

Lancashire Association of Cricket Officials

Newsletter

May 2020

Welcome to the May LACO Newsletter, the second we have issued since the 'crisis' began. I hope you and your families remain healthy and are keeping safe.

You will be aware that the ECB has announced that no cricket will be played before the beginning of July at the earliest, I continue to be in regular contact with Lancashire Cricket and the local leagues and as soon as we get any further information we will let you know. There is plenty of speculation about what the cricket season, if there is one, will look like but the truth is nobody knows.

We may find out more on Tuesday when Tom Harrison CEO of the ECB appears before a House of Commons Select Committee but even this is likely to be more about priorities and options being considered rather than any firm information. It seems highly unlikely we will have any cricket until the Government is in a position to introduce a 'test-trace-isolate' policy which is some weeks off yet.

In the meantime I hope you enjoy the Newsletter. I must say a big thank you to all our contributors, if there is anything you would like to see covered or if you want to contribute an article please get in touch. I hope you enjoy the Newsletter and remember to follow us on Twitter @Lancashire ACO and on our Facebook page. Keep well and keep safe.

Special Interest Articles:

This month, Tim Mansfield, our Communications Officer conducts a fascinating interview with our President Tommy Wilson. We hope this is the first of a series of interviews, so if you have any ideas of who you would like to see interviewed in the future please let us know. In addition, we have reports from both our Education Officer, Dave Chaloner and our Development Officer, Peter Robinson as well as some comment from myself on a recent posting and discussion on our Facebook page. There is also a quiz with a £25 prize to keep those grey cells working!



Rob Hales writes:

I am sure you have all heard the old joke about the Englishman asking the Irishman for directions to Dublin, to which the Irishman replies "Well if I was going to Dublin I wouldn't start from here!" Well this very much came to mind when I looked at the recent excellent post made by Kevin Wilson of MCUA on the LACO Facebook site.

His question was:
You are the strikers end umpire. Batsmen appears to play a shot but misses the ball, which hits his pad, they run and then return for a second run, the fielder returns the ball to the wicketkeeper and the batsmen is just short of his ground when the wicket is put down fairly and there is an appeal for a run out. As you raise your finger, simultaneously your colleague calls and signals dead ball, stating no shot played. What is the outcome?

Kevin went on to say this was something that has happened to him on at least two occasions, I assume you were at Strikers end Kev! The posting received a number of replies with just

about equal numbers giving 'out' and 'not out'.

So what is the right answer? Your starting point is Law 23 Bye and Leg Bye.

Law 23.2.1 states:

If a ball delivered by the bowler first strikes the person of the striker, runs shall be scored only if the umpire is satisfied that the striker has either attempted to play the ball with the bat or tried to avoid being hit by the ball.

23.3 Leg Byes not to be awarded then states:

If in the circumstances of 23.2.2 the umpire considers that neither of the conditions therein has been met, then Leg Byes shall not be awarded.

Then the important part:
If the ball does not become dead for any other reason the umpires shall call and signal Dead Ball as soon as the ball has reached the boundary or at the completion of the first run.

The reasoning of most of the people who suggested the batsmen was out was that because the ball does not automatically become Dead under Law 20 it must still be live and therefore the batsmen should be given out. Whereas the 'not outers' view was that as the intention of the law only allows for a run out to take

place on the first run, the batsmen should be given not out despite the late dead ball call.

There was a player who commented that he should be given out but I think that was on the basis that the player who made the comment used to be a bowler who 'only appealed when they were out!'

Clearly the process would involve the umpires taking possession of the match ball and consulting and also ensuring the scorers were clear about what decision was finally made. As to whether the batsmen is out or not well this is not covered by the Laws and it would be up to the umpires on the day to resolve the issue and make the appropriate apologies. What it does stress is the importance of all umpires knowing, understanding and applying the Laws of the game correctly. In this case the Law clearly states that the umpires must call 'Dead Ball on completion of the first run.' Can you imagine the scenes if this happened off the last ball of the game with 2 needed to win!

If you want to join in the conversation please feel free to email your views or even better join our group on Facebook (Lancashire Scorers & Umpires LACO) and also follow us on Twitter @LancashireACO

David Chaloner writes:

Firstly, commiserations to those who missed out on the Stage 3 Course in March. It is hoped we will be able to go ahead with this in the autumn. In the same vein, thanks to all those who had signed up to accreditation after your Stage 2 courses. This programme will be held over until 2021.

At this time, we would be normally finalising our dates for our off season education programme for 2020/1. For any number of reasons, we have left this in abeyance, not the least of which is our discussion with the Lancashire Cricket Foundation, which now has overall responsibility for recruitment of umpires across the county.

In the meantime, if there are any queries over education matters, you can

contact David Chaloner on Lacoeducation@yahoo.com and he will attempt to dig out the answers you need.

Thanks to Tim Mansfield for setting up our Facebook page to which you should have received an invitation. Topics and scenarios seem to be emerging daily and there is a pretty robust and very informed level of debate on officiating topics.

Stay safe!

An Interview with Tommy Wilson

As we hunker down during the Lockdown I took the time to interview one of the best known and much loved characters in the Lancashire umpiring world

(Tim): Tommy, It's great to talk with you as ever. Can I start with an easy one? When and where did you start umpiring?

(Tommy): At age 14 I was a club umpire with my local team Bretherton. At 15yrs 6months I was accepted onto the Southport and District league panel for 1953.

(Tim): You had a season on the first class list in 1978. One of the games you stood in was Middlesex v Nottinghamshire at Lord's. Famous players – Randall, Rice and French for Notts, Brearley, Radley, Gatting, Emburey, Edmonds and the frighteningly quick Wayne Daniel for Middlesex. What are your memories of the game?

(Tommy): I was appointed to the reserve list of first-class umpire in 1976. In those days there was only two umpires on the reserved list. That season, due to David Evans, a test match umpire being taken ill, I was drafted in to umpire the Roses match at Headingley. In 1977 I again umpired on the reserve panel and once again I was called on. This time it was to umpire the Australians versus Northants. Greg Chappell scored 161 and Lennie Pascoe took six for sixty-eight, bowling himself back into the test team for the next test at Trent Bridge. I no balled him 7 times in the innings.



In 1978 I was appointed to the first-class list. The game you mentioned at Lords, Middlesex versus Notts, we had trouble with light on the final day. We came off and were stood on the balcony looking at the dark clouds passing the ground. A spectator started to talk to us about weather and light conditions, when along came Mike Brearley the Middlesex captain, who said, 'improving don't you think, what if I bowl Edmonds and Emburey, would you start then?'. So off we went to talk to Notts. Derek Randall was sat there and said, 'if you bowl the spinners, I'll bat.' Out we go. Brearley sets his field. Four slips, two gullies. Randall walked past me and said, 'what's going on, he's not bowling'. The penny drops and I looked behind me. Twenty-five yards away in the gloom, stood Wayne Daniel, ready to bowl. Randall then had a confrontation with Brearley. Randall said, 'I'm not facing him in this light'. Brearley said, 'the light's better, get on with it'. I looked over at my colleague at square leg, who came across. We took off the bails and walked off with the batsmen. Middlesex trudged off behind us. We walked up the steps in deadly silence and walked through the Long Room and you could have heard a pin drop!

Later I realised that the spectator on the balcony, with whom we had been chatting had been a reporter, John Thicknesse, so there is a warning, never talk to strangers as they may be the press and will print what they want and do not always get things right. The headlines in the London Evening Standard that night read, Northern Umpires don't see the light!

There was more fun to come on the Sunday in the John Player league, the groundsman had prepared a pitch on the edge of the square. I recalled, for the one-day game, that all the boundaries had to be no less than 50 yards. I said, that's not 50 yards. My colleague said, 'we are at Lords, you don't question it'. I took no notice of him, and rang the groundsman, Jim Fairbrother, he came out with his tape measure - my blushes were not spared, the distance proved to be 50yrs and 8 inches.

(Tim): Who are the best players you umpired in League cricket? And I think you stood in a record number of games in the Minor Counties. Who are the players from there who you think could have gone on to be successful in the first class game?

(Tommy): I have seen many fine players in the Northern League. Miandad, Marshall, Greenidge, Boon, Stephenson, Kallis and many more. However, my vote is for the late Bob Entwistle, the most consistent batsman. The best bowlers, Colin Hilton and David Halliwell, both very fast. I stood for 35 seasons in the Minor Counties, a record! Possibly one umpire who might stand in more than me is Paddy Brown, who has been appointed onto the National Panel this year. A young very good umpire who I have helped and guided since he was around 15 years old. Many great players have played in Minor Counties Cricket, but two I think should have gone on to play first class cricket. There were Steve Deane of Staffordshire, who scored over 10,000 runs and David Halliwell, Cumberland, who took 221 wickets at an average of 21.61. Both in the Minor Counties championship.

(Tim): You have been involved in umpire education for a long time, and still act as an observer. What areas do you frequently notice where umpires need to work on?

(Tommy): Two stand out. Attitude and teamwork, and decision making.

(Tim): Which Laws would you change?

(Tommy): I don't think I would change any law at present.

(Tim): Tell me about an unusual dismissal in a game you were standing in?

(Tommy): I was standing at the Oval in the John Player league, Surrey batted first, Robin Jackman the England fast bowler was last man in. The Glamorgan fast bowler Wilkins ran out Robin, backing up. I said to the Glamorgan Captain, Alan Jones, 'do you wish the appeal to stand?', he said 'yes', so I gave him out.

(Tim): I wonder whether Wilkins and Jackman ever discussed that dismissal as they shared the commentary box in South Africa until very recently!

(Tommy): I should have said that on the very next day in the three day game, Robin bowled the first ball of the day at my end to Alan Jones. The ball hit him on his pad, there was a huge appeal with Robin on his knees pleading "Give him out, give him out" with more than the odd choice word included!

(Tim): What are your thoughts about how player behaviour has changed during your time? Do you think Law 42 is a good thing?

(Tommy): Behaviour has changed through the years and has gone worse. In my early days, batsman walked if they got a nick, not so today. Bowlers appealed, you gave not out, they seldom said a word, not so today. Law 42 yes is a good thing. Penalty runs, yes. In the past few years umpires

have been reluctant to step in and award penalty runs and have been slow to adopt the reporting procedure. If we play any cricket this season, I would hope umpires would take action on poor behaviour, according to law 42. The leagues and ECB will take action on reports from umpires.

In conclusion, out of the current first-class list of professional umpires, I have either stood with or observed 10 of the total 33, and 26 out of the 85 on the ECB national panel. In my opinion 12 are not up to this standard and 6 are good enough to join the first-class panel in the next few years!



First-class umpires, 1978

*Standing (from left): Sathyaji Rao, David Evans, Barrie Meyer, Ray Julian, David Constant, Don Oslear, David Halfyard, Tommy, Cec Pepper, Roddy Wilson, Jack van Geloven, Bill Alley, Peter Wight, Ken Palmer, Alan Whitehead
Seated: Ron Aspinall, Sam Cook, Lloyd Budd, Jack Crapp, Dickie Bird, Tom Spencer, Eddie Phillipson, Dusty Rhodes, Arthur Jepson, John Langridge*

Peter Robinson writes:

Colleagues, I was pleased to see in the recent ACO magazine, that Hamish Grant has been promoted to the position of officials Pathway Manager. As well as managing the National Panel and supporting those on the pathway, he will be initiating a progression pathway for women through the women's game.

I have worked regularly with Hamish during his time as an ECB ACO employee and got to know him quite well. He is a top bloke and I know that his appointment will be of great benefit to the association. This is particularly positive for female umpires and proves the ACOs commitment in providing a pathway for women through to the international game.

Members who have registered for U2A can be assured that, in the event of no cricket or insufficient cricket this season, their registration will be carried over to next season. In the meantime, please can I ask again that those of you who have not completed the online U2A exam, please do it as soon as you can and email your certificate to me.

Most of you will already be aware that I have retired as Regional Development Officer. The position has now been filled by Andrew Stancliffe who is also County Development Officer for Cheshire. I will be staying on as County Development Officer for Lancashire.

Quiz - £25 voucher to be won

For each question, decide how many runs are scored and whether a wicket took place. Total up runs and wickets and email tim.mansfield@btinternet.com

The winner will be drawn at random from all the correct answers received.

1. You are at the striker's end. The wicket-keeper puts his gloves in front of the wicket and you call no ball. The striker hits the ball high into the air and it is caught by cover point running back. The batsmen have completed one run, but it appears that the striker hasn't heard the call and he starts to make his way to the pavilion. The fielder throws the ball to the bowler who breaks the wicket and appeals.
2. The bowler oversteps the popping crease with his front foot. The batsman plays a defensive shot, and the ball is spinning towards his wicket. He defends his wicket by tapping the ball away with his bat. A close fielder picks up the ball and seeing the non-striker well out of his ground throws the ball at the bowler's end wicket. The ball hits the wicket and proceeds over the boundary. You are the bowler's end Umpire.
3. From a legitimate delivery, the batsman scoops the ball high into the air, 40 yards behind the stumps. Four fielders converge from different directions and all you can see is a melee of arms and legs as three fielders dive for the ball. One emerges with the ball in his hand. The batsmen have crossed and as the striker doesn't walk you consult your colleague before making a decision on whether a clean catch was completed as you couldn't see. He says he can't be sure either.
4. From a legitimate delivery the striker plays a cover drive towards a distant boundary. The pursuing fielder dives for the ball in front of a group of players from the batting side. They signal four, but the fielder ignores them and throws the ball over the stumps to the wicket-keeper. The batsmen have completed two runs and just crossed on the third, but stop running when they see their teammates signal the boundary. They are both in the middle of the pitch when the wicketkeeper removes the bails and appeals. You are at the striker's end.

RUNS

WKTS

5. From a legitimate delivery the ball removes a single bail and goes on to hit the helmet behind the wicketkeeper.
6. In a cup game where the playing conditions include legside wides, the striker takes a big swing at a ball well down the leg side. He misses but treads on his wicket removing a bail. The wicketkeeper dives for and misses the ball and sets off in pursuit whilst the batsmen run two. On his return to the wicket the striker repairs the wicket. There is no appeal.
7. From a no ball, the batsman fails to make contact with his bat, but the ball grazes his pad and runs down towards fine leg. He has played a shot. The wicketkeeper hares after the ball, dropping his gloves near the stumps. The batsmen have crossed, but then have yes/no confusion and are both at the non-striker's end when the ball is thrown to the striker's end by the wicketkeeper. The short leg fielder has picked up and put on the gloves. He takes the ball cleanly and removes the bails and appeals for the run out with both batsmen arguing at the bowler's end.
8. From a no ball, the striker skies the ball straight up in the air. The batsmen run and as the bowler prepares to make the catch, the striker barges him out of the way. You consult with your colleague and agree that the contact was wilful.
9. The batting side needs one run to complete a victory. The striker is 99 not out. He plays an exquisite cover drive and the batsmen run. They have crossed, but not completed a run when the ball crossed the boundary. How many runs are added to the score?
10. The batsman pads up to a ball which hits the top of his pad, balloons over the wicketkeeper and hits a helmet. In your view no shot was played.

TOTAL RUNS SCORED _____ FOR _____ WKTS