

CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND HUNTINGDONSHIRE ACO

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2024

Chairman's Corner

Welcome to our pre-season newsletter.

It's that time of the year when the clocks go forward, the sunlight strengthens and thoughts turn to a new season. One difference this year is that it seems to have done nothing but rain for much of the last six months and the immediate prospects are for more of the same. With many grounds still incredibly wet I think that the chances of a prompt start to the new season, just 3-4 weeks hence, might be in doubt. But no doubt there will be seam bowlers licking their fingers at the prospect – although, of course, that's no longer legal...

We have held a full series of members' evenings through the winter and early spring, all at Over, our new preferred venue. There is one more to come, on 16th April, when we will look at preparing for the new season. Attendance has been somewhat variable but I was delighted to see almost forty members come to the most recent one, last Thursday. Michael Cafferkey came as one of the captains we invited to come and speak and the feedback has been very positive.

I was asked by several people last season to review the table of umpire fees, since they were complicated and not entirely clear. Therefore, I met with Russell Doel early in the year and we agreed to introduce a much simplified system. I have also agreed with Paul Tibble that we will use Whostheumpire wherever possible for people to claim their fees; obviously those who prefer to continue to submit a paper form are free to do so.

The new fee structure is:

	<u>Fee</u>	<u>Fee if sole umpire</u>
County Men	£50	£75
County Men T20	£25	£40
County Women	£50	£75
County Women T20	£25	£40
CAG T20	£25	£40
CAG U13-18	£50	£75
CAG U11-12	£45	£60

Additionally, for any match, if the umpire(s) attend the ground but no play is possible a fee of £20 may be claimed. Note that we have agreed that the umpires are to be contacted no later than two hours before the start time if a match has been cancelled. If you travel earlier than that and the match is cancelled then a fee cannot be claimed.

The issue of the payment of fees to our scorers remains a work-in-progress. I think we all recognise the unfairness of many scorers not being paid anything, although like some umpires, some scorers do not expect or want to be paid. Hopefully we can make progress on this and the Scorer Review might provide some impetus.

We are running a series of three 'Introduction to Umpiring' courses this spring with the aim of improving the standard of umpiring in self-officiated games, raising the profile of CHACO and hopefully enticing a few more people to join us. I am attending the two Young Leaders courses this month, as I did last year, and again we hope to encourage some of them to get involved with umpiring some CYC matches. Along with this we have Peter Laughlin and Ben Whyall delivering the new ECB Umpire courses in the region and someone from CHACO attending to seek to recruit people into CHACO – this falls within David Ash's remit, since he volunteered to head our push for recruitment. It would be good if you could all spread the word when umpiring matches since we do need more umpires – and scorers.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish you all an enjoyable season, hopefully one blessed with a fair share of dry and sunny weather.

Peter Hinstridge

SCORERS

Scoring Review – update.

The consultation process continues with the scoring review. Progress has been made by the working group. Work is now needed on ensuring that the current course content is adapted to meet the proposed structure of scorer education. This is dependent upon input from the ECB both in terms of creating the new education modules and in funding the process.

I will be attending the next meeting of the working group in early April to discuss the ongoing work.

Courses

Several courses were delivered within the Eastern Region during the winter – Level 2, Electronic scoring, DLS and linear as well as a “beginner’s introduction to scoring” morning at Histon. All were well attended. All courses are now complete. The programme of courses for next winter will be organised in the autumn for delivery in early 2025.

DBS update

There is still some ongoing confusion over the announcement from the ECB to say that scorers no longer require a DBS. Many scorers have additional roles to scoring and it may well be that those roles do require a DBS. I

For those who change their activities within cricket or are new to scoring and think they require a DBS, then they are advised to contact their local CCB County Safeguarding Officer. The Safeguarding Officer will support and advise them of the process.

Scorers should be aware that irrespective of holding a valid DBS they should always uphold safeguarding criteria when scoring. This means that a scorer should not sit in an isolated and/or enclosed scoreboard with an under 18 person or a vulnerable adult unless another responsible person is present. This is applicable even if the scorer holds a valid DBS.

Upcoming season

As we look forward to the fast approaching season, all involved in cricket should be aware that everyone involved has a right to be treated with respect. Unfortunately last season there were a handful of incidents where scorers were verbally abused and intimidated. I urge any scorer subjected to such behaviour to report the incident either to their club or their league.

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

Helen Hyde

County Scoring Officer CHACO

Regional Scoring Officer Eastern Region (Job share with Allison Bradnock).

SAFEGUARDING

As we are all ACO members there should not be any problems with DBS. So, nothing to report apart from a membership reminder.

Rob Benson

DEVELOPMENT

2023 Season -

Lack of Numbers was a major issue as the appointments list will clearly identify.

The ECB introduced a new official pathway progression programme, reinventing the feedback form that was far better and appropriate at all levels. We had 11 Umpires that officially registered to be part of the progression program. Each was Observed at least once and there were advancements in grade to 6 Umpires others showed progress and are likely to remain on the future development pathway. Most of the Observations were either done by me, Simon Seabrook and Mark Webster.

Development 2024 Onwards

During the winter I have not attended many of the Umpires meetings at Over, due to a new love of Indoor Bowls and match night has been on a Thursday. Plus a couple of overseas holidays.

However, we have been busy behind the scenes, at last we have a full team of Observers and mentors. We have met and discussed a way forward to develop and meet the requirements of the ECB to improve Umpiring Standards

Simon Seabrook, Peter Laughlin and Keith Coburn will look at progression to M3 and National Panel Observations

Mark Webster and Alun Bedding will look at local progression and do the local Observations

Andy Donald, David Ash will Mentor and may become involved in On field Observation.

Dash will also be heavily involved with recruitment and bringing new Umpires into the fray.

Duncan Morgan will be involved with local mentoring and will stand locally with new recruits.

Peter Hinstridge will mentor and be involved in that programme.

This year we have an expression of interest from 16 Umpires to be part of the Pathway development programme, an increase on last year's numbers.

Keith, Helen and I have met and built a programme of Appointments where the Observations can be accommodated in National Cup and County Development Games.

21 games have been arranged already with either an off/on field observation taking place.

As well as this Alun Bedding will be appointed most weeks to deliver the programme in the Onyx Camb's League. On field Observations will also take place throughout the season.

If the programme allows, we will perhaps try to look at all Panel umpires and give feedback to help improve the standard. Developing our Standards is our goal and most of the above will be attending the ECB development training at Histon on April 2nd.

Peter Laughlin CHACO Development Officer

TREASURER

A brief summary of CHACO accounts from 1st October 2023 to 25th March 2024

Total Income over the period: £1,492.00

Made up of:

Subscriptions £260.00

ECB Membership Rebates £952.00

ECB Scorers Rebates £280.00

48 Members have paid their subs

13 Members still have not paid their subs

Total Expenditure over the period: £903.17

Made up of:

Room hire £270.00

Mileages expenses £28.80

Education/Training £498.42 (Electronic Scoring Course)

Law books £105.95

A surplus of £588.83

Bank Balance on 25th March is £8,226.52

Cindy

APPOINTMENTS

Mark Webster is running the WTU side of appointments this season. Again, it's hit and miss, with almost half the umpires not completing their availabilities on there by the end of March!

At first glance availabilities are nowhere near going to cover the volume of fixtures we have, even compared to what we covered last season. This is highlighted by the same umpires being less available than they have been previously, which I can only put down to an ageing group.

Keith Coburn

EDUCATION

Education has been rather quiet of late with just the members meetings to prepare and deliver some CPD topics. However, as we step into the season things start to gather pace. We have 2 of our inhouse introduction to umpiring course running on Wednesday the 3rd of April 7:00 pm at Over and Sunday 7th of April 2:00 pm. These introduction courses are free of charge and offer an excellent introduction to umpiring and chance for players to improve their umpiring.

In addition, the ECB umpires course is being run on Sunday the 14th of April at Over CC starting at 9.30am. I will be tutoring alongside one of the other ECB tutors. Link to course booking <https://booking.ecb.co.uk/8XnYRE>. This is ideal for coaches, players, parents and anyone else looking to get started in umpiring.

Ben