



# Northern Ireland Association of Cricket Umpires and Scorers

Founded 1949

Chairman: Gary Blair

President: Harry McCammon

Hon. Secretary: Simon Burrowes

ALL MEMBERS

25<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Colleagues,

I hope this finds you safe and well.

The Executive of the Association met on Tuesday of this week and we wanted to you to update you on the latest news for 2021

## Open Meetings

As lockdown will continue until Easter at least, the ban on Open meetings continues. In our last letter we asked for topics which would be of interest for our members and we have had some suggestions which include a refresher on DLS, the Byelaws and match day ground reports which we will progress in the coming weeks.

## Training

Training is ongoing during the Winter over Zoom including a recently completed introductory course to young leaders in the NCU. **The next 3 Thursday nights (4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> March) will see a Level 1 course commence under Alan's training programme. Although this is primarily for "newbies" who wish to pursue a career in Umpiring, we would encourage existing members to attend same. It is a great way of getting the mind in gear for the season and an invaluable refresher on the laws, it is amazing how much you pick up every time you attend one of these courses. If you have time for any of these, we encourage you to sign up. Remember, it is over Zoom so you can attend without leaving the house. To sign up, please contact Alan directly at [alan.neill@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:alan.neill@hotmail.co.uk)**

**A level 2 course will also be run in March, dates to follow.**

## Season 2021

The NCU continue to liaise with CI, the provincial unions and local authorities around likely start dates for training and playing. As we hear more, we will let you know but the advice from last month remains, read the blue book.

There have been minor changes to the "normal" byelaws of the Union which primarily revolve around Super Overs and again, we will add to the learning points referred to above.

Given the differing jurisdictional areas on the Island, the prospect of the BKISC & National Cups being played would appear unlikely but the NCU are determined to re-introduce the Challenge and Junior Cups for 2021 and are hopeful that a "full" domestic season could commence as late as June which would be fantastic.

## Availability

Even with the uncertainty of Covid and start dates, we will communicate circa the end of March / Early April for availability. When this does come out, we would ask that you return to Ian ASAP to make his job as easy as possible. Remember – last year we got 3 weeks' notice to start – That is not a lot of time and chasing availability sheets would be an unnecessary headache

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## **Covid-19**

It remains unclear what regulations the Executive will require to be followed during the coming season. It is highly probable that there will still be restrictions regarding use of premises and changing facilities. Social distancing and hygiene will undoubtedly remain a priority. Testing is also being considered as a requirement by the Public Health Agency. Sharing of transport will probably be prohibited and will probably be policed more rigidly as it had poor compliance last season in some areas. We will update nearer the start of the season.

In the meantime, any umpire who is offered vaccination should accept willingly where appropriate. The vaccination card should be safely retained as it is likely that such proof will be a requirement in many circumstances going forward. We hope everyone keeps safe and that we can adapt to deliver a successful season.

## **ECB ACO Membership Renewal**

As always, regardless of the Covid-19 pandemic, when we stand, it is a pre-requisite of the Association that we must carry insurance. ECB ACO membership is up for renewal on the 1<sup>st</sup> January and you no doubt will have received a letter from them to this effect. It would be helpful if you could confirm to Simon when you have renewed to help keep our records accurately updated

## **Access NI**

A Number of you have been identified as having your Access NI (Child Protection) expire prior or during 2021. Again, it is a pre-requisite of being appointed to any match that you have an up to date Access NI clearance certificate. Simon has written to you and we would encourage you to initiate your renewal ASAP to avoid any last-minute panic once the season starts.

That is, it for the minute folks but we will stay in regular contact over the coming weeks as things become clearer. Last year we got feedback that the Q&A document that was circulated was very helpful and we will do that again and so everyone is updated as fully as possible so if you have any questions, queries or concerns, please feel free to contact me or indeed any member of the association.

We are aware of several our colleagues who have been affected by Covid-19 over the recent weeks and months. The Executive Committee wish to record and express its sincere condolence to all members, their kith, and kin and those in the wider cricket community who had suffered bereavement since the end of last season. Similarly, the Executive wished to record and express its best wishes to those who had suffered because of the public health situation.

## **IACUS AGM**

The IACUS AGM took place on Saturday past and we are delighted to note that Phil & Joe were re-elected as Chair and Hon. Secretary respectively and wish them continued in success in what we hope is a full season of Cricket.

Due to a change in structure we are also delighted that another NIACUS member was elected to the IACUS Executive as Head of Training on a national basis. Congratulations to Alan Neill. With so many high profile positions being held by NIACUS members, it is testament to the standing NIACUS have in Irish Cricket and

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we would like that to remain the case and support the guys, along with Mark Hawthorne (our elected rep to the IACUS Executive).

As you are aware, several of our members are also on various CI panels. As reported at the IACUS AGM, the make up of 2021 panels is still to be settled upon but no doubt, NIACUS umpires will feature prominently on these

## Trevor Henry Bursary

This is the most important award our Association makes in any year. Unfortunately, the pandemic has made the implementation of this award impossible over the past year. The Executive will keep the situation under review and when travel restrictions are lifted, we will re-activate.

## NIACUS Policies

You may have read on the Cricket websites recently that the NCU have issued a social media policy which covers not just players or indeed on field activities. This is a timely reminder for our members to review and refresh themselves with our suite of policies which includes our social media policy. These are accessible on our website but if anyone wants a copy, please email me and I will send them to you.

## Website

Our Website continues to develop, and the latest addition is a section on the life members of the association. If anyone has any thoughts on items to include on the website, then please let a member of the executive know. Anyone who wants to write a piece on an experience they have had while umpiring and would like to share, again, please do

## On-Field Clothing

Thank you to all members who confirmed their requirements for on-field gear. The order has now been placed and delivery is due in the 1<sup>st</sup> week in May. If you missed the order, fear not as we have ordered with a top up of stock. We will publish the stock list on the Website in the coming weeks

## In Closing

We have been made aware of members who continue to be affected by Covid-19 both personally and their loved ones. Our thoughts and prayers are with everyone associated with the Association and within the Cricketing family

Please, Stay Safe

Gary

For and on behalf of the Executive Committee of NIACUS

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