

SURREY ASSOCIATION OF CRICKET OFFICIALS

CHAIR'S REPORT TO THE 2026 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

As I said at last year's AGM this would be my last year as Chair and as the year has panned out, that decision has definitely been reinforced by both challenges in the rest of my life and the way that the committee has been able to operate with very little input from me. I am very pleased to say that the committee has identified Carl as it's recommended candidate and I think that he will be an excellent man to take things forward.

I joined the committee at the 2018 AGM as WebMaster, did a brief spell as Treasurer and became chair in March 2019 when Matt stood down. I have helped with appointments and covered as Umpire Education Officer and Scorers Officer during my time as chair, so I have certainly seen how the SACO operates at the coal face and have seen the challenges that we locally face when dealing with the national body.

During my time as Chair, we have had major reorganisation of the National Committee of the ACO and its merger /absorption into to the ECB, COVID and the establishment of much closer working relationship between SACO and the Surrey Cricket Foundation. The relationship was always strong, but now the ECB ACO wants us to work more closely together that strength is a real bonus. I know from talking to other Chairs that their relationship are much more challenging.

Through all of this I am proud to say that the Surrey SCO has continued to offer the gold standard amongst ACO and that is primarily down to the knowledge, skill and hard work of SACO Officers and those who deliver training.

There are a few points that others will talk about this more in their reports, but I should mention them:

- the long-awaited Scorers Pathway and new training material has been released. It is very good and much overdue.
- We have, in collaboration with the Foundation, devised training plans for umpires and scorers and submitted bids to the ECB ACO for funding to deliver them. Working with the Foundation allows us to reach many more people and to start them on their officiating journey.
- The ECB ACO has changed the membership structure acknowledging the difference between umpires and scorers and providing the ability to build a register of those who officiate but are not full members of the ECB ACO.

I close with a few thankyou's:

- the SACO membership for allowing me the privileged of serving as your chair.
- those who have served and supported the SACO Committee whilst I have been Chair.
- The Surrey Cricket Foundation, especially Simon Hards, for their support

Dave Walter - Chair SACO, February 2026