

SURREY ASSOCIATION OF CRICKET OFFICIALS

CHAIR'S REPORT TO THE 2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Whilst locally I think that the Surrey ACO has continued to do a good job for umpires and scorers operating within the county; the last year from a chair's perspective at least has been quite frustrating when looking at the national perspective, with, at the time of writing, very little tangible progress on the majority of national initiatives. This leaves us rather in limbo as a county ACO.

- 1) The ongoing relationship between the ECB ACO, the County ACO and the County Boards is still unclear, although the direction of travel towards the County Boards leading on a lot of local activities for Umpires and Scorers is fairly clear.
- 2) There has been no new Umpiring or Scoring training material issued.
- 3) The Scoring Review progresses at a glacial pace.
- 4) The National membership system is on hold.

Despite various conversations and efforts, it is not clear the grading issues discussed at last years AGM have been resolved. It appeared as though they had been in the autumn, when Graeme and I met with David Elworthy and Alan Dale. The conclusions of these discussions were due to be captured on the new Membership system when it went live in late 2024, but this has not happened and on checking today WTU has not been updated to reflect this agreement.

My work on the Working group looking at the restructure of Saturday cricket within Surrey came to an end when the new structure was approved. Although I have to admit that I think the work of the Working group was not used as an infeed by those who took over the implementation phase.

The SWCL umpires panel was successful during 2024, despite limited support from the Foundation. I am pleased to confirm that Richard Wood has taken over the Coordination role, for which I thank him.

At the local level we continue to do what we do in an effective and professional manner; for which I am grateful to the SACO Committee members for all of their hard work.

I would like to give notice that the role of Chair of the Surrey ACO comes up for re-election at next year's AGM and considering all of the factors I am currently minded not to stand for re-election. I will have completed the various initiatives that I have been heavily involved in, so I think it will be time for someone with more energy and time to devote to the role.

Dave Walter - Chair SACO, February 2025