

Christmas Newsletter 2019

Chairman's Thoughts



This has been an unusually eventful summer in terms of umpiring club cricket with an umpire dying after being hit by a ball during a match in Wales, a Surrey umpire falling and suffering significant injury in an off the field accident and

the high profile treatment of Steve Smith's concussion. We, the Surrey ACO, recommend that until further guidelines are published that Umpires in particular should:

- be aware of what is covered by the ECB ACO Insurance scheme and when it applies.
- consider whether taking out personal accident Insurance that may be applicable should an incident occur that stops or inhibits their main job or employment.
- to seek advice from either their own or their club's public liability Insurance policy or consult our insurance consultancy on best practice.
- Know who to contact if they are concerned about their welfare both on and off the pitch: Mentors, Tutors or the SACO Welfare Officer.
- familiarise themselves in the short term regarding "concussion handling" detail of which can be found on the ECB website.

There are ongoing discussions at a national level about how best to protect umpires on the field of play. We will share the progress of these as and when there is something meaningful to report. Initial indications are that there will be some sort of protective equipment offered (possibly the Oxenford Shield) and a request for umpires to consider their own safety. Whilst there are no plans for a fitness test, it is recommended that umpires review their own mobility and the risks involved in standing at different levels. There is no desire to stop anyone umpiring, but there is a strong desire to avoid a repeat of the unfortunate incident which led to the death of an umpire. As I think that you will agree, a challenging conundrum.

We have identified the following sources of useful information:

SACO insurance [Kerry London Ltd](#) - A fact sheet can be obtained from the company.

[ECB Concussion Protocols](#) - concussion fact sheets can be downloaded from this site.

[MCC Concussion e-learning](#) – an online resource helping to understand concussion.

We are encouraging all leagues in the county to define and publicise their own concussion protocol, even if that is only to point people to the ECB protocol, thereby giving umpires clear guidance on what is expected of them during a match.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact Heather Dean SACO Welfare Officer or Dave Walter SACO Chair.

I wish you and those close to you an enjoyable festive season and a happy and healthy 2020. If you are an umpire, may all your decisions be straight forward and if you are a scorer, may the umpires you work with signal clearly and accurately.

The Cricket Umpires & Scorers Trust

Were you aware of the purpose of the fund is to assist ACO and former ACU&S members and their dependents at times of need with modest financial aid.

Please encourage anyone who feels that they or a colleague may be able to benefit from the help of the Trust to contact them. All enquiries are dealt with confidentially.



The Cricket Umpires & Scorers Trust,
c/o JF Rushton, 77 Moatbrook Avenue, Codsall,
Wolverhampton, WV8 1DJ;
ACUTrust@yahoo.co.uk

SURREY CRICKET BOARD ASSOCIATION OF CRICKET OFFICIALS



SURREY
CRICKET
FOUNDATION
Established 1975

Christmas Newsletter 2019

Umpiring at Lord's - a dream come true

My first competitive game of the 2019 season was a first-round match in the ECB's Royal London Club Championship one-day knock-out competition between Old Hamptonians CC and Sunbury CC. Neither I or my colleague that day, Paul Witney, could have dreamed that our seasons would end in September with us both being selected to stand in the two premier ECB national club knock-out finals; me at Lord's and Paul at the County Ground, Derby for the Vitality Club T20 finals day.



My final was held on Monday 16th September and ECB invited me and my colleague, Neil Davies – an umpire in the Birmingham Premier league – to travel to Lord's on the Sunday and to be put up in the Danubius Hotel, just over the road from the ground. This was a good opportunity to meet my colleague and the ECB Competition Manager to run

through arrangements for the day and start to work as a team. Our ECB ACO observer for the day, one Howard Cohen, also joined us and we had a good chat over dinner on Sunday evening.

In the days before the game London had been enjoying glorious late summer sunshine but the forecast for the Monday was a bit mixed. When I woke up on Monday morning, my heart sank on

drawing back the curtains on my hotel room's windows to see thick cloud and drizzle. The cars travelling down Wellington Road all had their lights on at 8am which was not a good sign. I joined Paul and H for breakfast and we anxiously checked our weather apps hoping that the clouds would lift, and play would be possible.

After breakfast we made our way across to Lord's and the first tingling of spine happened when we walked through the entrance to the Pavilion and escorted to the umpires' changing rooms. I was surprised to find a dressing room attendant ready to greet us with fresh towels and offer of refreshments. He was around all day to ensure we were well looked after. We had a briefing from the health and safety team and given instructions on how to deal with any concussion incidents. I learned a new signal to instruct a first-aider to enter the field of play.

After a quick familiarisation of our surroundings, we had a pre-match meeting with the captains and the ECB Competition Manager in the MCC Committee Room, the inner sanctum of the Pavilion. Then it was time for an inspection of the pitch and playing area. Again, another thrill to walk out onto the hallowed turf through the Pavilion and gate and see your name on the electronic scoreboard as one of the umpires.

We had chat with the groundsman, Karl, who gave us a briefing on the weather situation and who was confident that we would start on time but should expect an interruption. Helpfully, he told us that he and his team would be checking the weather radar and some heavy rain was imminent he and his team would walk over to the covers and be ready to get them on quickly.

After the toss and photo opportunities, the time seemed to fly and we had to scamper down the stairs when one of the pavilion stewards rang the 5 minute bell. Another thrill as we walked towards the middle and the PA announced, "our umpires today are Neil Davies and John Flatley" and a crowd of around 1,000 warmly applauded.

Before the game we had tossed for ends and H told me I had won – as I had the Nursey end



Christmas Newsletter 2019

which meant at the bowler's end I was facing the famous pavilion. I thought I had won the lottery when the bowling side decided to open at the Pavilion end as this gave me an over to get into the game at the striker's end.

I must admit to feeling very nervous when the second over started at my end but after a few balls, I remembered H's advice from the previous evening. I had stood in many matches with players of a similar quality and forget the surroundings and just treat it as another game. Swardstone CC, from Norfolk, batted first and racked up an impressive total of 280 for 7 off their 40 overs without any weather interruptions.



I wondered whether the legendary status of lunch at HQ was somewhat overrated, but I can confirm that it isn't. There was a 3-course lunch on offer with a choice of courses (see the blackboard above). As impressive as the quality of the food on offer was the military precision of the thing,

where 22 players and 4 officials were sat down, orders taken and delivered all within the allotted time. For those interested, I had the soup and vegetable lasagne but passed on the pudding to avoid post-lunch lull.

The second innings started slowly, and Nantwich CC were behind the asking rate. But then suddenly a 4 over spell of heavy hitting brought them close to the asking rate. At the midway point, they were only 10 runs behind Duckworth-Lewis-Stern with plenty of wickets in hand. But then it rained and just before the drinks break the ground staff made their way to the covers. On the call of time at drinks, they fired up the hover cover and we endured a delay while the rain came down.

When the rain stopped the covers were saturated. On asking the groundsman how quickly he could remove the water and have the ground ready for a restart we were amazed when he said 20 minutes as we were expecting near an hour. The drainage of the square at Lord's is a sight to behold as the ground staff simply swept the rain off the covers into the central part of the square. I couldn't understand what they were doing until seeing the resulting puddles disappear in an instant as the central drains run through this part of the square.

With the golden hour, we calculated a loss of 5 overs which DLS put the winning score a bit beyond Nantwich (253 off 35 overs). Having to score straight away at a higher rate than they had managed before the rain break led to lots of shots and a steady trickle of wickets. Eventually they were bowled out for 193 after 33 overs and the game was over.

After the game, there was a presentation ceremony in front of the pavilion and both umpires were presented with medallions as mementos of the day. After a match debrief with our observer, I enjoyed a shower in the umpires' room ensuring I made use of all of the facilities on offer.

It was a truly memorable day and one that I will cherish.



Calling Female Umpires



Both Nationally and within Surrey there is a strong desire to increase the pool of female umpires. Would you, or do you know anyone who would, be interested in helping this to happen? If so, or if you have any thoughts, please email dave.walter@ntlworld.com.

Surrey Junior Cricket Championship

After 18 months of planning it is all change in Junior Cricket within Surrey. The various regional leagues have worked together with the Surrey Cricket Foundation and the new structure has been created to provide consistent formats, agility, economies of scale, long term sustainability and central support in delivering one of the largest junior league operations in the country.



The Championship replaces the five regional league structures that have been operating independently for many years across the county.

What does this mean for Umpires? If you stand in junior matches in 2020, although the teams and the venues may be the same, the playing conditions are likely to have changed. Please look out for further information as we move towards the start of the new season.

Further details can be found at:
<https://surreyjuniorchampionship.play-cricket.com/>

Fancy a New challenge for 2020?

We have been approached by Cranleigh who are looking for a new 1st XI scorer for 2020:

Want to score in the Surrey Championship Premiership? Cranleigh CC are seeking a scorer for the 2020 season, the successful candidate will be remunerated, fed and watered and visit some of the best grounds in the country. Please contact Matt Crump @ crumpy2001@aol.com if interested.

Additionally there were a number of clubs looking for Umpires and Scorers during 2019 where we don't believe the vacancies were filled. Details of current opportunities can be found at:

[Surrey Scoring Opportunities](#)

[Surrey Umpiring Opportunities](#)

Surrey Championship Umpires Panel

Have you completed Levels 1 and 1a or Stages One and Two in your umpiring education, can demonstrate good knowledge of the current Laws of Cricket and have at least one season's experience standing as a non-playing umpire in League cricket?



Do you want to umpire in one of the strongest ECB Premier Leagues in the country and test your umpiring with the some of the best players in recreational cricket?

If you can say yes to all of these then you could be eligible to join the Surrey Championship Umpires Panel.

To make an application, write to Stuart Todd at surreychampionshipumpirespanel@gmail.com and ask for an application form.

Christmas Newsletter 2019

2020 Umpire Training Courses

I am pleased to advise our 2020 umpire training courses are now available for booking.

As you are probably aware the ECB ACO introduced new training courses in 2018 that were designed to focus on fieldcraft, man and match management and also be shorter in length.

For umpires looking for a refresher I would recommend attending a Stage Two course, which has some excellent new elements such as a focus on what to consider when deciding LBWs, Man and Match Management including how to deal with Conflicts.

I have attached a link to our website which has more details about the courses and links to the booking site. All the courses only cost £30, and if you want to attend both a Stage One and Two course in the same year it will only cost £40.

[Surrey ACO website](#)

I hope these courses will be of interest to you and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

David Brown

County Education Officer, Surrey ACO

2020 Scoring Training Courses

We have finalised the details of the majority of our 2020 scoring training courses and these will be available for booking by the new year.



The program will include several **Introduction to Scoring** courses and some courses specifically targeted at the new SJCC competitions. There will be a mixture of traditional course and those targeted at those using Play-Cricket

Score on their phones etc.

There will be a Level 1 and a Level 2 course and there will be CPD events covering Linear scoring and Duckworth Lewis Stern (DLS). For those at a more advanced level there will be a Regionally organised Level 3 course.

For further details please look at the SACO web site:

[Surrey ACO Scoring Courses](#)

Or contact Martyn Holloway Neville SACO County Scorers Officer