

L&R ACO Education Report 2014/15.

This has been another successful year for the Education team. We continue to qualify new umpires and have made greater strides in our capacity to support them as well as existing umpires on field during the season.

The breakdown of newly qualified umpires is as follows:

Level 1 Course at Electricity Sports [Jan] - 6 candidates all passed exam [one on a re-sit].

Level 1 Course at Loughborough Greenfields - 9 candidates all passed.

Level 1 Course at Leics Banks [existing umpires in L&RCL] - 8 candidates - 7 passed.

Therefore we achieved a total of 22 candidates being awarded the level one qualification this year. Three more than last year.

We also continued to monitor the development of our recently qualified umpires by running a level 1A course. The results were as follows:

Level 1A course - 7 candidates. 5 of whom have been Boundary Assessed. The other two haven't been umpiring this season.

Two umpires were nominated to embark on the level 2 course but for different reasons neither were able to take up the offer this year.

One umpire has been selected for and has embarked on the level three course.

A new innovation this year was to look towards the need for continued development and support of umpires who are already in the system at all levels.

With the agreement of the appointments secretaries it was decided that all new league umpires with a level 1 qualification should be placed in division four with an experienced colleague who could support and mentor them through their first few months in the job.

In addition to this a number of colleagues have qualified as boundary assessors and we are now in a position to support more umpires at all levels with feedback and mentoring.

The regular Monday winter meetings were used to set up interactive refresher courses, delivered by the education team but using the expertise in the room to allow colleagues to support each other.

These were very well received by those who attended and gave feedback and it is intended to continue with them in the coming winter.

During the winter the team has delivered over 100 hours of umpire education in various forms and has undertaken the preparation that this level of service demands. All on a voluntary basis. I would like to praise the dedication and commitment of the education team who have also been assessed and found to be doing a very good job. Always looking to improve we also set up an exchange programme with our counterparts in Derbyshire with a view to sharing ideas and good practice. This was a successful venture and we would look to continue or even expand this next year.

Many thanks to Kevin Smyth, Graham Pickering, Dan Pedley, Dave Perry and, in particular, our Administration Officer Chris Johnson for all of the effort and expertise that they have given us to make all of the above possible and to Ray Rowley for his support on the evenings.

John Edmonds,
L&R ACO Education Officer