

RECRUITMENT WITHIN ACU MAINTAINS MOMENTUM BOTH NATIONWIDE AND OVERSEAS, (ALTHOUGH SOME EARLY PACE-SETTERS FALL BY THE WAYSIDE, OTHER NOTABLES PICK UP THE BATON)

Issue No. 27 of "How's That?" contained a detailed report from the General Secretary, Tom Smith, which addressed the controversial aspects of LBW consideration and forward-playing batsmen.

Whether or not the individual reader of this paper agrees with the arguments expressed so cogently by Tom Smith at that time (or since), the author of this present script believes he needs to offer no apology for quoting it again verbatim, if only to confirm it as an authenticated document that fully justifies its historical repetition. As far as is known, no correspondent ever wrote a contrary view in response to Tom Smith's expressed thoughts and, in fact, the content of the General Secretary's narrative became part and parcel of Association teaching over subsequent years.

The article read as follows:

LBW and forward-playing batsmen.

In December, 1959, G.E. Gomez, former West Indian Test Cricketer, and, now, West Indies Board of Control Umpire Liaison Officer, released a Press memorandum. In this, he stated that there was an "accepted attitude in the minds of English Umpires that the ball hitting the front pad obliterates every other consideration". He went on to assert: "It is not surprising, therefore, to find umpires born and bred in English conditions turning down appeals for LBW immediately the ball hits the pad stretched well forward."

These points were covered also in a letter from Gerry Gomez to me on the 13 November 1959, referring to a meeting I had with him in London, when we discussed this LBW problem. In the letter, Mr Gomez described an experiment carried out at Queen's Park Cricket ground, Trinidad. Two stumps as far apart as the width of a batsman's pad, placed in a wooden base, are set up at a point up the pitch where the front foot of the batsman would normally be on a forward-defensive stroke. The two-stump base is placed in line with the off-stump and, Mr Gomez went on to say that on a very good surface, nearly 100% of all deliveries pitched on or outside of the off-stump, and, sometimes even on the middle stump, which passed through the aperture, will hit the wicket. He pointed out that this was on a good surface and that the texture of pitches in Australia, South Africa and the West Indies approximates the behaviour of a concrete surface.

My answer, given to the Press and to Garry Gomez personally, was that I do not accept that English Umpires carry out a refusal to consider LBW appeals to a forward-playing batsman, as an "act of faith". This may apply to some, but certainly the large majority consider every case on its merits.

Would the ball have hit the wicket? is the criterion; and, if a batsman plays three feet down the pitch from the popping-crease, the ball must make a journey of seven feet to hit the wicket. Surface of the pitch is all important as well as air conditions, and, in England, where umpires see considerable deviation off the pitch and through the air, prediction is quite a different matter to the same set of circumstances in the West Indies.

Pitch of the ball, too, is of vital importance. It is essential for the umpire to have the ball in sight for a certain time before he can possibly make a prediction of its further flight. If a batsman reaches forward, and the ball strikes him very quickly off the ground, it is quite impossible for any umpire –

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English or West Indian - to make an honest prediction. On the other hand, if the ball pitches at a shorter distance down the pitch, it takes longer from the ground to strike the batsman, and will be held in the umpire's sight for a longer period. This makes for more accurate prediction, and therefore justifies consideration of LBW.

Regarding judgment. It must be realised that cold observation of a ball being bowled through an aperture at the wicket is one thing. Prediction of a ball's flight must be made through the bone, blood and sinew of the batsman struck, and this is another thing. Sometimes, too, the batsman will be moving at impact. There is very little comparison between the two sets of conditions, as far as judgment is concerned. The Umpire must make a split-second decision under very difficult conditions, especially to a fast bowler.

On Monday, the 2 May 1960, I arranged with the co-operation of MCC an experiment at Lord's the results of which are shown as under:

"Experiment on L.B.W. and its application to the Forward-Playing Batsman"

Carried out at Lord's at 6pm on Monday 2 May 1960.

Weather: Dull, but very good lighting.

Pitches :

- (1) Excellent Turf - as to be expected at Lord's. Comparable with a first-class pitch anywhere in England.*
- (2) Pitch laid out on excellent concrete surface.*

Grass Pitch :

50 deliveries were bowled by MCC Professional Ground Staff Bowlers -very experienced and accurate.

Apparatus :

Two stumps set up on block, distance apart representing average width of batsman's pads. These were placed 3 feet in front of popping crease, - 7 feet from wicket, in the line with off-stump.

Procedure :

Bowlers were instructed to bowl through aperture to hit the wicket. Of the 50 balls bowled, only 10 passed through the aperture. Of this ten, 6 missed the wicket, 4 hit the wicket. This means that only 20% of the balls bowled hit the forward-playing batsman's pads. Of these, 60% missed the wicket altogether; 40% hit the wicket. All the balls that hit the wicket pitched approximately 14 feet from the stumps, or 10 feet from the popping crease.

Concrete Pitch:

50 deliveries were bowled, of which only 7 passed through the aperture. Of these 7, 5 missed the wicket and 2 hit the wicket. This means that only 28% of balls bowled hit the forward-playing batsman's pads. Of these, 70% missed the wicket altogether, and 30% hit the wicket.

CONCLUSIONS :

Grass Pitch :

It is significant to note that only 20% of the balls bowled hit the batsman's pads. Of the 40% that hit the wicket after impact with the pads, all were pitched 10 feet in front of the popping crease - definitely short balls, which any class of batsman would normally play back to. If the batsman did

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play forward, the umpire would have the ball in sight for a reasonable time, thus enabling him to predict further flight accurately. Of the 60% that missed the wicket, all were well-pitched up balls, that a batsman would probably play forward to. The impact on the batsman's pads would be on the half-volley, and the umpire would only have the ball in sight for a fraction of a second, thus making prediction of the further flight almost impossible.

Concrete Pitch:

Again, significant to note that only 28% of balls bowled hit the batsman's pads. Of the balls that hit the wicket after impact with the pads, all were pitched well up. This would mean impact on pads would be on the half-volley and almost impossible for the umpire to predict further flights. Balls pitched ten feet in front of the popping crease which hit the wicket on grass went well over the top on concrete. This happened even at a distance of 6 feet in front of the popping crease. No more accuracy was found on concrete than on grass, but the ball was constantly veering higher.

This experiment points to a conclusion that on West Indian, Australian and South African pitches, which are approximate to the concrete pitch, umpires can only reasonably predict further flight to well-pitched-up balls. Anything short will certainly rear away over the top of the wicket. As I have said, prediction to well-pitched-up balls is extremely difficult, because of the very small amount of time that the ball is held in sight, and it must be said that umpires under these conditions must be very sure indeed that they have made an accurate and sincere judgment of being certain beyond all doubt that the ball would have travelled on to hit the wicket if it had not made impact with a batsman playing forward. With a fast bowler and moving batsman, it is a very, very difficult task!

For English umpires the experiment indicates that the case is entirely opposite. Short-pitched balls consistently go on to hit the wicket but for impact with the batsman's pads; but batsmen usually play back to this type of ball and the forward-playing case would seldom arise. If impact is made on the batsman's pads, prediction of further flight is easier because the ball is in sight for a longer period.

It is safe to say that in England, well-pitched-up balls would seldom go on to hit the wicket had they not been stopped by the batsman's pads, and these are the balls to which a batsman would normally play forward to. English umpires must still judge each case on its merits, as must their counterparts the world over, but honest prediction of further flight can only be made if the ball is held in sight for a reasonable length of time. In England, the shorter ball is the most likely and can be watched the longer. In countries where a concrete surface is applicable, the well-pitched-up ball is the most likely and can be watched the shorter.

A final interesting fact emerged conclusively from the experiment, An off-break bowler, delivering round the wicket is far more effective than when bowling over the wicket. It must be remembered, too, that the experiment was conducted with off-break bowlers bowling over the wicket."

The General Secretary also wrote that he had become more and more convinced that frank discussions of the mutual problems of umpires over the Cricket World could lead to nothing but good for the game as a whole. It was to be earnestly hoped that the time would come when representatives of umpires would be called into all councils where the game and its future would be discussed. This would take time, although, he trusted, not too long. In the meantime he most strongly suggested that efforts should be made to endeavour to ensure that when any committee or gathering might be sitting for the express purpose of selecting umpires for future employment or designation, umpires' representatives would be present by invitation. This should be the first step. (Unfortunately, several years would pass before the general principles of Tom Smith's aspirations would even begin to approach this ideal.)

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The recently established Northern Branch of the Association had by now been making great forward strides in both growth and levels of activity. It could count itself fortunate in that, due to the cordial relationship that had developed between its Officers and the Secretary of the Lancashire County Cricket Club, it had been afforded the use of the Old Trafford County Cricket Headquarters premises for the purpose of holding its Annual General Meetings and for staging its Oral Examinations for Full membership on three evenings in April. ACU members had also been invited to make full use of the excellently appointed Library at Old Trafford.

Unfortunately, thick fog in Manchester and its surrounding area on January 14 1961, prevented many locals from getting to Old Trafford, but despite the adverse weather conditions, in no way did this prevent the contingent of Council representatives from London – Fred Parker, Pat O'Brien, Leslie Barnes, Peter Farley and Tom Smith – travelling to Manchester. They had felt amply rewarded for the journey made with the display of enthusiasm for the good of the Association shown by its Northern Branch members.

Monthly meetings of the Branch had been held at the Douglas Hotel, Corporation Street, Manchester, with most sessions including some aspects of Law discussion. It had been interesting to note that many members had brought along their “Bibles” – copies of the Association Textbook. The next step had been to run further course of instruction in districts, which had included Heaton Manor, Stockport and Preston.

Like all other umpires, those in the north had been looking to a good season ahead; none more so than the members who stood in the major leagues and who considered themselves fortunate to have such an array of World-Class professional players on show each Saturday - Test players from the West Indies, Australia, South Africa, Pakistan, India and Ceylon had all been engaged for the season.

The now perennial source of pleasure – the Association's Annual Dinner – (on March 11 1961) was held this year at the Connaught Rooms, Holborn, instead of at the Lord's Tavern, as hitherto. If the almost physical cricket atmosphere which seemed to filter through the windows of the latter venue had been missing, it was more than compensated by the elegance and splendour of the new one, which had seemed more appropriate to the Association's improving status.

With the President, Mr G.O. Allen, in the Chair, the dinner was remembered for outstanding after-dinner speeches from the three principal guests. In highly entertaining fashion, Mr A.A. Thomson opened the innings by proposing the Toast to “Cricket”. The President reminded those present, that Mr Thomson had written over 50 books on Cricket and was one of the game's most sought after authors. The diners had not been surprised to hear many amusing anecdotes e.g. (being asked) on joining a new Club: “Will you be Vice-President or can you keep wicket?”; and a reference to being on the “receiving-end” of “Third Programme” bowling – “Over my head” ! Members were also much amused by the story of the Umpire who, when the side he habitually stood for wanted four to win, promptly called three consecutive deliveries “no balls” and after the next delivery had been hit for four and thus won the game, called to the scorer as the players left the field: “You can rub out them “no balls” now; we shan't need ‘em.”

In a quite different way, Mr Ian Peebles, also kept Members and Guests absorbed with Cricket reminiscences, including some umpiring experiences. He told of the farmer bowler who had an action “beyond all doubt” – it was the same one that he used for

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slitting the throats of his sheep! His most favourite Cricket story, however, was of the late Gilbert Harding who, at school, hated both Cricket and the Games Master who forced him to play it. The opportunity for revenge came when Gilbert was asked to umpire and he took the first chance that presented of giving his Games' Master out LBW to the latter's patent disgust. He said: "I wasn't out you know Harding" to which Gilbert replied: "I know you weren't Sir!".

It was a pity that neither the manner nor the matter of the last speaker, the Consultant Surgeon, Mr Dickson Wright, lent itself to be committed to print, but it is fair to say that he kept his audience in one long chuckle from his opening salutations: "Mr President, Ladies and Umpires!" to his final words. For any present who might have felt unduly impregnated with wisdom with the consciousness of the "Owl" as part of the Association's symbol, Mr Dickson Wright mentioned that the owl was always a bird he had particularly associated with constipation!

In drawing matters to a happy conclusion by giving thanks to all three speakers, The President wished to remedy an omission from previous years by expressing the collective appreciation to the principal organisers of the Annual Dinner who had undertaken so successfully so much hard work; Bob Howkins and Hugh Bennett.

Bob had also been responsible over recent months for the work involved in the preparation and despatch of the Association Handbook. The combined printing and postage involved with the production of this initiative had been heavy, but Council had decided that a copy should be issued to each member without charge, but was equally confident that members would not begrudge a small increase in the Association's subscriptions to cover the ever escalating costs of administration. Such faith had not been misplaced as members attending the Annual General Meeting held at "The Three Nuns" on the 25 March 1961, approved of the following changes:

- Associate Member rate increased to 50pence per annum
- Full Member rate increased to 75 pence per annum
- Private Member rate increased to 62½ pence per annum.

These had been the first increases in subscriptions sought during the eight years of the Association's existence. Over this same period, it had been a tradition for large attendances to have been made in support of Association Annual General Meetings and this eighth such reunion continued this ritual with in excess of 200 members making the pilgrimage to London from many parts of the United Kingdom. This assembly provided a great opportunity for the renewal of old friendships and the forging of bonds with new acquaintances from home and overseas.

In giving his review of the past year, the General Secretary, Tom Smith, said that applications for membership had continued to be steadily received and allowing for the elements of natural wastage by virtue of deaths and retirements, personal enrolments now approximated to 1,500. He stressed that membership was the lifeblood of the Association and he urged all to continue to work for a constant flow of new entrants. Not only would this be an excellent thing for the Association itself, it would be no less a valuable acquisition to cricket as a whole.

That said, it had always been the proud boast of the Association that it had never in any way attempted to encourage an umpire to leave his local association. In fact, quite the opposite had been true – umpires had been encouraged to retain their allegiance to their

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local organisation and to take up membership of ACU (if they so desired) with the object of promotion to Full Membership as a qualification.

It had been encouraging to know that Club Cricket over the world had been flourishing and, in England, the Association had been constantly asked for more umpires than could be supplied. This had been an excellent thing in that ACU had an added incentive to constantly overhaul and improve its training method, to ensure that it was producing the right calibre of members for the job. Unquestionably, the standard of umpiring had improved and was still improving over the whole Commonwealth. Modestly, the Association could claim some of the credit for this and must continue not only to keep up the good work, but also strive for even greater improvement.

Referring to the policy of the Association to encourage the formation of local associations where none previously existed, Mr Smith reported the formation of an East of Scotland ACU. Its Vice-Chairman, Major Hugh Wright, had recently been appointed ACU Representative for Scotland by Council. He had become fully qualified to arrange and conduct examinations, both written and Oral, as well as representing Scotland generally.

Overseas, Council had been heartened to learn that the Cricket Umpires Association of Pakistan (which had been affiliated to ACU for some years) had now been recognised by the Pakistan Board of Control and that a new affiliation had also taken place in Tanganyika.

As usual, training courses had been arranged at a large number of venues throughout the year, both by the Association itself and, indirectly at the request of its affiliated organisations to provide qualified Association Instructors. Those arranged in collaboration with the Association of Kent Cricket Clubs this year had been at Maidstone, Sittingbourne and Chislehurst. Other Association Instructors had been supplied for the Berkshire Association at Reading, Aldershot CUA (at Connaught Barracks by arrangement with Full Member, Major George Cox MBE). Similar courses had been arranged for the Counties of Essex, Hampshire and Huntingdonshire in addition to the traditional courses provided in London. The fame of Vice-President Ken McCanlis had continued to grow even outside of the immediate HQ environs and, on 27 March 1961, he accepted an invitation from the Lancashire and Cheshire Cricket Society to address their members on "The Technique of Umpiring" held at the Midland Hotel, Manchester.

There was no question that the Association qualification of Full Membership had by now been recognised wherever an umpire might travel and it followed that if the examination process itself had to be kept to the highest standards, then the examination administrative process had also to be maintained to an identical level of quality. Frank Carr had been responsible for this aspect in his office as Honorary Secretary to the Examination Board. In addition to this work as administrator, he was as good in motivation, as confirmed by the following article which he penned for the Spring edition of the Newsletter under the title of "Progress":

"According to the Oxford Dictionary, "progress" is defined as "move forward, onward, advance or develop". Our Association has certainly progressed, but what of our members? I quote our Rules, under Section (a), which reads: "To improve the standard of umpiring, by education, examination and all other available means".

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This message is addressed particularly to our Associate Members; to urge them to uphold our main intention and to take the examinations as soon as possible. Do we fear examinations? If so, why? Is it a matter of pride, in case of failure, or is it “could not care less attitude” which is responsible for a large number of Associate Members not attempting the examinations?

All examinations are vital, because they reveal weaknesses which can be cured. They also reveal strength which can be advanced, because by the result of examination, we can adjust ourselves to become more efficient, reliable and confident, thereby improving our status and making our contribution to improve and make more enjoyable, the wonderful, yet complicated game, we all love. Endeavour and the spirit of adventure into the unknown is an education.

I would like to cite the case of a member, whose name cannot be revealed, but who is a shining example to all Associate Members. I would, personally, if it were possible, like to see his name in bold, block gold letters in our new Handbook. Why? His attitude illustrates the “never say die” outlook which I am trying to convey.

This is his record: Written examinations, four attempts with markings of 53, 51, 65, ending with a pass of 75. Oral examinations, four attempts: 72, 71, 74 and a final pass with 85. What a splendid example! A record of perseverance, of which both the candidate and the Association can be justly proud. Do, please, Associates, say you are keen to progress, and do not hesitate to contact me for help which I am only too willing to give”

The overall analysis of the results of examinations held in 1960/61 was:

- Writtens 178 Passes 85 Failures 93.
- Orals 103 Passes 76 Failures 27.

It is a significant fact that the candidates who did well in the examinations were those who attended Association courses of instruction. This has been proved time and time again.”

A recent investigation by the Finance Committee into the costs of hire of rooms, printing, stationery, postages etc., had revealed that the Association Examinations had been conducted at a considerable loss. A recommendation had therefore been made to Council and ratified that, fees for examination would be levied in future at 25 pence for written attempts and 37 pence for Orals, with subsequent events charged at the same rate.

The year’s “Open Meetings” were again well attended and this should not have been surprising in view of the high calibre of invited speakers. On January 1961, the Association received a particular honour when Mr Harry S. Altham, President and Treasurer of the MCC, agreed to make an address on some historical aspects of the game.

Mr Altham was educated at Repton and Trinity College, Oxford, where he was awarded a Cricket Blue in 1911/12. From 1913-49. he was a Master at Winchester College. He played intermittently for Surrey CCC from 1908-11 and for Hampshire from 1919-23. For many years he had rendered distinguished service to Cricket as Chairman of the MCC Youth Cricket Association since its creation in 1951 and Chairman of the Board of Control and

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MCC Selection Committee from 1954/55. Harry was author of what Sir Pelham Warner described as “The greatest book ever written on Cricket” – “A history of Cricket”. Sir Pelham continues in his introduction; “I envy the boy and man who reads this book for the first time. I have read it and re-read it and every time I read it, I enjoy it more.”

Later, meetings were arranged with John Woodcock, The Times Cricket correspondent, and Crawford White, a second Press Correspondent. The Spring programme also included a most enjoyable quiz evening against a team from the Midlands Club Cricket Conference. Not to be outdone by “Headquarters” activities, the Berkshire Association of Cricket Umpires also held a quiz on 20 March when the panel included Vice-President, Frank Lee, Freddie Brown and Ken Barrington, with Lord Palmer as Chairman. The event took place on the premises of Reading Cricket Club.

Frank Warwick had continued to organise the growing Association Library with his usual skill and efficiency. This service to members had been greatly appreciated. Recently, a valuable and beautifully bound complete edition of “Wisdens” 1900-1960 with index had been purchased. This would be invaluable for reference and had been acquired through the kindness and generosity of Full Member, Mr Underwood.

Advance notice was given at the Annual General Meeting that the P & O Liner “Canberra” would be making her maiden voyage in June 1961. A Cricketers’ “Tavern Bar” on board had been specially designed and would include a display of ties and emblems of famous Cricket Clubs. Through the kindness of Mr Colin Cowdrey and the P & O Public Relations Office, the General Secretary had arranged for the Association’s Full and Associate Members ties to be displayed in this Bar.

At this meeting, the Hon. Treasurer, Jim Dear, moved the adoption of two new Rules of the Association, designed for purely “enabling” purposes only, to take account of the unlikely “contingency” of the dissolution from whatever cause. The necessity for their introduction had been consequent to a discussion he had had with the Commissioners for Inland Revenue. These Rules were as

- (i) In the event of the dissolution of the Association, none of the funds or other property of the Association shall be paid or distributed among the members of the Association, but shall be applied towards the furtherance of the Association’s stated aims and objects or for any other charitable purpose.
- (ii) In the event of the dissolution of the Association, the funds remaining will be devoted to other organisations whose aims and objects are similar to those of the Association, or to other purposes approved by the Board of Customs and Excise.

Both motions were carried.

The Treasurer said that he never liked to tempt Providence, but unless the game of Cricket itself ever failed to have a following – simply unthinkable! – then there would be every prospect of these resolutions remaining inactivated ad nauseam.

(Author’s Note : Sadly, 43 years later,(in 2006), the worst fears of Providence had taken a hand totally unexpectedly when the members of ACU discovered that an apparent comfortable surplus had turned into a £60,000 deficit in its account overnight. This resulted from an injudicious lease arrangement made by Mr Barrie Stuart -King, the, then, Association Chairman, without either reference or approval being given to him by General Council. Stuart-King was adamant that he

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believed the arrival of the sponsorship payment that he had negotiated independently with "Blue-Chip" sources to be imminent, but this never materialised and a post-mortem Investigation and Report, Chaired by Mr Colin Pearson, found there was no evidence to justify his optimism.

With ACU & S now insolvent, this gave an opportunity to English Cricket's ruling body, the ECB, which was anxious to bring about umpiring at all levels of the game under its own limited jurisdiction to create a new ECB Officials Association which succeeded ACU & S as the national body, with control of Umpiring at all levels within England and Wales only. Its predecessor, ACU&S, had enjoyed a very much wider remit, with its membership, its education, training and qualification procedures covering all individuals and cricketing bodies interested in achieving a universal standard of excellence worldwide.)

Towards the end of the year, "Father Time" wielded his scythe to savage effect when members were sad to learn of the death of Alex Skelding so soon after his retirement. He had been known as one of the great 'characters' amongst English Umpires, much loved by players and colleagues alike. Always cheerful and a great humorist, he would be sadly missed.

A few months later, in the Spring of 1961, the first Vice-President of the Association, Col R.S. Rait-Kerr, also died at the age of 69. He had been a great supporter of ACU from its beginning and, as a former Secretary of MCC from 1936 to 1952, he had been responsible for the Law revisions culminating with the 1947 Code. During 1956/57, the Association General Secretary, Tom Smith, had spent many hours with the Colonel at Lord's working on the first edition of "Cricket Umpiring and Scoring" and he had received nothing but kindness and encouragement. At the late Colonel's request, Tom Smith said he would be happy to continue with future revisions of the book on his own for as long as he was able. Earlier, in presenting his Annual Report, the General Secretary said he had been very pleased to advise that the first printing of the Association Text Book had been sold out and, over recent months, work had already taken place on its revision for the second edition which should be ready for sale the following Spring. The book was unique – completely authoritative on the subjects of Cricket Umpiring and Scoring, with a seal of approval given to it by the MCC.

With the business of the 1961 AGM concluded, members were treated to the showing of the colour film of the recent MCC tours to the West Indies and South Africa. It had a commentary from Mr Fred Trueman who had made the long journey from Yorkshire to London to present it personally and to answer members' questions. Mr Trueman said, believe it or not, he had a great liking and respect for Umpires!

The Association was saddened at the news of the sudden death on May 11th. 1961, of Jim F. Lister, who had been a stalwart worker of the Northern Branch since its period of gestation. He had been a well known figure throughout north Cheshire (where he lived at Hazel Grove) and Lancashire and had been elected to the Branch Committee on the night of its inauguration in 1959. Upon formation of the Branch Examination Board a year later, he was appointed as Board Secretary and his liaison with Frank Carr at Headquarters had always been excellent.

His splendid example and encouragement had led to the introduction to the Association of his equally enthusiastic son, Bryan, who was to assume his father's mantle as Secretary of the Branch Examination Board (and later, to become Councillor of the North-West Region for very many years). As far as is known, this was the first ever father/son relationship to develop within the membership, with both enjoying early Fully Qualified

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Umpire Status. Certainly, it had been a unique circumstance when Bryan followed in the immediate footsteps of his father's appointment to the Examination Board.

Almost as a fitting tribute to his father's pioneering work, Bryan was involved in attending all five nights of the "week" of Oral Examinations arranged at the Lancaster Suite, Old Trafford, from the 18/22 September inclusive. During that week, the candidates travelled from a very wide area – Rhos-on-sea, North Wales, Blackpool, Southport, Sheffield, Wigan, Oldham, Hyde, Stockport and Manchester itself.

A second, no less invaluable "family takeover" also took place at this time as the result of an unfortunate accident to Bob Howkins when he came off his motor-scooter after taking avoiding action to miss a cyclist. In consequence, he was to fracture his pelvis and spent some enforced time away from home in hospital. During this period, Bob's wife, Phyllis, mitigated a serious blow to ACU administration by carrying on with Bob's heavy duties as Registration Officer, which, at that time, also included the despatch of all Association Ties and Badges. Not being a member of ACU herself, Phyllis undertook this work in an unofficial caretaker capacity, all the while maintaining the customary efficiency for which her husband had been renowned.

The 31st. issue of "How's That ?" published five dates from October through to April 1962 (all on Fridays) on which Associate Members could apply to take the London-based written examinations. Whilst at first sight there would appear to be nothing of great moment about such a routine announcement, what was remarkable was that for the first time, two alternative sessions occurring on the same day were advertised to accommodate the candidates' personal convenience. They were invited to register their specific intention to Frank Carr to sit either the 3pm to 5.15pm session, or the later opportunity from 6.30pm to 8.45pm. It was a very long day of invigilation before Frank Carr was able to return to the comfort of his home at Epsom Downs !

A later issue of the Newsletter contained the following appeal from Tom Smith to members to observe a simple recommendation for improved lines of communication: "It is surprising how much time is wasted in ACU Administration attempting to decipher unrecognisable names and addresses. Time and again this old bugbear turns up. I hope I can impress upon members the importance of using block letters in all written correspondence to Association Officers. As for signatures, they are frequently nightmares. All that I can discreetly suggest is the formation of a habit of printing the name in block letters underneath the undecipherable signature. The only weakness is, of course, that everyone thinks his / her signature is decipherable". (N.B. Great minds tend to think alike, but it was some years later before Banks similarly saw the merit of having their clients names printed individually on cheque books.)

The same issue of the Newsletter also addressed another (hopefully rare) problem as Tom Smith wrote: "During the summer one or two complaints have come in of over-zealous and officious umpires. Very, very few I am glad to say. But there it is. Such men are not only a menace to Umpiring in general, but a particular evil to our Association. Nothing is easier than the judging of the majority by the behaviour of the few. It behoves us all to think on that and to make sure that at all times our behaviour is beyond reproach. Players and spectators are quick to spot or sense the officious umpire and they instantly resent him. Our aim should always be to be known as a quiet, efficient and unassuming man – a man who is there to see to it that the game is played in accordance with the Laws but a man who does this so quietly and unobtrusively that he is hardly noticed.

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Nothing does our Association more harm than a “showy” member – a man who wants to be “in the game”. The unfortunate part of it all is that this type of personality usually makes no secret of the fact that he is a member of ACU. His flamboyant behaviour is the worst advertisement we can have. Fortunately, for us, such men are, as I have said, quite rare. Nevertheless, it must be faced that, very occasionally, we do get men taking up umpiring as an opportunity to preside with some power; a form of release from repression – a chance to express themselves in a practical form, and spoil the players’ enjoyment. Cricket does not want such men. The game is better off without them and most certainly we do not want them as our members.”

A recent “Open” Meeting at Headquarters had been addressed by Mr H.F. Crabtree who was in charge of the MCC Group Training System of which he had been the original guiding light. Among many lively points he made at the meeting was that umpires might spend more time at the nets. Although this caused some raised eyebrows within the audience, Tom Smith said that he had supported this theory and practised it too. The General Secretary said that there was no doubt that experience at the nets, especially at the beginning of the season, could provide valuable training for umpires – whether they be old hands or the less experienced.

The eyes soon became slowly and easily attuned to the flight of the ball without the responsibilities of match play. LBW considerations could be easily assessed. From the side of the net, too, a short spell of watching the height of the rising ball could be tremendously helpful for match play judgement. It was astonishing the bad habits players cultivated at nets and, amongst these, was the consistent bowling of foot-fault “no balls”. He was certain that umpires could do a valuable service to the game by clamping down on bad habits and carelessness at the beginning of a player’s career ! This was the time for young players to be corrected, rather than a dramatic pull-up in the later years.

Increasingly, the Association Newsletter furthered one of its primary objectives of keeping overseas members in touch with their colleagues and their mutual problems in the United Kingdom. Encouraging reports were being received during the year of continuing progress being made by affiliated bodies in Kenya, Bermuda – a new affiliation – Pakistan and Singapore. After a four-year stay in London, Full Member, Shuja-ud-din, had now returned home to Karachi and his several colleagues in England were delighted to learn that his name had now been included on the Pakistan Test Match Panel of Umpires for the year. His experience of English umpiring and of Association Training Methods would be invaluable to the Pakistan ACU.

The first of a series of Umpires’ Conventions to be held in the West Indies took place in British Guiana in October 1961, with Mr Gerry Gomez, former Test Cricketer and Manager of the West Indian Touring Team for its last tremendously successful Australasian Tour, in charge of its organisation. Umpiring representatives from each West Indian territory sent candidates which meant that the prevailing atmosphere had been all to do with “umpiring and its problems”. ACU had been honoured in that its General Secretary, Tom Smith, had been invited to provide the Convention with a paper, its subject matter to provide the company with thinking and talking points.

Lt. Colonel Terry Arum, who it may be recalled had done so much good work in the early formation of the Army Cricket Umpires’ Association, had by now been posted overseas to the R.E.M.E. base workshop at Singapore. It had not taken him long to become involved in cricket administration at his new overseas location and he was now Chairman of Army and Joint Services Cricket and a committee member of both the Singapore

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Cricket Association and the Singapore State Selection Committee. He had taken advantage of these several commitments to organise a two day course of training locally for umpires.

The General Secretary made a special point of referring to this overseas activity in his Annual Report when he said how important it was to go on building up a fraternity of umpires over the cricket world, because only good could come to the game and umpiring by members getting to know more of each other's problems, talking about umpiring technique and the Laws of the game. The problems of cricket umpires were the same wherever they officiated and it was only by discussion and understanding that mutual problems could be efficiently resolved.

The calendar year of 1962 opened with the welcome news that the Association's President, Mr G.O. Allen, had been named in the New Year's Honours List with the award of CBE in recognition of his services to Cricket. At the AGM, the General Secretary said that no man had worked harder for the good of the game, both as a player and administrator than "Gubby", who after seven years had recently retired as Chairman of the England Selectors and was now Chairman of the Committee convened to consider the future of the game in England.

The third AGM of the Association's Northern Branch, held at Old Trafford on Saturday, 13 January 1962, was the largest and most widely represented body of Association members yet gathered together outside of London. It had an attendance of fifty and this time London came to Manchester in the presence of Mr T.E. Smith, General Secretary, Mr J.L. Stewart, Chairman of Council, Mr F. R. Parker, Vice-Chairman of Council, Mr Frank Carr, Secretary of the Examination Board and Mr H.A. O'Brien, Secretary of the Training Committee. Others had also travelled from far and near. One of these was Mr Geoffrey Dark, had come from Wolverhampton, almost 100 miles away.

At 3.50 p.m. Mr John Stewart opened the Council Report, giving Branch members a review of activities and aims of the Association and how members should be concerned not only with the training of umpires and scorers but also with cricketers. The way young chaps learned was by the mistakes they had made; far better if they were asked questions on the Laws and taught their knowledge of Cricket by the Laws. He was followed by Tom Smith and for the members who had not previously met the General Secretary, (and for that matter for those who felt that they knew him quite well), the next 25 minutes were an education.

He spoke of the hundreds of letters he received from all parts of the world, including one from a very knowledgeable character in Winchester Gaol which proved that the writer was an avid student of the Laws of Cricket. All such letters were replied to, almost by return of post. The visitors from London were invited to take tea at the County Hotel and the entertaining talk about Cricket continued until the departure of their train for London. Truly, this was one of the milestones in the history of the Association's Northern Branch.

The next milestone in the year was the seventh Annual Dinner of the Association held on 10 March 1962. It was the usual pleasant and enjoyable function at the Connaught Rooms, London and was marred only by the absence of Council Chairman, John Stewart, who was a 24-hour 'flu victim. With the President, Mr G.O. Allen, CBE, in the Chair, the Association was pleased to entertain John Warr, former Middlesex CCC Captain, Mr C.S. (Con) Davies, CCC President, Jack Robertson of Middlesex, Arthur McIntyre of

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Surrey, Major Woods, Secretary of the CCC and several welcome visitors distinguished in Club Cricket.

Vice-President, Frank Lee, in proposing the Toast to "Cricket", congratulated the President on his award of the honour of CBE which he had suggested had been earned for his services to Umpiring alone. John Warr built on this when he said that when one stopped playing, one either took up an honest or responsible job like umpiring or became a Selector! He also demonstrated the occasional deflationary effect of a Cricketer's ego of autograph hunters, one of whom invited him to sign a page headed "Miscellaneous"; another approached him with the request "Sign here, Ted"; he thought Mrs Dexter would not have made this mistake! On Press cricket reports, Mr Warr mentioned the scribe who told his readers "Warr had his off-stump removed by a ball he would have done better to have left alone!"

Mr C.S. Davies, offering the Toast of the Association, was clearly deeply appreciative of its work. When he came to London in the 1920s, he said you were "in" at one end and "out" at the other. Now he was always encouraged to know that ACU members were officiating in any game in which he was engaged. The speaker thought that the ACU was one of the two best things that ever happened to Cricket. (Members wondered what the other one was!)

Deputising for the absent Chairman, Tom Smith made a suitable response and so members adjourned to the not least enjoyable part of the evening, the renewal of old friendships and much convivial storytelling.

Unfortunately, very soon after the Annual Dinner, the year 1961/62 was also sadly memorable for a second accident to one of its most prominent members, Hon. Life Member and centenarian, Joe Filleston, who was tragically and fatally struck down whilst crossing a road on his way to an Association Meeting. (N.B. there is no record of any payment arising to his estate from the terms and conditions of the Association Insurance Policy in force at that time, but such a contingency would certainly have applied in later years when injuries/fatalities sustained by members travelling either en route to/from a match or Association Meeting were clearly regarded as bona-fide risks covered by the Insurance Brokers to fully paid-up members).

"Old Joe", as he was affectionately known, had been an enthusiastic member of ACU since shortly after its formation. His life story had been a fascinating volume in itself which only recently had been featured in a programme made at the Television Centre in Wood Lane, London, on 10 February at which presentations had been made to him by both the BBC Cricket Club and ACU.

Joe had stood regularly with the BBC Cricket Club since its foundation in the 1920s. Another unique record of which he had been proud was that very recently he became the only umpire aged over 100 years to have umpired a match at Lord's, having been appointed to stand in one of the "Taverners" fixtures. The Council Chamber in which the presentation was made was an imposing room containing photographs of the Corporation's past Chiefs and other signs of its notable history. Somewhat a little incongruously, was an outside birthday cake comprising a green cricket ground with icing, wickets, batsmen, ball, scoreboard (reading : "1st innings, Joe Filleston, 100 not out") and an umpire, not needing much imagination to resemble Joe, all illuminated by 100 candles.

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Many notable people in the Cricket World were present, including Messrs. Ronnie Aird, former MCC Secretary and his successor, Billy Griffith, Brian Johnston, A.C.L. Bennett as well as four generations of Fillestons, not forgetting Joe's son, a mere 68 years old! Several members of ACU Council also attended. The Stage Cricket Club was represented by Garry Marsh, Russell Napier and Sam Kydd, whilst there was a message from Abraham Sofaer, in Hollywood. Representatives from the Cricket Society and the Lord's Taverners were also there.

Congratulatory telegrams were sent by Her Majesty, the Queen, The Duke of Edinburgh, the Director General of the BBC, The Mayor of Hackney, the National Association of Groundsmen, Colin Cowdrey, Peter May, The Ministry of Pensions and there was also a message from the Sunderland Cricket and Rugby Football Club, with which Joe began his career 80 years earlier!

A.C.L. Bennett of the BBC Cricket Club, in introducing the presentations, described Joe as one of the greatest little men to ever take part in Cricket and posed the question – "What makes Joe?". His answers were; "He was one of the most reliable people; he had tremendous enthusiasm for Cricket; he had a great sense of humour" – qualities any self-respecting umpire would wish to be identified with.

In presenting Joe with a gold watch from the ACU, Tom Smith pointed out that Joe had joined the Association when he was a mere 91 years of age! Finally, Dick Hall, President of the BBC Cricket Club gave a magnificent coloured portrait of Joe, himself, complete with his Staffordshire Cap by which he was instantly recognised for habitually wearing it so proudly.

Joe was accorded the customary musical honours with conspicuous enthusiasm and made a typically humorous reply. It was indeed a pity that so soon after reaching his century, he was given "out" by the eternal umpire for the last time in such tragic circumstances.

The ninth Annual General Meeting of the Association, held at "The Three Nuns" Hotel, Aldgate, on 24 March 1962, commenced at 5.30pm. It was historic in that although Association accounts had been fully prepared for presentation by Jim Dear, Association Treasurer, they were, in fact, still in the hands of the Association's non-professional auditors. Despite every effort having been made, it had not been possible to retrieve them in time for presentation at the meeting. Notwithstanding his embarrassment, the Chairman informed members that he could assure them that Association finances were in a healthy position with the total of cash and deposit accounts having risen by £284 to an aggregated figure of £1,611 at the end of the financial year as at 31 December 1961. The AGM agreed that an extraordinary meeting of Council should be convened in due course to consider this special business and after an anxious and worrying period, this took place on 26 April 1962. At this meeting, the Accounts were formally presented and accepted, having been audited by a firm of Chartered Accountants.

As a result of this predicament, a change of Rule was adopted to form part of the Agenda for future AGMs: "To appoint Chartered Accountants as Auditors". (This Rule became extant for all subsequent years). In 1962, the Association had cause to be more than usually grateful to Mr P. Farley of the Finance Committee, for arranging the speedy auditing of Association Accounts over this critical period.

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Tom Smith had been happy to report another year of all-round forward progress for the Association. Allowing for the inevitable reasons associated with natural wastage, he reported that personal membership had continued to an approximate level of 2,000. New affiliations during the year had included West Lancashire Association, the West of Scotland ACU, the Scottish Cricket Union, Nottingham CUA, Huntingdon ACU, Bermuda CUA and help had also been given to a newly formed organisation in Jersey. Council meetings had taken pace monthly from September to March inclusive from 6.15 pm with "The Three Nuns" as its venue, as were the well-attended "Open Meetings". Thus, with Association Officers heavily involved with their "homework" related to each specific activity, plus their attendances at these divers meetings, they had been very much committed to attendance at "Headquarters" two or three evenings per week during the "closed" season.

The year's Examination Report confirmed that 299 written papers had been issued, resulting in 177 passes. Particularly pleasing had been the news of Association papers being sent overseas examination centres in British Guiana, Trinidad, India, Rhodesia, Kenya, South Africa, Tasmania, New Zealand and Barbados. 90 passes had also resulted from the 115 candidates who had presented for Oral examinations held in London and Old Trafford.

Concluding his Annual Report, the General Secretary said he had been pleased when Mr Oliver Battcock, a popular and well-respected Club Cricketer and Minor Counties Umpire, had accepted his invitation to become a Vice- President of the Association. In his time, Oliver became a best known and well respected "character" of recreational cricket. Among the clubs who benefited from his playing skills were MCC, Incogniti, Cryptics, Forty Club, Slough, Datchet and his county, Buckinghamshire. In 1938 he headed the Minor Counties bowling averages. Earlier, he had been regarded chiefly as a batsman, with at least 10 centuries to his credit, but in later years he became 'feared' as one of the most cunning and skilful bowlers in the game and a great strategist and 'con-man' to boot. As Captain of a side, he would plan the downfall of his opponents with a mixture of knowledge, devious cunning and harmless acts of gamesmanship that should not have deceived a baby - yet his opponents fell for it.

One anecdotal story tells of him taking a side to Folkestone and having lost the toss for innings, his XL was soon up against it in the field. He declined to bowl personally before lunch, saying that he would prefer to take the ball at the sea-end around 2.20pm when the tide would be due to turn and, in consequence, the increase in relative humidity would make his deliveries unplayable! True to his prophesy, he proceeded to take the remaining 7 wickets of his opponents for an addition of a handful of runs, to enhance his reputation of invincibility and in total destruction of his opponents expectations!

He invented nick-names for everyone, always apt but sometimes not altogether complimentary, but no one minded. Everybody loved him - he had no enemies. One of his most impressive performances was to bowl out Lancashire twice in one day, taking 12 wickets for 63 runs when playing for Buckinghamshire in 1938. He was still playing regularly well into his 60s and at this age he was credited with sending down 19 overs, 17 of which were maidens, whilst taking 4 wickets for 4 runs (and one of those should have been a leg-bye which was not signalled !). This incredible performer played until almost within a year of his death. In his career, he took 100 wickets for Incogniti, a feat he repeated for Datchet CC.

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He took a keen interest in ACU affairs, occasionally proffering sound advice. On the rare occasion when he was not fit enough to play, he loved to officiate and proved to be a sound and knowledgeable umpire. Those who knew him (and they are legion) continue to meet on Cricket grounds and in pubs and clubs where he was so well known and liked, to talk about him, to reminisce and, above all to laugh. It is certain that this is what he would want all to do more than anything.

The showing of a film as an entertaining supplement to the formal business at the conclusion of the AGM had now been accepted as something of a tradition and 1962 was not to be an exception to this ritual. For this year, the film chosen for viewing to members was a two-reel exposition – 70 minutes running time – of the recent very exciting and remarkable tied Test Match between Australia and the West Indies that will live long in Cricket's history.

(N.B. Author's Note : As I write, the above reference to a film being shown at an ACU AGM of a recent outstanding cricket series has caused me to realise that such references give meaningful historical orientation to the contemporaneous appreciation of both events occurring on the world cricket scene with what had been happening, at much the same time, in the circles of ACU. This reference to one particular event, probably enhances the better understanding of the other and, hopefully, makes for a wider interest to the ESCUSA reader. Thus, from hereon, the intention is to increasingly highlight references to outstanding historical cricket events that have taken place during the periods covered in this series of papers on ACU's developmental history. The first of these more-detailed reports is as follows:

1. At ten minutes past four on the last day of the 1961 Cricket season, Hampshire became County Champions of England for the first time to send ACU Vice-President, John Arlott in rapture. The County had defeated Derbyshire (111 - Nelson! – for 9 wickets) by 140 runs, having bowled out their opponents in 2 hours 25 minutes. So it had come true at last, but it hadn't always looked like it in this match when earlier in the day, Derbyshire had a first-innings lead and in reply Hampshire's leading batsman, Roy Marshall also lost his wicket early. However, at 3 minutes to one, Colin Ingleby Mackenzie courageously declared with his XI's second innings score at 263 for 8, setting Derbyshire to get 252 runs in 192 minutes. The necessary damage was done in 24 overs by Derek Shackleton on a generally agreed unresponsive pitch. He bowled 10 maidens and had taken 6 wickets for only 39 runs. The end came when Derbyshire's Taylor went for his 50 and was caught in the deep by Livingstone.

2. Somewhat unexpectedly, Richie Benaud had been appointed as Australia's captain in 1958, following which he went on to lead his country to four successive triumphant series until the end of 1961. He was the complete captain and inspiring leader and no one tried harder to make Test Cricket an interesting and attractive spectacle. Whilst the general pull of Cricket was flagging world-wide, his joint co-operation with the West Indian Captain, Frank Worrell in the exciting series between the two countries of 1960/61, in which the first ever Tied Test captured the imagination of the World. Prior to this Test, the West Indies had been successively beaten by Western Australia, Victoria and New South Wales and critics were seriously questioning tourists abilities. Not everything had gone to plan for Australia either, since, about a month earlier, on a 'Cavaliers' Tour to Rhodesia, Benaud had fractured his index spinning finger which had taken some time to heal effectively and, pre-match, the doctors expressed some doubts as to his fitness. In the Test, Garry Sobers had played an outstanding innings, an explosive exhibition of stroke play and power which, in the context of what had gone before, was magnificent. Needing 233 runs to win on the final day, Australia were 92 for 6 wickets and three more

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wickets were lost to run outs in the last four to fall, and the last two Australian batsmen run out with the scores level ! Unsurprisingly, this result memorably inspired the World of Cricket. Post-match, Donald Bradman expressed the view that: “This is the best thing which could possibly have happened to Cricket” and he was right! Millions of television viewers and radio listeners had been totally enthralled by its amazing sequence of events, and , not least by its totally unpredictable climax.

3. Continuing with the general principle of orientation, readers may recall the earlier reference in the previous paper to the South African bowler, Griffin / Umpire Buller controversy at Lord’s when Griffin was repeatedly called for “throwing” (notwithstanding that in the same innings he had achieved the first ever hat-trick in a Test at Cricket’s HQ!) Griffin did not bowl again for what remained of the South African tour. He took advice on his bowling action and attempted modification but he never recovered his former power and effectiveness. On his return home, as an obvious crowd-puller, he was selected to play in the next season’s matches featuring the touring “Cavaliers”. All were Test players from England and Australia, captained by Richie Benaud.

One of the umpires appointed for the match was the afore-mentioned Hayward Kidson (who was later to be awarded a Vice-Presidency of ACU). In retrospect, it is interesting to know that before the match, Kidson was approached by the South African Association Chairman, Andy Anderson, who requested Kidson not to “rock the boat” by calling Geoff Griffin for throwing. In his autobiography: “Over and Time”, Kidson revealed, “I agreed with this request from ‘higher-up’ – What else could I do? – but I wish someone had told the Press about the arrangement as well, as we got a bit of ‘stick’ for letting Geoff get away with it. This was my first sight of Griffin and whether I had the courage to call him on what I saw remains a moot point, even for the precedent set in England a few months earlier. I still had no clear definition of a throw although I knew a throw when I saw it. But anyone challenging me to explain it would have got the better of the argument. That permanently bent arm worried me but it was good enough to get me off the hook. After this, Geoff went to live in Rhodesia where he played a few times the following season but I never saw him again. To sum up, I was left with a lingering impression that I had been observing something that certainly looked like a throw.”

As has been seen several times already, throughout cricket’s history, “no-balling” for throwing – particularly in the professional echelons - has always been one of the umpire’s nastiest duties since, it usually follows, that it brings to a close the bowler’s career and few who have played Cricket themselves ever feel totally happy about sending a player out of the game and depriving him of his living. Nevertheless, those bowlers who “throw” and are not “called” do gain a positive advantage and are generally more successful than those with strictly conventional actions. This increased success frequently opens the door to their selection to play at higher levels. Thus, the onus to “call” those with suspect actions becomes more acute for those who officiate at recreational level in order to reduce the prevalence of those bowlers with suspect actions advancing to higher levels of the game.

4. In the early 60s, the situation outside England remained shady. Griffin continued to play for Natal and was no-balled for throwing both in 1961/62 and 1962/63. Similarly, Charlie Griffiths, from Barbados, generally regarded as the fastest bowler in the World in 1961/62, was ‘called’ for throwing against the Indian Touring Team. Ian Meckiff’s first-class (Australian) career came to a histrionic end a year later in December, 1963. He had been selected to play in the first Test v S. Africa at Brisbane and in only the second over, umpire Eggar called him four times for throwing. The crowd booted its disapproval, but

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Captain, Richie Benaud, had little option but to take him off instantly. At the close of play, a number of spectators carried Meckiff off the field shoulder high, but the player himself realised that he had little future in Test Cricket and announced his immediate retirement from the first-class game.

5. The inflammable vexation of throwing was still not entirely resolved until much later. At a Board of Control meeting at Lord's which coincided with Meckiff's final dismissal, a decision was made to operate a truce on throwing for the first month of the following season. Umpires were requested to report 'doubtful' cases to MCC but not to call any bowler during a match. The Australians who were soon due to arrive for an "Ashes" Tour were asked to voice their opinion but decided against the recognition of a truce, since none of their former well-known "chuckers" were included in their selection. Keith Slater, continued to bowl for Western Australia and was to be called for throwing in 1964/65, but the other known main offenders from "down under" had now disappeared.

6. Harold Rhodes, playing for Derbyshire v the South Africans at Chesterfield in 1965, was no-balled by Syd Buller and it was freely rumoured that but for this he would have been selected to play for England in the Test series to follow. He was temporarily rested by Derbyshire after the S. African match but he was later restored to the County XI to end the season with 119 wickets, averaging 11.04 to head the first-class averages.

7. In 1966, the West Indian fast bowler, Charlie Griffith was on his second tour of England but he was nothing like as successful as when he was on his previous tour in 1963 when he had been considered blameless and chosen as one of Wisden's Cricketers of the year. In trying to recapture his earlier hostility, he tended to flex his arm to generate extra pace, causing him to be no-balled by Umpire Arthur Fagg when the tourist met Lancashire at Old Trafford.

8. The epidemic of throwing was to all intents now over and in the 18 years from 1966 to 1984, less than a dozen bowlers had been called for throwing and the following note was added to the Laws in 1967 which was retained when a complete re-draft was made in 1980:

“A ball shall be deemed to have been thrown if, in the opinion of either umpire, the process of straightening the bowling arm, whether it be partial or complete, takes place during that part of the delivery swing which directly precedes the ball leaving the hand.”

(Paper No. 8 in this series is to be continued in the next issue of the ESCUSA Newsletter)

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