



## **SPRING 2020 NEWSLETTER of WALES ACO**



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**Welcome to the SPRING Newsletter from WALES ACO-keeping you informed of developments in the UMPIRING and SCORING World around WALES.**

**Dear Colleague.**

**Following on from my previous letter I just wanted to give a further update in the Spring Newsletter.**

**Firstly, I hope you are all staying safe and not finding the Social Distancing too difficult.**

**I have today received an update from the ECB, which has been sent to all leagues as well, explaining the decision has been made to postpone any recreational cricket until 29 May at least. Whilst this is obviously disappointing it was to be expected. The full update can be found below.**

**Personally, I think we will be lucky to see any local cricket at all in 2020 but as I say that is my opinion only.**

**In these unusual circumstances then our Wellbeing is of paramount importance so I would encourage all of you to contact a colleague, Wales ACO twitter page, branch chairperson or our committee if you feel the need arises and if anyone has any ideas on how we can all stay occupied then please send to me and I will arrange to add them to our Twitter page to share with all.**

**Obviously, I will keep you all updated with any information I receive from ECB or national ACO so you are kept in the loop.**

**I would like to reiterate my hope that you and your family keep safe and we can then enjoy getting back on the field asap.**

**Regards**

**Scott Wilks, Chairman Wales ACO**

**UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES THE ECB UPDATE WOULD BE SHOWN VIA A LINK, HOWEVER IN THE CURRENT CLIMATE IT IS FELT IMPORTANT TO SET IT OUT IN FULL.**



## ECB COVID-19 UPDATE

Dear all,

We hope that you, your family and friends are keeping well during this uncertain time. The response from the cricket community has been overwhelming as people are thinking of new ideas to stay active and keep cricket in their lives.

With the changing situation surrounding Covid-19, we are continuing to work with the Government and Sport England to provide the answers that we know you are looking for during this uncertain time.

It remains critical that our decision making is medically led and informed by science and as a result, we are not able to provide all the answers at the minute. Please be assured that we are continuing to work through the questions we receive and will update you as frequently as possible.

### ***National Programmes:***

The safety and wellbeing of all people involved in cricket is our absolute priority and so whilst we continue to work through solutions, All Stars and Dynamos Cricket remain suspended. We are currently working through what this means for those who have registered for both national participation programmes and will be in touch within three weeks to update you.

We know that cricket can have a huge part to play in supporting physical and mental wellbeing of children around the country and we are working hard to find a solution which involves running courses later in the summer.

We are fully committed to doing the best for cricket and its communities throughout this unusual period. In the meantime, we are also exploring ways that we can bring cricket to homes across the country through indoor games, challenges and digital content and we look forward to sharing details with you soon.

We will be communicating a similar update with parents of participants in the next 48 hours.

### ***EWCT Interest Free Loan Scheme:***

The Trustees of the England and Wales Cricket Trust (ECB's subsidiary charity) have agreed that loan repayments will be suspended until May 2021. All other terms and conditions remain in place. If you have any questions, please contact [loans@ecb.co.uk](mailto:loans@ecb.co.uk).

### ***Safeguarding:***

The safety of our clubs and centres remains a priority. Whilst we have suspended all Safe Hands courses, we will be introducing an interim training package to everyone that needs it. Full details will be shared through County Welfare Officers.

We have had to make changes to the standard practice of Disclosure and Barring Service Checks but will be following the Government guidance on [temporary changes](#) which include:

- DBS Certificates will now be able to be emailed to [safe.guarding@ecb.co.uk](mailto:safe.guarding@ecb.co.uk) instead of posting.
- Overseas Certificate of Good Conduct will now be able to be emailed to [dbs@ecb.co.uk](mailto:dbs@ecb.co.uk) instead of posting.
- Access has been temporarily changed for ID verification to the top levels of access: ECB Staff / Regional Users / Primary County-Wide Users / Secondary County-Wide Users (which would include all County Welfare Officers & their deputies / Regional Programme Execs / City Programme Execs
- ID Verifications will now be supported via video conferencing instead of Face to Face meetings

### ***Competitions:***

Following the announcement last week relating to the suspension of recreational cricket, cricket competitions will be suspended until further notice. Please be assured that we are continuing to work through the questions and what options there will be for running competitions at a later date. We will update you as frequently as possible.

### ***Staying connected:***

It is important to keep in touch and look after your cricket community, be they players, volunteers, parents, or members so that they are with you for many years to come. You will still have important decisions to make, and we face an extended period where there is extremely limited or no face to face contact with others.

In the short term, please check-in and look after your community (especially the vulnerable) using phone, WhatsApp, Facebook or other tools and try out a conference call facility for formal meetings - [Best Conferencing Apps](#). As we move through this period, look at setting up virtual social sessions, such as quizzes or dinner parties, via conference call facilities. Whilst adhering to Government guidance please stay physically and mentally fit – there are lots of great online resources to help you. Please look after your cricket community.

This is new territory for all of us, and we'd like to thank you personally for your support and patience as we work through solutions. We will be in touch soon with answers to as many questions as possible.



**Congratulations to WALES ACO's own BOB SZPADT and TOMOS JONES who were invited to Umpire and Score respectively at the M.C.C. v WALES game at LORDS due to commence on APRIL 21<sup>st</sup>.**

**Unfortunately, the fixture is one of the many victims of the Corona Virus, hopefully Bob and Tomos will get the call for next year's fixture at the HOME of CRICKET.**

## **CRICKETEENS**

**In conjunction with CRICKET WALES, WALES ACO will be running courses at PONTARDDULAIS and EBBW VALES this Summer with. 61 attendees already registered**

**In conjunction with the CRICKETEENS COURSE an introduction to Umpiring course was planned at BALA on 5<sup>th</sup> April.**

**Many thanks to RHODRI JONES, LUCY REES, RHYS WESTCOTT and TOMOS JONES. In total 21 aspiring officials took part and let's hope we see the young SCORERS and UMPIRES of the future at our matches in the near future.**

**SADLY, THE CRICKETEENS PROGRAMME HAS BEEN POSTPONED-FURTHER UPDATES WILL FOLLO.**



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## **A DAY IN THE LIFE OF...**

**Glamorgan scorer, archivist and tannoy announcer Dr Andrew Hignall.**

*Interview by IVO TENNANT.*



Dr Andrew Hignall has been 1<sup>st</sup> X1 scorer for Glamorgan since 2004, when he retired from having taught geography at Blundell's, Wells Cathedral School and Cardiff Sixth Form College. He is also the county's match announcer and heritage and education co-ordinator. He is nicknamed "Mr Chalker" and lives with his wife, Debra, in Cardiff.

I have a fixed routine on match days-both at home and away- and usually arrive at least 2 hours before the scheduled start of play. This is primarily to get all of the equipment ready and to ensure that everything is good to go.

One of the biggest changes in county scoring has been the use of laptops and tablets, in addition to the development of specialist software and digital scoreboards and replay screens. It's a far cry from my early days on the county circuit when some scorers were known to have a short nap after lunch.

I had scored occasionally for Glamorgan after I started at university in Cardiff in 1978. After qualifying as a teenager in 1982, I spent my weekends as a scorer on BBC Radio Wales, besides acting as a locum during my school vacations in case the Glamorgan 1<sup>st</sup> X1 scorer wanted a break. I also assist now at international games with a smattering of Welsh phrases and greetings.

One of my former students was listening to Test Match Special while working at a camp for the British Antarctic Survey. After recognising my voice, he emailed to say he remembered how it carried in the classroom but didn't think it was loud enough to reach all the way to the South Pole.

Our current software, PCS Pro, has been successfully used in county cricket scoreboards and replay screens.

This season it will feature video and scorecard graphics which can stream matches to county websites and video outputs to replay screens. The package also automatically calculates revised targets as well as DLS par scores for rain-affected one day games. Previously we had to contend with separate programmes for these calculations.

Having taught for nearly 20 years, governed by a fixed timetable and daily rota, it is good to have a more flexible routine, especially as no two matches or days are the same. All the equipment needs testing before play and at each interval bowling figures need to be handed to captain and coach.

I fill out the official team sheet for the ECB and like most scorers, walk out to the middle for the pre-match toss when these sheets are formally handed over to the umpires. In the opening overs, I will check to see if fielders are wearing shirts with correct numbers. I'll also watch any new faces to see if they throw with either the left or right hand, or, in the case of batsmen, aim

to identify them by the colour of their bat grip or pad straps. Every little helps, especially if you need to identify a player and make an announcement as to the catcher.

It is not possible to guard against all eventualities. At Northampton in 2010 the stand in which the scoreboard is located had to be evacuated because a chip pan caught fire in the kitchen on the ground floor. Scorers have walkie talkie contact with umpires but as the fire alarms were ringing out, they could not hear us. The Fire Marshall said we had two minutes to evacuate so the scoreboard operator took over our paper records as Tony Kingston, the long serving Northamptonshire scorer and I hot-footed it down four flights of stairs. It was the end of an over so I was able to speak to Nick Cook, the umpire at square-leg. Play was briefly suspended as Tony and I took our scorebooks, pens and bottles of correction fluid to the balcony of the changing rooms. Play then resumed and we returned to our scoreboard when the firemen had put out the fire.

The names of overseas players sometimes present problems. One such was in another match involving Northants-this time the correct pronunciation of Johannes Jacobus (Johan) van der Wath, their South African allrounder. On this particular day at Swansea he took a series of catches and wickets. Each time I referred to him over the tannoy he shouted out and gesticulated in my direction. After the fourth occasion, Rikki Wessels gleefully said that the correct pronunciation was Johan "Fon der Vat". Suitably chastised, I had another go a few minutes later as he claimed yet another Glamorgan wicket and he let out a cheer, applauded and gave me the thumbs up.

But, whatever the difficulties that may arise-or the ceaseless chalking of a boundary-lade day-there is nothing that cannot be put right when I unwind after play with my colleagues and enjoy a pint (or two) of good Welsh beer.

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*Article in the DECEMBER 2020 edition of THE CRICKETER.*

## **NEWS AROUND WALES.**

**The first Trophy of the season goes to NEYLAND C.C, who won the WALES National Indoor title after defeating Newport and Ynystawe**



**ACO and National Panel Umpire Dean Price presents the Trophy to NEYLAND captain Sean Hannon**



**The successful NEYLAND CC team.**

**Neyland progressed to the regional finals held in Bromsgrove on the 8<sup>th</sup> March where they were again successful and were due to play in the National Finals at Lords on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March, where, sadly the finals have been deferred until later in the year once again due to the Virus. .**

**SWWACO/SWCA**  
**(South West Wales ACO).**

There have been changes at SWWACO with Scott Wilks becoming Chairman, and Ian J Phillips being the new Treasurer. The post of Vice-Chairman being vacant.

**SEWACO**  
**(South East Wales ACO)**

The existing Officers have remained in place and we welcome a number of new Umpires to the panel, whilst giving our thanks to our members who have stood down or moved away.



New SEWACO Logo unveiled.

**SOUTH WALES PREMIER LEAGUE.**

Can the Stags retain their title?

How will Swansea fare in Prem 1?

Will Clydach bounce straight back?

What does 2020 hold for Chepstow and Cowbridge in Prem 2

**GLAMORGAN ALLOCATED PLAYERS FOR 2020.**

AMMANFORD Jamie McIlroy, Andrew Salter & Marchant De Lange  
BRIDGEND TOWN Dan Douthwaite, Craig Meschede & Chris Cooke  
CARDIFF Kiran Carlson & Prem Sisodiya  
MUMBLES Joe Cooke, Timm V D Guten & Graham Wagg  
NEATH Kieran Bull & Tom Cullen  
NEWPORT Callum Taylor & Michael Hogan  
PONTARDDULAIS Owen Morgan & Lukas Carey  
PORT TALBOT TOWN Connor Brown & Nick Selman  
St. FAGANS Charlie Hemphrey & Ruardri Smith  
SWANSEA Billy Root, David Lloyd & Roman Walker.

**RULE CHANGES-**

Coloured kit to be introduced with orange balls retained.

No more than 2 short pitched balls (over shoulder height) per over.

Players with a long association with a club who then move out of the area can continue to play for that Club.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> X1 East to play 45 over aside.

## NORTH WALES

The North Wales League would like to congratulate Phil Leeds of Dolgellau and Glen Chambers of Pontblyddyn on their selection and participation in the 2<sup>nd</sup> OVER 50s WORLD CUP recently played in CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA.

Can Bangor retain their title in North Wales?

How will Conwy and Llay Welfare fare in Prem 1?

Will Connah's Quay and Pontblyddyn bounce back?

## PEMBROKESHIRE.

Big changes in PEMBROKESHIRE with Richard Merriman succeeding Paul Webb as County Chairman, the County wish to thank Paul for his excellent work over his 3-year term. Dave Brandon steps into the Vice-Chairman's role.

Life membership has been bestowed on John Harris of Stackpole in recognition of his long-standing work within Pembrokeshire

On the League Management side Paul Jones of Whitland and Colin Williams of Haverfordwest have been voted onto the Executive Committee.

The League has moved to Win/Lose cricket.

## CRICKET WALES

As part of a re-organisation of Junior Cricket in WALES, from 2020-2021 season there will be 4 regions in WALES, namely-  
NORTH (formerly ERYRI and NE Wales)  
WEST- (Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire and parts of CEREDIGION).  
SOUTH (West & Mid Glamorgan and VALE).  
EAST- (Cardiff & Gwent).

The official launch takes place on the 17<sup>th</sup> of April with a series of roadshows to be held across WALES in September.



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## **STORM DENNIS**

The Winter of 2019-2020 has probably been the wettest on record, culminating with Storm Dennis which visited us on the weekend of the 15/16<sup>th</sup> February.

This storm created un-precedented chaos and damage to whole communities across Wales and further afield. A number of Cricket Clubs were badly affected and a few photos shown the extent of damage and flooding are to be found below. This is by no means a comprehensive list as a number of clubs either haven't posted photos or been affected, thankfully, to a lesser degree.

It's been heartening the way clubs, sporting bodies and communities have rallied around to get grounds up and running and our thanks and best wishes go out to all affected.



**USK CRICKET CLUB**



**MACHEN CRICKET CLUB**



**RADYR CRICKET CLUB**



**MISKIN MANOR CRICKET CLUB**



**YNYSTAWE CRICKET CLUB**



**ABERTILLERY CRICKET CLUB**

## **THE GROUNDSMAN.**

### **Pre-season headaches.**

*(an article written by David Bates, Northants CCC and taken from the CRICKETER MAGAZINE).*

**First examine the square and assess how much growth there has been over the winter. The ideal summer maintenance length for a predominantly rye sward is 12mm or half an inch, but, depending on the winter conditions, there could be several inches of growth. If this is the case, aim to bring the sward down to the optimum length over two or three cuts- initially with a rotary if the growth is over two inches, then the final stage with a cylinder mower. Please make sure that the blades are sharp. Blunt blades can tear the leaf.**

**Another common issue after the winter can be the dampening down of the sward, where the grass plant is effectively smothered to the ground by the weight of the plant, people walking on it, lying snow or leaves. Raking or light power-brushing can lift off dead matted grass or any debris; allowing the plant to stand upright again.**

**The issue of worm casts is also likely to be prominent- especially since the active ingredient in many worm treatments, carbendazim, was taken off the approved list and can no longer be used.**

**To avoid the bare patches and potentially uneven surfaces that can result from worm casts being flattened onto the pitch, the solution will be raking out and over seeding. One trick is to cast the seed over the square prior to starting pre-season rolling. The roller then pushes the seed into the surface to create seed soil connection It is not as effective as a dimple seeder, but it does the job.**

**A light green or yellowish sward early in the year can indicate a pitch lacking in general nutrients, whilst red thread in the leaf blade can signify low nitrogen levels. As a general rule, in early spring high phosphate and potash feeds can help stimulate root growth, with a switch to more nitrogen-based fertiliser in the warmer months. But it is strongly advised to get a sample analysed by a local amenities' supplier and a bespoke programme.**

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## WALES ACO AROUND THE WORLD.



**WALES ACO Members, Steve Davies, Paul Evans, Martin Wales, Mark Jenkins and John Davies at the Over 50s WORLD CUP in CAPE TOWN.  
Well done guys you did us proud.**

### **Unfinished business! Steve Davies reflects on what might have been!**

Ironically, as I sit on my sofa at home reflecting on what was a fantastic adventure, I'm reminded that today (24<sup>th</sup> March) was due to be the O50's CWC Final at Newlands, Cape Town. If I close my eyes and allow myself to dream, I could have been umpiring that game! Here's the story of what might have been

#### **1. A Coming Together**

Umpires, Scorers, Players & Team Officials all travelled to Cape Town for the Over 50's Cricket World Cup which was scheduled to take place between the 11<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> March 2020. **But sometimes in life something more important than cricket emerges – and in this instance it was Copid-19, Coronavirus!**

12 Countries had entered the 42 game Tournament (Australia, Canada, India, Namibia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Zimbabwe, West Indies together with England & Wales). The entrants were placed into 2 Pools for Round 1 games (5), Round 2 would sort and place the entrants from 1<sup>st</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> position. That was the plan – but at the innings break of Game 3 in Round 1 came the announcement we most feared, that the Tournament was to end immediately! This was so sad on so many levels, not least for the Tournament Organisers and Sponsors, as well as all those who had travelled. Nevertheless, for the short time we were all together we had a simply wonderful time. Hopefully what follows is a little sample of what happened –

A total of 8 ACO members [2 Scorers - Paul for England, John for Wales, 6 Umpires - Rafiq, Stuart (from England) Paul, Mark, Martin & Steve (from Wales) travelled to Cape Town with a high level of expectation. There were two other International Umpires from Australia (Pete & Martin), making up the panel were a number of local umpires (Gerwyn, Ian, DP, etc).

**Day 1 – Pre-Tournament Officials Meeting & Opening Ceremony** the Tournament Management Committee led by Stirling Hamman & Roger Moulton gathered all Captains, Team Managers and Officials together for a pre-tournament meeting. In advance of this the 4 Welsh umpires had drawn up a list of issues/concerns we had regarding the Competition Rules e.g. one leg side wide allowed per over, Law 42 suspended etc. After Stirling's address to us we simply binned all our concerns – in a quite brilliant way Stirling simply put the **Spirit Of Cricket** back, up front and centre-stage of how the competition would be played – “there will be NO need for Law 42, because the games will be played in the Spirit we want” said Stirling. How refreshing and it worked!

The pre-Tournament Meeting was followed by an exquisite Opening Ceremony, the highlight of which was a Q&A Panel of South African all-time greats including – **Graham Pollock, Peter Kirsten, Mike Proctor, Barry Richards, Dave Richardson & Omar Henry**. All these 'greats' stayed throughout the Tournament acting as Ambassadors, and what fantastic company they proved to be.

### Round 1 Game 1

I was allocated the England v India game at Green Point CC. England win the toss and Captain Mark Alleyne elects to bowl. Perhaps the green tinge in the track is the reason? Well 45 overs later, with India only scoring 101 for 7, Mark's call is justified. England have no problem in knocking the target off finishing 104 for 2 in 17 overs – light work! In other games,

- Wales did ok for a while until that is South Africa's Allan Dawson smashed 69 off 35 balls to post a daunting target of 253 for 5 off their 45 overs. The Welsh batting disintegrated to 60 or so. Clearly the South African Coach (Allan Donald) had the desired effect on his bowlers!
- There were also other wins on the day for Australia over Zimbabwe, New Zealand over West Indies, Pakistan over Namibia whilst the shock of the day was Canada beating Sri Lanka!

### Round 1 Game 2

My 2<sup>nd</sup> match was New Zealand v Canada at Milnerton High School. NZ Captain and former Glamorgan favourite Adrian Dale elected to bat and whilst Andrew Hoare and former Test player Ricard Petrie got them off to a good start, once the pace was taken off the ball the pitch proved to be very slow, tired and old (pace bowlers going through the top). NZ set a target of 157 for 7 off 45, then Canada were skittled for 59. Elsewhere, Wales faced Namibia in their personal 'Cup Final' (who would finish 12<sup>th</sup>) and ran out winners having chased down a target of 162, with opener Iwan Rees (92no) gaining good support from fellow opener Neil Williams (36). There were other close wins for Australia and Pakistan over Windies and India respectively, whilst Zimbabwe got back to winning ways over the luckless Sri Lankans. However, the South Africa v England game went down to the last ball before the home team prevailed!

### Round 1 Game 3

My 3<sup>rd</sup> game was South Africa v India game at Langa CC – in the middle of the Township! My transport from the Hotel is the Proteas Official Team Coach – I think I sat in AB de Villiers seat or was it Quinton de Kock! Accompanying me at the front of the coach were former Proteas internationals Omar Henry & Rodney Malamba. As Omar said, "the last time I was here Steve it was just a field"!

My colleague (English Umpire Stuart Aitken) called me to inspect the outfield – wow! It had long grass with rutted bare patches! But the over-riding issue was that we had brought a Test Match to the Township – so with adequate warnings to all players to be wary, we played. South Africa win the toss and invite India to bat – and despite their glittering bowling attack, including Henry Williams and Dave Callaghan, a competitive target of 172 was set (with a normal cricket outfield this was probably worth +250!). At the close of the Innings we came off the field for the Games MC to call us into the Pavilion to make the announcement that the game and the entire Tournament was to stop immediately due to Coronavirus Covid-19! We will never know whether the home side would be good enough to chase down the Indian target – I was intrigued as to whether they would! Everyone present, Sponsors, Officials, Teams and Spectators were hugely disappointed to have the Tournament stopped – but as I say, **sometimes in life there are bigger things than cricket!** The other 5 games on the day suffered the same fate – the Tournament was abandoned!

**Post Script to the day** – As we climbed back on the Proteas Coach (and I sat in AB's seat), Rodney Malamba sat opposite me and said, "Steve, this is where I grew up, in Langa Township. We used to play in the street with old oil drums as our wickets" The Coach moved off and turned into the street that Rodney spent his first 17 years before he found fame and fortune playing for Natal. "That's my house" he said with tears in his eyes, "I haven't been back in 35 years". Such a humbling story and such a privilege to hear! Rodney then went on to tell me all sorts of stories of his time growing up and 'playing' in the sewers! He reckoned that they'd all have to wash in the river and dry their clothes before returning home for fear of being beaten for going where they shouldn't have! To this day Rodney, working with Gloucs old boy Mike Proctor are doing wonderful things with the kids of the Townships.

When we returned to our Hotel, I gathered together some bats/balls/stumps I'd 'borrowed' from Cricket Wales (we'd taken them out for the ladies in the Welsh tour party to play beach cricket) and presented them to Rodney & Mike so the kids could benefit – after all, **they just need that same opportunity** that Rodney benefited from!

What a day of Highs & Lows!

In compiling these reflections I've been wondering why I haven't got more cricket action photos – but I guess taking photos and videos isn't the done thing to do when you are umpiring a Test Match!

Instead, and if you haven't already, type O50's CWC into your browser and you can see hours of recorded footage of each game via Pitch Vision and YouTube.

All the results are on - <https://www.espnccricinfo.com/table/series/19800/season/2020/over-50s-cricket-world-cup>

**To finish on a really optimistic note,**

- The Tournament Organisers (fully supported by the Tournament Sponsors – Evergreen) are talking about re-running this wonderful event (in Cape Town) in 2021
- An opportunity to complete **UNFINISHED BUSINESS** hopefully!

LASTLY, our heartfelt thanks go to, **STIRLING HAMMAN, ROGER MOULT, THE REST OF THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE, EVERGREEN, ALL 11 PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES BUT ESPECIALLY TO PAUL DONOVAN AND THE ENTIRE WELSH TOURING PARTY.**

**Steve & Helen Davies**



**Below is a link for MNH Cricket and he has Officials clothing and WALES ACO CLOTHING IN STOCK.**

<https://www.cricketumpires.co.uk/collections/clothing/Clothing>



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