



April 2021

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Over & Out

The newsletter of the Hertfordshire Association of Cricket Officials

Introduction

As the new Secretary of HACO, this is my first attempt at producing a newsletter. In addition to current news, I have interviewed a number of Committee Members to find out a little bit about them and how they got to where they are now, in their cricket life.



If you're like me, you'll be fed up with being stuck at home with nowhere to go. Fortunately, there is light at the end of the tunnel and if we are all good and follow the stay safe rules, we will be playing cricket this summer. The ECB have issued guidance when for Umpires and Scorers when officiating socially distance cricket matches from 29 March 2021.

Also in this issue, there is news from your Officers and a new section about getting to know your committee members.

Roy Newman

Secretary

THE CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

I can't believe it's been over a year since writing my last Chairman's Corner and if truth be known, I needed help to find a copy of the publication.

A year ago, we had just started working with the Herts CCB on the *Inspiring Generations* programme. While everything obviously came to a shuddering halt, I am pleased to confirm that in recent weeks, we have once again connected with our friends at the County Board and have started re-planning activities.

Another casualty of the early days of the first lockdown was the inaugural HACO Conference. Although it wasn't possible to reschedule the event for this year, it remains an objective of the committee, so let's hope we can get this done in 2022.

Not being able to meet up in person also meant that all training courses fell by the wayside. However, thanks to the sterling efforts of Nick Hall, Tim Caldicott, Peter Hinstridge, Hemal Wijesuriya and George White, our series of Continuous Professional Development (CPD) did not. This year, two CPD events, each split into two sessions was delivered online to about 60 participants.

Additionally, ECB ACO has successfully transformed a number of umpires' and scorers' courses making these available online. [Check out the online courses.](#)

The 2021 cricket season is fast approaching and will kick off with adapted playing conditions similar to those experienced in 2020. The [latest ECB guidance and roadmap](#) was published on 31 March and ECB ACO has also written a [guidance document for umpires and scorers.](#)

That's all from me for now. May I wish you and your families well. Let's hope the sun shines and things continue to improve so that social restrictions finally disappear and the new "normal" can commence.

Mark Callaby

ECB GUIDELINES ON PLAYING CRICKET



To enable recreational cricket to be played, adapted playing conditions have been introduced and the following details the guidance for umpires and scorers who choose to make themselves available. It is the duty of the umpires to manage these new adapted playing conditions and guidance on operating them and any sanctions are also included.



This guidance is divided into five sections:

- Before the game – guidance for both umpires and scorers
- During the game – guidance for scorers
- During the game – guidance for umpires
- Additional advice for umpires

BEFORE THE GAME – UMPIRES & SCORERS

1. If you are showing symptoms of COVID-19 do not travel to the game and get a test.
2. Officials are encouraged to follow best practice for travel including avoiding use of car sharing and you should arrive changed.
3. Please ensure that you bring your own hand sanitiser and food and drink as the clubhouse may not be open.
4. On arrival at the ground you will need to provide your name & contact details for NHS Test & Trace.
5. The host club are responsible for the implementation of all facility guidelines (including the scoreboard) as well as the provision of hand sanitation gel.
6. The host club are responsible for setting up the stumps which should also have been sanitised; the umpire is responsible for the provision of the bails.
7. All officials are encouraged to wash their hands/hand sanitise before play starts.

DURING THE GAME – SCORERS

1. Where possible, scoreboxes should not be used:
 - a. As an alternative, the host club to consider providing a gazebo so scorers remain dry even if play continues during light rain.
 - b. Consider using a small portable scoreboard instead of a full scoreboard, or alternatively have only one scorer inside the scoreboard, with less frequent updating.
2. Scorers should remain socially distant from others at all times and specifically:
 - a. In the scoreboard, if it is large enough for 2 scorers
 - b. When interacting with any players; ideally players should not be allowed in the scoreboard.
 - c. When interacting with other officials.
 - d. During any interval or break in play

3. Equipment should not be shared, including laptops and tablets.
4. Communal scorebooks which are passed from one person to another should be avoided.
5. Scorers will not hold any item of players clothing, sunglasses or any valuables.
6. Scorers will not collect/handle team subs.
7. Leagues using DLS will be advised to ensure that alternative arrangements are in place to calculate the result in the event that the DLS Par Score Tables cannot be produced electronically. Scorers should ensure that they have pen/paper to produce the necessary manual calculations and the outcome should be verified verbally with the umpires.
8. Where Scorer Pro is being used, scorer(s) can produce the relevant Par Score Table and save it as a pdf file that can be emailed to the captains and umpires if this is required.
9. Where D/L is being used, the captains should be encouraged to use the Play-Cricket Scorer Apps to calculate the D/L Par Score.
10. If a walkie-talkie is being used, usage should be kept to a minimum and only used by one of the two scorers. The equipment should be sanitised before use.
11. Scorers should either regularly wash their hands or use hand sanitiser.
12. In the event of rain, scorers should remain in the score box if that is where they are sitting, or return to their own vehicle if there is insufficient outdoor cover from the rain to maintain social distancing.

DURING THE GAME – UMPIRES

1. Umpires should remain socially distant from others at all times and specifically:
 - a. at the toss
 - b. When interacting with any players
 - c. When interacting with other officials
 - d. During any interval or break in play
2. Umpires will ensure that all players maintain social distancing during the match and in particular, when players are fielding, discussing tactics, having refreshments or celebrating the fall of a wicket.
3. No sweat or saliva on the ball is allowed under any circumstances.
4. Umpires will not deliberately touch the ball during play.



5. The ball will be returned direct to the bowler, either on the full, or rolled along the ground. It should not be passed around the field.
6. The umpires will not collect the ball at a fall of a wicket or at any breaks; instead, the ball will be returned to the base of the stumps.
7. Only umpires should replace bails and remake the wicket including after any attempted stumpings or run outs.
8. Umpires will not provide bowlers markers or cloths for drying the ball.
9. Players will be required to sanitise their hands after every 6 overs; the umpires should call "time" after every 6 overs to facilitate this.
10. At each break, it will be the responsibility of the fielding Captain to sanitise the ball before play recommences. The umpires should ensure that this happens and manage these breaks by waiting until the end of the over or a fall of a wicket.
11. The umpires should sanitise their own hands at every drinks or innings break and after every contact with stumps or bails.
12. Umpires will not hold any item of players clothing or sunglasses. The players will need to place these themselves beyond the boundary.
13. There is no requirement for officials to wear any form of PPE although some individuals may wish to do so.
14. Scientific research has shown that there is a minimal risk of infection when the bowler fleetingly passes the umpire so there is no need for the bowler's end Umpire to change his normal position or to move into position once the bowler has passed by.
15. Bowlers returning to their mark should, maintain social distancing when assisting the umpire.
16. Bowlers should maintain social distancing when making any appeals.
17. If walkie-talkie is being used, usage should be kept to a minimum and only used by one of the two umpires. The equipment should be sanitised before use.
18. In the event of rain, umpires must remove the stumps and bails before the covers are pulled on. Umpires should return to their own vehicle if there is insufficient outdoor cover from the rain to maintain social distancing.

ADDITIONAL ADVICE FOR UMPIRES

ECB has worked with MCC on the necessity to alter any Laws or Playing Conditions to enable recreational cricket to take place during the COVID-19 pandemic. MCC has clarified that it



will not change any of the Laws of Cricket in response to the crisis, feeling that amending Playing Conditions is a better route to take.

ECB and MCC have discussed how new regulations may be applicable to various levels of the game, and both bodies are pleased to offer the advice below as a means of getting cricket played.

In order to effectively manage cricket through this phase, Officials will be empowered to ensure measures are adhered to through appropriate interventions designed by the ECB Association of Cricket Officials (ECB ACO). In essence, this means that instances of breaching of the measures will be dealt with Under Law 41 (Unfair Play). However, Law 42 (Unacceptable Conduct) remains as an option if umpires believe conduct is unacceptable.

Prior to Play - Umpires will have read the ECB guidance and conduct normal pre-match protocols and check pitch for 'batting line' markings.

At the Toss - Captains will be advised of their responsibilities for directing their team on and agree the following:

1. No sweat or saliva on the ball is allowed
2. Players to maintain social distance at all times.
3. Ball to be returned directly to the bowler (On the full or rolled along the ground)
4. Not to remake the wicket once the ball has become dead, this is the role of the umpire.
5. Players to ensure that any drinks, sweaters or other paraphernalia to be placed at least 1m from boundary edge where at all possible.
6. Hygiene breaks will take place every 6 overs (A wicket break can be used to restart the process).

Captains should be made aware that any breach of the above could result in a first and final warning and any subsequent transgression will result in the award of 5 penalty runs.

During Play— Umpires will not deliberately come into contact with the ball. Any breach of 1-7 above, will result in a first and final warning, under Law 41.

If deemed Unacceptable Conduct, penalties under Law 42 shall apply:

- A player intentionally moving within 1 metre of anyone else for non-cricketing purposes will be treated as a Level 3 offence
- A player intentionally spitting or coughing at and within 2 metres of, another person will be treated as a Level 4 offence



After Play - Umpires are to leave the stumps in the ground, bails on the ground (if they're not their own) next to the stumps and leave bowling markers for the Club Representative to collect.

NEWS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Gerry Wilkinson (Treasurer) – League Panel Umpires - Due to the Covid situation in the 2020 playing season, instead of league panel umpires receiving cash payment from the teams involved on the match day itself, all payments were made retrospectively at the end of the season by BACS from the HACO Treasurer. Given the continued impact of Covid, it has been agreed with the league that payments will be continued in this way for the 2021 season. Each umpire will receive payments for the matches they have stood in, in two tranches, following the mid-point (during July) and end of the season (during September).

To smooth this new process, we need every umpire who expects to stand as a league panel umpire at some point in the season ahead to ensure that the Treasurer has the up-to-date details of the bank account into which the payments should be made. This is also relevant to those umpires who expect to stand in other matches that are not paid on the day, such as County Age Group and Schools matches.

Please confirm the relevant bank details (six-digit sort code and eight-digit account number) in an e-mail to the HACO Treasurer at gerry.wilkinson333@ntlworld.com

Hilary Stiffin (Scorers Officer)

Here's hoping that 2021 gives us a full season of fixtures. If you are interested in learning more about scoring, or just as a refresher for the coming season, there are some excellent sessions on YouTube that our ACO Scorers' Education Manager recorded during lockdown. The channel is called RunsWktsOvers and you can access it at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoBu7VMwO-d6mxDDxYgPx7w>

Also, Cricket Scorers Untallied (@cricket Scorers1) is on Twitter and they produce podcasts on all things scoring.

Tim Caldicott (Education Officer)

Education, Education, Education

With the restrictions imposed by the covid pandemic, we have been unable to physically gather for our, now customary, CPD (continuing personal development) sessions. However we have run online events via zoom. We had 2 separate events, both repeated to allow us to keep number to a reasonable size on each occasion.

Whilst there was nothing ground-breaking in these short sessions, we felt they were very useful to refresh people's understanding of some the umpiring tips and tricks.

In the first event, George White provided an update on the disciplinary procedures – which hopefully none of us will need to use! However, we mustn't shirk away from issues when they arise, we don't do anyone a disservice but not grasping the nettle. Nick and Hemal



provided a fresh take on the characteristics of an umpire, Peter covered the regulations and playing conditions in divisions 1 – 2b and I provided some thoughts on teambuilding.

In the second event, Peter presented a refresher on dangerous and unfair bowling, the Law on which changed slightly a couple of years ago, he also covered the regulations and playing conditions in the Premiership and Championship. Nick and Hemal provided some guidance regarding the types and timings of consultation between umpires. I chipped in with some advice on the difference between dissent and disappointment.

We are conducting a couple of the new Stage 2 courses, which are combination of tutor lead sessions and individual study between the sessions. We have kept these small in size, to allow everyone to get up to speed, but will probably open them up more after the summer – by which time we should also be able to return to the “traditional” face to face sessions.

I’ll take the opportunity to thank the various tutors involved and wish everyone all the best for the upcoming season.

GET TO KNOW YOUR COMMITTEE

MARK CALLABY - CHAIRMAN

Where were you born and raised. If not in Hertfordshire, when did you move here?

I was born in Stoke Newington and lived in Broad Lane, Tottenham until I was three when my parents moved to Hoddesdon. I’ve lived in Hoddesdon, Hertford and Broxbourne ever since.

How did you get interested in cricket? Who was the person who inspired you to play the game?

I guess I was always interested in sport, so in the summer, it was cricket. Even though there was less cricket being played and televised, what was available was on terrestrial television, which helped.

Tell me about your cricket career from school to when you retired, if you have retired.

I played all my club cricket (from colts to adult) at Wormley.

How did you become an umpire/scorer?

I was always interested in umpiring and my 20 minutes stint often turned into an hour or so. In the winter of 2008/09, I sat and passed what was the Level 1 course at that time. I remember playing the first game of the 2009 season and really not enjoying it. So that was it – retired from playing.

I umpired for the rest of that season and the next for Broxbourne II and joined the panel in 2011.

Who are your cricketing greats?

I don’t really have any cricketing greats, but I guess from an English point of view it has to be Botham. Otherwise, Viv Richards would have to be near the top of my list.

What other sports have you played/interested in?



Growing up, if there was a ball involved, I was generally interested in it. Football, basketball, tennis, snooker – but my number one sport was rugby.

Do you support a County cricket team – if so which one?

Despite my love of the game, I've never really affiliated myself to any team.

Favourite player and why?

I've watched very little professional cricket of any format in recent times as I've not succumbed to the temptations of the dish. With that and not following cricket as closely as many others, I don't really have a favourite player. If pushed, I would have to go back to Botham. Why? 1981.

Your top 5 things on your bucket list.

I don't have a bucket list, so perhaps I should start one. There are a few places I'd like to visit so in no particular order ... Canada, South Africa, S E Asia, Russia and Iceland

Any sporting highlights that you are proud of

I played rugby for Hertfordshire county age groups and was also selected for South Midlands (Herts, Beds, Bucks, Oxon). I remember a South Midlands warm up game when we played against Stowe School. We won the game something like 12-4 and I scored nine points from a try (in the days when it was worth four points), a conversion and a penalty. No-one had seemingly ever seen a prop forward kick, but our kicker had gone off injured and no-one else stepped forward.

JOHN SWEEDY – APPOINTMENTS OFFICER

Where were you born and raised. If not in Hertfordshire, when did you move here?

I was born in Surrey and grew up there, before moving to Abbots Langley.

Tell me about your cricket career from school to when you retired, if you have retired.

My Cricket career began in Mitcham, playing in their 1st XI on the green. Then I joined Abbots Langley in 1968, playing till 2000 where I scored 13,000 runs. Still a member at ALCC where I can be found running the bar even though they will not let me retire.

How did you become an umpire?

I wanted to give something back after the enjoyment I got playing the game. I started umpiring then under the stewardship of David Webb and progressed to premier league Cricket umpiring.

Who are your cricketing greats?

Fred Truman, Alistair Cook, Derek Underwood, Shane Warne and John Lay,

What other sports have you played/interested in?

Played football. I'm interested in all sports. My favourite player was Ross Jenkins (Watford FC) because he was a very average player and he turned into a very good player through hard work.

I Became an Appointments Officer around six or seven years ago, which I have really enjoyed.



Do you support a County cricket team – if so which one?

I support Surrey, because I lived south of the river.

Your top 5 things on your bucket list

Visiting other Countries. Going back to Abbots Langley and telling the other umpires at the club how many victims I got that day. !! Watching Test Matches abroad.

Any sporting highlights that you are proud of?

Scoring 100 runs in a match and scoring 50 goals in one season.

HILARY STIFFIN – SCORER'S OFFICER

I was born in Barnet, but my parents, sister and myself moved to St Albans when I was 2 years old. My father played cricket and I always followed it when I was young. At around 10 years old, we would take a picnic to Lords on a few Sundays during the summer and watch Middlesex play their John Player 40 over matches. There I would always fill out the scorecard, recording the wickets and score at the end of each over.

When I met my husband, he played cricket at North Mymms, so I used to go along to watch at first, before doing a season or two of teas. I would chat with Tony Gibbs (Mymms & Hertfordshire Men's Scorer) after the matches and it was he who offered to show me how to complete a scoresheet. I started off scoring for the Third team, had a break of a few years when having my son, until he was old enough to help with the numbers on the scoreboard. Then when he started playing league cricket at 11, I went from the 3's to the 2's and finally the 1's, four years ago. It wasn't until I'd been scoring for about 15 years, that I went on my first course to start on the Scorers Pathway to become qualified.

As a school girl and then teenager I played hockey and squash. Hockey for Potters Bar Ladies and Squash for St Albans and Hertfordshire up to the age of U18.

I enjoy cricket scoring and being part of a team, with both the players and umpires and feel lucky that I belong to such a great club in North Mymms and County of Hertfordshire. In the winter I enjoy travelling, anything from the wilds of Botswana to the vineyards of Europe.

CHRIS MOUNTAIN – COMMITTEE MEMBER

Age 54 and living in St Albans with Clare for the last 8 years. I've previously lived in Colchester, Birmingham, Stoke-on-Trent, Leighton Buzzard & Flitwick, but my formative years were in Luton.

I am a Level 3 Scorer, often defined as an Umpire who can count beyond 6 and with the good sense to sit down whilst enjoying the cricket. I claim to have had no great skill as a cricketer. Self-taught at the basics of scoring, and practising whilst watching John Player League matches on BBC2. My club cricket started at Vauxhall Motors CC in 1984 as a scorer. I soon started to play, and umpire from time-to-time, but always found scoring much more preferable. Highest Score 42; Best Bowling 4 for 2. Meaning of Life 42.



I've played\umpire\scored\joined committees for University of Essex, Wedgwood CC, Eversholt CC, Ampthill CC & St Albans CC as well as spending a decade on the Minor County circuit with Bedfordshire CCC.

Scoring has changed much since 1984. From finding the book behind the bar I now carry 3 bags - laptop, printer and the general bag of pens, handbooks and jelly babies. Self-taught at Linear Scoring from an article in The Sun by Bill Frindall. I've used laptops since 2001 as my main scoring tool (Willow, then Total Cricket Scorer and now Play Cricket Scorer). A life working in IT helped with understanding much of the technology. I've helped to run Scoring Courses in Beds & Herts since 2000.

Aside from cricket, I've followed the ups, downs, ups again, then downs and ups of Luton Town FC since 1975. I held a season ticket from 1978-83 but rarely attend matches in recent years. Since meeting Clare we've attended many athletics events around the UK, both indoors & outdoors. Given my name you would expect that I enjoy the hillier areas of the UK. I am a member of an Outdoor group based in Dunstable who organise anything from a half day walk to Markyate to two weeks in the fjords of Norway.

Favourite player - Andy Roberts. Not the West Indies quick, but the former Northants & Bedfordshire cricketer. His attitude to the game was competitive, but understanding that it is for enjoyment as well. Also a fine servant to his club, Finedon Dolben CC, and continues to enjoy the game as an Umpire in the Northants League.

Cricketing highlights over the last 35+ years:

- Scoring for Australia at Lord's in 2005 (I scored for Eversholt 2's the following week and being fined for the biggest comedown in the history of cricket.)
- Seeing my club side play at Lord's (Eversholt, 2000)
- Being part of the Bedfordshire CCC setup which won the Minor Counties Eastern Division in 2004.
- Possibly the only scorer to appear on Slovenian TV.
- The friends I have made along the way.

In the next issue of Over & Out, I will be interviewing:

- Anthony Levy - Vice Chairman
- Gerry Wilkinson - Treasurer
- Tim Caldicot - Education Officer
- Nick Hall - Committee Member



Quiz 10

1. The umpires see that the bowler appears to be tampering with the ball and on inspection note that its condition has been unfairly changed. Assuming this to be a first offence, which of the following actions are neither correct nor necessary for the umpires to take?
 - (a) Inform the batsmen of the occurrence and ask them if they wish the ball to be replaced immediately by a ball of comparable wear
 - (b) Direct the captain of the fielding side to suspend the bowler immediately for the remainder of the innings
 - (c) Award 5 penalty runs to the batting side and caution the bowler
 - (d) Report the occurrence to the appropriate authority.

2. The striker misses a legal delivery and notices that the bails have been removed. He leaves the crease believing that he has been bowled. The Striker's end umpire moves in to repair the wicket and is then told by the wicket-keeper that he thinks that he has inadvertently broken the wicket with a glove. After consultation the umpires decide to recall the outgoing batsman. Assuming this is not the final wicket of the innings, what is the latest point at which the recall can occur for this batsman to reassume his innings?
 - (a) Within 3 minutes of the occurrence
 - (b) Before the batsman crosses the boundary
 - (c) Before the ball comes into play for the next delivery
 - (d) Before the point at which this batsman and the next batsman in cross if it is on the field of play.

3. Which of the following time frames are correct for completion of mowing,
 - (i) of the pitch, and
 - (ii) of the outfieldon each day of the match on which play is expected?

(Times given are in minutes before the time scheduled or rescheduled for start of play on that day)

 - (a) (i) not later than 30 and (ii) not later than 15
 - (b) (i) not later than 30 and (ii) not later than 30
 - (c) (i) not later than 15 and (ii) not later than 30
 - (d) (i) not later than 45 and (ii) not later than 45.

4. In the first innings of a 3-day match the umpire considers that the bowler has delivered a deliberate front-foot No Ball. She immediately calls and signals No Ball. When the ball is dead what further action is required by the umpire?
 - (a) Direct the captain to suspend the bowler immediately from bowling and for the remainder of that innings and report accordingly

- (b) Direct the captain to suspend the bowler immediately from bowling and for the remainder of the match and report accordingly
 - (c) Direct the captain to suspend the bowler immediately from bowling and for the remainder of that innings and report accordingly. In addition award 5 Penalty runs to the batting side
 - (d) Issue a first and final warning to the bowler and inform the captain of the fielding side of your actions.
5. The scheduled close of play is 18.00 and the Last Hour of a match is called at 17.02. The batting side are bowled out at 17.20 after 7.2 overs have been bowled in that time. What is the minimum number of overs left to bowl in the match assuming that a result has not been previously achieved?
- (a) 9
 - (b) 10
 - (c) 11
 - (d) 12

Answers to Quiz 9

- 1. (a)
- 2. (b)
- 3. (d)
- 4. (c)
- 5. (b)

For any clarification of these questions and answers please contact Nick Hall at n.hall53@outlook.com

Answers to Quiz 10

Will be published later, but the above still applies!





YOUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Officers

President - Peter Bradshaw

Chairman - Mark Callaby

Vice Chairman - Anthony Levy

Secretary - Roy Newman 07768 205 222

secretary.haco@oulook.com

Treasurer - Gerry Wilkinson 07977 070 211

gerry.wilkinson333@ntlworld.com

Appointments Officer - John Sweedy

Education Officer - Tim Caldicott 07721 017 651

education.haco@outlook.com

Performance Officer - Jon Holland

Scorers Officer - Hilary Stiffin

Committee members

Peter Hinstridge

Nick Hall

Chris Mountain

Connor Mulholland

