

# OFFICIATING MATTERS

MARCH 2023 EDITION

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## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Hello everyone.

I hope that you are all well, fighting fit and counting down the last few weeks (6-8) until the pre-season matches kick into life - looking on the various social media platforms, they seem to be springing up everywhere.

Officiating Matters quiz – thank you to those of you who have entered both so far and also a big thank you to the February first-timers! Craig Blakeway puts a lot of effort into managing this initiative and I'm delighted that the entry level for February's conundrums increased by over 50% from January's returns.

GACO AGM – A decent turnout numbers-wise (32) and really pleasing to see a fairly even split between what were originally BACUS & GACUS members, too.

Without mentioning any names, but someone in attendance who I class as a personal friend as well as an excellent umpire, just happened to mention after I had been re-elected as Chairman that: "At least you have lasted longer in power than Liz Truss" – whether that's a compliment or not, I'm not too sure.

There are a number of different items and news articles in this month's Officiating Matters, so on behalf of Craig, Bob and myself, thank you for your contributions - but please keep them coming.

Please find time, too (while entering the quiz) to look on the website at the link for the new GACO merchandise online shop which is now open, from which GACO-branded items can be purchased and delivered directly to your door.

Craig has also put a link on the bottom of the homepage to a podcast called 'The Paddock and the Pavilion', which features lots of episodes on both cricket and horse racing. Well worth a listen.

Dates to follow shortly for the various GACO pre-season events to be held at Taunton, Bristol and Cheltenham, so to those I don't bump into beforehand, I look forward to seeing you then.

*Phil*



## MARCH PRIZE QUIZ

To access, please click on the 'Monthly Quiz' link on the home page of [www.gaco.org.uk](http://www.gaco.org.uk) and forward your answers using the online form by **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March**. The winners will be announced on the Quiz page later that week.

The first prize for each month is a pair of tickets for one day of a Gloucestershire CCC County Championship match or Royal London Cup tie, with a bottle of wine for each of the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>-placed people.

As such, congratulations to **Howard Hudd**, who won the first prize of a pair of Gloucestershire CCC match tickets, while **Alan Payne & Mark Haines** will each take home a nice bottle of wine for achieving 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> place respectively.



**The February Quiz answers were:** 1. The Fielder 2. Law 29 3. Level 2 4. Call and signal 'No ball' 5. 3 minutes 6. False 7. Yorkshire 8. Dominic Cork 9. The Memorial Gallery 10. Freya Davies 11. Nottingham 12. Kingsholm CC 13. Glamorgan 14. Scott Tremain.

## NEW LAWS EXPLAINED

In the January & February editions of OM, Bob Hampshire explained the October 2022 law changes for 'Caught', 'Run Out', 'Dead ball' & 'Wide ball'. Here, Bob continues his 'Tom Smith' aspirations by looking at the tweaks in the 'Striker's Right to Play the Ball' & 'Unfair Movement by the Fielding Side' laws. For those people who like to read the official wording, there is a link to the law changes in the 'Documentation' section of [www.gaco.org.uk](http://www.gaco.org.uk).

### Law 25.8 – striker's right to play the ball



Remember now that if the ball delivered by the bowler pitches off the pitch, then this is a No Ball (not a wide). A striker is allowed to play such a ball but **ONLY** if he/she does not leave the pitch to do so. In other words, some part of the striker or their bat (whether grounded or raised) must remain on the pitch. If they do leave the pitch, then the umpire will call "Dead Ball". This becomes a safety issue, as you don't want the striker advancing towards fielders to play the ball.

The recompense here is that any ball that causes the batter to leave the pitch will also be called a "No Ball". Just remember that the striker cannot leave the pitch to "manufacture" a No Ball,

as in these circumstances the umpire should call “Dead Ball” but not follow it with “No Ball”.

### Laws 27.4 and 28.6 – Unfair movement by the fielding side

Remember that when the bowler is running in to bowl, the fielders are allowed to move towards the batter/stumps. They cannot move sideways or backwards; this has always been deemed unfair and up to this point has been called as a “Dead Ball” as soon as an umpire sees it. The batter has seen where the fielders are before the bowler starts to run in so any subsequent movement sideways/backwards clearly disadvantages the batter.

As this is both deliberate and unfair, the sanction is now **5 Penalty Runs** to be awarded to the batting side. As it is now Penalty Runs, remember the process of advising everyone and reporting the occurrence to the body responsible for the match.

This sanction also applies to the wicketkeeper who changes his/her position **significantly** when the bowler is on their way. The keeper who moves a few steps up is OK as long as those steps don't bring them within reach of the wicket.



Don't confuse this one with wicketkeeper/fielder encroachment (Law 27.3/28.5) on/over the pitch before the striker plays the ball. This remains a “No Ball”.

## GACO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



The AGM took place last week at The Ship Inn, Alveston and was attended by 32 GACO members. The minutes will be sent out by Rishi in due course, while the committee was re-elected *en bloc*, so the contact list on [www.gaco.org.uk](http://www.gaco.org.uk) remains unchanged.

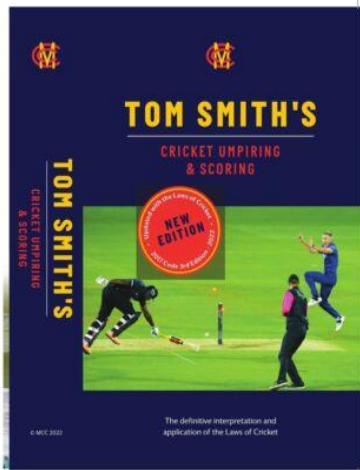
## PRE-SEASON SEMINARS

These are all due to be held in different parts of the region during the week of Monday 24<sup>th</sup>-Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April. Specific dates, venues & other information will be added to [www.gaco.org.uk](http://www.gaco.org.uk) as soon as they are finalised and also included in the April edition of ‘*Officiating Matters*’.

## TOM SMITH'S & LAW BOOKS

A reminder that copies of the new Tom Smith's, which includes the October law changes, can be ordered through the GACO website, price £15, by completing the online form at:

### Tom Smith's – GACO Membership offer and Order Form - GACO.



Having taken 18 orders in the first batch early last month, the next order of Tom Smith's will be submitted on **19<sup>th</sup> March** and these copies will be available for collection at the pre-season seminars.

Should you wish to order a copy at this discounted price in readiness for the new season, please complete the relevant form available on the GACO website by the above date.

Copies of the new law books will be distributed to all active members free of charge prior to the new season getting underway.

## GACO LOGO & MERCHANDISE

In association with the GCF, GACO has a new logo...



....which is included on a brand-new range of merchandise that can be bought directly from the newly-established GACO Club Shop. This has been set up in association with 'Serious Cricket' and GACO branded on and off-field apparel can now be purchased with a minimum amount of fuss by clicking on the 'Clothing and Merchandise' tab on the front page of the website. Operating the shop in this way means that GACO doesn't have to pay for and keep large amounts of stock and members won't need to collect their purchases as they are delivered directly to your door.

## GACO FREE MATCH SHIRT OFFER (Umpires & Scorers)

Before Christmas, WEPL announced that it will be providing one free, WEPL-branded item of clothing for umpires standing in Tiers 1, 2 & 3. To match this offer and ensure that all active GACO members (umpires & scorers who will be standing/scoring in 2023) will have the opportunity to wear 'branded' clothing, we are offering a free match shirt, too.

As such, umpires who have not ordered any clothing via WEPL can acquire an on-field GACO White Elite Match Shirt (with black piping), while the offer for scorers is a navy blue GACO polo shirt. Simply go to the online shop to view available sizes, then send your name, type of shirt (umpire's or scorer's) & size required to Craig at [webmaster@gaco.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@gaco.org.uk) by **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March**. The order will then be sent off so that everything will be available to collect at the pre-season seminars.

It goes without saying that should West of England PL officials who have taken advantage of the WEPL 'free shirt' offer want any GACO-branded merchandise, this can be done via the online shop, as above. *Shop kindly provided by Serious Sport.*

## SCORERS' UPDATE *with Sue Drinkwater*



### Recording the Run Out of the non-striker backing up

You may have recently seen a number of non-strikers being Run Out backing up by the bowler, especially in franchised and international cricket. I saw this first hand at Lord's in September 2022 when Charlie Dean was dismissed in this way by India's Deepti Sharma in a Women's ODI.

What if this happens in one of your matches? Do you know how to score it?

The key point to remember is that it doesn't occur on a delivery, as the bowler dislodges the non-striker's bails instead of delivering the ball to the striker.

On paper, whether you are using a traditional box-style worksheet or a linear sheet, it's very easy. The 'How Out' terminology is simply 'Run Out' with the bowler's name as the fielder. You make all the usual dismissal entries ('How Out' and 'Fall of Wicket' details) but don't record a delivery in the batting and bowling sections. It's useful to know where this wicket occurred, so in a box-style scorebook, I would put something like an asterisk

in the bowling box after the last ball delivered and a footnote to say what happened on that asterisk. Whatever notation you use, don't put a 'w' in the bowling box, as this is not a bowler's wicket.

If you are using Play-Cricket Scorer Professional, then it's also very easy once you know how. Use the normal red 'Wicket' button and in the Wicket dialog box, use the down-arrow to change the player being dismissed to the non-striker. This field will default to the striker, as that's the person usually being dismissed. Once the non-striker is set as the dismissed player, the 'Dismissal Type' field will only have three choices: 'Run Out', 'Run Out Backing Up (non-delivery)' & 'Obstruction', as these are the only ways that a non-striker can be given out. Choose 'Run Out Backing Up (non-delivery)' and the bowler will automatically be attributed as the fielder. Click on 'OK' to record the wicket and a ball will be recorded but marked as one that doesn't count in the over.

The PCS app currently (v7.0.3) doesn't have an option to record someone Run Out with a ball being delivered. You can set the 'Batter Out' to the non-striker, but the dismissal types offered are 'Run Out', 'Obstruction' and 'Retired', so you will have to select 'Run Out', record the ball and extend the over to having an extra ball.



## [Scorer wanted at Bristol CC](#)

Are you a scorer looking for a new club or a new scorer wanting to find a regular scoring post?

Bristol CC are looking for a regular 1<sup>st</sup> XI scorer, due to their previous scorer moving away from the area.

Bristol CC is an active club, running multiple Saturday teams, a Sunday side, Mid-week XIs and numerous youth teams. The 1st XI plays in the West of England Premier League, Division 1.

If you are interested in scoring for Bristol CC 1<sup>st</sup> XI, please contact [scorers@gaco.org.uk](mailto:scorers@gaco.org.uk) and your details will be passed to the Bristol CC Club Captain.

## IN PROFILE

We thought it would be a good idea to discover a little bit more about a few of our GACO personnel before the season gets underway. This month, **Phil Mattingley** and **Howard Hudd** come under the OM spotlight.

Phil Mattingley		Howard Hudd
		
Tea	Tea or coffee	Tea
Richie Benaud	Richie Benaud or Michael Atherton	Richie Benaud
Football (Swindon Town)	Football or Rugby	Football
Near ground	Breakfast at home or near ground	Home
Indian	Chinese or Indian	Chinese
Test match	Test match or T20	Test match
Good book	Good TV or Good book	Good book
Bowler's end	Bowler's end or Striker's end	Bowler's end
Sandwich	Sandwich or cream cake	Sandwich
Pen	Pen or pencil (to complete card)	Pen
Non-League	Premier League or Non-league	Premier League
The Hundred	The Hundred or Monopoly	Monopoly
Music	Music or Art	Art
Seat in the ground	TV cricket or Seat in the ground	TV cricket
All food!	Broccoli or green beans	Broccoli
Facebook	Facebook or twitter	Facebook
With a hat	Umpire with hat or no hat	With a hat
Spicy	Sweet or spicy	Sweet
Face-to-Face	Online learning or Face-to-face	Face-to-face
McDonald's	McDonald's or KFC	McDonald's
Traditional	Coloured clothing or traditional	Traditional
Cinema	Theatre or cinema	Cinema
Summer	Christmas or Summer	Summer
Night out	Night out or Night in	Night in
Roast dinner	Roast dinner or Cricket tea	Roast dinner
Crossword	Crossword or Wordle	Crossword
Bristol	Cheltenham College or County Ground	Bristol
Over	Toilet paper: Over or Under	Over
Ball counter	Ball counter or coins	Ball counter
Ham & mustard	Egg & cress or Ham & mustard	Egg & cress
Long sleeves	Long sleeves or short sleeves	Long sleeves
The Mail	The Mail or The Times	The Mail
No contest - Officiating Matters	Wisden or 'Officiating Matters'	Officiating Matters

## TALES FROM DOWN UNDER



As reported in the January Edition of Officiating Matters, Stroud-based umpire, John Evans, is currently touring Australia with England Over-70s and captained the side to victory in the second of the 'Grey Ashes' one-day tests to level the series at 1-1, with one to play. Evo hit 81 for England against the 'old enemy' to help England to their victory target and will be hoping for more of the same when the sides meet for the third and final time in Melbourne.

The Stroud Times recently carried the following article:

<https://stroudtimes.com/down-under-evo-sparkles-for-england-over-70s-grey-ashes/>

On a different (but similar, lateral thinking-wise) note, the 'Once Upon a Time' Ashes podcast recently featured Gloucestershire CCC's Mike Smith's one and only test match versus Australia at Headingley. For anyone interested, you can access this via one of the links below:

**YouTube:** <https://onceuponatimeintheashes.com/episodes/>

**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/OnceAshes>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/OnceAshes>



### Electronic Scoreboard For Sale



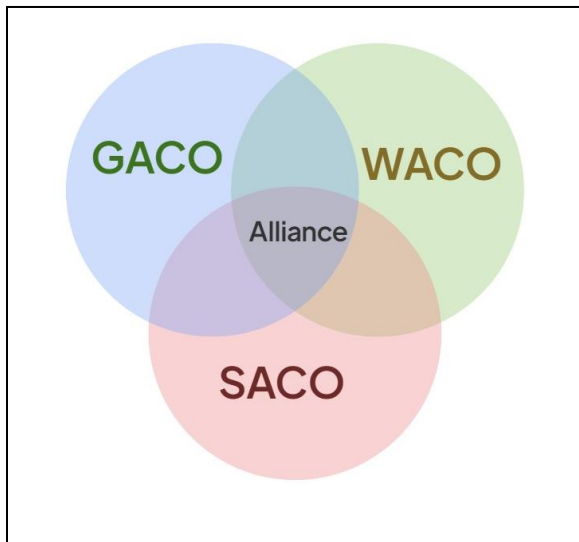
An electronic scoreboard was built from scratch during the COVID lockdown and has been used successfully by Woodmancote CC for the last two seasons. Unfortunately, the village hall committee who own the ground and the village hall where the changing rooms are situated, have said that the club is no longer allowed to store

the scoreboard in the changing rooms. There is nowhere else for it to be housed, so rather than it being destroyed, I would like to offer it for sale. It would need to be refurbished and customized for the recipient club who can decide if it is free standing or wall-mounted (it is currently free standing) and whether they want their club name and logo on it. It is designed to link in with PCS Pro and can also be operated in manual via smartphone or tablet wi-fi (has built in wi-fi and Bluetooth). The price is £900 ono and interested parties should contact Janet Sawyer ([janet.sawyer@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:janet.sawyer@hotmail.co.uk)).



## SOUTH WEST ACO 'ALLIANCE'

Following discussions between former GACO Chairman, Clive Poulton and the new GACO Chairman, Phil Mattingley, work has started on forming an 'Alliance' between the three 'local' officials' associations - GACO, SACO (Somerset) & WACO (Wiltshire), which will be driven by the GCF. The aim of this initiative is to increase the amount of joined-up thinking between the three county associations in order to share ideas and experiences and attempt to standardise, where possible, things such as the payment of officials across the various levels of cricket in the three areas.



It must be stressed that this is not GACO, SACO & WACO becoming a single entity; quite the opposite, in fact. It is a forum in which the three independent County ACOs can hopefully work more fruitfully together for the benefit of all.

This is a long-term project, so the tangible results of this partnership may not be immediately evident, but we hope people will agree that this is a first step in what is hopefully a very positive direction.

## MENTORS 2023



At the moment, 14 people have indicated their interest in acting as a mentor to another umpire or umpires during the upcoming season, but we are still around six mentors shy of our ideal number.

If you feel you have the experience to support another GACO umpire between April & September, whether you have undertaken the role in the

past or not and haven't already replied, please email Bob Owen at [development@gaco.org.uk](mailto:development@gaco.org.uk) in the next seven days.

# LEAVING THE CREASE

## Graham Bateman 1946 -2023

Graham passed away recently after a short illness; he will be sorely missed by all his family and friends – of which there are hundreds.

He was a genuinely gentle man who was respected and liked by everybody; indeed, he was one of those unique people of whom nobody would say a critical word. Graham had an inquisitive mind, was always up-to-date with the latest news and gossip and had an encyclopedic memory for the most obscure facts.

He was a good batsman in his playing days with a greater ability to hit the ball a long way rather than run a quick single – and he never knowingly ran a three! After playing, he umpired league matches before focusing on the cup competitions with which he will always be associated.

Graham has a permanent place in B&D history as the organiser of the B&D T20 Cup competitions for 40 years, having started in 1983 and he was still involved until his passing. His method was typically Graham, with draws done with either great fanfare or very quietly – but always with his bag of battered, numbered, ping-pong balls. This did not always work as he planned - but adjustments were quickly made and the competition continued.

He served on the B&D Management Committee for all those years and, although he was not a fan of meetings, he made invaluable contributions when required. Graham always saw the best in people, but he had a shrewd appreciation of character and always knew what was in the best interests of the game. He disliked egos and would not allow a club to attempt to pull rank in the competitions he organised.

A definitive measure of the respect in which he was held is that several years ago his colleagues named one of the competitions (the Bateman Trophy) after him; typically, he chose the Plate (i.e the junior competition). He deserves the thanks of all the clubs for his superb, committed and voluntary work.

However, Graham was much more than that; he was a devoted husband to Maggie and father to Cass who made his life so fulfilling along with holiday breaks in his beloved Pembrokeshire. He lived all his life in the same house in Redfield, which confused the first DBS checker who thought that he had made a clerical error.

He was locally famous for his broad beans and pickled onions, complex train journeys to Taunton and ambles around the county ground at Nevil Road. Graham was often spotted at local grounds too, especially Downend in recent years, and always enjoyed Finals Day at Cleeve every August.

Thank you, Graham, on behalf of the B&D and the wider cricket community; it has been a privilege to have known you. While you have left us too soon, may you rest in eternal peace.

*Trevor Crouch for the B&D*



## REDMARLEY CC QUIZ

On Thursday February 16<sup>th</sup> 2023, Redmarley CC hosted their 21<sup>st</sup> annual sports quiz to raise funds for the cricket club.

Nigel Allen, a GACO member and active umpire, organizes the whole event which, year in, year out, proves to be immensely popular.

Held at the Walls Sports and Social Club in Barnwood, Gloucester, this year's quiz attracted an entry of 32 teams of 4, including two GACO sides.



There are eleven set rounds plus a picture round containing 50 pictures to put names against.

The first side, appropriately named 'The Trigger Fingers', captained by Craig Blakeway with team mates Robert Ward, Jonathan Labrum and Kevin Carden, finished 20<sup>th</sup> out of the 32 teams.

GACO's second side, 'Pitched Outside Leg', captained by Chairman Phil Mattingley with team mates Karl Senior, Chris Coleman and honorary umpire Sam, claimed third place overall and picked up a cash prize that was twice the quiz entry fee.

When 'Time' was eventually called, Redmarley had made almost £1,000 towards club funds, the GACO Chairman had won four race tickets as first prize in the evening's raffle and Craig B was left to wonder why, as setter of the monthly GACO quiz questions, his team never really threatened to trouble the scorers once Round One was completed.

## KINGSHOLM CC CENTENARY



Kingsholm CC is celebrating its 100th anniversary by holding a cricket week, culminating with a centenary dinner on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> July with special guest - the one and only Graeme Swann. Guest tables are available – for more information, please contact [bencambo@hotmail.com](mailto:bencambo@hotmail.com).

Click on the pdf for more information:



## GACO WEBSITE & TWITTER ACCOUNT

Website ([www.gaco.org.uk](http://www.gaco.org.uk)) views in February were up 25% on the previous month, which is an encouraging sign, while our twitter account (@GlosUmps) currently has 387 Followers, which includes over 15 fellow ACOs, lots of local and national cricket clubs (some overseas), and a number of professional umpires.



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



The batting side in a B & D Division 2 match requires six to win off the final ball of the game. Thankfully, we have enough available umpires to cover the fixture, as the No 11 batter launches himself at the last ball and thumps it in the general direction of the BAWA Club. The fielder on the deep midwicket boundary, realising the ball is out of his reach, throws his cap in the air in a last-ditch attempt to intercept the ball and prevent the batting side winning the game.

Somehow, the peak of the cap deflects the ball just enough for it to land inside the boundary. The fielder gathers the ball ready to throw it in, just as the umpires each shout 'Dead ball' at the very same moment and look at each other, wishing they hadn't been appointed in the first place.

'It's a tie!' shouts the fielding captain, knowing this is illegal fielding and thus punishable by five penalty runs. 'It's not fair,' moans the batting captain, who's one run short of an unlikely victory. 'We'll get him afterwards,' whisper two of the batter's more unsavoury (non-playing, boundary-hugging) mates, clinking their bottles together in the process.

As one of the umpires, what are you going to do?

### Last Month's Answer

A fielder in a B & D game attempts to catch a high ball out near the deep midwicket boundary. However, he only manages to make fingertip contact, knocking the ball slightly upwards but failing to hold on as he crashes to the ground.

As the fielder falls, his shirt comes out of his trousers and the ball lands on his shirt tail. The fielder carefully picks it up and appeals for the catch. What is your decision?

***Out caught. The ball did not touch the ground and the fielder did not deliberately use his clothing with which to catch the ball. If this had happened, it would have been illegal fielding, resulting in five penalty runs to the batting side.***

We hope you've enjoyed this edition of 'Officiating Matters'. As always, if there's anything you would like to be included in either next month's or future publications, or if you have any items / articles that you think may be of interest to the GACO membership, please contact us at [webmaster@gaco.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@gaco.org.uk).