

NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the first newsletter of the new cricket season. What great weather we are having so far. In the first four weeks of the Surrey Championship, I have had the pleasure of standing with fellow East Surrey members on two occasions but also had one week standing alone. This explains why the Umpires' Panel are keen to recruit new members (see over). A subtle change in our Association's name was agreed at our recent EGM. We are now the East Surrey Cricket Umpires and Scorers Association (or ESCUSA for short). We are affiliated to the Surrey County Board of Association of Cricket Officials and details of an initiative to support umpires can be found over the page. Visitors to our website will have seen much of the material presented in this newsletter. Contributions from members are welcome, so please send material to me. Let's hope the good weather continues.

John Flatley, *Secretary & Webmaster ESCUSA*

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Peter Martin Tribute

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the death of our member Peter Martin on 3rd May. He was 74 and had been fighting cancer for the last six years. While not an umpire or scorer, Peter, or "The Major" as he was known, was a great supporter of our Association. He had a huge involvement with Mogador Wanderers and Reigate Priory, working tirelessly on the committees of both clubs for a great many years. His knowledge of cricket was unrivaled. He never spoke ill of anyone. A true gentleman who will be sorely missed. The Association was represented by Steve Hodge at the memorial service held at St. John's Church, Redhill on 29th May.

Steve Hodge, *Chairman ESCUSA*.

ASK THE UMPIRE

John Holder, the former Test umpire, has teamed up with illustrator Paul Trevillion (famous for the cult cartoon strip "You are the ref") to produce a new book on the Laws of Cricket called "You are the Umpire". This book will never replace Tom Smith's guide to the Laws of Cricket and is unlikely to feature on a future training syllabus for umpires or scorers. However, it will attract a wider audience and presents points of the law in an accessible question and answer format. It is based on a comic strip that has been running in the *Observer* newspaper in the last few years. This season the Guardian newspaper's website is running a twice weekly strip which can be found at www.guardian.co.uk/youaretheumpire. Below (reproduced with permission) is a recent example. Answers to the questions can be found over the page.

YOU ARE THE UMPIRE by John Holder and Paul Trevillion

1 A batsman whacks a loose ball long and high: you watch in amazement as it lands plumb on the boundary rope and bounces back up into the chasing fielder's hands. Is it a) 4; b) 6; or c) out, caught?

2 A batsman gives a faint edge to the ball, which is caught by the wicketkeeper. He walks immediately out of his crease towards the pavilion, but then realises nobody has appealed, so turns round and walks back to resume his innings. Do you allow it?

3 The scoreboard shows that a team have scored 400 runs in a County Championship match. The captain declares as they've earned all their bonus points. But after the terms leave the field, an embarrassed scorer comes to you and says he has spotted an error: only 399 runs were scored. What do you do?

Keep up with news about umpiring and scoring by visiting our website: www.esacus.org.uk



NEWS FROM THE SURREY CRICKET BOARD ACO

This season, a new opportunity is to be offered to umpires to develop their expertise. A series of support group meetings has been arranged where umpires at any level can air their concerns and receive advice, encouragement and support from colleagues of a wide variety of experience.

How can I ensure the Spirit of Cricket is always applied?

What if I have considerably more experience than my colleague? Or considerably less?

What if my colleague and I disagree on what is acceptable behaviour?

What's the best way to calculate over rates?

Whatever the issue you've encountered, or question you raise, talking it through with colleagues can help you be better prepared to deal with it next time. A series of meetings are being held at venues from around



the county. You are welcome regardless of your experience or knowledge as our purpose is to help everyone improve their skills and enjoy the game to the full.

Just come along – we plan to start each meeting at 8pm. Please contact Brian Hurn for further details. Call 0208 653 1958 or email brianhurn@btinternet.com.

We look forward to seeing you.

See the SCB ACO website www.surreycricketofficials.org.uk for details about its activities.

Dates for your diary

June 8th, 2009

The ESCUSA committee meets and will discuss forthcoming events and training in the close season. If you wish to put forward any issues for us to consider please contact your Secretary, John Flatley.

June 17th, 2009

First Class umpires, Rob Bailey and Steve Garratt, will be talking to the Sussex Association of Cricket Officials after the day's play in the County Championship game between Sussex and Somerset at Hove on Wednesday 17th June. The evening starts at 7.30pm in the Jim Parks Bar at the Sussex County Ground, Eaton Road, Hove. More details can be found on the [Sussex ACO](http://SussexACO) website.

July 6th, 2009

SCBACO Umpires Support Group meeting at Guildford CC, Woodbridge Road, GU1 1DY.

August 3rd, 2009

SCBACO Umpires Support Group meeting at Horley CC, Horley Row, Horley, RH6 8BG.

September 1st, 2009

SCBACO Umpires Support Group meeting at Weybridge CC, The Cricket Green, KT13 9BY.

SURREY CHAMPIONSHIP UMPIRES' PANEL

The Panel appoint "neutral" umpires for the Premier & Divisions 1, 2 & 3 of the 1st XI league. We are looking for new members to immediately join. Applicants should have at least a pass at ECB ACO Level 1 or equivalent, experience of officiating in some form of adult league or other competitive cricket and be an ECB ACO member with a current Enhanced CRB disclosure.

Umpiring experience as a player umpire for just a few overs a game is not normally sufficient.

Expenses of £30-£34 per match is paid according to the division. If interested, please e-mail the Deputy Appointments Manager, Trevor Woodage at woodagetrevor@aol.com with a summary of your umpiring experience & qualifications or phone on 01344 775240 for more information.

ASK THE UMPIRE ANSWERS

John Holder's answers: 1) b) Six runs. Any ball that lands from the bat on, or over, the boundary rope or fence is counted as a six. Though with the boundary rope usually at least 50 yards away, you'd have to be sure that the ball landed exactly on top of it. 2) Yes, allow him to return: a batsman can only be given out on appeal. In this case, although the fielding side believed he was caught and he began to walk, their failure to appeal means he's perfectly entitled to return to the crease. 3) Once a side has declared the decision cannot be revoked. So unfortunately in a case like this, if the scorers were correct and only 399 had been scored, that total would stand and the batting side would not receive the extra bonus points. Because county clubs employ two professional scorers, one for each team, they should be constantly cross-checking for accuracy, making a mistake like this one highly unlikely.