

Local business to sponsor Umpire training programme



Andrew Harvey – Managing Director of 'The Financial Advice Centre' and Tim Marrion, on behalf of 'Sportmatch', make cheque presentations to CUA President John Ford (left) and Chairman Bert Bennett (right) prior to a Management Committee meeting.

The Cornwall Cricket Umpires Association is pleased to announce sponsorship support of **The Financial Advice Centre** to their umpire training programme and delivery of a new series of countywide induction sessions aimed at encouraging more volunteers to come forward to qualify and offer their service to local cricket. **Sportmatch**, the government's business sponsorship incentive scheme for grass roots sport, is also contributing match funding to the initiative.

Malcolm Roberts, CUA project co-ordinator commented "We are truly indebted to the Financial Advice Centre for their generous donation and support to our cricket officials' organisation. There is an increasing national shortage of match officials in club cricket, with our own association having seen its number of active panel umpires falling alarmingly from about seventy, back in 1986, to less than half that figure at the present time. Last summer, only Premier and County One league clubs could rely on the regular presence of CUA panel umpires to officiate their matches, but that may not be guaranteed in the future if the current trend of falling numbers continues. Most clubs outside of the 'higher tier' are having to call on 'non-active' players from the batting team to take turns in role of umpires, which is far from ideal! – Just imagine in football, subs on the 'bench' being expected to do short stints as referee in order for matches to be played! Without properly trained and impartial officials in sport and in cricket, that means *proper* umpires, one cannot play a fair and *proper* game!"

Andrew Harvey, Managing Director of the Financial Advice Centre, with offices in Par, St. Austell, Liskeard and Bodmin, said "As a small but expanding local business, we are most pleased to support the CUA in their recruitment and training programme. We wish them success in attracting more match officials whose role and contribution to the playing of any competitive sport is crucial."

Malcolm further stated "The CUA is proactive in its drive to recruit more match officials and these awards will support the taking of an induction training Roadshow to each of the six county district areas during the winter months for budding umpires, both young and mature of age, to attend. However, they cannot conduct such recruitment campaign alone and some onus must rest with the

league management to consider setting of stricter rulings requiring affiliated clubs to provide umpires at higher and immediate tiers of Cornwall league cricket. Also, with the clubs, to encourage, cajole ex-players, parents of youth members and others from within their local communities to attain initial training courses and qualify as competent club umpires.

The sponsor's donation will also support the training of a couple of extra Umpire instructors to assist with the delivery of the new initiative programme and further training qualification courses, whilst the Sportsmatch award will fund the purchase of presentation equipment and materials, as well as new style CCUA umpire blouson jackets that will carry sponsor advertising.

The dates and locations of district based induction sessions has still to be finalised and will be announced in due course on CCUA (ccua-umpires.org.uk) and CCL (cornwall-cricket.org.uk) web-sites and in local press."

Ends.

Notes to Editors:

Sportsmatch is the government's business sponsorship incentive scheme for grass roots sport. It is funded by *Department for Culture Media & Sport* through Sport England and administered by the Institute of Sports Sponsorship. Sportsmatch matches commercial investment in approved community sports development programmes and since 1992 has encouraged around 5,000 companies to sponsor grass roots sporting activities.

The Financial Advice Centre is an expanding local Cornish based business with main office in Par and other high street branches in Bodmin, Liskeard and St. Austell. Their highly professional and experienced advisers are there to offer independent financial advice on selection of right mortgage and other investment planning needs to safeguard a secure financial future.

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