

West Surrey ACU&S website news archive

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Umpiring in the West Indies

Blondell and Hunte tell of their Caribbean experiences



At our April meeting, West Surrey umpires Michael Hunte and Anthony Blondell entertained the Association with stories of umpiring in the Caribbean. Anthony has spent many winters officiating in the West Indies, but Michael's trip in March 2016 was his first, getting thrown in at the deep end when he found himself standing the day after he arrived in a match played on a hessian mat with chalk markings for creases! Both gents had a roller-coaster ride of emotions during their trip, varying between great fun and extreme frustration with players and authorities, but it was an adventure not to be missed.

Association business transacted

AGM in February



Anthony Blondell stood down as Chairman at the AGM and was succeeded by Mike Brunavs. Bob Woodward succeeded Vernon Fallows as Treasurer. The Association in general and the new incumbents in particular thanked the departing officers for their service to West Surrey ACU&S. The meeting received the officers' reports, and the financial statement was approved.

First-class umpiring duo provided festive fun

Bainton and Bodenham were back during December



Neil and Martin were with us again just before Christmas describing their activities during 2015, which was Martin's last season as a professional umpire. Martin told us how much he was looking forward to keeping his hand in with Sussex Martlets and MCC matches during 2016, as well as potentially working with emerging pro umpires. Potential changes that came under discussion were protective equipment for umpires, where they should stand to stay safe at the bowler's end and regional appointments to cut travelling and tiredness.

No website entries were made about the monthly meetings in March and April 2015 as the Webmaster was absent during this period.

Association business transacted

AGM in February



The most important decision taken at the AGM was to reduce the number of social meetings each winter to just two, in addition to the AGM, and to halt the provision of catering at those meetings, starting from the 2015/16 closed season. This was agreed in response to declining meeting attendance and the need to maintain a financial cushion in case of the breakage/loss of the Association's training/IT equipment.

Ex first-class cricketer shares his love of the game

Batty bashes winter blues away



When you meet Jonathan Batty the first thing that strikes you is his enthusiasm for cricket. As a youngster he wanted nothing more than to play or read about the game. He recalled regret at not getting the opportunity to play with his father more, but was grateful for a generous umpiring decision which allowed his first class career to take off. He recounted stories from the Surrey changing room when the county were in their pomp in recent years, and feels that the Oval is close to getting back to those glory days. An inspirational evening thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended.

First-class umpiring duo provide festive fun

Bainton and Bodenham back in town



The association enjoyed yet another fantastic meeting in the company of Neil Bainton and Martin Bodenham this December. Our favourite First Class Umpires were, as usual, in very fine form. They made sure that we were never short of laughs - mostly at their own expense! A good Q&A session, during which technical and fieldcraft issues were explored, ended a richly rewarding evening.

Championship umpire shared her cricketing memories

Janet Rogers spreads the word about women in cricket



In November, we learned that Janet Rogers, one of only two female umpires on the Surrey Championship Panel, has had a wide variety of experiences in cricket, ranging from smashing a terracotta pot in her back garden with a well-timed cover drive as a girl to the Vice-Presidency of Nottinghamshire CCC. On moving south Janet joined the Championship panel, and recently participated in a Hawkeye session with England Women at Lord's where the *players* took a turn. Subsequent analysis of the decisions left them with a much greater awareness of the skill of the umpire.

Major film and TV star lit up our first 2014-2015 meeting

Actor and cricket enthusiast Colin Salmon kicked off the season



Colin Salmon is one of Britain's most well-known actors. In October he joined us and touched briefly on his career, but mainly he shared his passion for cricket and his determination to help youngsters who wouldn't otherwise get to experience the game take up the sport. To this end, Colin has played a central role in the creation of Cage Cricket (cagecricket.com), a format played in a box which can be erected anywhere, is being enjoyed nationwide and is teaching kids life skills into the bargain. He even finished the evening with a song!

Surrey Cricket Board officer let us know how things are shaping up for 2014

Richard Hall talks coaching and development



Based at the Kia Oval, our April speaker, Richard Hall, is often out-and-about handling such diverse matters as coach education and club development, working with SCB ACO and the SCB Groundsmens' Association to name but two. He has played cricket in Surrey for many years, notably with Egham and Sunbury. Richard outlined his work to ensure the highest standards of coaching and player development, helping to make Surrey Cricket the best in the country.

Committee member stepped in to provide March talk

Benson forced to cancel; Woodage spoke about India



Our original speaker for 11th March, Justin Benson of King Edward's School, Witley, was compelled to pull out at the last moment, leaving the committee in the unenviable position of potentially cancelling a second meeting this season. To ensure this didn't happen, Trevor Woodage stepped in to provide the evening's entertainment in Justin's stead, focussing on his and his wife Jen's travels in India. Friends and partners joined the usual attendees to hear about this fascinating experience.

Cut-and-paste document linked below

Tom Smith's update inserts available



Outgoing Training Officer Trevor Woodage has compiled a cut-and-paste document of inserts to glue or staple into your copy of Tom Smith's Cricket Umpiring and Scoring (4th Edition). The Laws of Cricket changed in October 2013, but at the time of writing there are no plans to re-issue 'Tom Smith'. The inserts allow umpires and scorers to bring their reference book up-to-date, and the document with easy-to-follow instructions can be accessed from the Links page of the website.

Association business conducted speedily

AGM held



The Association's AGM for the year of 2013 was held on February 11th. After several years at the helm, Trevor Woodage stepped down as Training Officer and Mike Brunavs was elected to replace him. The Association passed its heartfelt thanks to the outgoing TO. Alterations to the Rules necessitated by ongoing changes to the Association's working environment were passed by a healthy number of attendees, who enjoyed a presentation regarding the recent changes to the Laws of the game once the main business was concluded.

Lack of speaker availability prevents get-together

January's monthly meeting has been cancelled



Unfortunately the committee has taken the decision to cancel the January meeting. This was not done lightly, as the Association has always met monthly as far back as can be remembered. On this occasion though, no speakers that the committee tried (and there were several) were available on the night in question. The committee apologises for this and looks forward to getting back on track for the AGM in February and the meetings beyond.

First class umpires returned with food for thought

B & B were back for Christmas



Martin Bodenham and Neil Bainton joined us again in December. A range of topics were discussed, including changes to the 2014 county t20 competition which require new batsmen to get to the crease within 60 seconds. Player management and the need for good umpire teamwork, particularly when all of the action is at one end, came up and the trial-by-television that some colleagues endured in 2013, by pundits with access to multiple slo-mo replays from all angles, was deplored unanimously by the audience. There was a lot to get the teeth into in another successful visit by our two friends.

This entry was revised on 20th January 2014 due to inaccuracies in the original. The Association offers its sincere apologies for any embarrassment caused.

ECB ACO Senior Executive Officer visited in November

The view from Lord's



Nick Cousins, Senior Executive Officer of ECB ACO, returned to visit West Surrey ACU&S during November to update the Association on the progress the national body has made since its inception at the end of 2007, and to give a flavour of the directions it might head in the future. Amongst several ideas, Nick opined that Premiership and other senior umpires in the recreational game should attend refresher courses at least once every two years; a proposal that met that general approval amongst our members.

Ex-West Surrey trainer explained his ICC role on the continent

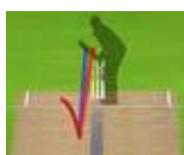
Our man in Europe



Ex-West Surrey Training Officer Graham Cooper has moved on to take his expertise in the training of cricket umpires overseas, visiting and participating in training and matches across Europe. In October 2013, Graham gave us a fascinating breakdown of his work, how he got there, and what he hopes to achieve next. He spoke with great pride about the achievements our European colleagues have made, officiating in international matches across the continent. His is truly a connection that our Association can be proud of!

Skills put to the test

West Surrey ACU&S re-visited Hawkeye



Ten umpires from the association visited Lord's at the end of April 2013 to challenge themselves against the Hawkeye ball-tracking technology. In our first two sessions held last winter, the number of correct LBW decisions was very high, with a large margin proving to be direct hits and many of the remainder out or not out on the 'Umpire's Call'. This year's class did even better!

Surrey Cricket Board commitment to improvement

Hards talks Cricket Development in Surrey



Simon Hards joined us on Tuesday April 9th 2013 and explained what his current role with Surrey Cricket Board as the SCB Cricket Development Manager entails; the role includes Volunteers, Coach Education and Club Development in the Kingston, Merton and Guildford areas of the County. In addition, Simon has a specific responsibility for Officials and demonstrates this commitment through his strong, working relationship with SCB ACO.

A view from the scoreboard(es)

Polly Rhodes is an Ambassador for Scorers



Linda "Polly" Rhodes, who joined us for our March meeting, is a Scorer of some repute. She has officiated in an awesome array of matches, both home and abroad, including Western Province CC v Royal Marines CC (Cape Town); MCC v Royal Air Force CC (Lord's) ... plus Women's International Twenty20, English First Class, English County 2nd XI, ECB Premier League. The list goes on and on. Polly gave us a fascinating insight into how she made that happen, and the part she is playing in helping others to make the most of their scoring opportunities.

Reminiscences of a retiring Surrey Championship umpire

Bob McLeod took centre stage in January 2013



Bob McLeod retired at the end of last season from the Surrey Championship Umpires' Panel, of which he was a founding member and past Chairman. In recognition of his contribution to cricket, he received the 2012 Officials Award at the Surrey OSCA event and won the national Shepherd-Frindall Award for "Outstanding Services to Umpiring", presented by Sir Michael Parkinson and Harold "Dickie" Bird, at the 2012 ECB ACO Conference. He joined us in 2004 when Chairman of the Panel. Unsurprisingly, Bob provided some solid views on the way local cricket has developed over the last few decades.

First class umpires reviewed their year

B & B were back for Christmas 2012



Martin Bodenham and Neil Bainton joined us at Guildford Cricket Club on Tuesday December 11th, providing us with more absorbing and hilarious insight into the lives of umpires as they managed the players, the travelling, the rain and Sky TV during 2012. In addition, they related some interesting conundrums which arose in their games during last season and invited the audience for their views. Just how do you handle a bowler consistently breaking the non-striker's wicket, for instance?

Tales from HQ

Lord's scorer Andy Scarlett joined us in November



In addition to operating the scoreboards at Lord's, our November speaker Andy Scarlett fulfils many roles within the recreational game. He is a qualified Umpire as well as Scorer, Oxfordshire ACO Treasurer and Scorers Officer, ECB ACO Regional Scorer Officer (South & West), ECB ACO Education Committee (Scorer Scorer Sub Committee) and MCC Young Cricketers Scorer. He has scored at least 3 test matches (all at Lord's) and has done a bunch of First Class, Twenty20 and MCC YP v County 2nd XI games.

Basketball referee and cricket umpire discussed what it takes

Mark Ennis opens the 2012-2013 meetings season



Mark began officiating as a basketball referee, is a regular on the British Basketball League circuit - the highest level of the professional game in this country - and has refereed many matches which have been televised on Sky Sports. He is also a cricket umpire, beginning in his native Berkshire and now in stands in the Home Counties Premier Cricket League. Mark also officiated in the 2012 MCC Universities T20 Competition and the LV Women's County Championship. On October 9th 2012 at Guildford CC (7.30 for 8pm) he spoke about the synergy between his roles in basketball and cricket, touched on current behaviour and ethics and ended with what he believes to be the key skills in being a good and consistent official. He didn't toe the party line and provided plenty of food for thought.

Skills put to the test

West Surrey ACU&S visited Hawkeye



Twenty umpires from the association visited Lord's at the beginning of May 2012, in two separate sessions, to challenge themselves against the Hawkeye ball-tracking technology. The number of correct LBW decisions was very high, with a large margin proving to be direct hits and many of the remainder out or not out on the 'Umpire's Call'. Thanks to Mike Brunavs and Antony Blondell for acting as the "pad patsies" facing the bowling machine on the two evenings. WSACU&S hopes to repeat the exercise in 2013.

Good pass rate for umpires' class of 2012

Successes at Level 1



Great news! 14 students in this year's Level 1 class (pictured: Level 1 Umpires' class 2012) secured passes in the examination at the end of the course, and are now taking to the field (in between the downpours) as qualified umpires. Good luck, colleagues, and we look forward to welcoming you back to the Level 1A course in the autumn!

Top scorer met the Association in April 2012

Lesley Morgan rounds off the 2011-2012 monthly meetings



Lesley Morgan, a senior scorer with Wiltshire county cricket, Combined Services and Andover CC, joined us at 8pm on Tuesday 10th April. Lesley described her scoring career, from an almost accidental beginning to the highest level, and the significant contributions she has made to training. This topic gave rise to some strong and healthy debate, as we have come to expect at West Surrey.

Veteran England fast bowler visited in March 2012

Chris Old transfixed West Surrey ACU&S



One of the heroes of England's astonishing victory over Australia in 1981, Chris Old visited the Association on 13th March at Guildford CC. Fantastic though that victory was, Chris cited the Centenary Tests of 1977 and 1980 as his most memorable games. And few argued with his contention that bowling at Barry Richards, Garry Sobers, Mike Procter and the like made the 1970 games against the Rest of the World XI Test matches too.

February 2012 - Business concluded

West Surrey AGM in February

On Tuesday February 7th the Association held its Annual General Meeting, completed in record time despite a late start due to gridlock in Guildford! The minutes will be posted on the site as soon as they are produced.

Umpires' class of 2011 extend their skills; newcomers welcomed

Fresh successes for the Training team



Great news! Of the 2011 Level 1 Umpires intake, eight returned to study further at the Level 1A course during the autumn of last year. Of these eight, seven opted to undertake the professional discussion assessment at the end of the course and all seven passed. Trevor and Mike have just started the 2012 Level 1 Umpires' course, with a full class of 18 (pictured: Level 1 Umpires' class 2012). Welcome to the Association, colleagues!

Multi-talented international cricketer kicked off West Surrey's New Year

Test player and Ireland coach Phil Simmons visited in January 2012



Phil Simmons joined us at Guildford Cricket Club on Tuesday January 10th. Phil recounted stories of his astonishing record as a cricketer, appearing in 26 Tests and 143 ODIs for the West Indies. He remembered his time with Leicestershire during two County Championship winning efforts, and of course, gave us an insight into the life of an international coach gained through his work with Ireland. Having beaten England at the World Cup in March last year, the Irish now have Australia in their sights!

Umpiring duo returned in December 2011

Bodenham and Bainton provide their usual Christmas cheer!



Martin Bodenham and Neil Bainton joined us once again at Guildford Cricket Club on Tuesday December 13th, taking us on a rollercoaster ride through their 2011 season. As always, it was a fascinating and often hilarious trip through their experiences around the county and international circuit.

Gongs galore at the ECB ACO November 2011 conference

More Awards for West Surrey members

At the October 2011 ECB ACO Conference Graham Cooper and David Edwards were awarded Honorary Life Membership of the ECB ACO "in recognition of their outstanding contribution to officiating over many years". Trevor Woodage was awarded the Shepherd-Frindall Award in the "Behind the Scenes" Category for all his work in the training field, to put alongside the Surrey OSCA he won in August. But the mystery remained: who nominated him? Nobody at West Surrey ACU&S seemed in this particular loop!



An outstanding career in English cricket

Trevor Jesty visited West Surrey in November 2011



Trevor Jesty joined us on Tuesday November 8th, and outlined an amazing career in cricket, both as a player and as an umpire. Entering the game at the age of nine, Trevor enjoyed great success as a First Class cricketing all-rounder, scoring 35 centuries and 110 fifties, and taking 585 wickets, in a playing career spanning 25 years with Hampshire, Surrey and Lancashire. He also won ten one-day international caps for England. He recently umpired in what he termed "the biggest game of my career", the 2011 Clydesdale Bank 40 Final between Somerset and Surrey.

Representation at Lord's function, October 2011

Trevor Woodage attends National OSCA ceremony



Having won the Surrey OSCA for Cricket Officials back in August, Trevor Woodage's name was put forward for the national award in the same category in a ceremony at Lord's on 17th October. Alas, he did not make the final shortlist in the face of "so many deserving recipients", to use Trevor's own words.

Nonetheless, our Training Officer says he was "proud to represent Surrey Cricket Umpires/Scorers in general and WSACU&S in particular" in the company of Test players and senior administrators and personalities across the English game.

Fascinating insights, October 2011

Chris Harrison proposes umpires train with players



Chris Harrison, professional Level 3 coach at Hampton School and Walton-on-Thames CC, spoke to the Association on Tuesday October 11th. In addition to attempting to convince the membership that surely sometimes he was not out LBW when given, he proposed that umpires might usefully hone their skills prior to the start of the cricket season by training with players in the nets, taking advantage of video camera technology.

West Surrey veteran remembered, September 2011

David Le Shirley passes away



It is with deep regret that the Association announced the sad news that David Le Shirley died on Tuesday, 27 September 2011, aged 90. David was one of our oldest and most respected members: a fantastic supporter of Youth Cricket in Surrey, maintaining his enthusiasm long after his active umpiring days were over. He will be sadly missed by his colleagues. David's funeral was held at Cranleigh Parish Church on Monday, 10th October, at 11am.

Put your skills to the test

West Surrey ACU&S to visit Hawkeye



The Association is promoting a subsidised training session, at Lord's, with Hawkeye in April 2012. Whilst primarily aimed at our Level 1 and Level 1A students, participation is potentially available to all our members, providing we can acquire sufficient access to the facilities at Lord's. Each session can accommodate ten people. If you are interested, please let the Secretary know ...

but unfortunately we cannot offer this opportunity to anyone who is not a fully paid-up member of West Surrey ACU&S.

Competition time

Fancy International Cricket in 2012?



Over the course of our winter meetings in 2011-2012, one free entry to a Draw will be received by each member for every meeting attended. The prizes? Two pairs of tickets, probably one for Lord's and the other for The Oval, depending upon availability. So there are seats to be had at all the action as the world's current Number One Team takes on South Africa, Australia and West Indies next season!

Due recognition

Trevor Woodage wins 2011 Surrey Officiating OSCA



In early August West Surrey's Training Officer, Trevor Woodage, was a successful nomination for a Surrey 'Outstanding Service to Cricket Award' (OSCA). Colin Wilson, at Croydon, and Stuart Croucher, at Farnham, were also nominated. As a consequence, Trevor has been put forward for a National OSCA. The selections will occur at Lord's during October 2011. Please join the committee in congratulating Trevor on this deserved recognition.

West Surrey umpire hits new heights, May 2011

Vernon Fallows makes his county 2nd XI debut



Congratulations to Vernon Fallows as he made his well deserved debut as a County 2nd XI Umpire at Reigate Priory CC in the Surrey v Gloucs match on 4, 5 and 6 May 2011. His colleague was Gregory Braithwaite, an Exchange Umpire, from the West Indies' First Class List. A memorable match for both and more than a few tough lbw calls but excellent decisions from both umpires.