

## WACO Chairman's Report 2014/15

My report should open with thanks to all the committee for their individual roles which you see little of because it all goes on in the background.

Chris Bryant anticipated that he would have to – and did – make well over 1000 appointments, and to achieve this he clearly needed to consider additional help. This started with looking at the possibility of using Who's the Umpire (WtU). We had initially agreed that this would be a partial introduction, but when investigations were carried out into its implementation this wasn't possible; so we had to go the whole hog – this meant a great deal of work for Chris who was guided by Rod Lane, who made contact with another region of ECB ACO who provided great help in developing the process. It should be noted that adjoining associations are also using and it is an ECB ACO target to introduce it across all cricket. In general, it has worked well with only two complaints, which speaks volumes for its success.

I think we acknowledge that perhaps a balance of appointments wasn't totally achieved, but we will look at this and try and make improvements in the next year. Colleagues, you should be aware, because it was made very plain at other meetings, that you all now have a Worcestershire Grade separate from ECB grading. Because some of you do not get an ECB Grade because of the cricket you chose to umpire, the Worcestershire Grade was used to allocate appointments and on occasions you may not have stood in games that you had stood at in the past because these games were allocated to the appropriate Worcestershire Grade.

Chris has had and will have assistance again next season from Pete Clement & Anne Wilson, which will hopefully remove some of the burden.

Rob, Dennis and Inge have worked away at performance and assessment, which have assisted the Level 1A to complete their portfolios.

Payments for the Worcestershire Cricket Board (WCB) were again managed by Geoff and Rod, who I think you will agree paid us as quick as possible. I am conscious about the ECB payments being poorly managed and will be pursuing this with the Regional Chair. We have now achieved a regular budget meeting with the WCB which did result in a small number of consolidated payments, but any increases in payments for next season have been rejected. They have accepted the same level of fees as 2015 for next season, but quote the drop in fuel prices as the main reason for no increase.

In relation to development, the four year plan was updated with a number of goals achieved, this was very much driven by Derek Smith who, as you all know, couldn't be here tonight but has decided to stand down after a number of years on the committee mainly as secretary. For this, I wish to give him my personal thanks and wish him all the best for the future.

We have reached an agreement with the Affiliated Leagues Committee of the WCB on a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which will be used as a guiding document over how we will interact with all the Leagues under its remit. This was signed up to by all parties concerned after a degree of consultation.

We have participated in a discussion over the changes to the Laws of Cricket which will take effect from October 2016 – this is the first time this has happened and has involved every association across England and Wales, the consultation included a meeting with the MCC at Edgbaston.

In relation to achievements of members, amongst whom, I include myself. Andy Hicks was appointed to the Championship Final of the Minor Counties and I was appointed to the one final of the Minor Counties. I feel this is an accolade for the Association as well as the individuals.

Hope you all winter well. As usual I'm off to a sunnier climate in January & February so will see you all at the PDC in March / April.