

# APPOINTMENTS NEWSLETTER

## MIDLANDS 2014

Regional Appointments Officer: Peter McKenzie 01909 733094, [ecbracmid@aol.com](mailto:ecbracmid@aol.com)

### THANK YOU

Once again, I must thank you all for fulfilling so many appointments (672) in this hot summer when very little was cancelled. Except, of course, the ill-fated Colleges T20 competition. Please be assured that I shall not be appointing to this competition in 2014. I apologise unreservedly to those who were messed about (and that includes some of you who did umpire(!)). I thank those of you who took appointments at short notice, and apologise to those who did not get as many appointments as you would have wished.

### whostheumpire

I am pleased that, in 2014 four Midlands Counties will be using [www.whostheumpire.com](http://www.whostheumpire.com). for their own competitions This will mean that umpires in four counties will become more familiar with WtU by regular use. All other umpires who are current members of ECB ACO and with a Grade of C2\* and above are strongly encouraged to register as members of whostheumpire for Regional appointments.. Other grades are free to register but should be aware that opportunities for ECB appointments are limited. A guide to logging on to [www.whostheumpire.com](http://www.whostheumpire.com) is available from [ecbracmid@aol.com](mailto:ecbracmid@aol.com)

- If you have no access to the internet, you can receive and accept/decline appointments painlessly on your mobile phone.
- Umpires receiving appointments via mobile phone will have to phone 01909 733094 to register availability and must keep me informed of changes.

### Availability

**whostheumpire only functions efficiently when umpires keep their availability up-to-date.** Sadly this has not been the case again this year. On no less than 107 occasions, an umpire who said (s)he was available has declined an offered appointment. The resulting inconvenience is

- I have to make the appointment again
- The next umpire gets shorter notice
- Because I appoint 'nearest first', the next umpire often has to travel further
- Please be considerate to your fellow umpires and **KEEP YOUR AVAILABILITY UP-TO-DATE.** I know that there are emergencies, but not 107 in one season!!

Your availability for the 2014 season must be on-line by 1st March 2014 at the latest. A guide to logging availability on [www.whostheumpire.com](http://www.whostheumpire.com) is available from [ecbracmid@aol.com](mailto:ecbracmid@aol.com)

**If you are applying to register with [www.whostheumpire.com](http://www.whostheumpire.com) for the first time, you MUST add the following information in the 'Notes' section of your application:**

- ACO Membership number
- **Issue date only** of your DBS (CRB)
- Confirm that you are an UMPIRE
- Your Autumn 2013 Grade (ask your County Performance Officer if you are not sure)

**Will all WtU members please ensure that their postcode is correct on their Contacts Page. I can use this information to minimise travelling.**

Whatever your problem with [www.whostheumpire.com](http://www.whostheumpire.com) umpires **must not contact Mark Brown direct.** (This includes the automatic contact on WtU). Despite this request appearing last year, Mark Brown was approached directly by over 20 members in 2013. Contact [ecbracmid@aol.com](mailto:ecbracmid@aol.com)

## Regional Appointments: a Policy Statement

**I make no apology for re-printing the following statement from 2013**

Many umpires leave themselves recorded as 'available' on [www.whotheumpire.com](http://www.whotheumpire.com) when they are already committed to a County appointment. In principle, that is acceptable, provided your CAO knows and agrees. If you are then offered a Regional appointment, you may only accept it by **negotiation** with your CAO. If your CAO says you cannot be released, you honour the County appointment. I will not 'pull rank' on any CAO in this situation. CAOs are instructed to inform me of any examples of poor practice and action will be taken against umpires who treat their County's needs with disrespect. If you decline a county appointment to accept a Regional appointment, you must confirm with me that you have the agreement of your County Appointments Officer.

### Short-notice appointments

***Inevitably there will be occasions when I have to offer appointments at short, even very short, notice. If you are still showing as 'available', you will still be offered appointments right up to the day before. If you do not wish to be considered, please make yourself unavailable. If you are showing 'available', and decline, it probably leaves the game without an umpire.***

### Expenses

Please note that the standard rate of expenses for all ECB recreational competitions is £30 + 30p per mile. The only exception is ECB County Under 17 cricket for which umpires are paid £40 +30p per mile. **This is paid by the home county, on the day, NOT the ECB.** Expenses for the ECB National Club Knockout and the ECB Club T20 Cup are paid by the home club at its league rate until Round 3 and the ECB

### LINKS

Playing conditions can be found at <http://static.ecb.co.uk/files/3139-nfc>

The ACO Claim form can be found at <http://www.ecb.co.uk/ecb/ecb-association-of-cricket-officials/documents/>

### DBS (formerly CRB) Disclosure

If your DBS date of issue is not correct on whotheumpire, or is out-of-date, you cannot be offered appointments.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Notifying the ACO Membership Office at Edgbaston does not automatically up-date your DBS details on whotheumpire. **You need to email me separately with the date of issue only. You cannot change your DBS date of expiry yourself.**

If your DBS is renewed any time between 1 October 2013 and 30 September 2014, **this applies to you.**

Thanks to all of you who responded promptly to my CRB (DBS) 'clean-up' drive in 2013.

### Grades

The ECB ACO expects County Performance Officers to inform members of their allocated grade for the 2014 season. This grade will be instrumental in your appointments to regional fixtures. If you have not been informed by the beginning of the new season, you should ask your CPO. Please note that ACO Grades are C1\* to C6. D Grades are allocated only by Chris Kelly.

### Prestige Appointments

The following Midlands umpires are warmly congratulated on their appointment to prestige appointments in 2013:

Russell Warren (Nottinghamshire): ECB Club T20 Finals Day at The Oval

Adam Hitchcock (Derbyshire) ECB Under 17 County Cup A Division Final

Tom Lungley (Derbyshire) ECB Under 17 County Cup B Division final

Lee Sockett (Staffordshire) ECB Under 17 County Cup B Division final