

# SACO AGM 2024

## Education Officers report

After the 2023 Umpiring training program was completed, David Brown formally handed over all of the material in his possession. Again I would like to record my thanks for all of the work that David put in over the last few years.

We have been putting significant effort into reaching out into the Women and Girls community to identify training needs, but have to be honest that these efforts have generated very little fruit.

Our plans for training this winter have been hampered by confusing, conflicting and unhelpful advice from the ECB ACO. At one stage they even made all of the old training material unavailable and told us we should not use it. It was only in late January that the way forward was made clear, hence the rather late arrangement and publicity for the spring training.

From an umpiring standpoint the development of the new umpiring course by the ECB during the latter half of 2023 meant that there were no new umpire training courses run during this period.

The ECB now undertakes ALL recruitment and initial training of umpires and launched the new introductory umpiring course in 2024 with 2 courses being held in Surrey during February. The new introductory course is a blend of online learning and a one-day in-person session.

Something that has been identified is that whilst the new introductory umpiring course emphasises practical aspects of umpiring for new umpires it does not, in conjunction with the on-line learning modules, actually look at the Laws of Cricket in great detail.

As such, the tutoring team within SACO have been developing and are in the process of delivering CPD courses on the Laws of Cricket.

We would like to record our grateful thanks to Stuart Todd, John Flatley and Jeremy Beckwith for the work in developing and delivering the training and to Digby Hunt, Madhur Hemnani and Richard Wood for tutoring on the courses.

Going forward, there is greater emphasis by the ECB for the County ACOs to focus on the different aspects of managing the various ECB objectives around:

- Conversion - ensuring those who have completed the introductory course are aware of the support that SACO can provide and have every opportunity to join our ranks;
- Retention - keeping those members that we have coming back and endeavouring to engage with those who may have initially been members and are now umpiring for their Club and who could potentially benefit from the CPD events and support that we can provide: and

- Development - something that Graeme Hall has and is dealing with

However, we cannot do this without your help and assistance. Here are some of the areas where we ask for your assistance:

1. Please let us know what we could be doing better to help you, whether that be on-going training requirements or other support?
2. If you know of any umpires at Clubs to which you are affiliated can you highlight the benefits of ACO membership and what SACO does to assist and support umpires in Surrey (to assist we have prepared a flyer with some key messages for you to use)
3. If at any games you stand with someone who is not an ACO member please also engage with them - it may be that bit of knowledge / encouragement they need to join.

If you have any feedback or questions regarding the above please contact [education@surreycricketofficials.org.uk](mailto:education@surreycricketofficials.org.uk)

Dave Walter and Stephen Maguire