

# OFFICIATING MATTERS

#YESITDOES

JULY 2026 EDITION

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Message from the Chair

Umpire Development

Scoring at Lord's

Appointments Matter

GACO Contacts

Culinary Matters

GCF News

Umpiring in Denmark

Mid-Season Quiz

Cricketing Oddities

In the Spotlight

Match of the Day

And (almost) Finally....

GACO Website

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Hi everyone,

Hope this editorial finds you well and despite the weather, have had a decent start to the season in whatever capacity your cricket finds you.

Firstly, a massive thank you to both the Umpire Appointment Team and you, the officiating team. This year, sadly, has so far been unprecedented in regard to illness, injury, personal issues and late unavailability and this has led to the appointing team having to plot and change a good number of pairings, often at very short notice. This then means officials having to change their planned destination, sometimes as late as Friday night or even Saturday morning.....

The first CPD event held at The Ship Inn, Alveston, was very well received and with others to follow (details within this newsletter), I hope to see as many of you as possible in attendance. They are really beneficial for scorers and umpires at all levels and are very good for healthy discussion and debate.

On a personal note, I want to thank everyone for their kind words and messages following the unexpected loss of my father on April 6th. My family and I were deeply touched by your kindness and support, so thank you to one and all.

Finally, from the Officiating Matters editorial team, GACO committee and all our members, a massive congratulations to, and well-deserved recognition of, Sue Drinkwater. For those who are unaware, Sue was appointed as an official scorer for the Lord's test match between England and New Zealand - well done Sue, we are all so very proud of you.

Unbelievably, we are already over a third of the way through the season and with considerably better and warmer weather forecast for the weeks ahead, I hope your cricket is both successful and enjoyable and I look forward to catching up with you very soon, either on or off field.

*Phil*



## UMPIRE DEVELOPMENT

The observation team have, at the time of writing, carried out 20 boundary edge observations, 9 of them being ECB 'assessments' and 11 views of a purely developmental nature. Thank you to everyone that has carried out either Boundary Edge or Colleague Observations to date.

Bob Hampshire led a very informative CPD session at The Ship Inn, Alveston, with a series of interesting video clips, mostly from local matches, which provided plenty of discussion around the themes of dissent or disappointment and selling your decision. The next CPD session, focusing on 'Teamwork, On & Off the Pitch', at the same venue, is in two weeks' time on **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July**.

After each league game, captains are requested to complete a form to give feedback on umpire performance. One theme which has again been the subject of a number of reports is umpires raising their finger too quickly. While captains aren't, on the whole, querying the decisions themselves, their comment that it would inspire more confidence in the accuracy of the decisions amongst the players on both sides if officials exercised a bit of thinking time before lifting the finger is a very valid one. 'One, two, think it through'.

On a similar theme, Les Clemenson's and Bob Hampshire's observations to date have highlighted some concerns about (lack of) movement at bowler's end. It's a key requirement that umpires get square of the popping crease to judge the possibility of a run out whenever they have the opportunity (sharp singles may result in limited movement where a still head is important).

WEPL captains' reports are embargoed until the season's end, while those in B & D and GCL should be available to view after midday on the Wednesday following a game. However, the following WEPL comments were emailed to GACO Chairman, Phil Mattingley recently, as the sender felt they needed to get their views out with immediate effect (subject redacted):

*'A quick note to say thank you to \*\*\*\* for doing such a fantastic job as the solo umpire in last week's fixture. Rain-affected games in particular are always tough, as is standing alone in matches that are inevitably competitive and doing both is a challenge for even the most experienced umpires!'*



*Juggling grumpy groundsmen, DLS calculations & WEPL rain regs, players desperate to get out in the middle and the health & safety angle isn't straightforward, but we ended up having a really good game of cricket across 31 overs a side.*

*Very easy for umpires to get stick when decisions aren't welcome or where they get game management aspects 'wrong' (in the eyes of some), but this was an example of someone doing a brilliant job and it shouldn't slip under the radar.'*

Thank you to the sender of these comments, not just for the positive overview, but for taking the time to do so, too. It's much appreciated.

# SCORING MATTERS #YesItDoes

## How Many Scorers Does It Take to Score a Test Match? – by Sue Drinkwater

### OFFICIALS

Match referee \_\_\_\_\_ Andy Pycroft

On-field umpires \_\_\_\_\_ Rod Tucker

\_\_\_\_\_ Adrian Holdstock

Third umpire \_\_\_\_\_ Nitin Menon

Fourth umpire \_\_\_\_\_ Mike Burns

Scorers \_\_\_\_\_ Sue Drinkwater, Brian Rodwell

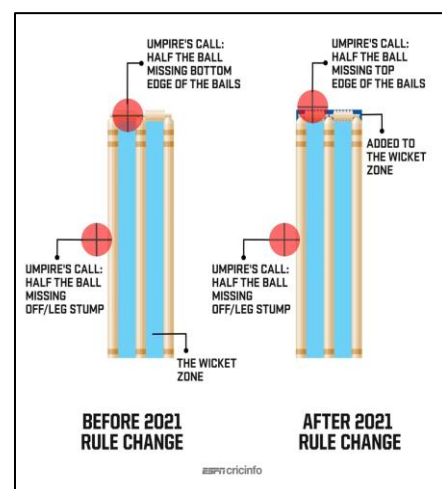
I was honoured to be appointed to score the Men's Rothesay Test Match at Lord's between England and New Zealand starting on 4<sup>th</sup> June this year.

Unlike umpiring appointments, scorers normally belong to clubs, so scoring appointments can be scarce, making this even more special.

Add to that, it was the 150<sup>th</sup> Test Match at Lord's and turned out to be New Zealander, Kane Williamson's, last international appearance, so not even the unhelpful wicket or inclement weather could put a dampener on the experience.

Scoring this type of match must be done using Play-Cricket Scorer Professional (PCS Pro), the same software used by many league scorers on a Saturday afternoon and something that I'm quite familiar with, which helped to calm the nerves, although there was an ECB video analyst recording each delivery and my scoring had to match his, so there was pressure to be accurate and timely. There was no requirement for a paper record, but you only need one software crash and you'll never score solely by electronic means again, so I used my own linear sheets (in landscape format) as a safety net that thankfully I didn't need.

One thing that only happens in televised matches, so is less familiar to record, is the Decision Review System (DRS). Each team has three reviews per innings and every review has to be recorded via the Wicket button, regardless of whether the review ended in a dismissal. The scorer must enter what the appeal was for, what the on-field decision was and which umpire gave it and then wait for the result of the review. The tricky bit is deciding whether the reviewing team keeps or loses their review when the big screen shows Out or Not Out, especially when umpire's call comes into the equation (teams keep their review when a decision is not overturned by the small margin of 'umpire's call'). In the 166 overs the Test Match lasted, I entered 17 player reviews (that's one every 9.76 overs) and two umpire reviews (one for a Run Out and one for checking for a clean catch), so I can now add that to my list of scoring competencies!



The Lord's scoreboard is a brilliant place to work, not only is the view spectacular high up at mid-wicket, but you are surrounded by a team of friendly and efficient scorers doing all kinds of jobs that make the day go smoothly. The other official scorer was Brian Rodwell from Kent, but

alongside us were two electronic scoreboard scorers, two manual scoreboard operators and a scorebox manager. All fully competent scorers who could move between the roles if necessary.

The manual scoreboard is underneath the main scoreboard and is used in all major matches at Lord's (since the power cut in the 2014 Sri Lankan Test Match) and comprises a 'pull the strings' scoreboard that most of us will have grown up with, as a back-up to the big electronic scoreboards. In all major matches it is in operation from ball 1, to be ready and working if needed. It is great fun to work if dressed appropriately, as it's open to all the elements.

The electronic scoreboard operators are feeding the main scoreboards in the ground, although in a televised match, they can be taken over by the broadcast company for replays or other displays at any time. The main data is fed to the scoreboards by scoring via PCS Pro, with the other scoreboard operator changing the template displayed (scoreboard, batting card, bowling card, etc.) and using an app (affectionately known as the fielder stalker) to display the fielder's name after each delivery, a feature only done at Lord's as far as I'm aware but again, great fun to do. It also means this scorer knows where all the fielders are when a catch is taken!



In addition to the scorebox team, there are more scorers and statisticians in the media centre, including a data analyst supplying scoring and analysis to many websites and cricket result apps (ECB app, BBC website, etc.). The broadcast company have their own scorer feeding the ticker underneath the live broadcast and the various radio and TV commentators are assisted by their own statisticians and scorers keeping their own records and noting milestones and other interesting match facts.

If it takes all these scorers to make a Test Match run smoothly, give a thought for the lone scorer in your next club match who is having to operate everything on their own and probably put the

tea urn on as well in a drinks interval!

Scorers often go without recognition and you won't find my name as the scorer for this match on most of the online scorecards, but it's etched in my memory as a highlight, and I have a printed scorecard and programme with my name in.

The MCC's CEO (Rob Lawson) came to the scorebox near the end of the match and presented Brian and I with a Lord's Scorer Medal and a thank you card from the match we scored.



It was the icing on the cake of a wonderful experience!

## Welcome to the new GACO Scorer Members

GACO would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new Scorer or Dual Members:

Dominic Barnard; Adrian Blazey; Maggie Bromley; Harry Bryan; Sam Crawford; Joe Dryell; Philip Duncan; Jamie Hartley; Ian Hogg; Amelia Humphrey; Katie Foot; Robert French; Hugh Kirkbride; Margaret Newson; Harvey Paish; Daniella Phillips; Andrew Pound; Henry Pulleyn; Tom Rouse; Rachel Vaughan & Max Wiltshire.

Good luck with your officiating for the rest of the season.

## APPOINTMENTS MATTER with Steve Johnson

In 2026, we appear to have entered a “perfect storm” - as umpire numbers and availability fall, the amount of cricket, across seven days a week, has increased. The simultaneous introductions of multiple new competitions - Knight-Stokes, Syd Lawrence Cup & T20, Cheltenham College 3-day U14 Festival and the requirement to appoint umpires to earlier rounds of the Cricketer Village Cup is placing even more strain on our limited umpire resources.

Last year we assisted our colleagues in Somerset in covering 20 County Age Group matches while they struggled to cover the 6-week Taunton Festival, a huge undertaking in itself. This cooperative way of working has continued this season in both directions - with League, Cup and County Age Group matches - as we try to cover as many matches with 2 standing umpires as possible.

As the growing number of WTU emails evidences, any additional support officials can provide is gratefully received by the Appointments Team, so please keep your availability calendar up to date and if there are short notice changes to your circumstances meaning you are able to assist, please email us.



## GACO CPD

**Date:** Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July.

**Venue:** The Ship Inn, Thornbury Road, Alveston, BS35-3LL.

**Time:** 7.00-9.00pm.

**Topic:** Teamwork (On & Off the Pitch).

**Presenter:** Bob Hampshire.

**For:** WEPL, GCL and B & D umpires.



## GACO COMMITTEE

There have been a number of recent queries regarding who members should contact for information about a wide variety of officiating matters.

Below is the full list of GACO committee members, their contact email and an overview of their role. Should you have an umpiring or scoring query of any description, please try to locate the appropriate person to contact as this will mean your question is answered as quickly as possible.

| GACO COMMITTEE CONTACTS & RESPONSIBILITIES 2026/27                                             |                 |                                 |                                                                                                                       |                |                                                   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Post                                                                                           | Name            | E-Mail                          | Post                                                                                                                  | Name           | E-Mail                                            |
| Chairman                                                                                       | Phil Mattingley | chair@gaco.org.uk               | Umpire Development                                                                                                    | Bob Owen       | umpire.development@gaco.org.uk                    |
| Oversees the GACO operation.                                                                   |                 |                                 | Umpire training, observations & umpire pathway advancement.                                                           |                |                                                   |
| Secretary                                                                                      | Andrew Davis    | secretary@gaco.org.uk           | Web Development                                                                                                       | Rishi Maktedar | webdev@gaco.org.uk                                |
| Secretarial matters and event venues.                                                          |                 |                                 | Website development, updates and social media.                                                                        |                |                                                   |
| Treasurer                                                                                      | John Lindley    | treasurer@gaco.org.uk           | Umpire Recruitment                                                                                                    | Darren Turl    | umpire.recruitment@gaco.org.uk                    |
| All things financial, membership & DBS.                                                        |                 |                                 | Recruitment of new umpires and umpire mentoring.                                                                      |                |                                                   |
| Umpire Appointments                                                                            | Steve Johnson   | umpire.appointments@gaco.org.uk | Umpire Education                                                                                                      | Bob Hampshire  | umpire.education@gaco.org.uk                      |
| Leading a team of 6 umpire appointers responsible for all types of matches in Gloucestershire. |                 |                                 | Umpire education provision including CPD and National Panel umpire assessments.                                       |                |                                                   |
| County Lead Scorer (Education)                                                                 | Sue Drinkwater  | scorer.education@gaco.org.uk    | County Lead Scorer (Development)                                                                                      | Malcolm Doody  | scorer.development@gaco.org.uk                    |
| Scorer education provision, including CPD.                                                     |                 |                                 | Scorer development, mentoring and scorer pathway advancement.                                                         |                |                                                   |
| County Lead Scorer (Appointments)                                                              | Mike Turner     | scorer.appointments@gaco.org.uk | GCF                                                                                                                   | Nicky Clarke   | Nicky.clarke@gloucestershirecricketfoundation.org |
| Scorer appointments for Gloucestershire.                                                       |                 |                                 | Training course organisation and liaison between GACO & GCF.                                                          |                |                                                   |
| Welfare Officer                                                                                | Robin Scott     | welfare@gaco.org.uk             | Please note that umpire/scorer email addresses are now prefaced by umpire or scorer to differentiate between the two. |                |                                                   |

## CULINARY MATTERS

***With the season now in full flow, grounds are being inspected, fixtures being played and cricket teas consumed on a weekly basis. For a first appearance of 2026, we're pleased to welcome back the @GACOFoodCorrespondent following his winter fasting, for a run-down on the ample fayre he's experienced in the first six weeks of the summer. Here's his report.***

I always look forward to receiving my first batch of a new season's fixtures. I love the moment when I discover whether I'm due to visit any new grounds or am down to return to familiar ones where I'll meet up with friends and acquaintances at places I already know - but far more importantly, I discover whether I'm likely to receive a good tea and a decent pint afterwards (or not).



Week one of the 2026 season saw a trip to Cheltenham CC at the Victoria Ground for what turned out to be a weather-abandoned fixture. The tea was a mix of sandwiches, savouries and sadly chicken that wasn't cooked properly and had to be left. Dessert-wise, there was fresh fruit and assorted cakes. It was very much a help-yourself affair and a slightly disappointing offering if I'm honest, resulting in an opening-day score of 6/10.

Week two and a trip to Bath CC for a Premier One fixture. Because of the Badminton Horse Trials, my colleague and I met up pre-match for a cooked breakfast (to be honest, it would have been a Full English, horse trials or not), which meant at tea I skipped the pasta bake and only got stuck into the fresh fruit selection. This is the standard tea at Bath and scores 7/10.

Week three, and a lengthy trip to north Somerset and Midsomer Norton for another weather-affected fixture. The tea, though - WOW - sandwich selection, sausages, hash browns, chicken selection, vegetarian selection, marshmallow & fruit kebabs, cakes, sweets - exceptional, and my first 10/10 of the season.

Week four and a trip to Dumbleton. For those lucky enough to have been appointed there in the past, you will already know how good both the quality and quantity of the teas in south Worcestershire are. Sandwiches, selection platters, pasta, wraps, scones with ham and cream, cakes, fresh fruit – you name it, they had it. As always, a nailed-on, 10/10 score.

Week five and back to Bath, but up on the hill this time, where a warm welcome is assured at Lansdown CC. The tea selection - bread rolls & butter, pasta and mixed salad dishes, cheese, ham, dips, chicken drumsticks, fruit, individual small pots of ice cream - a very decent tea and a comfortable 8.5/10.



Week six and the last fixture in the first batch of appointments - Broadham Fields, the home of Painswick CC and yet another weather-affected fixture. The tea, however, is a double WOW – the sheer quantity of food would have fed 50-plus hungry people, never mind just 22 players and 4 officials. Sandwiches with a whole variety of fillings, fresh potato salad (my favourite), pasta, different salads, Indian selection, chicken selection, pork pies, sausage rolls, half a dozen homemade cakes, plus fruit - 10/10 and my favourite tea of 2026 so far - I would have scored it higher than 10 if the Culinary Matters regulations (always check the regs pre-tea) allowed it. The extended weather break, while not necessarily being good for cricket, did mean everyone could give the tea the attention it so richly deserved and had enough time for it go down properly before play eventually restarted.

That's it for now, but looking forward to another six weeks of great spreads. My stomach is already rumbling; see you in the next edition.....

**@GACOFoodCorrespondent**

## **GLOUCESTERSHIRE CRICKET FOUNDATION NEWS**

**with Nicky Clarke**



The season has now reached the halfway point; the officials have been tested by the weather more than once and the pre-season DLS training is paying off!

Unfortunately, the umpire shortage is becoming more apparent as the season progresses, so we are deep in conversation with GACO, local leagues and our clubs to see how we can encourage more people to both complete the ECB Umpiring Course and graduate to stand in league fixtures. There's no easy answer, but we are keen to hear any suggestions.

We are also starting to plan our winter education programme, which we hope will include courses specifically for 14-18-year-olds, women and our ethnically diverse communities.

The new online scoring course seems to be having the desired impact, with Sue regularly welcoming new scorers to the GACO community. This bodes well for another successful off-season, full of courses for those wanting to progress along the new pathway and sharpen their skills.

Please continue to share any good news stories and accomplishments with us on social media so we can start to showcase the amazing officials we have here in Gloucestershire.

Facebook | Instagram | X | LinkedIn | YouTube

@GlosCricketFdn

## **GACO CALENDAR**

|                                  |                                 |                            |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> July   | CPD Session (2)                 | The Ship, Alveston (7-9pm) |
| Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup> August | Final Saturday of league season | Various                    |
| TBC                              | GACO End-of-Season Social       | TBC                        |

## Coffee and Danish with the MCC by Robert Ward

Christmas is a wonderful time of year, so full of lovely surprises. And Christmas 2025 started with a surprise that I could never have anticipated – an email offering me the opportunity to umpire for MCC on their upcoming tour to Denmark in late May. I had no idea that this would happen, I hadn't put my name down or anything - it doesn't work like that.

I was both thrilled and excited and confirmed straight away. I quickly received an e-mail from the match manager with a form to complete, asking for my clothing size for blazer, shirts, shorts, polo shirts, tracksuit bottoms and T shirts, all in the plural because when I actually got the kit, I had two of everything bar the blazer. I also needed to forward a photo of my passport and we were almost ready to go.

But then, three months of waiting - nothing, no details, no info, just an empty inbox.

Roll on the end of March and suddenly the e-mails started to arrive. Tour itinerary dates, fixtures and travel arrangements, amongst other things. I was committing to umpire two 20/20 games and two 50-over matches, all under full ICC regs. I printed off 107 pages of 50-over regs and a further 107 pages of 20/20 regs, plus 3 pages of addendums. It's called bedtime reading.

Two months on and departure day finally arrived. The team and I collected our kit from the museum at Lord's on the morning of Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May and after a properly hot lunch on a properly hot day, boarded our thankfully air-conditioned coach that whisked us off to Terminal 2 at Heathrow, where a staff member from the airline met us and ushered everyone through check-in.

After a short flight, just under 2 hours, we were disembarking at Copenhagen airport, ushered through arrivals and onto another air-conditioned coach before being deposited at our city centre hotel.

With the time difference having an effect, it seemed a good idea to turn in, but I noticed that about half the team declared their intention to go out and "get a quick beer" - good luck with that, see you at breakfast.

The touring party assembled for the Day 1 breakfast, all bar two – one of our number was a coffee freak who was out trawling the city centre for his early-morning caffeine fix, while the wicketkeeper had gone for an early-morning 4km run.

Breakfast over, another air-conditioned coach was waiting outside the hotel, complete with 14 kit bags and a match manager, to whisk us off to Svanholm Cricketklub, the home of the Danish National side.

Svanholm is a modern, airy, two-story complex with changing facilities for four teams. It has three playing areas and an umpires' changing room that is big enough to take a whole team, along with its own large shower room and toilets. On the building's first floor is the scorers' glass cube, together with a bar, lounge and spacious dining area, while the club employs a full-time chef and barman to keep everything working efficiently.



It would be reasonable at this stage to reflect upon the MCC players. Of the well over 100 that put their names forward for selection, 13 made the cut. 10 were Prem 1 players from counties as far apart as Cornwall and Cheshire, Nottingham and Middlesex and had been or were on their relevant counties' books. One was the obligatory Aussie spin bowler who seemed to have played all over the world and had a thing about drinking coffee alone. One was from Old Bristolians Westbury - he had both lived in Copenhagen and played cricket with and against the team we were about to face. And the 13<sup>th</sup> was an ex-Rajasthan Royal who had retired from professional cricket to become head of cricket at a school in Yorkshire. An interesting bunch.

Game 1 on the Monday was the first 20/20 with the MCC putting the Danish side in. The hosts were a very confident and well-drilled unit who proceeded to put 176 on the board. The MCC captain, not knowing much about the players, was clearly at a bit of a disadvantage and batting second, they came up 15 runs short on a very good pitch. In Game 2, later in the day, MCC batted first and posted 154 against some real quality bowling and excellent fielding. The Danish team followed up by proceeding to pass the total with an over to spare. It turned out that the MCC side's feeling after the game was one of: 'that's got the practice out of the way, now let's concentrate on winning the next two matches. We are here to push the Danes as much as possible on their journey to ICC World Cup qualification.'



I quickly learnt that Denmark forms the largest part of the Jutland peninsula and has an almost constant wind blowing from west to east. The wicket at Svanholm is aligned directly north to south, making it very difficult to see any lines around midday from the southern end of the pitch when looking into the sun and virtually impossible to see anything from the northern end.

After the 20/20s had finished, I had a chat with the groundsman and suggested that we might be able to see a coloured line if this was something he could sort. He said he had a pot of red. To my surprise, when we turned up in the morning for the first 50-over game, we discovered he had painted everything – and I mean everything - red! It was both brilliant and amusing. There was nothing you couldn't see.

The Monday evening meal was at a trendy eatery that would not serve anything remotely green, but delivered platters of spare ribs, fillet steak, chicken and sausages with small pots of things like spicy beans, coleslaw and potato salad. And lots of beer, which a number of the team followed up with a little bit more.

The next day's breakfast was for 12 to begin with – the coffee-hunter and morning runner were both still out, while the captain's alarm had failed to ring, meaning he was a tad late, but we caught the coach on time and soon arrived at the ground.

A rather more determined MCC team inserted the Danes and bowled and fielded like they meant it, restricting the hosts to 256 in their 50 overs. Chasing well, the MCC batting clicked and the players showed their quality and determination, passing the Danish total in 48 overs. Job done.

The post-match team meal was held in the pavilion as the guests of the Danish CA and again was based around beef, this time roasted. I sensed a bit of a Danish theme here - beer and beef. With the culinary part of the day completed, the "I fancy a bit more beer brigade" were off on the town, their route followed at a distance by the match manager via the 'pin' dropped in Google Maps.

The dawn of our day off arrived with most of the team straggling into the breakfast area looking, let's say, not well rested. We had the morning to do whatever we wanted followed by an afternoon harbour and canals boat trip around the city as guests of the President of the Danish CA, while in the evening we visited Copenhagen's oldest restaurant. This was an absolutely fabulous place which was turning away would-be diners because they were completely full, the whole time we were there. The restaurant was called the Old Apothecary because it had originally been, about 400 years ago, what we would call today, a chemist.

Day 4 and another 50-over game loomed. Breakfast was not universally attended – the early-morning runner, having clearly upped his pace, was there, though the coffee fiend and one or two others were notable absentees.



The MCC captain, now fully understanding the abilities of his team, decided to bat in the final fixture, his side posting a competitive score of 276 from their 50 overs. Following yet another sit-down lunch, the Danes began their chase well, only to come up 20 or so runs short. Good cricket played at a challenging pace which included a few interesting umpiring moments.

The level of respect was excellent, but it was interesting to note that familiarity alters behaviours. In the two 20/20s and the first 50-over game, appeals were muted and not even the body language altered when things were not as the hosts wanted the game to go.

The final game was a little different and the home captain needed speaking to when the fielders became a little over-enthusiastic in appealing for a run out and charging around like Dervishes as they did so. In a different incident, a fielder taking a ball in the face was met with confusion as to what should be done, none of the Danish group being aware of the relevant protocols.

I took away from the tour an understanding that familiarity creates the potential for a lack of respect for the officials when the going gets tough. Food for thought that the same umpires doing the same teams regularly gives the potential for this to happen.

The last night in Denmark was a great opportunity to relax and enjoy the wine list with a number of the touring party, though the usual 'Let's go find a beer' crew soon disappeared for the evening. Expecting a final-day bill for my drinks order, I was told, to my surprise, that MCC had very generously covered my refreshment expenses. It sort of makes you want to do it all again.

We departed Copenhagen the follow morning and Heathrow arrived all too soon – there was the usual British scramble at baggage reclaim, then that weird moment when the touring party members realise they're all going off in different directions.

With everyone else departed, I sat in Nero's with a flat white reflecting upon what a wonderful thing I had been part of, whilst waiting for my wife to collect me and my tour bag when my phone rang. 'Are you back in the UK yet?' enquired the caller. 'Phil Haines is on his own tomorrow and we need an umpire...'



*The full scorecards and other statistical information from MCC's 2026 tour to Denmark can be accessed via the Denmark Cricket website. Here's the link:*

*All Series : Match Results - Dansk Cricket Forbund*

## MID-SEASON QUIZ – POSTCODE LOTTERY

*For one mark each, can you match the postcodes in the first box to the County Cricket Clubs in the second?*

*And for the GACO geographers amongst us (and another mark for each correct answer), can you match the club/postcode to the river that runs closest to the ground?*

*Example: BS7 9EJ – Gloucestershire – Frome.*

|         |         |          |         |
|---------|---------|----------|---------|
| CT1 3NZ | DH3 3QR | NN1 4PR  | M16 0PX |
| BN3 3AN | NW8 8QN | TA1 1JT  |         |
| B5 7QU  | NG2 6AG | SO30 3XH | CM2 0PG |



|            |              |           |        |
|------------|--------------|-----------|--------|
| Somerset   | Warwickshire | Kent      | Durham |
| Essex      | Northants    | Sussex    |        |
| Lancashire | Hampshire    | Middlesex | Notts  |



|        |        |        |      |
|--------|--------|--------|------|
| Wear   | Thames | Irwell | Tone |
| Hamble | Trent  | Rea    |      |
| Can    | Stour  | Nene   | Adur |



## CRICKETING ODDITIES

Sussex v Surrey at Eastbourne; August 1972.

A couple of sporting declarations on the final day of this County Championship fixture left Sussex with a final innings target of 205 in 135 minutes. They looked totally in control when Geoffrey Greenidge and Roger Prideaux put together an excellent partnership for the second wicket and at the end of the seventeenth of the compulsory last 20 overs, Sussex were 187-1.

It seemed a foregone conclusion they would make the 18 runs required from the 18 balls remaining as the Surrey and sometimes-England off-spinner, Pat Pocock, prepared to send down another over. As he jogged in for the first ball of his fifteenth, he had the rather unflattering figures of 14-1-63-0, but things were about to change quite dramatically.

His first ball bowled Greenidge and Sussex were 187-2. His third ball bowled Michael Buss and the score read 187-3. Jim Parks took two from the fourth ball of the over, but was caught and bowled from the last. Sussex, at 189-4, still need sixteen to win from two overs.

Robin Jackman bowled the next over, conceding eleven, meaning the Sussex target was down to a mere five runs and Prideaux, 97 not out, was on strike.



Prideaux, however, was caught by Jackman off the first ball of the last over but, the batters having crossed, Griffith faced Pocock's next ball with the off-spinner on a hat-trick. The new batter hit his first delivery straight up in the air and the catch was taken by Lewis, Pocock now had three in three and Sussex were on 200-6, still needing five to win, but with only four balls remaining. At this point, needing to take four wickets in four balls,

Surrey could still win, too.

Morley charged Pocock's next ball, missed it and was duly stumped. Pocock now had four wickets in four balls and six wickets in nine (a world record) and Sussex still needed those five runs.

Spencer cut the target to four with a single off the over's third ball but Tony Buss was bowled by the next delivery and Sussex were 201-8 with one ball remaining. Pocock now had fix wickets in six balls (equalling another world record) and seven in eleven (establishing another WR).

When Pat Pocock bowled the last ball of the match to Joshi, it meant he had bowled seven consecutive balls at seven different batsmen, not a world record, but a very unusual occurrence. Joshi put bat to ball, took one, but in trying to get back for the second, was run out. The game ended in a draw with Sussex still needing three to win, with five wickets having fallen in the final over – another world first.

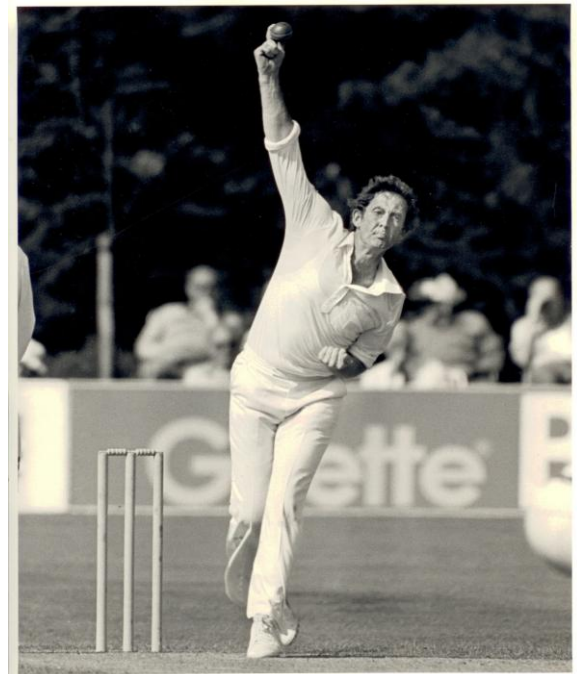
Incredibly, Sussex had lost eight wickets in eighteen balls while making 15 runs. Pat Pocock bowled his last two overs for the sensational analysis of 2-0-4-7, plus a run-out. It was the most dramatic burst of wicket-taking that first-class cricket has ever known, with three world records created and another equalled.

**Surrey. 1<sup>st</sup> Innings:** 300-4 dec (Edwards 81). 2<sup>nd</sup> Innings: 130-5 dec.

**Sussex. 1<sup>st</sup> Innings:** 226-5 dec (Prideaux 106no).

### **Sussex. 2<sup>nd</sup> Innings**

|           |              |           |       |
|-----------|--------------|-----------|-------|
| Greenidge |              | b Pocock  | 68    |
| Graves    | c Roope      | b Jackman | 14    |
| Prideaux  | c Jackman    | b Pocock  | 97    |
| M.Buss    |              | b Pocock  | 0     |
| Parks     | c & b Pocock |           | 2     |
| Griffith  | c Lewis      | b Pocock  | 6     |
| Morley    | st Long      | b Pocock  | 0     |
| Spencer   | Not out      |           | 1     |
| A.Buss    |              | b Pocock  | 0     |
| Joshi     | Run out      |           | 1     |
| Extras    |              |           | 13    |
| Total     |              |           | 202-9 |



FOW: 1-27, 2-187, 3-187, 4-189, 5-200, 6-200, 7-200, 8-201, 9-202.

## **GACO ONLINE SHOP**



Gloucestershire Association  
of Cricket Officials

The GACO shop, which can be accessed via [gaco.org.uk](http://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://gaco.org.uk)

# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

**Nicky Clarke, the GCF Workforce Manager, who liaises directly with GACO and organises all the training courses, finds herself in the OM July spotlight.**

|                                                |                                       |
|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Position in GACO                               | GCF Representative                    |
| Profession – now or previously                 | GCF Workforce & Safeguarding Manager  |
| For how long have you umpired/scored?          | Scorer since 2003. Umpire since 2023. |
| Main cricket team played for / associated with | Weston-Super-Mare CC                  |
| Role in that team (eg opening bat)             | Batter/WK                             |
| Favourite ever cricketer                       | Lauren Filer                          |



|                                                                                              |                                                      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| What is your favourite sporting moment?                                                      | Scoring for England Lions v South Africa, SCCC, 2003 |
| If you could learn a skill instantly, what would it be?                                      | Speak another language fluently                      |
| Saturday night: Go home or go out?                                                           | Go home                                              |
| Name three things other than cricket that you enjoy doing.                                   | Running, reading & cooking                           |
| Name three things you really don't like.                                                     | Petrol prices, getting injured & arrogance           |
| What were your best & worst subjects at school?                                              | Best: IT. Worst: French.                             |
| Describe your favourite meal                                                                 | Chilli con carne                                     |
| Create a 3-item meal that you really wouldn't like                                           | Liver, kidney & sprouts                              |
| If you were to write a book, what would it be about?                                         | The political hot bed of recreational cricket clubs  |
| Three words to describe yourself.                                                            | Unassuming, patient, relaxed                         |
| What is your favourite saying/quote/mantra?                                                  | Whatever happens, happens                            |
| What is your 'nightmare' scenario?                                                           | Running out my batting partner                       |
| If you were stranded on a desert island, which three things would you like to have with you? | Matches, a book and a blanket                        |
| Greatest sportsperson ever                                                                   | Serena Williams                                      |
| Greatest invention ever                                                                      | The NHS                                              |
| Greatest band ever                                                                           | The Beach Boys                                       |
| Greatest ever film or musical                                                                | Star Wars: Episode 5 – The Empire Strikes Back       |
| If you could meet one person in the world, who would it be and why?                          | Keanu Reeves – he seems genuinely down to earth.     |
| What are your hopes for the 2026 cricket season?                                             | To not pick up any more cricket-related injuries     |

## MATCH OF THE DAY – ONE MAN AND HIS CLUB

***GACO's match correspondent, Phil Smith, took in a game at Apperley CC recently.***

The dust-shrouded records that loiter in Brian Leeke's loft tell us that Apperley CC has existed in one form or another from 1859, though Brian wasn't around quite that far back. By his own admission, the octogenarian former fast bowler has been at the club for a fair old time however, and enjoyed a playing career that encompassed over two thousand games, the majority of which were for his beloved ACC.

Brian was a mainstay of the side that famously made it all the way to Lord's for the Village Cup Final in 1998, their 61-run defeat to Methley doing little to diminish both the pride and folklore that that day created.

Today, Apperley, lying just a couple of points off top spot in GCL Division One, entertain Thornbury II who sit in sixth place on this sunny, mid-June afternoon.

Situated alongside School Road, the ground slopes east to west, the lower fence providing a hanging point for seventeen advertising banners, most of which have seen better days and a few of which have seen hugely better days. Presumably, the sponsors haven't shelled out their annual renewal fees. The Charles Russell Transport Group advertisement however, is in fine condition, though completely hidden from the gaze of the 7-strong crowd behind the sightscreen at the north end of the ground.

The six home ultras sit contentedly on the pavilion-side of the playing area while the lone Thornbury fan busies himself by making repeated circuits of the boundary in order to try to remain as calm as possible as wickets begin to tumble with alarming regularity.



Andy Weeks is first to go, caught off Dave Means and Sai Kenche follows immediately afterwards, run out at the bowler's end by the alert Jack Bilsby. Pete Banks shares partnerships of 13 with captain Luke Davis and 12 with wicketkeeper Charlie Newton, though his partners contribute just a measly scampered single between them, while Alex Allen and Ali Drury also depart for not very many as the visitors find themselves teetering at 50-6.

A regular sight at club cricket grounds around the county is the parental coaching session and it's no different in north Gloucestershire this afternoon. Here, a black-clad father instructs his 3-year-old in how to knock a small football off the top of the orange plastic stumps in the well-maintained nets that lurk in the far corner of the arena. After six unproductive efforts from the youngster, Father Coach takes over to demonstrate to his somewhat reluctant student exactly how it's done – seconds later, the stumps are completely demolished but, apart from its 28-inch plummet to the floor, the ball has hardly moved at all.

Banks swings his bat with similar power but considerably more accuracy as he clubs Thornbury's only maximum, the ball clearing the pavilion roof by ten tiles and a bit, just before being bowled by Ashok Kumar. The batter's 32 from 44 makes him easily Thornbury's top scorer, though Alex Foulner and Kapil Agarwal add 23 for the ninth wicket as the visitors are all out for exactly 100 in the 27<sup>th</sup> over. Dev Rogers wraps up the innings with 3-18, but Means is by far the most impressive bowler on show, returning 5-16 from an excellent 9-over spell.

A stately gentleman wearing an impressive straw hat that makes him bear a remarkable resemblance to one of Jerome K Jerome's Three Men in a Boat wanders in, circumnavigates the boundary and promptly walk out again, clearly unimpressed with what he's seen during his 270-second stay. Like the 19<sup>th</sup> century author, the football

pundit, Gary Neville's dad had the same first name as surname (Neville Neville), while the supposed assassin of Robert F. Kennedy was Sirhan Sirhan. Whether he actually fired the gun or not is open to debate, but he's certainly got a name to remember. It's not a repeated first/last name, but your match correspondent went to school with someone called C. Shaw, which sounds much better than it looks, while for those of a certain vintage, Captain Pugwash had a few interesting monikers that have amused lovers of apocryphal tales ever since.

Brian isn't impressed, though it's not Pugwash he's referring to. 'I don't like games where the side batting first only scores a hundred – you don't get a proper day's cricket,' he laments after completing yet another lap of the ground, seconds before the teams disappear into the changing rooms. Tea isn't ready yet and umpires Baker and Hibbert, together with the two captains, agree we'll play twenty overs of the second innings before retiring to the table, with the proviso that should a result be within reasonable distance, we'll continue to a finish.

Both Apperley openers are dismissed with the reply on 26, Rogers being adjudged leg before to Banks and Matty Williams edging behind off Davis. Sixty yards away, the nets now have a young female presence, which is no surprise considering Apperley's most recent visit to Lord's, their U15 Girls' team winning the National Cup in St John's Wood barely 21 months ago. Unlike Rogers though, the girl in the nets shows little sign of being out leg before, which is a good job to be honest as she doesn't have any pads on.



News that Apperley are set for victory has clearly travelled fast around the village and a sudden influx of locals swells the crowd to a nice round dozen. There's immediate disappointment for the newly-assembled throng however, as Marcus Ridal manages to pull the longest of long hops straight to Arshid Mohammed at mid-on, an act that appears to outrage partner Josh Brown. The batter/keeper takes out his evident frustration on bowlers Foulner and Allen, plundering 36 angry runs from the next two overs to brighten the newcomers' moods and end the game in the blink of an eye.

The scorers, a very nice lady from Apperley who sports the most wonderfully tattooed legs and a very nice man from Thornbury who doesn't, enter 'Apperley win by 7 wickets' in their beautifully manicured scorebooks. Or they would have done in Brian's day. This afternoon, they upload the stats to the 'Play Cricket' website, close down their laptops, remove the power cables and head inside for what must surely be the best tea in the entire Gloucestershire Cricket League.

Apperley's pavilion walls are adorned with assorted memorabilia from yesteryear, and like many such places, history abounds. This selection takes us back to the early 70s when the club pretty much ceased to exist, but a reformation, headed by Brian Leeke and his good friend Norman McPherson in 1975, saw Apperley begin to thrive once more. And 51 years on, it's doing pretty well, with three Saturday teams, a Ladies' section and a thriving youth programme all operating under the extremely curvy ACC logo.

Today, Brian has foregone the mighty spread and headed home. He's content these days just to pop down and watch and swap a few stories and opinions with anyone who's happy to stop and chat for a minute or ten. As Christopher Wren said on the completion of St Paul's Cathedral: 'If you want a memorial to me, look around you.' The people of Apperley may just have the same opinion of Brian Leeke and the village's cricket club.

**Thornbury II:** 100 (26.3 overs). P.Banks 32; D.Means 5-16, D.Rogers 3-18.

**Apperley:** 103-3 (13.2 overs). J.Brown 55no.

**Phil Smith: @GACOMatchCorrespondent**

## AND FINALLY....

***Halfway through the season, here are a couple of actual incidents for your consideration.***

***This happened during May.***

During a GCL Division 6A, early-season game at Lydney, a legal ball was struck into the outfield and hotly pursued by a fielder. The ball didn't cross the boundary and the fielder sent the return to the bowler's end.

At the point the bowler received the ball, the batter at the bowler's end was out of his ground, assuming that the ball had gone for four, so the bowler broke the wicket and appealed. Obviously, the ball was still live and he should have been given run out.

However, the resident umpire, instead of giving the batter out, called 'Dead ball' because, although he hadn't signalled '4', he too assumed the ball had crossed the boundary (as did the batters) and awarded the two runs that had been completed. As you can appreciate, there was something of a heated debate before the game resumed.

***Forget your umpire training for a moment and put yourself in the position of the '10-over umpire', who's faced with a scenario he'll have nightmares about for the rest of the season. How do you think he did?***

***And this happened in June.***

In a GCL Division One game, the home side was bowled out cheaply and the second innings started very early with at least 15 overs of play being agreed before tea. The openers walked to the wicket and the bowler was at the top of his mark. When the striker's end umpire looked up, he saw that the non-striker was standing extremely wide of the pitch the game was being played on.

The fielding captain brought this up with the umpire at bowler's end, who couldn't initially see a problem with where the batter was standing. At this point, the umpires conferred and the striker's end umpire said that, in his opinion, the non-striker was standing so wide of the stumps that he felt he was in danger of obstructing the field, especially the mid-on fielder.

Although he appreciated that the popping crease started and finished at the opposite ends of the boundary, the SE official felt that the batter was trying to gain an unfair advantage and instructed him to move in at least three strips towards the stumps.

The batter protested, saying that he followed the same approach every week, but was told firmly but politely, it wouldn't be happening today. Eventually, the batter complied.

***What are your thoughts?***

## May's Conundrum

*In which of the following four scenarios is the striker likely to be given out for obstructing the field:*

- (1) The striker blocks the ball before picking it up and giving it back to the bowler.
- (2) The striker blocks the ball but is horrified to see it rolling back towards their stumps. In an effort to prevent it hitting the wicket, the batter kicks the ball away and it trickles to gully.
- (3) The striker pushes the ball to short cover, then sets off on a quick run, sprinting up the off side of the pitch. Short cover fields, throws at the stumps and the batter would likely have been run out had the ball not struck the inside of his left leg.
- (4) The striker hits the ball in the air and just as mid-off closes in on an easy catch, the non-striker shouts 'drop it' very loudly – and mid-off does.



**Answer:** (1) Assuming the batter hasn't been given permission by someone on the fielding side & (4). Even though it is the non-striker who has made the shout, it is the striker that is out as it is they who would have been out had the catch been taken. The non-striker may find they're the subject of a report, however.

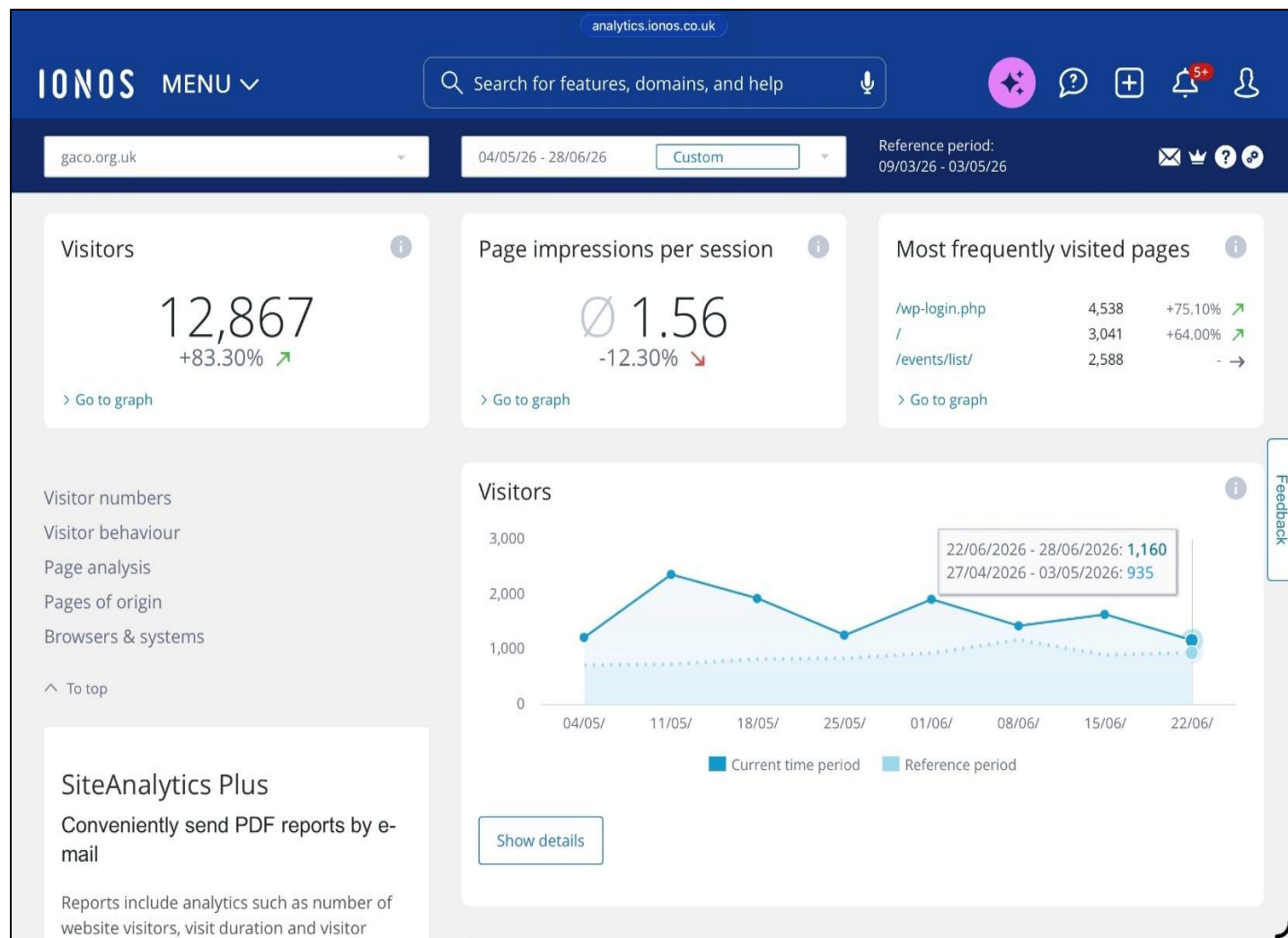
## UMPIRE & SCORER COURSES

ECB Umpire and Umpire Development courses, together with a variety of Scorer courses will be arranged during the close season. These are organized by GCF and run by ACO tutors. While the 'Upcoming Courses' lists on the website are currently empty, details of all such events will be available via the relevant tabs on [gaco.org.uk](http://gaco.org.uk).



# GACO WEBSITE

Data from gaco.org.uk shows we've had an awful lot of hits in May & June!



## QUIZ Answers

| Postcode | Club         | River  |
|----------|--------------|--------|
| CT1 3NZ  | Kent         | Stour  |
| DH3 3QR  | Durham       | Wear   |
| NN1 4PR  | Northants    | Nene   |
| M16 0PX  | Lancashire   | Irwell |
| BN3 3AN  | Sussex       | Adur   |
| NW8 8QN  | Middlesex    | Thames |
| TA1 1JT  | Somerset     | Tone   |
| B5 7QU   | Warwickshire | Rea    |
| NG2 6AG  | Notts        | Trent  |
| SO30 3XH | Hampshire    | Hamble |
| CM2 0PG  | Essex        | Cam    |

**22: Genius! 17-21: Seriously impressive geographer. 13-16: Postcodes and better-known rivers – good. 9-13: A bit more research required. 0-8. Buy a Satnav. And an atlas.**

## OM (July 2026) Contributors

*Phil Mattingley, Sue Drinkwater, Steve Johnson, Nicky Clarke, Egon Ronay, Robert Ward, Phil Smith, Rishi Maktedar, 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 September.*



Gloucestershire Association  
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*Officiating Matters is the bi-monthly magazine of the Gloucestershire Association of Cricket Officials.*