

**MINUTES OF THE 2021 DACO A.G.M. held 02/12/2021**  
at Exeter Cricket Club

The Chairman opened the meeting and thanked members for attending

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 32 members present
3. **Apologies:** The attendance list indicates 22 members gave apologies. An apology was also received from Jon Sparkes of the Devon Cricket Board
4. **Election of President** – C Shelton proposed that Eddie Dymond continue as our president for the forthcoming year. B Pinhey seconded the proposal and the members agreed unanimously.
5. **President's Opening Address:** The president wished to thank his colleagues, fellow umpires, the officers and particularly the appointments officer Pete Bamber and his area colleagues for getting as many games as possible covered. He expressed concerns that it might be more difficult to get all the league appointments covered in 2022.
6. **Minutes of the 2020 A.G.M....circulated:** The minutes were approved as a true record. Proposed by R. Allen; seconded by P Dawe.
7. **Matters arising from those minutes** - there were no matters arising
8. **Chairman's report:** - Ladies and Gentlemen

First of all, can I take this opportunity to thank all of you who made this a successful season. Devon cricket cannot do without you, so please allow me the chance to say what follows, which was written before the DCMS meeting regarding the racial insults suffered by the ex-Yorkshire cricketer....

Nine years ago, my good lady agreed to accompany me to a concert in Southampton. It was Greg Lake, from Emerson Lake and Palmer, who, as part of this gig sang 'I Believe in Father Christmas'...which is frequently played at this time of year. Why do I mention this, well, the song is about someone we all believed in once, if not anymore, and apart from being one of my favourite tracks, I can compare it to the ECB. This was an organisation that, having gone through the struggles of taking over from ACU&S, which as many of you will remember, was not an easy transition, seems to have now lost its' way. In the ex-Chairman, Nick Cousins, they had a leader who believed in the product, and what the ACO's were trying to achieve, and he was genuinely interested in us minions in Devon, on the occasions he visited us. I feel that this relationship is now in danger of becoming a myth, like the man in Greg Lake's song.

Their plans that all ACO's would increase its' lady umpires by x amount, each year, without any prior consultation, is an example of how they function. I totally agree we need more lady officials, umpires and scorers, involved in the game. When we get lady participants in training, we try to encourage them to continue their involvement in the game. Yes, there are initiatives to do this, that we are encouraged to be part of, when we know they are taking place, and hopefully they will eventually be successful. But over 30 per year is a pipe dream. Ladies cricket, particularly in this country, has been a tremendous success in the

last 20 years, encouraging young girls and ladies to get involved, possibly because they were very successful in world tournaments. The stars have moved into other areas of the game, the media, coaching etc....but not into umpiring. I count one British lady on the ICC panel, with, I understand, three who would be if not in full time employment. So, the ECB says we **must** increase our lady numbers each year, but do they? Simple answer is no. Now DACO will work as hard as possible, to increase the participation of young ladies and girls in cricket. When I see the ECB's success in getting more visible officials in the game, I will congratulate them, until then I suggest they encourage us to do what we can, without laying unrealistic targets on us. Put the house in order at the top, and the foundations will benefit and happily follow suit. As regards funding, the change that was implied over 2 years ago, well nothing has happened yet. I have met with Matt Theedom from the DCB on several occasions to discuss this another issues. He is as much in the dark as we are as to how the whole thing is going to work, apart from wishing to work with us.

I have to say this is my own opinion and may not be how other DACO members see it. That is fine by me, and if I am seen to be way out of line, well you have a chance to change this when you vote for the position of Chairman later this evening.

Rant over, back to this evening and this season. Firstly, can I congratulate anyone who acted as an official this season, umpiring or scoring. Scoring raised another issue that DACO had concerns about. In April it was cold, scorers were abandoned to their fate when scoring the 'necessary' games that were played. Not allowed in the scorebox, having to sit in cars, or outside in the elements. Nick Evenson raised this issue with me for guidance and support. I emailed Martin Gentle, acting Chair of ECB/ACO for his thoughts....he said look at the ECB guidelines... my email to Paul Bedford, head of recreational; cricket, which is what league cricket falls under... was totally ignored...speaks volumes.

Pete Bamber and his regional teams have been responsible for almost 1000 appointments this season. A fantastic effort hardly justifies the amount of work involved by them all. A totally brilliant piece of organisation, which speaks volumes for the credibility of DACO, particularly with the late cancellation of games due to Covid. So, thank you all for your support and flexibility.

For the first time we held two mid-season meetings with umpires, to discuss captains' marks and comments. 50% of these were due to ignorance of the laws of the game or the role of umpires, 30% pure sour grapes but the remaining were serious comments about concerns of how the game and decisions were handled. After these meetings, the marks and comments improved!! So now I have, at the DCL A.G.M, issued a friendly challenge to all captains, to come and lets us run you through Stags 1 & 2 free of charge, to help them understand the role of umpires and perhaps LEARN THE LAWS of the game. Not wishing to be a burden on our brilliant NHS, I will not hold my breath. We are making the same offer to all our umpires, as part of their CPD, when we can set it up, probably at Exeter Cricket Club.

So, what of next season. Bat gauges will be required use in Premier League games, but please do not use wooden ones. No new laws, but the ECB have issued a 13-page document about the use of cameras in live streaming of the games. Umpires get one sentence in it, which says in no circumstances can this medium be used to review /criticise any decisions in that game, during or after. Each club must also get written permissions, from everyone involved in the game, before they can stream it. I wish you all good luck with that!!

The ECB has lost money in the last two years, we all know that, so they shed staff, hundreds have gone. Roles have changed hand in weeks, some amalgamated, senior, and lower, down the chain, affecting all aspect of the ECB's management. The rats aren't leaving the sinking ship, I don't think it hasn't set sail yet. I said earlier, I am not currently a fan. Nothing I have seen or heard in the last 18 months gives me any confidence in their

ability to handle the future of this game. Your DACO Management Committee are still totally committed to do all they can for the game and its' members in Devon. I wonder if the ECB would notice if we declared UDI?? Negative, yes, misguided, perhaps, but this is what I really feel, and will accept it, if you, as our members, want a change of Chair. Thank you all again for all your efforts this season and in those to come.

- 9 Treasurer's Report:** The treasurer gave his report for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021 which indicated a £1005.80 reduction in our assets for the year. There being no questions the Balance sheet and Income and Expenditure Account were approved - Pro. E Dymond; Sec. J Anning – and are appended to the minutes.

At this point the Chairman drew members attention to correspondence from the ECB sent by Jon Sparkes relating to Discrimination and Safeguarding within cricket. Concerns were expressed as to how 'mandatory' was to be monitored. The Chairman agreed to contact Les Clemenson at the ECB for guidance.

- 10 Election of Officers:** Officers positions were proposed by E Dymond seconded by B Pinney and elected unanimously as follows:

• Chairman	-	Chris Shelton
• Vice-Chairman	-	Jim Anning
• Treasurer	-	Ian Birt
• Secretary & Membership Officer -		Dennis Smith
• 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 – Paul Dawe spoke on behalf of the West area indicating that the award should be presented to Brian Staplehurst, a well-respected and long serving umpire from that area. The members present supported the recommendation.
- 12.** The 'Aldridge White Memorial' Award – S Lavis spoke on the method of determining the recipient of the award and that the award was to be presented to Kevin Jacobs.
- 13.** Nomination of Life and Honorary Members – It was proposed by the Chairman and seconded by the President that Pete Bamber be awarded life membership.

The business having been completed the chairman closed the meeting at 8.15pm and with the blessing of the members the North Area presented an award to Richard Tidball.

The 2022 AGM is to be held at Exeter CC with North Area selecting the recipient of the Tony Miller award.

**Chairman:**

**Date:**