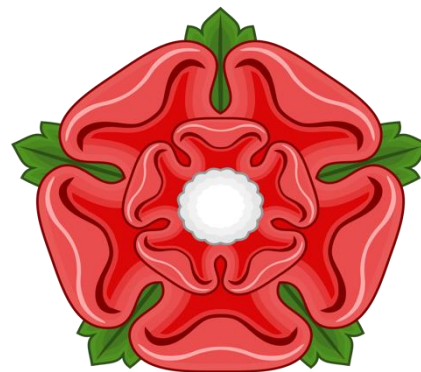


Lancashire Association of Cricket Officials



Newsletter
October 2020

Chairman's Introduction

To borrow a phrase from the ECB it was 'a cricket season like no other!'
As I reflect on the 2020 season it is with one of immense pride. Throughout the county our members rose to the occasion and supported recreational cricket such that all our leagues were able to successfully run their revised programmes. The feedback I have received in person, on social media and in the cricket press has been overwhelmingly positive and we can all be very proud of our efforts. Off the field we also used the lockdown to great effect not only do did we expand our Newsletter and our presence on social media, Twitter and Facebook, we also developed an excellent website:

LancashireACO.wordpress.com.

If you haven't yet done so, please take a look and particularly check the CPD pages where we are constantly adding new modules to help you keep your skills updated.

As I write this virtually all of our members (with the exception of those in Greater Manchester) are under Tier 3 of the new COVID restrictions. It is hard to see this changing in the short term and David Chaloner our Education Officer explains the impact of this on our 2020/21 Autumn/Winter Training programme below. It is

In this month's Newsletter:

**David Chaloner's Training
Update**

John Holder on Ball Tampering



**Launch of Nigel Plews'
biography**

**A look back to the 1970/1
Ashes**

vital for the health of cricket that this lack of 'face to face' training doesn't result in a shortage of new people coming forward to take up both umpiring and scoring. If all our members could encourage just one person to sign up for the free Stage 1 Umpire Online Training programme or the Scorers course, this would have a major impact on our numbers. So please see if you know someone who would be interested and refer them to the links on our website or put them in touch with me for more information.

We have a fascinating article on the subject of ball tampering with once again our former President and Test Match Umpire John Holder sharing his experiences with us, I am sure many of you will remember some of the incidents he mentions. I would like to thank John for his continuing support of LACO and this Newsletter I always look forward to reading his contributions.

I particularly enjoyed the 'Endpiece' as it reminded me of the first overseas Ashes series that I can recall, John Snow's performances were just immense. Remember if you want to contribute an article on any cricketing topic we are always grateful for contributions. Enjoy the Newsletter and please stay safe in these trying times, if you have any questions don't hesitate to contact me.

Rob Hales

David Chaloner writes:

As with all areas of our lives, Covid 19 has provoked changes on how we have worked and how we will be able to work for the foreseeable future.

The first educational casualty of the pandemic was the postponement of the Stage 3 course which was to have been held over two Sundays in March 2020. The only possible silver lining of this is that we, unlike some counties, have not been left with the predicament of having tutored half a course, but Stage 3 for 2021 will provide a significant challenge.

As you will know, at this point all face to face tutoring ceased and appears unlikely to resume before the 2021-2 educational season.

National ACO Response

Nationally ACO was quick off the mark in producing an on line Stage 1 course, which has had huge take up throughout the country and has been well supported in Lancashire. It gives the benefit of candidates' contacts, where they have chosen, coming directly to Lancs ACO and Rob Hales undertook to write to each candidate to invite them to Stage 2.

Stage 2, however, has taken longer to develop. The better news, however, is that Lancs ACO has been chosen as a pilot area for Stage 2 and Rob Hales and myself have been trained initially to deliver the course and to run one of two initial courses in the country. The first course has been registered and promptly filled. The first tutor led sessions begin on Sunday 25th October.

The next stage will then be to train other tutors who have expressed an interest and to register more Stage 2 courses when we get the green light from ACO nationally. These will be advertised through our website and on ECB ACO national portal.

There is also talk nationally of an on line Stage 3. Personally, I am not sure of the viability of this notion. The most important aspects of Stage 3 will be extremely difficult to replicate on line, particularly the interaction with colleagues from other areas of the county from whom so much can be learned. On the other hand we do have a backlog of people who missed out earlier in the year and others keen to participate.

Watch this space.

For the future, it is to be welcomed that ECB ACO has re-affirmed that face to face courses will remain their 'gold standard', but that the online courses will remain as an alternative.

Lancashire ACO

As mentioned in the Chairman's report, the creation of the new website and creation of resources by Peter Robinson has been invaluable during this period, as has been the support and guidance of several committee members.

We are waiting to see how the new 'blended on line Stage 2 course runs' before finally formulating a new strategy for education. Some existing Tutors have already volunteered for on line training and we look to have enough volunteers to cover the county for Stage 2. It is worth pointing out that those booking the courses will not need to restrict themselves to appointing local, on line tutors. If there is someone in the county they wish to use for a particular module because of their expertise, this would be welcomed.

In terms of our on line offer, it may well be the case that in the longer term we go outside our tried and tested expertise and recruit those for whom online training and communication is second nature rather than a laboriously learned technique.



One of the slides from the Best Practice module

We will need to ensure via our local structures that new panel candidates are given some additional support, hopefully face to face, prior to the 2021 season in order to explain more fully fieldcraft techniques. The 'Best Practice' module that Peter Robinson has produced and which is on the website will be an excellent starting point for those meetings

David Chaloner
Lancashire ACO Education Officer

Ball Tampering

One of the things that we are urged to do as umpires is to monitor the condition of the ball at all times and be vigilant to any attempt to alter its condition. This has been more difficult during the adapted play in 2020. There were marked inconsistencies about the approach taken by captains to the cleaning of the ball every 20 minutes or six overs. I know that on one occasion I had to insist that a wipe be used as the captain was about to apply hand gel to the ball. He said (as he would) "well the umps last week allowed it."

I remembered that occasion when reading this week that Sussex have been docked 24 points after the county admitted the application of hand sanitiser to the ball by Mitch Claydon, an offence which also led to the player receiving a nine game ban. Whilst the COVID-19 regulations have brought new challenges, ball tampering has taken place almost certainly for as long as the game has been played as **John Holder**, former Test umpire reflected recently drawing on his own experience.

He says: I recently watched on TV an interview between Charles Colville, Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis and Ramiz Raja in which the vexed subject of ball tampering was discussed. Wasim said that it was not illegal because Imran would never have done anything illegal and Waqar said that he had never scratched the ball. The answer to the question from Charles was that Pakistan never scratched the ball and that what they did was within the laws.

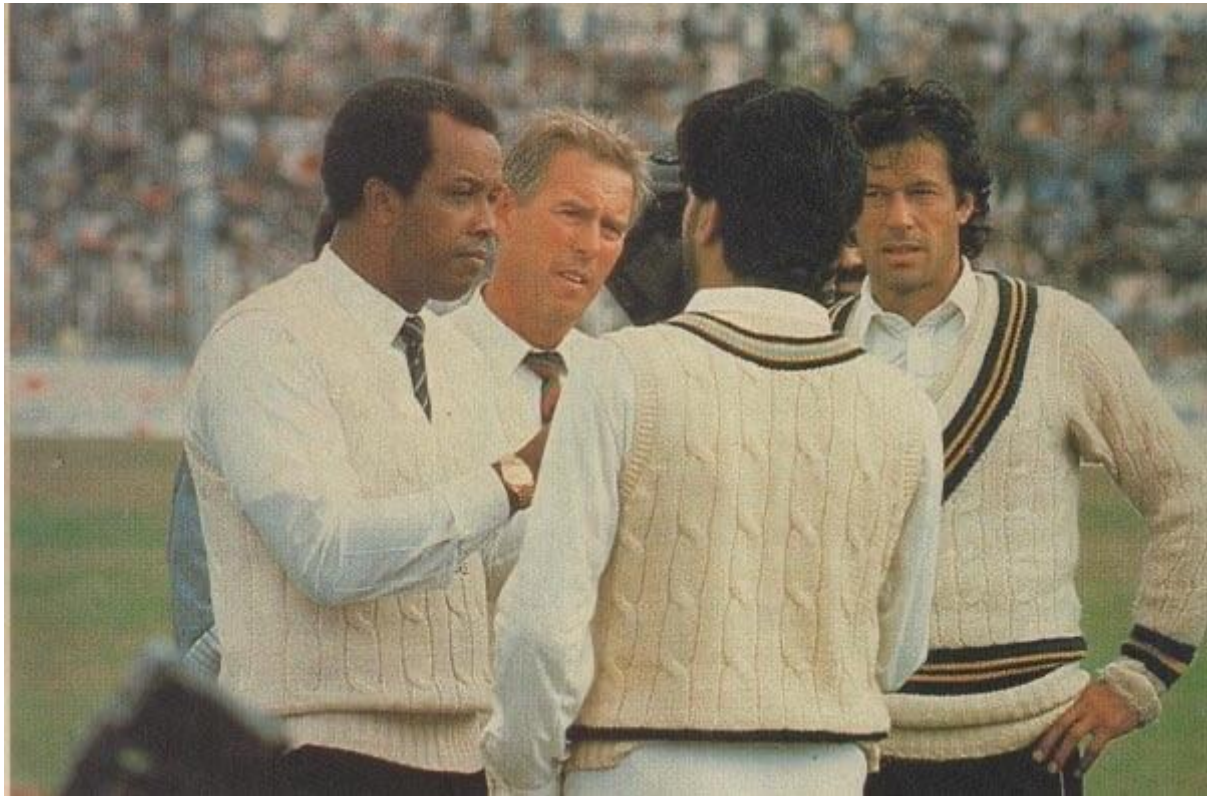
The first experience of ball tampering to enable reverse swing was in a county match at Hove, where Sussex were the hosts. This happened early in my umpiring career in the mid 80's. It was in the final innings of a 3 day match, with the hosts fielding.

Imran bowled the first over with a brand new from the sea end where my colleague Barrie Meyer was standing. No runs had been scored and the 5th ball was pushed defensively to John Barclay the home captain who was standing at mid off. He picked the ball up, looked quizzically at it, then handed it to Barrie.

Barrie examined the ball and walked towards me at square leg. He tossed the ball to me and said "Have a look at that, John". I caught the ball, immediately feeling that it had gone out of shape but to my utter amazement there were 2 parallel cuts from seam to seam on one side. The cuts looked as if they had been made by a crimped bottle top.

Barrie said to Barclay that it was clear that the ball had gone out of shape but could he explain the cuts on the ball. Barclay shrugged his shoulder and denied any knowledge of the cuts. It was so obvious that the cuts on the ball had been done deliberately that Barrie and I refused to change the ball, handing it back to Barclay. We did eventually change it after almost 40 overs because it was so soft as to inconvenience the batsmen.

In 1989 John Hampshire and I went to Pakistan to stand in the 4 Test series with India. Imran captained the hosts, with Srikanth leading the visitors. Waqar played alongside Wasim and Ramiz. Both teams openly scratched the ball. It became such a problem that John and I held a meeting with both captains, coaches and managers. We stressed that deliberately changing the condition of the ball was illegal, it continued.



John with colleague John Hampshire in serious discussion with the captains of India and Pakistan in 1989

The problem for John and I was that the law was weak. It lacked teeth. All we could do was to change the tampered ball for one of similar condition. Now, umpires can award penalty runs for the transgression, ban the bowler for the remainder of the innings and report him and his captain. So all players on both teams were aware that what they were doing was illegal.

In 1991 I stood in the Oval Test between England and the Windies. My colleague was Merv Kitchen. In that match I had to speak to Graham Gooch during the pre lunch session on Saturday because England had scratched the ball. My match report to the Board contained details of what had happened.

A few days after the Oval Test, Merv and I umpired an Under 19 Test between England and Australia at Grace Road. The Aussies steamrolled the hosts to defeat in three days. In the fourth innings England, facing a huge total, lost their 8th wicket to Michael Kasprovicz bowling from the far end. The Aussie fielders gathered in the gully area and Merv and I met for a brief chat. The new batsman reached the crease and as I walked back to square leg, I saw Kasprovicz lifting the seam of the ball as he walked back to his mark. I stopped and informed my colleague. Merv said that there was only one ball left in the over. The ball was bowled and played to Greg Blewett at leg gully.

Walking in from square leg, I asked Blewett for the ball. On catching it, it was evident that Kasprovicz had used a fingernail to raise the seam of the ball right round. Merv was

furious and said to Damien Martyn the Aussie captain, "You are winning the f...ing match and still have to resort to cheating". We changed the ball for an older one but the visitors won easily.

After the match the Aussie coach came to our room to ask what had happened. We told him what had happened and that we were reporting it to our Board. He was ok with that.

A few years later Kasprowicz came to England as the Essex overseas player. Early that season Jack Bond and I went to Stockton to umpire a county match between Durham and Essex. On the first day the visitors racked up a big total, with Gooch scoring heavily.

In the bar after close of play I chatted at length with Paul Pritchard and Michael Kasprowicz. Kaspar sheepishly brought up the incident at Leicester where he had picked the seam of the ball and apologised, saying he did not know why he had done it. Pritchard then said that all Aussies are cheating bastards, whereupon we all laughed.

Next morning Essex declared at their overnight total. Kaspar came to my end to bowl the first over. After handing me his cap and sweater he gave me a piece of sandpaper, a razor blade and a bottle top, while laughing loudly. I thought that was very funny and had a good laugh.

From the late 80's ball tampering to achieve reverse swing became a big problem in the game. Players used their fingernails, crimped bottle tops, resin crystals, skimmed the ball on rough areas of the field and other illegal implements to rough up one side of the ball. This caused much comment, criticism and bad blood within the game.

The Test match at the Oval in 2008 where England was awarded the match because Pakistan had scratched the ball caused great controversy. All four umpires, Billy Doctrove, Daryl Hair, Peter Hartley and Trevor Jesty told me that there was no doubt that the Pakistanis had scratched the ball, despite having been warned by the on field umpires previously. Daryl Hair was vilified, abused and eventually sacked for doing his job properly. The lack of support for him by ICC was a disgrace. Officials were burying their heads in the sand and pretending that everything in the garden was rosy.



More recently there was the scandal of the Aussies tampering with the ball in a Test match in South Africa. This was a glaring example of arrogance and stupidity by the visitors. All international matches are televised and are covered by dozens of super efficient, high speed cameras. For players and umpires on the field, you have no idea if and when the camera or cameras are focused on you. Over recent years several players have been caught tampering with the ball on camera and penalised. So it was stupid and arrogant for the Aussies to do what they did and they deserved their punishment.

During this summer's Test matches between England, the Windies and Pakistan, commentators have frequently commented on the lack of reverse swing for the fast bowlers. The reality is that the roughing up of one side of the ball was achieved by illegal methods, during a time when the law was toothless. That has changed and umpires have the power to award 5 penalty runs to the batting side, ban the bowler for the remainder of the innings, bowl an extra ball for the infringement and report the culprit and his captain. The presence of TV cameras increases the chance of being caught.

Many thanks once again to John for giving us his insights from the very pinnacle of the professional game. It is interesting that 20 years ago, albeit in a joke, that the Australians were associating ball tampering with sandpaper!

With plenty of cricket on the television to watch from the IPL (for those with a Sky subscription) it is interesting to note the differences between elite cricket and good standard league cricket. I have noticed more players prepared to try reverse sweets, scoops and the ramp shots and that some of them have become adept at playing the shots. What we don't tend to see is the boundary fielder parrying the ball, regaining his balance and returning to the field of play to catch the ball. One of the more counter intuitive Laws is that as long as the player's first contact with the ball was when his last grounding was within the field of play, he can subsequently be grounded in the playing area and jump into the air to

parry the ball either for himself to catch within the boundary or to a fellow fielder. Has anyone experienced this in a local match?

The relevant Law is

19.5.2 A fielder who is not in contact with the ground is considered to be grounded beyond the boundary if his/her final contact with the ground, before his/her first contact with the ball after it has been delivered by the bowler, was not entirely within the boundary.

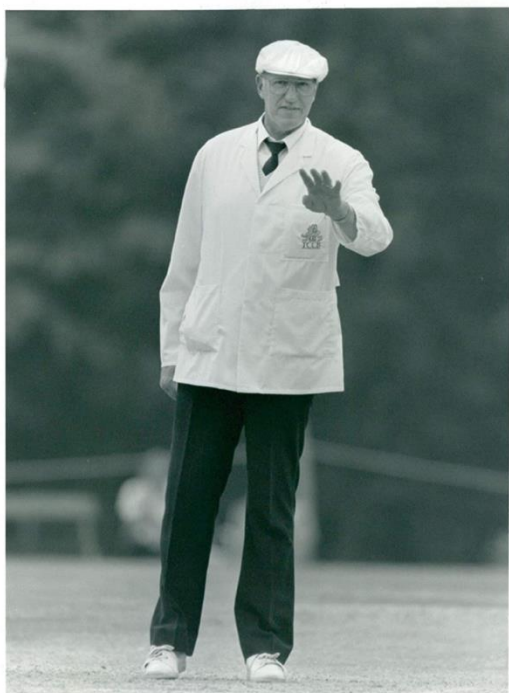
Peter Robinson writes:

With only half a season's cricket being played, the mentoring and assessment programme has been challenging. The leagues however have really stepped up to the mark with mentoring and as a result of this we have been able to successfully assess 13 members at U2A and 1 at U3A.

I attended a Zoom meeting with the new RDO and it was clear that the ACO are focussing on female umpires with a clear pathway through the women's game. I think this is an area where Lancashire is very weak and we need to come up with new initiatives to attract women into umpiring.

"A Tall Story: The Life of Nigel Plews"

This biography of the former first class umpire, written by Glamorgan scorer and ACO member, Andrew Hignell will be virtually launched via ZOOM on November 7th at 10am. A Tall Story is the latest book from the ACS Cricket Witness series. It is based on the life and times of Nigel Plews, the Nottingham policeman who became one of world cricket's most respected umpires, despite never having played at professional level. After retiring from the Fraud Squad, Nigel stood in first-class cricket from 1981 until 1999, officiating in 11 Tests, 16 one-day internationals and many major one-day games and cup finals.



This book, written in conjunction with Nigel's family, draws on the diaries and notebooks which he kept assiduously throughout his distinguished career, starting with his days umpiring in league cricket in the East Midlands. Tragically, Nigel was diagnosed with inoperable kidney cancer in 2007; during the final years of his life, with the help of his wife and children, he collated his memoirs, the basis of this fascinating book.

A number of speakers will be making short presentations, including the author, Andrew Hignell, members of Nigel's family and former colleagues from Nottingham Police, as well as Neil Bainton, another man who has progressed from the recreational game to the first-class umpires' list, and who has written the foreword.

The event is open to all ACO members, free of charge. To register please email secretary@acscricket.com to receive the joining instructions. Please advise your members accordingly if you think that they may be interested.

Karen Knott writes:

The level 2 scorers' course in March had to be cancelled due to the lockdown and participants given the option of a refund. The same applied to the club scorer level one course. One

candidate wanted to continue having done the on line course already so on the advice of Heather Vernon, the National scorers officer she was given the paper work to begin filling in , as well as a refund , in case we got some cricket. Others said they would rather wait.



Unfortunately, the two matches arranged for two of our young scorers to shadow John Egan at Lancashire age group matches had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. It's hoped to be arranged next season. My thanks go to John for helping with this.

There will be no face to face scoring courses until the new year.

There have been seven candidates who have taken the on line scoring course and asked for more information about how to progress further.

Sue Drinkwater , has run several tutorials relating to scoring on You Tube under the heading of "runswktsovers "which have been very informative, ranging from DL for Ipads and phones, linear scoring and the use of the laptop based programme play cricket scorer pro. They are still available should anyone want to refer to them.

Membership Update

As of last month, there were 553 LACO members. Numbers appear to be stable although there were 39 still to renew, 12 had left, and there were 8 applications in progress

Endpiece

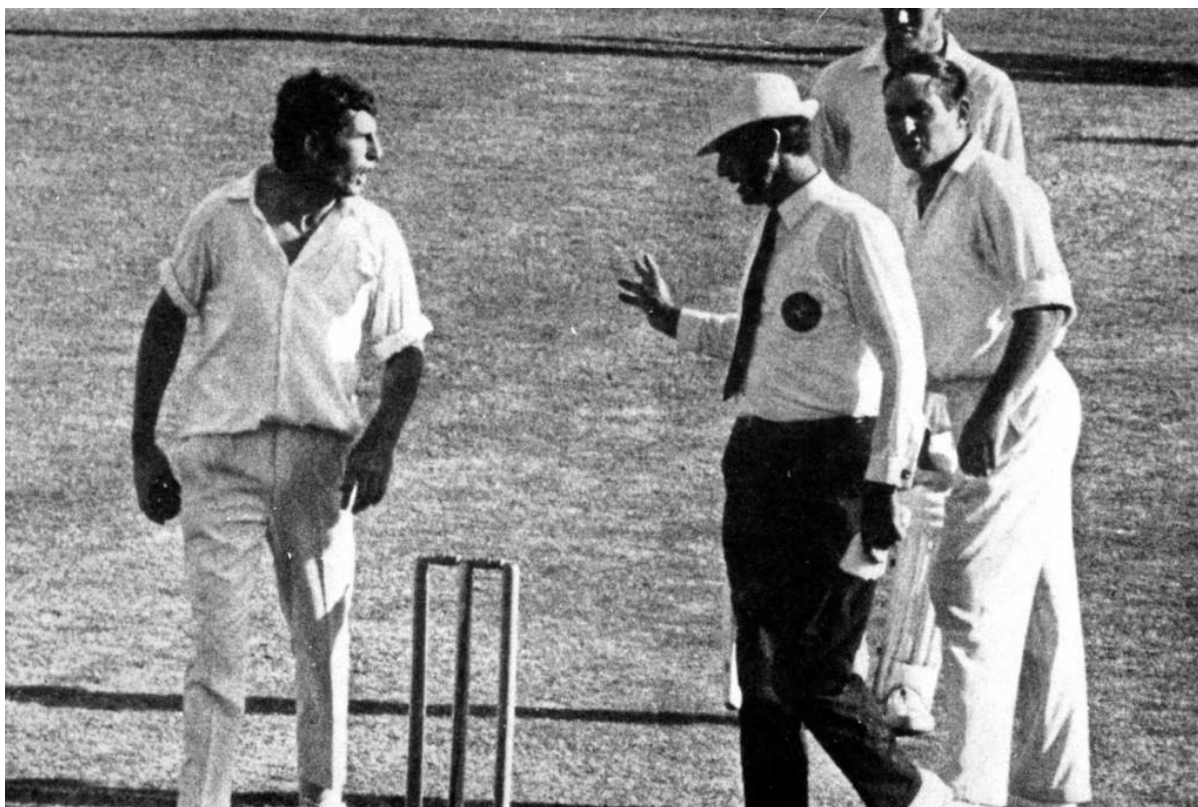
This winter will see the 50th anniversary of one of the most momentous England successes in Australia. Ray Illingworth led England to a 2-0 series win in the only seven match test series in cricket history. This was because one of the test matches was completely rained off



and an extra match was arranged to replace it. The abandoned match was not a complete waste of time, because the final day was used for the first ever one-day International.

England had a mixture of vastly experienced players and rookies, well led by a brilliant captain who managed to get the best out of players like Geoff Boycott, John Edrich and John Snow who were arguably at their peak of their powers. Before the days of large tour groups following England abroad this is presumably an ex-pat in transports of delight at England's triumph.

Incredibly during the six Tests, not a single leg before wicket appeal was upheld by the umpires in England's favour. Indeed it was at times a rancorous series with the ill feeling between Illingworth and Australian umpire, Lou Rowan, perhaps only exceeded since by Mike Gatting and Shakoor Rana.



Rowan umpired six of the seven tests and there were arguments throughout: about a run out not given, use of the roller (where Rowan conceded that he made an error and apologised) and short pitched bowling by Snow. In the final test, a spectator grabbed John Snow, who was fielding on the boundary. Snow also had beer cans thrown at him. Illingworth, concerned for the safety of his players, let them from the ground. Rowan insisted that they either resume the game or forfeit the match. After persuasion from the England manager, Illingworth agreed to restart the game.

The England series averages were:

England batting averages

Player	Mat	Inns	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	BF	SR	100	50	0	4s	6s
G Boycott	5	10	3	657	142*	93.85	1750	37.54	2	5	0	61	0
JH Edrich	6	11	2	648	130	72.00	1733	37.39	2	4	0	63	0
BW Luckhurst	5	9	1	455	131	56.87	1232	36.93	2	2	1	46	0
R Illingworth	6	10	1	333	53	37.00	950	35.05	0	1	0	40	0
BL D'Oliveira	6	10	0	369	117	36.90	997	37.01	1	2	1	32	2
APE Knott	6	9	2	222	73	31.71	656	33.84	0	1	0	18	0
KWR Fletcher	5	9	0	225	80	25.00	701	32.09	0	1	1	21	0
JA Snow	6	7	1	141	38	23.50	452	31.19	0	0	0	15	0
JH Hampshire	2	4	0	92	55	23.00	226	40.70	0	1	0	10	0

MC Cowdrey	3	4	0	82	40	20.50	231	35.49	0	0	0	8	0
RGD Willis	4	5	3	37	15*	18.50	79	46.83	0	0	0	3	0
P Lever	5	6	0	83	36	13.83	197	42.13	0	0	0	10	0
DL	5	6	3	16	8*	5.33	52	30.76	0	0	2	1	0
Underwood													
K	2	2	0	9	7	4.50	30	30.00	0	0	0	1	0
Shuttleworth													

England bowling averages

Player	Mat	Inns	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	BBI	BBM	Ave	Econ	SR	5	10	Ct	St
JA Snow	6	12	225.5	47	708	31	7/40	8/63	22.83	2.35	58.2	2	0	2	0
RGD Willis	4	8	88.0	16	329	12	3/58	4/90	27.41	2.80	58.6	0	0	3	0
DL	5	10	194.6	50	520	16	4/66	4/67	32.50	2.00	97.3	0	0	4	0
Underwood															
P Lever	5	10	143.5	25	439	13	4/49	4/66	33.76	2.29	88.3	0	0	5	0
K	2	4	75.5	13	242	7	5/47	5/128	34.57	2.40	86.4	1	0	1	0
Shuttleworth															
R Illingworth	6	11	132.0	43	349	10	3/39	4/55	34.90	1.98	105.6	0	0	4	0
BL D'Oliveira	6	10	114.0	28	290	6	2/15	2/36	48.33	1.90	152.0	0	0	4	0
KWR	5	6	20.0	1	101	1	1/48	1/48	101.00	3.78	160.0	0	0	3	0
Fletcher															
G Boycott	5	1	1.0	0	7	0	-	-	-	5.25	-	0	0	4	0
MC Cowdrey	3	3	6.0	0	36	0	-	-	-	4.50	-	0	0	3	0
JH Edrich	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	0
JH	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	0
Hampshire															
APE Knott	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	21	3
BW	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	0
Luckhurst															

Source ESPN Cricinfo