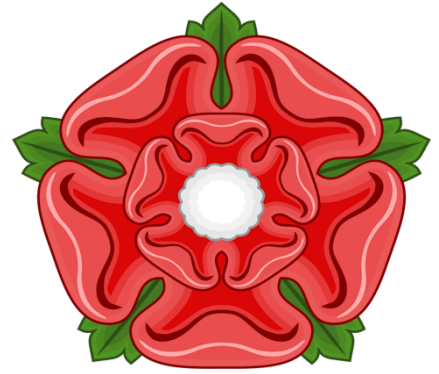


Lancashire Association of Cricket Officials



March 2021

Welcome to our March Newsletter. We hope you and your families are keeping well. We had slightly delayed the issue of this Newsletter in the hope that the ECB would have issued more guidance on the conditions that are to apply for the start of the 2021 season. Our latest information is that this may not happen until after 22 March when the Government review the data and confirm whether or not the Lockdown Roadmap can proceed as planned. What we do know is that:

- The new season is currently scheduled to begin in mid - April unless circumstances change.
- Most, if not all, leagues have announced their start dates.
- COVID Regulations, now called 'Special Measures' will be in place and these are very likely to be the same as we operated under at the end of last season.
- These may be relaxed later in the season.

I know that whatever 'special measures' are in place our members will once again rise to the challenge as you all did so magnificently last year. I am sure like me you can't wait to get back on the field again.

Since our last Newsletter the subject of institutional racism, which we made a small attempt to examine, has certainly continued to hit the headlines with even the Royal Family not being exempt! This month we have an interview with one of our members giving a

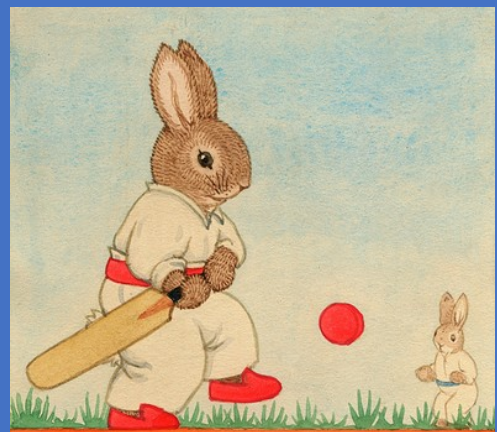
In this month's Newsletter:

**Rob Hales sets out blueprint for
restructure of LACO**

Mentor champion required

Ian Herbert interview

Christmas Quiz answers



personal and alternative view. Whatever your opinion, as we make clear, it is no longer enough for us to recruit from our 'traditional base' as the recreational game seeks to expand into new areas this puts more onus on us to support the game with a 'new breed' of officials. To do this we need your help so please read the articles below and consider if you might be able to help us in some capacity.

Fingers crossed we get a full season in 2021 we could all do with the distraction! I hope you enjoy the Newsletter and as always if you have any comments or would like to contribute to a future Newsletter we are always looking for material on all aspects of cricket.

Enjoy the season! **Rob Hales, LACO Chair**

To paraphrase Lord Kitchener: "Cricket needs you!"

It is now accepted that lockdown has accelerated many changes in our lives. Be it the use of 'plastic' instead of cash or the now infamous 'Zoom' meetings; cricket is no different. As we hopefully come out of lockdown we are expecting a significant increase on the demand for cricket officials. Our job at LACO is to provide the training, development and support for this new breed of Officials the game is hoping to attract.

Most of us I am sure became Officials in order to give something back to the game we love and if as a County we are support the game successfully we need our existing members to help us to attract, educate, develop and support new members.

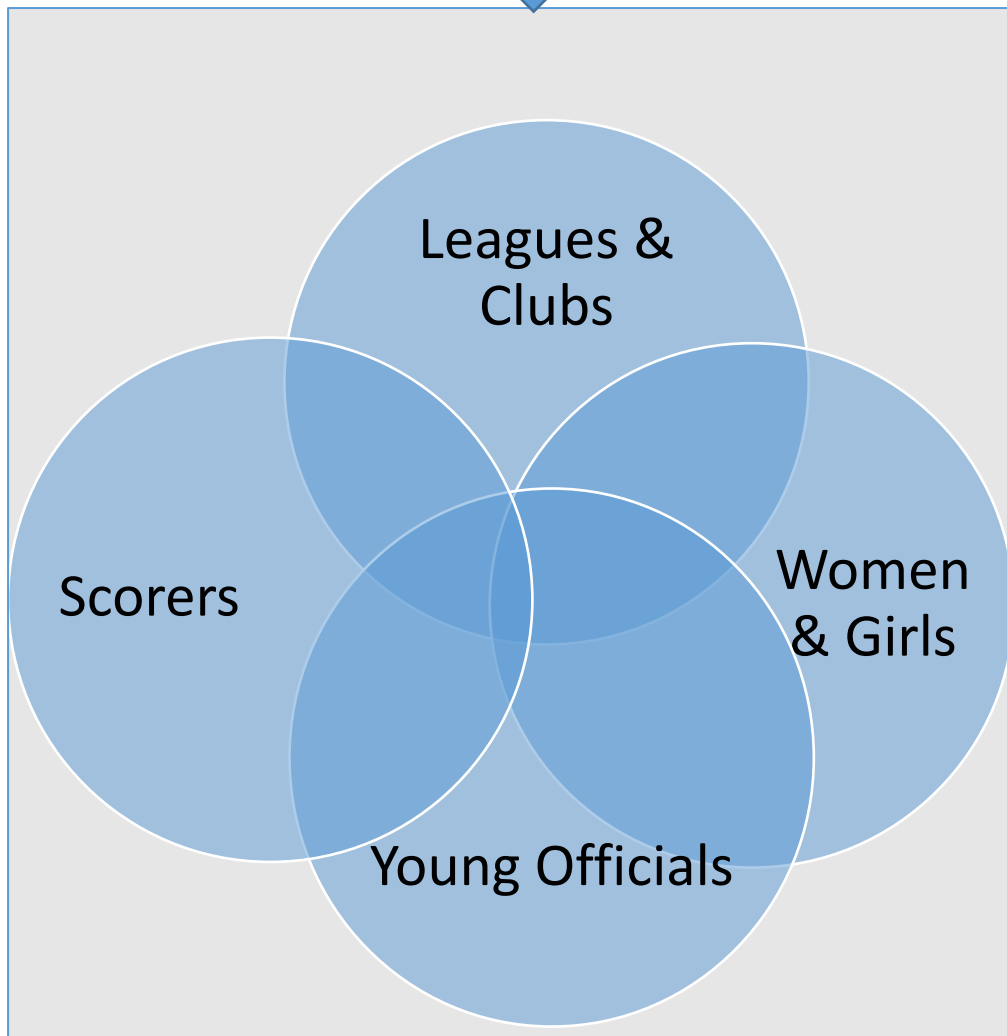
As the demands on us grow, we feel that our current committee structure is no longer fit for purpose. If we are to meet these additional demands we need a new structure and organisation. At our recent Executive Meeting it was unanimously agreed that we should look to re-organise with more power given to 'informal Working Groups' to deliver the required new initiatives. This reorganisation will result in less elected officers and more "hands on volunteers" working less formally on specific areas. On the basis that 'a picture paints a thousand words' I include a diagram below setting out how we envisage the new flexible organisation will look. (Note: the working groups are for illustration only we will add to these as necessary and certainly include one related to BAME for example).

The new Management Committee will meet less frequently and include only 3 elected officers: Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer, they will be joined by appointed Officers for Communication, Development, Education, and Membership Services and a representative from the County Cricket Board. This body will be responsible for the strategic direction and will ensure that we are aligned with the objectives of County Board and all the leagues throughout Lancashire. The real work however will be done by the Working Parties whose appointed Chairman will report to the Management Committee. We expect these Working Parties to be informal and they will be able to meet when, where and how they want using technology where appropriate.

We will expand on what we envisage each working parties priorities will be in future Newsletters, but they will also have the freedom to set their own agendas. We want to get away from 'talking shops' and get things done!

LACO MANAGEMENT

Leagues' Liaison



LACO functions: Education; Communication;
Development; Appointments etc

Permanent or Ad hoc working groups as
required by Officers

We must deliver this for the good of the game within Lancashire but we need "YOU" to make it happen. If you feel you have something to offer and would like to help ensure the future of the game you will have plenty of opportunity to do so. Watch this space!

Mentor Champion Required!

As we attract new umpires the importance of giving them the help they need, particularly in the early stages of their officiating career, becomes ever more important. Many of you may have been involved in mentoring new colleagues over recent years and will understand what an important role this is, how much new officials appreciate the support and what a rewarding experience this is for the mentor.

So far our approach to mentoring has been somewhat piecemeal with mentors being thrown in the deep end with little if any guidance on how they should be supporting their mentees. We are keen to change this and are looking to recruit a volunteer "Mentor Champion" whose role will be to help our League Associations to select train and support our mentors.

If you think you could fill this role please email us on lacoeducation@hotmail.com and we will provide more information about the role and the support that you will receive.

Don't be shy this is a great opportunity to carve out your own role, put something back into the game and influence the officials of the future.

Age Group Cricket

As the start of the cricket season approaches, restrictions permitting, plans are well underway for both Girls and Boys Age Group cricket. There have been a number of staff changes within the County Club and the Foundation but this has not diminished the importance of the cricket pathway for the Counties young talented cricketers.

As in previous seasons, the LACO is pleased to be able to support the Age Group cricket programme and will be appointing umpires.

There will however be a number of changes this year. A positive is that the fee paid by the County Club and the Foundation has been increased to £45. There will however be more white and pink ball cricket so coloured clothing for umpires, preferably ACO, is essential. Following on from last years truncated adaptive cricket season, meals will not be provided for players, coaches or officials. Umpires and scorers will be expected to take their own if food is required.

Plans are also being put in place for the disability programme. Not as many games but just as important for those participating.

Ian Herbert on his experience in cricket

In our December Newsletter we addressed the issue of racism in officiating, highlighting the fact that in our own County we feel that people from minority backgrounds appear to be under represented. We explained that if we are to support the game throughout the County we can ill afford not to recruit from all walks of life. We felt that in order to understand why this under-representation occurred we needed to shine a light on the issue of racism be it perceived or actual. The Newsletter carried an article from John Holder explaining his views, as well as one from Neil Snowball, Managing Director ECB County Cricket, explaining how the ECB is looking to address this national issue.



Ian with fellow umpire, Jack Shantry, and captains before the 2019 Minor Counties Championship Final

Very shortly after our Newsletter was published, the national press reported that both John Holder and Ismail Dawood (referred to in John's article) were suing the ECB for alleged racial discrimination.

Very early in January, in my role as Chairman of Lancashire ACO, I was copied on a letter from one of our members, Ian Herbert, who had decided to write to the ECB with his view on this issue. Ian kindly agreed to be interviewed by us as part of our overall attempt to highlight the issue of racism and to represent all points of view. Ian will be known to many of you but for those who don't know him, he is 59 years old, was born in Manchester and is of Afro Caribbean descent. He is a retired Police Officer with 28 years' service who in his career, achieved the rank of Sergeant with Greater Manchester Police.

Q: Ian, how long did you play cricket for?

A: I played recreational cricket for approximately 30 years and during that period was lucky enough to be a non-contracted player at Lancashire County Cricket Club for two years.

Q: So when did you start umpiring?

A: When I finished playing cricket, through my own interest and with a bit of prompting, I started umpiring in 2008 and since then I have progressed through the ranks and am presently a member of the ECB National Panel being appointed in 2016.

Q: What are the 'best' games you have stood in since being on the National Panel?

A: In my first year on the panel (2016), I was appointed to the Minor Counties 4-day Championship final by the Minor Counties Panel and again in 2019 appointed to another 4-day Championship final by Chris Kelly.

Q: Why did you feel you should write to the ECB about this issue?

A: As someone from Afro-Caribbean descent I felt uncomfortable at some of the accusations being levelled at the ECB by a small number of people and the media and wanted to describe my experiences

Q: So what did you think when you read the articles in our December Newsletter and the subsequent press coverage of the issue.

A: Well firstly, I was a bit surprised. I have known John Holder since I started umpiring and have stood with him on a number of occasions and during this time John never mentioned nor discussed any form of exclusion, discrimination or misconduct by any member or associate of the ECB or in any way tried to deter me from officiating. He always seemed to me to be quite pro-ECB and I have to admit I felt a bit disappointed by his actions. I did once stand with Ismail Dawood in a 2nd XI one day game at Liverpool CC and the impression he gave me was very much anti-ECB, his attitude was not what I would expect from a fellow professional.

Q: How has your relationship been with the ECB?

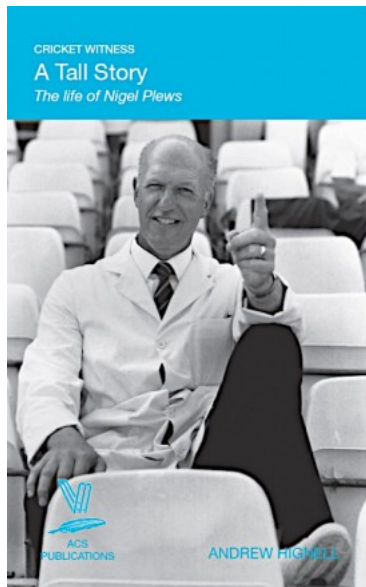
A: Since being on the National Panel I personally feel I have a good relationship with Chris Kelly and Paul Adams and have great admiration for all the hard work they do, most notably the development of mine and others careers. Additionally, I also have an outstanding relationship with the majority of the 1st class umpires and when I hear of the term 'the ECB is institutionally racist', I find that very difficult to believe. In line with what we are currently experiencing as a nation and indeed worldwide and the focus of stamping out racism in sport/lives/institutions, as a black man and as a Police Officer I have experienced many different situations that can be deemed as 'racist' but have handled them with dignity and respect and do not feel the need to 'call out' people should this type of situation arise. As a black man, ex-Police Officer and as a person, my view is if you are good enough to do a job and have the character, commitment and competency to progress and achieve your aspirations then you will. There is nothing within the ECB that I have experienced that will alter my belief in that, in all my dealings with the ECB I have not been treated unfairly or disproportionately and at all times have been treated with respect.

We are very grateful to Ian Herbert for giving us this interview. This is of course his personal view and if you have a different experience please feel free to contact us. As we state in the introduction to this interview, we are keen to represent all aspects of this challenging area. It is clear that while some of our leagues appear to have a good representation from ethnic minorities some do not. We are keen to understand what we can do, if anything, to address this issue and as we mentioned we are looking to set up a Working Party to look at what we can do as a County to better attract officials from ethnic minority backgrounds. If you would like to be involved, please contact us.

Women's and Girls

By the way we are also very short of Women and Girls officials (particularly umpires) and our age profile is very much at the older end of the spectrum. These are two issues we are also looking to address and we will explore them in future Newsletters. After all 'Officiating' is for all!

A Tall Story: The Life of Nigel Plews (132 pages) £15 ACS Publications



The renowned sports' biographer Alistair Hignell has written the story of Nigel Plews, the police detective turned international panel umpire. Lovingly drawn together from Nigel's diaries and interviews with colleagues and family members, it's a fascinating account of how Nigel progressed from the club game to county second team games, to the first class game after taking early retirement from the force and then had the honour of being an inaugural member of the ICC panel. Not bad for a man who by his own admission was "an opening bat with limited shots, and a specialist third man fielder at each end" in the lower reaches of the club game. Undoubtedly the attributes required for police service were transferable to a career in the white coat, but Hignell doesn't tell us how often Nigel applied Law 43 in his police work.

In the same way, that John Holder and Tommy Wilson emphasised the importance of a supportive and encouraging colleague, and Hignell tells us who was good to stand with and who was harder work. Interestingly, within the current debate about Tests possibly going back to having one international and one local umpire, Hignell relates that Nigel found this difficult, because not surprisingly the home umpire had his own circle of friends and acquaintances, which meant that the ICC appointee could become isolated. Overall, the biography is an interesting read and a welcome addition to my bookshelf. **Tim Mansfield**

Hughie Evans writes:

In the August LACO Newsletter, Paddy Brown raised an interesting suggestion about having a Lancashire coordinated appointment system for umpires in League cricket. I recognise the benefits for umpires in experiencing the differing forms of league cricket but the practicalities of such a system would make it difficult to implement.

Lancashire ACO already appoints umpires from many leagues to County Age Group, National KO and Lancashire KO matches. These matches allow umpires to experience non league cricket with varying playing regulations often with a colleague from another league.

The ACO grading system, whether liked or disliked, does help with the selection of umpires for matches outside of league cricket. For some umpires, the matches provide the added experience necessary if they wish to progress beyond league cricket.

I can understand Paddy's view about giving umpires experience of other leagues but would this not be better achieved by umpire exchange. If umpire A wants to experience cricket in a different league then he or she could swap with umpire B from that league. In this way the umpires get experience of another league and neither league is left without an umpire.

It will be interesting to get the views of league umpire appointers as this may create a little more work for them.

Congratulations to John Lawton who won the Christmas Quiz.

The answers are below:

LACO Christmas Quiz

Question 1

You are the bowler's end umpire. The striker hits the ball toward the deep mid-wicket boundary and runs. In turning for the third run, he fails to ground his bat beyond the popping crease and you believe he has deliberately run short attempting to keep the strike. The batsmen continue running, going on to complete the runs. What action do you take?

When the ball is dead, the bowler's end umpire shall call and signal short run. The three completed runs are disallowed and the batsmen will return to their original ends. Five penalty runs are awarded to the side fielding. Inform the captain of the fielding side, the batsmen at the crease and the captain of the side batting when applicable of the reason for this action. The umpires together shall report the occurrence to the Executive of the fielding side and the Governing Body responsible for the match. (Law 18.5)

Question 2

A delivery, called No ball, is missed by the striker whilst attempting to play the ball with his bat. The ball goes on to contact the striker's pad and rolls into the outfield. It's missed by the wicketkeeper and continues on to the fine-leg boundary. How many runs are scored? What signals are given by the umpire and in which order? How are the runs recorded?

The bowler's end umpire shall signal No ball, Leg bye and Boundary 4 – waiting for a separate acknowledgement of each signal by the scorers. Five runs are credited to the side batting, recorded as one No ball and four Leg bye extras. (Laws 21.16, 2.13.2, 23.2.3)

Question 3

A fielder leaves the field of play due to an internal injury at 11.25am and returns at 12.14pm. Whilst he was off the field there was a drinks break from 11.32-11.36am. A 40-minute lunch interval was scheduled for 12.30pm, however, rain forces the players and umpires from the field of play early at 12.21pm. During the interval conditions improve, allowing the umpires to schedule a restart. If play begins at 1.15pm, what time is he allowed to bowl?

On resumption, he must serve a further 24 minutes of penalty time before being allowed to bowl at 1.39pm. The fielder is initially off the field (internal injury) for a total of 45 minutes (the four-minute drinks break, a scheduled interval, does not count toward penalty time). He returns to the field and serves seven minutes. When the players leave the field for rain, lunch is taken from 12.21 – 1.01pm (scheduled interval). From 1.01pm until the restart at 1.15pm (14 minutes) this amount of time is considered an unscheduled break and as the player was on the field prior to the interruption, it reduces his unserved penalty time. (Law 24.2)

Question 4

You are the bowler's end umpire. It's the last ball of a limited overs match. Team A scored 245/4 and Team B is 240/8 in response. A fairly delivered ball is edged down to fine-leg and the batsmen start running. They have completed one run and have crossed on a second when the ball, thrown by a fielder from the deep, makes contact with a fielder's helmet which has been placed on the ground behind the wicket-keeper. What are you required to do now and what is the result of the match?

The side batting wins the match by 2 wickets, finishing at 247/8. The ball automatically becomes dead when it contacts the fielder's helmet placed on the ground. The bowler's end umpire ensures the one completed run and the run in progress (as the batsman crossed) is scored, along with an award of five penalty runs to the side batting. (Law 28.3)

Question 5

Your colleague at the bowler's end has been injured by a straight drive and is unable to continue. However, a spectator at the match, is a qualified umpire who is willing to replace him. Under what circumstances can the replacement take full responsibility as an umpire?

The Laws of Cricket allow for a change of umpire under exceptional circumstances or in cases of injury or illness. A replacement umpire shall only act at the striker's end although if both captains agree, the replacement can stand as both the bowler's and striker's end umpire. (Law 2.2)

Question 6

What are the responsibilities of umpires regarding selection and preparation of the pitch...

Before the match? The Ground Authority is in complete control over the selection and preparation of the pitch before the toss. Umpires can only inspect the pitch prior to the toss to ensure that it meets the requirements of the Laws and that it would not be dangerous or unreasonable for play to take place.

After the toss? The umpires assume all responsibilities for the use and maintenance of the pitch for the duration of the match in accordance with the Laws. This will include the umpires supervising any preparation and maintenance work carried out by the Ground Authority. (Law 6.3)

Question 7

You are the umpire at the striker's end. Due to windy conditions, the match is continuing without bails. The next delivery, called a No ball, bowls the striker with the ball deflecting out to backward point. The batsmen start to run and have crossed when a fielder gathers the ball and throws it at the striker's wicket, hitting a stump still in the ground and knocking it further out of alignment. At this moment, the non-striker is short of his ground having not yet completed the first run. There is an appeal. What is your decision?

The non-striker is out – run out. One run is awarded to the side batting for the No ball and the ball will not count as one of the over. With the delivery being a No ball, the striker is not

out bowled. However, the ball remains in play and the batsmen are entitled to attempt a run. The fielding side in this example has taken the opportunity to run out either batsmen. (Laws 21.14 21.15 21.17 21.18 38.1)

Question 8

You are the bowler's end umpire. On the last ball of a match, the side batting requires four runs to win. The wicket-keeper, decides to stand on the boundary directly behind the wicket. He discards his gloves outside the boundary whilst retaining his internal leg guards. The striker edges the next ball to the boundary, he runs around and slides, stopping the ball with his legs. The ball is then returned to a fielder near the striker's end wicket with the batsmen only completing two runs. What action do you take in this situation?

As the bowler's end, you are not required to take any action in this situation. The two completed runs are scored and credited to the striker. The fielding team wins the match by one run. The wicket-keeper, has placed himself in a position where he can no longer carry out the normal duties of a wicket-keeper and is now only regarded as a fielder. He does the correct thing by discarding his gloves outside the boundary because only a wicket-keeper can wear gloves. The leg guards he is wearing are legal - they are under the trousers, not visible and are to be treated as part of the player's 'clothing' as in A.12.2. Therefore, any contact between the ball and the leg of the wicket keeper is within the Laws. (Laws 27.1 28.1 A.12)

Question 9

You are the umpire at the bowler's end. A fair delivery is intercepted by the striker's front pad, satisfying the conditions for LBW. The ball, having not touched the ground after the interception, then makes inadvertent contact with the striker's glove on a hand holding the bat. The ball loops up and is taken on the full by the wicket-keeper standing up to the stumps. What is your decision?

Out – caught. Even though a decision against the striker for LBW could be justified, on this occasion caught will take precedence - caught takes precedence over all forms of dismissal except for bowled. (Law 33.5)

Question 10

You are the umpire at the striker's end. The striker hits a fair delivery high into the air and both he and the non-striker start to run. The ball is fairly caught by a fielder at cover. However, as the catch is completed, the batsmen have almost crossed with just the back foot of the striker trailing behind and still in line with the non-striker. Two deliveries remain in the over, who will face the next delivery?

The incoming batsman will face the next delivery. The non-striker will return to his original end. Because of the striker's trailing leg overlapping with the non-striker, the two batsmen are considered to be level and have not crossed. They still own their original grounds. For batsmen to have crossed there needs to be complete separation between the two. (Law 30.2.3)

Question 11

An injured batsman with a runner is on strike and you are the umpire at the striker's end. The next delivery is called a No ball and is struck into the outfield.

Both the runner and the non-striker have completed three runs and remain in their ground at either end when the wicket-keeper's end wicket is fairly put down with the injured striker outside of his ground. There is an appeal.

a. What is your decision? Give the injured striker Out, Run out. (Law 38.1)

b. How many runs are scored? One run is scored – the No ball. The runs completed by the runner and the non-striker are disallowed. (Law 25.6.6)

c. Who faces the next delivery? The incoming batsman will face the next delivery.

Question 12

During the bowler's run-up you notice the wicket-keeper, who started several metres back, take four large strides forward to bring the wicket within reach. What action, if any, should you take as the striker's end umpire?

Upon seeing the unfair movement by the wicket-keeper, you are to call and signal Dead ball. (Law 27.4). *The wicket-keeper has unfairly brought themselves into a position where the wicket is within reach. The striker would not have seen this occur and is entitled to, as with all other fielders, know where they are situated when playing at the ball. Keep in mind that either umpire may call and signal Dead ball in this situation and it's not just the responsibility of the striker's end umpire. It's better that both umpires call this instead of none.*

Question 13

A member of the batting side is absent for the entire first innings. Later, he arrives at the ground, gains the permission of the umpire and joins the rest of his team on the field of play 25 minutes into the second innings. The first innings lasted three hours and twelve minutes. What amount of penalty time must he serve before being allowed to bowl?

The fielder is required to serve 25 minutes of penalty time before being allowed to bowl. (Law 24.2.2). *Penalty time can only accumulate whilst the player's team is fielding and is capped at a maximum of 90 minutes.*

Question 14

The striker hits a fairly delivered ball high in the air. A fielder, with both feet grounded inside the field of play, leans against the boundary fence and takes the ball on the full to complete the catch. There is an appeal. As you are the bowler's end umpire, what is your decision?

Firstly, answer the appeal not out and secondly, signal Boundary 6 and receive an acknowledgement from the scorers. (Law 19.4.2 and 19.5.1). *By being in contact with the boundary fence, the fielder is to be regarded as grounded beyond the boundary. Therefore, as soon as the ball contacts the fielder, by extension, it is considered to be grounded the beyond the boundary.*

Question 15

At the start of a new spell the bowler has indicated that he will deliver the ball 'right arm over'. This occurs for the first two deliveries however, on the third ball,

he runs in and delivers the ball 'round the wicket' without ever having informed the umpire. What action, if any, should the bowler's end umpire take?

The bowler's end umpire is to call and signal No ball and repeat this to the scorers when the ball becomes dead for that delivery. The one run penalty shall be awarded to the batting side in addition to any other runs scored from that delivery and the ball shall not count as one of the over. (Law 21.1 and 21.17). *The striker is entitled to know which side of the wicket the ball is being delivered and which arm is being used. It is the responsibility of the bowler to inform the umpire of any change in her mode of delivery. Failure to do this results in the delivery being called a No ball.*

Question 16

The bowler delivers a ball which is called a No ball for overstepping the popping crease. The striker attempts to play at the ball but misses. The ball also evades the wicket-keeper and the batsmen run. The batsmen have completed one run and turned to start the second when the ball runs into the boundary rope at fine leg. What happens next?

The bowler's end umpire shall signal to the scorers No ball, Bye, Boundary 4 and wait for each signal to be separately acknowledged. (Law 2.13.2 and 21.16). *This scenario requires three separate signals from the bowler's end umpire, and they are given to the scorers in the order that they have occurred. Acknowledgment of each signal must be received from the scorers before making the next signal. In the scorebook, the runs will be recorded as one No ball (against the bowler) and four Byes.*

Question 17

After the fall of a wicket, the bowler has taken a trial run-up without permission causing a delay to the game. Additionally, his follow-through has taken him into the protected area on the pitch. He has not previously been warned during the innings. What action, if any, should the umpire take?

The bowler is not allowed a trial run-up if there is no convenient and legitimate gap in play. In this instance the run-up has delayed the match and there is scope to apply Law 41.9. This will involve the bowler's end umpire issuing a first and final warning to the fielding captain, whilst also informing the batsmen what has occurred. This is a team warning and will apply throughout the rest of the innings. Furthermore, because the bowler has followed through into the protected area of the pitch, he will be issued with a caution, as this was his first offence with regard to Law 41.13. This caution will apply throughout the rest of the innings.

Question 18

The fifth ball of an over is called and signalled No ball by the bowler's end umpire. It is then struck into the outfield and stops just inside the boundary. The batsmen have completed one run and crossed on but not completed their second when the fielder deliberately kicks the ball into the boundary. How many runs are scored, how are they recorded and who faces the next delivery?

Seven runs – scored as one No ball and six runs to the striker. The deliberate act of kicking the ball into the boundary occurred after the batsmen had crossed on their second run, therefore the two runs are scored as well as the boundary allowance and the No ball penalty.

The striker for the previous delivery will face the next delivery even though an odd number of runs were scored. (Law 19.8 - Overthrow or wilful act of a fielder).

Question 19

The ball, having been called a No ball, is hit into the outfield and is nearing the boundary but slowing, just in front of where the batting side is situated off the field. A member of the batting side steps wholly into the field of play, picks up the ball and throws it to the fielder who was running after it. The batsmen have made good their ground on the first run and have crossed on the second when the umpire at the bowler's end calls and signals Dead ball. There is an appeal by the fielding side for obstruction. The umpires consult and have the opinion the ball would not have made the boundary from the original strike. What happens next?

Answer the appeal 'not out', this is because neither batsman at the crease caused the obstruction. Three runs are scored, including runs completed and crossed on by the batsmen at the instant of the call of Dead ball. In this case, two runs (Law 18.9) are credited to the striker, including the one-run penalty for the No ball. *We also need to reference Law 19.2.7, as it empowers the umpires to determine whether the ball would have reached the boundary or not. Law 19.2.7 uses the word 'person' in a different context than at other times used throughout the Laws. The definition for person in this example is 'anyone other than a fielder'. The fact that it was a member of the batting side who contacted the ball has no extra consequence nor benefit to either side. Here, the member of the batting side has prevented their side from scoring any further runs from that delivery, those which may have been run by the batsmen at the crease had the ball remained in 'play'.*

Question 20

As the bowler delivers the ball, he inadvertently kicks a large piece of the pitch from the foothold onto the wicket at the bowler's end and removes a bail. The ball is then struck into the outfield and rolls into the boundary. The non-striker appeals to you, the bowler's end umpire, that the delivery should have been called a No ball as the bowler has broken the wicket during delivery. How do you handle this situation?

Firstly, four runs are scored, being credited to the striker with the ball to count as one of the over. Secondly, you would inform the non-striker that this is not a No ball situation as per Law 21.6 (Bowler breaking wicket in delivering the ball). This is because it was not the bowler breaking the wicket rather it was a piece of the pitch. For the bowler to have been considered to have broken the wicket under Law 21.6, the wicket would have to have been put down by the person of the bowler, or any part of his clothing or any other object that may have fallen from her person before the completion of the stride after his delivery stride.