



Cheshire ACO

Members Newsletter: 2023 End of season issue

Openers

Hello, and welcome to the latest edition of the Cheshire ACO members newsletter.

Well, what a strange season that was. Too much rain for any kind of consistency but a great finish to the season in all the leagues throughout the county

On a personal note, it was good to be back after a 4-year stint in the Liverpool Comp, and it was good to see so many familiar faces still about, both players and colleagues.

There is plenty to catch up on and digest in this issue, so without further ado we have the following.....

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A message from our chairman: Derek Barnett

Welcome to the Autumn newsletter.

The season has ended and all promotion and relegation issues decided across all leagues and the great array of Cup and T20 and 100 competitions played. I have attended or umpired a number of finals over the last few weeks and have been impressed by the sheer number of people involved in playing cricket across the men's and women's leagues but also the junior and softball competitions. It is a tremendous tribute to everyone involved in administering the game at all levels and getting the games on which as we know is a huge logistical problem, but also the unseen work of arranging transport, trophies, catering, ground preparation, scoring and umpiring. The games have been played overwhelmingly in good spirit and the one thing that is striking is the diverse nature of our game here in Cheshire with a great and varied mix of players.

We sometimes look at cricket in Cheshire as being just the 1st XI Saturday games, but when we look right across the board at non 1st XI teams, all stars, softball, urban cricket and social cricket the game is alive and flourishing, something we should all welcome and acknowledge.

As part of our relationship with the Cricket Board, we have been able to offer complementary tickets to attend Lancashire County Championship games at Old Trafford as a way of acknowledging and rewarding our members for their contribution to the sport. Six members recently enjoyed a day at the point with refreshments and a number will be at the last county championship fixture of the season.

As the season ends, the back office work begins in earnest, a point often overlooked by many, with preparation for the AGM and the routine business of making everything work ready for next season. Once again this work is undertaken by an increasingly small number of volunteers. We should wherever possible be reducing the demand and work load on all those who are prepared to give up their own time and often at their own cost to help and support cricket in the County.

You will recall that in 2020 we approved and published our Cheshire ACO Development Plan 2021-2024, unfortunately, Covid intervened and seriously impacted our ability to deliver some of the intended outcomes. I have met with colleagues from the Cheshire Cricket Board and we have started to revise the plan for 2023-27 and make it more accessible and relevant. The new plan will focus on three key themes.

- *Inspire/ Recruit/Retain*
- *Train and Develop*
- *Reward and recognition*

The plan will be considered by the Executive Committee and brought to the AGM in February for signing off by the members.

This season saw the introduction of several new law changes. It would appear that the new laws have been assimilated easily by umpires and largely by captains with very few instances of serious breaches. Umpires have on a small number of occasions issued penalty runs for applying saliva, unnecessarily throwing the ball at the stumps and the fielder moving during the bowlers run up.. The on field application of Law 41 followed by a report has been sufficient in the majority of cases. Similarly, the application and reporting of Law 42 breaches has improved significantly this season with the majority of incidents being correctly dealt with and properly reported. Undoubtedly, the pre-season briefing sessions for umpires and captains proved to be a great investment in time and energy and It is worth noting the contribution from Inge and her team in delivering so many sessions across the county.

Finally, it is great to see that Sue Redfern has been appointed to umpire a County Championship fixture at Cardiff. As she walks out with Graham Lloyd she will be the first female umpire to stand in a Championship game, a long overdue occasion but welcome nevertheless. Hopefully this will inspire other women and girls to follow in her footsteps and a reminder to us here in Cheshire that we need to redouble our efforts to attract more women and girls in to umpiring.

Derek Barnett

Chairman

Trivia Question 1

Name the umpires, the year, the game & the venue



Training and education update: Inge Bevers

Finally I've got some news to share with all of you regarding umpiring courses.

As you will no doubt remember, ECB announced they were going to develop a new entry-level umpire course. That development has now reached its final stages, and next month there will be a few pilots, after which the course will be rolled out and courses will be planned from November.

After an application process, a total of 93 people were confirmed as ECB umpire tutors and most of them attended a training weekend on 23/24 September at the University of Warwick campus in Coventry. With 4 of our own, Cheshire is doing really well! Stewart Garnett and Marianne Lea (missing on the below) are tutors who also hold coaching positions with the Cheshire Cricket Board, and most members will recognise John Edmonds and myself from the training sessions earlier this year.



We had an intensive weekend with lots of practice working through the various parts of the course and all of us are very enthusiastic of what we have seen and done. In short, the course covers an online module and a practical module. The online part consists of self-study work that covers the Laws of Cricket, EDI and safeguarding, while the practical module will be face to face and taught by 2 ECB Umpire tutors. And it is this module we worked on over the weekend. And why are we excited? Because the course combines discussions and power point with sessions outside or in a sports hall that get participants involved in practicing pre-match work, positioning/movement, as well as 'staged' decision making on appeals.

All in all, we believe it will help new umpires get confidence going out there and taking charge of a match. After the course they will get a shirt, a counter and a few other things as a starter pack, and will be invited to join ACO - the first year will be free as was the case with those who had done Stage 1. Obviously we will share information regarding league panels and we hope that, like this last year, a number will be joining us, but they will all be Level 6 umpires from the moment we have signed them off on the course. From that moment, they can umpire matches for their club, a league or umpire at soft-ball festivals, county festivals, etc. When

they have umpired 5 matches or equivalent, they will be M5 or W4, after which they would need to join league panels should they want to continue going up on the umpire pathway.

And that then brings me to the Cheshire ACO. Our group of tutors will continue to deliver training sessions to our membership. The 'formal' training, previously Stage 2 and 3, will no longer be delivered, but instead we will get a comprehensive pack of CPD sessions. We may combine them to fill a day, or use half-days, evenings, and some may well be suitable for online self study. The training material is being created by the ACO education team, the same people who were previously developing Stage 1-3, and we received confirmation in Coventry that their work is nearing completion, so please bear with and watch this space!

Going back to the new ECB umpire courses, one of the pilots will be an all-female session at Trent Bridge and yours truly will be one of the two tutors, and I'm very happy that Anna Harris will be the other tutor. And the first training in Cheshire has been planned for 12 November at Wilmslow School.

Once I have an overview of the CPD material, I will contact Barrie Burns, our County Development Officer, to confirm which modules we would expect M4 umpires aspiring to M3 level (Premier Panel) to complete, and the same for M5 to M4 (Cheshire Cricket League to Cheshire County Cricket League). In principle, all modules will be available to all members, as they are Continuous Professional Development modules, so if you want to challenge, update or expand your knowledge and experience, then pick your CPD sessions. Similar to players, we need to keep updating and practicing our skills and knowledge!

With respect to last year's courses, I have sent a survey to all participants, some of whom have already joined our panels earlier this summer, and all of them will be included in the distribution lists for general membership news such as this newsletter, as well as updates on courses/CPD modules. Some are considering joining us next year, and we will be asking some of our current members to take up mentorship - someone to be at the end of a phone on a Saturday or Sunday, a shoulder to cry on or a hand to pat them on the back, but mostly a sounding board and someone to talk to and get some encouragement, tips and confirmation of a 'job well done'. Having a mentor like that is not only massively important to new umpires though, I would encourage all our umpires, especially those aspiring to Premier level and beyond, to find themselves such a person. Umpiring can be a very lonely 'job' and having someone at the other end of a phone call, next to you in the Pub or at the other end of the pitch, can be a massive help, so please if you want to be a mentor or would like our help finding you one, let Barrie know.

I will keep everybody updated of developments as much and as often as I can. If you have a question, please send me an email at ingeborg_bevers@yahoo.co.uk.

See you soon!

*Inge Bevers
County Education Officer*

County Appointments Officer: Gary Zimmer

Another successful season working in partnership with the ECB, Cheshire Cricket Board and local junior leagues to provide Umpires for over 160 matches.

Cheshire ACO Umpires have stood in a wide range of matches from the early season ECB National Knockout Competition (Royal London Cup), the CYC District Festivals in May and July, ECB U18 County boys and girls one-day, three-day and T20 competitions, various U13 and U15 ECB T20 Club matches, S9's and D40 Disability Cricket, County Age-Group boys and girls matches from U10 to U18, right through to the end-of-season Cheshire U19 T20 Cup & Plate Finals and the North Cheshire Junior Clubs U11, U13 and U15 T20 Finals. A lot of different Competition Regulations to study!

A great effort by all of you Umpires who volunteered to stand this season. My sincere thanks to each one of you. I hope to see you all again next season, with perhaps a few new faces. I believe we have a good number of Young Officials who have completed courses over the past couple of winters and perhaps even more this coming winter. We need to work with the Cheshire Cricket Board to take these Young Officials to the next step as either Scorers or Umpires. Ideally, we should aim to have some of the Young Officials at the District Festival matches alongside a "mentor" Umpire. Who knows, a future ICC World Cup Final Umpire might be starting out on that pathway right here in Cheshire!

Gary Zimmer

Cheshire County Appointments Officer

Trivia Question 2

How many do you recognise from this, and can you guess the year?



Cheshire Cricket Board news: Stewart Garnett

As one season ends, it marks the beginning of a new season for the Cheshire Cricket Board. As I write this we are into the fourth week of our Autumn coaching programmes, running 40 cricket courses at 9 different venues around the County, involving over 1000 children, keeping all our staff extremely busy. The Development Scheme will continue through the winter, with further courses in the build up to our representative match programme in summer 2024 - thank goodness for (mostly) warm sports halls!

Our schools coaching programme has also sprung back into life with the new academic year. Last year Cheshire Cricket Board staff delivered cricket lessons in over 150 primary schools across the county, which incorporated a teacher training element enabling them to become confident to deliver cricket themselves going forward. Many schools took part in the Dynamos Schools festivals, a format of cricket based on 8-a-side pairs competitions. We also worked to foster better links in progressing children into clubs with successful taster events, especially in growing the numbers taking part in All Stars (5 to 8 year olds) and Dynamos (8 to 11 year olds).

Women's and Girls cricket continues its growth apace, with more clubs either entering indoor or outdoor leagues, or beginning on the journey by creating new Women's and Girls sections. There were a record number of teams taking part in the Cheshire Women's Cricket League in 2023 following the expansion of the (softball) Division 5. And with women's only coaching courses planned for the year ahead, our aim is to identify as many female role models as possible to inspire the next generation of girls to pick up a bat and ball.

Our coaching courses continue to be much in demand with nearly every course being over-subscribed. A number of coaches have been trained at either Foundation level (brand new coaches to Cricket) or Core level (more advanced coach content) as well as younger aspiring coaches attending the Junior Activators courses.

Onto Umpiring and Scoring specifically, I was very pleased to be able to assist Inge in delivery of the Umpiring and Scoring Made Easy Roadshows at Bredbury and Christleton over the summer, giving over 40 new volunteers the confidence to take on those key roles in their clubs. It was also a great pleasure to deliver the Young Cricket Officials course to a set of enthusiastic 13 to 18 year olds at two different venues, and other similar events have taken place across the county.

The new ECB Umpiring Course is about to make its bow across the country, and Cheshire will be one of the first counties to run the course on November 12th. An Induction weekend has just been held for the four tutors from Cheshire, getting us all familiar with the content and more comfortable with the delivery. This will provide that important first step on the pathway to getting more umpires involved in the game we love so much.

Massive thanks to all members of the Cheshire ACO for the contribution you continue to make to recreational cricket. I look forward to working together over the coming year and supporting you as much as I can in continuing to play a vital role in our great game.

Best wishes,

Stewart

CCCL Panel 2023 update: Ian Greensmith

The first season of appointing umpires for both the Cheshire County League and the Cheshire Cricket League proved an arduous task and the time involved was much more than I anticipated.

The number of umpires required each Saturday was 84 and this was an impossible task although as the season progressed and umpires who had chosen to umpire schools matches returned to the fold on some Saturdays we were only a handful short of two umpires covering every game. The policy I chose to adopt with the backing of the CCL Committee was that the top 2 divisions would almost always have two umpires in Division 1 and 2 games and as the season progressed and more umpires became available we would look at the important games in Division 3 which is of course the seventh tier of Cheshire Cricket. I think I am correct in stating that at this level throughout the country most clubs are expected to supply their own umpires. In addition to the league fixtures I also appointed umpires to all County League T20 fixtures, 1st and 2nd XI as well as the Cheshire Cup and Cheshire Shield competitions.

I am extremely grateful for the wonderful support I have had from the umpires in both leagues with the odd exception and it has been a pleasure to get to know them.

I take great satisfaction from the fact that the CCL umpires soon adapted to receiving their appointments through the WHOSE THE UMPIRE system and after a few teething problems they soon realised the benefits of the system

We have had a number of new recruits during the season(thanks to Inge and the trainers) and they have acquitted themselves very well and a number should continue to progress.

I am confident that the standard of umpiring in Cheshire overall is as good if not better than any other leagues in the North of England.

Looking ahead to season 2024 I would like assistance from an enthusiastic and willing volunteer as covering all these fixtures takes over my summer despite the satisfaction when everything goes well.

Thanks again to all our umpires

Ian Greensmith



Ian seen here with Martin Howe and James Emmerson

Umpire profile: Tony Sayle

Tony played cricket for 35 years at Hartford CC retiring at the end of the 2000 season. Originally he was a slow left arm bowler and then a very average “nudge and nurdle” opening batsman (his own words!).

A fairly undistinguished playing career with only the 1992 forty over cup competition to show for it!

Tony started umpiring in 2001 qualifying in that winter.

From 2001 to 2016, Tony umpired in the Cheshire Alliance League and served as Secretary to their Umpire association from 2005 to 2015.

He became the Chairman of the Cheshire Alliance Umpires Association for the 2016 season.

As the Leagues joined forces for the 2017 season, he has been the Chairman of the Cheshire Cricket League Umpires Association for the past four seasons and has also been the “Umpire rep” on the League Exec since 2015.

Tony still thoroughly enjoys his umpiring regardless of what Division the appointment try’s to officiate in as many league and cup games as he can.

Tony has umpired in a number of cup finals, which were originally the 40 over games and now the T20 competitions and he has also had the honour of umpiring two U15 Cheshire games against Notts and Staffordshire.



Tony in action – Can you recognise the grounds?

Scorer profile: Simon Burley



Like many, I learnt to score as a youngster whilst spending my Saturday afternoons watching my Dad play cricket at various grounds around Lincolnshire, I still remember being given my first scorebook, a very basic form but it got me started and I have always enjoyed scoring, capturing the facts of the game and better understanding the value of individual performances.

Once I was old enough my focus turned from scoring to playing and during my teenage years and adult life I have valued being a playing member of a Club first in Lincolnshire, then Surrey and finally Cheshire. Inevitably, certainly at the level I played, there were regular occasions when the call went out “can anyone do the book?” and I accepted with pleasure. There is something about scoring that focuses the mind on the game in hand and I think it is still true to say that I get most enjoyment out of watching cricket whilst I’m also scoring the game.

It was perhaps inevitable therefore that when I realised that I was at an age where my contribution on the field was not adding value that I would turn to the scorebox to find somewhere where I hoped my contribution could still be useful. I joined Toft CC as a player in the late 1990’s and I think it was in 2013 that an opportunity arose to take the role as 1st team scorer. This coincided with the desire for Premier League scorers to score on the laptop. Whilst I am no IT genius, using a laptop held no fears and I think I’ve managed to embrace the various scoring systems which have been tried since.

I have scored the majority of Toft 1XI games since 2013 with valuable assistance from Dave Hughes when I’ve not been available. I’ve also happily scored some Cheshire Development games and ad hoc competitions and games around Cheshire when asked. I’ve enjoyed the experience and being close to the Clubs successes (and successful relegation battles) over the years. A highlight was the National T20’s Finals Day in 2019 held at the County Ground in Derby, Toft won the semi-final but lost in the Final under lights. Scoring in a County facility was a treat and a day I will always remember.

Scoring continues to evolve, live scoring on Play Cricket and the more recent introduction of Streaming changes the role, a scorer’s mistakes are now visible to all as opposed to a secret shared with your fellow scorer. When I started scoring my biggest worry was my pen running out of ink, now it’s a phone call to tell you the stream isn’t coming through on YouTube! However, the fun continues, the camaraderie with your fellow scorer, the tea time and post-match banter with the umpires and getting to share a small part of the teams successes still make it time very well spent.

ECB advice - boundary safety

Cricket clubs in the Cheshire County Cricket League are reminded to ensure that risk assessments are carried out before all games to minimise the threat of injury to fielders.

This follows two recent incidents in the Cornwall Cricket League where fielders diving to save runs on the boundary edge sustained injuries.

One was treated for a cut hand and finger after falling on a tarmac path close to a boundary line, while another required stitches to a split shin after colliding with a metal pole linked to netting.

It used to be the case that 1 metre was the recommended safe distance between a boundary rope or line and hard object, such as tarmac path, wooden fence, hedge or sight screen wheels.

That advice has changed. The England and Wales Cricket Board now advises clubs that the recommended safe distance run-off area should extend to 2.74 metres (9 feet).

ECB Health and Safety Manager Andy Cooper stated: "At base level this is all about risk assessment and common sense being applied by clubs and players alike.

"We recommend a distance of 2.74 metres, yet recognise this might not always be possible.

"On such occasions the club needs to measure the risk should a player slide over the boundary rope or line: what are they likely to come into contact with?

"If the risk is at an unacceptable level, can mitigating controls be put in place? Move the rope or adjust the line, or provide a crash mat or something similar.

"Clubs that fail to suitably mitigate the risk must expect the worst, be it player injury, civil litigation (especially if they know about the recommended distance yet fail to impose it) or perhaps guilt, knowing preventive measures could have been taken."

Mr Cooper has made 3 recommendations to clubs:

1 : Conduct and record a risk assessment.

2 : Ensure any mitigating controls have been communicated.

3. Monitor the outcome. Are the mitigating controls being used and are they effective? If not, make adjustments.

He warned: "If a club has already suffered an injury from such an incident, then it now becomes 'foreseeable' and no defence will suffice."

One Premier league has seen a precedent set on this very matter, where a judge ruled that the club being sued for damages by an injured fielder was at fault and ordered to pay a substantial sum.

Appointed umpires will take a pragmatic approach. Clubs are expected to comply with requests from umpires to comply with the minimum 1m safe distance at all times. Ultimately, responsibility rests with the clubs and not the umpires so it is important that the clubs' risk assessments have been updated to reflect the new guidance.

Safeguarding – Dane Jones

‘Safeguarding for Specialist Roles’ (Level 2) The new course, ‘Safeguarding for Specialist Roles’ replaces Safeguarding Young Cricketers (SYC) e-Learning and is designed to support individuals in cricket who are working with children and young people.

‘Safeguarding for Specialist Roles’ is made up of one 60-minute module, suitable for everybody in specific roles in cricket and four shorter bolt-on modules:

- *Safeguarding for Coaches and Activators*
- *Safeguarding for Captains and Team Managers*
- *Safeguarding for Umpires and Scorers*
- *Safeguarding for Committee Members & Club Safeguarding Officers*

***It is considered a requirement of role**, so individuals in these specialist roles are invited to complete the one-hour module, followed by the shorter module that best reflects their role. If you already have an in date SYC, there is no requirement to complete this e-Learning at this stage*

Please note that anyone who had the old SYC already assigned to them via ECB e-learning portal have been automatically enrolled onto “Safeguarding for Coaches and Activators”

If you don’t have an ECB e-Learning account, please register via the CCB website link attached to access the training: Safeguarding Training | Cheshire Cricket Board January 2023 County Safeguarding Officer – Julie Rafferty - julie.rafferty@cheshirecricketboard.co.uk*

** Anybody who has completed the Level one on-line course should already have an ECB e-learning account.*

For further information see links below

[Safeguarding Training | Cheshire Cricket Board](#)

Quiz

Question 1

Just as the arm has gone past the vertical in the delivery action, the ball slips when delivered and balloons into the air.

The striker advances down the pitch to hit the ball, but the bowler also chases the ball and catches it before the striker has an opportunity to hit it.

Seeing the striker out of his ground, the bowler throws at the striker’s wicket, breaking it with the striker out of his crease.

There is an appeal. What is the decision and who makes it?

Question 2

You are the bowler's end umpire. The bowler is bowling right-arm round the wicket to a right-handed batter.

After several edges have gone through where a second slip would normally be, the wicket-keeper moves to what would normally be considered to be a first slip location.

The batter leaves a ball angled across him and the wicket-keeper dives full-length to his left to try to stop the ball,

managing to get a fingertip to it, deflecting it towards fine leg.

The batters complete one run.

What actions, if any, do you take?

.....and that's it, for now! A winter newsletter will be published in December 2023, so, if anyone has anything they would like to include or would like to share with us all, please let me know.

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Alistair Davies

Membership services secretary

