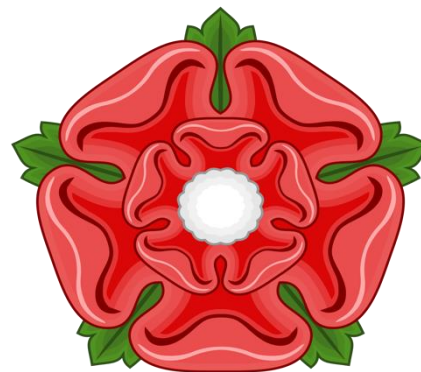


# Lancashire Association of Cricket Officials

December 2021



Just as I was about to start writing this introduction to our Christmas 2021 Newsletter I received an email from Les Clemenson, Chair of ECB ACO, advising that we must once again suspend face to face meetings and training events as a result of the Omicron variant. This is extremely frustrating for us all but public health and particularly the health and well-being of our members must come first. For all those who have worked hard planning events, and candidates who had booked or were looking forward to events, I do hope you understand. It is to be hoped that it will be a short-lived suspension this time and we can resume meeting face to face in the not too far distant future.

At the moment we continue to plan to hold our AGM face to face in March on a date and at venue in Greater Manchester yet to be finally confirmed. We are looking forward to welcoming our Guest Speaker, ex first class umpire Jeff Evans, and getting your approval to some radical changes to our Constitution which have been outlined in previous Newsletters. We are still looking for volunteers for our sub committees which will look at how we can improve our recruitment and the services we offer to Young Officials, Women and Girls and people from a BAME background as well as improving our traditional offering to Clubs and Leagues. If you can spare any time at all, please let us know and we can discuss your contribution. All volunteer organisations depend on members supporting such initiatives.

## In this month's Newsletter:

**Peter Robinson interviews Chris Kelly**

**David Marks on the GMACL**

**Stage 3 Course**

**Alistair Davies' Christmas Quiz**



**Deadline for the next edition is February 10th**

In this Newsletter we have report on the much-delayed Umpires Stage 3 course which we just managed to get 'under the wire' over the past two weeks, as well as a report on the Greater Manchester Amateur Cricket League (GMACL). Many people may not be aware of this Sunday league which isn't to be confused with the GMCL! It has a proud history and tradition explored by David Marks one of our members who serves on that League's Executive. We also have a fascinating interview conducted by our CDO Peter Robinson with Chris Kelly the ECB First Class Umpires Manager, in which, as well as providing some fascinating background into his role, he also he gives some excellent advice for Recreational umpires. We are again thankful to Alistair Davies for his traditional Christmas Quiz, it would be good to see some more entries this year!

New Year of course marks the half-way point between the old season and the new and we can now start looking forward to an exciting and hopefully complete season on 2022. Finally, may I wish you and your families a very Happy Christmas and lets all hope for a healthy New Year (and a better England performance in the Ashes!)

Rob Hales

Chairman LACO

**Peter Robinson** interviews **Chris Kelly**. Peter says "I first met Chris about 10 years ago when I was working on course material for Nick Cousins who was head of ACO at the time. Working with Chris is quite challenging and hopefully he will understand when I say, he can come over as quite difficult at times. However, once these hurdles are overcome, you find a man who is extremely knowledgeable on everything associated with Cricket umpiring, a World authority. When all else fails, Chris remains my go to person when I need help with umpiring issues. He invariably comes up with the solution. It came as no surprise to me when Chris agreed to this interview."



**Please can you give us an overview of what your job entails and what your responsibilities are.**

Quite simply my role is all about the management of the professional cricket umpires. This is a simple definition for a role which has significant demands and expectations within the professional game and the responsibilities include the following:

- Recruitment of professional umpires, responding as necessary to their needs and providing appropriate support.
- Match appointments throughout the professional game (including the Hundred) – approx. 730 annually
- Logistics for professional umpires – accommodation, expenses, salaries, events,
- Performance management and development of Professional Umpires Team

- Support and continuous professional development of Professional Umpires Team – including the training for the use of technology both as on-field and 3<sup>rd</sup> umpires.
- Provision and distribution of clothing for Professional Umpires Team
- Oversight of the officiating pathway for men and women officials – management of Pathway Manager
- Liaison with and advising ICC in the management of the ICC Accreditation Programme thus enabling ECB umpires' access to international appointments.

Other areas I have some responsibility for are:

- Liaising on behalf of ECB with the scoring community, maintaining contact with Association of County Cricket Scorers (ACCS) and ECB ACO National Scorer Officer.
- Management of arrangements for visiting ICC Officials for International matches.
- An active member of MCC Laws Sub-committee

### **Please explain the journey that led to your current position.**

Following a teaching career interspersed initially with playing and later umpiring cricket regularly I applied for the role of ICC Umpires & Referees Manager. At the time I was on the ECB Reserve List and trying to combine my mathematics teaching with the umpiring making full use of the summer holidays! I was alerted to the role through the circulation to all the professional umpires in 2002 and successfully navigated through the selection process to be able to retire from teaching and embark on a new career.

Upon appointment I had to relinquish my position on the ECB Reserve List, the Chairmanship of Worcestershire Cricket Umpires and Scorers Association and relocate to be able to be within commuting distance of Lord's. My world has been turned upside down and top set Year 9 mathematics had been replaced by a small group of twelve individuals called IC Elite Panel of Umpires and Referees – 8 umpires and 5 match referees initially.

After overseeing the technology trials in Champions Trophies in Sri Lanka (2002) and England (2004) followed by the management of the umpires at the 2003 Cricket World Cup in South Africa and then the Super Series in Sydney (2005) ICC relocated to Dubai. I relocated with them to the Emirate but after six months in the 'desert' I was pleased to be offered a position in England with ECB and given the opportunity to develop the officiating structure in more familiar territory. That was in February 2006, and I have remained there ever since!

### **What part of your job do you find most challenging?**

The most challenging part of the role will always be around performance management and the provision of relevant feedback to umpires which is both timely and helpful to them. This support is critical for them if they are to achieve the potential that they all possess.

Other challenges exist around the logistical role around appointment of umpires to ensure that there is a balanced schedule for all umpires which ensures that no county is umpired more often than others by individuals and that each umpire is spread amongst their colleagues in a balanced way. All this is before mapping out the travelling that will need to be done in a safe and proportionate way. This is a challenge and can get very complex.

### **What advice can you give our members, on how to maintain concentration when they are umpiring.**

In many ways the key to good focus and concentration can be linked to acute awareness alertness to current and likely situations. Taking opportunities to be able to practise for the different environments' umpires find themselves in is a much more efficient use of time than just practising the necessary skills.

The umpires who can concentrate and focus effectively are those who can deal with the factors affecting their mind and thinking during the match. Individuals' feelings and thoughts influence thinking and your self-confidence is the most important influence for your success. Anger, frustration, and stress prevents good concentration and hence good performances.

**Please explain the points of focus for the bowler's end umpire, from the moment the bowler starts his run up until the ball becomes dead.**

Officiating is built about routines whatever your sport and this is especially important when looking at the role of the umpire at the bowler's end in cricket.

Routines are created by practice and this practice leads to relatively permanent changes of behaviours (routine). I am assured that the individual's brain is always learning what you do and the way you do it. This is the reason why having effective routines is so important while at the bowler's end and at any other time where they are appropriate. What you practice (and ultimately what you learn) will ultimately be how you umpire. For those who think they can do it differently only when it matters, and hence don't have good clear and effective routines, are setting themselves up for failure.

There are no standard routines other than the ones that individuals are creating for themselves. However, the same key moments do exist and need to be managed efficiently – start of run up, landing of feet in delivery, movements of the striker (and non-striker), from where the ball is released, where the ball pitches etc... Occasionally the priorities that the umpire at the bowler end apply can change and this is important to assist the umpires achieving the key secret to top performance – looking for the right thing at the right time!

This is a vast subject area, and it is not possible to do it justice in this publication. However, having such conversations in training classes across the country will soon reveal the power and importance of the key priorities and the necessary accompanying routines.

**What advice can you give our members on how to deal with conflict situations.**

Dealing with conflict will not be done effectively unless there is real clarity of what expectations are being applied. Clearly the communication of these expectations lies with the umpires for each match, and these will be supported by the trickle of information from the league or governing body for the match at various points of a season.

Once the clarity of expectations has been agreed by the two umpires and communicated to the players maintaining the standards must be the top priority for the match. The stronger the level of teamwork on the day, the more effective you will be and maintaining open communication channels is fundamental to success.

However, conflicts will arise and there is no hiding from them. The better umpires will see them coming and be fully prepared together with their colleague. By the nature of the role of any official in a sporting event you will be asked to manage conflict and be expected to deal with it strongly and fairly. It is incumbent on the appointed umpires to deal with all situations of conflict immediately rather than covering over the cracks and leaving others who follow to pick up the pieces. There are times when this is all too common and only makes situations worse by clouding the tolerance levels for the players.

An obvious strategy which you will be expecting to read is that of always dealing with conflict together. This assists anything being seen to be personal between umpire and player and sends the clear message that it is the behaviour that is being objected to rather than the person. Separating the two is often crucial in order to reach a quicker resolution.



**Man-management is a key area in umpiring and one that many umpires find most difficult. Please can you give us some ideas on how we can improve our man-management skills.**

In some ways the essence of umpiring is built around the disciplines of man management. Many books have been written on the subject and in this context the more effectively this is managed will define the highest level to which people can safely be appointed.

The most improvement I believe can be made by increasing individuals' levels of emotional intelligence. The management of yourself is really the very first example of man management we should all explore before looking to manage others. Being comfortable within your own skin and possessing self-confidence is a real help to people in the umpiring role.

**What advice can you give to our members who have ambitions of elevation to the National Panel**

Umpires who are appointed to the National Panel are not only compared with the best in their region but also the best in the country. Individuals have no control over their selection other than to ensure that they are enjoying their umpiring and maintain strong performances in the matches to which they are appointed.

The best advice I can offer is to carry on umpiring to the very best of your ability and enjoy the role. Maintain a strict programme of self-review (honestly) and ensure that you are always the very best that you can be.

#### **GREATER MANCHESTER AMATEUR CRICKET LEAGUE 1920 – PRESENT DAY**



Dave Wood and Paul Greaves receiving a Lifetime Award for Services to Sport and Cricket in General'

From l – r: Deputy Mayor Councillor Aasim Rashid, GMACL Chairman Adnan Ghazanfar, Dave Wood, Paul Greaves, Mayor of Rochdale William Sheerin.

The Greater Manchester Cricket League was founded by a number of churches based in the Swinton and Salford areas in 1920 and was known as The Church Cricket League.

Unfortunately, little is known about the early years of the league other than it had approximately 10 teams playing each season.

Over time other non-church based cricket teams joined the league ( including Colgate, MEL and Gerrards ) and at an executive meeting a vote was taken on a name change. The Church League became the West Manchester League.

The league had yet another name change in 2000 when teams from the South Lancashire League ( incl Vertex, Chadderton and Whittles ) joined along with teams from the disbanded Ashton league and the WML became the Greater Manchester Amateur Cricket League. Because more teams had home grounds away from West Manchester it was decided that the name change seemed more appropriate geographically.

Whilst many people played significant roles in the running of the league I would like to mention a few who were it not for their service the league would never have evolved into what it is today.

Jim Gettins played in the WML in the 50's and stayed a part of the league until his death in 2009. He joined the league executive in the late 60's and held various positions including Vice Ch and Chairman. He even got his son, Colin, involved in the league in the late 70's and Colin is still the league's treasurer to this day. Jim was a true cricket man and like any true cricketer played in a cup final on the day when Colin was born. There is no record of the conversation held later that day between the proud parents when Jim finally met his son for the first time The Gettins family have a near 70-year connection with the league.

Paul Greaves joined the WML in 1988 and continued playing until 2009. He joined the ACU&S as it was known in those days in 1990 and continued umpiring until 2009. He was a member of the league executive from 1999 to 2018 and held the position of league Chairman from 2010 – 2018. He was also Secretary of the umpires association as well as VC and Chairman of the association.

Dave Wood began playing in the WML in the early 1960's and continued his association with the league until retiring in 2018. Once his playing days were over he joined the ACU&S as an umpire and was also a football referee doing both for many many years. He was the league secretary for over 30 years from the mid 1980's to 2018.

Angela Critchley joined the league when her team, Vertex, joined the league in 2000. She was league and ACU&S treasurer until her untimely death in 2017.

Anna Imran also joined the Executive in 2000 and held the posts of league vice chairman and ACU&S vice chairman, Match Secretary and league Secretary until she retired in 2017.

Every league up and down the country has people like this who give their hearts and souls to an organisation but without the Gettins, Paul, Dave, and Anna the GMACL would not be what it is today.

The GMACL currently has 28 teams across 4 divisions playing only on a Sunday and plays for approximately 22 weeks each year. The league has a strictly amateur only policy and has been and continues to be a diverse and multi-cultural league hosting various ethnic

groups. Being a truly amateur league does have its own problems however. There have been many games where the umpires have been at the ground 30 minutes before the start and been one of the first ( if not the first ) to arrive. Many players feel it is only right and proper to be at the ground 5 minutes before the game begins much to the annoyance of their captains. The GMACL can be said to be a 'social' league. That said, when the game begins all players are 100% all business and many of the GMACL Division One teams would give a number of local semi pro teams a really good game.

The league is already looking towards 2022 where it hopes to continue again with 28 teams at least. Matches are played over 40 overs per side and the teams get a very leisurely 4 minutes to bowl each over and sometimes boy do they need it.

As with many other leagues the GMACL does struggle with the number of its ACO members. In the past 5 years many umpires have retired or unfortunately passed away and trying to get the numbers to increase is an uphill battle. The ACO currently has 24 umpires who are qualified to Level 1 and 6 of the umpires at Level 2 with 2 of those 6 reaching Level 2c status. Unfortunately for the ACO and the league 8 or 9 of the umpires are still currently playing and are not able to stand. However, even with 28 teams last year the ACO was able to cover all matches played with at least one registered ACO member standing. This of course is not ideal but the ACO continues to try and recruit new members. There are times when a run out or stumping is claimed and the ACO umpire standing at the non-strikers end looks to the square leg umpire for conformation. The square leg umpire is usually a member of the batting team and it sometimes takes a few seconds for the dreaded finger to go up. As stated, the situation is not ideal but the non-umpires do the 'right thing' even when they know what's in store for them when they walk off the field.

The GMACL has no official scorers and the teams score the games themselves. This does occasionally bring up issues with the scoreboard but at least it does keep the umpires on their toes.

Having a history that stretches back over 100 years is something that all GMACL members are proud of and we all look forward to the league continuing for many more years ably steered by chairman Adnan Ghazanfar and secretary Faraz Malik

On a final note can I put out a plea on behalf of the GMACL clubs. Our teams are always looking for grounds to call home. If any clubs in the Gt Manchester area have grounds that are free for use on a Sunday can you please get in touch with me at [davidmarks57@gmail.com](mailto:davidmarks57@gmail.com). Thank you

**David Marks**  
**Chairman GMACL/ACO**  
**Executive Officer GMACL.**

# CHRISTMAS QUIZ



Set by: Alistair Davies

## **Question 1**

A bowler begins their spell over the wicket with a single is taken from the first delivery. The second delivery, the bowler delivers from round the wicket without notifying the umpire. What action, if any, is taken?

## **Question 2**

A runner for an injured striker positioned at square leg has left their ground early before the ball is played into the field. The runner and the non-striker start to run. What action, if any, is taken and when?

## **Question 3**

On what occasion, when the ball has become dead, is the run-in progress scored if the batters have not yet crossed?

## **Question 4**

A ball that has been delivered bounces twice before reaching the popping crease. The striker advances down the pitch, striking the ball over the boundary on the full. What action, if any, is taken?



**Question 5**

A fairly delivered ball is played and the batters run. The bowler attempts to field the ball, but deliberately collides with the striker, knocking them over. The wicket at the bowler's end is put down with the striker short of their ground. There's an appeal. What action, if any, is taken?

**Question 6**

A short-pitched delivery strikes the batter's helmet before running into the outfield. The batters complete one run before the ball becomes dead. What action if any is required by the bowler's end umpire? How many runs are scored and how are they recorded?

**Question 7**

You are the bowler's end umpire. In diving to make their ground, the batter drops his bat. Before the wicket is put down, the batter's hand comes in contact with but, not holding, the handle at the same time the toe of the bat is grounded behind the popping crease. There's an appeal. How do you respond?

**Question 8**

You are the bowler's end umpire. The striker hits a fair delivery high into the air. Realising they may be caught, they deliberately run into the path of a fielder to prevent any chance of the catch being affected.

There's an appeal. How do you respond?

**Question 9**

You are the bowler's end umpire. The bowler delivers a high full-pitched delivery which is struck for a boundary six.

a) How many runs are scored?

b) How are they recorded?

c) What action, if any, are you required to take?

**Question 10**

A ball delivered lands off the pitch and beyond the line of the wicket, out of the reach of the striker but below their waist. The ball is missed by the wicket-keeper and the batters complete one run. How many runs are scored and how are they recorded?

Passing out of reach and below the waist Pitching beyond the line of the striker's wicket

**Question 11**

a) You are the bowler's end umpire. A fielder impacts the fence located outside the boundary, injures their shoulder and leaves the field of play. The captain of the fielding requests a substitute. What is your response?

b) After 45 minutes, the fielder is able to return. How much penalty time must be served before they are allowed to bowl?

c) The innings of the team batting first has concluded. The fielder who injured their shoulder plans to open the batting and requests a runner to act for them. How do the umpires respond to the request?

### **Question 12**

What ground conditions shall be regarded as so bad that it would be dangerous and unreasonable for play to take place?

- a) For bowlers
- b) For fielders
- c) For batters

### **Question 13**

The striker in playing at a fair delivery takes a hand off the bat. The ball touches the glove being worn on that hand and is caught on the full by the wicket-keeper. There is an appeal. How shall this appeal be answered?

### **Question 14**

A match is scheduled to be played over three days. a) The first day's play is completely washed out and play starts on the second day. What is the minimum lead required if a captain wishes to enforce the follow-on?

b) At the end of day one, Team A is dismissed for 376 runs. Day two is completely washed out. What does Team B have to score to avoid the possibility of being asked to follow-on?

Answers to [tim.mansfield@btinternet.com](mailto:tim.mansfield@btinternet.com) by 31 January 2022 to enter a prize draw

## **ECB ACO Stage 3 Course**

After 623 days of waiting we were delighted to finally welcome our umpire colleagues to Emirates Old Trafford on Sunday 5th December for their long delayed Stage 3 course. When the pandemic struck in March 2020 we were forced to cancel the course that had been due to run at Liverpool C.C. the following week. Over the months since we have been working with James Cutt and LCF to re-organise this, our flagship course, at the home of cricket in the county, Old Trafford and it was with great pleasure that we finally got to welcome them to the 'Club Room' in the iconic pavilion.

Although ACO operates an "Education For All" philosophy, given the backlog of candidates that had developed over the past two years, we have needed to be selective about who can attend the Stage 3. The attendees were largely those who had booked on the cancelled March 20 course with few additions that had been put forward by their respective leagues who took the place of some of the original candidates who couldn't make these dates. We will operate a similar policy for the proposed March 2022 course. If you are interested in attending, and weren't on the cancelled March 2020 course please advise your Leagues Appointment Officer as we will liaise with them before finalising the attendance list. You will require at least 3 years

umpiring experience and be standing or be ready to stand in ECB Premier League cricket or equivalent.



The candidates took little time in getting to know each other, identifying their individual strengths and areas for developments before in week 1 we looked at Further Match Management and Managing Player Behaviour. After lunch the candidates themselves presented on various topics related to Mental Resilience.

Homework during the week involved writing a Disciplinary Report as well as looking at Match Regulations for the T20 Blast.

Despite a scare midweek when we wondered if we would be allowed to hold Day 2, given the emergence of the Omicron variant, at 10m sharp on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> December we reconvened and discussed the Disciplinary Reports that the candidates had submitted. We then spoke about Observation, Concentration and Focus before moving onto the 'meat' of the 2<sup>nd</sup> week looking at the additional challenges posed by Limited Overs Cricket. This included some tricky exercises involving the Regulations studied during the week, as well as surprise guests!

Finally, we completed the day by considering Self Reflection and Analysis of Performance.



It was great to get back in the classroom with such an enthusiastic group of umpires all of whom will, I am sure, have benefited from the two days. The feedback received so far has been very positive. A huge thank you to my fellow Tutor, Steve Beswick for all his hard work, to LCF, Lancashire CCC and James Cutt for supporting us, to our surprise guests but most of all to the candidates without whose enthusiasm and participation this interactive course wouldn't work.

We now look forward to welcoming 12 more victims, sorry candidates in March!

**Rob Hales**