

West Indies Cricket Umpires Association

September 30, 2012

President's Quarterly Report # 5

Colleagues All

Season's Greetings.

This is the fifth edition of the President's Quarterly and it is amazing how time rushes by. As per usual the publication seeks to inform and to encourage conversation among umpires which more often than not brings out interesting ideas and suggestions. These ideas in some instances help to chart the pathway for the onward progressive movement of the association.

Since the last publication much has taken place within and without the association. WICUA remains committed to its core functions and continues to be active in promoting its cause. Like many things in life there will be disappointments, as an Association WICUA too has had disappointments. Times are tough and oftentimes the ride is rough but had some of the elected officers put a little more effort into the movement much more could have been achieved.

Umpire's Inter Regional Exchange Program

At the last convention held in St. Lucia 2010 it was mooted that territories should consider having an inter-regional umpiring exchange program. The idea was brought to the fore in order that a wider spread of umpires could benefit from experiences gained in other parts of the world. Since then not much has taken place. Encouragingly though the USACUA has from time immemorial been accommodating umpires from across the region who officiated in matches in the USA. The Cayman Islands Umpires Association in answering the call is in dialogue with the Jamaica Umpires Association with the view of arriving at a reciprocal agreement.

Cess.

The process to bring closure to the deduction of cess by the WICB which will be remitted to WICUA has been finally settled. Signed authorization letters by the umpires concerned have been done, some of which have been handed in at the WICB Headquarters and arrangements for the others to be handed in are in place. The issue had previously been of concern to the affected umpires due mainly to a lack in communication on vital aspects of the exercise. The situation was corrected when each umpire was communicated with via email. The new arrangement if properly monitored will be more effective and efficient to all parties.

Retirement.

There comes a time when enough is enough and there is a plethora of reasons that can influence the thought. Umpire Vivian Johnson after a checkered sojourn in the middle finally decided to call quit at the regional level. He been a member of the senior panel of umpires for a number of years has cited family commitment as the reason to step down. He has served WICB and WICUA well in that capacity.

WICUA salutes Vivian for his years of dedicated service. More time spent with family can only enhance a closer bond as more togetherness assures security and peace of mind. Vivian's aim was to reach the top, unfortunately it did not happen, but he can take with him the good times he has had.

C junior Fletcher wrote in his unpublished book of positive quotes "As light illuminates darkness, there is compatibility with high hopes and treasured moments".

While he takes his leave from the arena it would be great if he takes time out to assist the young umpires who need guidance, his wealth of experience and knowledge when shared could serve as impetus to those of whom he is in contact with.

CEO.

Dr. Ernest Hilaire the CEO of the WICB did not seek to renew his contract with the WICB. The position was advertised and the successful candidate is Mr. Michael Muirhead of Jamaica.

During the tenure of Dr. Hilaire much has been achieved under difficult times. It could appear to those with the negative eye that much was not done under his watch to enhance the growth in WICUA. On the converse those with the positive eye would have seen things differently. He is to be commended for among other things training at the HPC for the emerging panel of umpires, the planned territorial training of umpires, the acceptance of female umpires to the emerging panel and the introduction of umpires from the Americas. Those are milestones reached for the first in the history of the association.

From reports the indications are that Dr. Hilaire will be taking up a post in England where he will be representing his country St. Lucia. WICUA wishes his family and him success in their endeavours, that they be blessed with long life, good health and prosperity.

WICUA welcomes Mr. Muirhead and wishes for him a successful stay in office. WICUA is optimistic that the good relationship established from time immemorial between WICUA

and WICB will continue to grow and flourish as they work together for the betterment of cricket.

Meeting with CEO

In the last publication mention was made that consideration was given by DR. Hilaire as they relate to three items. The items are :-

[1] Financial assistance by WICB for WICUA to hold Mid Term Meeting.

[2] Financial assistance by WICB for WICUA to conduct territorial training.

[3] Empowerment of female umpires.

The holding of the Mid Term Meeting did not materialize and is no longer being pursued as time would not allow for such activity.

Much work has been put in the plan to have the territorial training. Several modules were looked at and a final position has been taken on how to proceed. It will take some time for it to be up and running, there is optimism that the project will go through.

The empowerment of female umpires has gotten much attention and plans are being put in motion to have one female umpire in the next list of umpires who make up the emerging

panel of umpires. Such a move is a great achievement and certainly a blessed moment for the ladies fraternity. The move shows maturity in how negotiations are carried out and the willingness to put gender chauvinism aside. It is now up to the ladies to prove that they are capable of doing the job expected of them.

WICB/Umpires/Referees Committee Meeting.

On September 5, 2012 Mr. Patrick Whyte and Mr. Cecil Fletcher represented WICUA at the WICB Umpire and Referee committee meeting held in St. Johns Antigua. Under the chairmanship of Dr. Allen Sammy and the involvement of other members in the persons of Mr. Roland Holder, Mr. Rawle Lewis and Mr. Lennox John and a brief appearance by Dr. Hilaire the meeting went well. Several matters that had formed part of the agenda were deliberated and common ground found. Some items for which positive recommendations were sent to the Board of Directors are:-

- [1] That the umpire's pension plan which was tabled and accepted in 2010 be positively pursued.
- [2] That the provision for an umpire's manager be looked at with the intention to appoint a suitable person.
- [3] That the remuneration exercise of umpires as it relates to fee be addressed in a way that both the players and the

umpires be placed on the same cycle which would allow for the WICB to deal with increase fee for both entities during the same period.

[4] That umpires from the Americas be allowed one space in the next list of umpires that will form the next emerging panel.

[5] That one female umpire is listed in the list of umpires that will form the next emerging panel.

Promotion/Relegation/Exit.

Since recent times the umpiring landscape has changed and the evolution continues. The change in dispensation has brought with it joy in some instances and bitterness in some. It has reached at times boiling point and acrimony. This scenario may linger for a while yet as the proverbial dust is not yet settled. In the effort to play catch up on the world stage it has been common knowledge that the WICB and by extension WICUA has been working assiduously to position regional umpires in a way that reaching the Elite Panel of umpires becomes possible, hence the question of age and performance at this time brings the umpire under the microscope.

The two years period for the assessment of umpires on the panels has ended and with it comes a sweet and bitter occasion, sweet in the sense that some were recommended for promotion and bitter as some were recommended to exit.

The decision taken in regards to the exit exercise was more difficult than for the promoted.

Recommended for promotion are:-

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Leslie Reifer Jr. | Barbados |
| 2 Patrick Gustard | Jamaica |
| 3 Zahid Bassarath | Trinidad & Tobago |
| 4 Danesh Ramdhanie | Trinidad & Tobago |
| 5 Lyndon Rajkumar | Guyana |
| 6 Verdayne Smith | Jamaica |

Recommended to Exit.

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| 1 Luther Kelly | Leeward Islands |
| 2 Clancy Mack | Leeward Islands |
| 3 Golland Greaves | Windward Islands |
| 4 Vincent Bullen | Barbados |

Space Created.

- | | |
|------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Clyde Duncan | Deceased [Guyana] |
| 2 Vivian Johnson | Retirement [Jamaica] |

Knowledge is power the lack thereof create pockets of confusion and misunderstanding. It is important to note what the new dispensation allows and this is it, WICUA is unconcerned about which territory the promoted and exited umpires are from, its only concern is that at the proverbial starting block each territory is given equal opportunity to participate.

WICUA congratulates those recommended for promotion and salutes those recommended for exit.

WICUA salutes the committee members for the effective and professional way the affairs of the WICB were conducted. Dr. Sammy and Mr. Roland Holder were quite articulate in bringing to the table useful information in a calm and dignified manner which ultimately created the type of environment conducive to harmonious deliberation.

Sport.

[A] Cricket: Congratulations to Jamaica on winning the 2012 renewal of the Regional under 17 years cricket competition and the Women's Regional Twenty/20 cricket competition being contested for the first time.

Congratulations to Barbados on winning the under 19 years cricket competition.

[B] Athletics: The 2012 staging of the Olympics has come and gone, it was a battle royal in the sprint events, as earlier prediction by the Quarterly was that it would be so. The Jamaicans Usain Bolt and Yohan Blake made light of the opposition, they were truly fantastic in crossing the finish line 1 and 2, and doing so they stamped their authority and superiority in the 100 meters. In the 200 meters they took along in majestic style Warren Weir who finished 3rd behind Blake, they disseminated the track leaving in their wake stalwarts Justin Gatlin, Tyson Gay. In adding more glory to the Caribbean Kirani James of Grenada came to the party as he snatched Gold in the Hurdles and Keshorn Walcott of Trinidad & Tobago mined Gold in the Javelin. To cap it all the new queen of sprint Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce blazed her way to victory in the 100 meters and placed 2nd in the 200. In bringing the curtain of the Olympics down the Jamaican quartet of Carter, Frater, Blake and Bolt romped home ahead of the field in an awful display of power and speed. Pandemonium broke out in many townships, squares and villages throughout the Caribbean in celebration.

WICUA congratulates all who had participated in the Game for the joy they have brought to the world in general and the Caribbean people in particular.

Birthdate/Anniversary.

Sincere congratulations to all who have celebrated birthdates and or anniversaries during the period July 2, to October 1, 2012.

Territorial Report.

Barbados:

The BCUA Executives met twice during the period, July 3rd and August 6th.

The membership of the BCUA is made up of one Honorary Life Member, three Associate Members and one hundred and sixty one Ordinary Members.

Eight umpires sat the WICUA Final Written Examination on August 19th, namely Messrs Ronald Carter, Philmore Collymore, Patrick Edwards, Jeffery Holder, Rodney Barrow, Delacy Roach, Jeffereson Watson and Lionel Williams.

During the months of July and August the WICB Regional Under 19 Cricket Competition was held in Barbados and the following umpires officiated, Messers Jonathan Blades, Gregory Brathwaite, Vincent Bullen, Leslie Reifer Jnr. and Ryan

Willoughby. The standby umpires were Roger Broomes, Andrew Watson, Wilbert Jordan and Lester Millington.

The BCUA Under 15 final match was officiated by Denise Greaves and Calvin Herbert with Louis St. John doing standby duties.

During the month of July the BCUA provided umpires for The “Sir Garfield Sobers International Schools Competition”.

The Sagicor Shield Final was contested for by Combermere School and Melrose CC on July 22nd. Umpires Japhat Kirton, Paul Sivers and Denese Greaves officiated, Mervyn Jones acted as match referee.

Guyana.

Both the WICUA Final Written and the Guyana Preliminary Examinations were held on August 19th, four candidates sat the Preliminary Examination of which three were successful. Three sat the WICUA Examination and they are awaiting the result.

General.

During the last convention held in St. Lucia 2010 the prolonged delay in the establishment of the WICUA web-site was vigorously debated. Resulting from the debate was the eventual setting of the site WWW.WICUA.COM The Web

Master Robin Ford was most articulate in the exercise. It is with a sense of disappointment this publication highlights the fact that the site is being underutilized. It is void of current happenings within the association.

WICUA pleads to the membership as a reminder, to send materials for publication to Secretary Johnson, who will vet and then transmit same to the Web-Master. The view is held that much activity has taken place in the territories that could be of benefit to others.

WICUA's 50th Anniversary which will be officially celebrated during the next convention in Trinidad & Tobago is a reality. This publication seeks to remind all of its importance and to encourage the umpires to plan early their attendance.

From all report preparations for the event have been progressing smoothly. WICUA is aware of the difficulties that can be encountered when hosting an event such as this, but has confidence in the ability and the expertise that lies within the caliber of personnel entrusted with the task. Regards and best wishes to Trinidad & Tobago while they continue to work.

WICUA'S relationship with the WICB continues to grow and much work is in progress in an effort to have cricket as the winner, while the forward march to world class standard remains in focus.

More than ever before a keener sense of awareness by both entities are unfolding which are positive signs that maturity, understanding, prudence and good judgement prevails.

As C Junior Fletcher wrote in his unpublished Book of positive quotes “The positive mind, the will to achieve are pillars on which lies success”

Trusting that this publication captures all the important information from your vantage point, if for any reason an item important to you was not captured the Quarterly will be willing to have the information out in subsequent publication should the matter be raised.

Regard.

Prepared by

Cecil Fletcher

President

WICUA