



### CRICKETEENS CONCEPT

1. Although the membership of the Association of Cricket Officials is at an all-time high, the average age of those who umpire is gradually increasing. The number of active umpires is slowly dwindling. This trend is general throughout England & Wales.
2. This is not for lack of training opportunities. In the last three training seasons, Wales ACO has trained well over 60 people to feeder league standard but the conversion rate from attending courses to standing in matches remains stubbornly at about 20%. The remainder of attenders tend to be club coaches or those who want to improve the umpiring of their own club cricket at lower league levels.
3. Age group cricket has also interfered. An increasing number of players continue to play for Over 40/50/60/70 age group sides and there are now official ECB competitions for most of these. The fixtures are typically midweek and this means that people who might umpire regional age group cricket are unavailable because they are playing. Many of those players also continue to turn out for their clubs at weekends, perhaps in the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> or even 4<sup>th</sup> XI, as practice for their age group cricket.
4. For these reasons, the ACO has decided to look for younger recruits. The Cricketeens concept, created by Ann-Marie Presswell from Devon, has been formally piloted twice and the second of these pilots was held at Ynystawe CC in April 2018 and run by Wales ACO. The course is a one day event and comprises both umpiring and scoring training, including practical exercises. It is delivered by Young Officials.
5. The Ynystawe course was observed by Peter Hybart of Cricket Wales, Les Clemenson (acting chairman of the national ACO), and Hamish Grant (the ACO Finance, Administration & Projects Officer). All viewed the concept favourably and it has been submitted to the ECB for consideration for national roll-out. This is not likely to happen until 2020.
6. Of the 23 who attended the Ynystawe course, 16 officiated in age group cricket during the 2018 season. 7 umpired, 5 scored and 4 did both. 7 of the attenders are registered on Who's the Umpire, the appointments management system which we use.
7. Wales ACO is planning to run 3 more pilot courses in April 2019. One will be in Pembrokeshire, one in the SWCA area, and one in the SEWCL area. We are making the courses free to the attenders.
8. We recognise that this is long term investment in the training of potential officials and it will be some years before we see whether it bears fruit at senior level.

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