

UMPIRING MANAGER'S REPORT 2021 SEASON

We started the season with nine potential pool umpires but within a few weeks we were, due to ill health, reduced to only myself and two others, a situation indicative of the ageing population of our pool umpires.

Many thanks to Adrian Evett and Gary Stark for taking up the slack and standing most weekends throughout the season. Well done!

Clearly clubs will need to qualify as many new umpires as possible and as quickly as possible! To this end in November last year we organised an online course through the ECB. I would have liked to report the numbers either qualified or under training but unfortunately I don't have access to the course results yet.

Umpiring can be very enjoyable, for those players who are in "the twilight" of their cricketing career it is a good way of remaining involved and at the same time giving something back to the game which has given us all so much pleasure.

For those who are willing the web address for enrolment is...

<https://booking.ecb.co.uk/c/express/c2523c12-f0d1-4e4c-979b-4ea15c74abc8>

Disappointingly the coming season sees the demise of pool umpires, a retrograde step, surely! We are also likely about to witness ACCSO "Regulations" for competitions becoming ACCSO "Guidelines".

How can we possibly consider that playing a competitions match with no rules!!! Could work? Please think very hard when voting this item at the upcoming AGM.

In my years of umpiring I have witnessed a enough disagreements on the field, ranging from slightly disgruntled to actually, on one occasion just falling short of actual physical violence, , to think that we can reasonably expect a couple of "partisan umpires," who may be inexperienced (at umpiring) having the wherewithal to maintain control without the benefit of regulations and ultimately sanctions?

I would like to take this opportunity to heartily thank all our Poolies and their long suffering wives,(partners) for their dedication to cricket over the years.

I have decided to "Hang up my white coat" and for the record it has nothing to do with the upcoming changes, I enjoy umpiring and would love to continue, I'm left with many happy memories of my umpiring days My advancing years and failing health, make standing on my feet for long periods very uncomfortable. (Those who witnessed my rank inability to get out of the way of an On drive at Damazan v TCC Bears last year will surely agree it is time for me to retire).

I more than happy to continue to organise Umpire training for the foreseeable future.

Finally I wish you all a happy and fulfilling 2022 season.

Author: Malcolm Grant Umpiring Community Manager (2018 ~ 2022)