

# OFFICIATING MATTERS

#YESITDOES

NOVEMBER 2025 EDITION

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Message from the Chair

Umpire development

Umpire Courses

Money Matters

End-of-season event

Scoring Matters

GCF News

Indoor Cricket

November Quiz

Cricketing Oddities

New GACO Website

GACO Conference

In the Spotlight

And Finally....

Acknowledgements

Hi everyone.

Hope your batteries are starting to recharge now - it won't be too long before Christmas is upon us and then the new year will see pre-season fixtures beginning to appear.

Bizarrely, I have already been given four club pre-season fixtures for 2026, so some clubs are already 'on the ball'.

Thank you to everyone who attended the GACO end-of-season event. The number of people who were there was encouraging, considering the gathering shared the same evening with the B&D dinner.

I thought that Matt and Simon did a fantastic job in organising the event, Hatherley & Reddings CC were superb hosts, the catering was top notch and Paul Baldwin was a terrific guest speaker.

One thing that needs thinking about though, is that the number of people who confirmed their attendance but didn't show, was too many. GACO lost around £150 on catering for people who didn't attend, which is a waste of both food and money.

Congratulations to the three award winners (Ian Purchase, Phil Lewis and Phil Jones) and to the six shortlisted people who just missed out - all nominations were richly deserved and proves that the GACO mantra of enjoyment and development at your own pace, plus officiating at a level that is right for you, rings true.

Enjoy reading this latest edition of Officiating Matters (because it does) and I look forward to catching up with everyone soon.

*Phil*



## UMPIRE DEVELOPMENT

Letters to all umpires who applied to advance their grading were sent out last month. In total, seven people have been moved from M5 to M4 and four from M4 to M3 for the 2026 season.

Letters from Allan Taylor (WEPL Umpire Chair) were sent to all umpires who served on one of the three WEPL panels (P1, P2 & Devt) last season and to those umpires who have been invited to join the Development Panel for 2026. Please note that no individual letters are sent to umpires who stood in Tier 3 but are not on the WEPL Devt Panel, nor people who stand in B & D or GCL.

Umpires who have received an invite to officiate on one of the WEPL panels should reply to Allan Taylor (cc Les Clemenson as WEPL Appointments Officer & Bob Owen as CDO) before Christmas to confirm their acceptance or otherwise.

Captains' feedback from 2025 for both B & D and GCL has been available to umpires on a weekly basis throughout the summer. Feedback from WEPL captains, embargoed during the season, is now available to view via WTU.

## NEW UMPIRE COURSES

The first umpire course of the close-season, the one-day, ECB 'Introduction to Umpiring' is being held at Archway School in Stroud on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> November. As part of the ECB/GCF's efforts to encourage more women and girls to take their first steps in officiating, this is a female-only course.

There will be further Introduction to Umpiring, Umpire Development, club and 14-19 courses taking place around the county between Christmas and the start of the 2026 season.

## MONEY MATTERS by John Lindley



### **Expenses for appointments .... nigh on 2000 of them!**

To answer many of the queries that are raised, information on expenses that have been paid is shown on the Expenses page of the GACO website.

The September issue of OM gave details of umpire appointments to the range of over 1150 fixtures (just under 2300 umpires, given a few games only had one official) that were dealt with by GACO in 2025. In addition, there are requests for scorers to cover over 150 match appointments across the season. So, in all, a demand for at least 2400 appointed officials over the course of the summer. Although the Saturday league fixtures are completed at the end of August, that is not the end of the season, as there are also several non-league matches in September and sadly, whilst not all appointment requests are met, the vast majority are.

To date, we have received claims for just under 2000 appointments to matches across a range of over 20 different organisations, each with their own invoicing requirements and payment routines. Where funds have been received from the match organisers, the

payments have been made to people who provided timely claims. End-of-season invoices to GCCC have been submitted for adult and youth fixtures in August and September and payments for appointments to those matches will be made once those invoices are settled.

Late claims, together with duplicated and incorrect or mis-matched information on claims, not only affects the person submitting the claim, but potentially also delays payment to their colleagues on the day.

To people who have raised queries about claims and payments, they will be answered, but given the above, there may be a slight delay.

## GACO END-OF-SEASON EVENT



The end-of-season Presentation Evening was held at Hatherley & Reddings CC on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October, with the First-Class umpire, Paul Baldwin, as the special guest.

Paul gave an entertaining insight into his officiating experiences both before and during his first-class career and responded to members' queries in a Q & A session which preceded the excellent buffet and presentation of awards.



Ian Purchase won the 'Umpiring Newcomer' shield, an award for umpires in their first two seasons on the circuit, while Andrew Sherbourne and Ian Martin were runners-up.

All awards had three nominated finalists, each of whom received a Fearnley voucher, with Twyford House CC scorer, Carol Froom, Phil Lewis of Lydney CC and Sue Jones, the Bradley Stoke & Almondsbury CC scorer the eventual 'Scorer of the Year' contenders. This award was voted for by GACO scorers, with Phil Lewis proving to be the eventual winner.



*Ian Purchase looking down on Paul Baldwin as he receives the GACO 'Newcomer' shield.*

*Phil Lewis on the level as Paul presents him with the 2025 Scorer of the Year Award*





The 'Umpire of the Year' finalists covered a broad spectrum of umpiring tiers, with Phil Jones from the GCL, Premier 2 umpire Matt Jackson and Nick Piper, who's officiated on the National Panel for the past five years. For his services to grassroots cricket and following a season when, once again, he was available for every Saturday of the season, Phil Jones emerged as the eventual winner.

The biographies submitted prior to the event showed once again how many interesting backstories there are in regard to GACO officials, with Matt Jackson being one correct answer away from winning an episode of Mastermind in 2017 and Ian Purchase leading a Stapleton CC Select side to victory over the mighty Eggheads 'back in the day' probably being this year's two biographical standouts.

*Phil Jones looking up to a first-class official on being named 2025 Umpire of the Year.*

A big GACO thank-you is extended to H & R CC for once again being such excellent and welcoming hosts, Simon Snartt & Matt Jackson for their excellent organization of the event, Craig Blakeway for adding the many visual touches, Paul Baldwin for being involved in everything from beginning to end and everyone who came along to celebrate a season that will go down as one of the driest and sunniest on record.



Meanwhile, thirty miles south at the B & D dinner, Alan Payne received the Rodney Honour shield from former Middlesex & England fast bowler, Norman Cowans, after being voted Bristol & District Umpire of the Year. Not only is Alan a fine umpire, but he has contributed much to the game in more general terms over many seasons both past and present.

Rodney himself was a highly respected umpire for many years before losing his brave battle against Parkinson's Disease several summers ago. He trained a generation of future officials with humour, insults and an encyclopaedic knowledge of the game and was very well liked by all.

*Alan Payne receiving the B&D UOTY award from Norman Cowans*



## SCORING MATTERS #YesItDoes



### ECB ACO Scorer Pathway

By the time you read this, the new ECB ACO Scorer Pathway will have launched and you should have received your level within the new system based on your accreditation in the old pathway.

There'll be more information on the Pathway in January's edition of *Officiating Matters*, but advanced notice that we will be running some promotional events for both existing scorer members and scoring colleagues who hadn't previously joined the formal scoring community, so look out for more details soon.

### Play Cricket Scorer Professional (PCS Pro) Updates

Although you may have packed away your scoring equipment for the winter, those of you who use PCS Pro for scoring will need to keep on top of the updates that come out between now and next season. Experience tells us that it's much harder to update if you ignore one and try to move to the latest version when next season commences.

I'll let you know via the GACO Scorers WhatsApp group when an update comes out. The next one should be on or around the 3<sup>rd</sup> November.

## GLOUCESTERSHIRE CRICKET FOUNDATION NEWS with Nicky Clarke



Whilst the 2025 season might be a distant memory, GCF is now turning its attention to upskilling volunteers ahead of next season, and officiating is front and centre of our plans.

We are starting with a female-only umpires' course on Sunday 27th November at Archway School, Stroud. If you know someone who might be interested, there's still time to book on and a 50% discount code is available from GCF by contacting:

[Nicky.Clarke@gloucestershirecricketfoundation.org](mailto:Nicky.Clarke@gloucestershirecricketfoundation.org)

[Book Here](#)

GCF will also be teaming up with GACO to deliver the ECB Umpires Course in the North and South of the county as well as both formal and informal CPD opportunities to ensure our umpires are fighting fit for the start of the 2026 season.

Additionally, I'll be working with Sue Drinkwater to ensure our scorer members are supported as the new Scorers' Pathway is launched and CPD opportunities are available to anyone who wishes to learn the art of linear scoring and DLS.

Away from officiating, GCF is in the depths of planning for the ICC Women's T20 World Cup as Gloucestershire CCC is one of the host venues. There will be plenty of activation events in the lead-up to the official start on Friday 12th June when England take on Sri Lanka at Edgbaston. Bristol hosts its games between 21st and 27th June, playing host to Pakistan, Sri Lanka, South Africa, New Zealand and the West Indies, as well as two qualifying teams. We hope that throughout the activation events and the games themselves, there will be plenty of opportunities for our officiating community to get involved, perhaps enjoying a fixture of two from the stands instead of the middle!

Finally, we are planning the Get Into Cricket 4.0, our programme for volunteers aged 14-18 and are hoping to launch a girls-only volunteer programme, where officiating plays a big part in the training and volunteer opportunities. Watch out for more information!



## INDOOR CRICKET with Jim Hyland



As the days shorten, the leaves fall and 'Strictly' returns to our screens, the indoor cricket season begins.

For those not familiar with the indoor version, it's a short format game, usually 6 a-side, 10 or 12 overs per innings and

played in halls approximately 35/40m x 12/15m – typically, 5/6 badminton courts side by side.

Bowling and fielding is fast and fun and once used to the hard surfaces and angles involved, it very much replicates the outdoor game, albeit considerably quicker with lots of run out opportunities.

Batting, on the other hand, is a tad more subtle – the boundary wall behind the bowler counts as 4 & 6, hitting any other wall or the ceiling scores one run, batters completing a run are actually awarded two, while if you do both, you score three. The majority of runs are accumulated in 2s & 3s, with clever batters finding gaps and manipulating the field, though they can be caught out off all the walls & ceiling except the far boundary wall.





The nuances of the game can be a great leveller, creating an environment where those playing several levels apart in the summer can enjoy their cricket together – in one Cheltenham match last winter, the ages of the 12 players ranged from 16 to 62, with those involved coming off SDCA, GCL & WEPL summer seasons and taking part in a game that was very closely contested.

It is cricket with a smile, everyone involved enjoying the sport through the dark winter months without any of the angst sometimes associated with the summer Saturday leagues. Ironically, the indoor season, which runs from early September to late March, is longer in duration than the outdoor one and over 250 matches played without a single rain break calculation!

The popularity of indoor cricket continues to grow in the county and is well supported by GCF, GACO and our two long-standing sponsors, **‘Martin Berrill Sports’** and **‘Cheltenham Refrigeration Limited’**.

The Gloucester League now has 18 teams across 3 divisions playing at King’s School, while Cheltenham boasts one of the best indoor cricket halls in the south-west, a floor that does not require a mat, uniform wall & ceiling surfaces with none of the usual paraphernalia attached, a safe, enclosed space for the striker’s end umpire to stand, plus an excellent viewing balcony – 23 teams form 4 divisions constitute this league.



These leagues, along with various Bristol-based competitions, feed a County Play-off that will take place in February 2026 and that feeds into the National Indoor 6s competition which starts in March, with Regional and National finals being held at the indoor cricket centres at Taunton and Lord’s respectively.

This year, Hartpury College will host the BUCS South-West Regional indoor competition, with university teams from Cardiff, Bristol, Exeter, UWE, Gloucester, USW & Hartpury showcasing their skills on three Sundays and one Saturday during October and November. This in turn feeds into a National 8s finals day at Edgbaston.

There will be Indoor Cricket updates in the next two editions of *Officiating Matters*, but if anyone wishes to follow the competitions in between these bi-monthly publications, details are updated weekly on Play-Cricket via these links:

[Gloucestershire Cricket Foundation Competitions](#)

[BU-CS](#)

## NOVEMBER QUIZ

Now the clocks have changed, take ten minutes to let your mind drift from the dark days of early November to a few interesting cricketing milestones.

Simply match the description to the pictured cricketer, then check your knowledge by consulting the answers on the final page of OM.

*Who is the only player to:*

- a. Represent two countries in test cricket.
- b. Hit the first ball of a test match for 6.
- c. Take a test hat-trick on their birthday.
- d. Drink 52 cans of beer on a single day and live to tell the tale.
- e. Total the same number of test match runs as their date of birth.
- f. Make their international cricket and football debuts within a fortnight of each other.

*Who was the first player to:*

- g. Make a century and take ten wickets in a test.
- h. Be given out by the third umpire.

**Cricketer 1**



**Cricketer 2**



**Cricketer 3**



**Cricketer 4**



**Cricketer 5**



**Cricketer 6**



**Cricketer 7**



**Cricketer 8**





## CRICKETING ODDITIES

The lowest run aggregate in a completed County Championship match occurred in August 1954 at The Oval, when Surrey beat Worcestershire by an innings and 27 runs.

For those readers of a certain vintage, there are a few well-known names and some impressive bowling stats here, with left-arm spinner, Tony Lock, returning match figures of 15.3-11-5-6. He (and the bowlers) never got the better of the Worcestershire No 6, Richard Devereux though, who they failed to dismiss in either innings.

### Worcestershire – First Innings

Kenyon	c Surridge	b Bedser	8
Richardson	c May	b Bedser	0
Outschoorn		b Laker	0
Broadbent	c Laker	b Lock	3
Hughes	Run out		0
Devereux	Not Out		2
Jenkins	c Stewart	b Lock	1
Yarnold	c Barrington	b Lock	1
Perks	c Barrington	b Laker	0
Flavell	c Constable	b Lock	0
Ashman	c &	b Lock	0
Extras			1
Total			25

*Bedser: 9-4-12-2; Loader: 6-3-5-0;  
Laker: 8-3-5-2; Lock: 5.3-4-2-5.*

### Second Innings

c Stewart	b Lock	0
c McIntyre	b Laker	9
c Lock	b Laker	3
c McIntyre	b Laker	1
hit wkt	b Bedser	2
Retired hurt		1
c Laker	b Bedser	1
Not Out		14
	b Bedser	2
c Clark	b Laker	3
c Bedser	b Loader	2
		2
		40

*Lock: 10-7-3-1; Laker: 17-9-25-4;  
Bedser: 6-3-7-3; Loader: 2.4-1-3-1.*

### Surrey – 1<sup>st</sup> Innings

Clark	c Richardson	b Perks	10
Stewart	c Flavell	b Perks	11
May	Not Out		31
Constable	c &	b Ashman	29
Barrington	Not Out		10
Extras			1
Total (declared)			92-3

*Perks: 12-1-43-2; Flavell: 3-1-17-0;  
Ashman: 8-3-29-1; Devereux: 1-0-2-0.*

## NEW GACO WEBSITE

Gloucester Association of Cricket Officials

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### 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.



90% of the new GACO website is now complete. It's got a very '2025 look', is easy to navigate and contains information, links and items of interest for both existing and potential new members.

Rishi has done a terrific job with this in not only building the new site from scratch, but in so doing, saving the association many hundreds of pounds that would have had to be paid if we'd actioned a company to take on the work.

There'll be a short period when there'll be no GACO website while the new version is migrated into the old one's domain, the result of which, in layman's terms, means the address ([www.gaco.org.uk](http://www.gaco.org.uk)) will remain the same.

We're hoping the new site will be up and running later this month; when it is and you've had a browse round it, please let us know what you think in regard to both content and presentation and if there's anything else that you think needs including.

## 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](#)

# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

GACO' falls under this month's *Officiating Matters* spotlight.

<b>Position in GACO</b>	<b>Umpire &amp; Bristol Area Appointments Officer from 2026.</b>
<b>Profession – now or previously</b>	<b>Transport Logistics Manager</b>
<b>For how long have you umpired/scored?</b>	<b>Have just completed my second season as a league umpire.</b>
<b>Main cricket team played for / associated with</b>	<b>Stapleton, since 1992.</b>
<b>Role in that team (eg opening bat)</b>	<b>Opening / top order bat and emergency wicketkeeper</b>
<b>Favourite ever cricketer</b>	<b>Ben Stokes</b>



<b>What is your favourite sporting moment?</b>	<b>Nothing beats the atmosphere and emotion on the final day of the Ryder Cup when scores are close.</b>
<b>If you could learn a skill instantly, what would it be?</b>	<b>Learn a new language or play a musical instrument.</b>
<b>Saturday night: Go home or go out?</b>	<b>Go out – but not, 'out, out'.</b>
<b>Name three things other than cricket that you enjoy doing.</b>	<b>Playing padel, my football roles and socializing with family &amp; friends.</b>
<b>Name three things you really don't like.</b>	<b>Doing nothing, squeezing on an EasyJet flight and cheese.</b>
<b>What were your best &amp; worst subjects at school?</b>	<b>Best – Maths. Worst – Science.</b>
<b>Describe your favourite meal</b>	<b>Traditional English breakfast (minus mushrooms)</b>
<b>Create a 3-item meal that you really wouldn't like</b>	<b>Seafood, cheese &amp; pasta.</b>
<b>If you were to write a book, what would it be about?</b>	<b>The General Acceptance of Abuse Within Football.</b>
<b>Three words to describe yourself.</b>	<b>Reliable, organized &amp; friendly.</b>
<b>What is your favourite saying/quote/mantra?</b>	<b>"It is what it is", but a friend of mine also got a tattoo recently of "nobody can feel your pain" which really got me thinking.....</b>
<b>What is your 'nightmare' scenario?</b>	<b>Getting lost in the middle of nowhere with no signal for Google Maps!</b>
<b>If you were stranded on a desert island, which three things would you like to have with you?</b>	<b>Being practical something to start a fire, a phone with 100% battery and a decent (very long) book to keep me occupied.</b>
<b>Greatest sportsperson ever</b>	<b>Tiger Woods</b>
<b>Greatest invention ever</b>	<b>The Snooze Button</b>
<b>Greatest band ever</b>	<b>Queen</b>
<b>Greatest ever film or musical</b>	<b>Not my thing really, but did see 'Bat out of Hell' recently and that was excellent with all the Meatloaf music.</b>
<b>If you could meet one person in the world, who would it be and why?</b>	<b>Jesus Christ – nothing that couldn't be answered.</b>
<b>What are/were your hopes for the 2026 cricket season?</b>	<b>To have a thoroughly enjoyable season, continue developing as an umpire and build positive relationships within the appointing role.</b>



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



Needing one-wicket to win an U19, 2-day game, the fielding side deploys three slips and a ring of close fielders around the No 11 batter. None of the fielders are standing on or leaning over the cut strip, yet the bowler's end umpire calls 'No Ball' as the first delivery is bowled. 'Encroaching on the pitch,' he offers, by way of explanation. 'How

come?' queries the grammatically-challenged fielding captain.

'How come?' indeed.

### September's Conundrum



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?

**Call dead ball. The batter is neither a centurion nor out. This is a recent amendment to the laws, which was initiated in the interest of player safety to try to ensure all batters don protective headwear. If the batter had been wearing a cap/hat, rather than a helmet and this had fallen on and dislodged the bails, the batter would have been given out, 'hit wicket'.**

## GACO COMMITTEE CONTACTS 2025/26

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## QUIZ Answers

- a. Cricketer 3. Mansoor Ali Khan, the Nawab of Pataudi, who played for both England and India.
- b. Cricket 7. Chris Gayle: Bangladesh v West Indies on 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2012.
- c. Cricketer 5. Peter Siddle: Australia v England on 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2010.
- d. Cricketer 1. David Boon on the flight over for the 1989 Ashes.
- e. Cricketer 8. Alec Stewart was born on 8.4.63 and scored 8,463 test match runs.
- f. Cricketer 2. Eloise Perry on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2007 (cricket) and 4<sup>th</sup> August 2007 (football).
- g. Cricketer 4. Betty Wilson: Australia v England, 1957/58. 100 in the second innings and 11-16 in the match.
- h. Cricketer 6. Sachin Tendulkar: Run out in the South Africa v India test on 14<sup>th</sup> November 1992.

## OM (November 2025) Contributors

*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.*



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