

WACO Appointments Officers AGM Report 2015

Ladies and Gentlemen Umpires,

Firstly, may I congratulate you all on the successful implementation of the Who's The Umpire package. My job has been made easier, I am delighted to say, by your (almost) total acceptance of a new and perhaps, unfamiliar process. The fact that everyone had to advise me all available dates right through to the end of September has been done by you all for years so therefore, isn't new to us, but now entering those dates onto a new database system was done with great ease. Thanks to you all.

Secondly, the Malvern Cricket Festival was generally, a great success. The weather was not helpful at times but we got there in the end. Gary King brought my attention to a couple of items though, one matter is that I asked you all to ensure that if you were involved in a short match then both umpires should offer the teams concerned a 10/10 or 15/15 whatever would fit to make their cricket day more complete. Well, we so nearly got it right!! There were a couple of recalcitrant umpires who have been placed in the village stocks for a week to atone for their ways, but mostly it went to plan. The second comment came from a different direction altogether, it appears that parents/coaches have stated that umpires had "touched" their children. Maybe, only on the shoulder or arm perhaps, but please don't do it. Then, hopefully, next season, this will not turn into a full complaint. Thanks again for all your time, efforts, travel to get these matches organised well.

Thirdly, votes of thanks to Anne Wilson for her professional input for the District and age group matches, Pete Clement for the intricacies of listing the Malvern Festival matches and Rod Lane for his overarching patience, support and effort in making me understand the rigours and finer points of Who's The Umpire.

Finally, the process of implementing our own grading system to make appointments produced its own problems but, I hope, this should settle down more next season. My thanks to all our umpires for their acceptance of the new system, which cannot have been easy for many.

Winter well,

Chris Bryant