

NEWSLETTER

Welcome to the last newsletter before our AGM.

I am writing this having just returned from the the first AGM and National Conference of the ECB ACO at Lord's (see report over the page). It was great to see David Edwards recognised with the award of an "OSCA" (see below). Looking towards our Association's own AGM, we are fortunate to have secured John Holder (pictured right, on his last day as a First Class umpire) as our guest speaker. I witnessed his last game and it was very pleasing to see both teams form a guard of honour, at the end of play, in tribute to him. John has collaborated with the cartoonist, Paul Trevillion, to produce a book on the Laws of Cricket called *You are the Umpire*. It has a question and answer format and copies will be available for John to sign at the AGM (see over). I hope to see you there!

Regards

John Flatley, *Secretary ESCUSA*

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DAVID EDWARDS AWARDED AN "OSCA"

Members will be pleased to hear that David Edwards, an East Surrey member, has been awarded a County and a national 'OSCA' (i.e. an Outstanding Services for Cricket Award) for his huge contribution to cricket in the county.

Congratulations to David!

For more details see the Surrey CCC website at:

<http://www.britoval.com/news/david-edwards-wins-national-recognition>



NEW CRICKET "E-NEWSLETTER"

East Surrey member Paul Griffiths (front, right) has launched a weekly cricket "e-newsletter". The latest one includes a small piece on LBW.

If you would like to read or subscribe, see <http://www.cricketcoach.info/>



ECB Fast Bowling Directives

The ECB fast bowling directives have changed following a two-year consultation process. The outcome is that bowlers up to under-15 level are now able to bowl longer spells and more overs in a day.

For full details see <http://www.ecb.co.uk/ecb/about-ecb/media-releases/ecb-alters-fast-bowling-directives,308221,EN.html>

NEWS FROM THE FIRST ECB ACO AGM

The first Annual General Meeting of the ECB ACO was held on 17 October at Lord's. It was opened by **Roger Knight**, Chairman of the interim ECB ACO Board, who reviewed progress since the organisation was created in early 2008.

Roger was candid in his remarks recognising that the creation of a new association had been challenging but he felt the ACO was moving to an independent democratic structure and developing a comprehensive educational framework which would help in the training and progression of umpires and scorers.

Nick Cousins, the Acting Senior Executive Officer, underlined his priority as training and education. He was determined to develop a pathway for people to progress as far as they were competent and willing to do so. Nick reported that the ACO now had around 6,000 members and an expanded staff. Nick said that he wanted a "bottom up" association and wanted to move on from a "them" (i.e. ECB) and "us" (i.e. the members) attitude. Nick highlighted that income

from members' subs was being supplemented by a substantial contribution from the ECB to support the association. He also reported on progress with training and mentioned that four Level 2 courses would be run in each ECB ACO region during this close season.

Turning to the constitution, it was reported that 97% of those voting (48% of ballot papers were returned) were in favour of its adoption. **Roger Knight** acknowledged that amendments were needed to it and that he intended to ask the "constitution task force" to consider the comments received from members and bring forward proposals for amendment.

After lunch, John Barclay, President of MCC, gave an entertaining speech touching on the Spirit of Cricket and with funny anecdotes from his time as skipper of Sussex.

The national conference included a number of interesting workshop sessions including some with First Class umpires. Overall, it was an excellent event which all those I spoke to thoroughly enjoyed.



Dates for your diary

10 November 2009

West Surrey meeting at [Wonersh CC](#) at 8pm with Howard Cohen, JP and ex-MCC, County 2nd XI umpire.

26 November 2009

ESCUSA Annual General Meeting at the [Menzies Chequers Hotel](#) Brighton Road, Horley. Members are asked to arrive at 7.15pm for a prompt 7.30pm start. The AGM proper will be followed by a question and answer session with John Holder (8.15pm). Members traveling by cars are advised to park in the front car park (the Chequers Pub car park).

3 December 2010

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.

8 December 2009

West Surrey meeting at [Wonersh CC](#) at 8pm with First Class Umpires Neil Bainton and Martin Bodenham.

ORDER A COPY OF *YOU ARE THE UMPIRE*

At this year's AGM copies of John Holder's book, *You Are The Umpire*, will be available for him to sign. It has a recommended retail price of £12.99 but we have secured a limited number of copies at a price of £10. If you would like to reserve a copy please contact John Flatley.



ESCUSA subscriptions

The ESCUSA membership year runs from 1 November to 31 October and thus annual subscriptions for the 2009/10 year now fall due. If you are planning to attend this year's AGM please bring your £5 subscription fee with you. Alternatively please send a cheque for £5 (made payable to ESCUSA) to John Flatley, at 3 Byron Close, Hampton, TW12 1EL..

