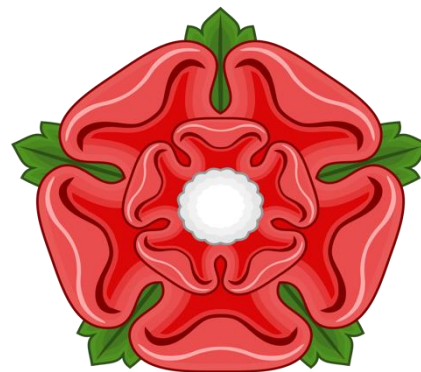


Lancashire Association of Cricket Officials



Newsletter

July 2020

AT LAST!

I am sure that you will all have heard by now that the Government has agreed that recreational cricket can resume on Saturday 11 July. It has been a long 12 weeks since most leagues would have started. The priority now for the game is to ensure that when play does actually commence it is as safe as it can possibly be for all the participants.

The recreational game has been promised guidance from ECB early next week and ECB ACO will also be providing specific guidance for officials via its 'Over and Out' Newsletter. This will be sent to all members directly. As I have said before, all members should read this guidance carefully and understand the precautions that will be taken before making their own informed decision whether to be involved this season. I know some will not feel safe whatever the protocols and this is perfectly reasonable, but I also know that the vast majority are looking forward to some long awaited cricket.

As we have reported in previous Newsletters, we have been very busy in lockdown, in addition to this Newsletter and our Twitter and Facebook accounts we have been working on a new Website which we hope will be launched later this month. We have also produced some

In this month's Newsletter:

**John Egan on scoring in
Visually Impaired Cricket**

**Interview with John Holder
Part 2 – ball tampering and a
tip from the expert**

Steve Jones' Day at Lord's



Education Update

News about CPD resources

**Remember that we are happy
to take contributions on any
cricket related topic, not just
Officiating – deadline for the
August edition is July 22nd**

excellent CPD material which will be available both on line and for tutors' face to face sessions when they are allowed (see separate Article).

Many things will have permanently changed over recent weeks, most for the worst, however, some

benefits will emerge. I believe that as an organisation we leave lockdown in a better position to serve you, our members, than when we entered it all those weeks ago and I look forward to making further improvements to our organisation over the coming months.

I hope you find the Newsletter informative and really enjoy what is left of the season, however you decide to get involved.

I am just off for a much needed haircut!

**Rob Hales LACO
Chairman**



John leaves the field for the final time as a first class umpire

Last month we heard about John Holder's playing days. In part 2 of the interview he tells us about his umpiring career, including controversy at Lord's.

During the week John worked as a supervisor in an asbestos factory, a job

that provided little satisfaction. He missed first class cricket and thought of becoming an umpire, taking the opportunity of a Laws Course at Manchester University Sports' Ground In 1981/2. He started umpiring in the League, and John Savage one of the coaches at Lancashire asked him to do some second team games (these were the days when the counties appointed their own umpires to second team fixtures). John's performances were strong enough for him to get on the reserve list for 1982 and then on the first class list for 1983, where he stayed for 27 seasons. He stood in 11 Test matches and 19 ODIs. John says he loved every minute of it, it was never hard work and gave him the best view of some of the best players in the world.

When I ask John how he developed his skills as an umpire, he is fulsome in his praise for Alan Whitehead who he stood with in an early season game at Fenner's and who became his mentor. All the time, in the breaks in play, and before the game, John drunk in the advice from his senior colleague. He was indebted to his colleagues

and he reels off a list of a list of those he enjoyed standing with and learned from: Barry Meyer ("a great man"), Barry Leadbeater, Nigel Plews ("so helpful to a young umpire"), Arthur Jepson, Bill Alley.... The partnership between the two umpires is a key requirement for an umpire to be successful in John's opinion. If there is one who seeks the limelight then that makes things really difficult.

John feels that self belief and knowledge and application of the Laws are what enabled him to ascend to the international arena, a level of the game that he hadn't been able to attain as a player. I asked him about why there was a gap of 10 years between his tenth and eleventh Test matches. He said it remains a disappointment that an incident in the 1991 Test match at the Oval was held against him, although no one in authority spoke to him about. He relates that on the Saturday morning, he noticed that suddenly there were as many as twelve gouge marks on the ball. He took the ball across to his colleague, Merv Kitchen, who agreed that the England team had changed the condition of the ball.

They called over the England captain, Graham Gooch, who shrugged his shoulders. John regrets not calling for third umpire, Ray Julian, to bring out a box of replacement balls. But John explains that there were no penalties in the Laws at that time for ball tampering. John was devastated that October to be removed from the Test panel. He is obviously still annoyed that a TCCB official claimed erroneously that no ball tampering had been reported by the umpires.

It was to John's surprise that ten years later, out of the blue, he was appointed to stand in the Lord's Ashes Test. He had another good game, receiving good marks from both Steve Waugh and Mike Atherton. From that match he gave an example of the good luck that all umpires need sometimes. Bowling from John's end Andy Caddick and the slips went up for a big appeal against Michael Slater. John admits that he neither saw a deviation nor heard a sound and therefore he would have to say "not out". However, before he could say anything, he noticed Michael Slater had tucked his bat under his arm and was on his way to the pavilion. John says that he looked heavenwards and uttered a thank you to the

Almighty. Mistakes are inevitable he says, but an umpire must never get involved in trying to level things up. There's nothing worse he can do.

John says that since he has retired the changes to the Laws have helped umpires deal with characters like Andre Nel who John says could be more than a handful on the field. These days Law 42 has given umpires tools that they have always needed as it is a myth that cricket is a gentleman's game. Since its inception players have sought any angle, any slight infraction of the Laws that can give them an advantage. John is more ambivalent about the introduction of DRS. He says that it was always going to happen as technology developed and there was a clambering for correct decisions, but it has made the game more impersonal. Talking about the decision towards the end of last year's Headingley when Joel Wilson gave Ben Stokes not out to a Nathan Lyon delivery, John says that it's easy for the experts in the commentary box to criticise the umpire who has only one view and where things happen very quickly. I tell him that I am still not convinced with the naked eye that that ball would have hit the stumps.

John says commentators rarely have a deep knowledge of the Laws. One exception was Ritchie Benaud, who was fully prepared to consult the little blue book to prove that he was right in saying that Mark Waugh should not be out when he threw his bat away after being hit by a bouncer and broke the stumps.

Finally, John says that to be a good umpire you have to want to do the job and be committed to do what is needed to improve your performance. There is no substitute for a good knowledge of the Laws. You have to strive for excellence. He says umpires need to make time for self reflection, work closely with colleagues and look the part. You must dress smartly and never be late. The respect of the players is important, but you have to have confidence in your judgement. Early on in his career he was appointed to stand at Lord's with Roy Palmer for a championship game between Middlesex and Somerset. After a dry spell there was a thunderstorm of epic proportions that flooded the ground. The Somerset captain, Ian Botham, wanted to shake hands and call off the game and was not backward in expressing

this opinion. , On the other hand, his Middlesex counterpart, Mike Gatting, with John Emburey and Phil Edmonds in his side, was desperate for the game to restart. When the umpires deemed it was dry enough the game restarted and sure enough Somerset

collapsed from 78/1 to 119 all out (Edmonds 5/19 and Emburey 4/28). Botham was furious. Middlesex needed 127 to win. Somerset paired left arm spinner, Stephen Booth, with Joel Garner to open the bowling. Within 28 overs, Middlesex were 93 all out with Booth taking a

career best 4/26 and Vic Marks and Jeremy Lloyds chipping in as the Somerset spinners took eight of the wickets. The potential for the unexpected is one of the things which makes the game great.

Tim Mansfield

A Tip From the Expert



John enjoying himself with Jonathan Agnew and Vic Marks On Test Match Special

Here is a tip for the bowler's end umpire to help in picking up the flight of the ball after delivery and as it nears the striker.

It is vitally important to keep your head still as this will aid you in tracking the moving ball. Your head is your camera and if a photographer moves his camera around when taking a picture, a blurred picture will be the result.

How far back you stand will be determined by the speed of the bowler. Standing close to the wicket is not a problem when a spinner is bowling. Because of the low speed of the delivery you have time to watch the popping crease for the foot landing and have time to look up and track the ball as it nears the striker

For the seamers everything happens quicker. You need to stand back far enough to be able to see the bowler's foot land legally but have time to pick up the flight of the ball before it reaches the striker. Here there is no time to move your head. You just raise your eyes while keeping your head still and pick up the flight of the ball.

The above is something you can practice in the nets if you can find a team and try to put it into practice every time you stand.

Education Update

As we all know, life has changed beyond recognition during Covid 19 and The ECB ACO education offer has been no exception to that.

Centrally ECB ACO has been working hard to ensure new and serving umpires have had access to education and training in the cricket less summer and produced an on line Stage 1

course that has had a strong uptake in the county with a wide variety of prospective umpires from current international cricketers through to junior players unable to access their game. There were also current umpires who used the course as a refresher and a good number who looked as though they would be joining the ranks of panel umpiring for 2021. We look forward to welcoming them all.

Not all of these will go on to umpire in the near future, but the seed has been sown and the next target nationally is to try and produce an on line Stage 2 for people to access in the period up to Christmas in preparation for the 2021 season. These courses are likely to have some form of tutor input and the hope is that things will be much clearer by the second half of July.

We also hope that it will be possible to run some face to face courses at the start of 2021 and this will be the time when we can, all things being well, re run the Stage 3 course which missed the boat in March and perhaps run an additional Stage 3 should there be sufficient demand.

In the meantime, look forward to enjoying whatever cricket there might be over the next couple of months.

David Chaloner, LACO Education Officer

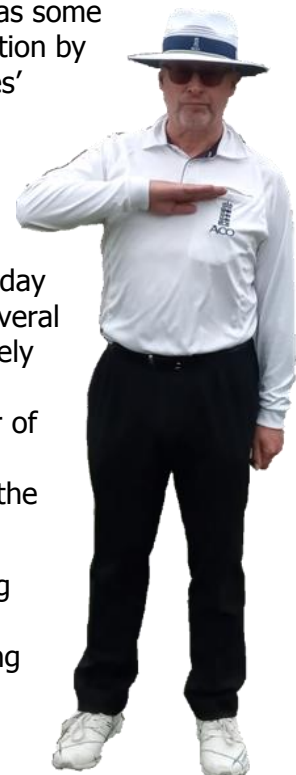
A Day Umpiring at Lord's

On Sunday 4th September 2016, it was my privilege to umpire the National Village Final at Lord's. I have been asked to share an account of the day.

I was invited to officiate in this fixture in an email from Nick Cousins who, at the time, was the Chief Executive Officer of ECBACO. I have to be honest and say that my initial reaction to the message was that it was a wind-up; I could, after all, have thought of several potential culprits in this regard. But as I examined the message, I soon concluded that it was indeed genuine. I wondered how I had got the fixture; and it was some time later that I discovered that I had been nominated for consideration by Peter Robinson, a good friend who had run the succession of umpires' courses I had completed in preceding years.

Having checked my diary and seeing that I could be free, I responded to the invitation in the affirmative. Shortly after, the plans began to take shape. I was informed of the hotel arrangements and then made plans to travel to London on the Saturday afternoon. At the last minute, the hotel was changed, along with several other arrangements, which rather gave the impression of a not entirely co-ordinated operation in London. I was told that we would be provided with some kit: a shirt, jacket, counter and one or two other of the normal umpiring accoutrements; but I took all my own stuff anyway, just to be on the safe side. As it turned out, this aspect of the whole operation was efficiency itself.

After a meal and couple of pints in the hotel on the Saturday evening (not part of the expenses package), it was an early-ish night. There was a decent breakfast and then it was a matter of getting everything ready for the day. A taxi arrived and off we went to Lord's. My colleague was a chap called Keith Saunders, from the West of England Premier League. We had been instructed to enter the



ground by a certain gate, but when we arrived there the gatekeeper was taken wholly by surprise and wouldn't let us in. The impression of chaos returned at not quite the best time. We were then asked to go to another gate, right round the other side of the ground where, once again, a lengthy discussion ensued with the man on the gate before he would allow us entry. Apparently, the large umpiring bags and my jackets were not enough, on their own, to convince him that we really were the umpires for the game.

Once inside the ground, though, these various irritations soon receded. We were welcomed warmly by a number of officials, including representatives of the sponsors (Davidstow). We met the scorer, who explained the sophistications of the scoreboard to us, and told that Duckworth Lewis 'would run in the background throughout' (there was a risk of rain interruption, though it never actually happened).

Then we were taken to the dressing rooms within the Lord's Pavilion, an area of the building complete with a 'sentry' at the entrance. Each time we passed through the main door to this area, he was in dutiful attendance, providing not only material security but a sense of assurance and service. By way of aside, the umpires' room at Lord's does not look out over the playing area.

Having got changed – and here I have to admit that all the kit was there, in the correct sizes, so my scrupulous preparation wasn't needed; in fact, there was also an ECBACO umbrella and suit cover – we went out to walk the boundary and do all the normal pre-match duties. Naturally, everything was in order; and, as we walked the boundary, we were stopped for a lengthy conversation with a league umpire who expressed his jealousy towards us for having the fixture. Returning to the pavilion, we were collared for photographs with the two teams, Sessay and Sibton Park.



Sessay, from near Thirsk in North Yorkshire, were from the York and District Senior League, and were Village Cup champions in 2010, progressing without apparent difficulty to the final again this time around. Sibton Park, from Lyminge in the Folkestone area of Kent, play in the Kent Regional Cricket League. They had had something of a battle to get to Lord's, having won the last three games in the competition by one wicket, five runs and two runs; but they had the cup's outstanding all-rounder, Ben Allon, who topped the batting and bowling tables.

Then it was time for the toss, during which we were surrounded by photographers. Although the skies were overcast and the pitch green, Sessay elected to bat.

The game turned out to a one-sided affair, as Sessay clocked up a record score of 307 for 5 in their allocated 40 overs. Then innings was dominated by Simon Mason, coming in at number three. He hit 138 in 110 balls, the highest individual score in Village Cup finals, being well-supported by Nick Harrison (69) and Jacob Spencer, with a quick-fire unbeaten 48.

And so to lunch. This was a sit-down affair, with table service. There was a range of options, including roast beef and Yorkshire pudding, into which the players tucked with enthusiasm. My colleague and I, with older digestive systems, were moderate with our intake, remembering what we were taught on our respective courses about the dangers of over-indulgence during intervals.



The second innings was always likely to be something of an anti-climax; and so it proved, with Sibton Park subsiding from 51 for 1 to 55 for 5, by which time, the outcome of the game was very definitely sealed. The only real, though brief, resistance came from Ben Allon who, having conceded 83 off his nine overs with the ball, hit a brutal 70 which included four successive sixes and seven sixes in all.

At the end of the game, there were the customary presentations, including the man-of-the-match award to the obvious winner, the Sessay centurion Simon Mason.

On our return to the umpires' room, there was a large plate of wraps waiting for us on the table; but neither of us was hungry. It didn't seem long since lunch and we knew that there was a five-course meal in the Long Room later. What was very welcome, however, was the free bar which ran from the end of the game until the start of the evening dinner. This afforded many opportunities for cricket-talk with people from the respective clubs and, indeed, from all over the country. After the very enjoyable evening meal, we were addressed by Graham Gooch as a very memorable day drew to its close.

Steve Jones

vill2402

Sessay v Sibton Park

The Davidstow National Village Cup 2016 (Final)

Venue

Lord's Cricket Ground, St John's Wood on 4th September 2016 (40-over match)

Balls per over

6

Toss

Sessay won the toss and decided to bat

Result

Sessay won by 119 runs

Umpires

S Jones, K Saunders

Scorers

D Langstaff (Sessay), Q Smith (Sibton Park)

Sessay innings

RunsBallsMins4s6s

*M Wilkie

b Lewis

918141-

MC Till

b Lewis

1632542-

SR Mason

b Allon

138110125193

NJ Harrison

c Bishop b Murrell

695871102

JK Spencer

not out

48182653

NJ Thorne

run out (HJ Wren)

124--

TA Hall

not out

127--

+CJ Till

did not bat

L Carver

did not bat

SM Peirse

did not bat

SJ Langstaff

did not bat

Extras

(2 b, 3 lb, 20 w)

25

Total

(5 wickets, innings closed, 154 minutes, 40 overs)

307

Fall of wickets:

1-16 (Wilkie, 3.6 ov), 2-73 (MC Till, 15.5 ov), 3-229 (Harrison, 34.2 ov), 4-265 (Mason, 37.3 ov), 5-272 (Thorne, 38.2 ov)

Sibton Park bowling

OversMdnsRunsWktsWidesNo-Balls

Rowe

915403-

Lewis

913721-

Allon

918311-

Dunham

40350--

Murrell

808012-

HJ Wren

101303-

Sibton Park innings

RunsBallsMins4s6s

TC Bishop

c Harrison b Peirse

2531396-

GP Bingham

lbw b Peirse

1114192-

TR Dunham

c Harrison b Peirse

96142-

BJ Allon

c and b MC Till

70548347

+SRR Hickmott

b Wilkie

069--

HJ Wren

b Wilkie

242--

JC Woodward

b Langstaff

1943522-

MS Wren

c Peirse b MC Till

2025302-

*SW Rowe

c Spencer b Carver

1428321-

S Murrell

lbw b MC Till

021--

TD Lewis

not out

1811--

Extras

(2 lb, 15 w)

17

Total

(all out, 153 minutes, 36.5 overs)

188

Fall of wickets:

1-23 (Bingham, 4.5 ov), 2-51 (Dunham, 8.1 ov), 3-52 (Bishop, 8.5 ov), 4-53 (Hickmott, 11.1 ov), 5-55 (HJ Wren, 11.5 ov), 6-127 (Woodward, 24.6 ov), 7-154 (Allon, 27.4 ov), 8-176 (MS Wren, 33.3 ov), 9-177 (Murrell, 33.6 ov), 10-188 (Rowe, 36.5 ov)

Sessay bowling

OversMdnsRunsWktsWidesNo-Balls

Peirse

912136-

Hall

503703-

Wilkie

40312--

Carver

5.514512-

Langstaff

903612-

MC Till

40163--

Scoring in Visually Impaired (VI) Cricket.



Having read Hughie's article in the last issue I thought I might offer a view from the scorers table when playing VI cricket. I joined at the same time at Hughie, and only wish I had taken this route a lot earlier in my scoring career. Scoring these games are a joy. The camaraderie of all players and officials is without question. Players never question an umpire's decision, they make not like it, but they get on with it. I have been welcomed and made part of a fantastic club of players, and club officials. It's without the best thing I have ever taken part in. I have travelled all over our country, on my own, with players in the car, and in the team bus. Its no different from going on a trip with sighted players. Lots of jokes, music, mickey-taking. You

know the score. We even play cards with special card off course. There are some dead pan poker players out there! So here we go.

FROM THE SCORERS TABLE.

I had done the assimilation course, and as promised the email arrived.

"You have been appointed to score the game Northants Steelbacks v Lancashire Lions..."

the usual details, ground etc were included so on the appointed date in 2017 I set off to pastures new using my recently purchased Sat Nav for the first time. It proved to be outstanding, as did the Sat Nav.

Reporting to the umpires, 2 extremely experienced BCEW (more of this later) panel members, I found my scoring position. Sightscreens had been moved away; a boundary was marked with a rope but no flags. The ball and spares were inflated to the correct pressure. The plastic stumps just needed to be pitched. Both teams were ready, we all set to go.

Balls inflated, no sightscreens, and plastic wickets, what kind of cricket uses this kind of items? Easy: its VI cricket, that's Visually Impaired to you and I. Incidentally pads are not used either. The players, male and female wear batting gloves, abdominal protection, and helmets that's it.

Its basically the same game played in red ball cricket with a few tweaks to allow the VI to play the game safely. The ball is actually a size 3 football with ball-bearings in it so that it makes a noise when its in play. The stumps are remarkably similar to those in Kwik Cricket, but solid and made of plumbers' waste pipe. Very Hi-Tech.

Players are broken into 4 categories depending on their sight: if any.

B1 No sight they wear a blindfold, and a black wrist band

B2 Low partial sight, wear a yellow wrist band

B3 Mid Partial sight wear a green wrist band

B4 High partial sight wear a red wrist band

B1 players obviously have a runner as do some of the B2 players. Players with physical disabilities in addition to sight ones also make use of a runner.

B1 players cannot be stumped; they also have 2 chances at LBW. A legitimate catch can be made, even if the ball bounces once. When receiving a delivery, that ball must bounce at least twice. But the biggest variation is that every run a B1 player makes off the bat counts as 2 on his and the team score. Therefore, a boundary 4 means 8, and so on. I have actually recorded a B1 player making 16 runs of one delivery. Overthrows are common, so it's prudent not to register a score until the ball is definitely dead. Anything can happen, ask Ben Stokes!



In order to integrate all players, certain rules of competition are in place. At least one B1 player must bat in the top 3, and when bowling, B1 players must bowl a minimum of 3 overs in the first 10 of an innings.

The usual competitions 20/20 as well as other fixed over games are played nationwide. A specific development league is run on Sundays when younger players

are encouraged and introduced to the game. Guide Dogs although not allowed to play, are enthusiastic watchers of the game. What dog does not like to chase a ball? But the high level of training means that they do sit still and keep a lonely scorer company.

The basic format of a game in the National league is played over 60 overs. The team batting first can bat for any number of overs between 28 and 40. The team batting second having 20 or what is left to get the score. This is where shrewd captaincy comes in. Bat/bowl declare/or not.

How is the game played? Let's assume that a B1 player is batting and a B3 player bowling.

The batsman comes to the wicket assisted by his runner. (Runner rules are the same) He/she will be given his guard by the runner and will get his bearings by touching the stumps.

When ready, the wicketkeeper takes over by being asked by the bowler to give him a verbal target. He/she will clap and shout "Off Stump, Off, Stump, Off Stump" (or whatever). The bowler now asks the batter if he/she is ready, and when given the go-ahead, will call "PLAY" as he/she releases the ball.

Fielding is also slightly different. A "safe" area is marked forward of the wicket. All players must be behind these markers. Usually a B1 player will field here because they are unable to chase a ball. But that does not mean they are not agile, far from it. They are also extremely tough players being literally "in the firing line". throughout the course of a game. Its more than likely that they will be struck by a ball, sometimes quite hard. Do we get any histrionics from them? Not in the least, the players are more frustrated at possibly having dropped a catch! They breed us Britons hard.

As I stated earlier this is a dangerous area, so there are safety protocols in place. If the umpire feels that the ball is moving in the path of any player, he will call "WIDE" which is followed immediately by "DEAD BALL"

Everybody stands still, no runs are allowed, except for the wide delivery. I have never seen any player struck inadvertently by a bat. The system works the players are safe. Bowling also comes under a law revue appertaining to it. The bowler's arm does not come into the equation at all, neither do the feet. The most important issue is that the ball pitches beyond the line marked, (similar to indoor cricket) and bounces the requisite number of times depending on the sight category of the facing batsman. heard one of the children ask his parent, "What game are they playing Dad" The father pointed to me and said, "Ask this gentleman" to which I

replied "Cricket" The young man was astonished. I ended up explaining the basics of the game to him and he asked when the next game was so that he could come and watch. That's what this format of the game encourages and promotes. Enjoyment excitement and above all pleasure for player and spectator alike.

Returning to the top of the article and BCEW. This stands for "Blind Cricket England & Wales".

And this is the only time I will use the "B" word. The players who participate in this game are Visually Impaired, and that's how I refer to them. In today's politically current world any other disability has its own is and extremely specific term attributed to the category. Thus, should it be here.

John Egan

Scorer Lancashire Lions VI Cricket Team.

Continuing Professional Development

Continuing Professional Development or CPD is something that we should all, however experienced, be undertaking. I once read an article by a First Class Umpire who said that he takes a different Law each month and studies it so that he is continually refreshing his knowledge.

At both National and County level we have been poor at providing material for our members to use, generally leaving them to their own devices, but I am pleased to say that has now changed. You may have seen over recent months some modules of CPD on the National 'Over and Out' Newsletter from ACO at Edgbaston and we have now developed as a County ACO a range of seven excellent presentations that can be used either by tutors for face to face presentation or, if members prefer, they are available on line with full commentary.

So while we have all been enjoying the sun over recent weeks our County Development Officer Peter Robinson, when not tending his beloved square at Carnforth CC, has spent many days producing these excellent CPD modules for our use.

There are currently seven stand-alone modules covering: Decision Making; Positioning Safe & Best; Positioning at Bowlers End; Positioning at Strikers End; Running Out the Non Striker; Short Pitched Deliveries and Full Pitched Above Waist High Deliveries

Each one is professionally produced by Peter with a 'voiceover' for use at home which can be removed when tutors use them for 'face to face' presentations. When we launch our new

website the links will be available and we will offer the links to each league to host on their own websites so that everyone, players, club officials and our members can access them and improve their knowledge.

We hope you enjoy them and would welcome feedback both on these and any other topics you would like us to cover in the future.

Finally, a huge thank you to Peter Robinson I don't think anyone else in the County (possibly the Country) could have produced such an excellent series.

Rob Hales (going for that haircut)

