

East Surrey Association of Cricket Umpires & Scorers

www.esacus.org.uk

Minutes of the ESACUS committee meeting held at 3.00pm on Wednesday, February 25th 2009 at Horley CC.

Present: Steve Hodge (Chairman)
Lorraine Elgar (Vice Chairman)
John Flatley (Secretary & Webmaster)
Peter Turner (Treasurer)
Andrew Etherington
Bernard Wright (Social Secretary)

Minutes of the last meeting

55/08 The Minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

Matters Arising

- 56/08 With regards to venues for future training courses (43/08), it was reported that Caterham School may remain as an option in the future but that the possibility of Freemans' School was no longer so.
- 57/08 Andrew had obtained quotes for the purchase of equipment (44/08) and this had been incorporated in our proposed budget for a training grant that had been submitted to the Surrey Cricket Board.
- 58/08 Andrew was now in possession of the loaned OHP and laptop (45/08) from the Swale association.
- 59/08 John reported that he had not yet written to seek clarification about the role of the Welfare Officer (46/08) but agreed to do so. Lorraine suggested there was information on the ECB ACO website which might be helpful to look at.
- 60/08 No venue could be identified in time for a possible Christmas social gathering (49/08) so this did not take place.
- 61/08 Lorraine and Steve had not found time to explore other venues in the area (50/08) but agreed to carry this action forward.
- 62/08 John reported that he had contacted all members about the new single point of contact for requests for umpires in Surrey (53/08), asking if they would like to be on a circulation list and, if so, that they were willing for their contact details to be passed to John White who was co-ordinating.

Treasurer's Report

- 63/08 Peter reported that we had a small surplus, of £1.89, from the annual dinner and a current bank balance of £1,015.
- 64/08 It was proposed by Lorraine that Peter's financial reports should provide more detail so that members could see better what the committee was spending funds on. For example, it was suggested that expenses incurred by individual officers and for specific activities (like committee meetings) should be separately identified. This was agreed by all and Peter said that he would prepare a revised report for the next meeting.

East Surrey Association of Cricket Umpires & Scorers

- 65/08 Peter suggested now that we were offering to pay travel expenses for members attending committee meetings then we should have an expense claim form to log this better. It was agreed that Peter should prepare a claim form to be used in future.
- 66/08 We now have a surplus of Tom Smith's and it was agreed that we should offer them, at cost price, to other local associations who had run out of stock.
- 67/08 John gave a stock update on the equipment that he had recently purchased. We retained 4 bowlers markers, 7 run counters, and 3 umpire counters. John agreed to send Peter full details and income from sales to date.
- 68/08 Lorraine reported that the Kent cricket league had managed to organise a deal with a manufacturer to supply a tin of equipment (bails, counters etc.) for umpires and that we could think about something similar as part of a new members pack. Lorraine agreed to find out more details.
- 69/08 It was agreed that we needed to maintain a log of stock (including Tom Smith's and equipment that John had recently purchased) and where it was held. John agreed to organise this and to ensure that a report was presented at every meeting.
- 70/08 Lorraine reported that the association should expect to receive a proportional share of funds remaining in the old SE-AC&US regional account which was being re-distributed to local associations.
- 71/08 John had prepared a membership report showing that we currently had 119 members (including 41 new ones that had attended the recent training course) but that 30 members had not yet paid their annual subscription.
- 72/08 According to the constitution, membership lapses for those who had not paid up by 31st March 2009. It was agreed that John should send a polite reminder to all those who had not yet paid pointing out that they would not be able to attend and vote at the forthcoming EGM if they do not renew their membership.

Training Report

- 73/08 John Smith was preparing a formal report on the ECB Level 1 course held at Caterham School on 14/15 February for the next meeting. This was to include analysis of feedback forms issued to all delegates.
- 74/08 Andrew gave an oral report on what was agreed to have been a very successful course. It had the largest attendance of any in the country and we were commended by Nick Cousins (ECB ACO Training Officer) who visited the course. Lorraine (as ECB ACO Regional Councillor) made an appearance on both days, with Steve and John visiting on the second day to welcome new members to the association.
- 75/08 The large volume of delegates attending had placed a strain on the administration of the course and John Smith was commended on his hard work in ensuring the course ran smoothly. There was agreement that it was unfair to expect one individual to take on dual role of logistics officer and instructor, as John Smith had done. It was agreed that in future we should consider having a dedicated administrator to manage the running of the course (e.g. greeting delegates and visitors, organising refreshments, sorting out CRB checks).

East Surrey Association of Cricket Umpires & Scorers

- 76/08 It was agreed that the Secretary should write to John Smith to express our thanks to him for all his efforts.
- 77/08 Andrew reported that the ECB were organising a seminar for South East trainers in London in the autumn. There were also plans for a "Train the trainers" induction course (1 day) for new tutors.
- 78/08 There were on-going discussions about the payment of tutor's expenses and Surrey ACO were seeking consistency across the county.
- 79/08 A number of East Surrey members were known to be attending a ECB Level 2 Umpiring Course being held at Lord's in March.
- 80/08 Andrew reported that there had been a request from an U13 league for us to run an Introduction to Umpiring Course and that this was being held at Woodmansterne CC. The committee agreed with Andrew's proposal to purchase a screen at a cost of £99.99 for use at this and at future courses.

Supporting new members

- 81/08 There was discussion about doing more to support our members, particularly the news ones. It was agreed we needed to find out more about our members and their development needs (e.g. whether or not they were umpires or scorers, active or not, whether or not they were prepared to help as mentors or wanted mentoring). John agreed to draft a questionnaire which could be sent out to all members and used to update our records.
- 82/08 There was also discussion about whether or not we should organise an event to present certificates to new members who had passed the recent ECB Level 1 Umpiring Course. Results from the exam were expected early March and it was agreed it would be better to organise something on a county wide basis. Steve, as Chairman, agreed to contact the Surrey ECB ACO training officer to suggest this to him.

Scholarship scheme for young officials

- 83/08 The committee discussed the idea of the association providing sponsorship to promote the development of new young officials. It was agreed that we should make contact with the District Development Officer at Surrey Cricket Board and discuss further with them. John agreed to seek to identify the most appropriate person for us to speak to further about this proposal.

Webmaster's Report

- 84/08 John presented his report which noted that two of the new-look newsletters to members had been issued to members since the last meeting and that usage statistics for the website were now available for the first complete calendar year. This showed that the website had received 32,237 hits in 2008 and 5,508 separate visits. Usage levels had increased noticeably in the last quarter of 2008 compared with previous quarters. Steve thanked John for all his efforts on the website.
- 85/08 The committee agreed that in the event of the EGM agreeing to change the name of the association that we should retain our current domain name (www.esacus.org.uk) rather than incurring additional costs to purchase a new one. We could change the name at the next opportunity.

East Surrey Association of Cricket Umpires & Scorers

86/08 It was agreed that John should place an item on the website advertising the umpiring roadshows to clubs.

Future programme

87/08 The EGM was being held on 2nd April at Horley CC and will be followed by a quiz and John agreed to send notification to all members at least 2 weeks in advance.

88/08 There was discussion about the possibility of organising a summer gathering at a county game which could involve an opportunity to meet the First Class umpires standing in the game. Lorraine had contacts with a number of the umpires and thought that most of them would be happy to agreed to help. It was agreed to provisionally pencil in Wednesday 15 July at Guildford CC (Day 1 of the county match between Surrey and Essex).

89/08 The committee reflected on the annual dinner held earlier in the month and all agreed it was well organised and went well. It was noted that, whilst the table layout was an improvement on the previous year, there had been limited opportunity for tables to mix/mingle. It was agreed we should look to improve this aspect in future.

News from SCB ACO and ECB ACO

90/08 Steve reported back from the SCB ACO that Brian Hurn (Croydon association) was acting as a co-ordinator for a series of county wide mentoring meetings during the forthcoming season.

91/08 Lorraine reported that the ECB ACO were planning an all-day national meeting in October which would include workshops/speakers, lunch, after-dinner speaker and a short AGM. This promised to be a really good event and we should encourage as many of our members to attend once details were publicised.

92/08 Lorraine reported that there had been huge delays in the ECB processing new applications/direct debits and that the backlog was being cleared so that all new applications would be dealt within 2-3 weeks of being received. Lorraine also said that an ECB ACO newsletter was due to be issued within the next month.

93/08 As Regional Councillor, Lorraine had set up a London and East regional forum to provide two-way communication between the counties and herself up to the national board.

A.O.B.

94/08 A date for the next meeting was not agreed but it was suggested that the committee could have a quick get-together at the EGM/quiz to deal with any urgent business and John would arrange a date for the next meeting in due course.

The meeting ended at 5.40 p.m.

John Flatley Secretary April 20 th 2009	Confirmed
	Date