



**MARCH 2023**

## **CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND HUNTINGDONSHIRE ACO PRE SEASON NEWSLETTER**



### **Chairman's Corner**

Here we are into February with the winter largely behind us and the new cricket season beckoning once again.

As some will be aware, we held our first new style committee meeting last month and I am pleased to report that everyone was present who was able to attend (work pressures, holidays and illness accounting for the absentees). It is the intention to hold these at least every quarter, with additional meetings as necessary. In order to improve the links with the county board, Neil Liversedge, who has responsibility for officiating and volunteering, has agreed to be co-opted onto our committee.

At our first meeting we discussed a wide range of issues and agreed a number of actions. One of those was to reintroduce a newsletter to keep our members informed of activities, plans and progress. This is the first tangible move – which I hope you will find interesting and informative. I would like to express my thanks to Andrew Lowin, who kindly accepted my invitation to manage the production of the newsletter.

We agreed to create a new website which reflects our new identity as the Cambs and Hunts ACO. We are only at the initial stage but hope to have something ready before the new season: more news will follow. We will also be completing the implementation of WhosTheUmpire (WTU) for the coming season and we will arrange a presentation for a members' evening before the new season.

We are all aware that the number of members is declining; this is not unique to Cambs and Hunts. Whilst the new ECB Officiating department is rolling out the new training course and the new processes linked to that, we need to support that by working to encourage people to take up umpiring and scoring. To that end Ben, Ian and I are working with the CCA to run introductory courses sometime in the spring. We're also working with Neil Liversedge to support the county board with their recruitment initiatives.

As a committee we have a lot of challenges ahead and the workload is quite heavy. If anyone is interested in lending a hand please do pick up the phone or email me or speak to me at one of our members' evenings.

We will aim to produce another newsletter before the season starts, with more news on what we are achieving and hoping to achieve.

Peter Hintridge

Chairman

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## **CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND HUNTINGDONSHIRE ACO PRE SEASON NEWSLETTER**

### **Treasurer's Account**

This is my summary report for Cambs and Hunts ACO (CHACO) for the period starting 1st October 2022 until now.

The opening balance for the CCUSA was £3,131.70

The opening balance for the HACO was £3,222.27

These two bank accounts now comprise CHACO's assets (although are kept separate as per the Merger Agreement.

Total income to-date in this financial year is £680.80.

Total Expenditure to-date in this financial year is £1,193.48.

In addition we're due the ECB Rebate (membership and education.)

Reminder to Members that still owe their subs will have seen a reminder from the Secretary. Bank details at the end of this newsletter.

Cindy

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### **Umpire Appointments**

With the ACO merger with Cambs all completed, this will allow an increased variety of games and venues.

This year, the appointment of Umpires is divided between Keith Coburn, Mark Webster and Helen Hyde. In 2023 they will be covering; League, College/University, School and Representative Cricket across the whole of Cambridgeshire.

As usual we're expecting to make upwards of 900 appointments to over 600 fixtures. This will be a challenge given the pool of ACO member umpires so your cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

Keith is your contact for Whiting, CCA and CCCC fixtures and Mark will be your contact for Hunts League and HCCC. If you've not done so, please confirm your availability to Keith, Mark and Helen as applicable.

This year 'WhosTheUmpire' (WTU) will be used to appoint and administer umpires appointments.

The Leagues starts on Saturday 29th of April with the fixtures showing on our current [CCUSA](#) and [Hunts](#) websites.

Enjoy the 2023 season

Keith, Mark and Helen

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### **Scorer's Eyrie**

I attended the ACO Conference at Warwick in October and the ECBACO East region's Roadshow at Brentwood in January. The focus of these meetings was the ongoing Officiating Review. Whilst the initial phase is very much focused on umpiring, I am keeping a keen eye on developments and how they might impact on the review of scoring. At the recent meeting of Regional Scoring Officers that I attended, Richard Glynne-Jones, Head of Officiating was asked how the findings of umpire review might impact scorers. His response implied that everything was still very much up in the air and a review of the process would be influenced by the ongoing consultation with scorers and how the review of umpiring progressed. In the meantime we have been told to carry on as normal in regard to scorer education and the provision of courses.

Several courses, including Introduction to scoring, Club Scorer, Level 2 and electronic scoring are available within the ECBACO East region. Details are available on the ACO website. There have been reports that courses are difficult to find on the ACO website as the default setting is for 2019. The ECB have been asked to rectify this. Anyone interested in courses and/or having difficulty finding them should contact me. There is a free Online Basics of Scoring Course available on the ACO website.

As with umpires, scorers are in short supply. Scorers are being pressurised to score electronically and also to get involved with streaming of matches. A competent book scorer is better than no scorer at all so book scoring should not be discouraged. I would argue that all scorers should know how to score on paper before expanding into electronic scoring. Electronic scoring brings its own challenges – availability of electricity, internet connection and position of scorer (scoring outside on a laptop is not easy in bright sunshine and is not ideal in drizzle!). Video streaming is not the responsibility of the scorer and unless the scorer is keen to be involved they should not be asked to do it. There are incidents where scorers have given up scoring rather than have to deal with streaming.

Provision of equipment is also an issue. Who should provide the laptop for scoring? A scorer may not have a laptop or be reluctant to use their own device for scoring. Should clubs provide laptops? If Wi-Fi isn't available who provides internet connection – a scorer can't be expected to use their own data so should clubs provide a dongle? Lots of things to think about. I have made a tentative enquiry to the Board to see if any funds are available for clubs to apply for that could be put towards purchase of scoring equipment.

Anyone interested in scoring and/or wanting help with any aspect of scoring should contact me by email or phone – [helen.hyde@ntlworld.com](mailto:helen.hyde@ntlworld.com) 07970 943713

Helen Hyde

County Scorers Officer CHACO

Regional Scorers Officer ECBACO East region (role share with Allison Bradnock of the Norfolk ACO).

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### **Umpire Development**

An area of real concern was that we were lacking personnel to observe umpires both on and off field. Keith Coburn and myself were the only available people. We hope to have a smoother appointment system in place this year allowing EAPL umpires to stand with a greater number of panel umpires to allow mentoring feedback.

We would like to increase the size of the team of observers so if you're interested in being involved, please make me aware. We are looking to run a refresher session for observers, so prior knowledge or experience isn't essential.

We are looking to develop a mentoring system, where experienced umpires agree to support/mentor newer colleagues as part of their development. This could involve standing together in a match/es and ad-hoc conversations. If you're interested in joining the umpire mentor group please let me know.

Planned is pre-season Whiting Panel meeting to discuss regulations ensuring a smoother introduction into early season matches. Personally I would like to see a marking process from captain's to allow a better feedback environment for both performance and disciplinary matters.

A brief idea of where we hope to be in 2023, so if you are keen to be involved, please make contact.

Peter Laughlin

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### **From your Secretary's Desk**

The build up to the new season is well underway with a lot of good work behind the scenes from many people, from organising fixture lists, planning for umpires and scorers courses and indoor training in full swing for most clubs. For all our members this is the time to become familiar with the new regulations that came into force in October last year. For those that couldn't attend our meeting on the 2nd February, please keep an eye out for any information coming from the ECB as it is important that we are consistent with our decision making and understanding. There is a lot of good quality cricket being played at the moment, in all formats and in both the ladies and men's games. I trust this bodes well for our upcoming season and I hope you are excited and anticipating a great summer ahead!

Andrew McLean

CHACO Secretary

07976 761324

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### **Umpire Education**

We have been approached by the CCA to run some introductory umpiring courses with them. We've agreed the following dates and times.

Sunday 26th 2:00 pm at March Cricket Club

Sunday 2nd April 2:00 pm at Sawston Cricket Club

Sunday 16th April 2:00 pm at Lode Cricket Club

Thursday 20th April 7:00 pm at Ex Services Club Barnwell

Tuesday 25th April 7:00 pm at Over Cricket Club

These are largely aimed at players who want to improve their umpiring but all are welcome and they are free of charge.

In addition the intention is to run a stage 2 course in March for anyone who is interested, this will be the last stage 2 course we run before the introduction of the new ECB entry level course in August of 2023. Following that the existing courses will be replaced by the entry level course and then the provision of CPD both locally and by the ECB.

For anyone who is interested a reminder that I have managed to find a source of new law books and Tom Smiths for £15 for the pair. £2 for a law book and £13 for Tom Smiths. Anyone interested please email me [ben.whyall@gmail.com](mailto:ben.whyall@gmail.com) or message me on 07734253709.

Ben Whyall

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### **Safeguarding/EDI/Discipline**

As the season looms, so does all the activity to ensure that scorers and umpires are all compliant with the requirements of the ECB for administering the game. The obvious one is a DBS that is through the ECB. Other DBS authorisers are not valid, so a teaching DBS is not transferable. To be a member of the ACO you are required to have an ECB DBS. This is at no cost, so long as you click on the volunteers box on the application form.

In addition to having a current DBS, the good news is that your DBS will roll on; so long as you have authorised the annual check via Atlantic Data (The ECB DBS provider). This happens soon after the initial granting of a DBS certificate via email.

Any problems, please let me know.

Rob Benson

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### **League Liaison**

As league reps for the Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire Premier (the Whiting League) and the Huntingdonshire County Cricket leagues we, Chris Wilson and Mark Webster, see our role as a kind of shop steward; a fair description for the likes of us! That is to act an extra go-between from official to league, or official to committee should any member require it.

Our main thrust this season seems to be a crackdown on poor behavior by the players. We believe fervently, that this can only be addressed by collective action. Modern attitudes seem to make people believe that there is only one party to blame. Our contention is that we are all at fault.

Therefore; Officials, Players, Captains, the Clubs and the League must all shoulder part of the burden.

Here's to a good 2023 season.

Chris Wilson and Mark Webster

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### **Forthcoming Meetings**

March 2<sup>nd</sup> – Now “Managing your match day performance”

Due to the EAPL arranging a meeting of its panel umpires for that night we have changed the topic for discussion.

April 6<sup>th</sup> – Preparing for the new season, including a short session on Teamwork

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**Subscriptions**

For those that have yet to pay their subscriptions. Here are the Bank details to enable you to make an electronic/online transfer of £5.00:

Bank: Barclays Bank

Account Name: Cambs Cricket Umpires Association

Sort Code: 20-17-19

Account No: 80235563

Ref: Name/Year

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**CHACO's Officers & Representatives Contact Details**

<b>President</b> Roy Fountain	<b>Chairman</b> <u>Peter Hinstridge</u> 07710 403524	<b>Vice-Chairman</b> <u>Andrew Lowin</u> 07917 160712	<b>Treasurer</b> <u>Cindy Tai Lim</u> 07952 848772	<b>Secretary</b> <u>Andy McLean</u> 07976 761324
<b>Scorers</b> <u>Helen Hyde</u> 07970 943713	<b>Education</b> <u>Ben Whyall</u> 07734 253709	<b>Development</b> <u>Pete Laughlin</u> 07850 702498	<b>Safeguarding</b> <u>Rob Benson</u> 07886 528185	<b>Appointments</b> <u>Keith Coburn</u> 07752 241488
<b>East Anglian Premier League</b> <u>Pete Laughlin</u> 07850 702498	<b>Cambs &amp; Hunts Premier League</b> <u>Chris Wilson</u> 07752 077688		<b>Cambs Cricket Association</b> <u>Ian Reid</u> 07868 648811	<b>Hunts County Cricket League</b> <u>Mark Webster</u> 07940 930408
<b>Cambs Cricket Limited Rep</b> <u>Alan Lamb</u> 07803 174170	<b>Cricket East Rep</b> <u>Mark Webster</u> 07940 930408	<b>DBS Authorised Signatories</b> Rob Benson Helen Hyde Pete Laughlin Ben Whyall	<b>Website Administrator</b> <u>Steve Kent-Phillips</u> 01638 743883	