

## **SURREY ASSOCIATION OF CRICKET OFFICIALS SCORERS OFFICER'S REPORT TO THE 2024 AGM**

Initially we would like to record our thanks to Chris Lowe who was very supportive in the early part of the year when we were running training within the county.

One of the biggest changes this year has been the ECBs reviewing of Safeguarding with respect to Scoring, the headline has been that scorers no longer require DBS's but that is only half the story and actually highlights part of the problem. It has led to the belief that because a scorer has a DBS they can sit alone in a scoreboard with a junior scorer. This has always been a breach of a clubs Safeguarding responsibilities because it breaks the "rule of three" (an adult should not be alone with a child in an enclosed space) but has generally been allowed to happen. The change of focus which brings scorers into line with coaches and others which should actually be a better things for those involved in scoring.

One of my (DBW) activities over the last few years has been to score at Lords for the MCC Foundations finals day. This year I used it as an opportunity to reward a couple of scorers from the Young Officials scheme run by the Foundation and give them the opportunity to score a T20 match in the scoreboard at Lords. By all accounts the two youngsters had a very enjoyable day and hopefully it will show them what is possible.

Triggered by a suggestion from Laura Rolls, we drafted a scorer's survey along the lines of a player's survey, but unfortunately this was not published because our Foundation representative left and we did not have the resources to push it through. We are torn as to whether to issue it at the start of the season or to wait until August when the other surveys will be issued. If you have any thoughts, please share.

Investigations this year have highlighted that the PCS App, whilst excessively useful for scoring matches especially at the lower levels, has significant limitations – including an inability to record who umpired and scored the match. Equally for those who are not aware, although Play-Cricket, PCS Pro and the PCS app appear to work well together they are actually three separate systems, and their interactions have their limitation. I am told that upgrades to them are on hold until a retendering process in the next 18 months.

This year we have chosen to work with Middlesex to provide Level 2 Scorer training during the winter. Seb and I have attended these, as have a number of other SACO members. As in previous years, we will offer some level 1 and introductory courses around the beginning of the season. We have one person who has applied to be a Level 3 scorer. This training typically occurs once a year and so this is likely to occur in the coming winter.

As all scorers should be aware, a new Scorer's pathway is under development which will emulate the umpire's pathway unveiled last year.

Regards

Dave Walter & Seb Egan