

# OFFICIATING MATTERS

#YESITDOES

SEPTEMBER 2025 EDITION

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

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And Finally....

Hi everyone.

Wow, how fortunate have we been with the fantastic weather that has been almost ever-present since the season began (for some) in late March?

Sadly though, we have had a record number of officials ill or unwell over the course of the season and I have, on our members' behalf, made a point of thanking Les, Steve, Barry and the rest of the Appointments Team for their sterling service and work in continuing to pull rabbits out of hats in the face of some genuine challenges.

Information regarding the upcoming end-of-season event is detailed elsewhere in this edition and particular thanks go to Matt Jackson & Simon Snartt for their efforts to date in organising this event.

On a development note, one thing that has again been highlighted to our detriment is occasions on which officials are not up to speed on competition regs. Generally speaking, the higher you umpire, the more regs there are and the more competitions you umpire, the greater the variety of regs you'll encounter. It's imperative however, that when we stand in (new) competitions or tournaments, we are well versed with the application of the regs of that event - these can be found on the GACO website, the INEX section of WTU, the GCF website (competition page) and the Laws of Cricket section of the Lord's website. If you need a new law book or are struggling to find competition regulations, please do not hesitate to contact myself directly or Bob Hampshire or Bob Owen.

On a different note, congratulations to newly-trained umpire Ian Martin on getting his first opportunities in WEPL Tier3 and Neil Saunders & Matt Jackson in Prem1 - well done all. But officiating isn't just about progression through the tiers, it's about being the best umpires & scorers we can be at whatever level we operate, so thank you for all you've done over the course of the summer – recreational cricket wouldn't be the same without you.

Looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the end-of-season event.

*Phil*



## UMPIRE DEVELOPMENT

The umpire observation team has carried out a full programme of BEDOs over the course of the summer, details of which are:

ECB M3-M2: 3

ECB M4-M3: 13

ECB M5-M4: 6

ECB W3-W2: 2

GACO Development: 16

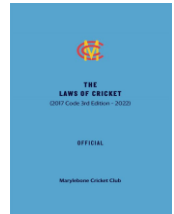
Colleague: 8



In total, 61 umpires have received observations over the course of the season and a big thank-you is extended to our 'full time' observers, Ian McHardie-Jones, Steve Dove and Clive Poulton for carrying out a large proportion of these. Simon Pilgrim (Somerset) has again been very helpful in plugging gaps, while Bhavin Radia continues to give up a Saturday in the middle to contribute from the side. Alan Payne, Phil Mattingley, Steve Johnson and

Robin Scott have each contributed Colleague Observations to the overall development programme.

All umpires who applied to advance their grading for 2026 and have received the statutory observations, successfully completed the MCC Laws exam and umpired the requisite number of league games will be advised of the outcome of their application by the end of September.



Note that gradings and promotion are two different processes. Umpires whose grading moves from M5 to M4, for example, opens up the opportunity of promotion to the next tier of officiating, but in no way guarantees it. The post-season meetings to agree upon both the format of next season's various WEPL panels and which umpires are to be offered panel places will be followed by letters to those people. Only officials who umpired in WEPL last season or have been offered places for 2026 will receive these notifications, which should be with people before the next edition of Officiating Matters is distributed at the beginning of November.

## NEW UMPIRE COURSES

During the off-season, ECB 'Introduction to Umpiring' (for anyone interested in officiating) and 'Umpire Development' (for potential panel umpires) courses will be held. Dates will be announced in future editions of Officiating Matters and on the GACO/GCF websites, with January-April being the likely period for these events to take place. The 2026 season will again be preceded with 'Are You Ready to Call Play?' practical days on which new umpires and scorers can hone their fieldcraft in real match situations.

# UMPIRE EXPENSES 2025 by John Lindley



## **“Why haven’t I received any expenses for my appointments....?”**

Have you submitted an on-line claim form? ..... if not, **that** will be the reason in the vast majority of cases.

The other reason may be that we still require funds from some of the competition organisers, so those expenses will be paid as soon as these are received.

To date, payments have been made to people who have submitted claims for the following:

WEPL	- weeks 1-6 and 7-12
BDCA + GCL	- weeks 1-9
County age-group	- fixtures to the end of May
BUCS	- Bristol University and UWE
Schools	- Beechen Cliff, Kingswood and QEH

The information on this is kept up-to-date on the ‘Expenses’ page of the website.

## **The continuing ‘saga’ of DBS renewals....**

Please remember that even as the summer season nears completion, the requirements for DBS renewal still apply.

If your DBS annual re-check is due during the ‘close’ season, it is still necessary to follow the links to make sure the check can be carried out ahead of any winter indoor appointments and certainly ahead of the 2026 summer season....!

**Failure to renew the update service for the re-check will mean that a new, full application will be required.**

## **GACO END-OF-SEASON EVENT**



The GACO end-of-season spectacular will take place on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October at Hatherley & Reddings CC, Cheltenham. We have a special guest speaker lined up; details to be confirmed shortly. Other highlights of the evening will include awards for scorers and umpires, a slap-up buffet dinner and a quiz.

Attendance is free for GACO members, but please confirm your attendance to [EMAIL ADDRESS] as soon as possible for catering purposes, noting any dietary requirements.

## SCORING MATTERS #YesItDoes

***Lydney CC scorer, Phil Lewis, recounts how his new-found Level 3 status has led to a wealth of new experiences this season.***

The 2025 cricket season was always going to be an exciting one for me as I started the process of embarking on my journey along the pathway towards my next level of scoring (ECB Level 3).

I have had the fortune to score regularly over the years for my local club, Lydney CC 1<sup>st</sup> XI, who play in the Gloucestershire County League, and to be appointed to the occasional recreational fixture for other matches when asked to score whilst working the scoreboard at Cheltenham Festival.

Thanks to the support of my fellow scorers and in particular my scoring mentor, Sue Drinkwater, I have gained the experience to start working towards Level 3 Scoring status.

I attended the Level 3 course at High Wycombe CC in February 2025 and had a very interesting day of tutoring by Sue, Heather Vernon and Jane Hough. There was lots to take in and it became clear the difference in expectations of a club scorer within the Play Cricket database and that of a scorer in the professional game in the NV Play database.

The course set me up perfectly for what was to come and I left with a fair degree of nervous excitement for the season ahead!

My first appointed game was to score Gloucestershire 2<sup>nd</sup> XI vs Nepal in two T20 games back-to-back. I arrived early and was already familiar with the ground which was a bonus. Admittedly I was very nervous for my first game and eager to do well.

The umpires were very welcoming and extremely helpful which put me at ease and my fellow scorer was someone I knew well and was experienced using the software to score professional cricket. He showed me step by step the set-up process as we worked through the protocol.

The games went well and I thoroughly enjoyed the experience which put me in great stead for future games as I learned not just how to score, but how to interact with the analyst, Ellipse Data Scorer and umpires, too.

I have enjoyed the analytical side of scoring at professional level, recording fielding positions for catches and run outs, liaising with umpires about cut-off times and intervals, DLS (although it hasn't rained much!) and live scoring. There is a real sense of purpose when scoring, as your data feeds the ECB system and allows cricket fans to view online and see how the games are going. This was what I was most nervous about initially, the fact that your scoring is viewed by so many people from far and wide. As each game passed, my confidence grew and I have enjoyed every second of the season's scoring experience.

I was fortunate to be asked to score England U19s v India U19s with Sue Drinkwater, which was a superb learning experience to see how a first-class scorer works both pre match, during the game, and post-match too.



Being asked to score at The SEAT Unique stadium has also been great, sitting up in the pavilion with a fabulous view of the pitch. It felt a real achievement when scoring for Glos W vs Kent W and as my laptop was feeding the main scoreboard, it certainly made you focus even harder on what you were recording. As a whole, I have found concentration levels have to be higher compared to the recreational game as with every ball that's bowled, you have to monitor fielding positions and the fielders in the expectation and anticipation of a wicket potentially falling.

All in all, it has been a fantastic season thus far and I would encourage anyone who's pondering about doing the Level 3 course to apply as soon as possible. You get to meet some great people - fellow scorers, umpires, analysts and sometimes the playing and coaching staff if the match is not covered by PMOA restrictions.

As stated previously, I could not have done this without the help of my fellow scorers this season, namely Mike Turner, Mark Wilshire, Andy Knott, Clive Jones as well as Sue Drinkwater. I've learned so much from them all, including investing in some powerful binoculars to help with player identification!

I hope my article inspires others, not just to try Level 3, but to take up scoring no matter how far you wish to progress along the pathway. It really is rewarding, and you feel a real part of the whole cricketing process.

## GLoucestershire Cricket Foundation News



Gloucestershire  
Cricket Foundation

Gloucestershire Cricket Foundation recently appointed Nicky Clarke as Workforce Manager. She is responsible for developing the people within clubs and the wider cricket network that make cricket happen. As a club scorer and qualified umpire, she is passionate about officiating and supporting both scorers and umpires to progress as far as they can, whether that's within their club or the wider game.

Nicky's role is to promote the excellent work GACO is already doing with the training, development and mentoring programmes available to umpires being nationally recognised. Her brief is to also ensure that the Gloucestershire network of clubs and volunteers has access to the courses and other support they need to thrive.

With the growth of the women's game, there are more opportunities to score and umpire with both, particularly umpiring, offering real career prospects.

If you want to talk about how the Gloucestershire Cricket Foundation can support you or your club with umpire or scorer development, or if you are interested in either the ECB Umpires Course or Scorers CPDs (Linear, DLS, PCS Pro), please contact Nicky at: [nicky.clarke@gloucestershirecricketfoundation.org](mailto:nicky.clarke@gloucestershirecricketfoundation.org).



## A LIFE IN CRICKET by Gwyn Williams



Most GACO umpires have been involved in cricket for several decades in one guise or another. I started scoring for my dad's team in 1977, then played men's cricket for 3 decades from 1980, then ran a school team for 15 years whilst also coaching junior cricket at Tewkesbury, then finally took up umpiring.

I know for sure that many GACO colleagues will be able to beat that level of involvement in cricket hands down and will have given far longer service to the game than me. However, I stand to be corrected, but I'd be surprised if anyone has been involved in cricket (in the same role) quite as long as the remarkable Mr

Tony Goodall.

In July this year Darren Turl and myself had the pleasure of standing in a T20 game at Stowell Park CC on Lord Vestey's estate near Northleach, where the aforementioned Tony Goodall is the groundsman. Tony, who is now in his 80s, informed us that he had been looking after the pitch at Stowell Park CC every season since 1963! In other words, this is Tony's 63<sup>rd</sup> consecutive season as the club groundsman! He is still doing a great job too, as the pitch played extremely well, producing over 380 runs in 40 overs.



Tony was also a keen player back in the day – an accomplished batter, playing for Stowell Park and Bibury amongst other local sides, as well as the Gloucestershire Over 70s in more recent times.

Many congratulations to Tony for his amazing longevity in the game!

### USEFUL LINKS

GACO Website: [www.gaco.org.uk](http://www.gaco.org.uk)

Twitter (X): @GlosUmps

GACO Clothing: [Clothing and merchandise - GACO](#)

## END-OF-SEASON QUIZ

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1. Oldest test cricketer who last played for England aged 52.
2. Adjective that is commonly used to describe reasons for 'Unfair Play'.
3. A back-spinning leg spinner that essentially doesn't spin.
4. Indian cricketer, four of which are in a pint.
5. What isn't allowed on the pitch during a match.
6. City where the county ground is named after a property owner's daughter rather than WG.
7. Island on which you will find the Sir Garfield Sobers Pavilion.
8. Name given to the 1939 South Africa v England test match that lasted nine days.
9. John, 19<sup>TH</sup>-century cricketer whose name lives on via a yellow-covered book.
10. 8\_. Missing digit in a batter's score sometimes referred to as the 'Devil's Number'.
11. UK island granted ICC Associate Membership in 2008.



# NEW GACO WEBSITE

GACO will soon be launching its brand-new website that is modern, user friendly and one that will have all the important information for umpires and scorers in one place. This website is device agnostic and will work on mobile phones, tablets and laptops.

‘Our Highlights’ area is interactive with each of the icons/titles leading to a direct link and/or detailed information on topics such as Umpire & Scorers’ courses, Umpire Pathway development, The Laws of Cricket and Officiating Matters. Leagues & Regulations aims to provide a consolidated access to regs for all the leagues our umpires and scorers currently support under one single page for easy access.

## Gloucester Association of Cricket Officials



### Elevating Cricket Standards in Gloucestershire

Working closely with the Gloucestershire Cricket Foundation (GCF), GACO trains, supports, appoints and develops umpires and scorers in Gloucestershire.



### Our Highlights

Explore our key features and contributions to cricket administration in Gloucestershire.



#### Umpire Courses

Providing umpire training and resources for aspiring officials in Gloucestershire.



#### Umpire Pathway Development

Route to the top. How to move along the ECB Umpiring Pathway.



#### Scorer Courses

Providing scorer training and resources for aspiring officials in the county.



#### The Laws of Cricket

MCC are the custodians of the Laws of Cricket, responsible for debating



#### Officiating Matters

News and features for GACO cricket officials in our bi-monthly 'Officiating



#### Leagues & Regulations

Leagues across West of England and each of their applicable Regulations



# Expenses & Reimbursements

The Expenses & Reimbursements page presents the competition-wise breakdown of umpires' fees in a unique, categorised grouping for easy usage.

## Competition rates (2025)

The following standard rates apply to both Umpires and Scorers unless explicitly noted. Rates are inclusive of travel or other subsistence expenses incurred.



### WEPL Men & Women

Paid in 6-week Batches via Claim Form submissions

WEPL (Tier 1): **£100**  
WEPL (Tier 2): **£90**  
WEPL (Tier 3): **£80**  
WEPL (Women's matches): **£80**  
WEPL T20 (£30 per game): **£60**



### B&D and GCL

Mid-season and End of season via Claim Form submissions. Standard / Solo Umpire

B&D – Top Division: **£55 / £80**  
B&D – Lower Divisions: **£50 / £70**  
GCL – Top Division: **£55 / £80**  
GCL – Lower Divisions: **£50 / £70**



### Trophy Games

Paid on the day (no Claim Form)  
Standard / Solo Umpire

Cheltenham M/W Varistha: **£35**  
Seniors/Veterans (non ECB): **£50**  
County Cup: **£55 / £80**  
County Trophy: **£50 / £70**  
Tony Hitch & Bateman Trophy: **TBC**



### Youth, Uni & Other Games

Paid in 6-week Batches via Claim Form submissions

County Youth (More than 20 overs): **£50 / £70**  
County Youth (T20 and "100"): **£30 / £45**  
Bristol University: **£TBC**  
Bath University: **£TBC**  
UWE, SGS College: **£TBC**



### School & Other Games

Mid-season and End of season. Standard / Solo Umpire

Schools (More than 20 overs): **£45 / £62.50**  
Schools (T20 and "100"): **£30 / £45**  
Village Cup: **£45**  
Other Games (T20): **£30**  
Other Games (not T20): **£45**



### ECB Competitions

Paid on the day (via WTU link)  
Standard / Solo Umpire

ECB competitions & matches, Vitality, Royal London: **£Set by ECB**

# Officiating Matters

We will have a dedicated page for the latest bi-monthly Officiating Matters magazines accessible from a dedicated page - you should be able to download the PDF file directly to your device. The Archives section will host all the earlier versions of the magazines for easy access.

## Officiating Matters

Find the latest *Officiating Matters* #YesItDoes editions as well as earlier versions in the Archives sections. These documents can also be downloaded to your own device for offline reading



**July 2025**

Includes the Chairman's trip to Philadelphia, USA and the team that was 2 All Out

[Launch July Newsletter](#)



**May 2025**

Preparation for the new season, Indoor cricket and spotlight on Simon Snartt

[Launch May Newsletter](#)



**March 2025**

Includes 1st Class season reviews from umpire Ben Peverall and county scorer Adrian Bull.

[Launch March Newsletter](#)



**Archives**

Here you can access previous editions of Officiating Matters #YesItDoes

[Launch Archives](#)

## GACO COMMITTEE CONTACTS 2025/26

Post	Name	E-Mail	Post	Name	E-Mail
Chairman	Phil Mattingley	chair@gaco.org.uk	Development	Bob Owen	development@gaco.org.uk
Secretary	Andrew Davis	Davchu08@outlook.com	Education & Development Coordinator	Andrew Davis	edanddev@gaco.org.uk
Treasurer	John Lindley	treasurer@gaco.org.uk	Recruitment	Darren Turl	recruitment@gaco.org.uk
Appointments	Steve Johnson	appointments@gaco.org.uk	Welfare	Robin Scott	welfare@gaco.org.uk
Scorers	Sue Drinkwater	scorers@gaco.org.uk	GCF	Harry Watts	Harry.watts@gloucestershirecricketfoundation.org
Education	Bob Hampshire	education@gaco.org.uk	Publicity & Webmaster	Craig Blakeway	webmaster@gaco.org.uk
Website Technician	Rishi Maktedar	secretary@gaco.org.uk			

## CULINARY MATTERS



***Completing his selfless tour of the county's cricket teas, the @GACOFoodCorrespondent shares some of his culinary experiences from the second half of the season.***

June started with the opportunity to cross the bridge into South Wales and the culinary delights of Newport CC for a BUCS fixture been Cardiff UCCE and Leeds/Bradford. A fantastic chilli with rice, salad and nachos with salsa dip and yogurt / fresh fruit salad to

finish - superb fare and a 9.5/10 is a just reward for the quality on display.

This was followed by another visit to Frocester CC for a Prem1 fixture at a club where you will struggle to find better hospitality. There was the usual offering of chicken, sausages, chips, sandwiches & quiche plus cakes, etc - a separate table laid for the officials - my first 10/10 of the season 🎉

The following week a trip up the Severn and Avon to Tewkesbury CC, where a fantastic spread for all players and officials was laid with a wide range of assorted sandwiches in addition to side salads, sausage rolls and cakes - an almost perfect score and a second 9.5/10.

Out of county next to Potterne in Wiltshire, where the baby potatoes in butter are a dream - I would score 11/10 just for those, with the sandwiches and cakes plus ice cream if requested: another 10/10 - superb.

Next up, Thornbury CC - impeccable hospitality and a traditionally laid out cricket tea of assorted sandwiches, cheese, ham, French stick, sausages, quiche, salads and cakes - easily a 9/10.

A trip into Bristol to Golden Hill CC a week later - tea was made up of a sandwich assortment, packets of crisps, chicken nuggets and sausages plus packet cakes - hospitality lacking, but a respectable 7/10.



P2 at Dumbleton to follow and being honest, the tea that rivals and I would say even upstages the Frocester offering – a huge variety of savoury and sweets plus pasta salads and great cakes. Wow! 10/10 without a second thought.

Back to Frocester for another tasting and the tea was as exemplary as the earlier visit (thank you for appointing me there again): 10/10.

Finally, a trip to Downend for a P1 fixture at a very busy club with the British Lions playing in the morning and the England v India test match during the day. It was a packed clubhouse and tight for room getting to the nicely laid out buffet tea which was of a decent standard. It would have been a 7.5/10 but the young lady laying out the food made a conscious effort to check both my colleague and I were okay and made us a welcoming cup of tea, so a deservedly upgraded score of 8.5/10.

## UMPIRING APPOINTMENTS 2025 by Steve Johnson

In 2025, the GACO Appointing team has been challenged to appoint to more than 1,150 matches between mid-April & early September, with the monthly distribution of games following the expected distribution curve – April, 57 (almost entirely pre-season friendlies, a number heightened by the good weather), in May, with the start of the league, season, we saw 254, rising in June to 289 (boosted by increased numbers of School/County Age Group and Senior games). Figures for July and August (including the first week of September) were 220 and 214 respectively.

To put the total number in context, the breakdown by competition/predominant location is as below (B = Bristol, G = Gloucestershire S = split responsibility - often not known until each round of a competition decides the home club for the following round or GCCC/GCF etc find a ground to host the County Age Group [CAG] matches).

Bateman Trophy: 19 (B)

B&D/GCL: 360 (S) - 235 actually appointed

BUCS: 45 (S)

County Age Group: 132 (S)

County Cup: 20 (S)

County Trophy: 15 (S)

Club events: 15 (G)

ECB Exchange: 23 (G)

ECB Disability: 6 (G)

Friendlies (pre-season): 20 (S)

Hitch Trophy: 36 (B)

Schools: 117 (S)

Seniors: 111 (G)

Somerset Pathway: 21 (G)

Varistha T20: 32 (G)

Village KO: 5 (G)

WEPL T3/Women: 182 (S)

Despite unprecedented levels of unavailability, illness and injury across the WEPL and GCL Panels, especially during late July and August, with the resultant knock-on changes required to appointments across the pyramid, thanks to the support of umpiring colleagues, we managed to cover 99.5% of T3 games with 2 umpires.

With the exception of GCL Division 1 in July, where only 16/20 games were covered, the remaining months saw the majority of GCL 1 & B&D Senior Div games covered by 2 umpires. Unfortunately, the lack of availability is revealed most notably in B&D Div 1 where only 22 games had appointed umpires. By comparison, GCL Div 2 had its best figures for many years with 37 games covered – however, it should be noted that 30 of these had a single umpire and it is anticipated that the overall figure will fall significantly next season following the promotion of Tewkesbury II, whose non-driving club umpire was responsible for 17/37 of this season's appointments.



In recent weeks, we have seen the benefits of 'co-operative' working, as GACO has assisted SACO/SCCC with appointments to Somerset Pathway and Cup games in the north of their territory - games which are often geographically closer for GACO members to fulfil and this is expected to continue in 2026.

With the promotion of Cheltenham II & Corse & Staunton from GCL 1, with these clubs being replaced by Apperley & Tewkesbury II, the match-up between WEPL T3 and GCL 1 geographic club distribution v umpire location will also improve slightly, which will also be helped by the expected return/acquisition of new umpires - 5 have already indicated new or additional availability in 2026.



With the retirement of Barry Cleeve, who has done such a fantastic job in appointing in the south of the county for the past ten years or so, I am delighted to report that two volunteers have come forward to join the team in Bristol for 2026 - Ian Purchase (who will cover League appointments) and Mark Forge (covering non-League). I am sure both will have your full support as we move forward - more on this next year.

Finally, I have to thank all the guys in the Appointing Team who have selflessly given of their time, expertise and effort, often in trying circumstances, to deliver a first-class service and to umpiring colleagues who have supported us, often through difficult times, with patience and understanding as changes have been made. I look forward to working with you all in 2026.

Date	Time	Home Team	Away Team	Umpire	Referee
10/08/2024	10:00 AM	Worcestershire	Gloucestershire	Barry Cleeve	Barry Cleeve
10/08/2024	12:00 PM	Worcestershire	Gloucestershire	Barry Cleeve	Barry Cleeve
10/08/2024	2:00 PM	Worcestershire	Gloucestershire	Barry Cleeve	Barry Cleeve



## CRICKETING ODDITIES



Kumar Dharmasena, who umpired the final test of the recent England v India series was the first person to play in and umpire a World Cup Final. Dharmasena was in the Sri Lanka team that beat Australia by 7 wickets in 1996, then umpired the England v New Zealand World Cup Final at Lord's in 2019 when the hosts won off the final ball of the Super Over (and our very own Sue Drinkwater was recording events in the scoreboard).

Richard Illingworth became the second person to achieve this feat, umpiring India's 7-run win over South Africa in the 2024 T20 World Cup Final, having played in the 1992 World Cup Final in which Pakistan beat England by 22 runs.

Both Dharmasena and Illingworth were spin bowlers, who managed a wicket apiece in the aforementioned finals, their combined analysis from a total of 20 overs bowled being a fairly unremarkable 2-97.



## 2026 GACO CONFERENCE

It's a long way ahead, but please add this date to your diary: Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> March at Eastwood Park Conference Centre near Thornbury. An interesting line-up of speakers has been arranged, while the catering at this event is always of an impressively high standard. The @GACOFoodCorrespondent, whose 2025 Review appears later in this publication, always speaks very highly of the culinary offerings at Eastwood Park. He usually enjoys the conference, too....



## GACO ONLINE SHOP



Gloucestershire Association  
of Cricket Officials

The GACO shop, which can be accessed via [www.gaco.org.uk](http://www.gaco.org.uk) (or use the link below) is up and running ready to do business prior to the new season. Order any item from the shop, which comes complete with GACO logo and have your item(s) delivered directly to your door. Everything from match clothing to leisurewear – check it out now:

[Clothing and merchandise – GACO](http://www.gaco.org.uk)

# THE WEST OF ENGLAND PYRAMID 2025

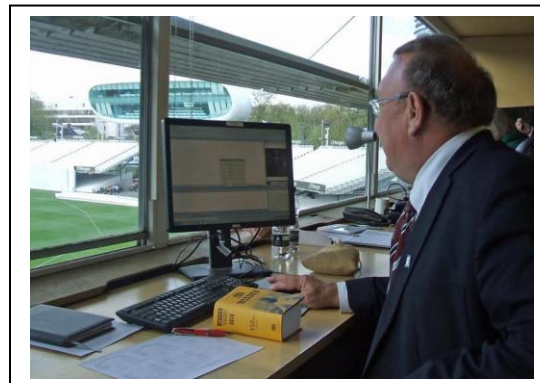
## Final Tables

(and our own	P	W	T	L	C/A	Pts	WEPL P2 B & S	P	W	T	L	C/A	Pts
Bridgwater	18	14	0	2	2	315	Midsomer Norton	18	15	0	0	3	321
Bedminster	18	10	1	5	2	270	Lansdown	18	12	0	4	2	283
Bath	18	9	0	6	3	245	Congresbury	18	9	0	7	2	240
Potterne	18	8	0	8	2	235	Golden Hill	18	8	0	8	2	210
Thornbury	18	8	0	8	2	233	Weston-Super-Mare	18	6	1	8	3	210
Bristol	18	8	0	7	3	229	Old Bristolians Westbury	18	5	1	10	2	195
Burbage	18	7	1	8	2	229	Clevedon	18	8	0	8	2	194
Frocester	18	7	0	9	2	208	Keynsham	18	5	0	11	2	188
Downend	18	4	0	12	2	171	Bishopston	18	6	0	10	2	182
Taunton SA	18	3	0	13	2	141	Taunton	18	4	0	12	2	173
WEPL P2 GW	P	W	T	L	C/A	Pts	WEPL T3 B & NS	P	W	T	L	C/A	Pts
Dumbleton	18	13	0	3	2	295	Twyford House	18	12	0	5	1	272
Goatacre	18	12	0	4	2	286	Brislington	18	11	0	7	0	264
Wootton Bassett	18	10	0	6	2	264	Bristol West Indians	18	11	0	5	2	260
Corsham	18	10	0	6	2	255	Knowle	18	11	0	6	1	255
Painswick	18	9	0	7	2	236	Frenchay	18	7	0	9	2	211
Cheltenham	18	8	0	8	2	232	Bristol Pakistanis	18	8	0	9	1	205
Hatherley	18	7	0	9	2	218	Bedminster II	18	6	0	10	2	195
Tewkesbury	18	6	0	10	2	205	Pak Bristolians	18	6	0	10	2	185
Purton	18	3	0	13	2	133	Bradley Stoke	18	6	0	10	2	185
Chippenham	18	2	0	14	2	129	Bristol II	18	5	0	12	1	170
WEPL T3 GLOS	P	W	T	L	C/A	Pts	B & D Senior	P	W	T	L	C/A	Pts
Chipping Sodbury	18	13	0	3	2	303	Bath II	18	13	0	3	2	289
Bourton Vale	18	13	0	3	2	296	Downend II	18	10	1	5	2	258
Charlton Kings	18	11	0	5	2	271	Coalpit Heath	18	10	0	6	2	223
Aston Ingham	18	8	0	8	2	220	Winterbourne	18	9	1	6	2	222
Stroud	18	8	0	9	1	218	Golden Hill	18	9	0	7	2	217
Hawkesbury Upton	18	7	0	9	2	204	Stapleton	18	7	2	7	2	210
Langford	18	7	0	10	1	196	Portishead	18	6	0	10	2	177
Gloucester	18	7	0	9	2	189	Hanham	18	4	1	11	2	173
Frocester II	18	6	0	10	2	189	Claverham	18	5	1	10	2	168
Thornbury II	18	1	0	15	2	85	Cleeve	18	4	0	12	2	168
GCCL1	P	W	T	L	C/A	Pts	GCCL2	P	W	T	L	C/A	Pts
Corse & Staunton	18	13	0	4	1	290	Apperley	18	13	0	3	2	292
Cheltenham II	18	12	1	5	0	278	Tewkesbury II	18	12	0	4	2	277
Chipping Campden	18	11	0	7	0	251	Poultton	18	11	0	5	2	253
Cheltenham CS	18	9	0	7	2	237	Dumbleton II	18	9	0	7	2	252
Rockhampton	18	9	0	9	0	233	Westbury	18	9	0	7	2	242
Tetbury	18	6	1	9	2	219	Cam	18	7	0	8	3	217
Cirencester	18	8	0	10	0	214	Ullenwood Bharat	18	7	0	9	2	216
Lydney	18	6	0	11	1	188	Hatherley II	18	7	0	8	3	209
Kingsholm	18	6	0	11	1	184	Great Rissington	18	4	0	12	2	158
Redmarley	18	5	0	12	1	167	Shurdington	18	0	0	16	2	107

# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Frocester CC 1<sup>st</sup> team scorer, **Andrew Marson**, falls under this month's *Officiating Matters* spotlight.

Position in GACO	Scorer and former Scorers' Representative to GACO.
Profession – now or previously	Banker (now retired)
For how long have you umpired/scored?	Far too long to remember and an average player before that.
Main cricket team played for / associated with	Hatherley & Reddings and Frocester
Role in that team (eg opening bat)	WK/batter
Favourite ever cricketer	Jack Russell



What is your favourite sporting moment?	Scoring at Lord's (see photo)
If you could learn a skill instantly, what would it be?	Patience
Saturday night: Go home or go out?	Go home
Name three things other than cricket that you enjoy doing.	River cruising, time with my family & retirement.
Name three things you really don't like.	Arrogance, stupidity & ignorance.
What were your best & worst subjects at school?	Best – geography. Worst – French.
Describe your favourite meal	Corned beef hash.
Create a 3-item meal that you really wouldn't like	Oysters, overcooked veg & semolina.
If you were to write a book, what would it be about?	My time in cricket – warts and all.
Three words to describe yourself.	Loyal, professional & trustworthy.
What is your favourite saying/quote/mantra?	Fail to prepare; prepare to fail.
What is your 'nightmare' scenario?	Running late for anything.
If you were stranded on a desert island, which three things would you like to have with you?	Laptop to see the cricket scores, some fine wine and plenty of good food.
Greatest sportsperson ever	Ian Botham
Greatest invention ever	The pencil. It's how we started scoring after the stick and knife – hence scorers are sometimes called 'Notchers'.
Greatest band ever	Simon & Garfunkel
Greatest ever film or musical	Les Miserables
If you could meet one person in the world, who would it be and why?	No one person in particular, but always a pleasure to work with known and trusted colleagues as part of an Officials team.
What are/were your hopes for the 2025 cricket season?	1. To finish the season strongly and for Frocester 1's to escape relegation and 2. Find a magic source of new scorers.



## AND FINALLY .....WHAT'S YOUR DECISION?



It's the 19<sup>th</sup> over of a T20 game and the opening batter, who's on 99 not out, pulls a short ball to deep backward square and sets off for a celebratory single. As the batter plays the shot however, his helmet strap breaks and the helmet, despite having no contact with either bat or ball, falls directly on to the stumps, knocking both bails to the floor. Both batters make their ground – the main man raises his willow in triumph while the fielding side appeal vociferously. What do you do?

### July's Conundrum



It's the last ball of a B & D Senior Division game and the scores are level. The final ball is a yorker, which the batter digs out and runs. The non-striker, having left his crease as soon as the ball left the bowler's hand is down the other end in a flash, so has a perfect view of the ball back-spinning towards the stumps. As he makes his ground, he flicks the ball to the side to prevent it hitting the wicket and turns away in celebration, safe in the knowledge that

his fellow batter is highly unlikely to be run out. The fielders stand their ground and appeal. What do you do?

**After conferring with your colleague, you'll give the striker out Obstructing the Field. The striker is allowed to kick the ball away to defend their wicket, but not the non-striker. It matters not a jot to the fielding side, but it's the batter that is out as he/she was the one who would have been bowled had the intervention not taken place.**

## QUIZ Answers

1. (Wilfred) RHODES
2. Wilful
3. Flipper
4. (Shubman) GILL
5. Practice
6. Leicester
7. Barbados
8. Timeless
9. Wisden
10. Seven
11. Guernsey.

## OM (July 2025) Contributors

Phil Mattingley, Phil Lewis, Craig Blakeway, John Lindley, Gwyn Williams, Egon Ronay, Nicky Clarke, Rishi Maktedar, Andrew Marson, Matt Jackson & Bob Owen.

*We hope you've enjoyed this edition of 'Officiating Matters' and thank-you to all our contributors. If you have anything that you think might be of interest to our ever-growing readership, please email [development@gaco.org.uk](mailto:development@gaco.org.uk) with your offering. The next edition is due out in two months' time at the beginning of November.*