

Leicestershire & Rutland Association of Cricket Officials
County Performance Officer's Report
Annual General Meeting 9th November 2015

Ladies and Gentlemen

As chairman of the L&R Cricket League's Umpire's Panel there were again a number of issues that arose which had to be dealt with. The Appointments Secretaries had a most difficult season in making appointments. The number of umpires dropping out each week was enormous. Some weeks they had to scrap their work and start again in the middle of the week for which they were making the appointments.

Since the end of the season we have had one L&RCL Umpires Panel committee meeting at which we conducted the Annual Grading of Umpires for the ACO and the banding of our umpires for next season in the League. This year your Annual Grading will be notified to you by ACO direct instead of coming from me.

Last Monday [1st November] I chaired the end of season meeting of the League Umpire's Panel to which 50 members attended and gave the Annual Report, which stimulated some debate on several issues especially discipline matters and expenses. A copy of the report and minutes of the meeting are available on the Leicestershire Cricket website.

Again I put a request to the League for funding for Umpire Development and Education and for the second season they granted us £1,500, continuing my understanding that it was to be an annual grant, along with £500 from the Cricket Board. I will repeat this request again in January [the start of accounting year for the L&RCL].

Unfortunately Captains Marks and comments have not been as good as we would have liked. Boundary Assessing is the best way to mentor umpires which needs to be extended next season. We hoped that this could be achieved with the League money and more Assessors.

Five members expressed an interest in becoming Boundary Assessors, we held our own little Introductory Session to give them an insight into what would be required. All five went on to undertake an ECB ACO course at Loughborough but regrettably only one undertook any Assessing during the season. The others all continued with their umpiring. I am grateful to Alex Mofford for helping out with Assessing, although we had more Assessors the amount of assessing decreased. This was due to the shortage of umpires in the League and the majority of umpires that needed assessments were mostly appointed to matches on their own so consequently we could not carry out an assessment. I would also like to thank Graham Pickering, one of our experienced tutors, who was unable to umpire for most of the season, for his mentoring of the newly qualified umpires.

As CPO I over saw that Educational courses were held last year, and acted as invigilator at the Level 1 exams which I am delighted to report that we had an exceptionally high pass rate, details of which appear in the Educational Report.

We put forward two candidates for the Level 2 course last year but unfortunately both had to drop out at the last moment through family or work commitments. Neil Palmer has been put forward this year for the Level 2 Course and Mohammed Rahaman for the Level 3 Course. Chris Johnson, Dan Pedley and Kevin Smyth are all in their last year of the Level 3 Course and we wish them success in completing the course.

We must congratulate Dan Pedley on being elevated to the ECB 'D' List from where the umpires are selected to officiate County 2nd XI fixtures. We have put forward Chris Jonson and Kevin Smyth's application to the 'D' List for 2016 to which we hope they are both successful.

Gordon Hubbard
L&R ACO County Performance Officer
3rd November 2015