

Umpiring Manager's Report 2019.

What a busy season, the complete antithesis to 2018 with more than 50 league, cup and T20 matches taking place with a force of only nine umpires, I'll start by thanking our intrepid team for all your hard work throughout this season.

We welcome to our ranks three new umpires, Peter Brown from St Aulaye, Roger Ringwood and Ian Brown both from Eymet, while sadly we have lost one umpire also from Eymet.

Many thanks to Stephen Harrison for running the umpiring course.

While on the subject of umpires there are three clubs who don't supply an umpire for ACCSO matches one of those clubs being Toulouse who currently field two teams in all competitions.

We desperately need more umpires!

There are senior players out there in the clubs who are qualified umpires but prefer to play. If these players agree to stand in some games it would go some way to addressing our current umpiring crisis.

Cricket is a dangerous game! It never ceases to amaze me when batsmen arrive at the crease wearing only a baseball cap for head protection, ready to play fast bowling on often uneven wickets, do they have a death wish?

We have rules to ensure that players under 19 wear a helmet maybe it is time to make the wearing of helmets compulsory for all!

Helmets are well designed and relatively inexpensive and can save you from serious injury.

I have been asked on several occasions why we don't have **neutral** umpires for all matches, the answer is simple, to provide a neutral umpire for all matches would require two umpires travelling to every match, think of the travel costs to ACCSO, more to the point we don't have the luxury of being able to pick and choose we simply do not have enough umpires.

The majority of ACCSO Umpires are registered via the various clubs but our umpires are all neutral.

Discipline this year has been better with no major disciplinary cases being reported.

There is however still room for improvement, on two occasions this season I have had to speak to players who clearly don't agree with an Umpiring decision.

Please go immediately if you are given out, you can throw your bat or kick the cat once you are back in the hutch but if you show dissent on the field you will be reported and leave yourself open to the ACCSO disciplinary action.

Some players, even some more experienced ones, still do not understand the LBW law and appeal vociferously every time a ball hits the batsman's pads. Appealing from square leg is just plain stupid, the only players on the bowling side that are in a good position to judge LBW are the bowler himself and the wicket keeper so leave them to do the appealing. Umpires will usually explain why they rejected an LBW appeal if you ask them after the match.

Remember **excessive appealing** is a level 1 offence under **law 42.1 unacceptable behaviour**.

The revised law dealing with **beamers** has been well received by umpires, it gives us discretion over warning bowlers who bowl beamers that are, by virtue of the height and or direction of the delivery pose no danger to the batsman.

It should be remembered however that the bowling **bouncers** above shoulder height is considered dangerous and are still subject to a first and final warning and a repeated bouncer will find the bowler removed from the attack for the rest of the game.

Over rates this season have been better with captains responding well to a “hurry up” call by umpires.

The wide rule is still contentious with many umpires felling that bowlers are deliberately bowling close to the the return crease in an effort to keep the score down. There is little evidence to suggest that it encourages the batsmen to use their feet.

Returning to the use of the ICC ODI lines might be the answer but remember the eight or even ten ball overs we had under that regime . (To be discussed at the AGM)

Finally I remind you all that our umpires give up their Sundays to enable you to play cricket they often have travelling times in excess of four hours and spend up to six hours in the summer sun so please give them the respect they deserve.

Malcolm Grant

Umpiring Community Manager