

WACO Secretary's Report 2015/16

This report as Secretary of Worcestershire ACO (WACO) for the year 2015/16 is to some extent a bittersweet one as I will not be standing for re-election. I must say straightaway that this is not a reflection on any difficulties with working with colleagues on the Committee and the work itself as Secretary has been relatively straightforward. I have spent the last four years since my retirement committing a considerable time to many aspects of cricket, but this will no longer be possible as I want to spend the next five years developing my working as a volunteer with the Museum of Carpet in Kidderminster and supplementing this by undertaking a degree in West Midlands History at the University of Birmingham.

WACO has held three Committee Meetings during the year, the main issues for discussion being designed to ensure that the aims and objectives of the 2015-2019 Five Year Plan are being addressed. Specifically, this involved developing a WACO brand through a logo and a leisure shirt; testing the water with a social event – 'An Evening with Richard Illingworth'; and the agreement on the adoption of the Memorandum of Understanding and Umpires Pathway with WCB and members of the WCB Affiliated Leagues Committee including the Worcestershire County League.

In my role as Secretary, I attended, with some 11 other WACO members, the ECB ACO Regional Conference in Nottingham and this was a good starting point for making contact with both ECB ACO officers and colleagues from neighbouring ACOs. It had sessions on new laws to be introduced and insights into the work of analysts employed by County Cricket Clubs to aid the development and performance of their playing staff. There was also a very amusing take on life in cricket from the former Derbyshire batsman Tony Borrington.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank all umpires and scorers who have complied with the rigours of the MEO process for receiving payment for appointments and have shown great forbearance when I have made the occasional cock-up!

Some demographics for you

- 50% of our membership is between 61-80 years old; 34% is between 41-60 and only 9% under 40
- There is a reasonable spread in terms of where umpires located but less so in East and South of the County

One innovation I would like to propose is the creation of a WACO Archive which would provide a basis for heritage for our organisation. This could be achieved by asking the Worcestershire Archive Service to hold what archival material we do have already and make arrangements for the deposit of any materials which would be regarded as acceptable from the future work of WACO or from individual members. If nothing else, this would save successive Secretaries having to find space in a garage or shed for boxes of minutes, correspondence and accounts from the pre-digital age!

So, thank you to all the Committee and WACO members for contributing to a positive year for myself as Secretary.

Geoff Gilbert