

# CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND HUNTINGDONSHIRE ACO

## SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2024

### Chairman's Corner

Welcome to our mid-season newsletter.

Here we are, approaching the mid-way point in the season, in what has been a mostly disappointingly cool and wet summer, following on from a wet winter and spring. There's nothing worse than gearing up for a Saturday's umpiring, or scoring, and then being told it's off; except perhaps driving to the ground before discovering there's no prospect of play.

As many of you will be aware, we have moved, with the agreement of the county board, to using Whostheumpire to pay umpires their fees for CAG games. It is certainly proving easier for Paul Tibble and hopefully easier and quicker for everyone to submit their claim. Of course, anyone without access to a computer can still complete and post forms to Paul.

As regards the use of Whostheumpire for appointments, I am sorry to report that we appear to have gone backwards this season, with a number of matches not being loaded and therefore appointments not being made via WTU. It is incredibly disappointing after a quite successful 2023 season. We will take actions to ensure that in 2025 we are using WTU fully.

One area where we do need to make some changes is the marking of umpires by the captains. At the moment we do not have any reliable data and this doesn't help with identifying appropriate development, such as CPD. It is also a significant barrier for those aspiring to stand in the EAPL, which requires captains' marks as a measure of an umpire's suitability for promotion. We have managed to work around the issue so far but it is likely to become a more serious issue. On the subject of development, I would like to highlight the considerable work being done by Pete Laughlin in arranging and carrying out a lot of observations; these are all the more important when we don't have captain's marks as a pointer.

Ben and I, with support from David Ash on one course, delivered a further three 'Introduction to Umpiring' courses for the CCA in the spring, two of which were quite well attended. Ben and I will revisit how we arrange these for next year to try to push the numbers back up.

At the CCA AGM both this year and last I highlighted the work we were doing to raise the standard of umpiring by running these courses. I also offered to deliver the course to an individual club if they got sufficient interest; as a result of this I delivered a course in May to a local club and have a provisional request from another, probably for next season.

We have been working with Neil Liversedge to try to engage with those people who attended one of the new ECB Umpire courses, and with some success. David, Duncan and Pete have been active in this area, which is important as we seek to drive up the number of active umpires.

On the scoring front, we still await tangible progress, particularly on the issue of the payment of fees to our scorers. I'm hopeful that when we come to planning for 2025 that we will see some movement here from the county board, but money will always be tight and you will understand that there are multiple voices clamouring for more of it.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to wish you all an enjoyable final two months of the season; may we all feel sunshine on our backs instead of rain.

Peter Hinstridge,

Chairman

## **SAFEGUARDING**

The online DBS system has a dropdown list of roles for which a DBS might be requested/required and individuals should be allocated the correct option.

There is a cost to obtaining DBS and it is an offence to request one you do not need, or make multiple requests.

Rob reinforced that the umpires have a duty of care to young players e.g concussion checks where we should ensure the nominated adult takes responsibility.

Where a game is being filmed, we should be checking that permissions/consent have been given.

Rob Benson

## **DEVELOPMENT**

Observations of those on the Pathway have been taking place and will continue through to the end of the season. We are being held back by the absence of Captain's marks.

## **COUNTY BOARD**

### **1. ECB Introduction to Umpiring Course**

In April first local ECB Introduction to Umpiring Course held at Sawston.

A good number of attendees. Acknowledged that not all would be suitable for League appointments, but we need a process by which these new officials are picked up by CHACO and made welcome and developed.

Further date for another course to be agreed with Course Tutors and ECB. Finding a Club Based venue, during the season has been challenging as club venues are booked up with playing activities.

### **2. Mid season Umpiring Skills Workshops**

We have run a session on 17 July and there is another on 1 August.

The aim is to educate, inform, upskill and give confidence to:

- those who play but as there are no appointed umpires in their games have to umpire for 10 overs here
- for parents who umpire in Junior section games to help their club or CAG out
- women participating in their League, who know they should help their club but need to know and understand the basics of where to start.

We are running these during mid-season as some of those who may wish to attend were perhaps just starting to get involved in cricket at the start of the season.

Also, we have had various reports of poor practice from various Leagues - people going out to umpire wearing ear pods, umpires not sure where to stand, umpires not sure of the right signal and having to shout the instruction to the scorer, so we need to help the understanding of the cricketing family.

All Clubs have been notified of the events, but can I encourage Committee members to forward to their network and encourage participation. Has also been sent to Cricket East for their clubs in Hunts.

The second course is on Thursday 1st August at The Paradise Leisure Centre, Newnham Street, Ely, CB7 4PQ starting at 6.30. To book your places on this course please use the following link - <https://booking.ecb.co.uk/NE8ROB>

### 3. The Cricket Collective Grassroots Awards 2024

Nominations are open for the Grassroots Awards for 2024.

Attached are 3 "things".

- A PDF containing a 2 page poster showing the categories and the criteria by which nominations should be made
- A QR code so that people can nominate
- A poster informing everyone that nominations are open. Within CHACO, Umpires, Scorers, Tutors, Coaches are doing good work week in/week out both for the Association and for their Clubs and should not be forgotten. Our membership also see which clubs (or members of clubs) are doing great things.

The important thing is anyone can nominate, it is not a Club or Association job to nominate.... If you see someone doing something special it is important they are recognised, so get them nominated, it has never been easier!

Neil

## **TREASURER**

Current Bank Balance is healthy as we await payment of invoices for umpiring services and make a bid for additional funding from ECB for recruitment and retention of umpires within the county. 54 members have paid the £5 annual subs, with just a handful left to do so.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

Hunts appointments :

To say the appointments are a challenge is an understatement!

The Kimbolton School and Thomas Deacon Academy seasons are complete with every required appointment achieved, Cindy has submitted the invoices for both.

Hunts league to date, 100 fixtures with 59 umpires appointed = 59%.

CAG, Junior finals, senior games (men women, over 50's, academy, Hotshots, state schools cup, midweek competitions)

99% appointments achieved to date, relying heavily on 2 or 3 umpires who have umpired numerous games.

Working with Keith and updating WTU as requested and required for Cambs, numerous amendments as availability constantly changes but regular contact between us and I feel it is working well.

Mark

## **EDUCATION**

The ECB have rolled out additional modules for CPD including

- Ground Weather and Light
- Effective Communication
- Managing Player Conduct
- Player Safety
- Teamwork
- Effective Decision Making
- Dead Ball and Managing Pace of Play
- Positioning, Movement & Routines

These will be considered for delivery on members evenings and potentially at pre season training.

If anyone has thoughts and suggestions for sessions next season please let me know.

Update for Education officer Report

As above, plus we will be looking to have at least one ECB Umpire Course over the winter hopefully more.

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Thoughts on exchange programs

These are important and should happen, we need to agree up front how the funding will work. Where we are developing umpires we should consider that travel will be greater and that people may not be able to manage that extra cost.

Ben