly an ECB region, the few matches there needing ECB appointments will fall under the aegis of the Midlands (for North Wales) and the South&West (for South Wales)

ACO National Conference

Lord's, Saturday 20th November

The anticipated schedule for the day is;

0930	Tea and coffee on arrival
1030	Opening Welcome by Roger Knight, Chairman of the Board, followed by the AGM
1100	Session 1
1200	Session 2
1300	Re-gather in Nursery Pavilion for lunch (continuous open buffet)
1330	Keynote Celebrity Speaker – Henry Blofeld
1400	Seminar 3
1500	Seminar 4
1600	Closing Address and 'Farewells' at end of day's events

Each Session will cover a wide range of interests for umpires and scorers. You will be able to attend any 4 presentations available on the day. The presenters are

- * Hawkeye – **Paul Hawkins**
- * Duckworth Lewis – **Frank Duckworth** and **Tony Lewis**
- * Elite Officials Q&A – **Ian Gould**
- * Practical Umpiring – **John Holder**
- * 'Inside the Sky Commentary Box' – **Benedict Bermange**
- * Scoring in the Media - **Malcolm Ashton**
- * 'Total Cricket Scorer' – **Lee Marmara** and **Paul Thurstance**



*Those "Terrible Twins"
Duckworth and Lewis*



*Ian's exemplary straight
arm and finger!*

After the success of the 'You versus Hawkeye' session last year we will again be running the session in the Lord's indoor school. There is space for only 8 attendees per session, and places will be allocated to those who reply first. We have also commissioned the MCC to run tours of Lord's for members who would delight in the opportunity to view the 'hallowed turf'.



'Blowers' live on radio...

The Keynote Speaker is indeed a 'celebrity' – no less than sports journalist **Henry Blofeld** (nicknamed 'Blowers' by the late Brian Johnston), who is best known as a cricket commentator for 'Test Match Special' on BBC Radio 4 and BBC Radio 5 Live Sports Extra. He had an exceptional career as a schoolboy cricketer, cut short by injury. Since then, he has created a reputation as a commentator with an accent and usage of English commensurate with his background as an Old Etonian. He also writes on cricket.

The capacity for the Conference is 400 guests, which will allow you to sit at tables. Invitations will be accepted on a first-come-first-selected basis, and though we aim to be as 'national' as we can, we will at the outset limit each County to '10' places. After the deadline for replies (20 October) is reached, we will then allocate the balance for the 'short' counties to other larger counties.

The cost for the Conference Day is £30 per person, which includes all the Sessions, refreshments and tours. **Payment must be sent with the reply slip (below)**. We will also be sending out a Conference pack to all attendees including a DVD and leather folder.

Admittance to the AGM is free for those who prefer to attend only that element of our Conference Day.



REPLY SLIP – to be returned to ECB ACO Conference, Lord’s Cricket Ground, London NW8 8QZ by 20 October. Please attach payment.

Yes, please..... I DO wish to attend on Saturday 20 November

NO thanks but I will attend the AGM only

Please register me for the following Seminars – tick each box. (NB you can only attend one Seminar per session)

Session 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Hawkeye	<input type="checkbox"/> Total Cricket Scorer	(No session)	<input type="checkbox"/> Tour of Lord’s
Session 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Duckworth-Lewis Umpire Specific	<input type="checkbox"/> Scoring in the media	<input type="checkbox"/> You versus Hawkeye	<input type="checkbox"/> Tour of Lord’s
Session 3	<input type="checkbox"/> Elite Official Q&A	<input type="checkbox"/> Duckworth-Lewis Scorer specific	<input type="checkbox"/> You versus Hawkeye	<input type="checkbox"/> Tour of Lord’s
Session 4	<input type="checkbox"/> Practical Umpiring	<input type="checkbox"/> Inside the Sky Commentary Box	<input type="checkbox"/> You versus Hawkeye	<input type="checkbox"/> Tour of Lord’s

Name: _____ Membership No: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

County ACO: _____

‘Fixture’ List

Each issue from now on will run a calendar listing significant events, mainly regional, which will show just the main theme and location – and members can then check locally for full details. We would urge all Regional Officers to keep us informed so that we can run a continuous stream here and on the web...

- 03 Sep = S&W regional performance officers meeting
- 05 Sep = Wales R&R - SWALEC Stadium
- 12 Sep = North R&R - Headingley
- 15 Sep = (Education course materials ready for distribution)
- 17 Sep = Midlands R&R - Oval
- 18 Sep = L&E - CTS L1 tutors – Gatwick
- (15 Sep = Education Course material to be ready)
- 19 Sep = L&E - CTS L1 tutors - Stansted
- 20 Sep = ICC-Europe + L&E R&R - Lord’s
- 21 Sep = Assessor Sub-Committee - Derby
- 22 Sep = Scorer Sub-Committee - Derby
- 22 Sep = S&W R&R - Rose Bowl
- 24 Sep = ICC - European Cricket Cttee - Lord’s
- 25 Sep = L&E - L2 IAPS - Bishop’s Stortford
- 26 Sep = North - CTS
- 28 Sep = MSC meeting - Lord’s
- 30 Sep = Education Sub-Committee - Derby
- 30 Sep = West Mids Regional Cttee - Wednesbury
- 02 Oct = S&W – CTS – Tiddington (Oxon)
- 03 Oct = S&W – CTS – Sandwell (Devon)
- 03 Oct = East Mids Regional Cttee - Derby
- 09 Oct = North – CTS - Durham
- 09 Oct = L&E - L2 IAPS - Gatwick
- 18 Oct = South Yorks ACO AGM - Rotherham
- 20 Oct = ACO Board Meeting - Lord’s
- 24 Oct = Midland Region Exec Cttee - Derby
- 20 Nov = ACO National Conference - Lord’s**
- 09 Apr = CEO Conference - Loughborough

Contributions to ‘Best Practice’

Though a phrase much over-worked in Governmental ‘kwango’ circles, it is for the ACO still a ground-breaking subject because all that we are working on is relatively new in a fast-advancing and changing environment. It is also true that old habits not only linger, but become more parochial, and as such, harder to improve and advance let alone weed out!

So, in an effort to make all our Members’ lives easier, we are trying to bring some semblance of order to all of the elements within our control – and to encourage the use of such ‘best practice’ suggestions nation-wide.

As a result, in Newsletters to come, we will be heralding each new recommendation, and will be seeking your opinion if it is still a ‘work-in-progress’, or your support if it is an ‘established’ item.

We will start with perhaps the most important element of all – how to encourage new participants to join our courses, and, more to the point, the first task of assessing how many new officials we need in each county.

Plenty to think about and to debate – so to help, our first contribution from Tony Johnson, Chairman of the Saracens Hertfordshire Cricket League, and which was the text of a letter he sent to all the clubs in his league, will appear in the next issue.

Your letters...

From John Penn... on 1st-class umpires showing our badge...

"Following Newsletter 5 which invited contributions from members/readers.... I am an ACO member and also a Level 2 ECB CA cricket coach. I have played the game for a number of years and recently purchased some of the ACO leisure-range clothing. I recently wore the polo shirt up to my club who play in the Surrey Championship. Whilst chatting with a number of current and former players (including coaches) I was asked who or what is "ACO"? It struck me that the majority of club players and members have no idea of our organisation. This strikes me as an identity problem.

Therefore, I would love to see the full-time umpires displaying the ECB ACO logo on their clothing. In particular I was thinking of the umpires seen on Sky television umpiring the domestic Friends Provident Twenty20 competition. Maybe next year the ECB logo on their corporate clothing could include the ACO initials as part of the ECB logo as shown on the ACO clothing range?

I appreciate that this cannot be applied to the ICC umpires, test matches etc."

From Peter Ray... on avoiding bad habits...

"Watching ITV News at 6.30 tonight I saw an item about a young lad whose name I did not catch but, as he was connected with a school in Chigwell I reason that it must have been Hugo Blogg, who got a mention in the recent Newsletter No 5. From which, incidentally, I was pleased to learn that there have been 1,520 new members to more than balance the natural wastage.

Naturally, his tutor/mentor etc, Terry Francis, writes enthusiastically about him and it was good to hear Hugo explain his decision to take up umpiring when he realised that he was unlikely to go very far as a player. We want as many people to play as possible but it is obviously useful if some decide that they will be more likely to take a part in cricket at a higher level by offering their services as umpire. Charlie Puckett and Keir Hopley are two who took that route early on and cricket has been the beneficiary thereby. So, it is pleasing that Hugo has followed suit and we need more like him, of course.

There is always a "however" with these things, though. Here it comes. However, I was more than a little worried when Hugo said that he enjoyed the power it gave him; then did a Billy Bowden six signal; called over by calling out "that's the over bowled"; and answered an appeal positively with a gesture - a straight arm rotation beginning somewhere behind the knee -

copied from another elite umpire, but with no pause for thought.

OK, it may have been a simple one to give, perhaps, and it was for the cameras, so we can let that go. The end of an over must be properly done as the laws state by simply calling out the word "over". If you start on a small speech, at what point is the ball to be considered dead? When you finish speaking? Or some time in between? It is bad practice to deviate from the law on this. The Bowden six is an affectation and merely draws attention to the umpire, which is giving a hostage to fortune, at best. I think Cardus wrote that the umpire should be like the geyser in the bathroom - he wrote in an earlier uncentrally-heated age - only noticed when it goes wrong. As a player for many years, I spotted very early that it was the umpires who wanted to "get into the game" who were, almost invariably, the worst. And when they get something wrong, they look sillier than the less demonstrative.

As umpires, we *must* remember at all times that we facilitate, not participate - even when we are called upon to adjudicate. Whatever powers we may have, they arise solely from the Laws, and we are their servant as much as are the players.

I hope that somebody, perhaps his father, will get the message through to Hugo quickly. (Not that we listen to our fathers much at that age. I cannot remember who it was - Damon Runyan? Mark Twain? - who said that when he was sixteen, he used to blush for shame at his father's ignorance but, by the time he was twenty-one, he was really gratified at how much the old guy seemed to have learned). Maybe he would listen more to Terry Francis. He needs to be told soon, though, or without realising, he may develop an attitude to players and the game itself which will cause him problems. He has not had enough cricket to know that it is a game which waits for you to become complacent before it bites you viciously and, if he has managed to antagonise any players they will not be forgiving, nor will they quickly forget. He should strive to be as efficient as possible but to be unostentatious, to remember that the game is about the players (nobody ever went to watch an umpire, whatever Bowden thinks), and always to remember that we serve the game and not the other way round.

I hope you do not find this negative advice. Sometimes a negative is needed. "Don't jump!" is negative advice but jolly useful if you are at the edge of a cliff. The thing is that it can take a very long time to recover from a bad start and a few adjustments made early can save a whole lot of strife later. Hugo has obviously got a lot right but just needs to tweak a few bits here

and there. And, of course, some of the signals and so on may have been the result of pressure from the TV people. I wish him well and only want to steer him away from potholes."

From Ian Fraser.... on when lightning threatens...

"Does ECB offer guidance to umpires for leaving the field when an electrical storm is near? I guess this is an emotional prospect, especially when thunder is heard close to a match being played in dry conditions and bright sunshine.

I understand RoSPA has a 30/30 rule - when thunder is heard less than 30 seconds after the flash of lightning you are in danger of a strike for 30 minutes.

I realise this sounds a bit nannyish, but guidance, recommendations and directives are the forte of ECB. Meanwhile we all have to rely on law 3 para 9.

This yearning for guidance, I suspect, comes from the same umps who clamour for light meters - forgetting that each of us has two light meters in the front of the head and a computer inside working them."

From Geoff Lowden... on the marking of umpires' performance...

"Most umpires, especially those officiating in competitive leagues, will agree that they can hazard a good guess at the result of a match simply by looking at the captains' reports, which can become an emotive subject in some quarters, especially when the reporting captain is young and inexperienced. It is hoped that in such cases a more senior member of the club would assist the young captain. The umpire that has not been subject to an unsavoury report is a rarity indeed. It is widely accepted, in umpiring circles, that captains err on the side of subjectivity rather than objectivity. There is no requirement to list the reasons here as to why this occurs on numerous occasions throughout a season. Other than to note that adrenalin and disappointment are poor substitutes for reasoned judgement.

Captains' reports can and do range from the benevolent to the draconian. Experience has taught that the former are awarded constantly throughout the season, irrespective of the personalities involved; none of which provide an adequate reflection on an umpire's performance. All that is required of a captain's report is a reasoned, impartial critique of an umpire's performance.

If both captains were instructed to discuss each umpire's performance together before completing and signing the umpire's match reports together, some form of evenness may be achieved; it may even reduce, if not eliminate, partiality.

Prior to the formation of the ECB ACO the ACU&S could only advise on such matters. The ACU&S had no jurisdiction over club or league cricket. Now that the governing body has jurisdiction over the ECB premier leagues at least, perhaps we could consider instructing those captains of ECB premier leagues to liaise and complete the umpires' match report in unison, as per the above suggestion.

Appointments secretaries throughout the country now submit the marks of the top performance umpires within their leagues to ECB ACO at Lord's. It is not known how many leagues operate a system as suggested above. Perhaps, through the pages of this newsletter, we could ascertain how many leagues, if any, instruct captains to discuss umpire reports and mark in unison - and whether umpires consider this to be a fairer, more constructive way of assessing an umpire's performance?"

This really would have been a 'letter' from David Moseby from Brixham - but as it has become a 'national news' item we publish it as it appeared!

"CRICKET umpire David Moseby will be taking part in a showpiece game tomorrow

on the greatest stage of them all. For the retired building society manager from Brixham has been appointed to umpire the game between Eton and Harrow at Lord's. "I look forward to every game I am due to umpire, but this one is a little bit special," said Moseby, who umpired in an U13s' game at Bovey Tracey last night. "Lord's is the home of cricket and the Eton-Harrow match the oldest game there is. To get the chance to umpire at Lord's is a dream come true. It will be the experience of a lifetime. The match always attracts a big crowd - maybe not the 38,000 who watched in 1914 but generally more than Middlesex get for a County Championship game. There should be a good atmosphere, which will make it even more of an occasion. I was supposed to be umpiring Exeter against Budleigh Salterton in the Devon Premier Division, but standing at Lord's was too good an opportunity to miss."

David is the chairman of the Devon Association of Cricket Officials, which was set up two years ago as part of an initiative by the England & Wales Cricket Board to unify umpiring bodies across the country. Now all county boards have ACOs, the ECB has been trawling them for umpires to officiate in prestige games.



David Moseby

"The ECB promised to give umpires from 'the sticks' the chance to officiate in big games further afield and have been as good as their word. Jim Anning, a colleague from East Devon, umpired the Cocks-pur Cup finals day at Derby last season, which was a great opportunity for him and something which would not have happened before the ECB became the governing body for umpires. There is now a genuine pathway for umpires to progress. For a younger umpire starting with DACO there is a pathway to Minor Counties, and for those with the ability and desire, the chance to move on to the First-Class panel."

'Leaving the Crease'

Sue Jones, Secretary Berkshire COA writes

"It is with immeasurable sadness that I tell you of the death of **Peter Harris**, Chairman of Berkshire COA and former Chairman of Berkshire ACU&S, at the age of 71. He passed away at home on Wednesday 7th July 2010 having been diagnosed with cancer a matter of weeks earlier.

During his playing career Peter had been a quality wicket keeper and prolific batsman. It started in Kent, his county of birth and continued when representing his employers, the National Westminster Bank, followed by belonging to Reading Cricket Club and latterly Finchampstead CC, where he was also an active Committee member.

Once his days behind the sticks were past, he carried on his active love of cricket by becoming a very good umpire and continued to stand until last season.

During the transition from ACU&S to ECB ACO Peter did a magnificent job in steering the change and ensuring that the correct procedures happened without too much fuss. The Berkshire COA was formed fairly early on and has become a thriving Association, due in no small part to his attention to detail and determination to 'make it happen', plus gathering a strong team of like-minded officials. He also worked tirelessly to help and mentor the up-and-



Peter Harris

coming umpires, not only on the field of play but also being ready to answer their questions at our monthly meetings, and was unstinting in his willingness to explain situations and give advice.

For the last four seasons he has been the 'travelling administrator' for the County, thus attending all of Berkshire's away games (and acting as my chauffeur and bag carrier for all my scoring gear when I was having 'new knees'!) The lads in the team will miss him hugely, as they held him in high esteem and often chatted about instances relating to the Laws of Cricket and listened with respect to his opinion.

He was also a season ticket holder at Reading Football Club and a devoted enthusiast of 'the beautiful game'. Home matches were always a family affair.

Peter leaves behind his wife Phyllis, their three sons and respective families. We will all miss him greatly."

From a mix of media mentions in New Zealand and Canada, we report on...

'World's oldest Test cricketer Eric Tindill dies'

"Acclaimed New Zealand sportsman **Eric Tindill**, a double international who was the world's oldest surviving Test cricketer and an All Black, has died aged 99, in his home town of Nelson.

As well as playing cricket and rugby at Test level, he also achieved the unique distinction of being the only person to umpire a Test cricket match and referee a rugby Test - and, since the passing last year of Englishman Francis McKinnon who lived to 98, he became the world's oldest surviving Test cricketer.

He played five Tests for New Zealand and had the honour of catching Sir Don Bradman at Adelaide in 1937, in the only match the Australian batting great played against New Zealand (and in which he caught him off the first ball of the day, thus sending the massive crowd home as they had all come to watch the 'Don' and were not best pleased!).

Because those were the days when there were no contracts and no training seasons, it was possible to play a-sport-for-each-season, and he certainly did - in those same years, he played 16 times for the All Blacks, but his sole rugby Test was when New Zealand were beaten by England 0-13 in London in 1936.

As a match official, he also refereed the All Blacks' first two Tests against the touring British Lions in 1955, and three years later umpired a New Zealand cricket Test against England."

As you may remember, this is the acronym for 'Blind Cricket in England & Wales', which, is a 'special' form of the game for those with vision impairments. It is worthy of our attention and understanding even though most members are never likely to see a game let alone officiate in one. So, we are pleased to give occasional updates – and in this issue, we have some comments on their 'Panel' by Peter Marshall, and a match summary by Les Clemenson.

"The panel has been a great success, certainly helping to improve the image of blind cricket as well as making it better known. In fact, two county boards have actually found out that they have a blind cricket team! This should lead to a greater chance of financial support and sponsorship, as well as recognition. Early days yet, but all very positive. Although there are a handful of games left, by the end of the season we will have completed 33 BCEW matches (league and T20), 7 British Blind Sport Primary Club Cup matches (the final was on Saturday at the Rose Bowl) and 4 England v India Internationals. The players are clearly enjoying having "proper" umpires too as shown by the umpires' marking. Umpires are marked by both teams as well as their colleagues. The average mark is over 80% when an acceptable mark should be around 50%! Whilst I was expecting the scores to be over 50%, I am delighted by the average score so far achieved.

The Internationals were a great success also, at least for the umpiring panel (England lost 3-0 with 1 game abandoned). The professionalism of the panel was also noted by the visiting Indian team. The International panel was made up of myself, Les Clemenson, Chris Dawe, Ansel Porter and Amar Desai.

The next showpiece day in the BCEW calendar is on the 18th September when the BCEW Bill Frindall Memorial T20 Finals will take place at Leamington Spa Cricket Club (4 matches, 2 semis, a 3rd/4th playoff and a final). Sussex, London Metro, Warwickshire and Northants will be competing so there should be some high quality cricket on display. I am hoping that a number of the panel will be there to help finish off the season so we will be having a bit of a do and a presentation of the Umpire of the Year Award.

During the International series I had the chance to chat with Ian Martin about the future of the panel. He feels, as do I, that it would be advantageous to expand the panel to cover all disability cricket under the ECB banner. After a good deal of chat with colleagues, and a couple of pints of course, I feel that this would be a viable possibility. We would still need to dot i's and cross t's, but I'm sure it would be possible to get the umpiring support that is required, especially with ECB ACO help and support."

The British Blind Sport Primary Cup National Cup Final

"Being invited to stand for this year's national cup final that was to be played at the Rose Bowl, was enormously flattering. I had stood at the 20/20 finals last year, which was my introduction to the domestic VI game, and have also umpired both league and cup matches this season.

I was involved with Peter Marshall, my colleague at the final, in the creation of the country-wide Visually Impaired umpires panel, and acted as its Education officer. Much of our challenge, when we put the panel together at the start of the 2010 season, was to help everyone understand how VI cricket worked; ensuring we offered the players a consistently high standard of umpiring. From the feedback we have received from the clubs, we seem to be heading in the right direction. .

VI cricketers are officially categorised from B1, in general, close to or totally blind, through to B4, very limited partial vision. Each team must have a minimum number of B1 players and a maximum number of B4's. Some B1 players have to appear early in the batting order and they must bowl a minimum number of overs.

When bowling to a B1 batsman, the ball must bounce twice, for a B2 and B3 it must bounce once, but B4's can receive a legitimate full toss. A delivery can never bounce more than four times and may not roll along the ground. Counting bounces, and calling No Ball for every infringement, is a key extra duty for the striker's-end umpire and getting this right is arguably the most important and difficult aspect of umpiring these games, along with understanding the on-field needs of visually-impaired players.

The ball is a small football and contains a handful of ball bearings. If you thought the ball made a huge amount of noise you are wrong. When it travels through the air it is silent, as the ball bearing are not moving about, so the batsman can only really hear it when it bounces, hence the sensitivity to this aspect of the game and why B1's get the benefit of two bounces.

When fielding, a legitimate catch can be made by a B1 player even when the ball has bounced once – for all others it must be taken on the full.

The stumps are larger than usual, are mounted on a base and have fixed bails. Both batsman and bowlers often feel the stumps to let them orient themselves. If they were the normal size, they could not easily find them and if they had removable bails, these would constantly be knocked off.

Not surprisingly, B1 batsman must have a runner and are exempt from being run out or stumped. The runner is another team member, so is partially sighted, and must also act as the batsman's guide to where the fielders are located. It is also not at all unusual to have the umpire's nightmare – two runners!

There are some other esoteric law changes

to ensure the players' safety, but otherwise all the other Laws of cricket apply.

It was raining at the Rose Bowl when we arrived, but the groundsman did a phenomenal job and we got the match underway a little later than scheduled.

The most noticeable difference between "red ball" and VI cricket is the attitude of the players. They are just as competitive, just as likely to grumble about everything – including the umpires – as sighted players. But their camaraderie, willingness to help each other, competitiveness, and the pure joy they get from playing the game is overwhelming. Every game I have stood in has been played with an attitude and spirit far beyond the wildest imagination of those who drafted The Spirit of Cricket preamble to The Laws. I wondered whether the occasion might dampen this, but despite a close-fought match, there was never a moment when it was not a delight to be on the field with them.

London Metro batted first, and for a while it looked as if their score would be enough. But some inspired batting and running saw Sussex Sharks come back, from what appeared a hopeless position, to secure the cup for the first time in their history.

If you have not had the chance to see a VI match I strongly encourage you to seek one out. There are teams scattered across the whole of the UK and more emerging as the game continues to develop. Next season the VI panel will continue and the idea may be extended to cover further disabilities. We will be seeking new applicants, so please watch this space for the chance to apply.

I can promise you will have a lot of fun and be amazed by the skill and enthusiasm of the players. I have also found that as well as being challenging in its own right, it has helped me with my red ball game, where my concentration at striker's-end is better and the likelihood of me always being on "the right side" when I have a runner is significantly higher."

(Ed: for more information, go to www.bcew.org)



'Domestic' match using the large ball

Scorers (do) Count

More so than ever... as we are delighted to have yet more contributors each issue, and, more importantly, to have the co-operation of 'Notchers' News' in allowing us to reprint items from their eponymous Magazine – thus enabling them to reach a much larger audience of 'Scorers'...

At the Pakistan-Australia Test Match at Lord's recently, one of the score-box 'gurus' was... **Martyn Fryer** from Twickenham... who was there to 'trial' the MCC's version of the Sky scoring media interface. Once successful, this would enable the MCC to have 'live scores' displayed for non-televised matches at Lord's.

From Sue Jones, the Berkshire scorer...

"Having read the column by John Brown referring to a 'Smudge', folk might like to be made aware of a 'Scarlett'.

This occurs when the scoreboard at Lord's is adorned with a total of 123 for 5 wickets.

I have the good fortune to occasionally work in the box with the motivator of this occurrence and it is remarkable how often we comment on the fact that a 'Scarlett' is on the cards (especially during T/20 matches)!"

From Colin Pearson, the 'Acumen' publisher, and scorer...

"Reading the article by Sunil Chandiramani about scoring, and his problems in recognising unfamiliar batsmen, may I suggest a tip that I always taught, even on basic courses?

Use a small token and place it on the scorebook against the batsman who is about to face the next delivery. Move it when an odd number of runs are scored and at the end of each over.

This is becoming essential as ever more batsmen disguise themselves in identical helmets!"

'Raindance'... a poem by John Dykes ...

Six sacred sticks in hallowed turf,
two threes a chain between.
Two elders come with stately tread,
white-coated on the scene.
Each then a pair of wooden pegs
upon the batons places,
white-clad young men come hurrying out
and take allotted spaces.
Two more young men, armour clad,
each with a willow stem,
stride out toward the sacred sticks
and stand in front of them.
One elder hands a bright red orb
to one well built young swain,
Then calls out play, the clouds erupt - and
down comes pouring rain !

From Stephen Woodcraft ... on an unusual delaying tactic?

"I was reminded, having read your last edition (of 'Notchers' News'), that I too added the entry 'Helicopter stopped play' at Little Bardfield Village CC's ground last season. The club had agreed to be used as an emergency landing field for the village as we are more or less centrally situated, not dreaming that it would ever happen!

So it did, and the patient was dealt with, the pilot was offered a cup of tea (what else) and play was resumed after thirty-five minutes. While the helicopter landed off the playing area it was not felt safe for play to continue considering the high level of any insurance claim had a wayward ball stuck the machine!

I will be torn between the score-box and the field this season as several players have asked me to act as umpire. I passed the ACU&S level one umpire exam, having originally taken the course in order to learn the Laws then, having made use of the correspondence courses offered by the ACU&S, passing the ACU&S Introductory and Standard level scorer exams.

I have been quite upset at times over some of the decisions given by players standing as umpires; the 'Spirit' of the game is soon forgotten when defeat looms! What to do? I am keen to try and help cricket from going the way of so many sports; but there is so much pleasure to be had from a score book accurately filled in with every detail and statistic recorded; I think that the book will win!"

From Mike Turner... on changing a bowler mid-over

"I thought I'd share the details of a recent scoring experience and ask readers how they would have recorded the scenario below.

– Bowler A had already been warned twice for dangerous and unfair bowling (i.e. bowling beamers) in his first 8 overs. After 3 fair deliveries of his 9th over, he bowled another beamer, which the umpire called No ball, and the bowler was suspended from bowling again in the innings.

– Bowler B then finished the over, but in the confusion of the bowler's suspension, the umpire miscounted and allowed him to bowl only 2 fair deliveries before calling over. Bowler B went on to bowl one more over.

This left me with the puzzle of how to record the shared over in the 2 bowler's fi-

nal figures. I reckoned I had 3 options:

1. Record exactly what they bowled: Bowler A 8.3 overs, Bowler B 1.2 overs

The problem with this approach is that at the end of the innings, the sum of the bowlers' overs wouldn't equal the overs actually bowled. Normally, if an over is miscounted, it is recorded as 1 over (not 1.1 or 0.5) so there is never a mismatch in the overs at the end of the innings.

2. When summarising the bowling, add an extra delivery to Bowler A's figures: Bowler A 8.4 overs, Bowler B 1.2 overs

This suggests that the umpire had mistakenly counted the No ball as a fair delivery for Bowler A

3. When summarising, add the extra delivery to Bowler B: Bowler A 8.3 overs, Bowler B 1.3 overs

In case you think this is a one-off incident best forgotten, a similar thing happened in a match this season! This time a bowler came off with an injury after 3 fair deliveries. Unfortunately the umpire allowed the replacement bowler to bowl an extra delivery in the over (i.e. 4) leaving me with much the same decision to make.

Would you have recorded the replacement bowler as having bowled 0.3 over or 0.4?"

From John Brown.... On a statistical 'tester'...

"In the Derbyshire v Northants T20 match on 16th July 2010 Lee Daggett came on to bowl:

– his first ball was a high full-toss, called and signalled No-ball (with final warning - only two offences allowed in county cricket);

– his second ball was also a high full toss, brilliantly caught and bowled, but it was called No-ball and Daggett was removed from the attack

– his analysis 0.0 - 0 - 4 - 0 (two runs for a No-ball in county cricket).

Andrew Hall, bowling for the first time in the match, completed the over for him - six balls, six runs and a wicket: analysis 0.6 - 0.6 - 1

Hall bowled the next over from that end and finished the match with a wicket from the fifth ball (and runs scored from the over).

The question is, how should Hall's final analysis be recorded? He has bowled eleven legitimate balls, but he has not bowled a complete over: so, is it 0.11 - 0 - 8 - 1 or 1.5 - 0 - 8 - 1? And what if no runs had been

continued on page 20



Scoring in Queensland – this is Brian and Quentin, and Quentin's report is on page 8.

Scorers (do) Count ...
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scored off those eleven balls - what would be entered in the 'maidens' column?

What would you have recorded ?”

From **Sue Drinkwater**... on what constitutes a bowler's 'spell' ...

“In a multi-day game, if a bowler bowls the penultimate over of the day and then bowls the first over of the next day from the same end, is this a new spell or the continuation of the previous spell?

The reason I ask the question is that last season I scored a match at New Road for the England Lions vs Australia and the Lions management wanted all sorts of statistics. One of the things that they asked for was the number of overs bowled per bowler per day (not per innings) as this was something to do with regulations on bowlers' workloads.

I was scoring on 'Total Cricket Scorer' (TCS) with linear back-up sheets and could not find a report to tell me. I had to work it out manually from my scoring records which would have been OK but they wanted it mid-session while I was still scoring.

The new version of TCS prints out bowlers' spells but does not identify which day they were on. When I contacted TCS to see if it was possible to generate a report on overs per day I was advised that the request would be passed to the developers to include in a future version of TCS, but I was then asked the above question about bowlers' spells.

My answer was that it was a new spell. There was a break overnight, so this would be a new spell. However, as this could affect reports printed from TCS, I thought I had better clarify this. How would you have answered the question?”

Knowing the Score

Knowing how specialised and knowledgeable scorers need to be - and how little most umpires know about the recording techniques they use – perhaps we might all benefit from reading one of the well-considered tomes on the subject. This one is by **Keith Booth**, who has been both the Surrey CC scorer and a regular incumbent in the box at Lord's, and titled 'Knowing the Score' – and has the benefit of a forward by Bill Frindall. And here are a few words on the content... 'There are histories of cricket, and there are guides to scoring, but never before has there been an attempt to cover the full story of scoring from rudimentary carving of notches on sticks in the eighteenth century, through increasingly refined methods of scoring on paper, to the networked computer systems of today. Original sources are used to trace the intertwining of scoring history, cricket history and social history, and, at the same time, there are sideways glances at developments in scorecards, scoreboards and statistics. Extensively illustrated with scoresheets and scoreboards of famous cricketing occasions, the book is at once professional and personal, eclectic and scientific, academic and anecdotal, historical and futuristic. No cricket library is complete without

'Free membership next year'

for any scorer who enrolls 3 others...

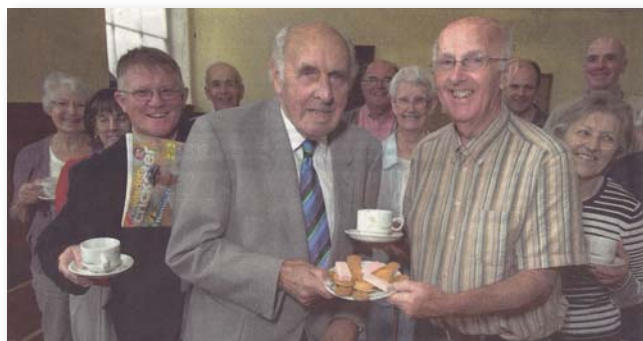
Our biggest priority at the moment is to find the thousands of 'missing' scorers out there so that we may better support and represent them. Every week, most club matches will have a scorer, and most of these, because they are helping out with their 'own' club at home and maybe away, are just that - part of their own club.

They may not even know about the ACO - especially if they see no reason or benefit why they should be a member. Our view is that no matter how useful they are to their home club, there are still aspects of training, technical advancements, equipment, and the comradie of belonging, that would be an advantage for each of them. Add to this that if they have any view of progressing with their skills or match-status, they need to be known in their County and to us.

So, if you are a scorer reading this, you are among a very small percentage of scorers nationwide who are members - so we ask you to simply look around you, think of scorers you know or have met for the first time this season, then ask them to think about joining the ACO. If you then send in 3 names of scorers who then do join (we will handle the paperwork after you give us contact details), we will give you free membership for a year - and a special 'scorer' gift!

Thank you for your time, and Good Luck!

Top Yorkshire cricketer (and scorer) Ted at fundraiser



A picture of **Ted Lester** – 'Still in the Game' after 7 decades...

Good to see him looking so hearty at this coffee-morning fundraiser at Westborough in aid of the Scarborough Cricket Ground Development Fund – and though the article in the Scarborough

Evening News majors on his prowess as a player for Yorkshire, he is more relevant to us having been a previous scorer for Yorkshire CCC, as well as currently being President of the Association of County Cricket Scorers.