

MINUTES OF THE 2020 DACO A.G.M., held 27/01/2021
via BT Cloud Phone Meetings.

The Chairman opened the meeting and thanked all those who had managed to connect for their commitment He also thanked Ian Birt for facilitating the meeting.

1. **In memoriam** the chairman asked that we all pause for a moment of respect to those members lost to us during the previous year.
2. **Present:** The attendance list shows that there were 31 members connected
3. **Apologies:** apologies were received from Jon Goulder, Wendy Hardy, Marilyn McQueen, Anne Marie Presswell, Jon Sparkes, James Wallach.
4. **Election of President** – It was unanimously agreed by showing of hands that Eddie Dymond continue as our president.
5. **President's Opening Address:** The president expressed sorrow that cricket had had a difficult year due to the covid 19 restrictions and hoped for a better year ahead. He thanked Pete Bamber for getting umpires appointed to the competitions and also wished to thank those colleagues who made themselves available. He also expressed thanks to our Chairman and Secretary for their commitment.
6. **Minutes of the 2019 A.G.M....circulated:** The minutes were approved by unanimous show of hands.
7. **Matters arising from those minutes** - there were no matters arising
8. **Chairman's report:** - Ladies and Gentlemen

For those of you that have joined us in the viral meeting, can I welcome and thank you for making the effort. To say 2020 was a strange year is an understatement. People throughout the world have lost family and we, as an organisation, have not been exempt from such losses. I will not list them, as any I miss would be an insult to their families and friends. Needless to say, they will leave huge gaps in our association, but their achievements and skills will long be remembered.

As your new chair, I have had mixed interactions with the ECB/ACO. Their plans, reviled to us at the Regional Conference in Salisbury, January 2020, to increase numbers / membership of ACO's, were produced without consulting ACOs, and seemed extreme, even in a normal year. We were told to liaise with our County Cricket Boards, when initiatives like Dynamos, Rising Stars were set up. This seems fine on paper, however, needs co-operation between boards and ACOs to make it work. I feel we are fortunate to be in a particularly good position as regards our working relationship with the DCB. Matt Theodom and I have had meetings, conversations and will sing from the same song sheet as soon as we can get going again. These schemes, if they are set up correctly, should enable clubs and ACOs to benefit with new members, young and old, male and female, to officiate on and off the field. However, I often get the impression that there is what I call, an M25 mentality towards Minor County ACOs. Rural counties, like Devon, do not have all the facilities, population, or road networks like the urban conurbations, and I often feel this is overlooked when plans are created. DACO does as well as it can in training officials, often better than some counties with professional teams. This will hopefully continue now that all

training is on-line, which is taxing for all tutors involved. On a positive side, I have found the support and guidance from the ECB as regards training, has been excellent. Dealing with the IT inadequacies of this tutor and his steam driven computer has been very demanding, but has always been dealt with in an efficient, positive, friendly manner!! Regional and national meetings are of course, viral, but even these have had their problems with systems breaking down. The best is being made of the situation we are in, and it is to be hoped that there is a positive light at the end of the very dark tunnel we have all experienced, which will turn to be a return to 'normality' as soon as possible.

The national management of the ECB/ ACO is currently undergoing a change in personnel, in areas that will deal with these new initiatives. Some have already been in touch and it is to be hoped that further communications will enable our voices to be heard, particularly when it comes to rolling out the initiatives to increase membership and participation in the game

9 Treasurer's Report: The treasurer reported that there had been a small loss on the year, the shortfall of £145.00 to be made up by the Devon Cricket League as part of their commitment to encourage umpire training. He stated that due to the pandemic there had been little change in the finances since we last met.

10 Election of Officers: Officers positions were proposed by G Gribble, seconded by E Dymond and elected 'en bloc' as follows:

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| • Chairman | - | Chris Shelton |
| • Vice-Chairman | - | Jim Anning |
| • Treasurer | - | Ian Birt |
| • Secretary & Membership Officer - | - | Dennis Smith |
| • Performance & Development Officer | - | Steve Lavis |
| • Appointments Officer | - | Pete Bamber |
| • Education Officer | - | Marilyn Macqueen |
| • Scorers and Welfare Officer | - | Nick Evanson |
| • Devon Women's CL Liaison | - | Paul Dawe |
| • DACO Representative to DCL | - | Pete Bamber |
| • Young Officials Representative | - | Rhys Callicott |
| • Female Officials Representative | - | Marilyn Macqueen |

11. The 'Tony Miller' Award – the members present supported the East Area recommendation from Ray Allen that Nick Forbes be presented with this award.

12. The 'Aldridge White Memorial' Award – Pete Bamber explained that as the normal process could not apply because marks had not been recorded. The members present supported his recommendation that this award be shared by Phil Mallett and Marilyn McQueen in recognition of their handling of a difficult situation in a match at which they were standing.

13. Nomination of Life and Honorary Members – There were none.

The business having been completed the chairman closed the meeting at 8.05pm

The 2021 AGM is to be held by West Area.

Chairman:

Date: