

SCB ACO APPOINTMENTS OFFICER REPORT TO 2010 AGM

I am very pleased to advise members that we have successfully built on the foundations detailed in my report last year.

In 2009 the SCB ACO was responsible for appointing umpires to Surrey County Age Group Boys teams from the Academy and U/19s down to the Under 10s (except for U/17 County Championship & Cup matches where appointments are being made by the ECB RAC); to Surrey County Age Group Girls teams at U/13, U/15 and U/17 age groups and for the week long Surrey U/11, U/12, U/13 & U/14 District Festivals that were held at various venues during the last week of July and the first week of August. Overall we made 186 appointments including 106 at County level.

Surrey Cricket has asked us to extend our involvement in 2010. This year we are appointing umpires for their Pre-Festival District Tournament at all 5 age groups from U/10 to U/14, that is being held on Sundays and Bank Holidays in May, as well the week long festivals but with the addition of the U/10 age group. With 320 appointments at District level and 120 appointments at County level, we will be making at least 440 appointments for Surrey youth cricket in 2010 and with so many appointments, I am very grateful to Roger Croft for his work in coordinating the appointments to the older County Age Groups from U/15 upwards.

In 2009 we assisted Surrey Schools Cricket Association by appointing umpires for their Cup Finals. At the other end of the age scale we appointed umpires for the Surrey Senior Cricketers Association Over 50 and Over 60 teams for their County Championship matches. My sincere thanks to Bob McLeod and Ian Philippe for looking after the appointments for the Over 50s and Over 60s respectively. Due to a late change of policy by the ECB, we were asked to organise the umpires for the Surrey Women home fixtures in the revamped Women's County Championship last season and these arrangements will be repeated in 2010. My thanks to Roger Croft for organising these appointments.

New arrangements for the National Club Knockout umpire appointments were in place for 2009 and these will remain for 2010: All appointments for the first 3 rounds are made by the County ACO and from the Group Final (round 4) onwards the appointments are made by the Regional Appointments Coordinators (RACs) with the ECB appointing for the Final. In 2009 we appointed for 7 Round 1 ties, 3 Round 2 ties and 2 Round 3 ties. In 2009 appointments were open to SCB ACO members on Surrey Championship Lists 1 & 2, but with only 4 Round 1 ties in Surrey this year we have had to restrict appointments to members on the SC List 1 for 2010. However we are assisting Middlesex with the loan of one umpire as they have insufficient availability to cover their 12 Round 1 ties!

As Surrey was the host county for the 2009 Bunbury Festival held at Charterhouse School in July, we were invited by the English Schools Cricket Association to appoint the umpires for this prestigious event, which is a key element in the selection process for the England U/15 team. Bad weather meant that this eagerly awaited event was something of an anticlimax, but the panel of Graham Bullock, Graham Cooper, Roger Croft, Vernon Fallows, John Smith and myself brought great credit to the SCB ACO with our handling of "*ground, weather and light*" issues which, sadly, was not entirely matched by others!

We have established good working relations with the ECB Regional Appointment Co-ordinator (RAC) who is responsible for making umpire appointments for various ECB Competitions. For example, Jeremy Beckwith, Graham Bullock, Graham Cooper, Roger Croft and Ian Phillippe were appointed by the RAC for Surrey U/17 matches in the ECB County Championship and Cup competitions, while John Carter, Roy Collins and Mick Martin were appointed to Surrey 2nd XI matches in the County 2nd XI Championship and Trophy competitions.

Last September I wrote to all umpire members regarding the of-season Classification Report, that we were required to submit to the ECB ACO by 31 October 2009, identifying the level of cricket officiated by each member during the 2009 season using the following criteria:

- A - This umpire meets criteria B and has officiated in multiple day cricket matches
- B - This umpire currently and successfully officiates ECB Premier Division matches (or designated equivalent) on a regular basis
- C - This umpire officiates in higher levels of feeder league cricket and the later stages of local competitions
- D - This umpire officiates in other grades of local cricket

The SCB ACO Committee approved the application of the criteria on the following basis: Only those umpiring Surrey Championship 1st XI Premier Division could be given an A or B classification and only

those umpiring Surrey Championship 1st XI in Divisions, 1, 2 and 3 could be given a C classification and all other active umpires in 2009 would be given a D classification. Based on the information supplied by members together with our own knowledge, our 293 members were classified as follows:

A - 11

B - 06

C - 38

D- 102

Non-active in 2009 - 27

Retired - 4

Unclassified - 77 (unknown to us and did not reply to mailing)

Scorer only - 28

All umpires that we supplied a classification for have been graded by ECB ACO to indicate the level of ECB ACO appointments that they will be eligible for the forthcoming season. The grades available are: **Development – D1, D2, D3, D4 and County – C1, C2, C3**. In simple terms "Development" is the next stage up from umpiring Premier League cricket and therefore nearly all our members have been graded at "County" level with those classified A or B being graded C1, those with a C classification being graded C2 and those with a D classification being graded C3. All members have been notified of their 2009 SCB ACO Classification and their 2010 ECB Grading and provided with a copy of the ECB classification and grading system explanatory document, which seems to have raised more questions than answers!

We initiated a 'bureau' service for the 2009 season as part of our commitment to providing umpiring opportunities for our members. This was very much a two-way venture in that the aim is also to help clubs and organisations find umpires and scorers according to their needs. The bureau works on the basis that clubs and organisations send me details of their umpire / scorer requirements and this is advertised on the SCB ACO website and included in 'opportunities' mailings sent to members by e-mail or by post to those without Internet access. Although I do not have any definite details of the take-up rate in 2009, I do believe this was a successful venture and as members will be aware from recent mailings, the bureau is already up and running for the 2010 season.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Committee, and the membership in general, for the help and support that I have received in carrying out my duties as your Umpire Appointments Officer.

John White
March 2010