

WARWICKSHIRE CRICKET UMPIRES AND SCORERS ASSOCIATION

March 2011



Newsletter

UMPIRE GRADINGS

Gradings have been completed and returned to ECB ACO. Expect to receive your grading soon!

Membership Renewals

Are due now. Those who haven't paid/sent their completed forms, please contact David Paxton ASAP. david-paxton@tiscali.co.uk
This year's subscription Fees are:

- Employed - £13
- Un-Employed - £9
- Social Membership - £5

Reminder to join ACO. Members will benefit from insurance, and we get £4 back (WCUSA). ACO membership essential for umpiring in Premier League cricket, and anyone who wants to be considered for ECB appointments must also be a member.

Please Click on ink below:

<http://www.ecb.co.uk/ecb/ecb-association-of-cricket-officials/ecb-association-of-cricket-officials,1381,BP.html>

Non League Fixtures

A list of available fixtures will be circulated by David Ludlow as soon as they are received from the Warwickshire Cricket Board, but likely at the end of March.

Special Request

Please give us accurate and up to date email addresses, as that is primary means of communication.

CRB's

Dont forget to check your CRB is up to date,

Contact Ghazan to get details of where you can get your Application Forms certified.

giawan@hotmail.com

Umpiring Courses

Level 1 course is now running, but anyone looking to get on the next Level 1 should speak to John Jameson. johnjameson240@talktalk.net
There will be a level 1a course in April for anyone who has passed a level 1 in the last few years. Get in touch with John Jameson.

Anyone on the Level 2 course, who needs an Assessment, should contact John Bates. john.bates7@ntlworld.com

We are looking to run a Level 2C course, if possible before the season starts, else in the Autumn. This will be suitable for anyone who wishes to progress or refresh their skills, but is not eligible for an ACO run Level 2 course because they have a GL5 or higher pass from ACU&S. More details to follow, please check the web site.

New Laws Refresher Course

Will be held at Solihull Municipal
On 22 March at 7.30pm

This Newsletter

Please email any contributions to
Mansoor.Qureshi@umpire.com



A Tribute to
Geoff Appleton
Coventry's No. 1



By: David Paxton

Known in cricketing circles locally as Coventry's No. 1, Geoff Appleton was the person to whom everyone turned for umpiring advice, support and information. After a fine playing career, he became the City's most respected umpire, who progressed from officiating at local games to standing at County 2nd X1 matches alongside Test umpires.

Geoff was a genial person, liked by all who met him. He always had a tale to tell or an anecdote from his many experiences "at the crease".

In his younger days, Geoff played soccer to a good standard at local level for his work's team at BTH and previously for Canley Social Club following his National Service. He always played in goal and became a popular member of his team. In his later years he transferred his allegiance to rugby football and supported Coventry Rugby Club. During the '80s and '90s, he could usually be found with friends at one end of the "cowshed" at the old Coundon Road ground. Following the Club's move to new premises at the Butts Arena, Geoff chose his favourite seat and it was there that he would always watch the games, sitting with his granddaughter and a group of cricket umpires. The sad happenings on the pitch were lightened by Geoff's humour and dry observations of poor play and bad discipline, although he never criticised the referee, (I wonder why?).

Geoff Appleton will always be remembered by umpires in the Coventry area for his 20 years of dedicated service as Secretary of the Coventry & District Umpires Association. An incident in July of 2001 of physical assault on a local umpire was leniently dealt with by the Warwickshire Cricket League and this attracted much publicity in the local press. On behalf of the Committee, Geoff spent many hours collecting evidence, writing letters and dealing with telephone calls leading to an Appeal, which ultimately resulted in an increased suspension being imposed on the culprit.

Another notable aspect of Geoff's enthusiasm for cricket was the annual winter training courses which he organised for local umpires. He explained and illustrated the Laws to numerous new umpires who then passed the examinations, whilst older members attended the Tuesday evenings from January to March knowing they were ideal refresher courses as well as friendly social occasions. Geoff was then invited to arrange and run courses in the Birmingham area and became the head instructor for the County Associations. One of the sayings for which he will always be remembered was a piece of advice which he gave to all umpires. At the time of a dispute or heated confrontation on the pitch, Geoff would always urge umpires to "make sure you are standing at square leg".

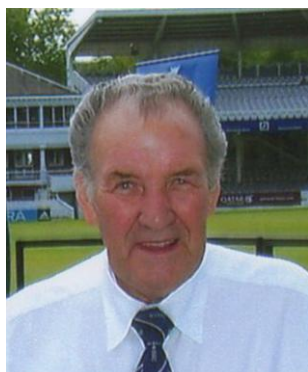
A measure of Geoff's popularity throughout Warwickshire and beyond was shown by the large number of friends and colleagues who attended his funeral in September of 2010. Many tributes were paid to his achievements and years of service, including Appointments Secretary to the Birmingham and District Premier Cricket League. He would have approved of the event which followed at Coventry and Warwickshire Cricket Club when so many friends joined his family to "celebrate" his life with recollections of happy occasions and shared good humour.

Much more could be written about this fine servant to our wonderful game and, as the new season approaches, it is difficult to accept that he will not be there on Saturday afternoons, watching cricket at one of our local league grounds with his very supportive wife, Jean.

A 2 minute interview with

Trevor Cotton

By: Ian Warner



When did you start umpiring?

Started umpiring as a player at Walsall Pheonix CC. In a league there was only one umpire, batting side had to provide an umpire at square leg. I would ask captain to put me down at 9 or 10 for batting, so that I could go and umpire. Should the batting go well, I would umpire for the whole innings.

What made you want to be an umpire?

As mentioned above, due to my love for umpiring, I went on an Umpiring Course in 1984 at Wolverhampton, and then started umpiring in Wolverhampton League. I did well and enjoyed it, so went on more courses. I passed ACUS exams and later became an instructor. In 1985 I was awarded the Kitson Rose Bowl for the best marks, and then invited to join the Birmingham League.

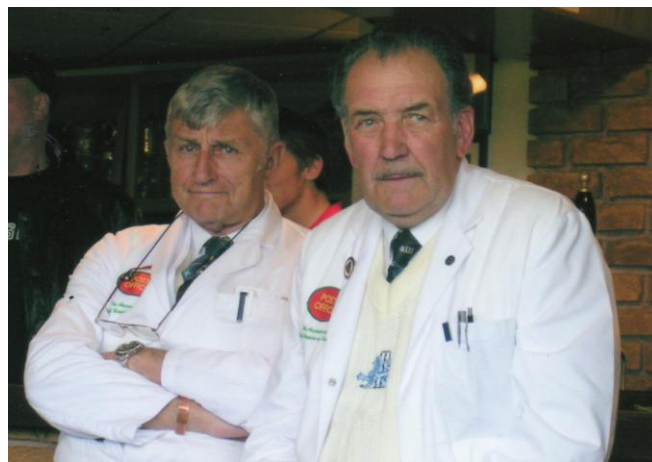
What was your own cricketing history?

I played for Walsall Pheonix CC for about 14 years and enjoyed it very much until my hands started to suffer, being a wicket keeper I had to hang the gloves up.



Biggest influence on your umpiring career?

When I joined Birmingham League, every Saturday was a big game. All teams had ex pro's, test players and contracted players from Warwickshire and Worcestershire CCC. I was very much out of my league as an umpire but I was helped all the way by Peter Stevens, John Potts, Brian Walley. I was taught the etiquette of cricket and field craft with all the umpires in the league. They were very helpful and taught me never to be overawed by the test players and Pro's, treat the players with respect and umpire the game with complete impartiality.



Biggest match you have umpired ?

I was a member of the MCCC&SA, now Warwicks U&SA. I was put on Warwickshire CCC's panel and did Under 17s & U19s and 2nd XI games. I also did semi final of Cocksbur Cup.

I treat every match with same intensity and focus to the best of my ability, and enjoy it.

Other Sporting interests

Just Cricket. Watch any level from Park's games to County level.

Other general interests

Gardening. I grow fuchsia's and dahlia's.

Favourite Food

Roast Beef and all trimings with nice glass of red wine.

Favourite Cricketer

Alan Knott and Ian Botham.



A CLOSE ENCOUNTER..

Special Article

By: John Nash

On Friday morning, 22nd October, 13 players from the Worcestershire U17 squad, with Dave Banks (Smethwick CC) as coach, scorer Roger Wilkes (Persore CC Chairman), Ken Horden and John Nash (Umpires) plus a few parents and supporters, boarded a Virgin 747 at Gatwick, our destination being St. Lucia in the Caribbean for a short tour. With the intention being to return home on Monday 1st November. Unfortunately matters did not quite work out as planned.



The five scheduled matches took place almost as planned, captain Jack Biddulph (Wolverhampton) commenced his outrageous sequence of winning five consecutive tosses. With the Worcs youngsters winning four of those five games. The first three games being played on their very modern test match arena. The full England side had played and beaten the West Indies there on their 2009 W.I. tour.

The 2nd game played there at the request of the West Indies played under their excellent floodlights, with the initial intention being a 20/20 game with a 7:00 pm start. Prior to the game, we had been advised that there was going to be a form of welcoming ceremony in honour of the newly appointed West Indies captain, Darren Sammy, the very first to have captained the West Indies full side from St. Lucia.

Prime Minister, Stephenson King was the first of many other ministers and notorious to speak at length to wish Darren and his side their wishes on their forthcoming tour to Sri Lanka. Even Darren's mother was reluctantly requested to 'sing sons' praises.

Eventually the game was able to commence at 8:28 pm, (with it being reduced to 15 overs each side) and finally concluded at 10:38 pm. It was an excellent game, with Worcs U17 defeating St. Lucia's U19's by 17 runs, and I can truthfully add that it was certainly the first and will probably be the last time to be umpiring beneath virtually a full moon!

The remainder of the playing part of the tour went relatively smoothly. Other than during the fourth match at Grosislet CC with the St. Lucian's batting with their skipper, scoring almost at will, with some lusty hits clearing the boundary fence on two or three occasions. Ken Horden and I deemed it was advisable to have a 'drinks break' for 10/15 minutes whilst a lengthy funeral procession made its way through the adjoining cemetery.

On the following day (Friday), the Worcs lads suffered their only defeat. Quite a number were dearly showing signs of fatigue, particularly the bowlers, understandably really, having played five games in six days, in temperatures reaching 31°C at times.



Saturday, 30th October had planned to be a day of rest on the beach – with a barbeque etc, and on Sunday evening we were due to commence our journey home, arriving at Gatwick airport at 5:30 pm on Monday. HOWEVER hurricane Tomas soon put paid to all that. Tomas was graded category 1 – I certainly wouldn't relish experiencing any higher grade. We are advised that this was the 1st Hurricane that St Lucia had encountered for 15 years.

On the Saturday morning just prior to mid-day, with the rain progressively getting heavier and winds becoming more threatening (we were advised speeds up to 100 mph). With the damage it was causing, suddenly we had no power, no

water, air conditioning or T.V., curtains were closed. With it being impossible to venture out and with no T.V. or news, most of us decided to retire for the night and personally I was very surprised that when I woke on Sunday morning the weather was much the same as the previous evening; however it gradually eased off and eventually stopped. Power was not restored until Sunday evening. ‘What a relief to get a shower.’

On Monday morning news of the devastation began to be known, with the Prime Minister announcing that to travel any distance from North to South would be impossible for probably two or three weeks. With the International Airport in the South, guess where we were staying? – 20 miles away in the North. Initially it appeared that we were in for a much longer break than anticipated. The following morning, Tuesday, breakfast was somewhat restricted, either scrambled eggs or jam on dry bread, we did learn a little later that our favourite coffee shop was back in business. Then suddenly, around 3:00 pm, a message came through that if we could all meet by 3:30 we could get on an internal flight at 4:00, as the

international Airport was now open, with a flight out at 9:00. We believe that prompted the quickest packing of suitcases on record. The 4:00 pm flight (internal) turned out to (depart) at 7:00 pm, and the 9:00 pm turned out to (depart) at 11:00 pm.

All arrived at Gatwick at 10:30 am on Wednesday, 3rd and all back in the Midlands by mid afternoon. What can only be described as a memorable tour.



Important Dates for your Diary

Date	Venue	Guest Speaker / Format
15 February 2011	Moseley Suite, Edgbaston	Dougie Brown, WCCC
15 March 2011	Standard Social Club, Coventry	TBC
19 April 2011	Moseley Suite, Edgbaston	Glyn Pearson, ECB ACO National Training Manager.
17 May 2011	Moseley Suite, Edgbaston	TBC
21 June 2011	Moseley Suite, Edgbaston	TBC
19 July 2011		No meeting - Day at the Cricket on 20 July. Ch'ship Day 1. Ticket Details to follow
16 August 2011	Moseley Suite, Edgbaston	
<i>Watch this space. News of an extra special event to follow soon. Date of meeting in August may change to accommodate special guest.</i>		
20 September 2011	Moseley Suite, Edgbaston	TBC
18 October 2011	Standard Social Club, Coventry	TBC
15 November 2011	Moseley Suite, Edgbaston	End of year review

All Meetings will commence at 7.45pm

If anyone has any suggestions for guest speakers for our meetings, please forward ideas to Mark Gumbley by email at mark.gumbley@sky.com or telephone 07702 525699.