

East Surrey Association of Cricket Umpires & Scorers

www.esacus.org.uk

Affiliated to the Surrey Cricket Board Association of Cricket Officials

**Chairman: Steve Hodge; Secretary & Treasurer: Peter Turner;
Training Officer: Andrew Etherington; Webmaster: John Flatley;
Welfare Officer: Dr Fred Imms; Social Secretary: Bernard Wright; Lorraine Elgar.**

WEBMASTER'S REPORT for the 11th AGM for the period October 2007 to September 2008.

1. At last year's AGM I offered to take on the role of the association's webmaster. I did so having no prior experience, but with some enthusiasm. I felt that our association's website, like many other websites, had not been regularly maintained, failed to service the needs of members or project a good image of our association. My goal was to establish a functional website that was updated regularly and provided a source of useful information to members and others interested in cricket umpiring and scoring.
2. Having no previous experience, I sought the advice of Mike Brunavs, the webmaster of our neighbouring association - West Surrey. Our existing website was moribund and unsupported. I arranged for it to be closed and, with the agreement of your committee, purchased a new domain name (esacus.org.uk) and a hosting plan (i.e. rented space on the internet for our web page) for the association.
3. After some effort mastering how to write HTML (Hypertext Mark Up Language - the computer code which enables web pages to be read by web browsers), I was able to get the most basic of basic websites up and running by the turn of the year. The site initially consisted of one single page of text broken up with some basic headings and navigational links. It was functional but not very easy to use or attractive.
4. I have revamped the website on 2 occasions during the year: the first time was to create a multiple-pages site which was better organised and easier to navigate. More recently I have revamped the site to give it a cleaner look and feel. The new colour scheme may not be to the liking of all but I think it is more attractive than before. I recognise that there is much more to do to make the site more attractive to users.
5. I have not tried to replicate what other sites do well already (e.g. the ICUS site has an excellent Q&A section) but to provide links to other sites. One unique aspect of the site is the "news cuttings" page where I search newspapers and cricket sites for stories that are relevant to umpires and scorers and then post a summary sentence and link on our site. This is regularly updated with over 90 links added during the course of the year. I hope that members find this a useful resource.
6. In terms of usage, our hosting plan provides regular reports of visits to the site. This is measured in terms of hits and visits and is shown in the Table over the page. I think these figures are reasonably good for a new local association's site and good with a minimum monthly average of nearly 200 visits to the site and a maximum of nearly 600. Most months have had around 500 visits.

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Table 1: Usage statistics for the ESACUS website, Jan-Sep 2008

Month	Daily average		Monthly totals	
	Hits	Visits	Hits	Visits
January	86	9	2676	303
February	52	6	1535	195
March	93	8	2909	273
April	86	19	2589	594
May	46	16	1438	523
June	47	17	1414	533
July	48	17	1493	547
August	58	15	1828	473
September	43	12	1296	373

7. I would welcome feedback from members on the site. Please let me know what you like about the site and what you don't, and what you would like to see in the future. Please have a word with me at the AGM, email me at webmaster@esacus.org.uk or phone on 0208 941 2049.
8. If asked to continue by your committee, I would be happy to continue in the role for another year. I have also expressed an interest in being elected as your new Secretary and believe the two roles could complement each other quite well.

John Flatley
Webmaster ESACUS webmaster@esacus.org.uk
November 6th 2008

Webmaster's Report 2007-08