



# DACO

## Devon Association of Cricket Officials



### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Held on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at Woodland Fort Community Centre, Plymouth

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

#### **In Memoriam**

All present stood for a minute's silence in memory of those involved in Devon Cricket who had 'left the crease' during the previous year.

#### **Attendance**

A register of attendees was circulated at the meeting, a copy of which held by the Hon Secretary and available on request. A total of 32 members attended.

#### **Apologies**

A register of 30 apologies received is held by the Hon Secretary and available on request.

#### **Minutes of the previous AGM** (held 19<sup>th</sup> January 2017)

A copy of the 2016 AGM Minutes had been sent to all members, acceptance of the minutes as being a true record were proposed by Paul Dawe and seconded by Bill Pinhey and unanimously agreed.

#### **Matters Arising from those Minutes**

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

#### **Chairman's Report**

Good evening, to you all and I trust the cricket season has been kind to you?

I don't intend my report of this year to go on too long. May I thank the West for organising the AGM this year and the curry which I am reliably informed will follow this meeting.

Since we last all met for our AGM, in January last, the laws of cricket have been revised and another season of our great game has happened.

The season does seem a long way away already, the weather did try to ruin the end of the season after some really lovely cricketing days earlier in the summer. The Devon league season was unfortunately marred by two disciplinary incidents which again, unfortunately, the DACO umpires have not reported in accordance with the DCL procedures. This situation disappoints me very much. We, as an organisation and as individuals, have tried very hard to get these disciplinary matters and the reports from the umpires and then from the system sorted. However, at the end of the day, the reports were not of the standard expected. Can I please appeal to all DACO officials to report any incidents which may occur at matches in the coming season; in accordance with the Laws of Cricket and the DCL procedures, I know it seems a long way off! These are detailed in the blue book or the league handbook. Maybe a further training session or an aide memoir is required? Umpires standing in all cricket, whether it is schools, non-panel league games or district matches, need to report any disciplinary matters to the relevant operating authority and then let them deal with this. With the new 4-tiered disciplinary code which came into force from 1 October 2017, together with the revision of the laws, it will be imperative that the correct processes are followed to ensure the umpires, players and clubs are receiving the best service, adherence to the laws and spirit of cricket is maintained and the good name of DACO upheld. Scoring has now largely gone to computer especially in the higher leagues and it has been a tricky time as the ongoing dispute between ECB and TCS continues and at one stage this season no

online scores were visible, I trust this matter will get sorted very soon. Maybe we will get an update on this very soon. Duckworth Lewis Stein does feature within the DCL and was used for some matches this last season. However, one match this season does stand out and shows that the correct procedures do need to be followed when working out the DLS total. Further training on this will be planned in the closed season.

In regard to the new laws there will be sessions organised in the spring of next year for umpires and scorers to be acquainted with the revisions and changes which came into force on 1 October 2017. The MCC are providing to those who can access the internet, an interactive training package / quiz to learn the laws. I would encourage you all to visit this site. DACO training tutors did attend update training in October, in preparation to provide this training to the wide membership. The dates for this will be circulated. The DCL are looking to help with funding of this training. The Management team of DACO will be meeting with The DCL in December to discuss this and other mutual matters.

As well as changes in the laws, are very own Ray Allen has been busy re-writing the rules and regulations of the DCL and these have been well received at the divisional meetings by clubs. I am sure Ray can update anyone who wishes to know what he has proposed but these changes need to be verified and voted on at the DCL AGM next week, 24 November, before we can fully acquaint ourselves with these changes. Any changes will be circulated after the DCL AGM. I am sure Ray will keep us all updated on any changes.

Recruitment continues to be a huge issue for DACO and for the wider umpiring and scoring organisation. I am pleased to learn that we have at least 20 people waiting in Devon to undertake training at the first level of umpiring and a smaller number for scoring. The training pathway has been revised and there are now 3 stages which can be undertaken. ECBACO training is now primarily aimed more at "the techniques needed to umpire" more than the law. The MCC are championing the laws, as it is them who write and update the law. On their online portal, as mentioned previously, this should be visited by all umpires and scorers. There will be an on-line test for learning the laws, which it is expected any candidates will complete before undertaking training, we do believe. The actual process has not been rolled out completely but it is planned that Devon will run courses in January 2018 for the first two stages of the training programme. Please speak to Chris for further details of these and other courses. Please encourage anyone interested in doing the first stages to apply, as the DCL are likely to fund this training.

All umpires and scorers will be benefiting from CPD training before the 2018 season commences on the new and revised laws. This again will be funded by the DCL. We have a meeting in December to discuss how this will be delivered. Likely, but not set in stone, there will be training sessions in each of the 4 areas; North, South, East and West. I know the North are already champing at the bit and have their refresher day booked.

Regarding retention of members, I am aware that some umpires are choosing to hang up their coats or retiring their pencils or should it be computers, these days. May I thank them for their service to the organisation and trust they may be persuaded to do a little more in the forthcoming season. I believe some have already offered their services. Pete would welcome more umpires for the DCL panel so if you haven't contacted him and are wishing to stand on the panel in 2018, please let Pete know.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank Nigel for standing in as appointments officer whilst Pete has been very unwell and am pleased to hear that Pete is improving; I have been getting weekly updates from Chris Shelton; but it is going to be a long haul for him. I am sure I and the whole of DACO wish him a speedy recovery.

Also, may I thank all the officers who have stood this year, at DACO level and at Area level and hope they wish to continue and will be voted in later in this meeting. All of these volunteers are doing a marvellous job and see very little reward for their hard work.

I believe DACO is doing well against the adversity of the modern age. Yes, we do need more members to be able to maintain the league panel and to fulfil all the appointments which we are asked to find umpires and scorers for. I trust the changes and initiatives which have been implemented and those planned will ensure our great game does continue for many years.

Have a good Christmas and New Year and look forward to a new season in April 2018.

## **Hon. Treasurer's Report**

Mr Birt circulated the following accounts which had been audited by Mr R G Schutt FCCA on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2017

### **BALANCE SHEET (year end 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017)**

<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>	<u>2017</u>
Training Equipment (at cost)	1010.00
Stock of DACO Ties	17 119.00
Bank	5911.79
Cash	0.00
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>7040.79</b>

### **ACCUMULATED FUND**

Balance at 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2016	7718.63
Surplus / Deficit for the year	<b>-677.84</b>
Balance at 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2017	<b>7040.79</b>

### **INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT (year end 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017)**

#### INCOME

Members Subs Rebate (via ECB ACO)	804.00
Club Affiliations	900.00
Sales Ties/Books	15.00
Less Cost of Sales	<b>-7.00</b> 8.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1712.00</b>

#### EXPENDITURE

Accountancy Fee (R Loxton & Co)	165.00
ACO Training	397.50
DACO Training & Education Costs	1242.32
Meeting Costs	95.00
Advertising	60.00
Hon Life Members (subs to ECB ACO)	240.00
Print, Post & Stationery	74.04
Presentations	115.98
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>2389.84</b>

**Profit / Loss** **-677.84**

- The principal reason for the loss recorded in 2017 is that reimbursement from the DCL in respect of Training costs has yet to be received.
- The Training equipment will require updating.
- There is a query regarding the level of Club Affiliations received from the Devon Cricket Board which is substantially lower than anticipated.

It is therefore expected that a small profit should be recorded in 2018 which will replenish the funds.

### **Proposed Amendments to Constitution**

The proposal to change the AGM date from November to January was discussed and it was agreed by a clear majority that the proposal was denied.

## **Election of Officers**

The list of prospective candidates as nominated by the Management Committee and circulated with the AGM Notification is as follows:

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

The Chairman announced that Mr Coish had been approached and agreed to be the Scorer's & Welfare Officer.

There was a proposal from The Performance & Development Officer (and seconded from the floor) for Mr Piddock to be elected as Appointments Officer. He explained that whilst Mr Bamber's was incapacitated through illness Mr Piddock had 'stood in' and that from his perspective the Appointments process had worked really well and the 'working' relationship was better.

From the floor Mr Forbes stated that it was unfair and unkind to remove Mr Bamber from the post that he had filled admirably for several seasons whilst he wasn't well enough to attend and 'speak for himself'. After a healthy debate it was suggested that Mr Bamber should remain in post and that Mr Piddock should assist as and when required.

From the floor Mr Gambie raised the issue that if Mr Allen remained as DACO Representative to the DCL there was a conflict of interest given that Mr Allen was the Rules and Regulations 'man' of the DCL. The Chairman intervened and stated that this matter had been raised and answered at the East Region AGM.

Mr Allen stated that this had been the third Meeting in which Mr Gambie had raised the 'conflict of interest' issue and therefore wished his offer of standing for re-election to be withdrawn.

- With no further nominations received from 'the floor' it was agreed to elect the nominations as listed 'en bloc' with the exception of DACO Representative to the DCL which remained vacant.

*This election 'en bloc' caused some confusion over the position of the County Scorers' Officer (CSO) position at the recent Annual General Meeting.*

*At the AGM members were advised that Mr Evanson, the 'sitting' CSO who had offered himself for re-election, was vacating the role and Mr Coish was being proposed for the position. With no further proposals offered the position of CSO was included with the re-election of Officers that were voted for en bloc.*

*Shortly after the conclusion of the Meeting, and through subsequent correspondence, Mr Evanson has stated that he had never expressed the wish to 'vacate' the role and his offer for re-election therefore stood.*

*Given this fact, a vote should have taken place to elect a CSO from either Mr Evanson or Mr Coish at the AGM.*

*Attempts to negotiate an acceptable compromise proved fruitless and therefore the Management Executive were left with no alternate other than call a Special General Meeting to resolve this issue so that the Management Committee can resume their duties in earnest, since the current situation left the Association in 'limbo'.*

*A Special General Meeting to elect the CSO was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2018 at which 28 members attended, and Mr Evanson was elected with a clear majority over Mr Coish.*

### **The Tony Miller Award**

It is the turn of the West Region to nominate the official for this prestigious award.

Our nomination for the award has made an enormous contribution to cricket in general and to umpiring in particular. He had a long, playing career and therefore understands the ethos of the game of cricket.

As an umpire he has earned the respect of colleagues and players alike and has made rapid progress to complete his qualifications to Level 3 and being appointed to both the 'D' List and Minor Counties Panel.

He has also made a significant contribution as an administrator both in the West Region and across the County. As a result of the illness of Paul Dart he accepted the role of Secretary of the West Region and of DACO and spends a considerable amount of time processing the Umpiring Appointments with the West Region.

More recently he co-ordinated the Devon Cricket League umpire appointments following the illness of Pete Bamber.

The recipient of The Tony Miller Award is **Nigel Piddock**.

### **The Aldridge White Memorial Cup**

Fellow Cricket Officials, I look forward to the County AGM as its one of the few meetings where as Secretary I don't have to speak, but nevertheless I'm delighted to have been asked to talk about the Aldridge White Memorial Award, which was created in memory of Gary Aldridge and Andy White, umpires that sadly 'left the crease' prematurely in 2014.

As established 'Panel Umpires' it was felt that an award to the season's 'Best Umpire' would be a fitting tribute to them both.

For those that stand on the Panel, it is recognised that 'Captain's Marks' are not always a realistic representation of the Umpire on any given day, but that over the course of the season they tend to even out and offer a reasonable guide, so with these stats to hand it again fell to the Appointments sub-committee to decide upon a worthy recipient, taking into consideration that being the season's 'Best Umpire' is not just about being fortunate enough to have lots of days where one's colleague has to make all the decisions! but so much more.

I have been reliably informed that despite there being several strong contenders again this year there was a stand-out candidate worthy of the Award for 2017, and further testament to his credentials was his opinion that as a member of the sub-committee he should be excluded from consideration, a suggestion that appropriately received short-shrift from the other members.

Before I announce the winner, as Secretary, I always get the thoughts of captains and players about their perception of the standard of umpiring in general, and, without exception this year's recipient is always named as one of the best in the county....this year's Aldridge White Memorial Award winner is **Stephen Lavis**.

### **Nomination of Life and Honorary Membership of DACO**

The AGM 'host area' are entitled to propose Life and Honorary Membership of DACO, and the West Area Chairman, Gavin Lane, nominated the President, Eirian (Danny) Daniels for Honorary Life Membership in recognition of his services to DACO (and previously the DCU & S) for many years. Indeed there are several members here who have benefitted from him as a 'mentor' and he continues to observe and assess candidates as part of the Training and Education process.

### **AGM 2018**

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

### **Close of Meeting**

The meeting closed at 2015hrs.