

# NEWSLETTER

Dear Members,

Another season over and, as daylight hours shorten, it feels like a long stretch until the new season. However, your association will try to fill the cricketing void with some interesting activities over the next six months. Firstly, there is our AGM at which we have the pleasure of welcoming Paul Baldwin as our guest speaker. Paul has done most of his umpiring in Germany under the guidance of the ICC-Europe. He was a member of the ICC Associate and Affiliates Panel since it started in 2005 and stood in 18 ODIs before joining the ECB First Class Reserve List of Umpires in 2010.

Our neighbours, West Surrey, have a series of monthly meetings over the Winter months with some attractive speakers and East Surrey members are welcome to attend. A couple of their meetings are listed in the panel on the right with more on the [West Surrey website](#).

Our lead instructor, Andrew Etherington, has written a summary of the key changes to the Laws that came into effect on the 1 October. I have supplies of the new 4th edition MCC Laws pocket book and these will be on sale at the AGM (priced at £3). The 1 October also marks the start of our new membership year and annual subs now fall due. Please can you send a £5 cheque (made payable to ESCUSA) to our Treasurer, Peter Turner, at 39 Spencer Way, Redhill, RH1 5LF or bring along cash or cheque to the AGM.

We are running two ECB Level 1 Umpiring Courses over the winter months; the first of these in November is already full and a second one will be running on 5/12 March 2011. Alongside this we are hoping to run a ECB Level 1 Scorers Course and more details will be available in due course. Please pass on the word to those who are interested.

I wish you all the best over the coming months and hope to see you at the AGM, or at one of our other events.

*John Flatley, Secretary & Webmaster ESCUSA*

## Dates for your diary

### 19 October 2010

**Steve Bennett**, Independent Sports Official on the ECB ACO Board and ex- FIFA and FA Premier Football Referee is speaking at West Surrey Association of Cricket Umpires and Scorers meeting at Guildford CC (7.30pm for 8pm start). East Surrey members are welcome to attend.

### 4 November 2010

**ESCUSA Annual General Meeting** being held at [Reigate Manor Hotel](#), Reigate Hill, Reigate at 7.30pm.

### 20 November 2010

**ECB ACO second annual conference** at Lord's. For details see the latest ECB ACO [newsletter](#).

### 7 December 2010

First Class Umpires, **Martin Bodenham and Neil Bainton**, are speaking at West Surrey Association of Cricket Umpires and Scorers meeting at Guildford CC (7.30pm for 8pm start). East Surrey members are welcome to attend.

### 18 February 2011

**Carvery night** (venue to be confirmed).

## THE LAWS THEY ARE A CHANGING...

The 4th edition of the 2000 MCC Laws of Cricket came into effect on 1 October and includes some 160 changes. Many are minor wording changes but there are probably 9 which could be classed as significant.

I would recommend that you get a copy of the new version and read them carefully comparing the wording to the old version. However, what I am now going to do is look at the 9 significant changes and try to explain them.

I stress it is only my view I am not the MCC Law Committee. So with that health warning over, lets look at the changes.



### Laws 3.8 & 3.9

These changes affect the suspension of play due to ground, weather or light. Now the decisions whether play shall be suspended are solely those of the umpires. No offering of light to batsmen, no agree to play on if both captains want to. If both the umpires think conditions are unreasonable or dangerous for play through light or weather it will be suspended.

Accordingly when both umpires think its fit for play to start, play will start again. This brings our games in line with what happens in first class cricket.

**Law 12.4 & 12.5**

At least one umpire must now be present when the Toss is made and the decision whether to bat or field must be made by the winning captain at that time. No more waiting until 10 minutes before the scheduled start time for the decision. Also if a captain is not available to make the toss his deputy must now be one of the nominated players from that team.

**Law 17**

This one is a bit more complicated as it is about practice on the field. The area that can never be used for practice has now been defined as the pitch and one pitch sized strip either side of the match pitch. Players may now not practice with a coach or 12th man during play. Bowlers may now only bowl practice balls which do not bounce. That means they can only bowl to a colleague on the full. If they bowl the ball into the ground it will now be deemed as *Changing the Condition of the Ball* and will bring the normal penalty of changing the ball and 5 penalty runs to the batting side, plus the usual report from you. This is going to make the first few games of next season very interesting and you a 'popular person' until the players catch on. In the real world you may have to use Law 43 (i.e. common sense). Tell captains at your pre-match meeting of the change to the law and get them to tell their bowlers. Depending on the level of the game you may think its better to educate bowlers who inadvertently offend rather than penalise. But you won't find this in the laws. Also you may need to buy a very large box of spare balls.

**Law 19.4**

A change has been made to clarify when the ball has crossed the boundary. A player in fielding the ball must now make his first contact with the ball either with his person grounded inside the field of play, or if leaping take off from inside the field of play. He can subsequently leave the field of play to jump and pat the ball back. If he now leaves the field of play to jump and make his first contact with the ball the boundary will be scored. Don't forget you will be only 50-70 yards away with no television replay to help you.

**Law 24.5**

It has been noted that some slow bowlers put their front foot across in front of the stumps when they bowl. Sometimes even past the stumps. Now they must have some part of their front foot, whether grounded or raised, on the same side as

they bowl from, of an imaginary line drawn between the two middle stumps. Else it will be a Front Foot No Ball.

**Law 28.1**

If part of the batsman's bat breaks off when playing the ball and this part goes on to break the wicket the batsman will now be out Hit Wicket. This is at last logical.

**Law 29.1**

The definition of a batsman out of his ground has been amended to allow for the fact if a batsman while running has grounded some part of his foot behind the popping crease and subsequently loses contact with the ground while still going forward and the wicket is fairly broken he will not be given out. In this case the batsman had clearly got in but due to the physical act of running both feet will leave the ground at some point therefore it would be unfair to give the batsman out. It's a bit like the case of the batsman being not out after making his ground and leaving it to avoid being hit.

**Law 33.1**

If a batsman now picks up the ball and passes it to a fielder without permission, on appeal he will be given out Handled the Ball not Obstructing the Field. At last one for the trainers, as it was always a pain trying to explain the old law to students.

**Law 42.14**

If a batsman was found to be damaging the pitch under the old version he got a series of warning which applied to whole team, a first warning, then a second and final warning with the runs disallowed, then for further offences runs disallowed and 5 penalty runs to the fielding side. Whereas the fielding side got one final warning then penalty runs to the batting side for each subsequent offence. Now these have been brought into line with the batting side getting a first and final warning then, for further offences, runs disallowed and 5 penalty runs to the fielding side. Plus, of course, the usual reporting.

Well there they are the major changes. Please remember these comments are my views not those of the MCC. Again I strongly recommend you get copy of the new laws so you can read them for yourself and also, if you have technology, take a look at the [Lord's website](#) as you will find a section on the changes plus some good video clips which help to explain them.

*Andrew Etherington, Senior Instructor ESCUSA*