

Over & Out

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE HERTFORDSHIRE ASSOCIATION
OF CRICKET OFFICIALS

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

As your new Chairman I must first thank my predecessors, Mark Callaby and in his interim role, Peter Hinstridge. In Mark's case I'm sure we all look forward to welcoming him back into the umpiring fraternity as soon as possible. Both men have provided wise words and excellent leadership in these challenging times.

It has been a topsy-turvy last few weeks in the cricketing world with the main focus being the claims of racism at Yorkshire CCC and indeed elsewhere- we can only hope that some good will come out of it all. The recent MCC Cowdrey Lecture, brilliantly given by Stephen Fry, certainly posed a number of searching and highly relevant questions about how best cricket should move forward.

At the time of writing I reflect on the sad passing of Eileen Ash, the World's oldest former Test cricketer, aged 110. Having watched the short video with Claire Connor and Heather Knight, it was very clear what a remarkable and extraordinary person she was.

The other recent eye-catching event was that of Ajaz Patel, the Mumbai-born New Zealand left-arm spinner. In taking 10 wickets in a test match innings. He became only the third player to achieve the feat, albeit in a losing cause and the first to do it in the 1st innings of a Test match. I have written previously about umpiring in a HCPL game at Reading CC many years ago with Peter Hinstridge and witnessed a similarly rare event - it's certainly one that I'll not forget, although Peter might, as all 10 wickets fell at my end!

I'm also very pleased to announce the return of our Members' Evenings, the first of which is February 17th at Potters Bar. Details will be communicated nearer the time.

Planning for the Umpires and Scorers Conference 2022 on Sunday 13th March at the Sports Village of The University of Hertfordshire is now well underway. Invitations to members to secure a place have been sent.

Your new committee will not only be working hard to ensure that it serves its members well but that it contributes positively to the ECB 'Inspiring Generations' strategy.

I also make no apology for repeating a key message from the last 'Chairman's Corner' with regards to umpire recruitment and its foci on Young Officials, Women's and Girl's Cricket, the South Asian community and ex-players. Importantly the need to recruit scorers is probably more acute.

We all have a part to play in increasing awareness and encouraging recruitment so that cricket can continue to flourish.

Nick Hall

JANUARY 2022

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ANNUAL HACO CONFERENCE

For Umpires and Scorers 'Achieving Best Practice' Sunday 13 March 2022

It is with both pleasure and anticipation that we invite you to attend the inaugural Conference of our Association. Hopefully both scorers and umpires of all levels will benefit from the day's activities which are outlined below.

08.45 to 09.10	Arrival, registration and welcome.	
09.10 to 10.00	Whole Group Session and Guest Speaker.	Hamish Grant (ECB Officials' Pathway Manager)
10.00 to 12.30 (includes a break)	3 Breakout sessions chosen by participants in advance on various topics.	Examples: 'Managing Player Behaviour', 'Staying on top of your game' and Scorer/umpire cooperation
12.30 to 13.05	Whole Group Session and Guest Speaker	Matti Watton (London Region Chair)
13.05 to 14.00	Lunch	
14.00 to 16.00	3 sessions for all umpires or a scorers session, as appropriate	Includes 'Managing limited overs matches' and a practical session in the sports hall.
16.00 to 16.15	Break	
16.15 to 17.00	Whole Group Session	Includes 'Safeguarding', EDI update and 'Umpire development' sessions
17.00	Close	

Venue Details: Hertfordshire Sports Village, de Havilland Campus, Hatfield Business Park, Hatfield, AL10 9EU (Free parking available).

Further details will be provided periodically, but in the meantime please contact the Conference Planning Committee (Nick Hall, Tim Caldicott, Hilary Stiffin and Hemal Wijesuriya) if you would like any additional information.

HACO 2022 Conference: Booking Details

Bookings are now being taken for the inaugural HACO Conference to be held at Hertfordshire Sports Village, De Havilland Campus, Hatfield, AL10 9EU on Sunday 13th March 2022.

We anticipate a strong demand for places on a first come, first served basis.

(A light Lunch and all refreshments are included).

To confirm your place at the conference, the HACO subsidised conference fee of £20per member should be paid in one of the two following ways:

BACS payment to the HACO current account

Sort Code 30-99-31

Account Number 00685337 Please use the reference: **ASMITH** (*your name*) **22CONF**

or

Cheque payable to HACO sent by post to the TreasurerGerry Wilkinson

19 Woodmere AvenueWatford

WD24 7LR

We need to have a good idea of numbers attending as soon as possible, so that we can plan room, facilities, speaker and tutoring requirements with our hosts.

Payment of the conference fee at your earliest possible convenience would be appreciated and payments need to be received by **Friday 11th February (if paying by cheque) or Monday 28th February (if paying by BACS)**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

MEMBERS MEETINGS

Member's meetings have been arranged for:

- 17 February 2022
- 24 March 2022

More details will be provided nearer the time.

NEWS FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Hilary Stiffin – County Scorers' Officer

As another season is creeping up on us, plans are well underway for courses within Hertfordshire and indeed countrywide. The Hertfordshire Club Scorer Course, for those who have successfully completed the Basic of Scoring Online Course and/or want to progress to become a qualified Level 1 scorer was first advertised in November 2021and is now full. We do however still have places on a PCS Pro electronic course, further information and to book please go to the following link:

<https://booking.ecb.co.uk/d/l8qm31>.

Following recent emails, just a reminder that on Sunday 13th March 2022 at the Hertfordshire Sports Village your HACO is arranging a conference. There will be sessions for both umpires and scorers and time where we as scorers can discuss issues together. So please do book and come along, it will be good to see as many of you as possible there before the start of the 2022 season.

For those of you unaware, 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>.

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

If you are a Facebook user, then please do a search for the Hertfordshire Cricket Scorers page and ask to join. There's always someone on there that can help with any issues, even during matchdays.

GET TO KNOW YOUR COLLEAGUES

GEOFF CORDINGLY

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

I was born and bred in Yorkshire. I moved to Hertfordshire in 1974

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

Coming from Yorkshire with its pedigree of cricket (although not liberalism!) I do not remember a time when I was not interested in the game. Fred Truman was my inspiration to play the game.

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

After school, I only played 20 over evening matches most of the time.

HOW DID YOU BECOME AN UMPIRE?

Hertford CC asked me to umpire its second team when they were short of an umpire and then I thought "I'd better get qualified" if I was going to umpire.

WHO ARE YOUR CRICKETING GREATS?

Garfield Sobers, Fred Truman Brian Close, Jonny Wardle, Rohan Kanhai, Wesley Hall.

WHAT OTHER SPORTS HAVE YOU PLAYED/INTERESTED IN?

Tennis and football

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

Yorkshire

FAVOURITE PLAYER AND WHY

Fred Truman had such a natural, majestic action.

ANY SPORTING HIGHLIGHT THAT YOU ARE PROUD OF

Winning a tug of war competition in Potters Bar by beating the firemen and the police by teamwork and not brawn.

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

I was born in the fine city of Norwich and moved into Hertfordshire from London in 1993.

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

I came into the game through Primary and Secondary school in Norfolk. I played village cricket as a young teenager before beginning to play at a higher level with Overstrand. We used to get holidaymakers coming to watch the game and one of my roles was to circulate the ground with a collection box!

At that time I was a member of a folk singing group and Mike Rowson, a local teacher, encouraged me to play at Overstrand. He later became an important figure with Horsford CC and Norfolk CCC; he also coached nationally as well as being an umpire. He sadly died a few years ago and I still think of him. We also used to meet regularly at Norwich City and share stories; always interested in my professional and sporting career.

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

When I moved to College to train as a teacher, I played cricket there before moving to St Neots to live and my first teaching post. I played for the town side as well as Eltisley on a Sunday with a parent from the school.

When I taught in North London, I played at Cockfosters and North Middlesex becoming an all-rounder with steady medium pace and a solid bat down the order. I also captained sides at 2/3rd XI level. My wife Sharon, was the scorer, refusing pointedly to ever do teas!

When I moved into Hertfordshire, I finished my playing career with Datchworth. I was fortunate to have similar players with young children, so Saturdays were a joyful family occasion. I recently found my son playing against Datchworth and a player from those days reminded him that I still hold the club's 3rd wicket highest partnership record!

HOW DID YOU BECOME AN UMPIRE?

I enjoy telling this story where I tell players and indeed other umpires when tutoring, that first my knees went, then my shoulder and when my eyesight and hearing went I became an umpire!

I live in Watton at Stone and when I decided to stop playing, I offered my services to the village side as an umpire for a pint and cricketers meal at the George. After a couple of years, I began the umpiring courses under Geoff Cordingly and Murray Carlson, amongst others and continue to be thankful for their advice and support. There is no better place to watch a game of cricket in my opinion and to be part of the game.

WHO ARE YOUR CRICKETING GREATS?

I am indeed blessed having reached the age of over 60 and to have witnessed the talents of Tom Graveney, Basil D'Oliveira, John Edrich, Alan Knott, Ian Botham, Kevin Pietersen and Alistair Cook. But more significantly for me, it was being introduced through the BBC to the extraordinary abilities of Charlie Griffiths, Gary Sobers, Bob Simpson. Sunil Gavaskar, Mike Proctor, Viv Richards, Clive Lloyd et al. More recently, Sachin Tendulkar, Steve Waugh, Brian Lara, Wasim Akram, Shane Waugh and Virat Kohli – the list could go on.

WHAT OTHER SPORTS HAVE YOU PLAYED/INTERESTED IN?

I am interested in most sports and spend many happy hours watching Sky sports!

As a Norwich City fan ('it's the hope that kills you); I recognise the ups and downs of sport and so it emerges as a regular player of golf!

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

Growing in Norfolk in pre-internet days I had no interest in County Cricket, but if pushed I would probably say Kent. I have taught young people who have played for Somerset, Hampshire and Warwickshire, so took an interest in their performances.

FAVOURITE PLAYER AND WHY

Assuming this is a cricketer because Kevin Keelan, the Norwich goalkeeper in my youth was my idol; it would be Alan Knott because of his unsurpassed glove work, batting application and cheery disposition in his day.

YOUR TOP 3 THINGS ON YOUR BUCKET LIST

- Watch England play a test overseas W
- Play golf at Gleneagles P
- Have a hole-in-one H

ANY SPORTING HIGHLIGHT THAT YOU ARE PROUD OF

These are mainly football related with scoring a goal and saving a penalty in the same match; and scoring a hat-trick of penalties as a goal-keeper!

As far as cricket is concerned, I once scored 88 in a match and retired to give others a game believing I would score a century some other time – never did but I considered it was the right thing to do.

I have enjoyed captaining sides and seeing the skills and talents of those around me emerging and flourishing.

PETE GURNEY

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

I was born in Sandy Bedfordshire

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

My father inspired me to play the game

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

I played cricket for Sandy all my cricketing career from the age of 11 in colts cricket through to adult age cricket. I captained the 2nd XI side for 3 years and was heavily involved in team selections as well.

HOW DID YOU BECOME AN UMPIRE?

I became an umpire as my father was the training officer for Bedfordshire. So he advised me to take a course, which I passed 1st time. Then the courses become power-point learning, so I continued to take the next stage.

WHO ARE YOUR CRICKETING GREATS?

My cricketing greats include Ian Botham and Allan Lamb of Northants.

WHAT OTHER SPORTS HAVE YOU PLAYED/INTERESTED IN?

I'm interested in football. I support Luton Town, attending games most weeks outside the cricket season.

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

I support Northants.

FAVOURITE PLAYER AND WHY

My favourite current player is Rob Keogh. I know him through his Dunstable connections and I've umpired him on a number of occasions.

HERTFORDSHIRE WOMEN & GIRLS CRICKET

Up until 2019 the top Women's league was the county championship, similar to the Men's County set up, but it involved all 38 counties, plus Scotland, the Netherlands and Wales.

It consisted of Division 1, Division 2 and a number of regional Division 3s. Hertfordshire over the years were mainly in Div. 2 or a Regional Div. 3

In 2020, the top leagues went regional, with the Sunrisers being the team the Hertfordshire Women team fed into, along with Middlesex, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Norfolk, Essex, Suffolk, Huntingdonshire and Northamptonshire.

Initially, the ECB wanted to remove all the County Women's teams, until it was pointed out that the club scene is nowhere near good enough yet for the county players not involved in the new regional teams (It will take a number of years for this to happen).

Therefore, the Hertfordshire Womens now play 4 days of T20s and that would be it. If it wasn't for some individuals in the East of England sorting out a 45 overs competition without any ECB Funding, which is fantastic for the counties in the East of England.

Like the men and boys, I expect the better players from the Hertfordshire Womens and Girls set up are taken by Middlesex or Essex at various ages.

In this year's. Women Hundred there was a player who had 3 years at Hertfordshire, but moved to Essex when she was 16. There is a number of ex youth players and current players in the Academy set ups of the regional teams, so we are hoping that one or two may make it to the England set up, but as yet no one is on the pathway.

Overall, it is exciting times for Women and Girls cricket - just a few things to iron out as it expands.

Tom Ruxton

HERTFORDSHIRE WOMEN 2021



Hertfordshire team versus Norfolk

The Hertfordshire Women's team continued from where they left off in 2020 by winning 2 trophies and also remaining unbeaten in the league T20 competitions.

In the ECB Womens County T20 East Group, Norfolk were beaten by 10 wickets and then 93 runs. Suffolk by 18 runs and 43 runs and Huntingdonshire by 10 wickets. The second game against Huntingdonshire was abandoned with Hertfordshire in a good position at 81/1 off 10 overs.

The team winning the league unbeaten with 5 wins and 3 games were cancelled or abandoned.

As well as very good team performances, there were very good individual performances. The batting was led by skipper Kezia Hassall with two half centuries and an average of 89. Amelia Kemp also hit a half century and along with Catherine Cirkel sealed the 10 wickets win against Norfolk. Elsa Barnfather and Mille Dyer took the team over the line in the 10 wickets win over Hunts and when the team were in trouble at Suffolk at 15/4 after 7 overs, a 61 run partnerships between Charlotte Banks and Kezia put the team back on track.



Hertfordshire team versus Lincolnshire

The spinners dominated the wicket's column with Ella Phillips (12), Lydia Borbas (7) and Catherine (6) topping the charts. Ella had incredible figures of 5/2 against Norfolk as well as 4/8 at Huntingdonshire. Lydia managed to better Ella figures with 4/5 in the same Huntingdonshire innings. The seamers also impressed with tidy spells, in particular Charley Phillipe 3/17 against Norfolk and Amelia took 5 wickets for less than 5 a piece over the T20 season.

Over the season, only Suffolk managed to score over 100 in an innings, while Norfolk were bowled out for 57 and Huntingdonshire for 37.

At the end of the season in the East of England T20 competition against Buckinghamshire, the bowlers again restricted the opposition to under 100 in both games. In game one, a half century from Sarah Walker plus innings by Amelia (35) and Kezia (20) set Buckinghamshire 129 to win. Two wickets each from Amelia, Lydia and Amba Parmar on debuted insured a 32-run win. In game two, Amelia 3/11 and another two wickets from Amba restricted the chase to just under the 100. Lydia led the way with a fine 47 in the chase as the Buckinghamshire total was overhauled with 2 overs to spare.

The defence of the Soroptimist East of England County Championship 45 over competition started off with a defeat at Buckinghamshire, but the team managed to win 3 of the next 4 games to finish runners up to the eventual winners Buckinghamshire by only 3 points.

Skipper Kezia let the way with the bat continuing a truly remarkable season. In the 5 innings Kezia managed to score 492 runs at an average of 164 and a strike rate of 94.80. This included two centuries including an innings of 150 not out against Huntingdonshire, which is the highest score ever by a



Hertfordshire Team versus Huntingdonshire

Hertfordshire Woman. The other century was a 139 v Lincolnshire, but you can also add an 88* not out v Cambridgeshire and 74 v Buckinghamshire. Amelia managed an innings of 71 in a record breaking first wicket stand of 190 v Kezia against Huntingdonshire and wicketkeeper Tilly Larkins scored 50 against Buckinghamshire.

Ella topped the bowling average again with 9 wickets including 4/9 against Huntingdonshire. Opening bowlers Charley and Mabel Reid managed a number of wickets between them with Mabel managing 3/40 in the win over Cambridgeshire. Other wicket takers included Katherine Webb, Imogen Lightning, Elizabeth Ruxton, Lydia, Catherine and Millie.

The Womens team also played a number of friendlies which provided great experience for youngsters such as Imogen, Amba, Lotty Hobson and Zara Wightman which looks good for the future of the Womens team.

Congratulations should also go out to Elsa Barnfather who made the Sunrisers Academy squad in 2021 and also Mabel Reid who made the Emerging Players Pathway also for the Sunrisers who are the regional team for the area. With the squads for the 2022 to be published in the near future it is hoped that a number of other Hertfordshire players will be added to the list.

Lastly congratulations should also go out to the Hertfordshire U18s girls' team who managed to top their 40 over group in 2021. I am not sure how many Hertfordshire teams over the years have managed to beat Middlesex, Essex and Northamptonshire counterparts in games in the same season but it is exactly what this team managed to achieve.

Tom Ruxton

UPDATED WEBSITE

We are in the process of revamping and reactivating the HACO website <https://www.herts-aco.org/>

This is the official website for Hertfordshire cricket umpires and scorers. The website has had an initial makeover with further updates to follow with plans for a complete redesign in due course to introduce more functionality and features.

The website will provide useful news items, details of events, links to umpire appointments, MCC Laws etc.

We would be happy to take suggestions on how the website could be improved. Please use the Contact Us page on the website to send in your suggestions.

YOUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

OFFICERS

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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Anthony Levy
Chris Mountain
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Hemal Wijesuriya

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John Bowra