



DEVON ACO

DACO

Devon Association of Cricket Officials



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on Tuesday 19th January 2017 at the Exeter Court Hotel, Exeter

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

He apologised on behalf of the Management Committee for any confusion surrounding the re-scheduling of the event, but it was important that the Constitution was followed and members given appropriate notice of the 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 40 members attended.

Apologies

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

Opening Address from the President

At last year's AGM I mentioned that active panel members were declining in numbers resulting in difficulties with appointments. As you are aware we now only appoint in the top three divisions. I must congratulate Peter Bamber in the diligence he has shown in the work he does. I will still stand as a final resort but was not called upon in the last season. We need to try to attract more umpires to stand in the top three divisions.

There are many who umpire in Lower Divisions and Second X1 games who are not members of the ACO and may not have DBS Certificates. We should strive to encourage these to join ACO and have the proper clearance to stand and enjoy the benefits of membership to include insurance. This season has seen an increase in Observations and Assessments, and several members are nearing completion at their different levels with a view to progression. Final meetings will take place soon when portfolios are completed. The ECB ACO are continuing to develop programmes for assessors with Gavin Lane, Bill Pinhey and myself attending a full day course at the County Ground in Bristol along with 20 others on October 22nd. The course was led by Eddie Lunn and was very enjoyable. The aim was to standardise the process of assessment across the Country. It is rare that clubs make complaints about the officiating of umpires and it was very sad and disappointing that another complaint was made this year. As you are aware, there is no formal procedure in place to investigate such complaints. A meeting did take place and action was taken. As you are aware, there is a process in place for players or clubs who cause indiscretions, but there is no such process for umpires. I have asked the Secretary to investigate if there are systems in place in other parts of the country or if there exists a system in the ACO. I believe that we need a system to ensure that there is total transparency in the way we operate. This will demonstrate that all problems that may occur on the field of play are properly investigated and appropriate penalties applied. As a short-term solution, we could mirror the system that is used in the Devon League with some adjustments that will be relevant to umpires and not players. Any positive comments should be sent to the Secretary.

On a much happier note, Devon is well represented on the Minor Counties programme and on the D list, and our congratulations go to Phil Matten, Andy Forward, Steve Lavis and Ray Allen who

joined the list last season. Jim Anning and Roger Tolchard also operate on the D list. Nigel Piddock and Ray Allen are part way through their Level 3 Qualification. Ray was elevated to the Minor Counties Panel at the start of last season, and he and Nigel Piddock have now been selected for the Minor Counties and D List. We now have 5 on the Minor Counties List and 7 on the D list. Finally, I learnt before Christmas that Graham Curson is retiring as a Panel Umpire and returning to his club as a Club Umpire. My sincere thanks to Graham for his great service to Devon and the Minor Counties. Our loss is Whitchurch's gain, I wish him well. Many thanks for your attention.

Minutes of the previous AGM (held 17th November 2015)

A copy of the 2015 AGM Minutes had been sent to all members, acceptance of the minutes as being a true record were proposed by Bill Pinhey and seconded by Phil Mallett and unanimously agreed.

Matters Arising from those Minutes

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

Chairman's Report

Welcome to the 2016 AGM of DACO even though it is now 2017.

DACO has had a good 2016 season, the weather tried on occasion to cause problems but on the whole the number of matches or even overs lost, were quite small.

Our appointments process has gone well; with umpires being appointed to matches in the Premier, A and B division of the DCL, Women's cricket, University matches, youth and age group cricket throughout Devon, without too many hiccups! Pete Bamber and his area appointers have undertaken sterling work ensuring umpires have been present at as many games as possible throughout Devon. There was a concern regarding Women's cricket, as umpires were appointed to a number of matches throughout the season and a large number of these matches were cancelled at short notice, leaving umpires without matches, when it would have been possible to have reallocated these umpires to other matches in Devon, if we have been aware earlier. Discussions through this winter will be required to ensure umpires are appointed to matches which will be played in the 2017 season.

DACO management has met with the DCL management to discuss matters of mutual concern on two occasions. Discipline, funding for training, payment of umpire expenses and league rules were all discussed. The thorny issue of payment of expenses via WTU (Who's the Umpire), due to HMRC's ongoing interest and clubs needing to be compliant has been resolved, for the forthcoming season, umpires will need to have a receipt book, to provide clubs and umpires with a record of any payments made. There is a working group formed which will be looking at ways to get this process of payment to be done via Who's the Umpire, hopefully for the second half of the 2017 season. Rest assured the DACO management has all umpires best interests at heart.

CPD training was carried out prior to the 2016 season commencing and this largely involved the new ECBACO guidance on Ground, Weather and Light which had been formulated following the legal action which had been concluded in September 2015. This guidance was well received and the feedback I have received during the season is that this has been accepted well when GWL has caused interruptions to play. In the most part, when two qualified umpires are present at a game, there has not been an issue. More difficult for club umpires to deal with, especially when standing alone, I realise.

Recruitment does continue to be a huge problem for DACO in all areas of the county and the same problems of players continuing to play into their 70's does persist. Recruitment of umpires and scorers is a required to ensure our great game continues. Having recently attended the Regional ECBACO conference in Salisbury, this is a national problem which the ECB are well aware of and are undertaking new initiatives to ensure cricket does continue to be played and umpired.

Training of new and further training of umpires and scorers continued up to the start of the 2016 season with 20 umpires completing their Level 1 course and passing. 10 umpires completing the Level 1A and 11 umpires completing Level 2. 9 new scorers qualified at Level 1. There have been a further 9 successes on the level one umpire course this winter.

A further course is planned for level one umpires and one for scorers too, hopefully. Also a possible level two course out of county with other counties within our region.

We currently have two umpires, Ray Allen and Nigel Piddock, doing the level three qualification and 2017 should see them completing this.

I would sincerely hope we get an increase number of participants for the training; both umpires and scorers; which will be running in the closed season. The DCL are again funding this training for affiliated clubs. Please encourage interested club members, friends or acquaintances to do the training and then new umpires may be inspired to join the league panel and scorers encouraged to score for their clubs.

In regard to organization of ECBACO, the ECB are proposing to change the way we are organized throughout the country. This following big changes at the ECB themselves. The likely outcome will be with 7 regional hubs. Further details will follow when there are more firm plans. This has now been confirmed and details would have been received by members recently by email.

Again DACO has supplied umpires for higher levels of Amateur cricket in Devon and beyond, Steve Lavis, Ray Allen and myself, had appointments at MCCA matches, and Nigel Piddock had appointments for ECB fixtures. Steve Lavis, Jim Anning, Roger Tolchard, and myself stood in matches in the professional game; 2XI county, with first class and reserve list colleagues. Lin Winfield has become a level 2 scorer.

Congratulations to Ray and Nigel who have been confirmed to join both the MCCA and D list of umpires for 2017. That means Devon now has 5 members on the MCCA panel and 7 on the D list and Nick Evanson who has been appointed to score at a England U19 match in 2017.

This coming season will be last one played under the present 6th Edition of the Laws of Cricket which were rewritten in 2000. In October 2017 a new edition of the Laws of our great game will come into force and it is rumored that there will be restrictions on the size of bats, and the introduction of red and yellow cards for serious offences such as fighting and abuse. Yes in some matches fighting between players does occur! We'll have to wait to see what other changes will be in the new code.

May I take this opportunity to thank all those members on the management committee for their sterling work through the year; especially to Nigel for being our long-suffering secretary, Pete for ensuring there are umpires at all the matches, Steve for ensuring umpires are attaining the correct standard and Nick for all matters to do with scoring and welfare.

There are two of our officers who are retiring at this AGM, Paul as Education officer, and I thank him for all his hard work and I am pleased that he will be continuing as a tutor. Finally I come to the man who has looked after the money for more years than I care to remember, Ken Jeffery. I wish to personally thank you Ken and I am sure the whole of DACO would join me in thanking you for all the work you have done with our finances to ensure we always stayed in the black.

Just to finish, the 3rd test match in India, got me thinking; if one of our professional colleagues can get 10 decisions wrong and then reversed by technology, what chance do we in the amateur game have when we have to make the decision, get it right and sell it to the players without the aid of any technology! If I had that many of my decisions reversed; I think I would go and find something else to do on a Saturday afternoon. Some would say I should anyway! Maybe take up scoring?? We don't set out to make a wrong decision and neither did Kumar! I just hope technology won't ruin cricket at whatever level.

I trust the coming season will be a good one, bring blue skies and well behaved players!

Hon. Treasurer's Report

In this my final report as your Treasurer it may come as a huge relief that it is one of my briefest! There were, in mid-term concerns that another annual loss was likely, but once our representatives sitting on the Playing Rules & Regulations Committee successfully persuaded the DCL to double the annual subscription from member clubs to £20pa, at a stroke the new level of £1,400.00 enabled our Association to operate in the black.

The rest of the income reflected either the standard rebate of £4.00 for each member of the ECB ACO – a total of £804.00 or the fees from participants of the DACO courses topped up by the DCL contribution for Umpire Training of £2015.00

Looking at some of the Expenditure items, Administration costs were light mainly because some of your Management Committee chose not to recover their travel costs. The Accountant's fee was unchanged from 2015, the grant to DCB Youth Association expired in 2015 and the expenses incurred for the necessary umpire grading and assessments undertaken were surprisingly light. The £751.00 towards ACO Conferences and external Courses might raise eyebrows, but includes and concurs with Management Committee policy to support aspiring umpires towards Level 3 recognition. The large item of £3840.00 to run our own training courses and supervise subsequent examinations is of course fully covered by the income of £3985.00, as mentioned earlier. So there is an annual surplus of £748.00 which once again has taken our accumulated fund over the £7k mark to £7565.00 which includes the nominal Training Fund of £2385.00 which is an historical cash fund within the bank account.

Thanks must go to my colleagues on the Management Committee, particularly our representatives on the Devon Cricket League committees and to the organisers of the Training Courses.

The Auditor, Robert Loxton, has completed his responsibilities in his usual competent manner, and I have thanked him for his guidance over many years.

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT (year end 31st October 2016)

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Members Subs Rebate (via ECB ACO)	804	812
Club Affiliations	1400	700
Training & Education Course Fees	3985	1790
Match Fees (County, Youth Competitions)	-	30
Other	-	60
Total Income	6189	3392

EXPENDITURE

2012/2013 Administration Costs		119
Postage	29	54
Travel Expenses (Management Meetings)	221	297
Stationery	1	28
Printing & Copying	5	22
Administration Costs	256	401
Accountancy Fee (R Loxton & Co)	165	165
Grant to DCBYA	-	500
Trophies	6	5
Umpires – Match Fees	-	30
Umpire Travel Expenses – County Matches	-	39
DACO Training & Education Costs	3840	2855
DACO – Cost of Logo	38	-
Advertising (DCL Handbook/ Banners)	100	489
Hon Life Members (subs to ECB ACO)	210	150
Umpire Assessments / Grading / Appointing	75	515
ACO Conferences / External Course	751	206
DBS Fee	-	26
DACO Education (DWCL / Disability expenses)	-	86
Total Expenditure	5441	5467
Profit / Loss	748	-2075

BALANCE SHEET (year end 31st October 2016)

<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Cash at Bank	3747	2669
Training Fund (Bank)	2835	2835
Training Equipment (at cost)	1010	1010
Stock of DACO Ties	18 126	18 126
Stock of Training Packs	-	330
Total Current Assets	7718	6970
Current Liabilities	153	153
Total Net Current Assets	7565	6817

ACCUMULATED FUND

Balance at 1 st November 2015	6817	8892
Surplus / Deficit for the year	748	-2075
Balance at 31 st October 2016	7565	6817

I conclude by wishing my successor all the best for the future and a promise to assist a smooth transfer.

To the members of DACO, and previously ACU & S, thank you for your support over the past sixteen years. Overall an enjoyable term of office with a body of people I respect both on and off the field – hopefully I will remain on the field for a few more years to come to support my favourite sport and the players of all ages.

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
Vice-Chairman – Eddie Dymond
Hon Treasurer – Ian Birt
Hon Appointments Officer – Pete Bamber
Hon Secretary & Membership Officer – Nigel Piddock
Hon Education Officer – Chris Shelton
Hon Scorer's & Welfare Officer – Nick Evanson
Hon Performance & Development Officer – Steve Lavis
DACO Representative to the DCL – Ray Allen

With no further nominations received from 'the floor' it was agreed to elect the nominations as listed 'en bloc'.

The Tony Miller Award

We now come to that time in the AGM when we consider and award The Tony Miller Bequest. Before considering who we would be awarding this award for 2016 to, I wished to find out more about and the origin of the award and I spoke with various long established members of DCU & S, who have continued to be members of ECBACO after the changes around 2008.

I found out that Tony Miller bequeathed that this award was to be given to a person involved in cricket; within Devon, who has contributed to cricket in Devon; in a way which should be acknowledged and recognised; as outstanding and has made a difference. The award would be awarded annually. It was decided a few years ago that the area who host the AGM would nominate the recipient each year. Therefore it is for the East Area to have the honour this year to consider who would be the worthy recipient of this award for 2016.

The person who East Area have decided on started his journey and involvement in cricket in an East Devon club cricket club in the mid 1990's, umpiring within that club where his two sons, as young cricketers, were playing. As his offspring progressed into men's cricket, this person progressed too and undertook his formal umpiring training with the old ACU&S in early 2000's, completing his level 6, 5 and 4 qualifications in short time. This led to umpiring on the Devon League panel and he was soon umpiring in the highest level, the premier league. He continued to support his sons by travelling many miles around the country as one of his sons progressed to be playing Minor Counties cricket regularly for Devon.

This person was soon being considered by his peers and players alike as "one of the better umpires in the league" but his quiet unassuming manner meant the rightful recognition he deserved for the high standard which he continued to attain was not rewarded until the 2010 season when he was selected to be on the ECB D list of umpires; those umpires doing the 2nd XI county matches with a reserve list or first class umpire colleague. There are roughly 70 umpires in the country on this list. If it wasn't for age; this person would have been selected to be on the Minor Counties list too. It was me that was fortunate enough, being slightly younger, to get that position.

This person has continued to umpire, and will continue in the 2107 season, at this top level in both the amateur and professional game and is an avid supporter of Devon cricket still. This person has umpired in Indoor National competitions at the later stages and other ECB competitions, again at the latter stages, an acknowledgment of the quality and standard of this person's umpiring and experience. This person has also taken on observing of more junior umpires wishing to progress and advance and also has been a member of the DACO Management committee for many years. It is with the greatest pleasure that I present the Tony Miller Bequest for 2016 to Jim Anning.

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 all the officials who have left the crease and those that will leave the crease in the years to come.

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

Nomination of Life and Honorary Membership of DACO

Whilst the AGM 'host area' are entitled to propose Life and Honorary Membership of DACO, the East Area Chairman, Andy Forward, declared that there were no such proposals from the West Area for 2016.

AOB

Dennis Smith (South Area Secretary) suggested that Nick Evanson be congratulated on his appointment as scorer for the England u19 v India u19 international at Taunton in August.

PRESENTATIONS

Ray Allen made a presentation of engraved glassware to firstly, Ken Jeffery, as a token of gratitude from the membership for his long-standing service as Honorary Treasurer to the Association, and then to Di Wadsworth who, not only assisted husband John during his long tenure as Appointments Secretary but acted as scorer for many years, has decided the time has come to 'hang up her pens' and take a long deserved rest.

AGM 2017

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

Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 2030hrs.