

WACO Association of Cricket Officials AGM 2018

47th Annual General Meeting

Kidderminster Cricket Club, Chester Road, Kidderminster.

October 2nd, 2018

AGENDA

1. Chairman's welcome
2. Apologies for absence

Peter Hughes; Mike Neal; Chris Forrest; Lesley Forrest; Inge Bevers; Barrie Taylor; Michael Iwanicki; Macer Nash; Kay Tallack; Jan Herbert; David Mackness; Anne Wilson; Roger Tolchard;

3. Minutes of the 2016 Annual General Meeting

Annual General Meeting 2016/17 minutes

1. Chairman's welcome

DG welcomed everyone to New Road, and the 3rd WACO AGM.

2. Apologies for absence

Chris Marsh; Geoff Allen; Steve Such; Dean Drage; Stuart Fellows; Kay Tallack; Charlie Combes; Ian Weston; Dean Gervis; John Barrett; Dan Such; Hamid Sohaib; Mark Taylor; Phil Morris; Anne Wilson; Geoff Truby; David Mills; Mark Chappell; Geoff Gilbert; Martin Malin; Jan Herbert; Robin Wilson; David Mackness; Tony Kidd; Joe Surch; Phil Morris; Les Vincent; Tom Gray; Barrie Taylor; Mike Greenfield, Jonathan Pole; Tony Wright;

3. Minutes of the 2017 meeting

Chairman's report

Dave Gower presented his report to the AGM, which is included in the minutes below. David asked if anyone had any questions. None forthcoming

Hon Secretary's report

Dave Pearson presented his report to the AGM, which is included in the minutes below. Dave asked if anyone had any questions. None forthcoming.

Treasurer's Report

Rod Lane presented his report to the AGM, which is included in the minutes below. Rod reported that the accounts were very good and we have reserves in the bank, which we have been considering how best to use for the benefit of the membership, and welcomed any ideas. Rod asked if anyone had any questions. None forthcoming.

Acceptance of the accounts proposed David Williams; seconded Howard Burley, and accepted. Mike Greenfield proposed as scrutineer by Rod Lane and seconded Chris Bryant.

Appointments Officer's Report

Chris Bryant presented his report to the AGM, which is included in the minutes below. Chris thanked everyone for using WtU efficiently, but reminded the AGM that it is always a challenge when appointing at the end of the season, so to please keep their availability up to date throughout. Dave Gower reiterated this, and reminded people that the season does continue well into September, so members need to be particularly conscious of this when doing their availability. Chris also mentioned that there are opportunities for indoor University Chris asked if anyone had any questions. Mike Neal raised the issue of Sunday league cricket for appointments, and Rod Lane advised that he had emailed to Stuart Lampitt to ensure clubs do advise umpires, that it is their responsibility if there are changes or cancellations to fixtures, and that if no cancellation is received, that fees will still have to be paid. Inge Bevers asked whether club officials get a copy of the appointments made on WtU. Stuart puts appointments onto Play Cricket, but this must be kept up to date for club officials. It may be that a quick phone call to the club, just to check all is still well, would be good practice for club officials. Nick stated that the County Board were notoriously difficult to contact for rules and regulations, for senior T20 cricket, which led to confusion, as people seemed to have different versions!!

Scorers Officer's Report

Phil Mellish presented his report to the AGM, which is included in the minutes below. Phil asked if anyone had any questions. None forthcoming. Rod Lane advised the AGM that next year we will be attempting to do scorer appointments through WtU, and will be the only county in the country using it for that purpose.

Education Officer's Report

Dave Gower presented the Education Officer's Report as well. He also strongly recommended the new online training, not necessarily as training, but for information and as a refresher, especially as it has a wealth of information and access to the whole of Sky Sports cricket videos and the Getty Images Collection

Performance Officer's Report

Rob Murphy presented his report to the AGM, which is included in the minutes below. Rob advised that the grades had been submitted to the ECB today, and members will be advised of their level by the end of the month. Rob asked if anyone had any questions. None forthcoming

The Ryan Bowler Award

Bill Smith introduced the Award, and that it is presented to someone who not only does a lot of umpiring, but also for the benefit of WACO, and it has been awarded to Rod Lane

Tim Granger Award – will be presented at the Annual Dinner on October 14th 2016

Dave Gower introduced the Award, and that it is presented to the person with the highest mark in the exam, and it was Gary Smith, with 98%

Election of Officers –

All officers except Secretary and Welfare Officer had agreed to stand again and were returned to office nem con.

President Bill Smith prop. – David Gower and seconded David Williams

Re-elected unanimously

Chairman David Gower prop. – Bill Smith; seconded Martin Mudway

All officers prepared to stand once again, and were elected en bloc. Proposed Bill Smith and seconded David Williams

Treasurer Rod Lane prop. -

Secretary David Pearson Prop. -

Appointments Officer Chris Bryant prop. -

Performance Officer Rob Murphy prop. -

Education Officer Dennis Pyke Prop. -

Scorers Officer Phil Mellish Prop. -

Welfare Officer David Thurbon Prop -

Vice-Presidents remain same – Messrs Baylis; Booth, Illingworth, Kelly, Vockins, Burley,

Derek Russell questioned whether there were members of the Old Association who perhaps ought to be considered as Vice Presidents. Debate ensued as to whether the question of Life Members

Proposed David Gower; seconded Bill Smith

15. Any Other Business –

Howard Burley was asked to give a précis of his day this week, following his nomination for the “Oscars” in August, and went to Lords on Monday as a consequence. Howard mentioned that there were speeches from Stuart Broad and Mike Gatting. Lunch was excellent, and both wine and champagne were very good.

Mike Neal mentioned that the Warwickshire Association produce a little booklet of match cards for their members. Rod Lane said that Staffordshire also did the same. Inge Bevers will send her copy as a template to print around 1000 cards for 2018.

Dinner is on November 3rd, at £12 per person, subsidised by the Association. Howard Burley asked that slips were returned to him asap for this. David Gower recommended attendance.

The meeting officially closed at 8.30pm

4. Matters arising

5. Chairman's report

To be given on the night.

6. Hon Secretary's report

2018 has been an interesting year for umpires in the County, largely due to the changes in the laws to the game, and the resulting training and implementation of them in matches. It is great to be able to report that there have been few if any issues raised, and if there have they haven't been to me. WACO undertook to ensure that members were equipped with the knowledge and understanding to be able to officiate in matches in which they stood, so I think it is important to commend our Chairman, David Gower, in his efforts to ensure training was effective, learned and understandable. Credit also should be due to you, the members, for attending and officiating to such a high standard, and to captains, clubs and match officials for their part in accepting the changes.

Certainly we were blessed with a superb summer, weather-wise, to enjoy and participate in some excellent cricket. For those who have never yet been involved in umpiring the Festival Cricket, may I take this opportunity to recommend it to you in every possible way. Whether in Malvern or Bromsgrove, the cricket was a delight to be involved in. Youngsters, parents and family, organisers and supporters combine to make this a very special part of our summer, and it certainly remains a highlight in my own personal umpiring calendar. Mark Burgess bowled the final over, I kept wicket, and around 72 fielders saw the Oxfordshire v Gloucestershire U15 girls game reach an enjoyable end, some 10 overs after the game had technically been won and lost. You most certainly should try it!!

Within the leagues there has of course been much speculation about how the structure will look for 2019, for clubs, players and of course we umpires as well. With the Birmingham League reducing to just two divisions and no 2nd XIs, major change will be implemented before we take to the field in 2019. Quite how has even now not become clear, with rumours abounding. However the picture is finally painted, I can only sincerely hope that colleagues don't see this as an opportunity to hang up their umpires coats and enjoy other leisurely pursuits on Saturday afternoons. In the new Worcestershire League structure there will be an awful lot of cricket to be played, and many clubs are thoroughly appreciative of us officiating. It has been my pleasure to umpire in Divisions One, Two and Three, in 2018, and I, certainly, am looking forward to umpiring at all levels and standards, and continuing to promote and participate in the game we love so much.

7. Hon Treasurer's report

My reports to AGM seem to be getting less and less interesting. This is because we again have had no financial crisis or problems.

Income & Expenditure are down from last year to £3895 and £2850 with a small reduction in Membership subscriptions & donations equivalent to 3 Members. This reduction is largely due to the change in the way the ECB ACO now finances training. We no longer collect money off applicants and buy in training materials but are 'rebated' by the ECB ACO after the course is completed. This gives us the smaller figure for Training in both the income and expenditure side. Expenses continue to fall now down to £688 from £987 two years ago.

Our reserves in the bank continue to rise, standing now at £8365.94 at 28th August. This date, you will notice is not exactly the end of the month. This is because two Members standing orders came through early on 29th and 31st and are to be accounted for in next year's figures.

So as ever there is no proposal to increase the Membership fee.

As MEO I must again thank and congratulate our Membership for the efficient way you all use and respond to both Who's the Umpire and the MEO method of claiming match expenses. Please remember to continue to put claims in quickly after a fixture and to also let me know if a match has been cancelled. Again this year over £10k will have been paid out to umpires, through the MEO scheme, and just over £1k to scorers. The Association continues to be rewarded for running this scheme by a grant of £750 from the Board.

I will take any questions from the floor.

The AGM will require a Proposer & Seconder and vote to accept the Accounts for 2017-2018.

Mike Greenfield once more has my gratitude for scrutinising our accounts so efficiently. The problem for Mike and me going forward is that I now live over an hour away from him, making transportation of documentation etc. very difficult. I, therefore, wish to ask that the meeting gives me permission to explore finding a suitable candidate nearer to me.

8. Appointment Officer's report

Nobody can complain about the weather this year! Having said that, the early season didn't turn out to well and many leagues suffered delays, but as far as my appointments listings were concerned, no great problem.

The frustrating time came when, on at least a dozen occasions, the umpire(s) turned up at grounds to find no cricket! I think poor old Tony Burkes achieved this on 4 dates! Unbelievable and unforgivable. The method I have now adopted is that with WCB matches, we pay you anyway, and argue about it later. You must still claim through the MEO system but explain the reason.

Another epidemic which occurs as the season wears on is the old chestnut: KEEP YOUR WTU AVAILABILITY UP TO DATE. The more you let me down on this the fewer appointments you will get.

That's the moaning out of the way!

The season produced something like 1100 appointments (If someone would like to count them for me, feel free). In July we had a first; 8 ECB Disability matches in Worcestershire from the 8th to the 13th July. All went extremely well for the 8 matches, complimentary comments were received from the ECB and the team managements, thanks to all umpires associated with these T20's for the professionalism you all displayed, you were a credit to WACO . Our Chairman will buy you all a beer with 16 straws!

The Malvern Festival, again over 400 umpires appointed, the weather was kind and umpires had the opportunity to display their friendly, smiling faces to all players, parents and organisers. Which we don't always do! Through my association with adjoining counties, we had a problem providing our own Worcestershire umpires throughout the festival and Warwickshire, Herefordshire and even Gloucestershire assisted us with staffing levels.

Thanks to everyone concerned for making this a very successful season for appointments.

Chris Bryant, Appointments Officer WACO

9. Scorer Officer's report

I begin my report by thanking all those who made themselves available, via Who's the Umpire, to score county age-group matches in 2018. If you haven't registered and would like to do so for 2019 then please go to www.whostheumpire.com

Scorers can only be appointed if they have paid their annual WACO membership and have a current DBS certificate. Please get in touch with the treasurer, Rod Lane, to renew your membership. Rod's e-mail address is treasurer@worcupires.org.uk

This year saw many scorers using a new scoring programme, Play-Cricket Scorer Pro. Naturally, with a new programme, there were going to be issues during the season but it is improving gradually and all being well, in 2019, we won't have to worry too much. As always, the scorebook will always come in handy in case something goes wrong.

The association plans to host courses during the winter so if you know anyone who might be interested then please get in touch. Details will be on the Worcestershire ACO website as soon as the dates and venues have been confirmed.

Finally I end my report by remembering two of our former members, Alan Jarman and Dawn Pugh, who both sadly passed away in the past year.

Alan was known to many as an umpire and stood in the Birmingham League, as well as umpiring Worcestershire 2nd XI matches, before operating the scoreboards at New Road for many years until he retired in 2015.

Dawn scored for Rushwick and then Ombersley before being appointed as the Worcestershire 2nd XI scorer back in 2003. In 2012 Dawn took over as the 1st XI scorer, the first lady to do so in county cricket, and, in 2013, was given the honour of scoring an Ashes Test match at Lord's.

They will both be missed by those that knew them.

Phil Mellish - Scorers Officer

E-Mail: scorers@worcumpires.org.uk

10. Education Officer's report

To be presented on the night

11. Performance Officer's report

This year, boundary observations were conducted on four of our umpires in support of their continued development.

By the time of the AGM, we will have submitted each umpire's "C" grade to the ECB. The criteria for this grading has remained the same as last year. So, unless you have moved up or down the league structure since the 2017 season, your grade should remain unchanged.

Please remember that the framework used to decide your "C" grade is set by the ECB and is primarily based on the league in which you umpired during the previous season.

I believe it is the intention of ECB ACO to inform all umpires of their grade by the end of November. This notification will come direct from the ECB, but if you have any questions about the process, criteria or your grade, please contact me on performance@worcumpires.org.uk.

Rob Murphy, County Performance Officer

12. The Ryan Bowler Award
13. The Tim Granger Award
14. Election of Officers
15. Any Other Business