

West Indies Cricket Umpires Association

June 29, 2012

President's Quarterly Report #4.

This is the fourth edition of the President's Quarterly. From all indications the quarterly publications has been well read by the umpires. Such attitude gives encouragement that will ultimately redound to the benefit of WICUA. There is always the need to know and the quarterly is primarily geared towards providing, valuable and current information.

Since the last publication there have been a significant amount of happenings.

Appointment/Officiating.

During the period umpires in the various territories were appointed in the usual manner to officiate in local cricket matches. It is important that those umpires that fall within the bracket of recognition as it relates to age and grade use the limited opportunities to promote self and to remain constant in improving their skills so that when the time comes they will present themselves as being suitable and ready. Umpires on the WCB senior and emerging panels have also been appointed to do and in some cases have officiated in matches regionally and internationally.

In the current series West Indies "A" versus India "A" The following umpires officiated, Gregory Brathwaite, Joel Wilson, Jonathan Blades, Peter Nero Nigel Dugid, Golland Greaves, Francis Maurice, Anthony Sanowar, Danesh Ramdhanie and Lennox Abrahams.

The following have been appointed to officiate in the regional U17 competition, Athol Hamilton, Anthony Sanowar, Zahid Bassarath, Shannon Crawford, Lynden Rajkumar and Danesh Ramdhanie.

It is instructive that high standard be maintained and when there are areas of weaknesses the requisite attention be paid.

Umpire Nero has been appointed to officiate in the upcoming U19 ICC World Cup to be held in Brisbane, Australia August 3-27, 2012 congratulations Peter.

Earlier this year Umpire Dugid journeyed to Dubai where he officiated in the ICC Tournament.

Umpire Gregory Brathwaite officiated in his first major on field assignment when he stood in the ODI West Indies Versus Australia in St. Lucia. Umpire Peter Nero also officiated in the series. Special and belated congratulations to all.

Deduction/Cess

To say WICUA is in need of money could be best described as an understatement. The ambition of the elected Executive of WICUA is to raise standard, raise the bar so to speak. To do the things that are necessary will certainly take money. The intention therefore is to implement strategies through innovative programs thus finding a way to channel monies owed to the association directly to the treasury as a part of the whole process of fundraising. Recently a teleconference meeting was effected when Secretary Johnson, Treasurer Malcolm, President Fletcher representing WICUA, Mr. Barry Thomas and Mr. Roland representing the WICB in their capacities of Finance Comptroller and Cricket Operations respectively, the meeting was geared towards finding a suitable format to allow WICB to collect at source the stipulated sum of money owed by umpires referred to as "Cess" and to remit directly to the WICUA treasury. The collection of cess through this medium has been agreed on in principle by the umpires concerned. The decision to make available a document which would require the affected umpires to sign authorizing deduction was suggested and is at an advanced stage of completion.

Meeting with CEOWICB

WICB has been and continues to be WICUA'S major and most dominant benefactor. The necessity to be in constant dialogue is important to the survival and wellbeing of the Association. Having taken into account such need a meeting with the CEO Dr. Ernest Hilaire and President Fletcher was held in St. Lucia on the 25th March, 2012. Several matters important to WICUA'S cause were discussed. From the discussion three matters were agreed on for which consideration would be given, they are [1] Financial assistance from WICB to conduct Territorial Umpires Training, [2] Financial assistance for the holding of WICUA's Mid Term Meeting and [3] The empowerment of Female Umpires.

WICB...AGM

On the invitation of the WICB President Fletcher attended the Annual General meeting of the WICB held in St. Lucia March 25, 2012.

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Umpires Training

As advocated for by WICUA and agreed on by WICB, training at the High Performance Centre [HPC] in Barbados, for umpires on the “Emerging Panel” commenced on June 24th and concluded June 26th. ICC representative Mr. Barry Duddleston assisted by the local West Indies ICC umpires Peter Nero, Gregory Brathwaite, Joel Wilson and Nigel Dugid conducted the exercise. Present at the opening ceremony was President Fletcher. He encouraged the umpires to remain focused and to demonstrate what would have been learnt, in their practice of the “art”. Those attending were Athol Hamilton, Christopher Taylor, Verdayne Smith, Patrick Gustard [Jamaica] Leslie Reifer, Jonathan Blades, Ricardo Brathwaite, Ryan Willoughby [Barbados] Colin Alfred, Shannon Crawford, Nandkumar Shivsankar, Gyanandad Sukhdeo [Guyana] Carl Tucket, Bernard Joseph, Michael Morton, Whycliff Mitchum [leewards] Francis Maurice, Erickson Delgalerie [Windwards] Anthony Sanowar, Danesh Ramdhanie, Lyndon Rajkumar Zahid Bassarath [Trinidad & Tobago]

WICUA salutes the effort of the WICB. This is a significant move which will go a long way in exposing the Emerging panel of Umpires to the real world, where expectations are high.

The Emerging Panel like the Senior Panel forms just a part of the WICUA family, while the WICB caters directly for these panels WICUA has been earnest in its deliberations with the WICB in an effort to find the best formula to effect Territorial training for the other umpires. In all disciplines training is integral to success. The art of good umpiring is no different. It is the resolve of the Association that much premium will be placed on training, such resolve will not be diminished with the passage of time instead it will be fostered.

Finance

It is inherent in man to be forgetful at times, reminders in whatever form is a useable method to get messages across. At the last convention the imposition of subscription to be paid by all umpires became a reality. January of each year as of 2012 is the due date for payment. WICUA is appealing to the territories that have not yet made remittance to the WICUA treasury to do so with dispatch as the funds are needed.

Retirement Umpire Billy Doctrove

ICC Elite Umpire Billy Doctrove has called it a day. His retirement from the international scene came as a surprise to many. He has served world cricket well. He was a true Ambassador for his Country Dominica and the West Indies.

It is no secret that great sacrifice has to be made when you are designated an Elite Umpire, the frequent travel around the globe, absence from home for protracted period of time, the inability to play the role of father figure effectively, the continual exposure to unkind weather with regularity to include the constant pounding of the sun, all add up. There comes the time when regardless of remuneration enough is enough. Well played Billy D, WICUA applauds you for raising the "BAR". Now that you have hung up your 'boots' it is important that umpires on the fringe learn from your exploits, see you as another of WICUA's Role Model and emulate you. First it was Steve Bucknor, now it is Billy Doctrove. WICUA looks with optimism that sooner than later another West Indian Umpire will rise up and be numbered among the Elite.

WICUA's 50th Anniversary Celebration..2012

The mandate given at the WICUA's Bi-Ennial Convention held in St. Lucia 2011 was put into effect. The church service commemorating WICUA's 50th Anniversary took place in diverse places in various territories. From reports the support was great. The President's Message which was read at all location read "As we celebrate and commemorate our 50th anniversary, let us pause and look back on the trail we have blazed since the formative years. It was a master stroke when men of wisdom and foresight within our ranks put together their thoughts which ultimately saw to the creation of this noble association.

Since then we have other great leaders who have worked like Trojans, in administering our affairs, thus ensuring the viability of our association. Stalwarts such as Mr. Gerry Gomez, Justice Mr. Rudolph Harper, Mr. John R. Gayle and Mr. Phillip Alleyne, are just a few of them. Worthy of mention too are some of our umpires who have attained high and more so world ranking in the field of umpiring, Mr. Steve Bucknor, Mr. Billy Doctrove, Mr. Douglas Sanghue and Mr. Ralf Gosein.

They have made us proud.

We have come a long way. It is instructive that we recognize and appreciate the value of their contribution.

This is a changing world and WICUA has experienced several changes during the passage of time. Constant in our formation and the changes experienced over time has been the role played by the WICB. The WICB has assisted and continues to assist in our overall development. High praises are to be given them for their contribution that has so far enhanced our evolution.

As we worship, in commemoration of this event, in churches located in diverse places we do summon the love, grace and mercies of the almighty to protect and guide us in our endeavours.

As we strive for excellence let us be determined in our efforts to remain focused at all times.

Helen Keler wrote “Be of good cheer, do not think of today’s failures, but of success that may come tomorrow. You have set yourself a difficult task but you will succeed if you persevere; and you will find joy in overcoming obstacles”

There is much work to be done.

Have a Blessed Day”

WICUA looks to Trinidad in 2013 where further celebrations will take place and closure be brought to the event. Convention in 2013 should be the place to be by as many who can attend.

Regional Four Day Matches

The 2012 renewal of the WICB four day cricket matches came and went. The umpires did a fairly good job. The territories performed ‘hot and cold’ at times. Congratulations to Jamaica for being crowned champion for an historic six straight win.

Athletics

Possibly of the greatest show on planet earth is in the making. August next all eyes will be focused on the 100 meters for men when the world games get going in England. With the possibility of Usain Bolt, Yohan Blake, Asafa Powell and Tyson Gay all competing a real treat is anticipated. It should be a ‘battle royal’.

- Cricket News

Congratulations to rising star Sunil Narine who captured the top prize at the just concluded Indian Premier League.[IPL] He did well as he bemused batsmen with, guile and spin. To Christopher Gayle [Mr. 6] who made most runs, hit most and the longest sixes.

Great to know, that the impasse with the WICB and Christopher Gayle has now been settled.

WICUA's Concern

For WICUA to be effective and to be of service to its members, it will need all hands on 'deck'. It cannot be overstated that unity is strength. It is important therefore that the strong lends a helping hand to the weak. News have emerged that Grenada and Canada need help. It is imperative that Area Vice Presidents conduct infrequent audit of territories under their charge in an effort to be informed of what obtains and where necessary seek guidance as to the way forward if there are problems to be sorted out.

Territorial Report:

It is customary that the Quarterly highlight activities, that, had taken place and or will take place in the territories to be reported.

- Cayman Islands: The CICUA umpires are currently officiating in the Cayman islands Cricket Association {CICA} local cricket leagues [Div. 1,& 2 and Women's League]

The CICUA commenced its training for its new recruits and a refresher course for its members on May 8, 2012.

Four umpires from within the association are conducting the training. WICUA's training manual is one of the tools being used in the exercise.

The ICC Americas Women's T/20 Tournament was held in the Cayman Islands April 22- 29, 2012. Five umpires from the association officiated in the tournament. The countries involved were Brasil, Canada, Bermuda, Argentina, United States of America and the Cayman Islands.

The 50th anniversary celebration culminated with a fun day, followed by repair work done to Miss Nadine's pre-school building in Georgetown.

- Jamaica: Jamaica culminated its 50th anniversary celebrations with a courtesy call on the Mayor of Kingston and an appearance on TVJ a local television station, on it morning program named "Smile Jamaica".

Congratulations were extended to umpire Norman Malcolm who has been awarded the Prime Minister's Medal of Appreciation for services to Education.

The JCUA will be having its fun day at Alpart Sports Ground on August 18, 2012.

The four zones within the JCUA are currently conducting recruitment for new persons to be trained as umpires.

The Northern Zone will be hosting an umpires' family treat on June 30, 2012.

- United States of America: The USACUA held local examinations in two categories. Category [1] had thirty one persons who sat the preliminary examination of which twenty three were successful. Patricia Whittaker former captain of the West Indies Cricket team gained the highest mark [94].

- Category [2] had seventeen umpires sitting the local final written

Examination, of which eight were successful. Umpire Brian Whitford of California gained highest marks [90]. Examination centers were set up in nine States.

Umpires Steve Kalloo and Fitzroy Hayles have been appointed to officiate in the ICC Americas U19 Tournament due July 27, 2012 through to August 5, 2012. Umpire Sylvan Taylor will officiate in Florida in other ICC Tournament.

The USACUA will culminate WICUA's anniversary celebrations with a memorial cricket match between the umpires and a New York region select team on July 4th.

- Barbados: The committee of management held two meetings during the period. A special meeting with all umpires was held on the 30th April 2012. At the meeting the playing regulations for the Barbados Cricket Association [BCA] was revisited in an effort to be sufficiently informed as the BCA cricket season kicks off.

Members of the BCUA attended a church service on May 6, 2012 at the St. Leonards Anglican Church. Such attendance has been an annual affair, which marks the start of the BCA cricket season.

Training of new umpires which started earlier culminated with an examination held May 4, 2012 of which seven of twelve persons were successful.

ICC umpire Gregory Brathwaite was fairly busy during the period. He officiated in several matches both onfield and off field during the just concluded tour of Australia men and Sri Lanka Women to the West Indies.

Umpire Mervyn Jones did duty as match manager in the Sri Lankan series.

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- Guyana: In an effort to highlight WICUA's 50th anniversary umpire Bro. Shannon Crawford the chairman of the local organizing committee and umpire Bro. Nigel Dugid were on Guyana local TV where they spoke of the event.

Training of new recruits is currently being conducted on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Umpire Bro. Eddie Nicholls and his team are the trainers.

Umpire Bro Nigel Dugid officiated in the T/20 matches during the Australian Tour to the West Indies recently.

- Trinidad & Tobago: The training committee and the assessment committee are both engaged at this time conducting training both oral and practical for umpires who are expected to take examination in the near future.

A family fun day will be held September 22, 2012, it should have been held earlier, but because of bad weather it has to be pushed back.

The committee that has been planning WICUA's Convention 2013 continues to meet with key individuals in an effort to fine tune arrangements for the event.

Both umpires Peter Nero and Joel Wilson officiated in matches both onfield and off field in the just concluded tour of Australian men and Sri Lankan women to the West Indies.

Umpire Hayden Bruce officiated as match manager in three T/20 matches during the tour Sri Lanka to the West Indies.

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- Canada

The recruitment of persons to be trained as umpires is progressing smoothly. Ontario and Quebec are the territories of which most of the recruits are from.

Umpire Farouk Ali and his team have been conducting training over time and in May 2012, preliminary examinations for levels 1,2, and 3 were held in Toronto, Ottawa and Quebec.

The CCUA is planning to host special events in early fall in commemoration of WICUA's 50th anniversary.

On June 14th, 2012 the CCUA met with the CEO of Cricket Canada in an effort to create a better environment in which both entities can operate and grow. The meeting has been regarded as being successful.

According to the Secretary of the Association, "Members of the CCUA are working diligently to uplift the status and image of cricket umpires in Canada".

- Bermuda:

Since the commencement of the Bermuda Cricket Season in May, all Members of the BCUA have been busy umpiring in the games. There are umpiring challenges caused primarily from the shortage of umpires. Recently two members were added to the association, they having completed the BCUA examination.

The BCUA and the BCA have been in constant dialogue trying to find a way to iron out matters which are of concern to both. Matters such as spectator conduct, abuse to umpires and players are being attended to.

Umpire Steven Douglas was appointed recently as President of the Eastern Counties Cricket Association.

Umpires Richard Austin and Kent Gibbons have accepted invitations to officiate in the upcoming ICC Americas' U19 Division 2 tournament, to be held in Suriname July 29-August 5, 2012.

Birthday/Anniversary

Sincere congratulations to all who have had birthdate and or anniversary during the period April 2 to July 1, 2012.

Condolence

During the period it was reported that the following persons passed away:-

- Umpire MasonSt. Vincent
- Umpire Andrea Walker ["Queenie Angie"].....St. Kitts
- Rupert Scotland [formerly of Antigua & Barbuda]...Bermuda

Sympathy

Umpire Lloyd George Hill [WICUA's Legal Advisor] suffered a stroke on May 6, 2012. He was admitted in the hospital for two weeks. He is now recuperating at his home in Montego Bay, Jamaica. It would be nice if he is given a call to cheer him on. [1-876-430-6132] [email: lgeorgehill@yahoo.com] WICUA prays that you get well soon Lloyd George!

General

Position in life has been earned for several reasons. In some instances it is to be of service to mankind. To be of service, there are many disciplines through which efforts may be channeled. It is the duty of WICUA to promote and encourage all good things that will make the association attractive and a place where good people, want to come.

It is crucial that good relationships with all stakeholders be built, enhanced and be fostered. An Association as dependent as this will need to chart courses that will not in any way cause a divide instead encourage. Tact, humility, knowledge, good temperament and a sense of humor are tools attributed to the building of 'bridges'. Marston wrote "Great achievements are built in long successions of small moments"

This period has seen increase interaction with the WICB. The deliberations have to do primarily with welfare matters. The communication lines between WICB and WICA are open and are been utilized.

Hon. Secretary Johnson has done a great job during the period. The successful execution of the 50th anniversary church service and other activities just concluded did not happen just like that. It was the end result of the hard dedicated and professional work done by him, in the way he co-ordinated the event, the relentless interaction with the territories. Well done Vivian.

Congratulations to all the territories that have helped. The territories that for reasons were not able to be a part it is imperative that you get your act together, try a little harder in whatever you may be asked to do and surely success could be the result.

Trusting that the Quarterly captures all the important information from the readers' vantage point, if for any reason an item important to you was omitted, the Quarterly will be more than willing to have such information published in subsequent publication.

More often than not individuals behind the scenes are forgotten. The Quarterly appreciates the work being done by web master Robin Ford. The information flow via WICUA's web-site has been good. Well done Robin.

Good luck and best wishes.

Cecil Fletcher

President.....WICUA

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