

Safeguarding Officer's report

March 2019

An incident has recently occurred involving a Devon bowler whilst representing the County.

I feel that I should share this information as there are implications for us all.

To occupy the personal space of another bowler, either by touching or grabbing the arm, or *by proximity, especially by today's standards is totally uncalled for, is wrong, and is seen as unacceptable and intolerable behaviour.*

We all know and appreciate that 'leads' can win games. In addition, we also know that skips rely largely upon their number 3 to enhance or protect the head and to work together. However, no-one expects to hear loud adverse comments from the lead questioning the decision making of the numbers 3 and 4. Quote 'Oh Jesus! Why is he coming that way?'

This is embarrassing for all bowlers on that and adjacent rinks for both home and away players. He was quickly told by the Devon skip to watch his language and that any problems he had with decision-making on that rink should wait until the end of the game, when he could discuss his issues with the skip.

I understand that the opposition skip was ready to intervene had the Devon skip said nothing.

At the end of the game the Devon skip received a rather abject apology from this person for his 'unforgivable attitude' during the game.

During tea, it was pointed out to me that this individual was wearing a blazer with a **coaching badge** on it. This is potentially a big problem.

I reported the incident to Ken Brenchley, County Secretary. This remains under discussion.

I would ask, as representatives, to go back to your clubs, with the message to all your members reiterating the importance of respecting any individual you come into contact with, whether you are a coach or not.

In this day and age, it is so important not to let your personal standards slip, whether playing for your club, coaching, or when representing the County. The dangers of non-compliance in this area should be obvious to everyone.

I have already contacted the Match Secretary of Somerset (the opposition skip) and apologised on behalf of the County. This was much appreciated.

George Taylor

Safeguarding Officer

18-03-19