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# Over and Out

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*The Newsletter of the Hertfordshire Association of Cricket Officials April 2019 - No. 176*

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## Rising to the challenge

**I** trust you have all wintered well and are busy preparing for the new season. It's that time where various bits of kit and equipment reveal themselves to not have wintered as well as their owners, evidenced by the trousers that appear to have shrunk whilst lying untouched in the wardrobe or kit bag.

This is matter that has been exercising our secret scorer's mind – perhaps like some of us, the only part of them that has been troubled in this way.

Our new chairman, Mark Callaby offers the first thoughts of his stewardship of the good ship HACO, mulling over the winter's activities

These activities include the usual training season which, after several years of abundancy, has slimmed down slightly. We have still run a variety of courses, but the numbers attending the "fomal" sessions have been down. Fortunately, our CPD days appear to continue to be popular as ever – as one of the regular attendees keeps saying: "The best 20 quid I spend all year!"

As we know cricket faces such challenges, not just in officiating but in playing strength as well. The association has fielded several requests from clubs for umpires. I am unsure of how many of these pleas were successful but hopefully the vacancies were filled – and the clubs may be encouraged to find new officials from within their own membership.

We are all aware that it has been easier to recruit and retain umpires than scorers and Helen recently made a very well received speech at the League AGM, encouraging clubs to support scorers – whether their own or the other teams.

The role is changing with new technology available to reduce the "challenge". I think many of us know how much a well-kept scorecard is valued. As many of the players are interested in their own stats, you would hope they'd be willing to help have those stats properly recorded!

This, indeed, is an ever-increasing part of the club scorers role, to act as club statistician – even in the middle of a match, with the scorer trying to follow the game looking through the head of the batsman wanting to know how many they'd scored, off how many balls, and did the scorer know that the leg bye signalled in the

14<sup>th</sup> over, should have been recorded as a run for them instead?

The curmudgeonly counterpart to the secret scorer, our secret umpire, is emerging from hibernation, perhaps with a severe sugar shortage and a disenchantment with the national team, that led them to actually stirring from their armchair.

Gerry Wilkinson was amused and inspired by Nick's "Bird" XI last time out, and has offered his own themed XI – I challenge you all to come up with other themed teams

Keeping up to date with the new Laws appears to be a recurring challenge. During the last few weeks we have taken delivery of the revised little blue book (2017 code, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition – 2019) and these are being distributed as I write. We are also looking to place an order for the new Tom Smith's. This official's bible is an invaluable companion, if you wish to order a generously discounted copy, and haven't already let me know, then please act promptly!

Finally, during the winter a new National Umpires Panel was established. The umpires on this will officiate in County 2<sup>nd</sup> XI, Minor Counties (soon to be National Counties) and University matches, as well as other matches of a similar level. The association has three umpires elected to this panel, which sits at the top level of recreational cricket, Nick Hall, Steve Cobb and myself (apologies for blowing my own trumpet!). Perhaps the most important part of this is it shows that progression to the top level of the game is possible for all.

I wish you all well for your limbering (lumbering) up and hope to see many of you during the season.

*Tim Caldicott*

General Secretary

## **Social Evening**

The final meeting of the winter season will be on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April at Potter's Bar C.C. (The Walk, Potter's Bar, EN6 1QE) commencing at 8pm.

The main focus will be a review of the new Laws and an update on the revisions to the SHPCL regulations. There will also be the usual quiz.

We hope to see many of you there.



## **THE CHAIRMAN'S CORNER**

I am delighted to be writing my first Chairman's Corner having succeeded Peter Hintridge at our AGM last November. After Peter's nine years at the helm, it feels a little like replacing Sir Alex Ferguson – let's just hope I don't become the next David Moyes.

You and I are fortunate to have a talented and hard-working committee, so with their continued support and guidance, it should make it business-as-usual for the foreseeable future.

In recent years, Hertfordshire has been recognised as one of the most successful associations in the country with regard to the number of participants attending our training and education courses. It was, therefore, disappointing to have to cancel much of our winter programme. We have, however, had two very well attended weekend S1 and S2 courses with two CPD courses planned for April.

We have also delivered one Club Scorer course this winter with all attendees now completing their portfolios to attain Level One status at the end of the 2019 season.

Play Cricket Scorer Pro has received a major update and alongside Mike Arnold, Helen Smithson, our Scorers' Officer, has showcased the revised software at two roadshows.

At the Regional Conference in February, the new ECB strategy for cricket was unveiled – Inspiring Generations. There's not much more for me to say on this subject at the moment but you can access the strategy paper at the link provided here: [Inspiring Generations](#)

This season will also see some revisions to the 2017 Code of Laws: the most significant being the change to the bowling of dangerous and unfair non-pitching deliveries – the "full bungler". To help you prepare for the season, you can read a summary of the changes at the link provided here: [Revised laws for 2019](#)

Angus Fraser was the guest speaker at our members' evening in February where he entertained attendees with stories covering his time as player, pundit, selector and coach. As I write, we have two more evenings planned on Tuesday, 26 March and Thursday, 18 April. Look out for your reminder emails.

I hope you have wintered well, and I look forward to catching up with as many of you as possible through the summer.

**Mark Callaby**

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## **Training, Education & Personal Development**

During the 2018 season several on and off field observations of umpires were carried out, mostly in league games. We have not been able to do very many observations over recent seasons and the feedback from those observed has been positive and this is something which we will hopefully develop over coming seasons. Without being specific I thought it might be helpful to highlight some of the comments and observations which were made during 2018. Each of the following was noted on more than one occasion:

Calling "over" and walking to square leg and not waiting for colleague to "assume command".

Bowler's end umpire not remaining in position after the call of over for a few seconds to observe interaction between players at the change of ends, and ensure batsmen are not damaging the pitch.

Holding the game up unnecessarily by regularly chatting with colleague not "just" when a wicket falls or there is an obvious break in play.

Inconsistency on calling wide – especially on the leg side

The tone of the pre match chat with the captains is important but once the season is well under way it should not normally be necessary to go through a detailed run through of the match regulations.

Standing too close to the stumps and / or not being able to get in position quickly enough.

Communication, both by eye contact and signals with colleague and remembering to use previously discussed signals.

Hopefully this note will act as a reminder for us all. I am sure that, if necessary, any of the above points can be expanded upon at our CPD sessions or the other ACO meetings we have. If this note does not make the pre-season newsletter and you have any issues with it, please give me a call.

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