

## WACO Chairman's Report 2015/16

Hi all and welcome to the WACO AGM for 2016. A little early you may think – well I'm off to the Southern Hemisphere for three months shortly and will be standing in Australia and New Zealand.

We have had a busy season with Chris making well in excess of 1200 appointments mainly due to the ever-expanding Malvern Festival. We have supplied umpires to Birmingham League 2nd Eleven, Board Age group, Seniors Cricket County and Country wide. A number of colleagues have had more experience with multi-day cricket and the more experienced assisted the County with warm-up scenarios at New Road and Kidderminster having the opportunity to officiate Test players from home and abroad. There has been a full league season with colleagues officiating in the Worcestershire County League and Birmingham League.

New colleagues have joined and started accepting appointments and our operational arm is at about 65 umpires. We are also continuing to build the number of scorers, and hoping to move them onto Who's the Umpire and trying to enhance their role – my thanks to those individuals for all their commitment including Dawn Pugh & Leslie Forest.

A further innovation was my opportunity to umpire a match with 15-year-old girl – Amelia Kite – in which she did indeed officiate very well. A great advert for the future!

It would be remiss of me not to thank all my fellow committee members for all their hard work in the various roles.

Finances are in a good state but, as you all are, I'm a little disappointed that the board won't slightly increase the expenses – we'll try again next season. On a lighter note, all Senior Cricket will move to £40 a match. A big thanks to Rod Lane for all his hard work paying us.....

Geoff Gilbert has decided to move on because he needs more time for other adventures, but will hold the MEO payments role for now and judge how it goes. Howard Burley, after long distinguished years of service, has finally thrown the towel as Welfare Officer. We welcome two new members, David Pearson will streamline in as the new secretary - be gentle with him - and David Thurbon who is eminently qualified will move up from Howard's No 2 to the main man, good luck to you both.

News off the stands is that the ECB have realigned into 7 Regions now called Hubs. ACO has always followed this model, so last Thursday following a meeting of all the Chairs from Staffordshire, Shropshire, Warwickshire, Herefordshire and myself, after Peter Mitchell the outgoing Midlands ACO Chair briefed us about the new structure, we formed the new West Midlands ACO. We then had to appoint new officers to take the West Midlands forward – David Bird from Warwickshire was appointed Chair with Alan Crook from Herefordshire taking the Secretary's Role; David Johnson from

Warwickshire Education; Heather Vernon Scorers' Officer; Chris Bryant Appointments Officer and I have taken the Performance and Development Role. All current Chairs will continue in their County ACO roles. Please watch these space as we definitely try to remove the shadow of mystery that surrounds these roles.

The main things to look forward to are the Law changes and Education changes that will come in on 1st October 2017. All Level 1 will be completed as an online qualification across the Laws. Then the following new qualifications will come in between 2016 & 2019 – Club Umpire, League Panel Umpire, Premier League Umpire and Elite Recreational Umpire obviously followed by the professional roles. These courses are being developed and tutor training will roll out. Anyone interested in joining the Education team will be greatly accepted. Don't worry, I don't think you'll have to re-qualify – well not all of you.....

Finally, a reminder that Geoff put out an email from Warwickshire inviting Worcestershire members to the event they have organised on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2016 with Mark Williams (MCC) as guest speaker on potential Laws changes to be effective from October 2017.