

NEWSLETTER

Dear Members,

Another year end nears and after an unseasonably mild November the winter weather is stating to appear. It won't be long until a new year starts and the 2012 cricket season will seem that much closer.

There is much to report since the last newsletter issued in October. Our AGM was held at the beginning of November and the minutes can be found at the end of this newsletter. Paul Baldwin gave another entertaining talk including about the travails of the third umpire. I would like to welcome Phil Sherlock as our new Treasurer who has taken over from Peter Turner. Phil was able to join myself and the Chairman, Steve Hodge, for an enjoyable dinner out with Peter to thank him for his hard work over the years.

We ran a successful ECB Level 1A Umpires Course and thanks again to the training team (Jeremy Beckwith, John Moulton and John Smith for their help) and also to Graham Cooper (the SCB ACO Education Officer) who helped us out.

We still have places on our forthcoming ECB Level 1 Scorers Course at Ashted CC on Saturday 7 and 14 January. This is principally aimed at scorers but it is open to umpires who wish to gain an insight into life in the scoreboard. We will be running an ECB Level 1 Umpires Course in late February/early March (see details right).

The latest installment of the Cheeseman papers is also featured in this newsletter together with news, from John Moulton, about the archiving of Leslie's papers at the MCC Library at Lord's.

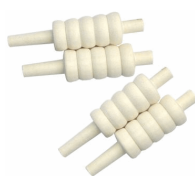
There is also a review of the recent national ECB ACO conference attended by Andrew Elliott which includes great news about local umpires being honoured (see within).

Please note that subscriptions for ESCUSA were due on 1 October 2011, so if you haven't yet paid your £5 please post to me (cheques made payable to ESCUSA please).

Finally, I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and the best of luck in 2012

John Flatley

Secretary & Webmaster ESCUSA



Dates for your diary

13 December 2011

ECB First Class Umpires, Martin Bodenham and Neil Bainton, are the Guest speakers at a meeting being held by West Surrey ACU&S at 8pm in Guildford CC. Members from neighbouring associations are welcome to attend.

7 and 14 January 2012

ECB Level 1 Scorers course at Ashted CC. To book a place please contact John Flatley, via email on training@escusa.org.uk or by phone on 0208 941 2049.

10 January 2012

Phil Simmons, the Ireland Coach and ex-Leicestershire and West Indies player is the Guest speaker at a meeting being held by West Surrey ACU&S at 8pm in Guildford CC. Members from neighbouring associations are welcome to attend.

25 February and 3 March 2012

Level 1 ECB Umpires course at Reigate Grammar School. To book a place please contact John Flatley, via email on training@escusa.org.uk or by phone on 0208 941 2049.

13 March 2012

Chris Old, the ex-Yorkshire and England player is the Guest speaker at a meeting being held by West Surrey ACU&S at 8pm in Guildford CC. Members from neighbouring associations are welcome to attend.

19 March 2012

SCB ACO Annual General Meeting at 7.30pm at Ashted CC.

26 March 2012 (provisional)

Hawkeye session at Lord's Indoor School from 7pm-9pm. There will be ten places available with priority given to those members who have recently completed their Level 1A assessments. Price will be £15 per head.

REVIEW OF ECB ACO ANNUAL CONFERENCE BY ANDREW ELLIOTT

Three out of forty tables were taken up by Surrey based officials at the third annual conference of the ECB ACO staged at The Nursery Pavilion, Lord's Saturday 19th November 2011.

Delegates were treated initially to complementary ACO merchandise including a shoulder bag, a key fob and an A4 notepad, all showing off the smart association logo.

many would have given the batsman out and I only spotted three hands raised in the room (two of which, I am delighted to report, were Surrey umpires). In a televisual twist the batsman was then removed from the footage and replaced by left handed Simon Katich shown to be shouldering arms and padding up. At this point virtually everyone in the room gave

long. Others took advantage of the unbroken sunshine emanating from over the old pavilion on a day when one got the feeling that, but for a bit of dew, play would have been more than possible on the hallowed turf.

The after-lunch speaker was former semi-professional Premier Division Rugby Assistant Referee David Kurk who entertained us with a stand-up routine of great skill.

Sixteen honorary life memberships of the ECB ACO were next awarded, the recipients of which included **Surrey's Graham Cooper and David Edwards** 'in recognition of our outstanding contribution to officiating over many years'. **They are pictured left on either side of Trevor Woodage** (West Surrey) who was awarded the Shepherd-Frindall Award in the 'Behind the Scenes' Category for all his work in the training field.

The next speaker on stage was professional psychologist **Raj Persaud** with a presentation entitled The Psychology of Officiating. His first message appeared to be 'Rumination is good in moderation' which he followed up by explaining how to be perceived as devastatingly attractive on a first date, involving disagreeing with everything the other person says in the first part of the date then later switching to agree with everything. Is this perhaps a technique to use out in the middle if making a mistake early in the match??



After the business of the AGM had been dealt with, the co-founder and **Managing Director of Hawkeye, Steve Carter** took to the stage. Following a reasonably technical introduction, the highlight of the presentation was a number of video clips showing lbw appeals and, in particular, a ball delivered from over the wicket by a leg spinner to a right hander. The ball pitched approximately middle and leg and offered to straighten, subsequently striking the batsman while half forward roughly in line with leg stump and the wicketkeeper positioning his gloves well outside the line of the batsman's pads. Steve asked for a show of hands as to how

Katich out even though it was the same delivery. Hawkeye then suggested that the ball would have hit the original leg stump flush; a clear case to take all three stumps into consideration when deliberating!

Of additional interest was a quote from Michael Atherton when expressing the opinion that, since the advent of Hawkeye, the wicket has become shorter but wider in the perception of the umpire.

A good buffet lunch was then enjoyed which allowed the members to socialise, network and peruse stands such as Fearnley's where the bargains were plentiful and the queue

The next part of Raj's presentation involved a challenge to watch a short video and count the number of times that the players wearing white passed the basketball. Mainly due to a large amount of trickery in Raj's lengthy preamble, around three quarters of the room failed to spot someone in a gorilla suit walk across the video and beat their chest towards the camera, your correspondent included.

The following video, involving two female colleagues talking in a canteen, contained nine deliberate visual editing errors which few in the room picked up on. Finally, on the theme of selective seeing, a video was shown of hidden-camera footage demonstrating an unknowing pedestrian giving directions to a planted actor. Two men carrying a door walk between the two men with the door hiding their faces from the pedestrian. As they walk past, the actor swaps places with another actor carrying the door and the new man carries on receiving the

directions from the pedestrian holding the map. In this instance, and in around fifty percent of the occasions when the experiment was carried out, the pedestrians failed to notice that they weren't talking to the same person but instead concentrated on the directions.

The last talk of the afternoon was given by FIFA World Cup Final 2010 referee

Howard Webb who started officiating at the age of seventeen when his father, also a referee, pointed out that he wasn't going to play as a professional. He is now forty and spoke about his pathway to the top but concentrated mainly on the six weeks that he was in South Africa as one of the panel of officials. Hidden camera footage was shown of him celebrating an England goal despite the fact that their progress to the final would have prevented Howard from being eligible for it. On the day of his appointment to the final he received four hundred congratulatory texts and by the

day of the match this number had swelled to 1,200 plus a thousand emails all of which he replied to, costing the FA nearly £3,000. Howard went on to describe the pressure of the final including the number of yellow cards (thirteen) and sending off the Dutch player John Hetinga, a decision described by commentators as unavoidable but which led to Howard being booed by the Netherlands supporters at the presentation ceremony.

A very enjoyable day was rounded off by a **question-and-answers session compèred very wittily by David Kurk and involving Howard Webb, Richard Kettleborough and two-code official Martin Bodenham.**



HONOURS BOARD

Congratulations to the following ESCUSA members who have recently been accredited by the ECB ACO as Level IA Umpires:

- Ali Abbas Baquiri
- Matthew Davis
- David Fawcett
- Ian Foulds
- Mark Goldstein
- Chris Henderson
- Digby Hunt
- Angus Nichols
- Nur Pavel
- Jonathan Thurkettle
- Paul Witney
- Bill Wood
- David Yandell.



HISTORICAL ARCHIVES DEPOSITED AT LORD'S

On the morning of 5th December, Leslie Cheeseman and myself set off to the MCC Library at Lord's. We carried two heavy cases each containing a minute book from the now defunct ACU (later ACU&S). Leslie was a long-standing member of this organisation which dissolved into a new official's organisation set up by the ECB.

The ACU was truly a world-wide organisation – the first that tried to improve the general standards of umpiring and to represent umpires as a body. The first secretary of the ACU was Tom Smith, but Leslie followed him in 1970 when Tom became involved in re-writing the Laws for the 1980 update (front foot no balls et al). So all the documentation of this important Association passed to Leslie. From it, and from his own extensive experience, Leslie has painstakingly produced a History of the ACU, which is being published chapter by chapter with these newsletters. A copy of this work on CD was also given to the Library.



We were very well received at the Library and the books and CD were duly passed over (Leslie is pictured left presenting the archives to Emma, from the MCC library).

Although we tend not to think of things that happened within living memory as “History”, these items are now safely archived and we are glad that future Historians of the game will have them at their disposal when they will become a valuable primary resource.

I know that Leslie was very pleased at this outcome and

that we both greatly enjoyed our visit.

John Moulton (Vice-Chairman)

CAPTION COMPETITION



“One of the students fails to see the point of the signaling practice during the recent Level 1A training course”

Submitted in the absence of others by John Flatley.

THE CHEESEMAN PAPERS - PART 4

TOM SMITH'S CRUSADE CONTINUES APACE - ITS STRIDES LENGTHEN BUT THE GRADIENT BECOMES STEEPER.

(Includes: Ken McCanlis's thoughts on Education & Training; elementary faults of umpires; the influence of Frank Dolman, "Mr Cricket"; "Nompere" & Insignia arrive; Recruitment accelerates; a Library for ACU; a welcome to Canadian Tourists; Outdoor demonstrations; Frank Chester reminisces; "The Poet", Alex Skelding, also remembers; Meet Mr President; financial concerns; the first Lady Member; the first Founder Member to die; One's 'Partner' now a 'Colleague'; revised Rules for ACU; Frank Lee elected Vice-President; Centenarian member Joe Filleston, feted in BBC TV programme: "This is your Life"; 26 Overseas Associations now affiliated; The proposed textbook: "Cricket. Umpiring and Scoring" now with the publisher; Bob Howkins appointed as first Registration & Despatch Officer; ACU Membership now numbers 1,000; abuse to Law 42 – altering the condition of the ball; "Swing" & "Swerve" explained; in public, Frank Chester deploras the growth of aggressive over-appealing.)

One year after the impressive inauguration of ACU, the 1954 Spring issue of "How's That!" contained a remarkable article written by Vice-President, Ken McCanlis in which he outlined his thoughts on Training. With the hindsight that comes with the passage of later years, nearly half a century later, it is now quite clear that the thoughts of this outstanding tutor – a Head teacher from Bedford, appointed to the list of 'First-Class' umpires – were very much ahead of his time.

He believed that umpires should take full advantage of any form of improved technology that might become available which were designed to improve practical umpiring standards. What he advocated, in 1954, was the use of specially edited shots of cine-film which could be used for the altruistic purpose of improving umpires' assessment of LBW appeals.

His cine-film technique was, to all intents, very similar to the use of repetitive slow-motion television playbacks (later used for the first time in the 1990s, which became anathema to so many unfortunate officials in the public eye). The original emphasis of the technology was, sadly, the Television commentators' apparent motive to illustrate denigrating criticism of the undoubted fallibility of individual umpires in reaching some hair-line decisions. However, this attitude has, happily, long since been corrected to confirm that the vast majority of many difficult 'instantaneous' decisions of competent umpires have been proved to be correct.

Because the McCanlis article was ahead of its time, it has considerable historical value and thus deserves repetition here, if only to illustrate the wealth of talent and foresight that was available to members of ACU, even in its earliest days, from at least one member of its Training and Education Committee. The article published was as follows: "Thoughts on Training of Umpires" by K. McCanlis: "I have been very interested in the recent Examination Paper set by the Association of Cricket Umpires for those wishing to

obtain the status of Full Membership. It was a very good paper and should be a very good test of a candidate's knowledge of the Laws of Cricket. But, a matter which has been exercising the minds of many, is to devise a method whereby one can help to teach the practical side of umpiring.

Few books of cricket instruction even mention umpiring, let alone make any attempt at teaching. Even the MCC Cricket Coaching Book, excellent though it is, fails to mention umpiring, in spite of its importance to the conduct and progress of the game. There are many excellent instructional films available for demonstrating the techniques of bowling, batting and fielding; so why not one for showing the problems which confront umpires in a game?

The medium of films, or television, would be a most suitable and desirable method of demonstration. For example, some readers of this article may have read my articles in "The Cricketer" describing a demonstration, with strings, in a practice net, to show the problems of the LBW Law. Now, the main drawback to such a demonstration is the limitation of the number of umpiring candidates who, at one time, can be in the best position for viewing. But with a film of the subject, the camera could be placed just where an umpire should stand and the resulting pictures could be viewed by scores of people at one sitting, and see as the camera "saw".



Furthermore, it would be of great benefit to be able to see a “slow motion” shot, which would give more time to study the problems with a “live” batsman. After the actual pictures had been taken, the film could be “stopped” at a point where the ball is seen to have pitched, thus the viewers can clearly see the exact spot. Then the film can be continued until the showing of the ball coming into contact with the batsman, and here again it could be “stopped”. Then if the two “stops” could be superimposed, the viewers could see the exact line of travel between pitching and the impact.

Now, readers - Let’s have your comment on these thoughts!”

The same issue of the Newsletter also included a somewhat cynical appraisal of signals given by some umpires at that time. It read: “Make a point of watching the technique of the umpires – where and how they stand and, particularly, their signals. In a few cases the umpires obviously must have a private code, as their signals are original to say the least of it. Two or three, especially the “player-umpires” at times appear to be troubled by insects buzzing round their heads or were, perhaps, trying to attract the attention of a friend.”

The article then quoted the approved code of signaling between the umpires and scorers before concluding: “A person undertaking the duties of an umpire may be able to improve on the Code, but he should resist the temptation to show his ingenuity, for no one will know what his signals mean. If the approved Code is carried out, cases of disagreement as regards the scores and the results of matches should not occur.”

This is but one example of attempts made by ACU to improve umpires’ education at that time with helpful editorial comments made on aspects of Cricket Law and Field Technique appearing in successive issues of the Association’s Newsletter, “How’s That”, pending the publication of the first edition of the proposed manual/textbook, “Cricket Umpiring and Scoring”. A second motivating note in Issue No 3 had this to say on “Appeals”:

“ If your answer is ‘out’, say so and give the approved signal. If your verdict is “not out”, say so equally, loudly and clearly. Do not nod or shake your head. Words, in this case speak louder than action. Use your lungs and make yourself clear.”

Although not a Founder member of ACU, Frank Dolman, MBE, a past President and now Secretary of the Club Cricket Conference, joined ACU and qualified in 1954 as a Full Member in his own right. He was enthusiastic in support of its ideals and was soon elected as a valuable member of both the Education and Training Committee and the Examination Board, to be followed by being honoured as an Association Vice-President. This award was unsurprising in view of his devotion and support to all aspects of the game over his lifetime.

Although not literally born into cricket, Frank was initiated to the game at a very early age, having been carried to matches in his father’s kit bag! From this humble beginning, he progressed to become one of the best known and highly respected figures in the world of Club Cricket. The same father who invented this novel form of transport for his

small son was the Captain of Ifield Cricket Club (long since given way to the periphery of the sprawling “new town” of Crawley, Sussex) and from the age of 10, Frank is said to have accompanied members of this Club in a horse-brake.

He played for his School XI (Collyer’s at Horsham) before moving on to London in 1921 to enter the School for Architects at the London Polytechnic and at the same time, he joined the Cricket Club of the same name. He played at its ground in Chiswick on Saturday afternoons having already appeared for his school in the mornings!

His enthusiasm for the game extended into all his waking hours and his outstanding quality was his capacity to give loyal and devoted service to the bodies (such as ACU) with which he became associated. His membership with the Polytechnic CC lasted 70 years. He played in its first XI from 1921-1954, during which time he participated in three double-century open partnerships, consistently made runs and also took more than five wickets on a number of occasions.

Forced by the onset of the fast bowler’s legacy – arthritis of the hips - he was forced to give up playing in 1954 when he joined ACU and continued to service his club as a regular umpire for the next fifteen years, a role he fulfilled with dignity and efficiency. If any man was entitled to the appellation of “Mr Cricket”, it had to be Frank Dolman whose entire life revolved around the game he served so faithfully and competently in so many ways.



As a personal member of MCC and, mindful of his long-standing connections with the Club Cricket Conference, he was considered by the former body to be in a unique position from which to appreciate the invaluable service that could be rendered to Cricket by the formation of a specific Umpires' Association. As such, he responded to MCC's invitation to submit a considered report, informing that, in his opinion, ACU was THE Association (over all other competing organisations at that time) that had the greatest potential to become representative of umpires nationally and one that should be most capable of improving standards and competence overall.

As a result, from that point on, ACU warranted and was given the fullest recognition and support by MCC. Further, the backing of ACU by the CCC Executive (inspired by Frank Dolman) was a major influence in the future recruitment to the Association in its formative years. Now that he had become an active Vice-President of ACU, with personal participation, particularly within its Education, Training and Examination remits, plus the fact that, at this time, he was also honoured to be President of the National Club Cricket Association (which he represented at meetings of the National Cricket Association and, very soon after, in addition, the Cricket Council). His sage views were highly respected and it was of considerable help to ACU General Secretary, Tom Smith, to have had such a staunch ally giving verbal support of ACU policy at these meetings where the major decisions for the

future well-being of Cricket were being made.

During the early part of the Association's second year, Tom Smith had been thinking of a suitable design for an Association Badge. He eventually came to the conclusion that a combination of a 'wise' owl plus balance scales might be appropriate. Having arranged for a drawing to be made, it was now a question of finding a suitable wording for the scroll.

Tom had heard the President use the word "Nomper" at an early meeting and recognised it at once as being an old friend, because he had come across it many years before during some research work. After further investigation, he had found that the word had its origins from 'Olde Middle Englishe' which came into use circa 1362. He found, too, that the word "Nompere" was the original form of "Umpire" and, in meaning, it corresponded exactly with the French word "Nomper" which translates to "Peerless"; "non-equal"; "Odd man above all". In usage over the years, "Nompere" subsequently developed into "Numpire" and as even further time went on the 'n' disappeared, leaving "umpire". In short, in the sense that we know it now, it came into use about 1714.

Euphoric with his discoveries, Tom put the design and scroll to the President, Douglas Jardine, for scrutiny and he, too, was delighted, as indeed was the Executive Committee which agreed to its adoption. Understandably, as Founder, Tom was modestly very pleased at being the cause of the resurrection of this curious old word which was well over 600 years old; not only of

resurrecting it but of seeing it still in symbolic use on the scroll of the Association Badge.

This had its first public showing on the Masthead of Newsletter Issue No. 6 and appeared (with slight artistic modification) on every subsequent issue, as well as on Association headed notepaper.

With a design now approved to represent the official Association Badge, orders could now be placed for the first items of Association insignia and soon, neckties at twelve shillings and sixpence and woven badges at seven shillings and sixpence became available to purchase by Full members through the good offices of Len Martin at his men's outfitters shop at 75, Orsett Road, Grays, Essex, to complement the umpires' white coats that had also been on offer at 21 shillings each from the commencement of the previous season (1954).

In the event of anyone relinquishing membership of the Association, it was considered mandatory for insignia to be submitted for buying back at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

The very modest profit from the sale of these items represented a very small beginning to what was later to become a major source of income supplementing members' subscriptions and to swell the credit side of the Hon Treasurer's annual Balance Sheet. Initially, Douglas Field took over the distribution of these items in addition to his work of assisting Tom Smith with the administration involving the introduction of new members.



The very rapid growth in membership and development of the Association that had been evident in its first year continued apace into the second term. Indeed, in less than eighteen months, the original set of Rules of the Association had already been outdated significantly. John Stewart volunteered to undertake the main work of this draft revision. The main thrust of this update was to provide for the direct affiliation of local bodies (many of whom had been established long before the formation of ACU itself) and the policy of encouraging the formation of newly created local bodies, where none existed previously, was now pursued in earnest.

The concept of an Association Library took a major stride forward when Frank Warwick answered an appeal for a voluntary Librarian that had appeared in an early issue of the Newsletter. As it would be sometime before the Association might be able to fund the purchase of new publications, many books would be needed to make this Library a worthwhile one, so an appeal was launched for any unwanted volumes that might have accumulated dust on home bookshelves of individual members that would be of interest and service to others to be donated.

Whilst any and all books on Cricket would be most welcome, especially gladly received would be those dealing with the History and Laws of the game and how they had evolved and developed. It was hoped that eventually the library would become unique in comprising a complete collection of books on the History of Cricket generally. It was further

opined that umpires and players would become better performers in their individual spheres for knowing and understanding the roots from which the great game had grown. It may well be that the Library would always have to be self-supporting, with the individual lender reimbursing the Association for the cost of postages, both outward and return.

The 22 July 1954 saw a second joint venture with the Cricket Society when both organisations acted as host to the Canadian Touring Team at the Shaftesbury Hotel, London. One hundred and fifty people attended this dinner, with Mr Douglas Jardine taking the Chair and proposing the toast to "Our Guests", with the response coming from Lord Tweedsmuir. Tom Smith remembered, particularly, a fine after-dinner speech made by Mr D.J. Knight, the famous Surrey and England Cricketer. A few weeks later, the Association played a return match on Cricket Law and History of the game against the Cricket Society which was keen to take its revenge for its earlier defeat. This, the Umpires lost by 42 points to 32. (They were not so well informed on Cricket History!).

As the summer of 1954 progressed, several outdoor demonstrations were arranged throughout the country and, once again, Geoffrey Staniford was busy ensuring that action photographs of these activities appeared regularly in the sporting columns of the national Press. One such demonstration took place at the BBC Sports Ground, Motspur Park, when John Stewart co-ordinated a well-attended practical consideration of LBW training. The thanks of

the Association for obtaining the facilities of this very fine ground were due to Mr Leo Bennett. By now, John Stewart had also taken over as Chairman of the Association from H.E. Robinson who had found the pressure of his business and private life too much for his continuance in office.

A few weeks later, the Autumn season of meetings commenced with a well attended (250) lecture on the technicalities of several Laws given by Vice-President Frank Chester, with Portland House as the venue. His lecture was enlivened by many humorous and interesting personal reminiscences and it was astonishing to learn that he had been officiating in First-Class County Cricket for 34 years – what a wealth of experience! His address quoted pertinent passages from his book to be published by the Times Publishing Company: "The MCC 1787-1937" and included such anecdotal gems as:

"I thought I knew all about Cricket until I started umpiring" said a former England player to me once. "Then I found that I was only half as knowledgeable as I thought I was. Theory alone is not enough. Other necessary qualifications are sound health – for the mental and physical strains are greater than is commonly realised."

".....in each of the matches, the umpires always 'lose the toss', except when it rains. They are the first to arrive on the field and the last to leave it. They get no rest except during the intervals – unlike the players, who may spend a whole day in the pavilion."



“.....and, an umpire cannot afford to make many mistakes. If a batsman makes a mistake, it may be called ‘bad luck’. When an umpire makes a mistake, it is a bad decision and, as such, it is marked against him”

“.....The most difficult decision to make, in my opinion, is an appeal for a catch on the leg-side when the ball is near the batsman’s body and his bat, pads and gloves are all tucked up together. Next to that comes a close run-out.”

“The new LBW Law (1947) has increased the umpires’ difficulties considerably. Personally, I give the batsman out only when he plays back. I do not consider that the new Law has improved off-side play. It has undoubtedly helped the bowler.”

“Last Summer, many decisions were called upon for on the ground of bad light. This is always one of the most trying questions with which an umpire is faced – even worse than a wet wicket. We can do something to dry a wet wicket, but we cannot yet control the light, even to oblige the spectators.....”

“.....I was young when I began as an umpire – so young that when I arrived at the ground at Northampton, the gatekeeper asked if I was a player. When I said: “No. I am an umpire”, he replied “You’ve come to the wrong ground. This is a first-class match”. (He is still on duty there, and we enjoy a laugh over it whenever we meet again!.)”

Perhaps Frank Chester’s most controversial decision, from which he could not be moved, occurred in a Test Match at Trent Bridge when a ball from Ramadhin hit Douglas Insole’s pads before going on to break the wicket. Frank insisted that he

made his decision of “out”, LBW, in the brief time before the ball had reached the wicket and that his determined method of dismissal should therefore prevail.

It is quite clear that, having reached his decision, he regarded the ball as being “dead” at that time and before the ball had reached the stumps. How Frank contrived to pronounce “out” before the ball had travelled on to reach the stumps is equally difficult for most observers to imagine, but he was generally regarded as the most sagacious, reliable and quickest umpire of his time and history has confirmed that his remarkable decision was correct under the, then, prevailing Law and was duly respected. However, a little bit of Cricket history (which still remains a factual recording of events in the score book) was therefore made by Frank Chester with this decision, for very soon after, MCC added a note in clarification to Law 34, that in such circumstances, a batsman will be considered as being “out, bowled” beyond dispute.

Certainly, Sir Donald Bradman regarded Frank Chester as “the greatest umpire under whom I played”. Mr Ronnie Aird, a Secretary of MCC in giving a tribute also said: “He was an inspiration to other umpires. He seemed to have a flair for the job and did the right thing by instinct. He was outstanding among umpires for a very long time”. Sir Jack Hobbs considered him “as an umpire, he was right on top” and Frank Lee, one of his contemporary Test colleagues, also considered “Frank Chester was unquestionably the greatest umpire I have known. His decisions were prompt, fearless and rarely questioned, whether

the batsman to be given out was captain or not. There is a great deal for which umpires have to thank him.”

As most members of ESCUSA will confirm, umpires have developed a noticeable *esprit do corps*, identifying with the non-playing world of cricket culture, with a built-in nostalgia and are frequently sentimental about some aspect of their work. Chester loved it too much to stop. Although known as a tough character, he kept all his life the small six stones he had dug out of his garden for his first County match, Essex v Somerset, at Leyton in 1922. He stored them safely in a matchbox during winter months.

(Author’s note . Whilst reference has just been made to anecdotal memories of Frank Chester as outlined by him, in his address given to an Open meeting of ACU in 1954, it now seems similarly appropriate to refer to a few authenticated comments made by another ‘character’ colleague of his time, Alex Skelding, many of which concerned the latter’s much maligned eyesight:

He once gave the assertive Australian batsman, Sid Barnes ‘Out’ LBW for 78. Barnes was not impressed following his memorable innings which included a borderline six, and leg-byes which he insisted came off his bat. Later, in the pavilion, Barnes grinned across at Skelding and asked how many pairs of spectacles he needed and also enquired after the health of his dog. Not to be outdone, Skelding explained that he had three pairs of glasses – one for sixes, one for leg-byes and one for LBWs. As to his dog, he was sorry but he was not allowed to bring it onto the ground !



His fellow colleague, Frank Lee, recalled Skelding being pressed for time one morning and bringing his shaving kit into the pavilion. One player who noticed that Alex wasn't wearing his spectacles whilst shaving, asked him if he wasn't afraid of cutting his throat. "Yes", Alex replied. "I took them off as I can't stand the sight of blood!"

In another match involving the Australian Touring team at Leicester, Neil Harvey threw down the stumps from cover-point and appealed. Alex Skelding's answer was: "Well, gentlemen, I consider that's a photo-finish and since we can't wait for the photo to be developed, I am declaring him "not out". He then turned to the striker and added: "Next time, make it a clear decision". John Arlott recalled that even the Australians were delighted at this riposte.

Like most umpires, Skelding was pleased when a change in Law had been made in 1947 from umpires charged with pitching the site of the wicket to the captain of the home side. This had long been the practise anyway, although the match officials still had the responsibility of checking that this had been done properly, with at least one small duty lifted from their shoulders.

Another dimension to Alex Skelding's repertoire was his frequent egotistical displays of his interest in poetry. He was good at cultivating his own image and revelled in the attention it brought him and saw no reason for umpires to keep themselves out of the public eye. Peter May recalled that when he was fielding at square-leg, he was liable to be treated to a verse

from Omar Khayyam. On other occasions Dennis Compton similarly heard Alex quoting passages from Kipling or Shakespeare e.g. "Once more into the breach, dear friends"... he was also known to write poems of his own which he famously read aloud during match evenings. The last verse of his poem: "The Umpire's Lament" was as follows:

So now, you willow-wielders
And you volley-catching fielders;
You who stand there at the wicket,
With injured innocence –
"Didn't snick it !";
Bowlers who are apt to squeal,
At a negative appeal;
Think of Umpire, Jack, or Jim;
Think kindly, please – and pity him !

Then again, he perfected his notoriety by publishing a poem entitled "Duties, Trials and Troubles of a County Cricket Umpire." His mention of duties fell a long way short of the trials and troubles as he monotonously intoned: "Most of the time he stands to be shot at; An immobile creature for mankind to pot at.

(It takes all sorts...but I very much doubt that we might ever meet another umpire possessing similar lyrical poetic ability!) .

Once again, the President, Mr Douglas R. Jardine, gave up a very important engagement elsewhere to act as Chairman at this meeting (at Portland House in the autumn of 1954). Up to this point, very few meetings of the Association had been arranged which he had not supported personally and, by any yardstick, he had been very much an "active" President.

To continue the autumn sessions of ACU activity, a second visit to

Lord's on Saturday 30 October, had again been well attended by 52 members. This gathering was followed with a further lecture and question session arranged with the National Association of Cricket Groundsmen.

On February 24 1955 the first Annual Dinner of the Association was held at the Lord's Dining Suite and was memorable for riveting after-dinner speeches made by Lord Cobham, President of MCC (formerly as Mr C.J. Lyttelton, and Captain of Worcestershire CCC in 1935), Mr Jardine in the Chair) and Mr S.C. ("Billy") Griffith, Assistant Secretary to the MCC. The President had been instrumental in inviting Viscount Cobham to become a Vice-President of the Association and it had been considered to be a great honour when the invitation had been immediately accepted.

At the second Annual General Meeting on Saturday 12 March 1955, once more at The Three Nuns Hotel, Aldgate, the President, Mr Douglas Jardine, again took the Chair. The Meeting was privileged to have Mr Percy G. Fender as its guest speaker.

Earlier in the afternoon the President, had personally hired an adjacent annex to the room used to conduct the formal business of the AGM, with the specific purpose in mind of welcoming individual members personally and to enquire as to their welfare.

This totally unexpected opportunity to both meet and greet such an icon of the game personally was much appreciated by the membership.

(This courtesy was to be repeated in future years until the untimely death of the President in June 1958.) Armed with the fore-knowledge of the possibility of having an individual audience with Mr Jardine, this probably had much to do with the splendid attendance of members at these early Annual General Meetings which were also to become the traditional pattern of later years.

Presenting his Annual Secretarial Report, Tom Smith gave a comprehensive review of the very varied activities undertaken throughout the past year. Great strides had been made in welcoming new recruits to membership. Arthur Langford, a personal friend of Tom Smith, who was also editor of *The Cricketer*, strongly supported the cause of ACU from its beginning and had agreed to place an insert into the magazine's Spring Issue. This gratis publicity was to bring in a wider range of membership applications, especially from prospective Private Members. This insert was in addition to a series of articles that Tom Smith had been writing regularly in this magazine (and this happy liaison with ACU was to continue over the next 40 years with regular contributions published under the heading of "Umpires Corner", with David Whiley as its Scribe).

All members of the Training and Education Committee had been worked to the full in response to constant demand across the whole country. The work continued to be carried out on a voluntary, unpaid, basis and Officers had dipped, and were continuing to dip into their own pockets, as the main concern at this time remained the acute shortage of funds. The cost of

such mundane expenses of telephone calls, postages, hire of rooms and stationery (although seemingly ridiculously low by modern standards) had been a constant worry. Despite the generosity of several Clubs, members and friends, financially, the Association was only just surviving. All had to be very careful to measure every move that was planned by a yardstick of "How much will it cost?" even for the simplest items of expenditure.

Nevertheless, the Association had been doing a wonderful job for Cricket in general and it should not be ashamed to ask for financial help in its crusade. Cricket would benefit as a whole, and as a whole, it was hoped it would respond. A tremendous amount had been done already and continued to be done but a limit had now been reached and the General Secretary appealed to all members to go out of their way in approaching the officials of Clubs known to them and indeed to all their friends in the *Cricket World* to support this appeal.

Members were interested to learn that contact had been made with the Womens' Cricket Umpires Committee and Mr Smith was looking forward to women umpires joining the Association – the first reference anywhere that the Association was not expecting to be restricted to male applicants only! Tom was quite sure that ACU could do much to help women umpires and their umpiring. Indeed, even before the General Secretary had made this welcoming overture, Mrs Marybud Chignell, of Ditchling, Hassocks, Sussex, (who was a Scorer), had been the first to be

enrolled as a Lady Member of the Association.

Referring to the first examinations which had been held in various parts of the country during the second year, Mr Smith drew attention to the interesting statistic that only an average of 20% of candidates had been successful in obtaining Full Membership. Nevertheless, the knowledge and experience gained from studying and sitting the examinations had itself improved standards and the General Secretary appealed to failed candidates not to become discouraged but to try again after receiving further course(s) of instruction. Despite individual disappointments, the Association must continue to strive for very high standards. A week in November had been specifically reserved as "Examination Week" and, throughout the year overall, 170 candidates had sat written and oral examinations, with 40 passing to Full Membership.

Much administrative work was involved in the examination processes and with the majority of Associate Members keen to qualify for Full Membership, attempts made to arrange mutually convenient dates and times for candidates to fit in with the existing commitments of examiners had been daunting. Unfortunately, with such a small workforce on the Examination Board, some Associate Members who had applied to take the examinations had to be disappointed with their exposure to examinations held over to the following year.



On the 26 March 1955 Maurice R. Cruse became the first of the Founder Members to die, unexpectedly and suddenly, from a heart attack. He had been thought to have been in the best of health up to that moment and his passing was a particularly sad blow as he had served the Association well as its first Treasurer since the date of formation. He had been of cheerful and friendly disposition and had worked prodigiously hard for ACU. Only nine days earlier, he had been much admired for his excellent presentation of the accounts at the second Annual General Meeting. After Tom Smith had pressured him heavily, Jim Dear, who had been dealing wonderfully and generously in the provision of the Association's printing requirements, took over the vacant office and, over the next few years, he, too, was to become a very efficient and conscientious Treasurer indeed.

However, better news was to follow as the summer of 1955 had been excellent in England for Cricket, a game essentially to be enjoyed in sunshine. To quote a Tom Smith comment made at an out-door demonstration: "Now that we are seeing our beautiful grounds at their best, the abundance of sunshine we are now enjoying is an encouragement to give the concentration so necessary for efficient umpiring,"

During the 1955 season, the General Secretary had noted, with regret, a tendency for some umpires to walk on and off the field quite separately. Through the medium of the Newsletter, he earnestly appealed to all Association members to set an example by treating their partner

as a colleague by making a special point of walking courteously on and off together. He also regretted that he had additionally seen and heard discussion of a colleague's decisions and discomfiture on the field discussed in the pavilion, with players present, after the match. Again, Tom appealed to all members to show absolute and complete loyalty to a fellow umpire, at all times, as he continued: "Never, by word, gesture or innuendo, approve of, or listen to any criticism of your colleague in any form, be he right or wrong. Whether we like it or not, we all make mistakes at times and such behaviour as I have described, is not worthy of a member of this Association and any tendency towards this is to be deplored."

With hindsight that comes with the passage of years, these exhortations made by Tom Smith to umpires to show courtesy to their fellow partners - they were not yet generally sufficiently well regarded to be described as colleagues! - now, perhaps, seem to be only elementary and just taken for granted. However, the need to show total respect to one's team-mate, with active consultation as might be appropriate, before the arrival and admonition of Tom Smith, was seldom self-apparent to most officials and posterity should not forget to what large extent it owes him posthumous gratitude for being the first to identify and publicise the need for a welcome and good manners to be shown to one's colleague.

Issues of the Newsletter at this time frequently included notes on the clarification of points of Law and instruction on how to deal with behavioural problems

on the field of play. These notes were of immense value in the education of umpires, prior to the arrival of the first edition of the proposed Association Textbook which was still several months away.

A varied programme of Autumn activities included a lecture by Bert Lock, the Head Groundsman, of Surrey County Cricket Club and, in October, a second splendid thought-provoking lecture on the technique of umpiring was given by Vice President, Ken McCanlis. So enthusiastically was this received, that Ken consented to give a "continuation" lecture in the following early Spring on Friday 3 February 1956. A third lecture that autumn on his personal experiences was also given by A. Underwood, a Full member from Nottingham. All three meetings had been well attended.

Geoffrey Staniford, Editor, also increased his range of responsibilities when he took control of the disposal of the first stock of official Association Greeting Cards at Christmas which became available for purchase as from 1 October - price six shillings (30p) per dozen. Also around this time, an attractive green enameled Association Badge, intended to wear on white coats, also became available to all members, priced three shillings and sixpence. It was hoped that members would wear this badge with pride at all times as this would not only draw attention to the Association and its work to others but would also serve as a means of introduction to a colleague.



With Association reserves as yet still very meagre, it was hoped to sell most of these by hand at meetings to keep down the cost of postages and related administration to a minimum. Postages, in particular, placed a tremendous burden on Association funds and members who might consider that a reply or acknowledgement to their letters necessary, were asked to enclose a stamped addressed envelope with their query. Quite apart from the monetary element, the practice should save valuable time to the addressee in responding. Apologies were offered for this appeal being so apparently mercenary, but at this stage in the Association's development, observance to such small economies was vital.

At the turn of the year (1955/56), again via the Newsletter, Tom Smith asked any member who might perhaps feel impatient with any aspect of administration, would remember that all aspects related to Training, Examinations and other general enquiries, had by now become very heavy. It further needed to be understood that all Association officers and Committee members had their private and working lives quite apart from their work for the Association, all of which were being carried out completely voluntarily. Although precious time had been given by all, generously and freely, there were sometimes limits to which it could be given.

(The author responsible for researching and writing this early history has been unable to trace, how, why and by whom the "Three Nuns Hotel", Aldgate, came to be selected as venue for the early Association's London-based meetings, but he

suspects that the premises would have been conveniently included on Tom Smith's area of responsibility with his day-time employment with the North-London Gas Board, enabling him to strike up a cordial relationship with the hotel's staff. It also probably had a great deal to do with Tom Smith's persuasive and effective arguments to the manager that the profits gained from the sale of drinks at the bar from the potentially large number of members expected to attend Association meetings would hugely offset the gratis rental costs of rooms required!)

Personal recollections of this venue do not confirm it as being a most salubrious choice – rather was it a rambling, barn-like premises that had seen better days in Victorian times and now ripe for re-development. Nevertheless, it possessed a cosmopolitan, friendly atmosphere and one presumes that it lived up to most of the Association's immediate aspirations i.e. no charges; one which offered an adequate number of rooms for several purposes – at least one voluminous enough to accommodate an audience in excess of 200 (for Annual and 'Open' Meetings); a number of smaller rooms in which to accommodate 70 or more candidates and examiners for the conduct of written and oral examinations; not least adequate bar facilities with other forms of refreshment available at affordable prices and, perhaps above all, it was centrally placed within the London metropolis with easy access to an efficient public transport system. "The Three Nuns" at Aldgate, certainly had all of these attractions, with its entrance actually within the forecourt of the London Underground

Station, Aldgate East, on the District and East London Lines, with its rapid connections to most of the main-line rail termini.

Such was the venue for two Association meetings on the same day of 17 March 1956. The first of these was for an Extraordinary General Meeting at which, after a series of minor amendments, the draft second set of Association Rules was formally adopted in substantive form in substitution and total exclusion of all that had existed before. This major revision had been necessary for the clarification and representation of the various forms of membership; to accommodate the evolutionary changes in management of the Association's affairs; to provide encouragement in the formation of local associations and for these to affiliate with the parent body of ACU on payment of fees to be agreed with the General Secretary in accordance with the size of local memberships.

(Unfortunately, for the Scribe writing this history, for a second time, his painstaking researches have not been able to trace confirmatory details of some events known to have occurred at this time. The current omission refers to "chapter and verse" of the above-mentioned draft copy of the proposed second set of Association Rules. One might have expected a copy to have been included within either the Association's official Minute Book of meetings held, or somewhere in the text of Newsletter issues of that time, but, regrettably, they are not to be found. Presumably, this must have been an atypical damaging criticism of Tom Smith's envious reputation for secretarial efficiency.

That said, what does exist in the Association Minute Book is an entry confirming that "The Draft Rules, as amended, were formally adopted" and this also bears the signature of the President, Mr Douglas Jardine, and is dated 9 March 1957).

The 3rd Annual General Meeting (17 March 1956) followed the Extra-ordinary General Meeting with the president again in the Chair. The meeting was privileged to have as its guest, Mr George Pope of Derbyshire County Cricket Club. It was with similar pleasure that Mr Frank Lee, former Somerset and Middlesex batsman and currently a popular Test Umpire, was elected as the sixth Vice-President of the Association. Frank had been a fervent supporter of ACU from its earliest days and had given much valued assistance as a member of its Examination Board.

He was one of the post-war generation of umpires who followed the example of his mentor, Frank Chester, by adopting a 'low stance, head level with the bails, to facilitate the judgment of height in LBW easier'. He disliked the change of Law made in 1947 that confirmed that a batsman could only be 'out' if he was hit by some part of his person from a delivery which would have hit the stumps, provided it pitched in line with the wicket or outside the off-stump. Umpires had to get used to judging LBW off swing bowling, though few of them liked it. He particularly disliked the change in Law that had killed leg-spin bowling since it became nigh on impossible for leg-spinners to get a favourable decision. He was of the opinion that the new Law encouraged

medium-paced bowling and cautious, defensive batting.

Lee belonged to the school of 'silent' umpiring, believing that the ideal official was unobtrusive. He was neither a 'character' umpire like Skelding, nor was he as famous as Chester. However, he was an umpire of the television age and although he kept a low profile on the field, he believed in making a major contribution to the game by appearing on sports quiz panels, speaking at Club dinners, giving lectures and talks and as both a member of the ACU Education and Training Committee and its Examination Board.

This AGM was historic in that, henceforth, for the first time (and in accordance with the missing aforementioned second set of Rules!), the affairs of the Association would in future be managed by an elected Council in lieu of the previous Executive Committee. The elected Councillors consisted of 12 Full members, 3 Associate Members and 1 Private Member.

On a proposal made by Mr R.R. Howkins, the centenarian umpire, Mr J. (Joe) Filleston, was elected as an Hon. Life Member in accordance with the new Rule 3. Mr Filleston had recently been the subject of a "This is your life" presentation on BBC Television at which several members of the Association had been privileged to attend as supporting colleagues. This exposure had a reciprocal public relations effect which had enhanced the Association's image.

Following a brief interval in business, an appreciative audience was entertained by addresses given by Vice-President John Arlott and George Pope. The General Secretary, Mr Tom

Smith, advised that 1955 had continued as one of exceptional growth and development, with membership applications arriving regularly from all over the world. The list of countries had been so impressive that he felt compelled to draw this to the attention of the meeting. These were: Australia, Argentine, Barbados, British Guiana, Canada, China, Channel Islands, Eire, Germany, Holland, India, Isle of Man, Irak, Japan, Jamaica, Kenya, Malaya, Northern and Southern Rhodesia, New Zealand, South Africa, Scotland, Tanganyika, Trinidad, Uganda, Ulster, Wales plus almost every County in England.

Umpires in England were now linked with colleagues internationally through the medium of the Newsletter and this fraternity of members had developed almost entirely as a result of personal introductions and recommendations.

Although most Training activities had been suspended during the English summer months (of 1955) when the majority of instructors had been committed to controlling matches throughout all corners of the United Kingdom, the heavy work of conducting written and oral examinations had been handled efficiently by the Examination Board and some examiners had interviewed candidates for orals in areas where they had been able to arrange these when standing in matches themselves.

Summing up the year's education and training work, Mr Smith said that the Association could rest assured that much had been achieved towards the Association's primary objective of "Improving the Standard of Umpiring".

Even at this early state, the effect of these activities had begun to show.

The performance of candidates had shown improvement over previous attempts but there was still a long way to go before the high standard required by the Association for Full Membership might be reached by the majority. It had been Examination Board policy to produce a new written paper each year and, at the conclusion of the current "season", about 100 candidates had submitted themselves for examination, with 26 passes registered. Written examinations had taken place at venues as far apart as London, Bath, Blackburn, Bedford, Cheltenham, Durham, Nottingham, Felixstowe, Norwich, Northampton, Amsterdam and in various overseas centres for Service candidates.

The General Secretary had been in close contact with Col. R.S. Rait-Kerr over recent months and the manuscript of the textbook of the Association : "Cricket Umpiring and Scoring", had been completed and was now in the hands of the publishers. Untold patience had gone into the preparation of this very learned text which covered every theoretical and practical aspect of umpiring and scoring. Tom was certain that possession of this volume would become an absolute necessity for every umpire, scorer, player and, indeed, anyone interested in Cricket and its Laws.

Because of currently prevailing trouble in the printing world and the long-term policy of the publishers, this meant that the publication date could not now be before the Spring of 1957. Tom

Smith concluded by saying : "The Association cannot thank Colonel Rait-Kerr enough for the intensive effort he has applied in compiling the most comprehensive work on Umpiring and Scoring ever to be published".

Thanks were also due to the MCC and particularly its Assistant Secretary, Mr S.C. Griffith, who had taken so much interest and encouragement in the preparation of this textbook.

By now, the need had become apparent for the formal appointment of a Registration and Despatch Officer and Bob Howkins, always a dedicated worker, brimming with enthusiasm for the cause of ACU, was co-opted in this dual capacity until the following Annual General Meeting. Even at this time (only two years since formation), well over 1,000 names appeared on the association mailing list. "How's That?" was in great demand and this Newsletter was carrying out an excellent public relations function, thanks to the continued efforts of its Editor, Geoffrey Staniford and Printer contact, Jim Dear. As mentioned earlier, Bob Howkins continued to be assisted in matters of Despatch by the unrelenting travail of "Woody" Woodford in addressing envelopes during breaks on his journeys around the country in facilitating the despatches of "How's That?".

The predominant emphasis of Cricket at this time – the '50s – was seen in bowling terms, in contrast to the years between World Wars I & II which had been a 'Golden Age' for batsmen. Of primary concern now for umpires was to ensure that no abuse of Law 42 – altering the

condition of the ball – was taking place. This could be achieved in a variety of ways, either by raising its seam, by picking at it, or running a thumb-nail round the stitching of the cross seam; roughing one side of the ball by scuffing it with the fingernails or gouging small pieces out; making one side of the ball heavier than the other (thus giving it a 'bias') through the application of saliva, or sweat.

An additional ploy would be to rub it with some artificial substance such as lip salve, sun-block, Vaseline, wax spray (applied to trousers in the dressing room and then the ball rubbed into the waxed area) or resin, all the several varieties of which were surreptitiously applied in order to gain a competitive advantage in enhancing the ball's potential for movement in the air, making it more likely to swing into or away from the batsman, especially at this time when 'swing' and 'seam' bowling became more common.

(For those readers who might be interested in a more detailed understanding of the swing process, I now quote the following information, given by Trevor Bailey on the B.B.C. during the Test at the Oval in August, 1969:

"It is generated by the boundary layer of air surrounding the ball coming apart from the ball owing to the roughness of the seam. Prior to the last war, the seam of the ball was much smaller than it is now. The stitching used was what is called five-cord stitching but it is now eight-cord stitching, almost twice as large. The result is that the seam itself is very much bigger and so the ability of the seam to cause the boundary layer of air to separate from the ball lasts much longer than it did

before. In turn, the ability of the seam bowler to achieve his skills persists longer in terms of each ball than it used to. And so, again, in turn, the seam bowler is much more used than he ever used to be. The change in the seam occurred somewhere at the end of the 1940s or very early 1950s. Thus it may not be anything more than a change in implement that has caused such a change to the game itself.”

This broadcast aroused such a degree of interest in the sporting world that some physicists were stimulated to undertake a more detailed research of the ‘swing and swerve’ phenomenon with a view to determining more positive outcomes as a result of variations in the deliveries of dedicated bowlers. The following additional information came to light:

A ‘swing’ bowler secures lateral movement of the ball while in flight, resulting in a curving rather than a straight trajectory. This occurs as a result of uneven distribution of pressure on the two sides of the ball as it passes through the air. It can be induced by holding the ball with the seam ‘canted’ in the direction in which the bowler intends the ball to swing – i.e. towards first slip for out swing or fine leg for in-swing. The angled seam produces turbulence on one side of the ball only and the greater the resulting pressure difference, the more marked will be the degree of swing.

The phenomenon may have been apparent even in the days of underarm bowling when Nyren said of Noah Mann in 1833 that “his merit consisted in giving a curve to the ball the whole way”. However, it was not until much later that that swing began to be

talked of as a significant new development in the art of bowling. Both the Badminton book (1888) and Ranjitsinhji’s Jubilee Book (1887) devote comment to the apparent novelty of bowlers getting to “curl the ball in the air”. Ranji also concluded that “when bowlers learn to command this curl in addition to their other devices, batting will become more difficult than ever”.

Whilst it true that, given certain conditions, almost every bowler can make the ball swerve, to do so with complete control has proved elusive. Conventional wisdom suggests that certain conditions are particularly favourable to swing, notably a newish ball – because the seam on a new ball is more prominent; a breeze from the right quarter; and in sweltering conditions or a damp, overcast atmosphere. R.D. Mehta et al is not so convinced about the influence of weather conditions alone but suggests that the degree of swing depends upon several variables, especially the angle of the seam, the speed of the ball and the ball’s rate of spin, with complete control over swing depending upon getting all these three variables right – a tall order. The only explanation tending to confirm the traditional belief that swing increases in damp and humid conditions is that the varnish painted on new balls reacts with moisture to produce a tacky surface (which, in turn, improves the bowler’s grip and so produces more spin). So, perhaps the bowler just imparts more spin on a damp or overcast day without actually realising it

Finally, pressure differences between the ball’s two hemispheres can be affected by

their different degrees of roughness and heaviness and as we have already seen in the previous paragraphs devoted to Law 42 – abuse in altering the condition of the ball – bowlers have found ways of influencing these factors too!

Both such skills – “swing” in or away from the batsman - tended to produce defensive batting which obliged umpires to develop prolonged powers of concentration. Ball tampering accusations had been going on for many previous years – umpire Don Oslear has said there were reports of it occurring as early as 1920 and certainly ever since Denis Compton was known to be using Brylcreem as his hairdressing in the 1940s. Watchful umpires were now often seen smelling the ball to ensure that such artificial solvents had not been applied to its surface, and they were encouraged to ‘make frequent and irregular inspections of the ball’ but the problems of enforcing the Law were not conducive in making their duties any easier.

A reference has already been made in earlier paragraphs to the annual encounters between the ‘Gentlemen’ – amateur cricketers involved in First-Class Cricket – and the ‘Players’, which, apart from the Test Matches regularly played against touring sides, were recognised as the high point in the English Cricket season. These fixtures also attracted huge crowds – over 28,000 at Lord’s in 1948 – when the contest was won for the Players by Len Hutton who scored a magnificent century. Four year later, the dawn of a new age had arrived when Hutton, although a professional, was elected captain of England.

The majority of umpires who felt moved to express an opinion about the old distinction between professionals and amateurs were glad to see it go. Although they might have missed the presence of the aristocratic amateur in a professional team, they did not miss at all the former touch of class pressure put on officials, who were all of lower-middle or working class. It was not simply that an amateur's superior wealth and class could unsettle umpires. Rather was it the former associated trappings that accompanied it i.e. with Players and Gentlemen coming out of the Pavilion onto the field by different gates and seated at separate tables for appropriate lunch and tea intervals. As the '50s advanced, such social distinctions were becoming fewer, to the general relief of umpires.

Nevertheless, the 1950s were a quiet era for Cricket generally but, apart from the ball-tampering issue, it also held another substantial problem for umpires when a resurrection of the throwing controversy again reared its head. However, this was largely confined to First-Class matches but did not make more than the usual random upset at the recreational level. Rather did Club umpires feel that a developmental change of attitude of players was the quality which made the most impact at this time as the latter became almost exclusively obsessed to winning at the expense of all else. At times, in the First - Class game, the habit of belligerent over-appealing by some players caused Frank Chester to make the unprecedented step of saying in public that he deplored the

tendency for Australian tourists of making appeals for LBW from the covers. By now, they also had a rival in the West Indies where the playing of Cricket bordered on the fanatical, as witnessed when England toured the Caribbean and the series umpire, Perry Burke, had his life threatened, his family accosted and intimidated on the day he gave the Jamaican Holt out LBW for 94.

Chester also reckoned that despite the new wave of post-war aggressive appealing, the justice of appeals rose with the class of cricket. Village and small club appeals were often absurdly ridiculous and called forth equally absurd decisions from some umpires, such as the " 'out', got in the way of the ball !", immortalised on the scorecard of a Cotswold Club after world War II.

(Author's note: This narrative has now reached the point where ACU became universally recognised as a pillar of the conscientious post-war game. It was the first organisation to give recognition to the fact that its officials were no less important to the game than the players and, for their ongoing competence, needed education, training and post-graduate refreshment every bit as much as players need their coaching. A great deal had been done to fulfill these aims in these early formative years but the immediate priority would now be one of consolidation of what had been achieved already rather than an extension of development in new horizons yet to feel its influence. The next installment of what the future holds for ACU is to continue in Paper No. 5 of this series in the next issue of the ESCUSA Newsletter.)

Umpiring and scoring in the news

The ESCUSA website is regularly updated with news of interest to cricket umpires and scorers. This takes the form of short summaries of newspaper articles, press releases etc. with hyperlinks to the full piece which the interested reader can follow-up. Below are some recent stories.

9 December 2011

Pakistan's series against England, to be played in the UAE from January 2012, will have DRS for the Tests in addition to the ODIs as previously decided, reports Cricinfo.

30 November 2011

The ECB has announced that Martin Siggers has been added to the ECB first-class full list of umpires for 2012 following the retirement of John Steele at the end of the 2011 season. For more details see the [ECB media-release](#).

For more news articles about umpiring and scoring, please view our [news](#) page.



MINUTES OF THE 14TH AGM HELD ON 3 NOVEMBER 2011

Members present: Jeremy Beckwith, Leslie Cheeseman, David Edwards, Andrew Elliott, John Flatley, Daphne Frost, Peter Gale, Paul Griffiths, Steve Hodge, Andrew Kellard, John Moulton, Tony Reason, Phil Sherlock, John Smith, Peter Turner, Paul Witney, Bill Wood, Mark Wood and Bernard Wright.

Guests present: Paul Baldwin and Dale Cortorphine.

Apologies: Jack Ball, Helena Butcher, Richard Constance, Lorraine Elgar, Roger Fear, Sarah Griffiths, Chris Henderson, Digby Hunt, Fred Imms, David Jones, Geoff Knight, John Leadley, Dennis Morrison, Ian Phillippe, Stuart Todd, Neil Williams and David Yandell.

1/11 The Chairman welcomed members to the 14th AGM of the association and introduced his fellow committee members. He indicated his intention to finish business by 8.15pm to allow ample time for our guest speaker, Paul Baldwin.

Minutes of the last AGM

2/11 The minutes of the AGM held on 4 November 2010 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as an accurate record.

Matters Arising

3/11 In relation to minute 3/10, David Edwards reported that the position regarding Welfare Officers had now been resolved and that local district associations were not required to have one as the SCB ACO Welfare Officer (Jim Jenkinson) was able to provide a service to all locally affiliated officials' associations.

4/11 In relation to minute 12/10 concerning a proposal to amend the association's constitution to recognise Training Officer and Social Secretary as formal officers of the association, John Flatley reported that this had been overlooked by the committee and a rule change had not been laid in time for consideration at this AGM. Therefore, this would need to be looked again by the committee for next year's AGM.

Secretary's Report

5/11 John Flatley presented his report highlighting the main achievements during the year. John reported on an increase in membership over the year largely as a result of high numbers of students enrolling on our training courses.

6/11 John outlined the various training events held this year and placed on record his thanks to

the training team who continued to deliver courses that were well-received by those taking them. John reported on the recent resignation of Andrew Etherington as our lead tutor and indicated that Jeremy Beckwith was willing to act as a care-taker until the end of the current training programme in March 2012. John said that the committee were actively looking for a longer-term solution with a couple of possibilities under consideration.

7/11 John reported that the Hawkeye session at Lord's in March had been a great success and the committee planned to re-run it in March 2012 on the same funding basis as before (i.e. £15 per head with balance made up from the association's funds)

8/11 Finally, John highlighted the inclusion of the "Cheeseman papers" in recent editions of the members' newsletter and the initiative of the committee to work with Leslie Cheeseman in finding a permanent home for his historical archives.

9/11 Andrew Elliott asked why the end of season get-together with First Class umpires at the Oval, which John had organised in the previous two years, had not taken place this year. John explained that it was simply that he did not have the time to organise it this year but would be considering repeating it at the end of the 2012 season.

Treasurer's Report

10/11 Peter Turner's report had been circulated in advance to all members together with the audited accounts for 2010/11.

11/11 Peter reported a deficit of £764 on the year which he attributed to a number of reasons including the cost of running the Hawkeye session at Lord's, the purchase of a projector and the reduction in the training grant from the Surrey Cricket Board. However, Peter was still able to report a healthy balance of £3,753.84 at the year end.

12/11 Questions were raised by John Smith and David Edwards about the apparent reduction in training grant. John Smith pointed out that the accounts did not show the payment in kind that had been received from SCB by them purchasing the Level 1 resource packs from the ECB at a cost of £30 per head. In the previous year the ECB had not made a charge for such packs and thus the SCB training grant was paid in addition. The purchase of the packs by SCB was in effect a hidden subsidy

that should be recognised in the ESCUSA accounts. There were suggestions from the floor that this should be captured in future, for example as a note on the accounts.

13/11 A number of members queried the figures in the accounts which did not appear to balance in some places. It became apparent that the electronic version of the accounts on the association's website had been corrupted. John Flatley explained that this was likely to have happened on converting them from Excel to PDF and he apologised that he had not spotted this previously. John promised to ensure a new version was uploaded as soon as possible. Peter Gale as auditor confirmed that the accounts that he had checked were in order. (NB: a copy of the accounts, in MS Excel format, can now be downloaded from the website www.escusa.org.uk/agm2011.html).

14/11 Peter proposed that the current annual subscription fee be kept at £5 per head. This recommendation and the rest of the Treasurer's report was accepted by the meeting. Leslie Cheeseman proposed that the accounts be approved and Paul Griffiths seconded the motion. It was passed nem. con.

Appointment of Auditor

15/11 Steve Hodge noted that Peter Gale had previously announced his intention to step down as auditor at the end of the 2010/11 year. Steve asked Peter if that was still his intention and Peter confirmed that it was. Steve thanked Peter for his help over a number of years and presented him with an Amazon gift voucher as a token of appreciation.

16/11 Steve Hodge reported to the meeting that, in anticipation of Peter Gale standing down, he had made enquiries about finding a suitable replacement but had not yet been successful. Andrew Kellard said that he was willing to act as auditor if no-one else could be found as he was a retired accountant and had previous experience of auditing other voluntary associations' accounts. The Chairman asked the meeting if they were content to accept Andrew's offer and a proposal to appoint Andrew Kellard as the auditor was made by John Smith and seconded by Tony Reason. It was passed nem. con.

Honorary Membership

17/11 John Flatley outlined that the constitution (Clause 6d) has provision for the award of Honorary membership to those "members who have made an outstanding contribution to the East Surrey Cricket Umpires and Scorers Association or to cricket umpiring and scoring more generally." The constitution further states that "the award of such membership shall be conferred by the Association's committee". John reported that such membership was considered at our most recent committee meeting (on 13 October 2011), and it was agreed that Honorary Life Membership should be awarded to both Peter Turner and Bernard Wright. This was endorsed by the meeting.

Election of officers & committee

18/11 The Chairman reported that Peter Turner had previously announced his intention to step down from the committee and that Phil Sherlock had indicated that he would be willing to take over the role of Treasurer. The other officers - i.e. Steve Hodge

(Chairman), John Moulton (Vice Chairman) and John Flatley (Secretary) had indicated their willingness to stand again. The Chairman asked if the meeting was content and Jeremy Beckwith proposed and Peter Turner seconded that they be elected as officers en-bloc: Steve Hodge (Chairman), John Moulton (Vice Chairman), John Flatley (Secretary), Phil Sherlock (Treasurer).

19/11 John Flatley explained that the constitution stated that, in addition to the officers, the committee should include two other elected members. Previously Andrew Etherington and Bernard Wright had been elected as ordinary committee members. However, Andrew had resigned from the committee at the same time as he resigned as lead tutor. Bernard Wright said that he was not seeking re-election and Steve Hodge thanked Bernard for his service on the committee over a number of years. There being no other nominations, John Flatley explained that the new committee would have to seek volunteers who could be co-opted onto the committee in due course.

Any Other Business

20/11 John Flatley reported that the national ACO conference was being held on Saturday 19 November and places were still available for those who were interested. Paul Baldwin gave details of the correct phone number to ring at the ECB to book a place since the advertised number was incorrect. Andrew Elliott said that he had booked a place but had not yet received confirmation. David Edwards said that he thought confirmation would be given next week.

21/11 John Moulton reported on his attempts to find a publisher and permanent home for the ACU archives held by Leslie Cheeseman. John said that they he had not been successful in finding a publisher but that the MCC Library at Lord's had agreed to take possession of the archive so that these important historical papers would be available to future scholars. Jeremy Beckwith asked whether John had considered e-publishing and John said that he hadn't but could look into it.

22/11 There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.15pm.






NEW EDITION OF TOM SMITH'S STILL AVAILABLE

ESCUSA still has some stocks of the new edition of Tom Smith's at a discounted rate of £11.75 (RRP = £18.99). This edition has been updated to take account of the Law changes in October 2010. Anyone who would like a copy should contact John Flatley.



UMPIRE EQUIPMENT

ESCUSA bulk purchases umpire equipment for re-sale at cost price to members. Our current stock includes:

-  run counters at £1.60 each
-  light bails at £2 per pair
-  heavy bails at £4 per pair
-  bowlers marks at £1 each
-  Hunts County ball counters at £4 each.

ESCUSA has a supply of pocket-sized **MCC Laws Books** for sale to members at the cost price of £3. If you would like to place an order please contact John Flatley.

