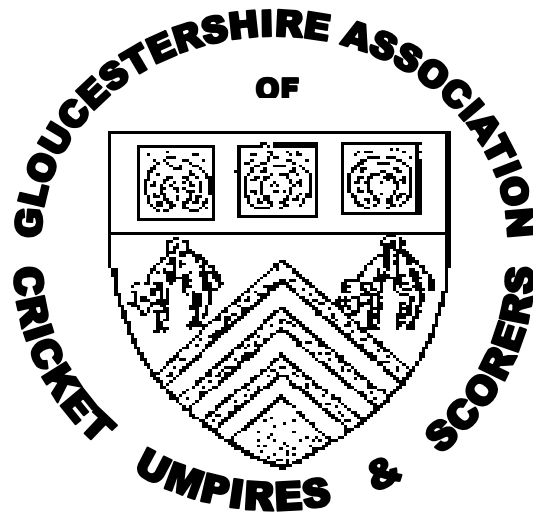


# NOT-OUT

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER



**PRESIDENT: The Rt. Hon. Lord Vestey**

**ISSUE NUMBER : 108**

**October 2009**

## **Editorial**

I must apologise for the lateness of this edition but my prime occupation for the last few months has been to revive and oversee the re-start of the Indoor Cricket Competition.

After a two-year break because of the floods and with changes within GCB and totally new staff at the Recreation Centre it was start again from scratch time. Fortunately most of the teams that played before were eager to do so again so, with the introduction of four new teams, it swung into action again on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October.

The facilities in the Cricket Hall are better than ever and the staff have bent over backwards to provide everything we need so everyone is happy to play competitive indoor cricket once again. I only wish more umpires and scorers would participate as it is an excellent way to sharpen the mind and the concentration thus making one a better all-round individual.

On the wider scene I am sure there is a lot of talking to be done this winter to prepare for next summer. After the first season of a Premier League Panel there must be lessons to be learnt and adjustments to make. A working formula for bringing new umpires into the game is vital to the games' success.

Good news also for scorers as the momentum gathers pace to recognise that their place is central to the administration of the game.

An independent scorer is equally essential as independent umpires!!

*Trigger*

## Thoughts from the End of Season Seminar

Jeff Chandra as Chairman opened the sparsely attended meeting by saying he would like open discussions on any topic we liked relating to the season passed, particularly any disciplinary issues, regulation interpretation, or communication problems between membership and committee, comments on the mid - season get together at H & R and any other issues.

We started discussing discipline and many said the pre-toss meeting had helped a great deal particularly in WEPL panel games where the captains had a pre season meeting with the WEPL panel regarding relations with umpires during the coming season. It was felt there were more issues of player behaviour in the Glos. Division.

Then we talked about wides. It was felt that the WEPL regulations must be changed next season to clearly state to everyone the exact interpretation of a wide ball.

Next came a discussion, following words from Stan Bennett, that some umpires were not signalling and calling correctly, although most of us thought the example set by some umpires in the top level was pretty poor!

Bill Griffin talked about training and he is going to start a short 3 week IICUS course for potential umpires soon, the other full length IICUS course was starting in November. Was there anyone else who may be interested? ECB had been putting pressure on GCB to ensure clubs put forward people to attend umpire courses otherwise they may be penalized.

All those who attended the mid - season get together thought it a good idea, but it looks as if those without Internet connection were forgotten! All agreed we should continue such get togethers' in future seasons.

After a short break the Chairman asked us to form 2 groups to discuss the issue of grading and boundary edge assessment. There is a difference between ECB and GACUS grading systems, so our Grading Committee will have to try and attain some kind of uniformity when they next meet. Some thought grades were not always reflective of umpire's ability because Captains reports and boundary edge assessments were confined to Saturday league games only. There were discussions on boundary edge assessment and most present thought the work done by the assessors was beneficial, but some voiced concerns as to why some umpires were not happy being watched. Was it because they did not like any adverse comments on their performance? We thought, if that were to be the case, it was negative thinking by the umpire and that their ability as an umpire would probably "stand still" or even go backwards if they did not accept the advice given.

The meeting, which was excellently handled by Jeff in the Chair, closed at 10pm

Ian Wright

## Merchandise

An umpiring shirt is available from CFS in long and short sleeve versions embroidered with our GACUS badge. It is white with navy blue piping and the s/s is priced at £16. A picture of it can be seen on our website.

Now is the time to put it on your wish list for Christmas. It is available to Association members only.

## **League updates**

A major recruitment campaign is being undertaken by the GCB for both scorers and umpires. Level One courses will be run next February/March with WEPL and the County League involved. If you know of any likely candidates please forward their names to Training Administrator Simon Todd.

## **Clear cut signals**

One of our members was asked to adjudicate on an LBW by the concerted appeal of the fielding side, while getting a very ticklish itch on his nose. He thought he had said not out before raising his finger to scratch his nose, but the bowler was convinced he had answered the appeal in the affirmative. General good-humoured mayhem ensued, led by raucous laughter from his colleague. Luckily, the bowler recovered and the game continued with some banter for the rest of the bowlers' spell. It certainly, unintentionally, helped ease the tension in the match. It helps that a bit of humour and ongoing dialogue are vital ingredients in developing the relationship between players and umpires, especially when being assessed!

## **Finance**

All fees and expenses have been distributed to umpires and scorers. If you have not received them or have a query about them please contact the Treasurer John Harper.

## **Cricketing fatality**

Alcwyn Jenkins was umpiring a South Wales Cricket Association league division one match in July when he was struck on the head by the ball and collapsed. An eyewitness said that a fielder gathered a ball hit into the outfield and threw at the stumps from about forty yards. The seventy two year old umpire did not see it coming and was struck down. The match between Swansea and Llangennech on the St. Helens ground in Swansea was abandoned after he had been airlifted to hospital.

Mr Jenkins was an ECBACO member and a popular and highly respected umpire in South Wales cricket with over twenty years experience. His death is a sad loss the cricketing community in that area.

Getting hit by the ball is a constant hazard every umpire faces. A lady umpire in Bristol once suffered a fractured skull from a ball driven straight back down the pitch and Graham Dunnings' career was ended when struck on the head whilst standing at square leg but fatalities within the game are extremely rare.

## **It couldn't happen here could it?**

During the summer violence broke out during a Sunday league match between Sheffield Alliance and Shimla Cricket Clubs. The young nineteen-year-old umpire turned down an appeal for caught behind and several fielders, unhappy at the decision, punched, kicked and hit him with a cricket stump. He was saved from serious injury by members of the opposing team. Police were called but no arrests were made.

## Bring your own scorebook....

Sue Drinkwater

We all know that scorers are overworked and underpaid, and in recent years there has been a trend to imply that an official scorer is not really necessary - surely any fool can score? At grass roots level, we have all seen the scorebook passed from hand to hand, being scrawled in by a steady stream of unwilling and inexperienced players/hangers-on. You would have thought that at higher levels when statistics could affect someone's playing career, the humble scorer would be considered a more important post, but having been very fortunate to officiate in some of these types of matches recently, I know that this is far from the truth.

I have a nostalgic fondness for a beautifully handwritten scorebook and one of the attractions of scoring for an international side is that my fair hand will live on forever in the annals of scoring history. Sadly this is no longer true, as many teams now rely solely on electronic records and it is becoming commonplace to find no scorebook provided.

I was recently privileged to score at Worcester in the Ashes warm-up game between the England Lions and Australia. The Lions management had already double-checked that one scorer would be working electronically, so I arrived at New Road armed with my laptop and the latest version of Total Cricket Scorer® hoping that the Lions would provide a scorebook, to use as my paper backup. I was not surprised to find that this was not the case and so I used my home printed linear worksheets as my security to computer failure.



My colleague was not expecting this scenario and was bitterly disappointed to discover no Australian scorebook either. The only scoresheets available were not suited to a lengthy match and so he purchased a standard scorebook from the club shop to use for the next four days.

Over the course of the match I printed off a small rainforest of stats for the Lions but the Australian camp were self-sufficient and failed to trouble the scorers at all. In fact neither side were in the slightest bit interested in how the match had been recorded.

We had a fantastic time and mingled with players and officials alike during the lunch and tea intervals, but bizarrely at the end of such a high profile game, the "Australian book" went home with its owner and my worksheets and laptop went unnoticed straight in my scorebag.

## Scoring

The GCB agreed during the summer to the appointment of scorers to all GCB games (youth and ladies). This came a little late for it to be taken up so if you are a scoring member of GACU&S and would like to be appointed to some of these games in the future, please contact Linda on scorers@glosumps.org.uk or 01242 510674. If you know of any scorers who are not members but who might be interested in doing some of these games encourage them to join our Association. It can open the door to all sorts of attractive fixtures.

Even more good news is that Scorers appointed to Glos Young cricketer matches would be paid the same fees/expenses as umpires. GACUS already have a system place for payment of Umpire fees/expenses, so will incorporate the Scorer arrangements into these, with payments being made at the end of the season

## Thoughts of a newcomer

Is it really only 15 months since I moved to Gloucestershire? After my first full summer of umpiring, I feel like I've been here a lot longer and here are a few reflections.

After leaving London, we were in Herefordshire for a while, where I met John Harper on the golf course. He soon had my GACUS subscription and I was on my way! I'd done some umpiring for my son's 2<sup>nd</sup> XI in the Kent League for a couple of years and passed GL6 and GL5 but saw the move to Gloucestershire as a chance to extend my training and for the first time be on a panel at matches where I knew nobody!

Not only did I spend the winter doing the IICUS training, John also persuaded me to be the GACUS guinea pig and take part in the ECBACO Level 2 training as well! This meant I spent the summer completing 2 self assessment logs! Without going into too much detail, you will not be surprised that the ACO training was not dissimilar to IICUS. However, there were some advantages. Firstly, it was held over just one weekend (with follow-up workbooks on the laws as well as self evaluation logs). Also it was held at a school and we were able to do a lot of practical work in the Sports Hall. Course members came from as far afield as Cornwall and Berkshire. It was great to get other perspectives, but I've not kept in touch with any of these umpires over the season. Also, although the follow up from Pete Rogers, the GACO training rep has been good, the support infrastructure as yet cannot match what we have in GACUS. Don't hesitate to give me a call if you want to know more.

Before the season had started, I'd also been persuaded to become secretary of GACUS, so it was with some relief when we finally got onto the field for the first match. That relief didn't last long as some rather childish petulant dissent towards my colleague, led to a report being filed the very first weekend! What, I thought, have I let myself in for here?

I needn't have worried. Firstly, every single one of my new colleagues were absolutely great to stand with. As I've got to know you better, I've really enjoyed the teamwork that I felt we've built and I genuinely look forward to building those partnerships further in 2010.

The players are OK too, despite the dreadful start. Of course, some decisions are not warmly welcomed by everyone and some players will try it on with a new umpire, but by keeping the communication channels open, I'd like to think as players have got to know me, they have some trust in my capabilities!

Just as the umpires have been great to stand with, so too have I enjoyed a warm welcome from the clubs off the field and have nothing but praise for the scorers in Gloucestershire. Although there have been a few gaps lower down the pyramid, those who score are supremely efficient and equally friendly and engaging. They've obviously all been well trained!

I was boundary assessed twice. It was a little daunting at first, but I found the feedback really helpful. I know this is an issue for some colleagues, but what alternatives are there? I've spoken with captains after the game, usually very positively, but I've got no idea how they marked me. The feedback I had from Stan was a great help to me in trying to improve my performances over the year and confirmed some of my own self-evaluations.

Roll on next summer!

Peter Sawyer

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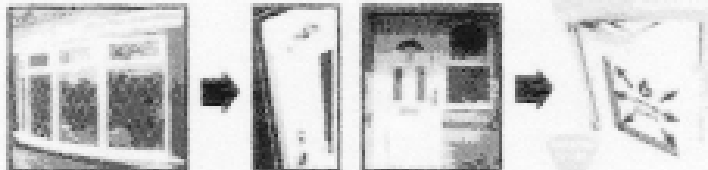


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## **Dates for your Diaries**

All GACUS meetings take place at the Victory Club Lypiatt Rd. Cheltenham

Wed. 11 <sup>th</sup> Nov.	Committee Meeting.	7.30 pm.
Wed. 13 <sup>th</sup> Jan. 2010	Committee Meeting	7.30 pm
Wed. 24 <sup>th</sup> March 2010	AGM	7.30 pm

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*The Editor would be pleased to receive news; letters, cartoons, anecdotes, poems etc; for publication in future issues of “Not Out”.*

*Deadline for the next Issue is Thursday 26th November 2009*

**The views expressed in “Not Out” are not necessarily the official views of G.A.C.U.&S.**

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