

THE WEST SURREY UMPIRE

Life Membership Awards

WSACU&S Awards for Jenny Woodage and Graham Cooper

Life Membership is the highest honour awarded by the Association. It certainly doesn't happen often but, when two awards happen at the same AGM, it really is an occasion to remember.

At the occasion of the 2010 Annual General Meeting, held at Womersley CC on 10 February, the members unanimously approved a proposal by Graham Payne and wholly endorsed by the Executive Committee, that the Association should award Life Membership to Jenny Woodage and Graham Cooper in recognition of their outstanding contributions to WSACU&S over a great number of years.

Jenny has been a cricket Scorer for more years than ... well, quite some time. Her scoring was, in those early days, mainly associated with husband, Trevor's weekend Village club and later on with his mid-week Company side. After qualifying, she officiated in high level games. Perhaps her most notable was at the U15 World Cup when she scored several games for Pakistan.

Her first encounter with WSACU&S was to attend a Scorer Training Course led by Tim Bryers back in 1992. The course, under the auspices of ACU was held in Brookwood in a small room at the rear



of the Social Club in Connaught Road. After passing the ACU exam, Jenny became a Qualified Scorer member of WSACU&S in October of that year & has championed the cause of scorers ever since.

In 1998, Jenny was elected Honorary Treasurer of WSACU&S following the resignation of Jim Long who had held that position for many years. During her 11 years as Hon. Treasurer, Jenny saw many changes to both the National & Local ACU&S structure but remained a member of both organisations until the demise of ACU&S & rise of ECB ACO some 3 years ago. This, perhaps together with other personal commitments, led her to resign the position at the WSACU&S AGM in February 2009 but not before persuading Vernon Fal-lows to be her successor.

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Surrey Championship Match Fee Increase



The Surrey Championship Umpires' Panel has recently petitioned the League Executive for an increase in match fees.

The Chairman, Jeremy Beckwith, gave a presentation to the Executive and participating clubs were lobbied. Support was forthcoming for a motion, to be put before the Championship AGM, that the average match fee be raised to £40 with annual indexation to annual average earnings.

A consequent amendment, tabled by the Executive, offered an increase equal to an average of £36.

A subsequent ballot of registered, panel umpires accepted this offer. Voting returns, by 84% of the umpires, were 33 for, 22 against and 3 abstentions.

The clubs which were supporting the £40 bid have been thanked for their support and asked to withdraw the motion.

In the 2010 season, umpires standing at Premier Division matches will receive £38; Division 1, £36; Divisions 2 and 3, £35. Annual indexation, for future years, is included in the new match fee agreement.

TRAINING NEWS - NEW SCORER AND UMPIRE LEVEL 1 COURSES

It's been a busy year already and March has only just arrived. Our Level 1 Umpires' Course is now complete and the exam is on 04 March. The Course required lots of training preparation for Mike and Trevor. Nonetheless, it was a committed, lively and responsive class which, Trevor and Mike agreed, made it all the easier for them both and also so worthwhile.

Trevor adds, "It has been very encouraging to see several of our senior, qualified members

coming along to support us and also using it as a refresher course for the new season, soon to begin".

Robbie Burns starts his Level 1 Scorers' Course on 10 March and there are already 11 students enrolled.

Last year, WSACU&S ran a Level 1A pilot course, designed by Graham Cooper and supported by sterling work on graphics and animations from Mike Brunavs, which ECB ACO is now adopting. It is truly rewarding to see our Association members gain well deserved recognition on the national stage.





Guildford Cricket Club - part 2

The First of a Feature Series on Cricket in West Surrey

In part 1, we looked at the very origins of cricket in Guildford - perhaps England - the establishment of Guildford CC and its growth to the early 1970s. In this, the concluding part of our visit to the Club, we chart its progress after its first Surrey Championship title in 1972 and its vision for the future.

1977 was a significant milestone for the Club with the arrival of Brian Ruby to form a new Colts section upon which the future could be built. Young players began to form a new core of talent and, whilst Andy Collier produced a new Championship record of 183 against Honor Oak in 1983, the 1st XI continued to struggle at the bottom of the league as the talented, but inexperienced, youngsters were not yet attuned to this level of cricket.



**Club Chairman
Neil Snowball**

The following year, Charles Woodhouse returned as captain, helped by former Surrey CCC player, Graham Roope, lifting the side up the table; Martin Bicknell also made his debut for the 1st XI, at the age of 15. Another Flora Doris win followed in 1985 and 1986 saw Guildford win the National Indoor 6-a-side final at Lord's, the same year that Martin Bicknell made his first class debut for Surrey CCC at The Oval and Tim Walter assumed the captaincy of the 1st XI.

Tim Walter led the 1st XI to victory in the Surrey Championship of 1987 as promotion and relegation are introduced. Darren Bicknell joined his brother at Surrey and made his debut, alongside him, against Warwickshire; Ashley Giles made his first team debut for Guildford, aged 14.



In 1988, Nick Peters became the third Guildford player, in as many seasons, to make his first class debut for Surrey. Darren Bicknell beat Andy Collier's record with 188* against Old Whitgiftians and as Woodbridge Road celebrated 50 years of first class cricket, retiring groundsman, Norman Pratt, was awarded the BEM.

1990 saw the Club finish runner-up in the Championship and in '92, Mark Lane took over the captaincy. The following year, Mark took the team to 3rd slot in the Championship whilst Martin Bicknell made his Test debut, for England

against Australia, at Headingley; Ashley Giles made his first class debut for Warwickshire.

2000 had Tim Walter back at the helm and, in 2001, he led the team to victory in the Premier Division, snatching the title from Banstead through a win over Sunbury with only 6 minutes left on the clock; this was the first time the club had gone top all season. 2001 was also the year in which Sri Lankan all-rounder, Carman Mapatuna joined Guildford, forming a fine spin partnership with Noel Brett. For the record buffs, Guildford went on to win the Flora Doris, beating Normandy in the final, the first time this "double" was achieved.

More for the record buffs in 2003 as six brothers - Darren and Martin Bicknell, Dean and Ross Skidmore, Andy and Simon Hollingsworth - all appear for Guildford in their Premier Division match against Malden Wanderers at Woodbridge Road.



Six of the Best

Guildford won that encounter despite having to chase a mighty 375.

Elsewhere, Martin Bicknell returned to the England side after 10 years and, alongside Giles, played a pivotal role, helping England draw the series against South Africa in a tumultuous victory at the Oval.

In 2004, for the first time, since league cricket was formed in Surrey, Guildford dropped from the top division, but another Flora Doris victory brought some comfort. The following year, Tim Walter returned as captain and ensured a return to the Premier Division by leading the team to the First Division title. Meanwhile, Ashley Giles was in form for his country as England reclaimed the Ashes with its first series win over Australia since 1986-87.



**1st XI Coach
Bill Clutterbuck**

Darren and Martin both retired from first class cricket in 2006 and, in 2007, Tim Walter stepped down, for the third and - he claimed - final time, as captain. Giles was forced to retire from first class cricket because of a hip injury.

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IN THE NEXT ISSUE

The first of a series of opinion forming interviews with leading Surrey match officials begins in the March issue. Where better to start than with our own President, Roland Woods. Roland allows us glimpse into his many years in cricket both as a player as well as an umpire.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARDS FOR JENNY WOODAGE & GRAHAM COOPER *continued from page 1*

It's worth mentioning that Jenny first met Vernon when she scored a Surrey Championship game that was being umpired by both Vernon & Trevor. In chasing a total of around 260, the home side lost 3 quick wickets, then decided to block out the rest of the game in a way that neither umpires or scorers had ever seen before. The result was that, for the rest of the innings of nearly two and a half hours, not another run was scored off the bat. How the scorer, or for that matter the umpires, stayed awake we'll never know.

Graham's Cooper's main influence within WSACU&S has been as a Trainer and Training Officer - roles at which he excelled for some 18 years. However, at the AGM of 2009 he decided that his work with ECC and his increasing involvement as Education Officer within SCB ACO meant that he no longer had the quality time to devote to WSACU&S.

Following some initial excursions into umpire training in 1986 under the watchful eye of Brian Pearce in W. Sussex, he and Graham Payne took on the roles of Training Officer and Training Secretary for WSACU&S in 1987. For a few years, WSACU&S Umpire training was at Lanesborough School in Guildford. About 20 years ago, the training moved to Old Woking CC where it has remained ever since.

Amongst the 244 people Graham has trained, until and including 2004, are some notable WSACU&S members. Graham Jackson (revision course) 1986, Keith Greenwood and David Shrimpton 1987, Graham Strudwick 1990, Stuart Croucher 1991, Trevor Burton 1992, Barrie Stuart-King 1993, Roger Croft 1996. There are, of course, many more.

Between 2005 and 2008 Graham trained a further 138 students (GL6, GL5/Intermediate courses), but without his long-term colleague and friend, Graham Payne, who retired in 2004. Many more have benefited from the Umpire Clinics that he designed, administered and taught for clubs and leagues within and outside Surrey.

As well as being briefly involved with training trainers some 10 or 11 years ago at the request of Sheila Hill, Graham has also been the main influence in the design and preparation of course materials for both Umpire and Scorer Training for ACU&S, ECB ACO and others. Much of his course design work was adopted by these organisations for use nation wide but perhaps his most notable claim to fame in recent years has been his joint authorship of Tom Smith's Cricket Umpiring & Scoring.

In short, many of us in our Association and in Surrey, as a whole, owe him a great deal.

GUILDFORD CRICKET CLUB ... *continued from page 2*

In 2008, under the club's new captain, Julian Hare, the 1st XI finished seventh in the Premier Division. Mark Lane, who had returned to the club, was appointed as manager of England Women and old rivals, Normandy were beaten in another thrilling Flora Doris final.

Today, the Club has approximately 60 adult players (including students), around 200 juniors, some 40 Ladies (including Girls' squads) and some 300 social members and parents of juniors.



**1st XI Captain
Richie Bowers**

It runs four XI's on Saturdays, one on Sundays. Academy (U-21) and Development (U-18) XI's have a considerable amount of T20 mid-week cricket and a large number of junior teams from U-8 to U-17. The Ladies Section has League,

Academy and U-15 and U-13 fixtures.

Guildford Cricket Club's objective is to promote, organise and encourage amateur cricket of the highest standard in the Guildford area. The Club exists to foster community participation and membership is open to all. The development of young cricketers and elite players is central to what the Club is about.

The Cricket Committee has set the following goals for the 2010 season:

- 1st XI to challenge for the Surrey Championship Premier Division title.
- 2nd XI to secure promotion from the Surrey Championship Division One.
- 3rd XI to make an impact in the Surrey Championship 3rd XI Premier League.
- 4th XI to challenge for promotion from the Surrey Championship 4th XI West Division, which we enter for the first time in 2010.
- Academy U-21 XI to qualify for the Zonal Play-off in the Surrey Trust League.

- Development U-18 XI to qualify for the Zonal Play-off in the STL Development League, which we enter for the first time in 2010.
- Junior XI's to win at least two age groups in the Berkeley Sports Two Counties Youth Cricket League.
- Ladies XI to secure promotion from National Division Two.
- Girls U-13 and U-15 teams to reach the Lady Taverners' Regional Final stages.
- At least six players to be selected for Surrey representative teams at the various age groups.

That's a challenging set of targets, but with enthusiasm, drive and determination which is evident in both the players and management team, it's likely to be where the smart money is to be found.

A final thanks to Guildford CC for allowing WSACU&S access to the Club, its records and, of course, for its assistance in the preparation of this article.

MARCH MEETING



The 10th of March is the date for the Monthly Meeting. It will be held at Wonerh CC commencing, as usual, commencing 8 p.m.. Members are reminded that Graham Jackson's talk on the Fuller's Surrey Cricket League, postponed from January due to the appalling weather, has been rescheduled for March.



ASSOCIATION BUSINESS COMMITTEE MATTERS

Subsequent to Laura Murphy's resignation from the Executive Committee as the Scorer Member, Heather Dean offered to take on the role and attended the January committee meeting at which she agreed to be co-opted prior to standing for election at the AGM.

That this post has now been filled is very good news for the Association and we welcome Heather who brings further enthusiasm to the team.

The 2010 AGM confirmed the election of the following officers:

- Steve Hodge, Chairman
- Anthony Blondell, Vice Chairman
- Dale Corstorphine, Secretary
- Vernon Fallows, Treasurer
- Trevor Woodage, Training Officer
- Trevor Woodage, SCB ACO Rep
- Heather Dean, Scorer Member
- Jim Jenkinson, Welfare Officer
- Mike Brunavs, Webmaster
- John Rowbotham, Member

WEBSITE

The layout and content of the WSACU&S website was discussed at the Executive Committee Meeting in January.

A working party has been established to consider the technical issues and proposed format of the improvement project. Proposals will be presented at the July meeting for approval.

So, repeating our message in the December issue, now is the time to make your views, opinions and suggestions known to either the Webmaster or Secretary.

The website is our primary communications tool with the world at large. It provides reference material,

interaction and information about the Association.

It is, therefore, very important that we get it right and that it properly serves its purpose in support of our Members and promoting the Association to the wider community.

NEWSLETTER

There still remains the matter of the newsletter's title and there's still a bottle of wine for the winning suggestion!

Remember, the title has to stand out, be short and succinct. Whilst the current title fits the bill, we know that there is some concern about our choice; it is your newsletter and, if you can produce a title which meets the criteria, above, we will gladly use it.

2010 SUBSCRIPTIONS

Annual subscriptions became due on 01 January. If you have not already paid, please do so now, without further delay.

Subs are not payable by Life Members or by Student Umpires/Scorers enrolled in current closed season Training Courses.

The 2010 subs remain, unchanged, at £4.50 and may be paid, either at our monthly meeting, or by cheque, payable to WSACU&S and mailed to the Treasurer, Vernon Fallows, at 43 Grayswood Drive, Mytchett, Camberley, Surrey, GU16 6AP.

PAVILION NOTICE BOARD

Scorer Wanted

Guildford CC requires a scorer for its 2nd XI, newly promoted to Division 1 of the Surrey Championship.

If you are interested or require further information, contact Tim Walter, Cricket Chairman, at timothywalter@hotmail.com or on 07882 054111.

About the Notice Board

Should you wish to post something here, an advert, something to sell, or buy, just let the Secretary know at:

wsacuands.secretary@ntlworld.com or

Dale Corstorphine

14 High Beeches

Frimley

GU16 8UG

☎ 01276 501300

Diary Dates

10 March 2010

Monthly Meeting. This month we welcome Graham Jackson, as our guest speaker.

10 March 2010

Scorer Level 1 Course starts 7.30 p.m. at Old Woking (Remnants) CC. See the website for further details.

22 March 2010

SCB ACO AGM at 7.30 p.m., Ashstead CC.

14 April 2010

Monthly Meeting. Pre-season Q&A from our Training Team, Trevor Woodage, Mike Brunavs and Robbie Burns.

25 April 2010

Surrey Championship Umpires' Pre-Season Meeting. Details to be confirmed.

From the Striker's End

McDonnell Cup 2007



The British Army's Sergeants Major have something of a reputation, some may say deservedly so, for having a candid and uncompromising way of communicating displeasure.

So it was with my colleague at one semi-final of the Royal Artillery's inter unit cup. The opening bowler, at his end, employed a run-up of over 40 yards. He had some trouble with front foot faults and had twice followed through into the protected area.

With great patience and restraint, the bowler was advised that to stray into the protected area was causing avoidable damage to the pitch and was unfair play.

The fourth delivery of the over saw a third transgression which brought about the most novel, informal warning that I've ever heard.

"**Bowler!** What are **YOU** doing on **MY** pitch?", he roared - it was ear shattering, as well as rhetorical - "The only person what's allowed on **MY** pitch is God and the only reason that He's allowed is 'cause I cannot see Him! **GET OFF!!!**"

There were no more incursions ... by anyone.

(Dale Corstorphine)

