

HAMPSHIRE UMPIRES' CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT 2025

Once again the requirement for umpires in the County has been extensive, the main events being concentrated at the County Headquarters at Banister Park. This puts an extra strain on the umpires in the Southampton area although they are augmented by assistance from a few in the Bournemouth area who are willing to travel to Southampton to fulfil the requirements. Fortunately there have been a few additional umpires qualified during the past year, although they are all in the West of the County. There is an urgent need for umpires in the East and North of the County, it being unreasonable to expect umpires to travel long distances, for little recompense, to officiate in events in those areas.

There have been a number of requests for Marker's and Umpire's Courses. Although Marker's Courses can be run on outdoor greens, we are, of course, at the mercy of the weather. It is therefore better to make use of the facilities of the indoor clubs, there being ten in, or associated with, the County, including Five Rivers (Salisbury) and East Dorset (Christchurch). Anyone interested in attending a Marker's course or becoming an umpire should contact me and I will advise them of the procedure required to set a course in motion.

There have been a few incidents of players abusing umpires and it is incumbent on the Controlling Body of the relevant event to stamp down hard on such behaviour, irrespective of the status of the person involved.

I would like to close this report by thanking all those umpires who have put themselves out this year to ensure that the game we all love runs smoothly.

Tony Prince

(Hampshire Umpire Co-ordinator)