

# L & R ACO Education Report 2013 – 14

Firstly, I should start by thanking my tutors who gave so much of their time and energies to train new and developing umpires in Leicestershire and Rutland in the last year. Additional thanks are due to Chris Johnson for taking over the role of course administrator from Chris Lawman. Everyone has contributed to a very successful training year.

**TRAINING 2013 – 14.** The report on the activities over winter follows course levels, rather than chronological order. We start with Level 1 through 1A to Level 2.

**LEVEL 1.** The course was held in two locations and in two forms. The more traditional weekly course at Electricity Sports C.C. attracted nine candidates, including two female students and a good number from the Asian community. For the first time we held a course at weekends held on four Saturdays in March. This was designed to suit those at work who find the commitment of up to three months of study in the evening difficult to fit in after work. Ten students enrolled and attended for all day study on four successive weekends. The concern was that the intensity of the course might reduce the effective learning value. The comparative results from the examination at the end of the two courses failed to answer the question as both courses resulted in a 100% exam pass rate which, I'm sure, is a reflection of the quality of my tutors and the student's own enthusiasm to learn. The outcome, in terms of either exam results or attendance, does suggest that anCambridge took the examination in Leicester and also passed. This made a total of twenty passes at Level 1, twelve of whom have moved into an active umpiring role in the new L & R Cricket League.

**LEVEL 1A.** The course in November had six participants moving on from Level 1 the previous year. This is a developmental course stimulating discussion and learning in the classroom environment and leading to field assessment during the 2014 season. Four of our colleagues passed both elements of their personal development assessments with our Leicestershire assessors this year. Two still have their field assessments pending.

**LEVEL 2.** Five Leicestershire umpires attended a course held at Burton Latimer C.C. Northamptonshire just before the new season. This course is designed to further umpires' understanding and capabilities as they break into premiership levels of umpiring. Again four have already achieved success in their PD assessment and two have yet to finalise their work.

**MENTORING.** We continue to develop the system to support and advise newly qualified umpires within the league. The pressures of the first few games in charge need reassurance and support from existing umpires.

**FUTURE COURSES.** Courses for this year, in chronological order, are as follows.

**LEVEL 1A.** At Electricity Sports Weds at 7.00pm Nov 5th to Dec 10th. (6 sessions). This course is open to all who have passed Level 1 and is by invitation.

**LEVEL 1.** At Electricity Sports Weds at 7.00pm Jan 7th to 1st April. (13 sessions)

At Greenfields CC Sat Feb 7th to Feb 28th (4 Sessions).

Again we are running both the longer and the more intensive short course to suit all candidates. The course is suitable for any level of previous playing or umpiring experience. If members are aware of anyone who might be interested in becoming a qualified ACO umpire please let Chris Johnson know or invite them to contact him.

**LEVEL 2.** Progression to this level is by invitation, when our assessors agree it's appropriate. The courses are currently run on a regional basis.

**Upgrading existing unqualified umpires.** It is proposed that the Level 1 course should also be offered to existing umpires who do not currently possess a qualification in a form appropriate to their previous experience, leading to the Level 1 qualification. March 7th to 21st (3 sessions) The venue is to be decided as yet, possibly Kibworth C.C. These umpires are of course welcome to attend the other Level 1 courses instead.

#### **ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES.**

**Revision.** Keeping all the Laws active in one's mind can be difficult as time passes. Fully qualified members who wish to benefit from a revision opportunity are very welcome to attend any Level 1 course. However, we would ask you to respect the need of new candidates to be focused on their studies. The Level 1 course is designed to concentrate on understanding the Laws relevant to local cricket and field craft so, although it is good to learn from the experience of qualified umpires, the students should not be distracted by personal opinions on the Laws or stories of days gone by. If you wish to take up this offer please contact Chris Johnson. There are discussions at national level regarding the possibility of official revision courses but no firm proposals have been agreed as yet.

**L & R ACO monthly meetings.** It is proposed to have relevant revision deliveries at some of the Association's meetings, as well as any updates of Law changes, lead by the education team. These meetings are also ideal learning and revision opportunities for members to have free discussion with each other. The 'stories' referred to earlier are ideal at these sessions! The 'Education team' look forward to meeting all of our members on these occasions for open discussion.