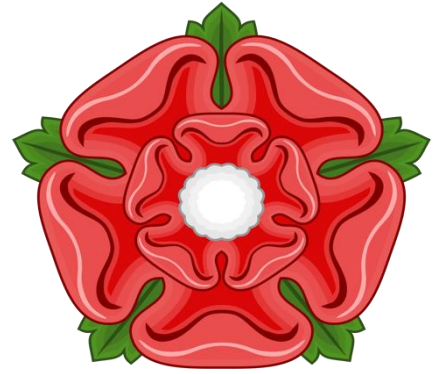


Lancashire Association of Cricket Officials



July 2021

Welcome to our July Newsletter. As we are, I am pleased to say, all so busy on the field at the moment the Newsletters will be published less frequently over the summer months, and we will return to our bi-monthly newsletters over the autumn/winter.

I must start by wishing our colleague Geoff Greenop a swift recovery. Unfortunately, Geoff was struck on the head by a straight drive when umpiring the Lancashire League 2nd team game between Rochdale and Darwen on Saturday 12th June. For anyone who has seen the film of the incident it is a sickening sight. Of course nobody is to blame but it is a reminder of how dangerous our game can be and how important it is to take every precaution. I do wonder whether the wearing of helmets by umpires will become a more common sight in future? All our thoughts go to not only Geoff but also the players involved in this horrific incident. The ACO will of course do all it can to support Geoff, both informally and via the ACO insurance scheme.

In our last Newsletter I introduced the reorganisation of the structure of LACO that we would like to undertake. This would involve a number of working parties being set up to look at various aspects of the work we do to recruit and retain officials. As the game grows the demands for officials grows and if we are to continue to support the game we need to establish

In this month's Newsletter:

Update on training

Eric Roberts reminisces

Umpire Appointments

Scorers' news



support networks for a new wave of officials, be that Young Officials or Women and Girls, without of course forgetting our existing membership.

In June I attended a Young Cricket Officials course run by Cheshire CCB. Over two nights they had over 30 youngsters taking part in sessions on umpiring and scoring. It was great to see the enthusiasm and knowledge they brought. We are currently in discussion with LCF to stage similar courses in our County later in the season.

Having run an on-line Stage 2 course for the Liverpool and District Women and Girls section in March and April on Monday 14 June we ran a 'Ready to Call Play' course at Northern Cricket Club. This new course is a link between the Stage 2 and actually taking the field, and introduces new umpires to the process of umpiring including, 'The Toss', 'Ground Inspections', 'Positioning' and 'Signalling'. The idea is to make the daunting transition from online or classroom training to taking the field easier.

These are just a couple of the initiatives we are trying to get off the ground, but we need help to organise and come up with new ideas. If you think you could spare just a few hours each month, mainly during the winter months to help us please email me at rhales100@btinternet.com and we can discuss how you might help.

Finally enjoy the Newsletter, enjoy the rest of the season and fingers crossed the sun continues to shine!

Rob Hales (Chairman)

Course Update

The last eighteen months or so have been a frustrating time for education at Lancs ACO although, as with much currently, there is some light at the end of the tunnel.

Last winter saw some success in delivering courses at Stage 2 and we were able to introduce a new tutor in Jasmine Naeem. Personally, it was frustrating as my internet connection was too poor to allow much of a contribution. Happily, that seems resolved. My key tip here is to get new windows!

Back on message, what it probably taught us is that in future the vast majority of our Stage 1 provision will be online, whilst Stage 2 will be predominantly face to face.

It is sincerely to be hoped that we will be able to return to our face to face from autumn and will be assessing interest and demand in the coming weeks in order to decide where and when we will be putting on Stage 2 courses.

At Stage 3 we hope to run at least two courses. We have the historical commitment to those deeply frustrated colleagues who were raring to go in March 2020 and then a further cohort of candidates who have been gaining experience in the interim and want to access Stage 3 as part of their progression.

Again, there may be the option of an online course for Stage 3. Broadly we are less than wholly enthusiastic about this as so much of the value here is in the discussion and the exchange of views, which can be limited on the various online platforms. It may be, however, a good option for colleagues who aren't necessarily ambitious, but who wish to access the course for interest and general education.

We are also currently working with The Lancashire Cricket Federation to assist their delivery of a Young Officials course and hope to be able to get a pilot off the ground prior to the end of the season.

Let us hope that we are able to get the go ahead for a return to face to face in the coming weeks.

In the meantime, enjoy your umpiring and take care.

David Chaloner (Lancashire ACO Education Officer)

Our former Chairman, **Eric Roberts**, has been presented with a tie to mark 40 years as a member of ECB ACO (and its predecessors). Eric reflected on his life in cricket.

I became a member of Middleton C. C. In the 1950s who then had a Pro called Roy Gilchrist (bit quick). Then in 1960 came Basil D'Oliveira (what a player). In the 1950s I remember my father taking me to Old Trafford to watch England play South Africa in a Test match. At lunch I was seen on TV playing cricket on the boundary edge using a tennis ball and an empty beer bottle as a bat.

My playing career was at Haggate C. C. in the Oldham Alliance League for 15 years, 10 of which as Captain. I used to open the batting and keep wicket, always in the game. My playing memories include my team, chasing 92 to win; my opening partner and myself put on 78 for the first wicket and did not win the match. Match tied. In 1975 keeping wicket, the ball went down the legside with me diving to my left, the ball came through at a difficult height hit me on the nose, broken nose blood everywhere.

Sometimes you had to umpire (striker's end) because of a shortage of umpires, and then you pass the age when you play and you want to put something back into the game that you love and you become an umpire. In my case anyway!

There are many quality international umpires, but if I had to pick between Dicky Bird or Michael Gough it would always be Michael because he umpires for the game and not for himself!

Umpiring has changed for the recreational umpire because they are under more pressure from player behaviour these days, but the 1st class umpires have match referees and DRS to help them. The good part of DRS is that the right decision is made (most times).

I loved playing but umpiring takes you to another level. I used to tell players who came on the umpire courses to play as long as you can. I umpired in four Wood Cup Finals in the Central Lancashire League and only Thomas Handrick did more (5). I have always enjoyed umpiring because you are always in the game and it took me a long way. Representing



umpires at a board meeting at Lords as well as being on a Committee at Lords. The first Chairman of the now LACO. I made a lot of friends (few enemies) and enjoyed every minute of it.

There is one law change I would make. If you play a ball that pitches outside leg stick and it comes off the bat and is caught you are out, so why can't you be out LBW, they call it the left hander's law. I don't think this is right for the bowler, and this comes from someone who opened the batting.

Scorers News

Software guides: As more and more scorers are being asked to score electronically, then there are very useful software guides on the website www.play-cricket.ecb.co.uk. Click on scoring software guides which gives you plenty of information for scoring using play cricket on tablets and phones as well as the latest for lap tops using scorer pro. These guidelines cover everything from how to set up a match, how to score it and to record some of the more unusual things like penalty runs. There are also training guides available on you tube channel runswktsovers. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoBu7VMwO-d6mxDDxYgPx7w>

Training Face to face training still has to be put on hold and I am still waiting for an on line level 1 course to become available. New scorers were directed to the online scorers course and those who wished to take the next step have been sent the paperwork to start their portfolio this season which will be reviewed at the end of the season. Two candidates who were on the level 2 scorers course before lockdown in March 2020 were able to do the course online and are progressing through their portfolio. I took part in a zoom lesson on how to deliver this course which I will do later on in the year.

Appointments .pA list of level 2 scorers was given to Katrina Lees at Lancashire to appoint to their academy matches and help out with Lancashire Thunder. If there is anyone out there who wishes to make them selves available for age group matches then please let me know.

Karen Knott (Scorers' Officer)

Umpire Appointments

The LACO are responsible for appointing umpires to the Lancashire Age Group Programme, Lancashire KO Cup and the first 3 rounds of the ECB National KO Cup. In addition, the LACO receive requests for umpires for other games including Universities, Lancashire Disability Cricket and Lancashire Thunder. In addition, the LACO are asked to nominate umpires to matches where the appointments are made by the ACO's Regional Appointments Officer.

Overall in 2021, the LACO will make appointments to 108 matches in the main fixture programme, 31 matches in the Lancashire KO and 13 in the ECB National KO.

WTU has made the appointing of umpires easier but dealing with requests for umpires from 8 different individuals can be challenging. It is also a challenge to ensure that all the information required by the umpires is made available – including playing regulations, colour of ball to be used, colour of clothing to be worn, venue for the match and start time.

Umpires match fees are paid, in the main, by Lancashire CCC but this year there are 5 different claim forms for the different types of match. This was reduced just prior to the start of the season where it looked like there may have been as many as 8 different forms! At the time of writing, all seems to be going well but I am sure that eventually someone will fill in the wrong form.

Making these appointments is, as I have said earlier, a lot easier now that WTU is used. However it would be an impossible task if the LACO did not have the support of its umpires especially where short notice is given regards a match change or a new fixture added. The email that comes asking for 'two umpires for a match tomorrow' is one that I dread but we have always managed to get all matches covered.

The LACO is pleased to be able to continue to support cricket across Lancashire.

Hughie Evans (Appointments Officer)

Endpiece:

What has this team got in common?

Alex Hales (England)
Tim Robinson (England)
Stuart Williams (Zimbabwe)
Steve Smith (Australia)
Dan Lawrence (England)
George Challenor (West Indies)
Alan Knott (England)
Don Wilson (England)
Edwin Evans (Australia)
Andy Roberts (West Indies)
Oliver Newby (Lancashire)
David Brown (England)

Clue: Apologies to Ian and David.....