

NOT OUT

NEWSLETTER



PRESIDENT: The Right Hon Lord Vestey

Issue 114

July 2011

EDITORIAL

So here it is – my first “Not Out”.

How do I follow on from Jim, who knows so much more about umpiring and has so much more experience?

I can start by paying tribute to Jim’s 15 years as compiler of “Not Out” – a fantastic record that I don’t even want to get close to. There were many tributes made to Jim’s work at the AGM, so I hope he feels he has ended his stint appreciated and on a high.

I was umpiring with Jim the other day, and by chance we were discussing Law 42, because I had got into difficulty at a match. He said: “At our level, if I had to apply the 5 run penalty etc., I would feel that it probably meant I had failed (to manage the situation earlier, before it got to that)”. Wise words.

I am very aware that I am going to find editing this newsletter to be a hard job. I am not a very imaginative or creative person, and I have already discovered how difficult it has been to make it interesting and informative. I can find almost no material to use to lighten it up and add some humour. Help me if you can for my next issue! I typed “cricket umpire humour” into Google, and it responded “oxymoron”.

All feedback on this issue, articles for another issue, etc. are most welcome.

Andy R

Many thanks to Ian Anderson, who continues to sponsor “Not Out”. His company advertisement is on the back page. Do consider getting a quote from him if you are having windows, doors, fascias, soffits, flat roofing etc .done.

PLAYER BEHAVIOUR, AND REPORTING INCIDENTS

from the GACUS Committee

Your committee has been concerned that there has been some increase in poor behaviour recently. The Chairmen of both WEPL and the County League have issued reminders to all clubs about their responsibilities for upholding the Spirit of Cricket. Many of you will also have already seen the letter from our Chairman, Jeff Chandra, to all umpires, which reminds us of our responsibilities in reporting instances of bad behaviour and setting a common standard amongst ourselves on what should be reported. Jeff's letter is reproduced on the next page.

Peter Sawyer wrote in an e-mail: "Although there is a GACUS reporting form on our website, this has to be printed out, hand-written and then scanned. This can add some considerable delay and recently, I have encouraged umpires to use the GACO reporting form to be found on the GACO website which can be completed electronically and emailed directly to me. The practice is to forward the report to me and I will ensure it is forwarded to the leagues or appropriate authority and the clubs concerned. It is also probably a good idea to give a call to check I've received it. Apart from one weekend, I'm around for the rest of this season, so I should be there to pick it up."



A future umpire's signal??

You may have heard that there is an ongoing disciplinary case about an umpire getting abusive words from a spectator, followed by a push. The League Disciplinary Committee responsible for this regrets that the case is still open and no sanction imposed, but is proceeding carefully with a situation that is new to it, obtaining advice from outside bodies. This was after what it considered to be an inadequate response from the club concerned. A further hearing is about to be held and a conclusion may have been reached by the time you read this.

THE CHAIRMAN'S LETTER TO ALL UMPIRES

Colleagues,

I am writing this in response to a number of incidents that have occurred over the past few weeks, incidents that have been brought to the attention of the GACU&S committee.

These incidents have involved players behaving in a way that has breached the Spirit of Cricket but unfortunately not all of these incidents have resulted in a report being written by the standing umpires and submitted to the relevant governing bodies. In those instances where a report hasn't been made anecdotal evidence suggests that discussions after the game with captains may have influenced the decision not to put pen to paper and make the report.

Also of concern is that on two of the occasions where reports have been made the captain of the team whose player was being reported has made comments to the umpires along the lines of 'these things happen every week and are never reported'.

As a committee we are sure that is not the case and most games are played in the right spirit so there is no need for action to be taken. However where players do overstep the mark it is imperative that umpires report the behaviour and allow the governing bodies to make the decisions as to what sanctions such behaviour brings. An apology after the game or a plea from the captain is not a good enough reason for a report not to be made.

The GCB and both the WEPL committee and the GCCL committee have stressed their commitment and support to umpires by ensuring that behaviour that is unacceptable on the field of play is dealt with robustly but fairly. However both league committees have asked the GACU&S committee to send a strong plea on their behalf to umpires to assist them to stamp out poor behaviour by submitting reports. Without these reports action cannot be taken.

Furthermore the GACU&S committee is concerned that a lack of consistency amongst umpires will result in a de facto two tier approach from umpires, with those that do report and those that are reluctant to do so. This can only result in confusion amongst the players as to what is and isn't acceptable and ultimately will result in ill feeling and possibly complaints.

Both the WEPL and GCCL handbooks set out the different levels of poor behaviour and their associated sanctions. The GACU&S committee asks that all umpires review these sections and use them as the definitive guide as to the types of behaviour that the WEPL and GCCL committee deem unacceptable. The GACU&S committee is clear in its stance that all such behaviour as detailed in the handbooks and that breaches the Spirit of Cricket must be subject of a report.

It is in our hands as umpires to raise the standard of player behaviour by being firm but fair, and with your support and that of the relevant committees it is an achievable goal.

Jeff Chandra

Chairman, GACUS

SCORER TRAINING

by Sue Drinkwater

During the spring of 2011, there were two ECBACO level 1 scorer's courses on offer in the north of the county. One was to be spread over 3 week-day evenings and the other was an all-day course on a Saturday. Unfortunately there were no takers for the evening course, which was subsequently cancelled but the Saturday course was run successfully at Down Hatherley CC in February.

17 people (including six complete beginners) were taught the basics of scoring by Clive Jones and me, with assistance from Geoff Trett, and returned a week later to sit the ECBACO Final Assessment. 13 of these candidates were successful in their assessment, including two people who travelled all the way from Staffordshire for their training and assessment.

At the end of the assessment, the South West scorer's representative Andy Scarlett came down from Oxfordshire to talk to the scorers about the ECBACO pathway for scorers and also about his life as the Lord's Scorebox Manager, making a pleasant and entertaining end to the assessment evening.

In March we held more advanced scorer's evening where anyone who could already score in the conventional box style book was given the chance to try their hand at either linear or computer scoring.

Linear scoring using all the same symbols as the box style book but the layout of the scoresheet is vertical columns with the batting and bowling intersecting so that only one entry is made for each delivery. This system was most famously used by Bill Frindall and is favoured by press scorers (such as those working for TMS and Sky Sports), as it gives a much clearer picture of the game and provides interesting detail not available from the box style book.

Computer scoring was done using software called Total Cricket Scorer, which is the software used to drive the scoreboards at Lord's and Edgbaston and is now very popular with many scorers. Some leagues around the country (although none in Gloucestershire yet) have even gone as far as helping their clubs to pay for this software and the equipment to run it and are making the use of it compulsory at the highest league levels.

Our advanced evening was run in a relaxed and social manner and despite a few technical hiccups, all ten attendees had a great time scoring a short but "live" game shown on the big screen, in their chosen method of scoring.

If anyone other scorers would be interested in trying linear or computer scoring, then please contact me (webmaster@glosumps.org.uk). I would be happy to organise another such evening at some point during the summer.

SCORERS - GET YOURSELF GRADED

(The article below first appeared on the ECBACO website on 12th May 2011)



Interested scorers should get in touch with the ECBACO by emailing them before next March and a local assessment will be arranged for you.

All around the country, cricket scorers ply their trade with the minimum fuss – often the unsung heroes of cricket.

Scorers are essential for the game and yet receive the least recognition. ECB Association of Cricket Officials want to do something about that.

They have created a pathway for scorers, which will enable you to progress, if you have the talent and desire, right through the echelons of the game from club to Test arena. They're developing a great suite of training packages to help scorers achieve their aims.

To give a helping hand to those who want to take a first step along the pathway, they're launching a great new initiative which recognises existing scorers with ability and experience without putting you through the usual exams.

Just register your interest to scorer.aco@ecb.co.uk before next March and they will arrange for you to receive a local assessment based on your experience and an ECB ACO grading.

It's then up to you to decide how you would like to progress.

CAPTAIN'S FEEDBACK

by Andy Russell

This year a new standardised form (that has come from the ECB) is in use for feedback from captains. The feedback is open – that means the umpires see their own reports. For WEPL games, the captains fill in reports on-line using [whostheumpire](#), and to see reports on you, you need to go there. For County League games, the captains use the same form on-line, but it is then sent to Les Stenner and the County League secretary, who e-mails it on to you.

There have been two big problems with this new reporting system, which we'd like to solve.

The first is that 90% of the reports sent in by captains have contained no useful information in terms of feedback. It is really easy for captains merely to answer the yes / no questions then class the umpire as "meeting the expected standard" or "exceeding the expected standard". In our opinion that is much the fault of the form itself - it asks some really trivial questions - and we doubt the captains have much to go on to distinguish between those two markings of meeting or exceeding - what is the "expected" standard?

The second problem is that a very few reports have simply criticised a particular judgement call – and that is all the feedback the umpire gets. Again that is of no real use.

The County League has written to its captains pointing out these two problems, so we hope feedback from them improves.

If you get some feedback that you disagree with, or don't understand, or even if you are delighted with it, one thing not to do is to get into dialogue with the reporting captain about his report. The person to talk to about reports on you is Bill Griffin.

If you have never actually seen one of these forms, look on the web at www.gccl.org.uk/GACUSreport.htm



WHOSTHEUMPIRE

by Andy Russell

Most active umpires in this region will now have met this beastie, and we had a talk about it from Les Clemenson at the pre-season seminar. It has been around in our region for two years now, and we are participating in a trial of its use. It derives from a system named whostheref that was designed for appointing rugby officials.

I am going to get all technical here! Whostheumpire (or WTU as it is often abbreviated) is a database with web interfaces so people can add, edit and delete entries

and see information.

The data assembled there includes: match details

(home team, away team, start time), umpires & scorers (name, e-mail contact, availability calendar, grading), teams (captain's e-mail), competitions (leagues, organisers), and, as they say in the ads, "much much more".

An umpire told me: "I find it very simple to use. As soon as I log on, I see all my appointments, and I get e-mails about those appointments, and who I am standing with. With one click I can

accept or turn down appointments, knowing that message will get through to the right people."

A WEPL captain was equally enthusiastic: "I get e-mails about who will be umpiring my games, and the feedback form is there ready for me to fill in on line."

As one who appoints umpires, I can quickly see what appointments need to be made. As I make appointments, the system sends out e-mails to the umpires involved. If the system was being used by all as fully as intended, I would see a complete list of who was available, not available, or already appointed on a given day.

So are there any not so good points about WTU? Of course there are. There are still some rough edges, and Les Clemenson is frequently in contact with the system developers to tweak and improve it. Not all umpires & scorers use it yet, and until they do, there still have to be other lists and means of contact. The system cannot absorb information such as "can I have an appointment near me next Saturday because I have to get home early?", or "I am available Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday but can only stand on one of those days". Basically, you set your availability calendar merely to say you are available on a given day or afternoon, without overt reference to what matches there are on that day. It



can feel as if decisions about who is umpiring where are made by a machine, not a person who understands all the issues.

And then there are technical issues. Alongside WTU is “play-cricket”, another database with information about cricket matches. It is managed by the leagues, while WTU is managed by umpire and scorer appointers. If match dates, times or venues are changed on play-cricket by league secretaries, will they get changed on WTU? By whom? Why should there be two databases (and more – Sue Drinkwater’s appointments web pages are another, Les Stenner’s private spreadsheet is another)? How do the authors ensure all these databases don’t contradict one another? Who “owns” and keeps up-to-date the more static information in WTU, such as the list of team captains and their e-mail addresses?

As we get to use WTU more, we will become more familiar with it. If you are an umpire or scorer making yourself available for appointments and you are not already a user of WTU, I hope you will start. That means: obtaining a log on identity and password (Les Stenner and others can get that for you), and editing your own availability calendar. Next season we hope we will use the system for all appointments. We are nearly at that stage already.

www.whostheumpire.com
(Note it is whosth.., not whoisth..)



This is the WTU display I got when I logged on the other day.

Jul 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 ✓	2 ✓*
3 ✓*	4 ✗	5 ✗	6 ✓	7 ✓	8 ✗	9 ✗
10 ✓*	11 ✗	12 ✓	13 ✓	14 ✗	15 ✓	16 ✓*
17 ✓	18 ✗	19 PM	20 ✗	21 ✓	22 ✓	23 ✓*
24 ✓	25 ✗	26 ✗	27 ✗	28 ✗	29 ✗	30 ✗
31 ✓						

My availability calendar on WTU. Blue ticks mean I have an appointment.

BORING MINDLESS FIELDING CHATTER BINGO

Liven up your umpiring or scoring with this new game

Nice wheels	Let's hear all of you	Your man, buddy	Don't mind that, it's in the air	He can't get it off the square
He doesn't know where it's going	You and me buddy	He's fishing lads	He's not off the mark yet	Dots are ours
A swing and a miss	He's only got one shot	Good areas	Big hit coming	Let's get a look at the next batsman
Keep it there, buddy	One brings two	Run out coming, lads	He doesn't like it there	Join up the dots
Lots of noise, lads	Looks like he wants to get to the other end	Come on guys, it's getting quiet out here	All day, buddy	Come on, send him on his way

How to play: Cross off remarks as you hear them, and yell "House" when you get a full row!

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