

Jolly's Drinks Cornwall Cricket League Newsletter

www.cornwall-cricket.org.uk

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Update Regarding Overseas Players-Coaches 2009 Season

From the information issued in the December Newsletter and the recent information to Asst. Secretary Keith Goldsmith by email, clubs should now be aware that they must tread carefully if they are thinking about bringing in an overseas amateur player as it seems very easy to breach the immigration rules by, for example, payments towards travel and accommodation costs that could turn the amateur into a "professional illegal worker" !!. Keith was informed by the ECB on December 2nd that *"the normal working holiday visa that overseas players enter the country each year has been withdrawn and at present there is nothing to replace it. In due course the Border Agency are to issue Sports Visitor visa, but this may not be in place for next season"*.

Further correspondence has just been received following a question by Keith to the Border Agency. The reply is laid out below - effectively a 'case study'.

Question: *A young New Zealander wishing to come to the UK to play cricket to gain experience. He is fully funded by his parents and will be staying with relatives while in Cornwall. What type of visa will he require?*

Reply: *As long as he is not going to be paid for playing sport, he can come under the Tier 5 Youth Mobility category of the Points Based System. His Sponsor would be the New Zealand Govt. This is basically a replacement for the Working Holiday Maker Scheme.*

You should be aware that if UKBA found out that a Cricket Club was paying a non-EEA national to play sport they would be subject to a £10 000 fine.

*Andy Martin , Account Manager, Sponsor Management Unit,
UK Border Agency, North-West Region 07825 144046*

Keith is going to keep digging for clarification from various sources and the LMC will pass on that information to Clubs when received but, at present, we cannot be more specific than the information already issued.

LMC January 2009

A reminder of the December newsletter item:-

*The following information has been received from the ECB on changes to the UK immigration system. The League has sought further clarification from the UK Border Agency, as overseas professionals are not currently applicable to the Cornwall League. Their reply is also printed below and basically states that **clubs will need to register if they are paying for accommodation for any overseas player**. The League will continue to pass on information as and when received and the website has a dedicated page including all the various useful website links.*

From the ECB

As you maybe aware, under the changes to the UK immigration system, cricket clubs wishing to have overseas players and coaches will now need to obtain a 'sponsor licence' in order to bring over players and coaches from outside the EU into this country to work, and this licence is obtained from the UK Borders Agency. As part of that application process the clubs will need to obtain a Governing Body Endorsement (GBE) from ECB both for their licence and for each individual that they wish to bring into the country. Following UKBA's approval of ECB's GBE requirement process we are now in a position to release the information relating to these GBEs to the Non First Class Game.

The final GBE requirement document is published on the ECB website (www.ecb.co.uk/managedmigration). At the end of this document you will find several application forms, named Annexes A to G. The GBE document also includes the requirements for sponsors and migrants for First Class Cricket. However, for clarification Non First Class Cricket will be operating under Tier 5 of the new immigration system and will need to use the following forms:

Annex B - to apply for Governing Body Endorsement for your sponsor licence

Annex E - to apply for Governing Body Endorsement for each player-coach you wish to sponsor

Annex F - to apply for Governing Body Endorsement for each coach you wish to sponsor

Annex G - to evidence applications where appropriate

Under UKBA guidance, we need to ensure that we maintain a complete paper trail for these endorsements. It may be important for your sponsor licence that the name of the organisation on the GBE exactly matches the name of the legal entity through which you are applying to UKBA for a licence.

Alison Faiers : ECB Ethics & Compliance Manager

Information from the UK Border Agency

As long as the players are **not getting paid by the club** or **the club is paying for their accommodation**, the clubs don't need to act as Sponsors so don't need to Register. As now the player's govt. will be acting as their Sponsor. There is an increased onus on the employer, however, to make sure that all staff have the right to live and work in the UK.

Information on the assessment criteria (HR systems & Compliance) that Sponsors will be judged against under the new Points Based System can be found at:

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/employers/points/sponsoringmigrants/HRandcompliance/howrateHR/

Information on the New Points Based system can be found on our website at:

www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/managingourborders/pbsdocs/

Useful information for the existing work permit processes can be found at:

www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/workingintheuk/

Or check out the EMPLOYERS' TOOLKIT at: www.employingmigrantworkers.org.uk/

The Employers' Helpline: 0845 010 6677

Cricket Bats

LMC Advice Note On 1st October 2008, the MCC imposed a new Law 6 - The Bat. The new Law is far more prescriptive than the previous version regarding the construction of the bat, the nature and thickness of protective coverings and has set limits on the size and coverage of manufacturers' logos. Bats will now be graded A, B, C and amateur players can use any grade.

Those players considering the purchase of a new bat this winter may wish to be aware that, until 30 April 2009, ungraded bats may still be purchased; after that date, it will only be possible to buy a bat graded by the manufacturer or one where the retailer has obtained a grade sticker from the manufacturer.

For existing bats, the MCC is permitting a phasing out period during which players will be allowed to continue to use ungraded bats. Following information from the ECB, the LMC has decided to delay the start of the phasing out period in Cornish League cricket for existing ungraded bats until the start of season 2010 and then to decide on the duration of the phasing out period depending on information received during 2009 from ECB, MCC and national competition organisers."

Do you agree that non-profit community clubs should be granted a rebate over drainage charges?

You may be aware there is a large problem for clubs due to hugely increased water rates. There is an online petition being run by the *Daily Telegraph* at <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/sport/columnists/brianmoore/4077481/Join-Brian-Moores-petition.html>

Yearbook Information

Please send photos (particularly teams appearing in League Finals), articles, obituaries, information etc. to the Editor Michael Weeks (e-mail preferred) as soon as possible please.

E-mail: mweeks@cornwallcricket.freeserve.co.uk

Yearbook Directory Forms

Please ensure your club information is up to date please as this was not always the case in 2008. Please ensure a return to Mike Evans or Michael Weeks by 14th February 2009.

Diary Dates

Wed Jan 21 League AGM - County Hall, Truro. – Agenda previously distributed and also available online

Sat Jan 31 Closing Date for Cricket Ball Order Forms (previously distributed & also attached with this newsletter)