



BCB News

Latest information from the Bucks Cricket Board

Issue 11 - Nov 2014

Welcome to BCB News

We apologise for the long gap between this issue and its predecessor. That doesn't mean that we've been inactive but the summer does seem to have been rather more hectic this year; with a lot of behind the scenes work on the ECB National Player Survey (see page 2) and more liaison with leagues and cricket boards for adjoining counties, the weeks have just flown by.

The close season (note I didn't say 'hibernation') is now in its second month and thoughts need to be turning towards getting ready for the 2015 season.

With that in mind there's a lot of news about coach education and also courses for aspiring umpires and scorers. ECB has majored on Club Support with a number of initiatives and - although we know it's unpopular in many quarters - we feel obliged to draw attention to the changes in Play-Cricket and urge you to make sure your P-C site is up to date.

Finally there's news of board changes - including unwelcome news about our Chairman, Cliff Pocock.

John Bushby

email [click here](#)



Bucks Cricket Board - Changes

Since our last issue there have been several changes to the composition of BCB's board. We've appointed 3 new directors:

- **Robin Carr** is Chairman of the Mid-Bucks League, Vice Chairman of Ley Hill CC and a qualified umpire. He says his work as a TV Producer and Director and the organisational skills required to produce, direct and stage manage are perfect qualities for organising the sometimes chaotic situations cricket presents!
- **Graham Rance** has played, coached and been involved in local cricket all his life. He is a Banker and the current Treasurer of Chesham CC. Graham has gone through the Bucks age groups, reaching the full county side, and with two sons following in his footsteps, is fully committed to continuing to develop junior cricket at all levels in Bucks
- **Keith Dale** has been a mainstay at Aylesbury Town CC and was largely responsible for resurrecting the club after

it fell into the doldrums a few years back. Keith has particular responsibility for the Board's disability cricket programme and, with wide experience of the NHS and health issues, is ideally suited for this task.

Unfortunately we have been dealt a body blow with the decision of **Cliff Pocock** to resign from the post of Chairman. Cliff has been dealing with significant health issues since the early part of this year and the Board has reluctantly accepted his suggestion that he should step down. We have been coping as well as we can but with his wealth of knowledge and contacts he will be an extremely hard act to follow. We do hope that he'll achieve a complete recovery.

The post will be advertised shortly - a formal notice will appear on the BCB website - but anybody who wishes to express interest or discuss what is involved should [email Stuart Beck](#) as soon as possible.

Play-Cricket Release 2 Update

Release 2 of the updated Play-Cricket site became available from Friday 31 October.

The site went live in "Review Mode" earlier this month. The review mode is supposed to be an opportunity for you to review your site, check your stats and provide feedback before the new season starts. After listening to feedback, Release 2 is focussed on making Play-Cricket easier to use and improvements to existing sections of the site have been made.

Many changes have been vaunted including:

- Improved User Interface; Pop ups replaced, where possible, by windows;
- Added option for league administrators to generate fixtures automatically;
- Calendar populated with fixtures.
- Print facility added to the league table and stats.
- Top 10 bowling and batting performance stats feature restored.
- Sign up simplified by reducing the amount of mandatory data;.
- League registered player process changed;

- Photo Gallery redesigned; Videos can now be added.
- Ability to format emails and upload attachments.
- Improved display of scorecard.

P-C has urged all users to review the updated site and that:

- administrators ensure all members are in the member database with the right roles; that fixtures and scorecard stats are correct; and that "About us" has all the information properly populated
- Individuals check that personal details are correct and that information marked hidden has not been made visible; that availability is properly represented and playing stats are correct.

We know that use of P-C in Bucks is very low; we have fought hard for many changes and have made some substantial progress. It's still not perfect and, although we are still pressing for modifications, ECB still see the system as the main vehicle for central administration of grass roots cricket.

So to get the sort of changes you want **you do need to engage with Play-Cricket and make your point by identifying and reporting shortcomings to them.**



BCB News

The National Player Survey 2014

We're very grateful to all who completed the survey this summer. We managed to get over 700 responses (nearly 1½ times the 2013 figure) although there are still areas where we would have liked more people to tell us what they think.

follows the national average. BCB has held meetings with some of the leagues to present the findings and to see what we can all do to stem the steady decline in the number of people playing cricket.

In particular we had few responses from ethnic minorities and - not surprisingly - fewer players from the lower echelons in clubs and leagues completed the survey.

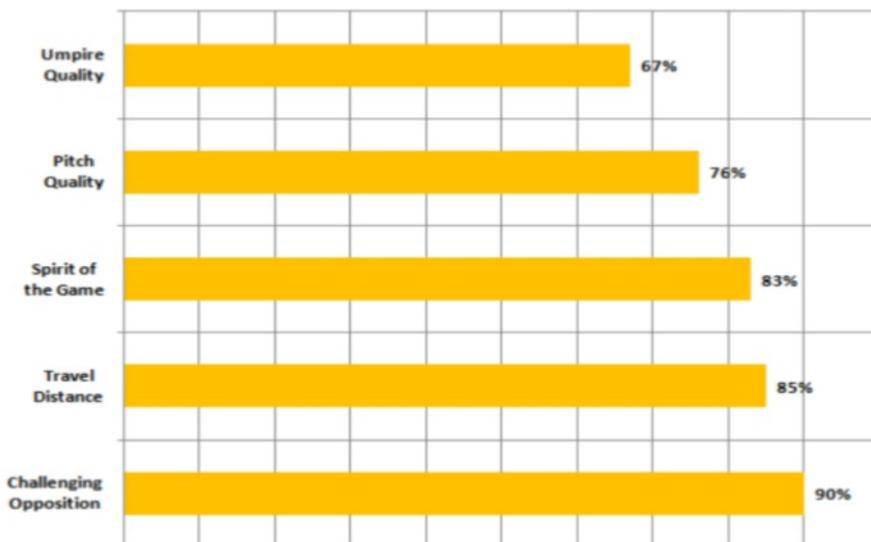
This is important so would club secretaries and other officers make sure that **ALL** players who may have contributed get the chance to read this edition by forwarding it - or a link to the news item on the BCB website - to all your members

The figures are very wide-ranging so we can only give a few headlines here though in most respects cricket in Bucks

Headlines

- **Conceded fixtures** have risen 63% over the past four years across all cricket, - *we have to lessen the effects of bad weather. April and September - when many players don't believe there's cricket for them to play - are often as dry as May and July*
- **Players can't find the cricket they want** even though they want to play more. *This decline is despite 90% of players telling us last year that they'd play at least as much in 2014*
- **Dropout is rife and is gradually increasing** (the total number of players in teams has decreased by 7%) - *Players say stats are important and they will encourage them to play more - providing stats online encourages players to play*
- **Many are disgruntled** even though satisfaction is high overall but - *Match end time dissatisfaction is greatest amongst important groups on the biggest day*
- **Get friends to play** - *advocacy is the best form of recruitment!*

Satisfaction Levels



Player Satisfaction

The factor that gave players least satisfaction was the quality of umpiring; only 67% were happy with this compared with 90% who were happy with the quality of the opposition they faced each week.

It has been noticeable in recent years that umpires are becoming harder to find. Is this partly a reflection of poorer standards of player behaviour and an increase in gamesmanship? Either way this is something for BACO, clubs and leagues to address.

The other factor of concern was the comparatively low level of satisfaction with pitches.

More about the Survey

Is your club thinking of setting up a new Women or Girls section for next season?



ECB is looking for a club that is planning to set up either a Women or Girls section for next season that would be happy to share the experience with ECB.

ECB wants to hear about how the club prepares to support its new team, recruitment of coaches and players as well as capturing the experience of training and matches and seeing how clubs keep their players motivated.

If your club is interested in sharing this experience, please advise ECB (diversitymatters@ecb.co.uk) - **and also Clifton Simms at BCB - [email both here!](#)**



BCB News

The National Player Survey 2014

Why Don't More People Play?

The reasons players who want to play more, don't

53% would like to play more but can't find the right offer



Source: NCPS 2014 Data
 Question: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the statement: 'I would like to play more cricket?'
 Question: To those that would like to play more: 'Why do you not play more?' (n=16,733)



Over half of the people who might like to play either can't find a game or don't like the form of cricket that's available. The largest single group has problems with finding enough time

How Much Cricket Costs



Cricket costs 12½% more in Bucks than the national average - the biggest difference is in subscriptions but there's most dissatisfaction with match fees

League Format



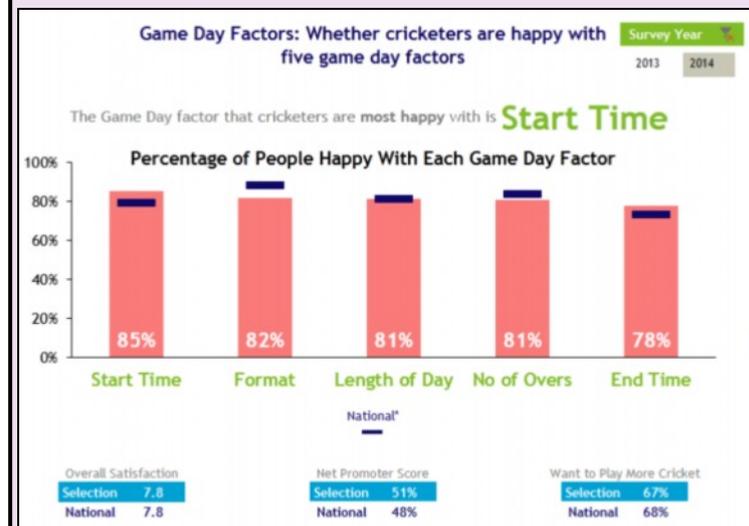
In Bucks more people play 50 overs - but half of them would like the game to be shorter. Three quarters of those who play 40 overs are happy with the length of the match.

Young Coach of the Year

Andrew Ellemore of Milton Keynes was chosen by Bucks County Coaches Association as an ECB Coach Awards winner for 2014. In the "Young Coach of the Year".category.

This award is for a qualified coach under the age of 25 who has shown a commitment to developing the game at grassroots and

Other Factors



In Bucks people are happiest with start time but least satisfied with when cricket finishes. They are less happy with the format than the national average, although in most respects their views are close to the rest of the country

community level, and has had a clear impact with a local school or club.

As a result Andrew was a guest at the awards ceremony on 10 September at ECB's National Cricket Performance Centre, Loughborough University.



BCB News

Coach Education News

2014 / 2015 sees a combined Coach Education Programme delivered jointly by the Cricket Boards in Bucks, Berkshire and Oxfordshire.

- This allows a wider choice of dates and venues, with no county boundary constraints.
- No matter which county you or your club are located in, there should be a course within 45 minutes travel.

The programme of courses includes:

ECB Coach Support Worker certificate

ECB Certificate in Coaching Children

ECB Certificate in Coaching Young People & Adults

ECB CPD Modules in Coaching Children

ECB CPD Modules in Coaching Young People & Adults

ECB / NSPCC Club Welfare Officer "Safe Hands" Workshop

St John's Ambulance – Emergency First Aid

Go to BCB's Coach Ed. [Training and Courses page](#) for more information and to book your places.

Alternatively contact Clifton Simms on 07791 197187 or email clifton.simms@buckscc.org



Congratulations Bucks Cricket

Isa Guha England and Bucks cricketer ... first ever female expert summariser on Radio 4 cricket!



County Young Coach Academy

CYCA aims to identify, support and develop future coaches by offering training, personal development and mentoring support delivered by experienced coaches.

It will provide a pathway from school / college leadership and volunteering programmes into coaching to bridge the gap between school and community systems and sign-posting you to further opportunities.

If you're 15+ and interested in joining you can find out more about the CYCA and download an application form go to the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Sport and Activity Partnership website at: <http://www.leapwithus.org.uk/?p=37760>



Is your club secure?

ECB have worked together with the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) to produce a new guide for cricket clubs to help with security and safety issues around the ground and in the clubhouse.

[Click here](#) to download and view the 'Cricket Ground Security, Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Prevention' booklet featuring advice on protecting your changing rooms, groundsman's shed, car park and much more.

There are a few hard copies available, if you'd like one sent to you please email



Need an Umpire or Scorer?

- Has your club got enough qualified umpires to fulfil your League commitments for 2015?
- Can you afford the League fines?
- Has your club got enough qualified umpires to officiate at your colts matches?
- If your club relies on one man and he goes on holiday or joins that great cricket club in the sky, have you got a qualified replacement?

Answer no to any of these questions and you need to send one of your members - young or old, male or female - on an umpires course.

Details of the Bucks courses taking place post Christmas are detailed below:

- **ECBACO Level 1 umpiring courses**
 - at **Great Brickhill CC** commencing 20 January
 - at **Penn & Tylers Green CC** commencing 22 January .

For details contact Alan English on 01494 - 443464 or by email margalan.english@virgin.net .

Bucks ACO will also be running the following scorers' course in the New Year:

- **ECBACO Level 1 scoring course**
 - at **High Wycombe CC** Sundays 15 & 22 March

For details, contact Julia Farman on 07723 - 360834 or by email julesfarman@aol.com



BCB News

Indoor Cricket - Milton Keynes

A new Indoor Cricket League will start before Christmas at Shenley Brook End, with the facility there recently upgraded to make it suitable for 6-a-side matches.

The league is being organised by Colin Kightley and teams and individuals interested in playing in this new competition should contact Colin by email colin.kightley@bucksclub.org or phone him on 07895 063080

Indoor Cricket - Handy Cross

If you've passed Junction 4 of the M40 recently you will have seen the framework for the new Sports Centre. The main sports hall will have space for 12 (yes - twelve!) badminton courts with cricket (4-lane nets or a single match area) using 1/3 of the area.

The centre is likely to open very early in 2016 and BCB is currently in discussions about the flooring and scheduling. Any club interested should contact [John Bushby](#) or the centre manager, [Graham Ashby](#) AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Indoor Cricket - Princes Risborough

The new Community Sports Centre is nearing completion. A 24-hour basketball marathon will start it off on 28 November with an official opening on 10 December.

The Centre is keen to see high use for cricket and BCB has been closely involved in plans to get this excellent facility used widely by local clubs and in our own junior development programme - at a reasonable price.

At the time of writing arrangements are being made to test different matting systems alongside one another. This will be followed by a trial of a small indoor league and availability for use in the New Year.



Have you seen the ECB Fundraising Guide for Cricket Clubs? This booklet shares lots of fundraising ideas for clubs from small events such as quizzes and bake sales to band nights and ale festivals.

Win a £125 donation while you raise money for your club!



Easyfundraising has proved a big success for cricket clubs that have signed up so far. Raise free funds for your club simply by doing your Christmas shopping online through [easyfundraising](#), and you'll be in with a chance of winning a £125 donation.

There are more fundraising ideas and competitions on the [ECB Club Support website](#)

With space for 5 badminton courts this sports hall will be 25% longer than most and has excellent lighting with changing accommodation and showers included in the competitive hire charge.

A number of clubs have already expressed interest - if you are keen to use first class facilities don't delay - for further details contact Ian Moore [by email \(id@moore46.plus.com\)](mailto:id@moore46.plus.com) or email [John Bushby](#)



NatWest U19 Club T20

To help clubs create the T20 Blast experience, the ECB are offering free training for young volunteers and will also provide your club with a series of easy-to-follow guidance notes.

So if your club would benefit from more players, more volunteers and more income, click [here](#) and register to let the ECB know your club is keen to be involved in 2015.



For further information please contact BCB Cricket Development Officer Clifton Simms, clifton.simms@bucksclub.org / 07791 197187