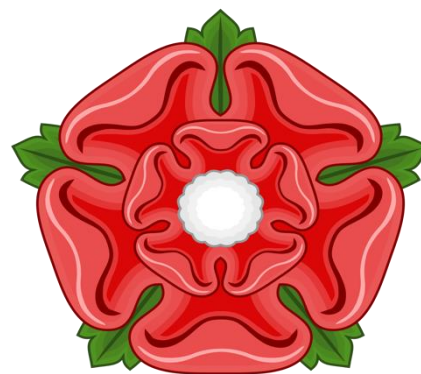


# Lancashire Association of Cricket Officials



*Newsletter*

*December 2020*

Welcome to our final Newsletter of 2020 a year which will live long in the memory of all of us, unfortunately not necessarily for the right reasons. In this issue as is appropriate in all publications at this time of year we have a quiz for you to attempt to hopefully get the grey cells working and clear the post-prandial fog! We also have a couple of poems submitted by one of our members to lighten the mood.

While I am pleased to report that our membership numbers held up better than most other Counties during 2020 we are still short of officials and are starting to work more closely with both LCF and our leagues to try and address the shortage. In particular we need to find ways to attract a 'new breed' of officials to our game and to change the perception of what a 'cricket official' looks like. As part of this we all need to examine our attitudes to expanding our network. I am delighted that the recent online courses have attracted a wide range of age, gender and race but now we need to turn this interest into an increase in officials both on the field and in the scoreboard.

When we re-launched this Newsletter earlier this year, with our new Editor Tim

## **In this month's Newsletter:**

**John Holder and Neil Snowball  
(ECB) on increasing the  
numbers of cricket officials from  
BAME communities**

**Hughie Evans "Poacher turned  
Gamekeeper"**

**Mark Duffy's first season**

**Christmas Quiz**



Mansfield, we made it clear that while the main focus would remain cricket officiating we would welcome contributions from people on all cricket related matters. In this issue we have decided that we would focus on an issue which many people might see as controversial, but which we believe should be aired at every opportunity, that of racism. Those of you who watched the recent 'Axe' series of films on BBC will no doubt have been shocked by the portrayal of casual racism in the 1970s. While 50 years later things have undoubtedly improved we still have a long way to go and unless as a society we maintain our guard such matters have a habit of morphing into more subtle but no less damaging guises. We hope our small contribution to the subject results in people questioning their own attitudes and hopefully finding their consciences clear. It was the great Martin Luther King Jr who said

*"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter"*

I would particularly like to thank both John Holder and the ECB for their valuable contributions on this subject. Remember please let us have your views and we will publish a follow up article in 2021.

Finally, I would just like to thank all of your Executive Committee for all the work they have done on your behalf during 2020 and wish you and your families a very merry Christmas and a happy and most of all healthy New Year.

**Rob Hales, Chairman**

## **Poacher Turned Gamekeeper!**

**Hughie Evans**

Cricket has been part of my life ever since I can remember. Having two older brothers, Bryan and Phillip, playing at Kendal Cricket Club and with the ground being close to where we lived, it was inevitable that I found myself at the junior nets. In those days it was just junior nets and coaching although I do recall Kendal Juniors playing Penrith Juniors but that was the extent of the competition.

Bryan, Phillip and I rarely played together in the same team although my mother has a rare photograph taken one Sunday afternoon of the three Evans boys in their whites (below).



The 1972 season saw me move from Kendal to Netherfield with what turned out to be the start of my long association with the club under the castle. At that time, I played as much cricket as I could and would pick up my kit at the drop of a hat or quick telephone call. Friendlies, representative games or 'guest appearances', I just liked to play. Cumberland even called on my services a few times but mainly, I think, because I was available at short notice and could get time off work!



When you play so much cricket you usually end up umpiring for short spells at some point. I was always happy to volunteer as I found it enjoyable. Captaincy was something I also enjoyed, and this brought me closer to umpires. I liked to get to know the umpires and made a point of talking to them before a game as well as afterwards. I was always of the opinion, rightly or wrongly, that if you got them on your side it would do more good than harm, especially when I came on to bowl!

My cricket clubs were not restricted to Kendal and Netherfield. I also had spells at Workington and Cleator in the North Lancashire League, for Rotherham in the Yorkshire League, Neston in the Liverpool Competition and my last club Newton-le-Willows. But it was always the pull of the then highly competitive Northern League that drew me back to Netherfield.



Hughie receiving the Meageen Cup (Cumbria County Cup) on behalf of Netherfield CC at Millom CC.

My playing career finished after the 1996 season at Newton-le-Willows. I played for Newton in the Manchester Association as 1<sup>st</sup> X1 Captain and in their first year in the Liverpool Competition. I had already decided to umpire but carried on playing to help Newton achieve their ambition of playing in a higher standard league. In hindsight this was a mistake and

although I enjoyed playing and having success both on and off the field with Newton it meant that I did not start umpiring until I was 46.

As a player I always wanted to play at the highest level that my ability allowed. This is the same for umpiring. I knew I would have to start in the lower leagues until I was qualified and had the necessary experience in order to umpire at a higher level but at the outset I had had ambition to umpire in the Minor Counties.

After the conclusion of the 1996 season I started my first umpiring course. Despite playing for over 30 years it was embarrassing how little I knew of the laws of the game. As a player you can get away with it but not as an umpire as you are involved in every ball and for a time before and after the game.

Umpiring experience in the Liverpool Competition led me to being accepted onto the Minor Counties list at the first time of asking. Subsequently I have umpired games involving Lancashire 2<sup>nd</sup> XI, England Age Groups, a first class game in the Nat West Cup, an Inter-Continental Cup game between Ireland and Holland, 3 Minor County Finals and a National KO Final at Lords. An invite to apply for the first class list for 2008 came too late for me but it was an honour to be considered good enough to be asked.

In my later years as an umpire, I have been able to support visually impaired cricketers to play the game. 'Blind Cricket' brings with it other challenges but none the less enjoyable all the same.

Why poacher turned gamekeeper? As a player I hated cheating but was always keen to be competitive and occasionally use a bit of gamesmanship to gain advantage. As an umpire I am able to understand and have some empathy with players but I also know some of the tricks that they try and play. I have seen most and been involved in some!

I would recommend umpiring to any player or lover of the game. It is a great place to watch from, you are involved all the time and it is a great way to put something back into the game we all love.

## **My First Season in the White Coat**

**Mark Duffy**

As is the case with most cricket umpires my pathway to donning the white coat was borne out of a lifelong love of playing the game, with a handful of clubs in various northwest competitions.

I enrolled for the LACO Stage 1 and 2 courses in November 2019 and completed the necessary memberships of ECB and obtained my DBS. The courses, which were held at BAE club in Preston, were really well facilitated by Rob Hales and Steve Beswick and gave me a great insight into the basics around the Laws and fieldcraft.

Following the courses it seemed like an eternity before I was to officiate in my first game, we had readied ourselves originally for an April start, however the unfortunate outbreak of Covid-19 soon put paid to this. After the great work carried out by the League committee and officials my long awaited baptism as an umpire was scheduled for 18<sup>th</sup> July 2020.



This year saw some additions to an umpire's equipment.

My first game was at Torrisholme CC for their fixture with Garstang CC 2<sup>nd</sup> XI and on arrival I was met by my appointed mentor Stephen Hamer, and he was great putting me at ease in my first game as I was admittedly a little nervous.

We ran through the myriad of Covid protocols with the captains and we were ready for the off with the ground conditions good and the forecast promising. I had all my shiny new gear and felt great, placed the bails and took my position at square leg. After the 1<sup>st</sup> over I took my place at the bowler's end and gave the batsman his guard. I was thinking to myself – I wonder how long it will be before I have to make a decision – unbelievably I didn't have long to wait – ball one bowler bowls and an almighty shout goes up both keeper and bowler – "not out"- talk about in at the deep end – the ball hit the batsman's hip on the way to the keeper. From thereon in the innings passed without any real incident, we had regular Covid



breaks every 6 overs to sanitise and these were valuable for me to keep chatting with Stephen about how things were going. The second innings resulted in a comfortable win for the home side and I took the opportunity for a debrief with Stephen over a well-earned "socially-distanced" beer.

I must admit the players deserve a lot of credit for their conduct and helped us all enjoy what was an event we never thought was going to happen at one stage due to the pandemic.

My next four games all went pretty well, these involved much more decisions having to be made and I felt my confidence growing with every game.

It was on my 6<sup>th</sup> game which was between Rufford 1<sup>st</sup> XI and Fylde 1<sup>st</sup> XI that I was to be observed for my U2A accreditation. I was joined in the middle with Martin Lewis and he helped me through a really decent game. I was observed by Tommy Wilson and he gave me really good feedback at the end of the game, giving me some pointers and benefits of his experience along with some of his famous yarns.

I received my U2A accreditation following a good report from Tommy, and then umpired my final game of the season at Croston.

To summarise, it was great to actually get my umpiring career underway albeit in unique circumstances. Hopefully we may have something slightly more "normal" next season and I am eager to don the coat and oil the index finger of my right hand once again.

## **Are we doing enough to encourage umpires from our black and minority ethnic (BAME) communities?**

If you ask someone what is their image of a cricket umpire you are likely to elicit a response of 'a middle aged man in a white coat'. This is a stereotype that we are keen to change. That is not to mean that we abandon our support for our existing membership but rather that if we are to continue to support the game we need to extend our reach.

The new Dynamos programme for juniors which was due to be launched last year includes umpiring and scoring as an integral part of the programme. We want officiating to be seen as much a part of the game as a bat and ball, after all every game, even a family game of beach cricket, needs someone to keep score and to make decisions.

We have a number of initiatives planned to try and increase the number of younger members and are planning to work with LCF to help attract new officials from the ever expanding women's game.

Another area we are keen to focus on is the BAME community. We were recently asked by ECB ACO to provide the number of BAME umpires currently active within the County. While in Manchester through the Greater Manchester Cricket League (GMCL) and the Greater Manchester Amateur Cricket League (GMACL) (which has a very significant percentage of BAME players) the numbers seem to be reflective of the population, in the rest of the county they are significantly lower. So what can we do to encourage people from our BAME communities to try officiating?

This is not a new challenge. Back in 2018 we ran a course as part of the ECB Core Cities programme, funded by ECB through LCF, the course was aimed at members of Greater Manchester's South East Asian community. We trained 13 umpires from that community and although a number who attended the course continue to play rather than officiate, the course did help that league to increase its overall umpire numbers.

So how do we increase our membership? How do we attract more people from the BAME community to join us so that leagues in Bolton, Lancashire, Merseyside, Ribblesdale and Westmorland more accurately reflect their populations? What are the barriers that exist? How do we breakdown these barriers? These are all questions that we need to address over the coming months. Post Covid we are looking to establish a BAME sub-committee of LACO to look at all these issues. This is where you can help, the current County Executive committee is, you've guessed it, largely white middle aged men (with apologies to Karen our Scorers Officer!), we need help to establish such a committee, to agree its terms of reference and most importantly to come up with initiatives which will help us to achieve our goal. If you would like to help us please get in touch. Who knows maybe in 10 years time the stereotype will have changed!

## **Appointment of Umpires to the First Class Game**

**Rob Hales** writes, "As mentioned in the previous article we are keen as a County to increase the number of grassroots umpires from the BAME community. While Covid and Brexit have been dominating the headlines, the issue of racism in our institutions has never gone away. It is not only in society but also in sport where racism has been making headlines this year. While football has long had its public issues with race, during 2020 concerns have been raised about cricket with accusations of institutional racism at Yorkshire CC and subsequently at the ECB itself.

In addition to the shortage of BAME umpires in grassroots cricket, the lack of BAME umpires on the First Class list has recently become an issue for considerable debate. At the centre of this is former Test Umpire, LACO President, and great friend of this Newsletter, **John Holder**. On the basis that the only way to combat racism is to hold a spotlight on it we asked John to contribute an article on the subject. As you will see he does not mince his words and while LACO wish to make clear that these are John's personal views, we do not make any apology for giving him this platform. If racism is to be conquered in our game and in our institutions it is important that it is confronted in all its guises. I am delighted that having contacted the ECB, they also agreed to contribute an article which we are publish below. If fully enacted the changes detailed in this article will hopefully go a long way to addressing some of the current concerns. We would also welcome contributions from our readers on this very important issue and look forward to updating members from time to time on progress"

**John writes** "back in 1980 when it became known in the Afro/Caribbean community here in the Northwest that I wanted to become a First Class Umpire, there were several doubters.



They said that the cricket authorities did not want black people becoming top class umpires. I disagreed, believing that if black cricketers could become some of the all-time greats, why could we not become top rated umpires. Additionally I felt that their negative attitude was non progressive. Determined to prove them wrong, I pressed on and the result is history. I had 27 very enjoyable and fulfilling years umpiring, reaching the pinnacle of the International game and becoming the first non-white person to umpire a Test match in the UK.

Since retiring 11 years ago, I have kept a close eye to see if any non-white umpires were following in Vanburn Holder's and my footsteps onto the First Class panel and was surprised that none had.

Earlier this year I got news that Ismail Dawood, who had played for Yorkshire, Glamorgan and Northants and who was on the Reserve List, was suddenly sacked, without any explanation, despite getting positive reports. I thought this was appalling but worse was to follow. News that Devon Malcolm had spoken to an ECB official about applying to join the First Class Panel and had been dissuaded, annoyed me because this seemed wrong, especially when white ex-players were taken on. Devon has had a far more illustrious playing career, for Derbyshire, Northants and England than any of those white ex-players who were accepted and should have been treated like all the others who had been applied. In fact, some had been promised acceptance if they applied.

I contacted both Ismail and Devon to agree on a plan of action because it was obvious that there was blatant racism here. The last non-white match official taken on to the Full List by the ECB was Vanburn Holder in 1992. ECB was practising blatant racism because not one umpire, mentor, pitch liaison official was non-white.

Everyone wanting to get on the Reserve List is supposed to first take the ECB ACO umpiring courses, pass the exams and then start to learn how to umpire. But ECB has brought in a flawed policy called fast tracking. Fast tracking is a nonsense which does not stand up to scrutiny. It encourages favouritism, racism and mediocrity. In this way some umpires are taken on without having first done the course and some have not passed the exam. How can they go onto the field and apply laws which they do not know? This is pure farce!

The present system of selecting umpires who want to reach First Class level, needs to be replaced by a transparent system with a definite pathway and must apply to every applicant:

1. First, you do the course and pass the exam.
2. Next you spend at least 1 year umpiring in club cricket and are regularly monitored and assessed.
3. If a vacancy arises, you should spend at least 1 year on the Reserve List, during which time you are mentored and tutored.

4. When a vacancy arises, promotion to the full panel, if deemed competent enough.

As an organisation which receives millions of pounds of public money annually, but which is run so secretively and incompetently, I believe there must be big changes in the ECB if these important issues are to be properly addressed. In no way am I asking for special treatment for aspiring non-white officials. This might seem idealistic, but there should be a level playing field and the opportunity for all who aspire to becoming umpires to get the chance. This way, the best and those who are prepared to work hard will get to the top."

**Peter Robinson** explains the selection process for nomination to the National Panel in Lancashire.

"The National Panel is the first stepping stone to the first-class list. National Panel umpires stand in Minor Counties and county 2nd XI matches. The nomination process starts with a focus group. This is a group of 6 umpires in the County, recognised as possibly having the potential to attain National Panel status.

Initially, a number of members are identified for consideration. They will be in the top quartile in their panel rankings and a discussion will be held with their panel officers before they are included on the shortlist.

This list is then discussed by the gradings committee who will decide on the final 6 who will be selected for the focus group. The gradings Committee is made up of myself as Chairman, Hughie Evans, Ian Herbert and Tommy Wilson.

During the following season these umpires will be observed on several occasions and at the end of the season the gradings committee decides who, if any, will be recommended for nomination to the National Panel. Lancashire currently has 8 members on the National Panel, of whom, 2 are BAME umpires.

In response to John's point regarding the fast tracking of former first-class players onto the first-class umpires list, I agree with this system to a degree, as it is a valid argument that former first-class players will have a better understanding of the requirements at that level, and are more likely to be accepted by the players. Having said this, it is LACO policy that no first-class player in Lancashire will be recommended for nomination to the National Panel unless they have attended the ECB ACO courses and are accredited at U3A. This in itself will mean they will have been umpiring for at least 2 seasons so our practice already largely follows John's proposed pathway."

## **Making Umpiring More Inclusive**

**Neil Snowball, ECB Managing Director, County Cricket**



At the ECB we are proud to have produced top quality match officials, many of whom have officiated at the very highest level, and of the high standard of officiating that we see generally across the game. This has been the result of a lot of hard work, planning and investment.

But we also recognise that today's group of professional match officials does not reflect the level of diversity and inclusivity that we are striving for as a game.

If we are to have the strongest possible game, and also demonstrate that cricket is for everyone, our group of match officials needs to represent and reflect everyone who plays

and supports our game. That means bringing with them different experiences and backgrounds, while sharing a dedication to be the very best.

We are aware that by having just one Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic (BAME) First Class official, as we currently do, we're potentially missing out on a wide range of talent, and we can't afford to do that.

That's why we are carrying out a thorough evaluation of our approach to the way that we attract, appoint, develop, performance manage and evaluate our match officials. We want to increase the diversity of our officiating, inspire the next generation of umpires and match referees, have a world class officiating programme and ensure a culture of inclusivity and fairness throughout the system.

As a first step, we are introducing three immediate measures:

- With immediate effect, there will be BAME representation on all umpire and match referee selection panels.
- We will appoint someone from a BAME background who either is or has operated at the professional level of umpiring, and who will act as an advocate to actively encourage other people from a BAME background to get involved in umpiring, especially at the recreational level so that we can grow the talent pool.
- We will also commit that by the end of 2021, 15% of the umpires on the national panel will be from a BAME background.

We will announce further actions next year as our reform programme identifies further changes to our systems, processes and culture.

There is no place for discrimination in our sport, whether that is perceived or real, and we have taken significant steps in recent years to make cricket a more inclusive and diverse game, but we acknowledge that there is more to do.

That is why in addition to this important work across our officiating system, we also recently announced three significant steps which will have an impact across cricket as a whole.

1. In the new year we will launch an independent Commission for Equality in Cricket to assist the ECB Board in assessing the evidence of inequalities and discrimination of all forms within cricket, and the actions needed to tackle these issues.
2. We are also creating a Forum for Race in Cricket to provide a confidential, safe space through which the ECB can listen to, and learn from, the lived experiences of people from across the game.
3. In time for the 2021 season, we will introduce a new Equality Code of Conduct to be adopted and enforced by all cricket organisations operating under the ECB's jurisdiction, enabling discriminatory behaviour to be sanctioned through disciplinary processes.

These will all form part of a broader Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Plan to be launched in 2021. Cricket must be a game for everyone, and we are committed to making sure that it is.

**I hope that you found these articles interesting and thought provoking. The difference in the numbers quoted by John and Neil is explained by the fact that**



**BAME umpires have been members of the reserve First Class list. As such, Hasan Adnan stood in two games in the Bob Willis Trophy in 2020.**

**If you are interested in joining LACO's BAME sub-committee please contact Rob Hales [rhales100@btinternet.com](mailto:rhales100@btinternet.com)**

### **LACO Christmas Quiz**



Each question has been given a mark based on a full answer which will help to decide the winners e.g. ball dead - 1 mark; signal short run - 1 mark; disallow runs - 1 mark; return batsmen to original ends - 1 mark; award 5 penalty runs - 1 mark; inform captains - 1 mark and report to Governing Body - 1 mark. Total marks available = 7.

A winner will be drawn from those with the highest marks with a prize of £100 gift voucher

#### 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?**

#### 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?**

#### 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?**

#### 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?**

#### 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?**

#### Question 6

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

- a) Before the match**
- b) After the toss**

#### 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?**

#### 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?**

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?**

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?**

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?**
- b. How many runs are scored?**
- c. Who faces 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?**

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?**

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?**

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?**

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?**

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?**

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?**

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?**

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?**

**THANKS ARE DUE TO ALISTAIR DAVIES FOR COMPILING THE CHRISTMAS QUIZ**



## **Disability Cricket**

**Hughie Evans**

You will have seen from the Winter edition of the ACO Newsletter that there has been a growth in Disability Cricket over the past few years and more developments are planned. As well as cricket for the visually impaired, there are matches for players with a physical disability and a learning disability. There is even talk about developing a game where there is a mix of players with differing disabilities! It is very rewarding to officiate in these games and whilst Lancashire have umpires and scorers who have been involved there will be opportunities for more officials to participate.

If you would like to be considered for appointment to these matches please let me have your details. For scorers, I will pass on your details to the Lancashire Foundations Disability Cricket Development Officer.

Please email me at [evanz@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:evanz@blueyonder.co.uk)

To quote the ECB Disability Cricket Competitions Manager, 'I can guarantee a new experience and a very warm welcome!'

## **Santa**

**By Christopher Coxhead**

It's Christmas time and we're all agog,  
Because Santa is writing, his Yuletide blog.  
No written request by the fireside grate,  
A tweet, or e mail will ensure our fate,

Mustn't forget though, Santa's mince pie,  
And a glass of Baileys to see him by.  
He'll need the refreshment so he can whisk away,  
To all the other children, in time for Christmas day.

You can watch Santa's progress round our earthly sphere.  
You can track him with NORAD and follow his reindeer.  
Who are hauling him, your presents and sleigh?  
To other children's lands, near, close and far away.

It's no good waking early, Santa might not have been,  
Better to have slept in, until at least eight fifteen.  
Then you'll all be dumbfounded by the big surprises,  
Santa has delivered from his North Pole suppliers.

When the present opening starts we'll all want to see,



What everyone's bought for each other and me.  
Wrapping paper will tear, with mislaid tags,  
So no one will remember who gave Mother those bags.

After the fun of opening, all our presents given out,  
It's off to Church with our friends, so we can all shout about,  
Those earlier moments of joy and glee.  
Then its home, for crackers, tinsel, and turkey.



## **It's Over**

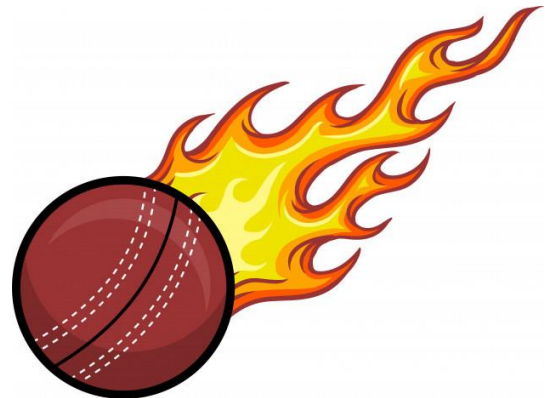
**By Christopher Coxhead**

The first ball was his and went for four.

Next was the bowlers near leg before.

The third ball went between pad and bat  
Resulting in a great big, **'how's that.'**  
Every eye towards the umpire turned,  
Would the fielder's mighty yell be spurned?  
He thought to himself, **'oh one, two, three,'**  
While he considered the fielders plea.  
There was no connection with bat or pad  
**'Not out,'** the only response to be had.

The bowler quizzical back to his mark,  
Came roaring in with stacks more spark,  
That not out he wanted to avenge,  
His fastest ball bowled in revenge.



The batsman waiting wasn't that daft,  
He knew he'd be needing all his craft.

The fast ball left the bowlers hand,  
The striker riposte perfectly planned.  
Reared back in his crease, feet ready spread.  
The fast-short ball meant to cause such dread,  
Biting and spitting at the batsman's head,  
Who dodged, swivelled, and weaved instead.

The ball sailed past to the keeper's glove,  
The bowler now showing no more love,  
**'Snarled,'** in annoyance and went back to his mark.

Batsman stood up and watched, what a lark.

The fifth ball was gentle, whacked for six.

The bowler now, was in a right fix

The sixth even slower, meant to deceive.

Transfixed the batsmen, who meant to leave.

Too late he realised it bit and turned,

His off stump now, torn from the ground.

The bat so deceived wanted to cry.

**'That's out,'** said the Umpire his finger high.

The bat walked away as slow as you like.

While the fielders cheered , what a strike

