



**Minutes of the  
Annual General Meeting  
held at 7:30pm  
on  
Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2023  
at Wokingham CC**

**PRESENT:**

Amresh Bangalore, Paul Bartlett, Rob Bartlett, Philip Cambray, Sunil Chowdary, James Codd, Dick Bishop, Chris Dozell, Bruce Duffett, Roy Finney, Martin Garrard, Simon Giles, Tim Gill, John Golding, Andy Gudge, David Hallé, Chris Harding, Martin House, Sue Jones, Kevin Lavender, Keith Machin, Colin Mercer, John Muir, Dave Pollitt, Jon Shonk, Jon Simmons, Giles Smith, Neville Wallace, Simon Webb and Gordon Whickman.

**WELCOME**

Chairman, Rob Bartlett, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**APOLOGIES for ABSENCE:**

Steve Banister, Dale Corstorphine, Liz Halson, Gordon Lupton, Marian Whitehurst, Bob Woodmansee.

**MINUTES of the 2022 AGM**

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022 had previously been distributed via the BCOA Website.

**MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising and the Minutes were accepted unanimously.

**OPENING REMARKS – Rob Bartlett (Chairman)**

Rob opened the AGM by giving the following eulogy for our friend and colleague, Roy Kinner, who passed away just after Christmas.

‘Roy was Mister BCOA. Originally a member of ACU&S he moved to Berkshire from Hampshire and was instrumental in our transition to ACO when the ECB took ownership of officiating in the country.

For many years Roy was our performance officer working under Denis Prior but was also heavily involved in all aspects of running BCOA, including the introduction of WTU into Berkshire and where would we be without WTU?

Roy was the first Berkshire official to receive an OSCA. (Outstanding Service to Cricket Award) from the ECB and I was delighted, along with John and Mick Southerton, to present him with his 40-year service tie at his care home shortly before his passing.

For many of us he was our guide and mentor through our training and progression but to many of us he was also a friend.

A toast please to Roy.'

Rob then presented a tie to Sue Jones to mark her retirement as 'a scorer of repute!'

## **OFFICER REPORTS**

### **Chairman – Rob Bartlett**

Apologies for reading this but Carl wouldn't pay for an autocue. Firstly, I would like to thank all officers and committee members for their work and efforts over 2022.

It was great to get back to a full season's normal cricket after two years of playing under Covid rules. And what a beautiful summer it was with temperatures regularly into the high 30s and very few games called off due to bad weather.

This evening's agenda is on the screen; after my introduction each officer will present a brief (John!) report of 2022 activity in their area . We then vote on committee members who are due for re-election after their 3-year term, and vote for the level of subs for 2023 which will be recommended by Carl.

We have to approve our last AGM minutes which are on our website which I'm sure you have all read, any comments, approved, seconded.

A top line summary of last year without stealing the thunder of the other officers.

Our three-man education team were very busy running stage 1 and 2 face to face courses throughout the year with perhaps a surprisingly high turnout. They also presented at TVL meetings and assisted other counties within our region.

Our finances remain healthy and need to be with our plans for a new website and some capital purchases.

You will often have seen John or Mick Southerton on the boundary edge last year in their coaching and mentoring role.

Simon will be taking on the appointments role in 2023 both in Berkshire and the TVL and spent last season shadowing Raj . And I would personally like to give Raj a huge thanks for all his work in BCOA over the last few years.

Our Berkshire numbers were up in 2022 but our BCOA numbers were slightly down will continue to try and persuade more Berkshire members to join our club where as well as the usual benefits we supplied free drinks and even a free buffet, so it was more than worth the £10 sub.

### **Vice Chairman & Secretary – Colin Mercer**

Although we didn't meet every month, all our monthly meetings were face-to-face. We had quite a mix of meetings; some obviously covering the Laws changes for 2023 and on the gradings for the previous year. In April, our colleague, Darryl Thôle spoke to us about his epic row across the Atlantic in the Talisker Challenge. Darryl and his colleague Sean completed their row on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February having covered 2,905 nautical miles in 54 days, 3hours and 36 minutes. They came first in the Open Pair Class, second in Open Class 25<sup>th</sup> in the Mens' Class and 32<sup>nd</sup> overall. An outstanding achievement.

And in June, Steve Pitcock gave us an interesting insight into umpiring in South Africa. And in September we finally got around to doing what we'd threatened to do for some time and that was to have a barbecue which I think went down rather well.

Apart from sending out messages via WTU on any number of subjects, it's also down to me to organize our monthly meetings and come up with interesting and useful things to talk about. But it's not easy so I would welcome any ideas from our Members as to what sort of meetings you would like.

Colin proposed three amendments to the BCOA Constitution. Two were primarily administrative corrections but the third was to change the number of Committee (Lay) Members from two to 'up to three.' Proposed by Colin and seconded by Rob the amendments were approved unanimously.

## Treasurer – Carl Kneale

Carl presented the accounts for the year.

### Income and expenditure for the year ended 31 December 2022

2021	INCOME	2022
£		£
195	Memberships	605
315	Courses & Training	-
736	ECB ACO rebate	1176
9814	Umpires Appointment Fees	10553
————		————
11060		12364
	EXPENDITURE	
£		£
164	Courses & Training	1147
144	Room hire for meetings	1354
100	Donations	1176
10220	Umpires Fees & expenses	10553
594	Administration & sundries	358
————		————
11222		12704
(162)	Surplus/(deficit) for the year	(340)

#### INCOME:

Memberships are up on the previous year - 2021 we only took Membership fees from new members, giving our existing members a free year due to a reduced service the previous year because of Covid restrictions.

Whilst people pay to attend courses, they pay the ECB.

The ECBACO rebate consists of £4 from every ECBACO Member who affiliates to Berkshire. Also include money from ECB for courses run by BCOA.

Umpire appointments were around the same in 2022 but the amount received is higher due to a late payment from 2021 which was received in January 2022

Admin and sundries include the sale of Umpire Report Cards

## EXPENDITURE:

Courses & training have seen an increase and the number of courses and observations for which expenses are paid is up on the previous year.

Room hire costs have also increased principally because we only held a couple face-to-face meetings in 2021. Also included is the cost of the free drinks at last year's AGM.

Umpire expenses are down, possibly because some people have still not claimed.

Admin & sundries costs are down. In 2021 we upgraded some IT materials and also purchased Umpires' Cards. This year we have been paying for IT support subscriptions.

<u>Balance sheet as of 31 December 2022</u>			
2021			2022
£	Current assets		£
15482	Bank balance		15142
15482	Net assets		15142
	Represented by General Funds		
15644	At 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2022		15482
(162)	Surplus/(deficit) for the year		(340)
15482			15142

### **Scorer's Officer – Liz Halson**

Level 2 courses were run jointly with Bucks/Oxon. Two Berkshire members attended. There was also some Young Cricket Officials Training on electronic and laptop/app scoring.

There were a few appointments coming through, but most were out of County.

### **Membership Services Officer – Martin Garrard**

Martin presented a slide indicating the downward trend in BCOA Membership between 2014 and 2022.

### **Education Officer – Jon Simmons**

Jon thanked David Hallé and Simon Giles for the great support in developing and delivering ECB ACO Education courses and John G for taking the participants onto their Accreditation.

Big changes are being made in education – David Elworthy (Senior Manager Recreational Officiating – ECB) No more Stage 1, 2 and 3 after April 30<sup>th</sup> 2023 - just introductory course and then CPD modules (run by Counties' Education teams).

- Introductory course to be run by ECB Certified Tutors
- CPD - Run by County education/development?
- More observations (Standard forms.) – ECB Premier leagues must come in line.

#### 2022 Courses

- Ran two online Stage 2 courses - Jan – March 2022.

ONE face to face (Nov) Stage 1 – 11 participants, ONE face to face (Dec) Stage 2 – 14 participants

#### Last Knockings 2023

- Planned face to face courses – Stage 1 – 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 2023 6 booked on, Stage 2 – 11<sup>th</sup> March 2023 – 7 booked on, so far.
- Planned face-to-face Regional Stage 3 held at Tiddington CC (25<sup>th</sup> March and 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023) – Ian Royle organised – team assisting on tutoring.

### **Appointments Officer – Simon Giles**

Simon reported that there had been a general shortage of umpires due to Covid, retirements and fewer umpires coming into the game. The issue is being addressed both locally and by the ECB. Simon's fear is that the situation could get worse before it gets better.

In Berkshire Simon made four hundred and thirty-six appointments (although there were one hundred and fifteen declines) across eighty-one different teams. One hundred and twelve umpires were provided for Berkshire age group cricket and fifty for 50+/60+. One hundred and thirty-five were provided for schools and Reading University.

Five hundred and fifty-six appointments were made in the Thames Valley League although in twelve weeks out of eighteen there were not enough umpires for Division Two. There were two weeks where five Division Two games had only one umpire and never were there more than three umpires provided to Division Three.

Simon congratulated Darren Hill on being appointed to the National Panel.

Simon asked that all umpires update their availability on WTU. In addition to League and Cup games there would be appointments for the usual schools (Wellington, Oratory, Blue Coat, etc.) and more ladies' cricket. There would also be pre-season appointments from about 8<sup>th</sup> April.

The retiring Appointments Officer, Raj Patel wished Simon good luck for 2023 and thanked him for his support over the last few years.

### **Performance & Development Officer – John Golding**

As Simon mentioned in his report, Darren Hill had been appointed to the National Panel joining Raj Patel for the 2023 season.

In womens' cricket, Sarah Bartlett had an impressive season, standing in three One-day matches (including the RHFT Final Lord's), five T20/100 games, two International T20s and has just returned from the U19 Womens' T20 World Cup in South Africa.)

Darren Hill officiated at the National U18 County Cup Plate Final and one of the main festivals.

David Hallé stood in the ECB Club T20 Plate final at Wormsley and one of the new ECB Disability Premier League matches.

And other umpires from BCOA have officiated at matches involving England Disability Teams which cover blind, physically and/or mentally disabled or deaf players.

The Accreditation programme was restarted in 2022.

Umair Butt and Neville Wallace both completed their U2A in their first season and Mickey Stone completed his in his second season. Ken Duggan was signed off for his U3A.

A few others had signed up but have dropped by the wayside.

Following the pre- Christmas Stage 2 course there's a handful of interest but they've been put on the back burner pending changes proposed by the ECB.

Two umpires from BCL/BCMB (one a promising female from Crowthorne) had been put through the new RUR2CP programme by Mick Southerton

We undertook a 'train-the-trainer' session with BCF (Berkshire Cricket Foundation) for both Umpires and Scorers so they could train young officials as part of their Young Leaders campaign which attracted good numbers!

The plan, which would emulate the very successful system in Hampshire, was that following the initial training, we would help with the mentoring. Sadly, nothing more has happened.

The gradings of all 193 umpires had been completed and was updated on WTU or via the ECB. This would be the last year of the current grading system.

In the Thames Valley League, Berkshire umpires had acquitted themselves well, taking seven out of the ten above-average spots in Band A. Conversely, Berkshire umpires filled five out of the eight places in the below-average category. There was a similar spread in Band B. There is a need to avoid complacency as Captains tend to mark more leniently as the season progresses.

John remarked that the Home Counties League operated one of the most complicated results table imaginable! Nonetheless, of the four Berkshire umpires in the HCPL, one remained in the top quartile, one dropped just outside, one made the top quartile and the fourth retained his position just below average.

The two Berkshire umpires in the Middlesex County League finished very high in the top quartile. Berkshire had four umpires in the Surrey Championship, but no details have been received. The Grading and Education/Development systems are undergoing an overhaul.

### **Webmaster – John Golding**

John explained that the ‘job’ is primarily to maintain and administer the website, Facebook page, Twitter, and email accounts.

Towards the end of 2021 he had to deal with increasing levels of spam in the various email accounts and expects much the same over the next twelve months.

The website design software has not been manufactured for four years and eventually it will not be supported. Neither is it mobile-friendly.

John said he could really do with someone taking over the webmaster role during the coming year.

He doesn’t yet know if the software will run on Windows 11, so he has a stand-alone computer running Windows 10 just for the BCOA website.

### **Strategy for the Future – Rob Bartlett**

Although we have good personal relationships with Berkshire Cricket Foundation some of our ideas didn’t come to fruition because of a lack of resource. With another new strategy coming out of Edgbaston it is imperative that this relationship becomes more effective in 2023.

In terms of this strategy, I went to a weekend ACO chairman’s conference at Warwick Uni in October and Colin went to a follow up at Bristol CCC where the new direction of ACO was announced by David Elworthy.

It involves new processes for most of our key areas.

Our gradings will be changed from the current C1 to C6 to M1 to M6 with new criteria for each grade. A new education system will come into effect from August 1<sup>st</sup>, and the development system will be enhanced. We announced some of the changes at the last monthly meeting.

Finally, our match expenses are going to keep up with inflation, so for the coming season you will receive £55 per game apart from when you officiate in a single T20 which will be £45.



## **Election of Officers**

Rob Bartlett and Liz Halson had both come to the end of their three-year Term of Office and following a proposal from Martin Garrad (seconded by Colin Mercer) both were re-appointed for a further three years. Following the amendment to the Constitution, David Hallé, (nominated by the Committee), Philip Cambray (nominated by Rob Bartlett, seconded by Colin Mercer) and Steve Pitcock (nominated by Graham Watkins, seconded by Rob Bartlett) were appointed as the three Committee Members for the coming year.

## **Any Other Business**

Giles Smith raised a discussion point about venues and times for our Monthly Meetings.

Giles commented that for Members living in Buckinghamshire, it can be a good hour to Wokingham, and given the length of some meetings, it can often be nearly 11 p.m. when they get home.

Giles is asking if some of the meetings could be held nearer to Buckinghamshire-based Members to even things out a bit. Apparently Slough, Chesham, High Wycombe, Datchet all have adequate facilities. Giles suspects that most umpires are retired or self-employed so could the meetings not start a little earlier, 6 or 6.30?

The Secretary confirmed that voting cannot take place on an AOB item, but the Committee can gauge the views within the meeting and then discuss within Committee.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 9:42pm