

May Newsletter 2020

Chair's Thoughts



Whilst there is not a lot to say from a Surrey ACO perspective, not least because the ACO nationally has been working hard to keep everyone informed of the situation, there are a few things that we would like to share with you or to

ensure that you have not missed.

Please remember that whilst the Surrey ACO cannot make a big difference we are trying to do our bit. We see the officials community as a family so if we can be of help please let me know and we will see what we can do (07565 422079 or dave.walter@ntlworld.com). We do have a small hardship fund for if necessary.

The key message is that whilst it may seem quiet, there is now a lot of work going on behind the scenes, especially now things are improving and people are beginning to see the prospect of some form of return to normal.

- The ICC have published a process, without timescales, Return to Cricket plan which can be accessed [here](#).
- The ECB ACO are working on protocols for umpires and scorers which will finalised once it is clear what we can and cannot do.
- League considering what they can do with various possible restart dates in the hope that they might get the go ahead.
- The ECB ACO are reviewing the 2020 umpire grading guidelines for Development Officers and these will be announced at the appropriate time.

The uncertainty is unsettling and we the officials community have a disproportionate number of members in the older age categories with the associated concerns. Please be assured that

during the likely transitions towards normal cricket we will be supportive of those who are cautious and will welcome them back when true normality is reached.

As with most clouds there is a silver lining, in this case it has come in the shape of lots of people undertaking officiating training. In the spring the ECB ACO set county ACOs a target to increase the numbers trained officials over the 5 years from 2020. The Surrey target was just short of 4,000 officials which against a current membership of around 400 was bold to say the least. Although when broken down into categories and considering the wider reach it was not so bad. The targets were:

275	Independent Umpires
350	Club umpires
1,500	Junior Umpires and Scorers
1,800	Parents, Activators & coaches mainly associated with the Dynamos program.

The first consequence of the Lockdown was the indefinite interruption of our spring training program, not a good start. Since then things have taken a significant up turn with various online programs

The ECB ACO have opened-up the following courses online and the sign-up numbers are encouraging:

721	Basic of Scoring (38 in Surrey)
1,541	Basics of Umpiring (53 in Surrey)
2,636	Online stage 1 umpiring (166 in Surrey)

Simon Hards has run an initiative encouraging clubs in Surrey to make use of the lockdown by getting their players to complete the Umpiring Stage 1 course and keeping of league table of the clubs getting most people to sign up. As of the weekend over 750 have signed up, hopefully they all complete the course.

The new Surrey Junior Cricket Championship has run a number of "snack sized" online courses each lasting about 90 minutes using Zoom. Scoring has



May Newsletter 2020

covered, Pairs cricket, Open cricket and using Play Cricket Scorer (very popular) and the umpiring split into basic, Intermediate & Full Laws. Over 200 hundred seats have been booked.

This is very encouraging progress especially as we have not been able to tap into the two largest groups “Young Officials” and those involved in the Dynamos. It is also likely to see a major change in training delivery now that online has proved to be a value mechanism.

There are a number of articles that you may wish to look at if you have not seen them before:

- The Farnham and District group have put together a quiz that you might like to try <https://www.flexiquiz.com/SC/N/surreyaco>.
- The ECB have issued a video “The Wait” <https://www.ecb.co.uk/video/1670476/the-wait>
- The South Central region have put together some bite sized umpiring training items which can be found at <http://www.berkscoa.co.uk/courses.html>.
- The South Central region also have a number of items on scoring including the latest changes the PCS Pro which can be found at http://www.berkscoa.co.uk/scoring_cpd.html (I tried them and now understand what Linear scoring is all about!)

Please keep yourselves safe and positive, things will return to normal eventually. In the meantime please contact us if we can help.

Dave

DBS Process Changes

During this period of lockdown DBS will expire and need to be renewed but we are using a revised process in keeping with social distancing. The Deputy County Welfare Officer Nigel Legg (nalegg64@gmail.com) will undertake Id verification for SACO members

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/>