

2017 Annual Report by County Performance & Development Officer (updated)

This is my final report as CPDO and I am extremely pleased to report a record 2017 season.

We have 9 UL2 passes (and one more expected on Sunday), 5 UL1A and 14 UL1 members. 6 others passed UL1 but have not joined SACO and 4 who failed to achieve competency. Two UL2 candidates have been recommended to progress to UL3 equivalent in 2018 and 3 more are interested if there are vacancies.

Whilst I have been responsible for chasing all the admin, the main credit must go to Keith Healey, Derek Bloor, Trevor Cotton and Cliff Jones for their excellent training – and also the candidates for their efforts, including completion of portfolio paperwork! I would also like to thank Brian Bogie, Nic Cooper, Malcolm Edge, Steve Gould, Alan McGarry and John Reed for their assistance in (re-)arranging many appointments to enable convenient observations and mentoring.

I had problems in finding a mutually convenient date for a physical meeting of the Performance & Grading Committee (CEO, CAO, GJM, NC and Ian Matthews plus a representative from NSSCPCL) and conducted the grading by email. This was not entirely satisfactory but I believe we have reached the correct grades in most cases. I have still failed to engage with Stone League. I would like to thank Nick Archer and Nic Cooper for their detailed reports from their respective leagues. Unfortunately the data from NSSCPCL Umpire Manager has not been as detailed this year as in previous years. Fortunately I was able to revert to the original captains' marks but even these were more of a popularity contest than a practical assessment.

One umpire was given 3 out of 10 with the explanation that he had missed several foot faults. Had that been true, it was still a harsh mark. On investigation, we found that the players did not know that a raised heel behind the line was legal! Rejecting that mark, raised the umpire's ranking by 8 places.

I have suggested adopting a more granular approach (such as Decision Making, Match Management, Presentation as previous years), would yield more information that would be useful to improving umpire performance. Lower divisions should also submit marks, albeit without the financial penalties of top divisions.

Every SACO member is registered on WtU under Staffordshire. Those of you also on MidRAC will be moved to WMidRAC shortly. The grades should be updated in January. I do strongly urge that you do check your own details then. If you do not have an email address, please arrange with a "buddy" to assist you. Future DBS checks will be done using an online system. We have identified 30 C1/C1* (was 26 last year), 32 C2/C2*/C2+1 (54), 33 C3 etc (25), 29 C4 (21), 18 C5 (10), 33 C6 (some of whom may be active but not responding! - was 34), 22 scorers and 2 deceased making a total of 199 members for 2017.

On the observation front, I organised training sessions for 14 observers including 3 from elsewhere in the Region, since nothing else had been arranged. Thanks to Paul Joy for leading the first one and Graham Maltby for the second. 6 of them have achieved the requirements set out in our published protocol and been recommended for full accreditation. 2 more need to complete a Boundary Assessment with an Oversight. 2 have failed to perform more than one observation and will be dropped from the programme.

I have recorded 51 Boundary Observations, 40 Onfield, 2 Scorers and 10 Oversights. We have assisted with Observations for Cheshire, Warwickshire, Sussex and Services and received assistance from Cheshire, Shropshire and Warks, gratefully received. One of my videos has been used to support a D-list application.

Indeed, once again, videos have been popular and proved their worth, ranging from "hands in pockets" to "standing in line with leg stump" as well as the usual near collisions at bowler's end. Observations have also underlined the need to record precise timings of interruptions and enforce slow over rate penalties.

This year, Graham Maltby negotiated additional funding for Observations, enabling, especially, a small fee to be paid to umpires for on field observations. We had a budget of £950 for Observer training, Observations (except UL2 which are covered by HQ) and UL1A PDs. It actually cost £969, an overspend of less than 2%, which is remarkably good considering this was the first year. Hopefully Jason Britton will regard

the increased quantity and quality of umpires as good value and will continue the funding for my successor. One area in which we can reduce costs is by recruiting and training Observers in Staffs Clubs League.

The Constitution requires me to present our plans and objectives for 2018. It promises to be a similar year from the observation aspect, although we only have 6 ready for Stage 3 there are 17 for UL1A/Stage 2, we need to persuade the 6 who passed UL1 to join ACO and move upwards. Much training effort will be diverted to existing umpires – not just Laws but revised practical advice. Observers may do more mentoring. I would like to see Leagues arranging for all new umpires to have a dedicated mentor who will stand with them in their first match and monitor them throughout the season.

CPDO will no longer have to mark UL1 exam papers as these have been superseded by MCC's online e-learning package (<https://www.lords.org/mcc/laws-of-cricket/elearning/>) and I would encourage all members to attempt this during the winter as it covers all aspects of Law, not just the new ones. It would be marvellous if Leagues would require all their umpires to obtain some minimum standard.

Graham Maltby and I attended a Regional workshop for Assessors and have been re-accredited. I have been engaged in various roles (observer, interviewer/assessor, organiser) with three sessions of interviews, whilst Graham has done some higher level observations.

Finally I would like to wish my successor, David Marchant, every success in 2018. He is the next most experienced observer and assessor within Staffordshire and will have my full support. He would probably benefit from the existence of a Membership Services Officer, a role which I have been fulfilling as caretaker for several years, in addition to my duties as CPDO.

Colin Pearson (16.xi.17) colinp@a-b.co.uk 07956 239 801

Honours Board - Accreditations 1st November 2016 to 31st October 2017

Umpire Level 2

Barnett, Peter
Davies, Neil M
Davies, Neil.
McGarry, Alan
McGarry, Connor
Sharples, John
Stewart, Ian
Stokes, Alan
Taylor, Phil

Umpire Level 1A

Beech, Paul
Burdekin, Paul
Cooke, Mike
Shutt-Nullis, Nicola
Swinton, Mark
Wide, Nicholas

Umpire Level 1

Bennett, Andrew
Dawson, Mick
Devgon, Avtar
Finney, Stephen
Heath, Kevin
Horner, Ron
Jenkinson, Stephen
Jennison, Stephen
Jones, Andrew
Mangan, Nick
Nock, Morgan
Stoney, Steve
Talbot, Noel
Williams, Gareth

Accredited Assessor

Maltby, Graham
Pearson, Colin