



This is MCUA

History

The 16 clubs of the Liverpool & District Competition (L&DCC) and the member clubs of the Merseyside Cricket Competition (MCC) played all their league matches with club umpires. Most of the officiating umpires were members of ACU&S, the national training organisation, but they felt that there was a need for a panel of independent umpires who would stand in either Competition. It took 3 AGMs before the L&DCC accepted the proposal made by the Liverpool and Birkenhead Park Cricket Clubs in 1989 and the MCC clubs followed suit immediately.

Not all of the club umpires joined the new panel, they preferred to stay at their own club and umpire 2nd XI cricket and be with their friends rather than umpiring a match between 2 clubs they were not familiar with. All members of MCUA were treated equally when making appointments for the first 2 seasons and unbelievably, we had more members than the number of clubs and matches were rationed.

By 1999, the L&DCC had expanded to 24 clubs but very few new clubs brought an umpire with them to join MCUA. It was left to the MCUA Committee to recruit more new members to satisfy the requirement of providing 2 umpires for every match, consequently the MCC suffered and we were only able to provide 1 umpire to each match for them, sometimes none. Currently, the L&DCC has 36 member clubs and unfortunately the MCC has ceased to exist. Fortunately, the membership of MCUA has expanded and we anticipate being able provide 2 umpires for every match in the next few seasons.

Structure

MCUA continues to be completely independent but is represented on the L&DCC Cricket sub-committee and the Management Committee of L&DCC are represented on the MCUA General Committee.

It is expected that MCUA will attempt to provide umpires on a regular basis for the Southport & District Cricket League from 2013.

Management

MCUA is managed by a General Committee which meets monthly during the year. The committee consists of the President, Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Saturday Appointments Secretary, Sunday/Midweek Appointments Secretary, Assessment Officer, Disciplinary Secretary plus 2 elected Committee members. Post holders are elected on a 3 year cycle and Vice-presidents and Honorary Members are nominated by the committee.

Meetings

There are Open meetings held monthly during the winter and 2 Open meetings during the summer season. An attempt is made to have formal training presentations at each meeting and there is opportunity for members to raise umpiring issues at these meetings. The Annual General Meeting is held in February when awards are presented to members and junior players.



Courses

Training courses are held under the auspices of the ECB Association of Cricket Officials (ECBACO) who provide a pathway using various levels of courses. There is one 8 week course and one course held over 2 weekends. Successful students are encouraged to join MCUA and course fees are refunded by L&DCC when the new member has completed a number of MCUA-appointed L&DCC matches.

Membership

Members pay an annual fee (currently £20) to join MCUA and have the benefit of receiving appointments to L&DCC and S&DCL matches, plus matches for District Junior Development, Universities, Lancashire Cricket Board KO, National Club KO, Village KO, Lancashire Youth Festival and other organisations who request umpires. League Handbooks are distributed to members at the pre-season meeting and match regulations are published on the MCUA website.

Members are also expected to join the ECBACO which provides essential insurance as part of the membership package and supervises the CRB system. There are a number of MCUA members who can provide guidance in applying for CRB clearance.

Website

MCUA has a website www.umpapps.com which contains information for members. The main function of the site is to display the 3 active weeks appointments for umpires. These pages are updated because members become unavailable for appointments and the updates are usually effected at the beginning of the week in which the match takes place and this helps the clubs to note the expected umpires in case of cancellations.

There is a member's only section which is accessible via a simple Id and password system and it contains information relevant to MCUA members and not the general public.

Other features on the website include photographs of all MCUA members, committee members and an obituaries section and the Home page is regularly updated with news.

Attire

The traditional attire worn by MCUA members was a white shirt, an MCUA or other cricket tie, a white coat/blousson with an MCUA badge, dark blue or black trousers and white cricket shoes. Some members wear a white hat, flat cap or trilby (no baseball caps). On warm days umpires may agree to discard their coats and ties. The recent movement has been to wear polo shirts without a tie.

At all times both umpires must dress the same whenever possible.



Equipment

The counting the balls in an over varies from umpire to umpire. Some use coins, washers, marbles, etc and others use a series of levers which are depressed to record each fair ball bowled and others use a hand-held device which is a series of wheels which records number of balls in the over and the score.

It is a tradition that MCUA members have kept score during a match, not because we think the scorers are not good enough, it is because the umpires are responsible for the score and most members think that it helps them to concentrate. If you look at the full range of fixtures that an MCUA member may umpire, it is possible that in some cases there will be no scorers other than the players or the scorers may be juniors who find it hard to concentrate. The habit of keeping score in all matches will help in these situations. Umpires use a clicker device and record the score at the end of an over and at the fall of a wicket on a card which is stocked by MCUA and sold at the pre-season meeting. In Knock-out matches, you will be expected to help the captains by keeping a record of the overs being bowled by each bowler. Best to record the number of the over being bowled by a bowler and not use crosses or ticks.

Most MCUA umpires carry their own set of bails plus a spare and bowler's markers even when they are supplied by the home club.

It is advisable to carry a copy of the Laws of Cricket and regulations applicable to the match, particularly Knock-out matches. Up-to-date regulations for all matches umpired by MCUA members are downloadable from the website.

To help the players, umpires carry some medical supplies – headache tablets, Elastoplast, scissors, safety pins, etc

The advent of the habit of not wearing coats creates the problem of where to store all the above items. Some umpires use bum bags which are worn around the waist.

Pre-match duties

Payment, team sheets and match balls and spares may be received when you arrive at the ground from a club official or the scorer. The latest time will be at the toss when the away team captain is then offered a choice of the 2 balls which are kept by the umpires during the match (Some umpires give the second innings ball to the scorer) One team sheet is usually kept by each umpire and note must be made of the junior players who may be bowling during the match. After the toss has been made, the winning captain must inform the other captain and the umpires of his decision **immediately**, there must be no discussion with his team mates.



After-match duties

There are a number after-match duties which the 2 umpires should complete before going into the bar and meeting the players and club officials.

Umpires Report Card contains questions about the administration of the game, pitch markings, hospitality and captains authority and the form also has a section relating to Level 1 Disciplinary Offences.

This form is produced as a paper document for postage to the Grounds Committee Secretary, however, most members complete an electronic version of the document and submit it to the same person via email. The suggested name for the transmitted file is *senders initials_date of match.doc* for example DJ_May_11.doc

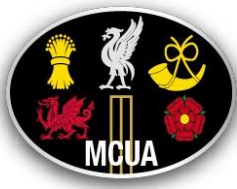
Over rate calculations should be completed **before** meeting the scorers in the bar and then they can be copied onto the Match Report Form (MRF) which is transmitted to the L&DCC by the Home scorer. The 2 team sheets given to the umpires before the toss are also passed to the Home scorer.

Any **serious disciplinary reports** should be discussed and agreed by both umpires – it is a joint report even if one umpire did not hear or did not see the incident. One of the umpires should prepare a formal report as soon as possible after the match day and have the other umpire agree its content before submitting it to the MCUA Disciplinary Secretary.

Saturday and Bank Holiday Appointments

The L&DCC is one of ECB's Premier Leagues with 3 divisions, Premier Division matches are umpired predominately by MCUA Grade 1 umpires (see Grading below) and Divisions 1 and 2 matches are distributed between the other members. The prime aim of the system is to have 2 MCUA umpires at every L&DCC match.

S&DCL matches will be serviced only if MCUA has enough umpires to cover the L&DCC matches. Fixtures are supplied by L&DCC for the complete season but MCUA only publishes 3 weeks appointments on the website. Members are expected to look at the appointments' pages at regular intervals and particularly on the Friday and Saturday morning before a match when changes may be made at the last minute which may affect an umpire because of match cancellations or umpires becoming unavailable. If there are any changes to the published appointments, the Appointments Secretary will contact the member concerned via the mobile 'phone texting system and will mark the entry on the web page as TBC (To Be Confirmed). Members are expected to confirm receipt of the text message and the TBC will be erased from the page.



Sunday/Midweek Appointments

MCUA umpires have the opportunity to umpire in various grades, competitions and age groups on a Sunday and in midweek. These fixtures are appointed by the Sunday/Midweek Appointments Secretary and are appointed by availability and ability for later stages of cup competitions. Selection to fixtures is by e-mail or text availability. Umpires without the internet have buddies who inform them of availability for fixtures.

There are various fixtures available for levels of ability. They include the all KO rounds for the L&DCC 1st XI sponsors trophy, quarter-finals onwards for the 2nd XI Chester Cup and the new format finals day of the 3rd XI Embee trophy.

T20 cricket is popular and MCUA members are appointed to all league rounds of the ECB National T20 competition, with the top four available umpires involved in the finals day. MCUA umpires are appointed to the Liverpool Echo KO trophy from the quarter-finals stages.

Grade 1 umpires are appointed to the finals of the 1st XI sponsor's trophy and ECHO KO. Grade 1A and 2 umpires are appointed to other finals.

Age group district cricket at U11, U13 and U15 has two MCUA umpires appointed to all games and also the L&DCC age group finals day has usually 6 umpires doing two games each on finals day.

There are also plenty of other fixtures throughout the season that need MCUA umpires to be appointed to.

Grading

The grading system was introduced a short time after the formation of MCUA in 1990. It is based on a marking scheme which the captains use to assess the performance of the umpires in a match. Each umpire is independently awarded a mark by the captain in the range 1 to 4 with 1 being the highest mark. The marks are transmitted via eMail to the Marks co-ordinator who is the only person who knows the individual marks awarded in a match. If a captain awards a 4 mark, he must explain the reason why in the eMail. Marks are recorded on a spreadsheet and then summarised at the end of the season as series of 1s, 2s, 3s, etc, the average mark for the umpire is calculated and the summary is sent to the umpire via the texting system. The season's marks are then collated with previous year's marks to form a league table. The different organisations require a different number of years to calculate an average – ECB use the season's marks only and LCB use 3 years. MCUA now uses 3 years as the basis as well. Whichever MCUA method is used, the same umpires tend to be at the top of the league but possibly in a different order. The season's marks are supplemented by Boundary Observation reports which generally mirror the marks given by the captains. The system has proved to be very fluid with changes to the Grade 1 umpires (currently 12) every year. The Grade 1a umpires (currently 9) are regarded as potential Grade 1 umpires for the future.

**Fieldcraft**

If an MCUA umpire stands without an official colleague, he umpires at the bowler's end throughout the match. The person who stands at the striker's end must be an adult.

MCUA members make every effort to dress in the same manner during the game

Umpires signal to each other after the 4th ball has been bowled in an over

The striker's end umpire does not cross over when there is a right-handed batsman and left-handed batsman batting together. The umpire will stay in the same position he was in for the first ball of the over

Umpires must receive acknowledgement for all signals to the scorers before allowing the game to continue

MCUA members will receive a fee and/or expenses when standing in matches. The fee is negotiated with the LDCC by MCUA on behalf of its members and is usually a single amount which covers all expenses incurred by the umpire. Other leagues and competitions will have their own fees and some may pay a separate element to cover mileage.

H M Revenue and Customs (HMRC) regard all such remuneration as 'income' regardless of its description and as such may be liable for income tax. Members are advised to record all income and expenditure incurred if, however unlikely, an individual is approached by HMRC. As well as income, umpires should record miles travelled to matches, purchase of clothing and equipment, cleaning and subscriptions paid.

In the LDCC, clubs are required to pay the umpires prior to the start of the match and it is usually a cash payment. This may differ in other leagues and competitions and umpires may have to submit an expenses claim. In some cases a signature may be required when such fees are paid.