



## WCACO Member Update – March 2021

### **Message from our Chair**

Welcome to the first edition of our updated Association newsletter.

There's a lot coming up in 2021 above and beyond our normal activities.

We shall continue to have our members' meetings (face to face as soon as possible) but shall publish newsletters to keep you up to speed with local and national developments.

You should already be aware of the Inspiring Generations strategy for Cricket which will be implemented over the 4-years period 2021 - 2024. The County Cricket Clubs and Boards across the country are responsible for developing objectives and plans to achieve the strategic objectives.

As part of this, we shall be working much more closely with the Warwickshire Cricket Board from now on - David Johnson and I had a meeting with Ed McCabe and Alex Roslyn last week and are due to meet again in early March.

### **ECB Statement on Government announcement**

The ECB are working with Sport England and the Government on each step of the Government's Roadmap. Further guidance will be issued shortly on what each step of the roadmap means for the game in England to prepare in time for 29<sup>th</sup> March. ECB continue to work with Sport Wales and the Welsh Government on the safe return of recreational cricket as soon as possible in Wales. We shall keep you up to date with news on when and how we can start the 2021 season as soon as we can.

To access the full statement, please click [here](#).

### **Upcoming Dates**

Members Meeting: To be held via Zoom on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March at 7:30pm.

ACO Conference 30<sup>th</sup> October

Further Members meetings will be advised and are likely to be held via Zoom until further notice.

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### **Finance**

At the recent AGM, the Treasurer proposed the following subscriptions:

Members, who paid a subscription in 2020, will not be asked to pay an additional subscription for 2021.

Members in 2019, who did not pay a subscription in 2020, will be asked to pay a subscription of £20 (employed) or £15 (unemployed/retired). This would have been discounted by £10 if payment had been received by 1st March 2021.



Members, who received complimentary membership in 2019/20 and/or 2020/21 by taking face to face and/or online training courses, will continue to receive complimentary membership for 2021.

The proposal was passed nem con.

David Paxton  
treasurer@wcaco.org.uk

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### **Members Rep**

Our members representatives can be contacted for any umpiring matters, their contact details are:

Chris Brown [membersrep1@wcaco.org.uk](mailto:membersrep1@wcaco.org.uk)

Mark Turner [membersrep2@wcaco.org.uk](mailto:membersrep2@wcaco.org.uk)

### **Umpire Q&A**

To Introduce Mark to our members we asked a few questions, here are the responses:

#### **Why did you get into umpiring?**

*I played cricket for over 30 years from school days onwards before taking a few years away from the game with family and work. I love the game and had a strong yearning to re-engage when a good friend mentioned that Warwickshire Cricket League were looking for additional umpires. I attended the old 10 week winter course run by John Bates & Eddie Boileau and had my first match at Knowle Village in April 2014.*

#### **Favourite Parts.....**

*I particularly like team work aspects; working with on field colleagues, scorers and club officials on match days to help games go as smoothly as possible and off field supporting colleagues to develop performance. Being part of the Warwickshire Tutor team also means I can contribute to helping aspiring officials achieve their goals.*

#### **If you could change one law.....**

*The laws were completely reviewed two or three years ago with many useful additions especially around player conduct, unfair play, absences from field of play etc. The only amendment to a law I would like to be considered is Law 41.13 in relation to a bowler running onto the protected area. At the moment, the law allows two formal warnings before stricter penalties are applied and I wonder whether this should be reduced to 1 warning as applies to batsman or other fielders under laws 41.12 & 41.14 respectively.*

#### **Where do you umpire.....**

*After 3 seasons in the Warwickshire Cricket League, I was invited onto the Birmingham & District Premier League panel where I have completed 4 seasons. Additionally, I stand in Warwickshire U13 & U15 Sunday league games and a variety of representative county games at both Youth & over 50's levels*



### **What else to you do outside of umpiring.....**

*Until fairly recently, I worked in Banking for many years but retired last summer which will hopefully give me the chance to indulge my passion for cricket even more than previously! Away from cricket, I enjoy trying to keep fit and do quite a bit of running including the occasional half marathon and also playing some social golf.*

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### **Appointments**

It's that time of year to ensure you are registered for appointments from our association. As an umpire if you wish to be considered for county appointments (excluding Saturday league cricket) you will need to ensure you are registered with up to date availability on WTU

For us to accept your registration on WTU you require 3 things:

- Membership of the association for 2020
- ECB ACO membership – this ensures you are insured
- An up to date cricket DBS <https://wcaco.org.uk/information/appointments-wtu/>

Should you require any help in accessing WTU please contact: [membership@wcaco.org.uk](mailto:membership@wcaco.org.uk)

Apologies for not writing to you sooner but to be honest there hasn't really been that much to tell you about as of yet. Due to the current lockdown situation, there have been very few fixtures arranged so far and those that have been, are in draft form with very few venues confirmed.

As and when locations are confirmed I will appoint to the fixtures, but in general appointments will be made on a month-by-month basis. As such I would expect to have appointed all April fixtures by the end of March.

So where are we just now?

Draft fixtures for Over 50, 60 and 70 fixtures have been received and input to WTU. No friendly fixtures have been received yet.

Warwickshire Cricket Board are planning to run their Sunday morning Club Youth Leagues, a 100 Ball "Sunday Smash" League starting in June, along with their Regional Development programme planned to commence in May.

Unsurprisingly there has been no details of any University Cricket and the BUCS website currently gives very little prospect of any University sport starting soon. That may of course change very suddenly so I wouldn't completely rule out the chance of University Cricket in 2021.

Warwickshire CCC are very much guided by ECB who in turn will be directed by Government guidelines. As such Edgbaston's hands are somewhat tied. I'm sure something will happen in due course but when and where it will happen is somewhat "up in the air".

Hopefully as we start to come out of lockdown things will become clearer but there are obviously more important matters to be resolved first before cricket becomes a priority.



My guess is that cricket fixtures will come but will be advised much later than usual and thus appointments will be made at much shorter notice .

For that I apologise in advance but am sure that you all agree will be better than what we had last year and certainly better than nothing at all.

**As such I do need you to advise your availability on WTU as soon as possible so we are best placed to cover fixtures when they eventually arrive. Please make you availability as wide as possible and not just where fixtures have been entered on WTU, which is important as I reiterate that we will received shorter notice than usual on fixtures, grounds and start times.**

Many thanks as always for your help and patience on these matters and let's hope for good weather in 2021 and as full a season as possible.

Keith Boyall  
Appointments Officer

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#### **Scorers Update - Scorer's training 2021:**

Following a year of social restrictions due to the Covid Pandemic, it is looking hopeful for this year, although some social distancing measures are likely to remain in place for a while.

Scorer Training was restricted for 2020 with no face to face courses being run. However, the free Online Basics of Scoring course has been successful with numerous people completing the course nationwide. Within Warwickshire we have attracted 13 new scorers to WCACO via the associate membership for the coming year from this initiative. For anyone who would like to try their hand at scoring, the link is <https://www.ecb.co.uk/be-involved/officials/find-a-course/scorers-count>

The lockdown situation has prompted ECB to look at how training is delivered and whether more on-line training using a mixture of modules and tutor-led sessions (probably via Zoom or similar software) can be carried out.

At present –

**Club Scorer** is being set up online. The course will be released once all the material is complete, it will be free of charge to undertake, and will be probably be accessible from the link above.

It will comprise two parts, the first covering either Scorebook or Electronic scoring; the second part covering additional material. A certificate of attendance Titled Club Scorer Online can be downloaded once both parts have been completed

**Scorer Level 2**, has been piloted as a virtual course of three 2hour sessions, using the Zoom platform. The feedback from the pilot was very positive. These courses will be bookable via CVENT, at a cost of £30 per student, and will be restricted to 6 students. They are currently being offered to scorers who registered on last year's Level 2 courses.



**Ready Steady Score** This is an informal practical workshop being run by the county, and will not be advertised on CVENT. The best way to register interest is to email [scorers@wcaco.org.uk](mailto:scorers@wcaco.org.uk) It is available to any club who has anyone interested in scoring.

The session aims to score a short game to give new scorers some practice with a mentor to keep an eye on them. It is also available to others who want the chance to refresh their scoring skills. As this is a practical course involving scoring an actual game. The hope is that by the start of the season the current Covid restrictions will have been relaxed slightly and this be possible.

### **For Scorers who use PCS Pro**

**Please note:** We are pleased to announce the release of Play-Cricket Scorer Pro v3.1.3, with the full release notes included below.

As with previous updates, please launch Play-Cricket Scorer Pro from the Start Menu (not the task bar) to detect the update, then close and re-launch PCS Pro again to install it. If the software does not automatically update, or you're installing it for the first time, please [download it here](#).

**Important Note:** Because Play-Cricket Scorer Pro is a server-connected system, all users MUST upgrade to v3.1.3 and will not be able to login or live score until they have done so.

Please also ensure that all support requests for first class and recreational scorers go through the Play-Cricket Help Desk. Where possible, this should be done withing PCS Pro using the new Help -> Report an Issue facility.

The Warwickshire Scorer database is growing. Information about Scorers at all the Warwickshire clubs is being collated with the option for these scorers to gain a broader scoring experience if they desire. Anyone who would like to be on the register should send details to [scorers@wcaco.org.uk](mailto:scorers@wcaco.org.uk)

Any Scorers who wish to continue their professional development and want to do their accreditation after a season of scoring can book accreditation using the following links

Scorer Level1 Accreditation: <https://booking.ecb.co.uk/d/yjqnpd>

Scorer Level 2 Accreditation: <https://booking.ecb.co.uk/d/qjqn13>

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### **Umpire Education Update**

This year we have been unable to offer the usual training courses due to the ongoing pandemic. In place of the usual face to face courses we have switched to an all online offering.

**Stage 1** has been offered free of charge by the ACO and we have seen over 60 people complete this course across the Warwickshire area.

**Stage 2** started later than normal, we kicked off in January and have taken 8 new umpires through the new course. Currently we have another 19 people undertaking this training, they will complete their course by the end of March.



During one of our stage 2 courses we had a guest participant/tutor, Clare Posnack dialled in from Australia days after completing her duties in the Australia/India test series and was able to share some of her experiences with our participants.

Once again thanks go to David Johnson, Mark Turner and Sue Redfern who continue to support these courses and without their experience and enthusiasm it would be difficult to make these courses as enjoyable and complete as they have become.

**Stage 3** has been postponed until after the coming season. For those wishing to take this course David J and I will announce details towards the end of the season

To complement the online stage 2 course offering we will be looking to schedule a newly developed 'Umpires, Are You Ready to Call PLAY?' course. This will be a hands-on, practical course to bridge the gap between the end of education courses and the start of the next cricket season, when the new umpires can start putting their learning into practice. Details will be confirmed closer to the season.

At the end of last season, I asked for any volunteers who wanted to become part of the tutoring team, unfortunately due to the Covid restrictions and new course formats we couldn't take you up on your offers. But don't be disappointed there will be many more opportunities throughout this season, see below:-

**Women's Officials** – following on the success of last season's Rachel Hayhoe Flint tournament we are running a series of women's only courses, this is a Central Sparks led initiative.

**Young Cricket Officials** – this is a Warwickshire Cricket Board led initiative supported by WCACO, it will be a more hands on and interactive style of training. WCB are currently looking at when they would like to schedule these courses for the coming season.

**Parent Officials** - WCB have asked us to look into taking some education out to clubs to engage with parents, coaches and players to officiate in junior cricket and occasional club games. Currently, this may take the form of a webinar which I will run with the help of Christine Philips and the WCB. However, if we are able, we may take this activity out to the clubs and run this in person.

If anyone would like to get involved in any of these activities, please let Rob Evans know on [education@wcaco.org.uk](mailto:education@wcaco.org.uk)

### **Laws Refresher**

We are hoping to run a preseason laws refresher quiz prior at the next members meeting.

**Q** In preparation here is a bit of a teaser that the tutors have been racking their brains over..... the striker does not offer a shot to a ball which then hits him on the pads and goes off to third man. Both batsmen run and cross, and the striker is run out at the bowler's end. **What happens next?**

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### **Development**



➤ **Accreditation**

Subject to a final decision by ECB ACO, Accreditation at levels U2A and U3A is likely to return for the new season. We will ask all members if they are interested in being accredited. Accreditation will cost £40 and provides confirmation of your competence as an umpire based on a mixture of structured self-assessment and also external observation of you in action. It does not guarantee that you will be promoted to a higher level of cricket, but it will definitely help you in your development as an umpire.

➤ **Mentoring**

Mentoring is part of accreditation and helping umpires aspire to higher levels. Resources are currently being put together to explain more about what is involved and will be available shortly together with an invitation to apply to be a mentor after individual consideration of what is involved.

➤ **Are you ready to call play?**

**This is a new initiative designed to bridge the gap between taking an online education course and appearing at a cricket match as an umpire. It is a practical session delivered on a cricket ground to cover areas such as positioning and movement for example and what ground checks an umpire would go through pre match.**

**The CDO and the CEO will seek to put on a couple of such events just before the start of the new season provided we can be COVID rules compliant in terms of access to a ground.**

David Johnson

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**Safeguarding**

The Safe Hands refresher course that I attended in August last year been renamed as CRICKET'S POLICY FOR SAFEGUARDING and the certificate comes with a photograph and contact numbers. The certificate was only issued in late December 2020 and has now been sent to the secretary to get placed on our website.

With the help of David Johnson and Rob Noon we shall create a register of all members of the WCACO and of those who umpire and score in the WCCL. When this has been completed which we are hopeful will be by early March this register will then be sent to Amanda Felton for cross checking of DBS status. Once Amanda has completed her checking I will issue the register to both David and Rob.

The WCCL are planning on having a full season commencing on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2021 this is depending on the government policy on relating to Covid. Clubs in the WCCL are voting in the first week of February on proposals that have been put forward by the management committee of the WCCL with the results being issued to clubs late February.

Eddie Boileau Safeguarding Officer



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## Membership Services

With a view to provide shared resources and open dialogue with our members we intend to provide regular links to any potential websites and useful information that can be shared. If you have any useful resources, ideas or anything that we might be able to share in future newsletter editions.

For any members whose details are not correct or if any member needs assistance on who's the umpire please contact [membership@wcaco.org.uk](mailto:membership@wcaco.org.uk)

WTU details (what and how to sign up) <https://wcaco.org.uk/information/appointments-wtu/>

DBS updates <https://wcaco.org.uk/dbs/>

## Resources

The those who might be interested there is a Facebook group: The Close Call Facebook Group whom are not linked to any ACO and their views might not be shared by WCACO, however the resource which produces various interviews with many first class umpires and referees might appeal to some of our members.

## Over and out CPDs

Please see below links which might help and is provided by ECO ACO to members

- [Umpire Verbal Communication](#)
- [Run Outs](#)
- [Conflict Management](#)
- [Non Verbal Communication](#)
- [Understanding Player Communication](#)
- [Focus and Distraction Control](#)

## Umpiring / Scoring Tips

If you have any tips or opinions which might not be in the education please feel free to send them over to [membership@wcaco.org.uk](mailto:membership@wcaco.org.uk) we will collect and publish content in future newsletters so members can review and potentially utilise shared best practice for themselves.

- Pre match
- Pitch Craft
- Player management
- Post match

Links to other Local/National resources

<b>Local Links</b>	<a href="https://wcaco.org.uk/information/links/">https://wcaco.org.uk/information/links/</a>
	<a href="#">Birmingham &amp; District Premier League</a>
	<a href="#">The Warwickshire League</a>
	<a href="#">Cotswold Hills League</a>





	<a href="#">County Cricket Board Performance Squads and junior club competitions</a>
	<a href="#">Warwickshire Cricket Club – Edgbaston</a>

<b>National Links</b>	<a href="#">ECB Association of Cricket Officials – National Officials Association</a>
	<a href="#">England and Wales Cricket Board</a>
	<a href="#">MCC – the Home of the Laws of the Game</a>
	<a href="#">Play Cricket – the national network of cricket club fixtures/results</a>
	<a href="#">Whose the Umpire – online system for ECB Appointments</a>
	Laws of Cricket <a href="https://www.lords.org/mcc/the-laws-of-cricket">https://www.lords.org/mcc/the-laws-of-cricket</a>
ECB Online Learning <a href="https://laws.lords.org/login/index.php">https://laws.lords.org/login/index.php</a>	

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Remember to visit our new website for more information: <https://wcaco.org.uk/>

Did you know we are now on Twitter – join us: @WarwickshireACO

Not a twitter fan but like Facebook? Find us and contribute here – Warwickshire\_ACO

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WCACO Committee >> Who to Contact

Position	Elected Officer	Email Address
President	John Jameson	<a href="mailto:president@wcaco.org.uk">president@wcaco.org.uk</a>
Chairman	David Bird	<a href="mailto:chairman@wcaco.org.uk">chairman@wcaco.org.uk</a>
Secretary	Alex Holowczak	<a href="mailto:secretary@wcaco.org.uk">secretary@wcaco.org.uk</a>
Treasurer	David Paxton	<a href="mailto:treasurer@wcaco.org.uk">treasurer@wcaco.org.uk</a>
Education Officer	Rob Evans	<a href="mailto:education@wcaco.org.uk">education@wcaco.org.uk</a>
Appointments Officer	Keith Boyall	<a href="mailto:appointments@wcaco.org.uk">appointments@wcaco.org.uk</a>
Development Officer	David Johnson	<a href="mailto:development@wcaco.org.uk">development@wcaco.org.uk</a>
County ACO Safeguarding Officer	Eddie Boileau	<a href="mailto:welfare@wcaco.org.uk">welfare@wcaco.org.uk</a>



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Scorers' Officer	Christine Phillips	<a href="mailto:scorers@wcaco.org.uk">scorers@wcaco.org.uk</a>
Membership Services	Bob Noon	<a href="mailto:membership@wcaco.org.uk">membership@wcaco.org.uk</a>
Members Rep 1	Chris Brown	<a href="mailto:membersrep1@wcaco.org.uk">membersrep1@wcaco.org.uk</a>
Members Rep 2	Mark Turner	<a href="mailto:membersrep2@wcaco.org.uk">membersrep2@wcaco.org.uk</a>