



## Berkshire Cricket Officials Association (BCOA)

Committed to the Development and Support of Umpires and Scorers in Berkshire



### AGM 27<sup>th</sup> January 2014

1. PRESENT: Avril Acres (AA), Andrew Gomez, Phil Wilding, Jenn Oberle, Martin House, Rod Dye, Gail Bonnell, Chris Dozell, David Hogg, Geoff Noble, John Baildam, Malcolm Clark, Keith Machin, Uwe Anton, Rob Bartlett, Andy Rutter, Clive Robinson, Gordon Whickman, Stephen Madgwick, John Mullins, Mike Walton, Rita Walton, Paul Bartlett, Simon Vines, Sam Peates, Martin Vlietstra, Graham Watkins, Terry Spice, Martin Garrard, Peter Brown, Roger Seymour, Garry Hall, Richard Wheeler, John Bushby, David Halle, Mike Carter, Dennis Prior (DP), John Golding (JG), Roy Kinner (RK), Neil Doody, David Hare (DH), Peter Henly
2. APOLOGIES: Peter McGeown, Vernon Lewis, Guy Green, Martin Weatherstone, David Knight, Antonino Trapani, Michael Southerton, Kevin Snapes, Brenda George, Anthony Blondell, Sue Jones, Iain Scott, Carl Kneale, Gordon Lupton, Bob Woodmansee, Richard Bishop, Eddie Lunn, Dennis Rumble
3. WELCOME BY THE CHAIRMAN: DH welcomed the members of BCOA to Wokingham Cricket Club.
4. MINUTES OF 2013 AGM: The minutes had been considered, and a correction was made to the spelling of Garry Hall's name.
5. MATTERS ARISING: There were no matters arising.
6. OFFICERS REPORTS:  
The officers presented their reports that are enclosed. At the end of each report time was given for questions.

CHAIRMAN (DH)  
MEMBERSHIP SERVICES OFFICER (AA)  
EDUCATION (JG)  
TREASURER (ND)  
APPOINTMENTS (DP)  
PERFORMANCE (RK)

A question was asked by Geoff Noble as to why the umpire's expenses had fallen. DP explained that it was because last year BCOA had invoiced BCL for umpire's expenses, whilst this year clubs had paid them direct.

7. SUBSCRIPTIONS: The healthy bank balance meant that subscriptions can stay the same. The question was asked what we would do with this healthy balance, it was said by DH and DP that we would spend widely, we needed reserves for equipment that had been met from a fund left by BACUS. People were also encouraged to name visiting speakers, like Charlotte Edwards, who would be paid.
8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS: The Officers were elected unopposed:

Chairman: Dennis Prior

Vice Chairman: Rob Bartlett

Treasurer: Carl Kneale

Appointments: Gordon Whickman

Secretary: David Hare

Lay Members: Gail Bonnell

Geoff Noble was nominated by Keith Machin and seconded by David Hogg to stand as a lay Member on the night and accepted.

DP thanked DH for his unexpected term as Chair and talked about his expectations for the coming years as Chair.

The meeting was concluded at 9.30pm.

## OFFICERS REPORTS

### **Chairs report 2014:**

DH reported that there had been highs and lows, we have been recognised on the national arena but we still have work to do to ensure that we comply with ACO procedures in all the work we do.

He thanked JG, ably assisted by AA with the administration, for all the hard work he does with training. It is also gratifying that some people from other counties have chosen to use BCOA training.

DH thanked RK for all the work he puts in and also DP for his excellent work with 'Who's the Umpire', it will be a great support to have DP guide Gordon Whickman as he takes over this role.

DH was very glad that DP and Sue Jones were recognised with Honorary Life Membership of ECB ACO. In addition to these two awards Peter Brown was runner up in the OSCA's (Outstanding Service to Cricket Awards).

DH thanked AA who has done much work, both as administrator and as Membership Services Officer. It has been great to see the numbers of members we have increased, mainly through AA's hard work.

DH also thanked Ray Roberts, Nino Trapani and Eddie Lunn who resigned after doing excellent work in their respective areas and also Neil Doody for doing the end of year returns.

DH wished DP all the best for his time as Chair.

DH again thanked the committee, both those who are going on and those who resigned, for all the hard work and dedication they put into their respective positions.

## **Membership Services Officer Report to the 2014 AGM**

AA reported that 2013 saw a 21.5% growth in BCOA membership, up from 88 to 107 members. There were 164 Berkshire ECB ACO Members at the end of 2013, Berkshire's 2012 non-renewal rate for ECB ACO membership was the second lowest in the Region.

AA is privileged to be one of the very few outside of ECB to have access to the live ACO membership database; she has ensured that the Berkshire data is accurate.

ECB ACO have now withdrawn the first year's free membership for new recruits and placed more onus on recruitment with us. BCOA has been active in recruitment/publicity by using self-designed posters, targeted email campaigns, publicity on associated websites and forums, the use of Twitter etc.

Berkshire has pioneered a scheme offering a discounted membership to new recruits signing up to a Level 1 Course. JG and AA presented the plan to their respective meetings at the Regional Conference and successfully negotiated a discount with ECB ACO as compensation. It has been suggested by ECB ACO that other Counties may like to follow our example. So far we have 40 candidates enrolled onto our Level 1 Courses and 29 of those have become new members of ECB ACO.

AA has accepted the appointment of Deputy MSO for the Region and after much negotiation CK & AA are now DBS ID Evidence Checkers for ECB.

AA thanked everyone for their support during the last year.

## **Education Officers Report to the 2014 AGM**

- It has been a very busy and demanding year.
- We ran Introductory Courses for both Umpires and Scorers.
- Numbers for the Level 1 Courses were down which followed a National trend. However, this year there has been a significant increase in numbers, which appears to be opposite to the National Trend.
- 14 took the L1 Umpires Course, 11 passed one with 100%.
- 10 took the L1 Scorers Course, 9 passed.
- The Education element of the L1A Umpires Course created some management difficulty with the ACO.
- We organised a L2 / L2C Course in the County for the SW Region. This was challenging as the back up from ACO was not as smooth as for the Level 1. Luckily we have a team (Avril) that was up to it and nationally received high praise. We have been asked to do the same this year.
- Currently working with the REO to develop an on field Mentoring / Observing Short Course initially for our Supported Development Programme.
- I would like to thank everyone including all of you for the tremendous support you have given me over this year.
- Scorers are Nationally now trying to organise themselves as a separate entity.
- Over the last 12 months we have decided to build a team to look after the interests of the scorers whom I manage. This has been a gradual process but the initial results are extremely encouraging. To quote one of the new members of the team it is now too big a task for one person.

## **Scorers Officers Report to the 2014 AGM**

- Mainly due to the effort of our MSO our Scorer Membership has increased by 25% this year. We now have 22 out of 35 Berks ACO Scorers as members.
- The Scorer Training / Development Team now consists of 5 (3 Tutors, 2 who are new this year) and 2 on the Assessment / Mentoring Team.
- We adopted a policy of zero failures at last years Level 1 which trialled the usefulness of a Supported Development programme.
- The resultant rise in the profile of scorers has resulted in requests from clubs & representative teams for scorers.
- On individual levels two more of our scorers went on to score in high profile & international matches.
- So where to next:
  - We will run a scorers panel and appoint to matches where requested using WTU in co-operation with the Appointments Officer.
  - We will run a Support Development / Level 1A programme and nationally take the lead.

## **Appointment Officers Report to the 2014 AGM**

During 2013 There was a total of 562 requests for umpires within Berks. 558 were filled. 99% success.

Berkshire Cricket League Premier Division 90 games required 180 appointments resulted in 176 appointments 97% success, this included two very late declines when Umpires where still available but it was to late to appoint. This would have brought up the number of appointments filled to 178 - 99%

In addition to the above, Regional Appointments Officer requests for suitable Umpires to stand in ECB Games allows us the opportunity to further improve our Umpire skill levels. Grades are stipulated for these games which would normally be given to the few at the top grade, and continued appointments to these games, however because Berkshires development program, run by our Performance Officer is well respected, and as a result, we are allowed to include next level Umpires. This gives them an insight to these higher profile games and which in turn acts as further development for those Umpires.

An additional benefit for BCOA and it's membership is that this work is revenue producing. WTU license in the first year was £654. To cover this cost we charge an admin fee per appointment to the major organisations to cover this and any Admin expenses. Since which time, ECB ACO have made a three year deal for Counties to use it for free. What happens after that time should not be a problem for BCOA as this years income from the Admin charges will cover any future cost for the System License. Approx. £1300 has been invoiced this year. The full income and expenditure will reflected in the year end accounts.

In my Secondary role as a Level 2 Assessor and assisting our Performance Officer in the further development of our Umpires means I can use fixtures to appoint Umpires to suitable level Games as well as to find suitable colleagues for on field support. Any one who has been involved in the development program in the last three years or so will have seen the benefits of this plan.

The role of Appointments Officer is quite time demanding but being able to give our Umpires straight from Level 1 training courses up to our grade C1\* Umpires at suitable games for their levels is very rewarding but with the Support I have been given by the BCOA Committee the Regional Appointments Officer and not forgetting you the BCOA Officials.

DJPrior

BCOA Appointments Officer    AGM 27<sup>th</sup> January 2014

## **Performance Officers Report to the 2014 AGM**

### **Home Counties Premier League Panel**

The reduction to two Divisions (as a result of the withdrawal of Herts based teams) is well documented. Whilst the knock on effect to umpiring is still being addressed we targeted three new nominations to this panel and I have been advised that all three are to be given the opportunity to prove themselves at this next level.. Best wishes to Alison Smith, Mike Carter and Andrew Johnson in their HCPL development fixtures for 2014.

### **Level 2**

Three colleagues also accepted our Supported development invitation to target full Level 2 and successfully completed their Regional P.D's in November at the Rose Bowl. A very satisfactory result for Rob Bartlett, David Halle and Mike Carter..

### **Level 2C**

A further five candidates were invited to attend the weekend CPD element of this course and received their attendance certificate. The difference between the two qualification was outlined..

### **Level 1A**

Being as it is the beginning of CPD, this course allows us to mirror Level 2 , but is delivered "in county" allowing us more flexibility and proved even more popular than expected, stretching our resources to the limit . 14 colleague successfully completed the four workshops and County P.D's . They received their pass certificates from Charlotte Edwards at our November meeting.

### **BCL Panel**

Long overdue, this panel completed a second and successful season ----,thanks to our Appointments Officer using the Level 1A SD programme . It provides our newer colleagues access to the steeper learning curve and real time League experience they need to join the ACO pathway. We also benefit from the League's forward looking approach, to providing as it does opportunities to test our initiatives in conjunction with ACO pathway and use of WTU and electronic reporting.. The League has also confirmed that their preferred minimum 2014 panel standard continues to be 1A.

### **TVCL Panel and ECB feeder pathway.**

As a result of the successful combination of Level 1A and BCL Panel experience, TVL are to receive a suitably qualified influx of 10 colleagues who have now indicated they have interest in furthering their experience . As a result we will continue to pursue discussions via TVL new management structure, regarding acceptance of a programme "Matching qualification to pathway", plus use of electronic reporting in all its formats. The TVL new chairman has confirmed his intention to extend panel conditions to their division' s 3A and 3B, . It remains to be seen how successful this part of the Development plan will be and the level of appointment our colleagues will have access to.

### **Additional Next step**

The ECB management policy (unlike other major sports) seems set to continue to allow a League (even if ECB feeder) to dictate its structure and experience continues to show that different Leagues have not developed a history of working together to support the "Umpires pathway" in conjunction with use of qualifications. In addition Leagues that cross County boundaries have built in

disadvantages to Berkshire. Despite this we intend to continue to build our strength in on field mentoring and off field observation and to support this we plan a new pre season course . We will also continue to target use of WTU across all Leagues using our members, as we believe this to be a very important factor to the success of our programme.

Rk/January 2014.