



Over & Out

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE
HERTFORDSHIRE
ASSOCIATION
OF CRICKET OFFICIALS

JULY 2021

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SECRETARY'S SECTION

The cricket season is well under way and after a very wet May with the majority of matches called off, the weather has improved a bit, allowing us to get outside and be involved in the game we love. Operating Covid rules is beginning to become normal, or as near normal as it ever will be. I do wonder why umpires have to replace bails and fielders, especially wicket-keepers, who wear gloves are not allowed to replace the bails they often knock off with their gloves. The bails could be sanitized when the players sanitize their hands every six overs. One Covid rule I would like to see stay forever, is the ban on umpires holding players' caps and sweaters. That has been a real bonus. Fortunately, these Covid-19 rules have been relaxed. See below the revised rules from July 19.



For those of you who don't know, I'm involved with Langleybury Cricket Club. Each Saturday, I'm either scoring for the first team, when our main scorer is unavailable, or I'm umpiring for our 2nd XI. Wearing two hats is a nice position to be in, as I don't get stuck in a rut and it gives me a view from the middle, or keeping an eye on the Panel umpires to make sure they get it right.

Hopefully, with Covid restrictions being lifted, your committee will be able to start planning for face-to-face meetings to start again. As soon as there is any news on dates and venues, you will be informed.

Sir Frederick Toone wrote the following "Definition of Cricket" in 1930:

"It is a science, the study of a lifetime, in which you may exhaust yourself but never your subject. It is a contest, a duel or melee, calling for courage, skill, strategy and self-control. It is a contest of temper, a trial of honour, a revealer of character. It affords a chance to play the man and act the gentleman. It means going into God's out-of-doors, getting close to nature, fresh air, exercise, a sweeping away of mental cobwebs, genuine recreation of the tired tissues. It is a cure for care, an antidote to worry. It includes companionship with friends, social intercourse, and opportunities for courtesy, kindness, and generosity to an opponent. It promotes not only physical health, but mental force."

Over 90 years later, it is still relevant.

Sir Frederick Toone was Secretary of Leicestershire from 1897 to 1902 and of Yorkshire from 1903 until his death. He was a great organiser, a quality that was put to particularly good use in ensuring the success of the benefit seasons of the Yorkshire professionals during his time in office. He died at Harrogate, Yorkshire.

He was a popular manager of three successive England touring teams to Australia: those of 1920–21, 1924–25 and 1928–29. It was following the last of these tours that he was knighted for his work in helping to promote good relations between "the Commonwealth and the Mother Country". In *Wisden's* report of the 1932-3 tour of Australia, it said: "the lamented death of Sir Frederick Toone left the M. C. C. without the most capable manager who has ever represented that body on a foreign tour".

CRICKET: AS EXPLAINED TO A FOREIGNER...

You have two sides, one out in the field and one in. Each man that's in the side that's in goes out, and when he's out he comes in and the next man goes in until he's out. When they are all out, the side that's out comes in and the side that's been in goes out and tries to get those coming in, out. Sometimes you get men still in and not out. When a man goes out to go in, the men who are out try to get him out, and when he is out he goes in and the next man in goes out and goes in. There are two men called umpires who stay out all the time and they decide when the men who are in are out. When both sides have been in and all the men have been out, and both sides have been out twice after all the men have been in, including those who are not out, that is the end of the game.

Yes it's old, but it's a goodie!!

SARACENS HERTFORDSHIRE CRICKET LEAGUE GUIDANCE ON ENTERING STEP FOUR OF THE GOVERNMENT ROADMAP FOR COVID-19

With effect from Monday 19th July the country has moved to Step 4 of the UK government road map. Following this change the ECB has issued further guidance for recreational cricket. A key focus of the guidance under Step 4 is about individuals taking personal responsibility for their own safety in respect of Covid-19. This note provides guidance for clubs, players and officials taking part in league cricket for the remaining weeks of the 2021 season.

CATERING / HOSPITALITY

There are no longer any restrictions on opening and operating bars. As previously agreed for the 2021 season clubs are not obliged to provide catering for matches, i.e. lunches or teas; however clubs can choose to do so. Clubs must ensure participants are made aware of the club's policy prior to match day.

CHANGING ROOMS

There are no longer restrictions on the use of changing facilities but the decision on whether to re-open changing rooms is for each club to decide.

SCORERS & SCOREBOXES

Although scorers may now sit together in the scoreboard it is possible that one or both scorers will decide that they want to continue to sit separately from each other. Clubs should make every effort to accommodate the wishes of the scorers and make adequate arrangements for the scorers to sit apart if required.

SANITISATION BREAKS

The League does not require mandatory Sanitisation Breaks any longer. However, clubs should continue, whenever possible, to provide hand sanitiser for use by the participants during the game. Participants (players and umpires) should sanitise their hands as frequently as they judge necessary but do so when the playing time taken will be minimised, e.g. at the fall of a wicket, at the end of an over, during any interruption in play. If either captain expresses a wish to continue with Sanitisation Breaks every six overs that wish is to be respected when the side of which he is captain is fielding and the breaks must take place. Participants may prefer to provide their own sanitiser.

THE BALL

The League strongly advises against saliva/spit or sweat being applied to the cricket ball. The requirement to sanitise the ball at each Sanitisation Break is removed, as is the requirement to sanitise the ball after it has come into contact with a spectator or other non-participant. Umpires are now permitted to handle the ball during play, in accordance with the laws of cricket. Whether they choose to do so is a personal decision and that decision must be communicated to the captains prior to the toss.

PLAYERS' CLOTHING & DRYING MATERIAL

It is recommended that umpires do not, and are not asked to, carry items of any player's clothing or carry drying material (cloths). If the umpires decide that they are prepared to do so this that should be communicated to the captains prior to the toss.

STUMPS & BAILS

Players are now permitted to handle the stumps and bails before and during the match, with the agreement of the umpires. The umpires shall inform the captains prior to the toss if they do not wish the players to handle the bails.

BOWLERS' MARKERS

Umpires are now permitted to provide bowler's markers. Whether they choose to do so is a personal decision and that decision must be communicated to the captains prior to the toss.'

NEWS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Tim Caldicott (Education Officer)

EDUCATION, EDUCATION, EDUCATION

Having now (sort of) settled into my new role as County Education Officer, I thought it best to update you all on the umpiring side of education. Hilary and her fellow "scoring" committee members will be able to keep you abreast of developments in that direction.

Given the extraordinary circumstances of the last 15 months or so, face to face "classroom" style courses have been impossible. However, with a great deal of support from the band of tutors, we have been able to continue our series of CPD courses, which appeared to be well received with some comments enabling us to improve them for future use if required – hopefully not, but they do offer us the option of remote operations.

For the moment, the Stage 1 courses are purely online and this may remain that way, but it will be reviewed going forward. Personally, I feel the physical gathering can be advantageous and I think there will be a choice of both in the future. The link for the Stage 1 is:

<https://booking.ecb.co.uk/c/express/653e1af6-1124-4486-b253-f9057d700f8e>

It's still free as far as I am aware so, if you haven't tried it, it's a good place to start. I found it quite a useful refresher tool as the Laws have changed quite a bit over the last 3 or 4 years.

We ran two Stage 2 courses during April/May. These are run on a blended learning basis, where there is a tutor led session once a week and then a self-taught module to do during the week between tutored session. We had 16 participants across the 2 sets of evenings, which was the suggested amount for the first time of running, we may be able to expand the numbers or add courses if demand proves that necessary. Again, I'm hoping in the autumn

And/or spring we'll be able to offer physical gatherings as well.

I trust you are all enjoying the season, even if the weather has been mixed! From reports, it appears there have been plenty of learning opportunities during matches so far. Should you bump into any problems, don't be worried about discussing them afterwards. Talk to each other after the match (assuming you're fortunate enough to have a colleague. We are well aware there are many of you who play a lone hand!). If you don't have that opportunity, then perhaps pick up the phone to a fellow umpire you may know. There are a few of us who are acting as mentors and are willing to help out anybody, should you require it. Jon Holland has a list of those doing so and I'm sure he could point you in the right direction. Bear in mind, you can all act as mentors/sounding boards to each other – and there's always the little blue book (or its online equivalent, a great little app by the way) and the umpire and scorer bible, Tom Smith's.

To wrap up this report, I will remind you all of the annual conference we were hoping to run in 2020 but had to abandon as events overtook us. We are looking to run this in March 2022, probably at Hatfield Sports Village again. Watch this space for further development.

Tim Caldicott
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GET TO KNOW YOUR COMMITTEE

Anthony Levy - Vice Chairman

WHERE WERE YOU BORN AND RAISED. IF NOT IN HERTFORDSHIRE, WHEN DID YOU MOVE HERE?

I haven't really moved very far! I was born and raised in Ealing (anyone with a vague knowledge of the Hanger Lane Gyratory System will have passed and looked down on the house I lived in for my first 20 years!) and then I moved to my current location in East Barnet on getting married in 1991.

HOW DID YOU GET INTERESTED IN CRICKET? WHO WAS THE PERSON WHO INSPIRED YOU TO PLAY THE GAME?

My father was a fan of both cricket and football and I suspect like most children born in that era, if it was Summer and nothing else was planned, then you spent the whole day sitting down watching the Test Match on BBC – there was nothing worse than either shared coverage with something like the horse racing or getting all excited about the start of a day's play to find that it was 'raining at Old Trafford'.

TELL ME ABOUT YOUR CRICKET CAREER FROM SCHOOL TO WHEN YOU RETIRED, IF YOU HAVE RETIRED. LET ME HAVE AS MUCH INFO AS YOU CAN.

Apart from playing in the back garden or in the school playground, despite having a modicum of talent my cricket career was largely non-existent until I turned 21. My school did not have a cricket team and because I had a long journey home from school it never occurred to either my parents or myself that there might have been other opportunities available e.g. Ealing CC was just 5 minutes away.

In 1988 (aged 21) I was playing football for Maccabi Association London and someone in the team was the vice-captain of their cricket second XI. As I now realise is typical for the lowest cricket side, he was always scrambling around looking for players most weeks to make up the side for that coming Sunday and would often ask members of the football team - once I had volunteered one week I never looked back! I played for 2 different

Jewish cricket teams over the next 15 years – mainly Sunday friendlies – but with the best part being our annual tours to Devon from 1992 where we went as a social family group, quite different from the usual touring culture. In later years one of our number was Skysports statistician Benedict Bermange, and as a result I got a brief mention on TMS when they interviewed Adrian Edmondson. Benedict contacted the programme with a scorecard from the tour match between MAL and Chagford in which Adrian had played as he lives nearby. Adrian wondered aloud about the great innings he might have played that day only to be advised that he was out Stumped Levy, Bowled Edwards 0!

Then in 2003 a mixture of circumstances, including my son signing up as a 10 year-old colt, brought me to my now local cricket team of Cockfosters. Suddenly I was playing Saturday league cricket for the first time at the age of 37 as the 3rd team wicketkeeper and relatively competent batsman. These years were the most enjoyable period of my playing career as the intensity of league cricket (even at that level) improved my game immensely and we secured two successive promotions from Div 10 to Div 8 of the Herts League (when we had 20 teams per division), with a mixture of old hands and young colts coming through the club.

Knee injuries eventually got the better of me and I had decided by the end of the 2009 season to move on from playing...

HOW DID YOU BECOME AN UMPIRE/SCORER

I really am the accidental umpire! During my playing days at levels where we had to provide scorers and umpires from the players, I was always the person who volunteered to score and it was only occasionally that I had to umpire. I scored a number of Cockfosters games over 2008 and 2009 during a period when I had a number of injuries and fully expected that in the long run the scoreboard was where I would end up. However, at the start of the 2010 season (having retired from playing) the Cockfosters 1st and 2nd teams both had a scorer (my daughter – a member of Herts ACO – being one of them) and the second team had an umpire (1st team).

In Div 2 and therefore covered by the panel). When I volunteered to score for the 3rd team the skipper said 'frankly Anthony, if you are available on Saturday, I would rather you umpired'...

By the end of that season the 2nd team skipper was asking me to umpire games ahead of their regular umpire and then after taking what was then the Level 1 and Level 1A courses and having spent a full season in 2011 umpiring Cockfosters 2s in Div 5, I reluctantly agreed to join the panel in 2012 as a way of progressing and have not looked back!

WHO ARE YOUR CRICKETING GREATS

Heroes growing up for varying reasons would include figures like Geoff Boycott, Ian Botham and Mike Gatting. I only just caught the end of Gary Sobers' playing career so the West Indies icon for me is always Viv Richards.

WHAT OTHER SPORTS HAVE YOU PLAYED/INTERESTED IN

The only other sport I played regularly was football. I was a goalkeeper until deciding by the age of around 25 that I was no longer enjoying it. I am a long standing QPR fan although the season ticket and regular away trips stopped once the children came along.

However, the positive side of stopping attending football matches was that I was around when my son took up playing hockey for Potters Bar in 2008. I have watched from the side line as the club has grown from having 2 Men's sides to 4 with their top side having moved 6 rungs up the divisional pyramid such that they started the curtailed 2020/21 season in Prem B of the East League – just 2 levels below the likes of Southgate Hockey Club. Despite my son moving to the US in 2017 (his own hockey ability progressing from helping to make up the numbers in the bottom side to becoming a 1st team regular), I continue to be the club secretary and main match reporter – something I have missed as much as the cricket over the last 12 months.

Having done some running as exercise before too many knee injuries I am now a compulsive walker, often walking two hours every day at a surprisingly quick speed – it proves to be a great period of time to unwind and listen to the seemingly endless number of podcasts that are out there!

DO YOU SUPPORT A COUNTY CRICKET TEAM, IF SO WHICH ONE.

Middlesex has always been my team. My father followed them and he first took me to Lord's in the summer of 1973 for a Sunday 40 over game and I was hooked. Back in those days you were allowed to enter the field of play and I can still picture myself running around just inside the boundary during the tea interval.

FAVOURITE PLAYER AND WHY

Currently that accolade goes to Joe Root – seems to be able to play against any type of bowling and on any surface, while having the technique and shots to play all formats of the game and comes over as a likeable guy as well.

YOUR TOP 5 THINGS ON YOUR BUCKET LIST

Getting the New Zealand trip we originally had pencilled in for Feb 2021 (never booked for obvious reasons) arranged for probably 2023. Once we have done that then Australia, plus some other parts of the USA not previously travelled are also on the list.

Being able to see my son and daughter-in-law in person who live with their 3 dogs in Abilene, Texas. We went for a family gathering for Thanksgiving in 2019 and hope that the pandemic will ease sufficiently for a Thanksgiving or Christmas gathering later in 2021.

From a cricketing perspective I am looking forward to getting back to umpiring and seeing if I can continue to progress beyond the Herts Premier League as well as helping HACO with the wider ECB ACO objectives of decreasing the average age of umpires and increasing diversity. I will admit that reaching this level is already way beyond what I expected to achieve when I first started umpiring in 2010 and I never expected to end up quite so heavily involved in the HACO.

My other cricketing wish would be to attend an international match overseas – something I have not done previously. I would love to attend at either Christchurch (where Cockfosters' sister club are based) or Queenstown (which looks spectacular). If I get to Christchurch then perhaps.

Having already been lucky enough to be able to reduce my working hours to 3 days per week (and hence being able to umpire more during the week) I do look forward to being able to fully retire to help both with the travel and the cricket.

ANY SPORTING HIGHLIGHTS THAT YOU ARE PROUD OF

I ran and completed the London Marathon in 1997 – achieving my primary goal of actually running for the entire 26.2 miles (you'd be surprised at just how few people actually achieve that as many of the fun runners walk the majority of the second half of the race) in a sedately time of 4 hours and 40 minutes.

I was the Maccabi Southern Football League Div 3 player of the season in 1988, for my relative prowess between the sticks! I was always good at saving penalties (thanks to a great method of working out which way the kicker would shoot depending on the angle and speed of their run up) and can claim to have saved 2 penalties in the same match although the circumstances.

Were somewhat 'village' – for the first penalty I dived to my left, the strike went down the middle, hit the ankle of my trailing leg and went over the bar! The second penalty was the only time I have not moved before the kick was taken as I was completely flummoxed by the run up as to where the shot would go – imagine my joy to see the ball hit high and straight down the middle, allowing me to easily parry the ball over the bar.

Hitting the winning runs on a rare call up for Cockfosters 2s – playing away to Radlett IVs on the bottom pitch we were chasing something like 230 and a whirlwind 50 in 30 balls by the number 8 bat (not me!!) meant that we needed a manageable 45 to win from 10 overs when I strolled in at number 9! We gradually whittled it down to needing 5 off the last over with me on strike – the first ball was a juicy leg stump half volley from which I received the biggest cheer I ever earned when the ball went to the mid-wicket boundary for 4. A scrambled single later in the over (I would have been run out by miles with a direct hit!) secured a 3 wicket win.

Gerry Wilkinson - Treasurer

WHERE WERE YOU BORN AND RAISED? IF NOT IN HERTFORDSHIRE, WHEN DID YOU MOVE HERE?

- Born and raised in Colchester, Essex (1953-71)
- Studied Hotel & Catering Management in Bournemouth, Dorset (1971-74)
- Moved all-round the country working in hotels (1974-80)
- Lived in North London (1980-83)
- Moved to Watford, getting married and buying first house (1983)

HOW DID YOU GET INTERESTED IN CRICKET?

- Played it at my (private) Primary School
- My mother and particularly my father were keen on cricket. They took me to see Essex games not only in Colchester, but at the vast number of grounds Essex played on in the 1960s, including Brentwood, Westcliff, Clacton and Ilford
- The first county championship game I saw was Essex v. Kent at Colchester. Essex opening batsman Gordon Barker scored 181* and Essex won easily.
- The first Test Match my father took me to was the first day of the first Lord's Test v. Australia in 1964 which was a complete washout as was the following day. So much for uncovered pitches Geoffrey Boycott!

WHO WAS THE PERSON WHO INSPIRED YOU TO PLAY THE GAME?

- My parents were friends with Godfrey Evans (Kent & England wicket-keeper) and I guess I always had an interest in 'keeping, but it wasn't really until another Kent wicket-keeper, Alan Knott, started playing for England that I decided I wanted to be just like him and play cricket for England. Alas, the naivety of youth!

TELL ME ABOUT YOUR CRICKET CAREER FROM SCHOOL TO WHEN YOU RETIRED

- Colchester Royal Grammar School (1964-67): school games U.11-U.14
- King Edward VII Grammar School, Sheffield (1967-69): school games U1.15, 2nd XI, 1st XI
- King Edward VI Grammar School, Chelmsford (1970-71): School games 2nd XI, 1st XI. In my final year at school we reached the final of the Essex Schools competition competing for the Trevor Bailey Shield.
- Unfortunately, we came up against Leyton School, who had a chap playing for them called Graham Gooch. They bowled us out for less than 100, we dropped Gooch when he was on 0 and they cruised to victory. However, at the after-match presentation Trevor Bailey said how impressed he had been with the wicket-keepers on both sides (myself and Gooch) On the strength of that I got a couple of matches representing Essex schoolboys before they discarded me, while he went on to slightly better things!
- 1972-1998: Regrettably now, I was lost to playing a decent level of cricket for a long period of time due to career, family etc. and I merely played for a couple of nomadic sides during this time.
- 1998: Looking for a local club with a good colts set up to get my son involved, I joined Langleybury CC. By now into my mid/late forties, I played mainly for the 3rd XI, with the odd game for the 2nd XI, taking over the captaincy and running the 4th XI from 2000-2004. I had the great honour of being 4th XI Player of the Year in 2000 (collecting top batsman award for Div 12 at the annual dinner) two years before Steven Finn received the same award at the age of 13!

HOW DID YOU BECOME AN UMPIRE/SCORER?

- Sometime around 2005/2006 the 1st XI at LCC were in need of a scorer (not to mention an admin assistant to do all skipper Nigel Ilott's running around and paperwork!) Having been interested in scoring since a young lad, I signed up to one of Brian Mulholland's winter scoring courses and became duly qualified under the old ACU&s regime.

- I scored for LCC 1st XI for maybe four or five years, before deciding that rather than being cooped up in score boxes, which were often cold, dark and generally unpleasant, I decided I wouldn't mind umpiring where I could enjoy the sun and the abuse of the players!
- I had umpired many times at various levels over the years so decided to sign up for one of the Level 1 courses being run by Tim Caldicott at Abbots Langley. This was followed up over the next few years with a Level 2 course run by Peter Hinstridge and a Level 2C course, possibly Peter again.
- I umpired a couple of seasons for LCC 2nd XI before asking Peter if I could join the Panel.
- This I was allowed to do and I had a few years on the panel until an eyesight problem forced me to come off. One or two of the wags at LCC suggested that the quality of my umpiring decisions might actually be improved with impaired vision!

WHO ARE YOUR CRICKETING GREATS?

- This is a difficult one to answer, as I feel it is virtually impossible to compare the best players from different eras, especially in relation to players you have never seen. I shall name a few players from across the ages and state why. The choices relate purely to the purest form of the game, test matches.
- **W G Grace** – unrivalled amongst his contemporaries in batting, bowling and gamesmanship! Unfortunately test cricket only started late into his career.
- **Don Bradman** – his record (test average 99.94) speaks for itself
- **Michael Holding**- the most graceful bowler you could wish to see, who bowled the fastest and most lethal over I have ever seen, without resorting to anything threatening the body. West Indies were playing England at Bridgetown, Barbados in 1981. In his opening over he beat Geoffrey Boycott's bat four or five time, before sending his middle stump cartwheeling out of the ground to end the over.
- **Brian Lara** – he looked to score off every ball, playing defensively as a last resort. The complete crowd pleaser who set the highest individual test score (375) in 1994, had it taken away from him by Matthew Hayden's 380 in 2003 and then got it back again with 400* the following year. For good measure he achieved the highest individual score in all first-class cricket with a score of 501* for Warwickshire in 1994. Both records still stand.
- **Alan Knott** - well there had to be a wicket-keeper! The ball would melt into Knotty's gloves and when standing up to the wicket, the true test of any 'keeper, he devoured anything that came his way whether catches or stumpings. The perfect foil for 'deadly' Derek Underwood in his pomp.
- **Shane Warne** - absolute master of that most difficult of cricketing arts, leg spin bowling. I saw "the Gatting ball" live on TV and was mesmerised by him (a bit like most English batsmen at the time) ever after.

WHAT OTHER SPORTS HAVE YOU PLAYED/INTERESTED IN?

- Interested in so many, particularly if there is a ball involved. I'll pick out the ones I have played.
- **Football**: reasonable schoolboy footballer. Similar to cricket, 1st XI at school, then I was given a couple of outings with Essex schoolboys, before they decided that a puny 5'4" lad might not make it at a higher level!
- **Rugby**: my first Grammar School played only Rugby. After three years of playing Hooker, then Scrum Half for the school team that was it. I never could tackle anyway!
- **Golf**: I've tried, I've really tried, but we don't really rub along very well!
- **Squash**: Played a bit to a reasonable level in my twenties, but that one bit the dust too.

- **Tennis:** The 1st XI cricket captain and I won the school championship doubles event in our last year (he also won the singles), but there just wasn't time in the summer term to take tennis seriously alongside all the cricket.

DO YOU SUPPORT A COUNTY CRICKET TEAM – IF SO WHICH ONE?

- This may not surprise you. All my life it's been the mighty **Essex!**

FAVOURITE PLAYER AND WHY?

- Another exceedingly difficult one, so I'll limit it to a current player who plays all formats of the game who has put in exceptional individual performances over the years.
- **Ben Stokes:** I was in Perth, WA when England lost the Ashes in 9/10 days of playing time just before Christmas 2013. We all knew something was wrong in the squad (KP was playing like the selfish individual he could be at times; Jonathan Trott had mental issues and gone home; Graham Swann had clearly lost his mojo and was bowling tripe; Alistair Cook looked like a rabbit in the headlights)
- Enter Ben Stokes in just his second test match. In the second innings Ben came in at 121-4, with a mere 382 more required for victory. We didn't get them, but that day Ben showed he had the guts and determination to stand up to the Aussies, with an outstanding innings of 120, while we sang along to Christmas Carols with the Barmy Army!
- In early 2016 we were fortunate to be at the Cape Town test to witness the sheer brutality of Ben's hitting power, in his highest innings to date of 258, with 11 x 6s. Johnny Bairstow was a little pedestrian by comparison in their stand of 399 for the fifth wicket, although he did go on to score 150 himself.
- 2019 - who doesn't remember Ben's huge contribution to winning the World Cup, followed by that magnificent 135* against Australia in the Headingley test, helping England to the winning score of 362-9. Thanks for the 1* Jack Leach!

YOUR TOP 5 THINGS ON YOUR BUCKET LIST

- I'm not sure I'm a "bucket list" type of person, who just wants to tick things off on a list, but I'll play along:
 1. Travel in India, probably in the "Golden Triangle" and ideally incorporating a Test Match or two when England are there.
 2. Spend more time in Australia, where our daughter now lives (Perth). Again England cricket would be high on the agenda.
 3. Travel in Russia. Cruise from Moscow to St Petersburg booked for last August is rescheduled for this August. We shall see!
 4. For many years I have been involved with Amateur Dramatics. I would be made up to get even the smallest of roles in a TV production of Doctor Who.
 5. Receive a telegram from the Monarch on my 100th birthday. I think fulfilment of no. 4 is more likely than that one!

ANY SPORTING HIGHLIGHTS THAT YOU ARE PROUD OF

- Going to my first ever century with a straight six and being comprehensively stumped next ball!
- Getting a hole in one just once in my life (Beauchief Golf Course, Sheffield)

Nick Hall - Committee Member

Having been born within a De Chambeau drive of Vicarage Road my parents must have thought it right and proper to keep the family in the Watford area throughout my childhood, which they duly did!

My first interest in cricket coincided with the Australian tour of England in 1961 and the BBC radio and TV coverage which followed the Test Match series. To that effect my subsequent love of the game was, I suppose, self-inspired. Soon after I found myself at Lord's for the first time following Middlesex CCC in the days of Parfitt, Titmus, Price et al and my childhood hero, John (J.T.) Murray. In more recent times I would regard the great Garfield Sobers and Sachin Tendulkar as my favourite players.

I was lucky enough to play cricket competitively at primary school and represented the Watford Primary Schools district team, principally as a bowler! Cricket at Secondary school went in fits and starts and only really took off when the family re-located to High Wycombe and a change of school.

Apart from a good amount of cricket in the Sixth form I joined the School Old Boys team which played both days at the weekend in a variety of settings in and around Buckinghamshire.

Over the next 20 years or so I had a stuttering, modest and mostly uneventful playing career with the odd good day (3 hundreds, a couple of 6-fers and a hat-trick) thrown in playing for John Hampden Old Boys, Amersham Hill, Hatfield Hyde and finally Berkhamsted cricket clubs.

Although I enjoyed playing immensely I had no intention of going on to the bitter end, as it were, and I moved smoothly into umpiring ready for the 1998 season. Within the next two years I gained a place on the newly-formed Home Counties Premier League panel and more recently the SHPL. Last year I clocked up my 300th premier league game which I guess may be some sort of record in Hertfordshire. I have also been lucky enough to serve on the ECB 'D list', the Minor Counties panel and now, the National Umpires Panel.

In the winter months I have continued to referee football, which I started in 1975! I did have a 12 year break, however, initially to concentrate more on running in the late 1980s. At best I was only a reasonably decent club runner, but I did once break 3 hours for a marathon which took a great deal of training and effort!

Nowadays I play golf regularly throughout the year, continue to support the mighty Hornets and Middlesex, and watch snooker live and on the television.

I don't really have a bucket list: I just hope that I can maintain health and fitness as long as possible so that I can enjoy my sport, travel, music and theatre. Mind you, I have not umpired competitively at Lord's: this would be a great way to round off my umpiring career!

Tim Caldicott - Education Secretary

WHERE WERE YOU BORN AND RAISED. IF NOT IN HERTFORDSHIRE, WHEN DID YOU MOVE HERE?

Born and bred in Watford. Have moved around a bit but have stayed in the WD postcode – except for a brief sojourn to Hemel.

HOW DID YOU GET INTERESTED IN CRICKET? WHO WAS THE PERSON WHO INSPIRED YOU TO PLAY THE GAME?

Not sure where my interest came from as neither of my parents played, although they both liked watching a bit. My maternal grandfather was a useful player and bought me my first proper bat, but he had long given up playing when I was old enough to play.

TELL ME ABOUT YOUR CRICKET CAREER FROM SCHOOL TO WHEN YOU RETIRED, IF YOU HAVE RETIRED. LET ME HAVE AS MUCH INFO AS YOU CAN.

Played occasionally at school for the form team, never played for the school, only really started playing once I left school. Played for Old Centralians, who were based in West Watford, down beyond Vicarage Road. Moved clubs after 20 years to play for Clarendon (who merged with Chipperfield at the same time as I gave up playing).

HOW DID YOU BECOME AN UMPIRE/SCORER?

Started umpiring following an injury which proved to be decisive in my retirement from playing (my "powers" were already in decline and I wasn't enjoying playing as much prior to this anyway!).

WHO ARE YOUR CRICKETING GREATS?

Sir Viv, Michael Holding and Sir Ian. The long hot summer of '76 and the West Indies in full flight, Viv batted like a god and Mikey bowled like the wind. Actually, that series is probably what sparked my love affair with cricket.

WHAT OTHER SPORTS HAVE YOU PLAYED/INTERESTED IN?

Football, played (badly) until mid 20s. Now limit my activities to hurling abuse at players from both teams at Vicarage Road.

Played rugby reasonably well at school – regret not playing on afterwards.

As I spent a LOT of time in pubs in my younger days, so became very proficient at most indoor games...

DO YOU SUPPORT A COUNTY CRICKET TEAM – IF SO WHICH ONE?

Don't support any County team beyond keeping up with the headlines.

FAVOURITE PLAYER AND WHY?

Past player would probably be Viv, his swagger and ability to cow opposition just by his presence – and his unbelievable talent. Current player would be Ben Stokes (the same sort of bravado) or Jimmy Anderson (his skill levels beggar belief).

YOUR TOP 5 THINGS ON YOUR BUCKET LIST?

Trip down under for the Sydney and Melbourne Ashes tests.

Stand in a match on the main ground at Lords.

Visit the Pyramids.

Err....umm...

ANY SPORTING HIGHLIGHTS THAT YOU ARE PROUD OF?

Not certain any of my lights were that high...

IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF OVER & OUT, I WILL BE INTERVIEWING:

- Peter Hinstridge – Committee Member
- John Holland – Performance Officer
- Connor Mulholland – Committee Member
- Roy Newman – General Secretary

Old School... New Ground By Nick Hall

Harrow School v Eton College at Lord's has been an annual fixture since 1805 and is one of the longest running sporting fixtures in the world. Overall results have been quite evenly matched with a predominance of draws, as you may have expected. However, there have been some periods of complete dominance, such as Harrow's extraordinary 25 year

undefeated run starting in 1975. In contrast, results since 2010 have fluctuated remarkably in that no side has been victorious in successive matches during that period, and true to form, Eton won this year's match to continue that trend.

Film footage of encounters between Harrow and Eton during the inter-war years aptly demonstrates that these fixtures were just as much an important upper class social gathering as a cricket match; massive crowds would gather at Lord's as they would for similar events at Henley Regatta and Royal Ascot.

Eventually these fixtures became less of a society occasion and more as an opportunity for talented young men to demonstrate their cricketing prowess at the 'Home of Cricket'. There have, of course, been many Harrovians and Etonians who have become public figures in politics, business and the arts, and many have also gone on to play first-class cricket and indeed to represent England. Most recently the list includes Alex Loudon, Nick Compton, Gary Ballance and Sam Northeast and we shouldn't forget to mention good old Henry 'Blowers' Blofeld as well!

I was very pleased to be appointed to umpire the 2021 game alongside David Halle, from Middlesex ACO. This year the MCC was particularly keen to stage both this fixture and the Oxford v Cambridge match the next day as these would be the first games with spectators at Lord's since the pandemic started. Strict protocols to include restricted ground access for spectators, players and umpires would be put in place with a view to using these in the forthcoming England Test match the following week. As such we found ourselves based in the Pavilion Bowler's Bar as our changing room. This gives access to the ground without going through the Long Room and, most importantly, provides an easy opportunity to ring the famous Lord's bell! Lunch and Tea (remember those) would be delivered to us as required.

Unsurprisingly, Lord's was an absolute picture and now within a whisker of the completion of its impressive building developments. The new Compton and Edrich Stands (which will be used for the first time in the New Zealand Test match) are amazing structures which, at their highest points look *down* upon the Media Centre and may be unsuitable for those who suffer from vertigo or such-like!

As for the game itself, Eton won an important toss and bowled Harrow out for 161 just inside their allotted 55 overs. The pitch had offered plenty of assistance to all the bowlers and without a sizeable contribution of wides the match would have been over much quicker! We had a brief rain stoppage in mid-afternoon, but felt extremely fortunate to have survived the atrocious weather which had again decimated league cricket for the third week in a row.

As the match progressed and bar takings accelerated the partisan crowd of about 600 became increasingly loud, animated and raucous, most notably to greet important umpiring decisions! Despite a mid-innings blip, Eton remained on top when they batted and eventually won the match quite comfortably by 4 wickets with plenty of overs to spare.

Fittingly 'time' was called in bright sunshine which was a perfect end to a memorable and interesting day! Although keenly competitive, the game was played in excellent spirit and was a real pleasure to umpire.

QUIZ 10 ANSWERS

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

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



YOUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Peter Hinstridge
Nick Hall
Chris Mountain
Connor Mulholland

CO-OPTED COMMITTEE MEMBER

John Bowra