



DACO

Devon Association of Cricket Officials



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Tuesday 17th November 2015 at the Masonic Hall, Barnstaple

The vice-Chairman Andrew Forward opened the meeting and extended a warm welcome to all who attended the eighth DACO AGM.

In Memoriam

All present stood for a minute's silence in memory of those involved in Devon Cricket who had 'left the crease' during the previous year.

Attendance

A register of attendees was circulated at the meeting, a copy of which held by the Hon Secretary and available on request. A total of 30 members attended.

Apologies

A register of apologies received is held by the Hon Secretary and available on request.

Alec Pickersgill requested permission to offer apologies on behalf of Brian Pearce the President of the North Area, who is sadly unable to attend as he is recovering from a recent cataract operation.

Election of President

Having completed his second three-year term as President, Roger Moylan-Jones has decided not to seek further re-election.

The outgoing President, Chairman and management committee had considered many candidates for the position and are pleased to announce that Eirian Daniels (aka Danny Daniels) had graciously accepted their approach.

Opening Address from the President

Gentlemen and Ladies, whilst being humbled, grateful and delighted to accept the role my initial reaction was to think of the many other members that have made a significant contribution to both our association and Devon Cricket, and in my opinion seem far worthier of the honour that you have bestowed on me.

First and foremost, Dave Moseby - who regrettably has turned his attention to bowls, Bert Mitchell - who served the association for many decades, Bill Matten - a fantastic umpire who despite ill health remains involved, Tom Waldock - has served the West Devon Area for many years and continues to do so, Di Wadsworth - has served East Devon firstly assisting her late husband John with Appointments and still scoring regularly.

I must pay tribute to the outgoing regime who have over the years recounted many a tale of nautical nightmares. Gavin Lane has done a fantastic job as DACO Chairman, and has developed systems within DACO that will assist umpires to reach their potential.

I have been privileged to umpire on the League Panel and have over the years made many new friends, this year myself and Bill Pinhey have assessed many umpires as part of their Level 1A course and also continue to officiate for the 'old gits' (Devon Over 60s) and have been fortunate to tour Sri Lanka and Canada with them as their Umpire.

I am passionate about cricket, and we as officials owe a duty of care to all cricketers of all abilities, and therefore as we progress along the 'umpires pathway' we should never forget our roots - we all began by umpiring colts or ladies or seniors games - indeed the recent Rugby World Cup final

was refereed by arguably the best ref in the world (also a Welshman), who the following weekend was officiating a 7th grade match!

It is appreciated that Captain's Markings are a cause of much debate - how can a Captain mark the umpires accurately whilst also taking care of his responsibilities. I recently assessed an umpire at an A Division match who showed me the marks he had received a fortnight earlier from a person who hadn't even been at that match! If, as they want us to believe, clubs want the best Umpires then the DCL and DACO must ensure that Captains be more objective when giving the required feedback - after all the umpires don't bowl wides, bowl no-balls, drop catches, play false shots or mis-field - they generally make fewer mistakes than the players.

Devon has very few instances of bad behaviour and long may that continue, I accept the role with gratitude and considerable pride.

Minutes of the previous AGM (held 18th November 2014)

A copy of the 2014 AGM Minutes had been sent to all members along with the official notification of this year's AGM.

Acceptance of the minutes of the 2014 Annual General Meeting were proposed by Ray Allen and seconded by Bill Pinhey and unanimously agreed.

Matters Arising from those Minutes

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

Chairman's Report

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, may I as your vice-Chairman extend a welcome to you all for making the trip to North Devon for our AGM and annual get together.

It is my intention not to talk for too long and keep to the facts and not to waffle! Sounds like an Umpires report form!

May I first thank the North Devon Area for organising this evening and I trust you have all enjoyed the splendid food provided.

The cricket umpiring year began last November with two level 1 Umpiring courses, with Ottery St Mary and Heathcoat Cricket clubs, providing the venue and there were 18 candidates of which 16 successfully passed the course. Paul Dawe, Steve Lavis were the tutors who delivered these course ably assisted by Jim Shellens and myself. Steve and Paul have also tutored out of Devon in the winter and got up around the "smoke" assisting other associations and also gaining certification as level 2 tutors. Paul has also laid on level 1A and level 2 courses in Devon and the final number of successful candidates were: four passed the level 1 A course and subsequent Professional Discussion, those being Don Fathers, Richard Weare, David Gambie and Ben Pitman. Well done to you four and may you continue to move along and up the umpiring pathway.

On the level 2 Course, we had 4 candidates whose results are expected in early December once their portfolios are reviewed at regional level.

DACO has also had great success with scoring training in the last year and we have had 10 candidates pass the level one course and also Lynne Whitfield who scores at Cornwood passed the level 2 course.

The 2015 season was an interesting one, which was unfortunately affected by weather but not badly? As July was the hottest on record, the cricket should have not suffered!

The 2015 season has gone well for our umpires and scorers in the Devon Cricket League (DCL), youth games, women's cricket and all forms of the game.

There have unfortunately been a few disciplinary matters to be deal with, in the DCL, but relatively few. There was an issue that did arise, which was regarding an alleged dissent incident which unfortunately for DACO, the case could not be proven and lessons from this need to be learnt on both sides.

With my other hat on, I wrote in my capacity as Representative on DCL, the role which I hope you will elect Ray Allen to. That DACO were disappointed with the outcome of this matter. A response was received and we move forward to the 2016 season.

As umpires we need to continue to report the facts as we see them and let the league carry out any investigations and hearings. This was instilled at the pre season Continuous Professional

Discussions (CPD) by Steve Lavis, our prospective Performance Officer and myself. We intend holding meetings like this at the beginning of the 2016 season and also we shall be supporting the Devon Cricket league with a meeting of the captains, to discuss besides other things; umpires marks and remarks. I don't wish to be critical or spend any further time, regarding this.

There have been few problems with appointments this season; those being sickness and a road traffic accident; the umpire was not involved, just caught up in the traffic. The allocations for the Premier, A and B divisions were fully allocated up to the end of the season and all details were available on the Devon Cricket website. The C division unfortunately had to cope without the promised independent umpires but these matches still took place with one or two umpires from the clubs involved standing. The lower divisions have the very same problems as panel umpires. The umpires, who do stand as club umpires, do an excellent job and I thank you for this. Some of these matches can be very competitive and can create more problems than higher division games. It is never easy to be a club umpire standing with the "player" umpire!

Elsewhere, the on line Umpires Report and ground form has been accepted well, most umpires are submitting their forms via mobile devices, phones or ipads at the ground or soon after. There are some improvements planned; to get a free form box for comments etc.

Many thanks to Pete Bamber for all his sterling work with the integration of this form and doing the onerous task of the league appointments, thank you Pete.

For Umpires and scorers, Duckworth Lewis or should it be Duckworth Lewis Stein, was feared, by some. It was thought it may cause problems but following the extensive training pre season, by Gavin Lane, there has been little use in anger, but the scorers in Premier league were ready and scoreboards were expectant to display the DL score for the second innings. Another task for the third team at a match to do! On line scoring has been accepted well, after some teething problems. I understand DL may move into the A division for the 2016 season. We await the DCL AGM for any changes.

There are future umpiring courses at level 1 planned in North Devon and Plymouth and scoring courses too, this winter. For this winter, the generous offer of assistance from the DCL, continues for prospective umpire candidates from DCL affiliated clubs, it is hoped this will generate more attendance this closed season than last. The details of these courses are on the Devon Cricket website. Please encourage your clubs or friends to attend. Paul Dawe informs me there is better take up than last year already.

This year DACO has been privileged to have members to stand at the highest level of the amateur game; Steve Lavis, Jim Anning, Roger Tolchard, Phil Matten and myself standing in second eleven first class county three day and one day matches with our first class and First class reserve colleagues Steve, Phil and myself standing in Minor Counties trophy; One day and Championship; three day matches.

DACO also saw our scorer member, Rachel Tozer from Exmouth, score at Lords in the England / New Zealand first test. A great honour for Rachel and she tells me she had a really good time. Something for all scorers to strive to achieve.

Umpire numbers are still a huge concern to the DACO and the courses already mentioned, it is hoped will help to relieve this problem, however, umpires are getting older and there is fewer younger umpires coming through due to players playing in to their 50's and 60's. We currently have just over 200 members; Umpires and scorers with another 6 going through Edgbaston.

However, there have been 15 members who have decided not to renew their membership and a further 6 who have cancelled. I am aware David Gambie, who as well as being an umpire and Senior Devon cricketer is also the Chairman of the Senior Cricketers and he has written to his members to encourage them to put on the white coat.

With our current umpire panel numbers, it is unlikely that DACO will be able to appoint neutral umpires to Division C matches in the 2016 season at the present time. However, this may not be the position following the courses in North Devon and Plymouth.

We now look forward to the umpiring and scorer training season and indoor cricket for those who stand in that form of the game.

Of interest to you, as your vice-Chairman, I attended a meeting in Bristol in August with other representatives of other county associations in the South West regarding the proposed re-writing of the laws of cricket in 2017. I did email all members of DACO to get their ideas and responses which I took to this meeting. There was much debate on the day and Mark Williams who is leading

this revision for the MCC was receptive to any ideas, which the attendees had. The more controversial ideas are; to have sending offs and a sin bin, I am sure David our guest speaker tonight may have more to say on this; changing the size of the ball; to re-dress the balance between batsman and bowlers, by making it smaller; Switch hits and reverse sweeps; batsman to lose the leg side protection in LBW and for it to make no difference between these two strokes, our ICC colleagues feel very strongly about this. Penance time for batsman, like bowlers already serve. Size of bats; the MCC were meeting with manufacturers to discuss this subject. Covering of pitches; allowed if you wish to cover the whole pitch. Combining the Handled ball and Obstructing the field into one law; I guess Ben Stokes may have an opinion on that one! The ball allowed to bounce only once, before it becomes a no ball. Height of a no ball to be waist-height for all deliveries. All the responses from all regions will be correlated together and presented to the rules committee at the MCC and it will for them to decide what; if any changes are made. Finally may I thank Ray for the hard work he has done on the Devon Kit bag and you will see looking around the room that he has certainly done an excellent marketing job with us all. Really finally; now I know he is not present; but I wish to go on record to say a huge thank you to Gavin Lane who has for the last 6 years worked tirelessly for DACO and for Devon Umpires at all levels right up to the highest levels in London and Edgbaston. I sincerely hope I will be able to continue to represent and to lead DACO over the coming years.

Hon. Treasurer's Report

In contrast to 2013 when there was mild scepticism about a surplus of £1358, in 2014 we incurred a deficit of £1343, which continued in 2015 – this time £2075.

Am I alarmed – yes a bit! Thank goodness for the reserve we have gradually created over the years 2008-2013. A golden period when Devon Cricket Board (DCB) funds were acquired- disappointingly these have dried up in the last two years. The DCB grants included an ECB ACO rebate of £940 in 2012.

Our actual accumulated fund of £6817 has returned to figures last seen in 2008. Now there are people who still think this is high enough – well it is a cushion, but the new committee has the challenge of preparing a budget to match our reducing income – reducing how alarming – well Can we raise more funds?

Can we persuade the DCB to provide an annual grant again?

Can we persuade the DCL to persuade its clubs to increase their annual support (£10 per club now)?

Can ECB ACO improve upon the redistribution of our individual subscriptions (only £4 from £30)?

Can we encourage more of the host of non-DACO club officials to join us?

As I see it colleagues, we the members of DACO, each of us has to play a part to find new members to keep this wonderful organisation very much alive and active.

Apart from the reasons already alluded to – why the deficits in the last two years – well we have been generous to the Devon Cricket Board Youth Association (DCBYA) by subsidising the funds they needed to pay modest travel funds to the umpires who so willingly support the early inter-regional matches in April and May and other county matches. Over the past two years these totalled £1000 but come 2016 the DCBYA will not be able to rely upon our financial support, but hopefully this will not reduce the requests to our organisation, for there are many active umpires who are only too pleased to stand, often on cold days in early spring, to encourage the cricketers of tomorrow – there are some umpires who would do it without recompense but overall as an organisation we still must support the majority.

As to the few experienced umpires who do not feel disposed to stand in these matches, all I can say is “come on board”!

Anyway I am drifting slightly! Back to expenditure – the DCL has for the past two years been paid annually £125 for displaying an advert on behalf of DACO in the DCL Handbook. Times are hard –

I shall suggest to the committee that we must either forgo the advert or ask the DCL to continue without payment from us.

New advertising banners are a one-off and cost £364 so that is another saving in 2016.

One of the essential responsibilities of DACO is with training and examinations. Personally I think our trainers for many years have performed very well. It takes time and commitment to organise the events including the devotion to become trainers etc., so well done Paul Dawe and the current volunteers and indeed to the many former trainers going back to DCU&S days.

A deliberate mention of DCU&S who, without national support, were able to organise localised training at budget prices. The situation is so much different now because ACO control the type of training and, largely, the cost of training material – sadly the numbers of new DACO members and future members has reduced and one of the reasons is possibly the cost of attending, participating in training and ultimately sitting the examinations.

Our people do their very best to organise courses within budget but inevitably there is a cost to our organisation. In the past year the accounts show a deficit of £1065 – partly because the trainers have to get around this huge county, so inevitably travel costs must be covered. We cannot continue to operate training with losses of this level so we shall review all the various factors shortly.

The travel costs involved in assessing umpires 'on the field' rose this year by £340 – more umpires were formerly assessed for grading purposes.

Whilst I think a revaluation of the Training equipment is now due, for the moment it still stands at £1010 and basically covers the various equipment around the four areas.

The Training Fund, an historical accumulation of funds raised by the late Len Horton from the West Area in the days of DCU&S remains untouched and this together with our bank funds totals £5054.

There are still 18 DACO Ties left – I have some with me to sell this evening at just £7 each.

Members, I do not enjoy reporting an annual deficit, but I do hope that you will accept the reasons I have given and therefore move the approval of the 'Accounts' for the year ended 31st October 2015. My aim is to ensure that we try to operate with a small surplus in the current accounting period.

In conclusion, the accountants, Robert Loxton & Co yet again have completed their work very competently and are prepared to continue their service for the next 12 months.

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT (year end 31st October 2015)

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Members Subs Rebate (via ECB ACO)	812	828
Club Affiliations	700	740
Training & Education Course Fees	1790	640
Match Fees (County, Youth Competitions)	30	225
DACO Ties Sales	-	7
AGM Funds	-	208
Donation	-	20
Other	60	-
Total Income	3392	2668

EXPENDITURE

2012/2013 Administration Costs		119
	Postage	54
	Travel Expenses (Management Meetings)	297
	Stationery	28
	Printing & Copying	22
Administration Costs	401	453
Accountancy Fee (R Loxton & Co)	165	164
Grant to DCBYA	500	500
Trophies	5	200
Umpires – Match Fees	30	225
Umpire Travel Expenses – County Matches	39	262
DACO Training & Education Costs	2855	1050
Advertising (Banners / DCL Handbook)	489	125
Hon Life Members (subs to ECB ACO)	150	135
AGM Expenses	-	265
Umpire Assessments / Grading	515	175
ACO Conferences / External Course	206	338
DBS Fee	26	-
DACO Education (DWCL / Disability expenses)	86	-
Total Expenditure	5467	4011
	Profit / Loss	-2075

BALANCE SHEET (year end 31st October 2015)

<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Cash at Bank	2669	5006
Training Fund (Bank)	2835	2835
Prepayments	-	50
Training Equipment (at cost)	1010	1010
Stock of DACO Ties	18 126	20 141
Stock of Training Packs	330	-
Total Current Assets	6970	9042
Current Liabilities	153	150
Total Net Current Assets	6817	8892

ACCUMULATED FUND

	<i>Balance at 1st November 2013</i>	10235
Balance at 1 st November 2014	8892	
	-2075	-1343
	<i>Balance at 31st October 2014</i>	8892
Balance at 31 st October 2015	6817	

Election of Officers

The list of prospective candidates as nominated by the Management Committee and circulated with the AGM Notification is as follows:

Chairman – Andy Forward (*p: E Dymond s: B Pinhey*)
Hon Treasurer – Ken Jeffery (*p: B Pinhey s: J Shellens*)
Hon Appointments Officer – Pete Bamber (*p: N Forbes s: R Allen*)
Hon Secretary & Membership Officer – Nigel Piddock (*p: J Anning s: P Dawe*)
Hon Education Officer – Paul Dawe (*p: S Lavis s: E Daniels*)
Hon Scorer's & Welfare Officer – Nick Evanson (*p: K Jeffery s: A Forward*)
Hon Performance & Development Officer – Steve Lavis (*p: P Dawe s: B Pinhey*)
DACO Representative to the DCL – Ray Allen (*p: A Forward s: J Anning*)

With no further nominations received from 'the floor' an appropriate proposer / seconder for each candidate was sought prior to being elected.

The Treasurer's recommendation for R Loxton & Co to be appointed as Auditor was confirmed.

The position of vice-Chairman, for which there hadn't been a nomination, will be discussed and a suitable candidate appointed by the Management Committee.

The Tony Miller Award

My colleagues and I from the north of the county have broken with tradition and recommend that the recipient of the award for 2015 go to a person who is neither an Umpire or a Scorer, but, is someone who has throughout his long standing association with cricket embraced not only the Laws of the Game but most importantly of all the Spirit of Cricket.

Since beginning his playing career some 49 years ago aged 14 for a long-since departed Goodleigh CC, where he first helped cut the outfield with a scythe, cut pitches with a hand-drawn mower and rollers were something ladies wore in their hair, he moved on to play friendly cricket at Braunton and also at Pilton where he became the driving force behind their eventual merger with Barnstaple.

As a cricketer he always accepted the Umpire's decision and became a qualified coach in order to help and encourage youngsters regardless of which team they were playing for.

The consummate clubman - a builder by trade – he was ideal for helping maintain the ground and machinery, and can always be found 'up at the ground'.

As Chairman of the North Devon League he has seen it through some troubled waters.

On 19th July this year, he suffered a massive stroke and is therefore unable to attend this evening to collect the award for which there is no better, or indeed worthier recipient, and I'm sure you will all wish him well in his recuperation - Rodney Bowden.

The Aldridge White Memorial Cup

This award which was first presented in 2014 honours not only Gary Aldridge and Andy White who we sadly lost that year, but also all the officials who have left the crease and those who will leave the crease in the years to come.

The DACO Grading Sub-Committee were unanimous in their choice of Roger Tolchard as one of the top umpires in recreational cricket to receive this prestigious award again.

Nomination of Life and Honorary Membership of DACO

Ken Jeffery gave the following citation on behalf of the South Area.

In around 1985 having recently moved into the area, the local village having started up a cricket team were looking for a wicket-keeper..... Whilst turning out for Brixham Cavaliers he was often called upon to take his turn umpiring – and having enjoyed the experience he undertook the Training Course in 1990.

From that early interest he progressed to Umpire at the highest level in the recreational game and as Chairman saw the transition of the DCU&S to DACO which was a time of great upset and unrest. He was active in the ECB ACO training and education programme and also mentored several of our young 'talent'.

It wasn't until he felt his faculties were slowly waning that in 2014 he stopped umpiring, that cricketers throughout the county realise how fortunate they had been to have him umpire their matches.... the South Area would like to nominate Dave Moseby as a life-member.

This nomination was duly confirmed.

AOB

Alec Pickersgill stated that whilst the Chairman had been correct in his remarks regarding the weather during the season, it should be noted that the North Devon League had 30% of its Sunday fixtures lost to the weather.

AGM 2016

To be arranged by the East Area with date and venue to be confirmed. The membership will be notified in due course.

Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 2050hrs.

David Gabbitass, vice Chair of Somerset CCC and a member of the ECB Disciplinary Board was invited to give his presentation, which proved both witty and informative and was very well received by the members.