

SCBACO – CHAIRMANS REPORT FOR AGM – MARCH 2018

This is my Third year as Chairman. I wish to record my thanks to all committee members for their hard work and support in the work of the SACO. I also pay tribute to the unstinting support of the Surrey Cricket Foundation, particularly Simon Hards and his team. Simon will be giving a presentation to the AGM about the ECB Strategy for the game, and how SACO fits in to it. SCF have also donated two match tickets to a game at the Oval for a free draw to all who attend the AGM.

It is a known fact from ECB research and player surveys that a key element in player satisfaction and retention is good quality, independent on field umpires. Therefore the role SACO plays in educating and developing match officials is vital.

The Education Officer, Howard Cohen, and the four Training Officers have continued their excellent work in training new umpires. Howard will be standing down at this AGM, and we record our thanks for his work during a period of great change in the ECBACO, and also the release of a New Code of The Laws of Cricket in October 2017. The Committee will be proposing David Brown and the New County Education Officer at The AGM.

New Laws presentation evenings for umpires, scorers, players and all interested in Cricket have been organised and attended by members from Surrey and other Home Counties. The Scorers Officer, Martyn Holloway- Neville has a number of Scorer's courses lined up for this spring.

Brian Hurn, the County Performance Officer, continues to play a vital part in coordinating assessments, observations and mentoring of Umpires who wish to make progress in the standard of their Umpiring on field. Brian is being shadowed in the role by Colin Kent this year, with a view to Colin taking over in 2019.

Our Secretary, Shyam will be standing down at this AGM due to work commitments. I thank him for his work and diligence in administering the Committee business. The Committee will be proposing David Yandell to the AGM as his successor.

Paul Bridge will be standing down as Treasurer at the AGM, again I thank him for his diligent work in analysing our expenditure and overseeing our move to the 21st Century and Internet Banking. He will miss his long, tender conversations with the Lloyds bank call centre!

Ashtead CC continues to provide a venue for our committee meetings and AGM, as well as many other events for organizing and training umpires and scorers. We thank them for their generous hospitality, with an especial thanks to Eleanor Deighton for providing refreshments before each meeting.

I have attended a number of ECBACO meetings at a national and regional level during the year, and the vote by the members to become a fully integrated part of ECBACO has had far reaching consequences. The full financial and marketing expertise of the ECB is now being applied to the Education and Recruitment of Cricket Officials. This is part of the strategy of growth and participation the ECB see as critical to the game at recreational level. This has speeded up the process of information and resource flowing from the centre outwards.

This has many benefits, reducing the administrative burden on many volunteers. It has also produced a great improvement in material for education of match officials. However, the change presents challenges to the Local Associations within Surrey who have a proud heritage and tradition. On the agenda for this AGM is an invite to all for suggestions on positive local contributions within the Surrey ACO. This may involve less formal arrangements in future, but all positive ideas are welcomed.

The SACO Newsletter continues to be produced, and we remain committed to communicating with our members. Any feedback (hopefully constructive) is gratefully received.

Finally, I hope all SACO members will enjoy their season in 2018, and will make a positive impact on any part of Cricket they get involved with, but above all, on the Field!.

Matt Johnson.

2nd March 2018.