

SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:

- Experiences of two 'novice' scorers (pages 1 and 4)
- Cricket scoring in Europe (page 2)
- Cricket needs Scorers. An adaptation of a presentation by John Proctor. (page 3)
- Adverts & useful addresses (page 4)

The newsletter can only be successful if it receives copy for
Publication. Please submit articles, letters and questions to
notchers@btopenworld.com

Notchers' News

ISSUE 2

SEPTEMBER 2008

The network for scorers

This newsletter is *your* forum for sharing news and experiences, discussing scoring issues and networking.

From the Editor

Thanks for your comments, contributions and for sharing the newsletter with others.

In putting this issue together I couldn't help but notice that several articles share a similar theme. While they certainly need scorers, clubs, players and umpires often have unrealistic expectations of scorers. We can't always know all the players and may need help to identify batsmen, bowlers and catchers. The score board must come second — and ideally should be operated by someone other than the scorer. The scorer needs to remain focused on recording events on the field of play.

We can produce balanced scoring records at the end of each match but, if we don't know the names of batsmen and bowlers, clubs may well have less than accurate statistics at the end of each season!

I'm advised that you can look forward to the receiving the Christmas Challenge in the next issue.

Bowler's name *please*?!

Thoughts from a Baby Scorer (Jackie Chapman)

I'm only in my first season as a trained scorer, having nearly completed the excellent, but tough ACU&S standard level correspondence course. I say tough, as, although when working from a script there's plenty of time to consider each point before putting pen to paper (almost never possible during a game), it's not the same as having live bodies running around on the field.

I don't belong to a club or a side, but travel around the West Midlands with my partner, who is an independent professional umpire. And this brings me to my point - the anguished cry from the score box, "bowler's name *please*?!"

Now, as a free-lance scorer, willing to help out whenever needed, I don't even know the home team's names, let alone those of the visitors. Often, I am left on my own to cope as best I can - or sometimes given one or more of the players to sit with me, but they're usually reluctant to get stuck with the job for very long. It's a real treat to be partnered with a real scorer.

So I go to great lengths to find ways of identifying players - a task made even more difficult in school and youth games when there are fewer differences in physique *and* they nearly all wear dark blue

helmets!

Adult sides are a little easier to identify, but I have to be very careful to rub out any identification marks I've scribbled in the margin - 'tubby', 'balding' or 'runs like a duck' are definitely not comments likely to endear myself to players who come to look over my shoulder at their scores!

What bliss it is when a left-hander comes in to bat. I'm often so caught up with identifying tiny flashes of colour on helmets, boots, bat handles or deciding which batsman is taller/shorter/slimmer than the other that I have been known to only notice a left-hander after six or seven overs have gone by - doh! At a match recently, I gaily marked 'L/H' against a batsman's name, only to be confronted by a succession of six more southpaws in his wake!

I cannot stress enough the delight of a different coloured cap or a bowler with a mane of red hair - and once, just once, a whole team sported large numbers and their names on their backs! Heaven!

So, players, the next time you hear that plaintive request from the score box, have a heart and give us a clue - even if it's only wearing your jock strap over your trousers!

Scoring, European Style by Wraye Wenigmann

Deutscher Cricket Bund (DCB) Women's Cricket Officer & ACU&S Qualified Scorer

In August 2008 Germany were proud hosts to the ICC Europe U17 Division 2 championship games – our first official tournament and a fitting celebration for Germany's 20th anniversary membership of the ICC. A huge team of volunteers had been working hard for months to ensure that all went well for our guests.

The grounds were reseeded, rolled and nurtured to smooth green velvet. Accommodation and transport booked, food, hospitality tents and a fleet of journalists on hand. All was prepared. What could possibly go wrong?

It took just one short phone call, "You do know that you are scoring all the Germany games next week, don't you?". With my home ground closed for the renovation and my second team on tour in Holland, I suddenly realised that I was sadly and badly out of practise. There was no alternative. I had to spend several hours a day listening to and scoring from TMS to get back up to speed. I met 'my boys' for the first time in the hotel on the evening before the first game and this bevy of strapping young lads bore no resemblance whatsoever to the mug shots I had been sent by email. Still, no worries, as our game was against France at a ground I knew well and with fellow scorer Vincent Buisson who I respect highly.

My heart sank as we lost the toss and fielded first.

Those fine boys were microscopic pristine white dots on the outfield with identical red caps hiding their hair.

Why did I ever become a scorer?

No numbers, no names, no clue. Vincent was the ultimate professional and ripped through his end-of-over checks faster than the local speed limit leaving me fumbling, bumbling and breathless. Ingeborg Bevers, our third umpire kindly brought us sandwiches for lunch and I used the time wisely to look for grass stains on players trousers or any other clue to their identities. Without my training, I would have been sunk. Germany lost the game and the boys, dispirited, tired and hungry sped to the tour bus. I quickly filled out the official result sheet, packed my bag and shot to the bathroom, emerging minutes later to see the bus disappearing over the horizon.

What a miserable start to the tournament. Why did I ever become a scorer?

Game two against Israel went better. Apologies had been given and gracefully accepted. Actions and grass stains were slowly connecting with names. Both teams played well to reach an exciting last ball decider in a game badly affected by rain. A thrilling day. This is why I enjoy being a scorer. By the last day, I could twirl my coloured

pens with flair and knew exactly who was down at third man by the way he walked. We won against Greece, our only win of the event, but I was so proud of the team who had played throughout in the Spirit of the game. I could happily have scored another week or more for them. Good weather, good cricket, a great tournament, who could ask for more? The boys though had something in store for me.

At the gala dinner at the end of the week, the ICC was kind enough to officially thank the scorers and all were given a commemorative present. As we took the stage for the group photograph, the German team stood and gave me a huge cheer. I literally had tears in my eyes. It's not the result but how the game is played.

That's why I LOVE being a scorer.



ICC Europe U17 competition Scorers
Germany. August 2008

Philip Stallard responds to John Gothard's questions and observations:

I don't like scoring on his own, and thankfully it doesn't happen very often (South Wales Premier League Premier Division). If it does happen I will not complete both books during play under **any** circumstances

Our league doesn't have a mandatory scorer requirement but it would be a good thing if it was the case, though difficult to enforce at lower levels

On anomalies in scoring – basically more training is needed

Most clubs have the telegraph in the score box so not a problem for me. If it's separate from the score box I make sure that the host club provides someone to operate it.

I'd be happy with a scorer's insignia what about a quill pen and parchment?

(Editor's comment: *If you have joined ECB ACO or IICUS you should canvas them with your insignia suggestions*)

Name the newsletter

Four readers have offered alternative names as follows: "Scoring record", "From the (Score) Box", "Notchers" and "Notchers' News". "Notchers' News" has been in this issue - did you notice? Unless there is a strong voice for change it will remain as in this issue.

Unusual score book entries, interesting matches scored and worst score box

I'm receiving quite a bit of copy and plan to devote space to these in future issues.

Please keep sending your stories.

WHO NEEDS SCORERS?

By John Proctor, ACU&S Qualified umpire and scorer instructor.

My comment 'cricket needs scorers' (1st issue) reminded of a presentation given by John Proctor at an ACU&S Seminar for umpires and scorers some years ago BUT, unfortunately it appears to be still relevant today. As only a small percentage of the "Notchers' News " readers had the opportunity to hear it, with John's kind permission part 1 of an abridged version is reproduced in this issue

Cricket matches need umpires and scorers

The MCC 2000 Code of Laws includes the following:-

Law 3.1

Before the match, two umpires shall be appointed, one for each end, to control the game as required by the Laws, with absolute impartiality."

Law 4.1

"Two scorers shall be appointed to record all runs scored, all wickets taken and, where appropriate, number of overs bowled

Whether scorers work harder and require greater concentration than the Umpires is arguable. Both have to watch every delivery and its outcome.

.... but what of the norm in club cricket where there is often only one scorer?

That score box needs another scorer

Not only alone but having to deal with incessant enquiries about how many Bill needs for his 50 or how many balls has Fred faced.

Difficult though it may be to believe, I try to deal civilly with such questions, sometimes even cheerfully, as part of my contribution to the information process but sometimes 'off' is the last of two words in a terse reply.

Having experience of both umpire and scoring tasks over many years I believe sustained concentration is probably greater for the scorer. Whether scorers work harder and require greater concentration than the umpires is arguable and, whatever the truth of the situation it behoves all of us, umpires and scorers to work as a team — **the third team**

Umpires need scorers

Scorers are taught not to embarrass the umpire who persistently miscounts. Maybe we should teach umpires not to bawl "scorers" at the top of their voices when acknowledgment of their signals is slower than they might prefer.

Not all umpires even wait for that acknowledgment, however quick it might be, and that can give rise to scoring errors with possible effects on the result.

Bawling 'scoreboard or telegraph' is also unacceptable. It is not the scorers job to maintain the board and umpires could do their colleagues a service by agreeing with the captains that the batting side should do this job if there is no other operator available.

Teamwork and co-operation are the key to a successful third team. Do we always involve the scorers in our pre match conference?

When umpiring, are our signals always in accordance with the laws?

- Are we casual leg shakers for leg byes or do we execute the signal properly;
- Do we remember to turn in profile to give the scorer a better chance of recognizing our message?
- On a first class ground the scorers might be 150 yards away from the action so clarity in our signalling is vital.
- Are we sure the scorers understood our no ball signal?
- Are we one of those who only signal wide ball once (to the players!) and then wonder why things go wrong?
- Do we end our boundary 4 signal with arm across the chest as the Law requires?
- Do we all remember to check the relevant scoring statistics at every interval except drinks?

Tolerance is essential. Remember the perfect umpire or scorer has not yet been born.

Spectators need scorers

Everyone is entitled to enjoy the match.

The team of officials can increase their mutual enjoyment by co-operation and attention to detail.

The match result need scorers

Whether the scorer has the capacity to influence the outcome of the game is arguable. Sometimes, especially when disputes arise, I am called upon to comment on the accuracy or otherwise of a scoring record. The following two incidents may serve to illustrate my point about influencing the outcome:

In the semi final of the indoor cup competition the lone scorer had incorrectly totalled the score of (his) team and posted that on the board as the target for the team batting second.

The winning run came off the last delivery.

Later the Competition Secretary found the error. He recalled the losing captain had not been entirely happy with the result.

I re-scored the game, confirmed that the wrong team had progressed to the Final.

The result stood; that scorer is still used week in and week out by his club because they put their disappointment behind them accepting that the error was not deliberate but caused by the frantic activity which is a part of the scorers lot in these fast moving games.

So an accidental cock up. Two scorers might have prevented that wrong result, the irony is that the team which did provide the scorer ended up losing.

Now an example of possible manipulation of the scoring record.

Two Premier league teams playing, one pushing for the Championship and one facing demotion and loss of status.

The visiting side (the Championship contenders) did not have their regular and very experienced scorer due to illness but did have a reasonably competent stand in. The Home side (facing relegation) did not have their regular scorer either and the book was in the hands of their Chairman.

After 10 frustrating overs, during which time the home scribe refused to co-operate with end of over etc checks and was generally not forthcoming, the visiting stand in scorer threw in the towel and stomped out of the box.

Irresponsible but not entirely surprising in the circumstances.

The home side won by one run!

Later examination of the visitors score book, copied up after the match, showed no evidence of a six in one batsman's innings, an event clearly remembered by the team, the player and the umpire. A check with the host club confirmed there was no record in their book either. So it was not a copying error.

Could the home side scorer, its Chairman, knowing the outcome of losing premier status have fiddled the score???

Who knows - but bad blood existed between the two clubs for many years following that sad incident.

Again two competent scorers could have avoided that incident and the years of recrimination.

Did the umpires carry out their responsibilities correctly?

Both of those matches needed another scorer

Part 2 follows in the next issue with a little bit of scoring history to demonstrate more ways in which scorers are needed.

MY NEW MOTTO - DON'T panic.....andI am not always wrong!!

By Lin Martin, novice, but learning fast!!!

As a recently qualified (ACU&S) Scorer, I am quite open to the fact that I will make the odd error, but the first three matches I scored this season went well - every thing added up, all balls bowled = ball received + wides, etc. and I was happy I had settled in.

I was appointed scorer for the 2nd XI of my local club. When scoring my first match I didn't notice a change of bowler until 4 overs in but, having used erasable pens, I was quickly able to sort it out. I learnt from this and was being doubly careful at my second match. I received extra help in that the visiting team scorer was their (non-playing) captain and he knew most of my side as well as his own.

Suddenly, after 30 overs, the umpires yelled at us that the score board was not correct and we were ten runs behind. We had been diligently checking that we agreed the score and updating the score board accordingly.

I suggested to me colleague that 10 runs was an awful lot for us to have missed, that he should check his book while I continued to score, then I would do likewise and told him not to panic we could not be THAT adrift!!

Following the checks we both agreed that the score was as it we had put up on the score board.

We acknowledged that the umpires were responsible for the correctness of scores and that they could over-ride our scoring record.

We had, up to this point had two 7 ball overs so I knew we were not the only ones who were struggling with maths!

At tea the umpires descended on the score box and we looked at our figures - they had decided the discrepancy was possibly when 14 runs had been scored off one over - and indeed it was - but the problem wasn't with the scorers. At the end of that over BOTH umpires had totalled the score making $84 + 14 = 108$!!

We had a good chuckle and I was pleased that I had kept my nerve and not gone into panic mode - we had kept up with the game despite checking everything frantically, and at the end, my book still added up exactly right so I felt I had done well.

We had two more 7 ball overs after tea!!

I kept my nerve and didn't panic

USEFUL EMAIL ADDRESSES

England and Wales Cricket Board Association of Cricket Officials (ECB ACO)

<http://www.ecb.co.uk/ecb/ecb-association-of-cricket-officials/>

International Institute of Cricket Umpires and Scorers

<http://www.umpires.tv> (For scorer specific information email scorers@umpires.tv)

Notchers' Newsletter notchers@btopenworld.com



Live in Hampshire and Surrey?

Lesley Morgan would like to hear from scorers in Hampshire or Surrey who may be available to score some friendly matches.

Contact lesleyj.morgan@tesco.net

MILLENNIUM SCORING RECORD

The A3 scoring record originally designed by members of the ACU&S Scorers' Board

Binder and 50 sheets (= 100 innings) £20 + P&P

Refill pack of 50 sheets £10 + P&P

email milsteadmsr@btinternet.com for details

Correspondence courses

ECB ACO offer an Introductory level course—details are available on the ECB ACO web site.

A standard level equivalent course, open to anyone wishing to learn more about cricket scoring, is independently run to the high standards set by ACU&S.

The course fee is £15.00 and details are available from Cathy.rawson@btopenworld.com

Provision of an independently run exam (on similar lines to the ACU&S exams) will soon be available. This cannot offer ECB ACO or IICUS accreditation but will allow scorers recognition in that they have achieved the same level of skill and competency as another scorer in another part of the UK or worldwide.

An advertisement for 'Total Cricket Scorer' software. It features a screenshot of the software interface showing a cricket scorecard and various statistics. Text includes: 'Total Cricket Scorer', 'An easy way to score and analyse matches with comprehensive statistics, and even control your electronic scoreboard', 'To download your free trial copy, or for more information, please visit our website: www.totalcricketscorer.com', 'cricket@code27.com', and 'CODE 27'. A red starburst graphic says 'As used at Lord's'.

ACUMEN BOOKS



For books, scoring equipment or to access the Bulletin Board visit the Acumen Books website at

www.acumenbooks.co.uk

Thanks to everyone who submitted copy for this issue. If your contribution didn't appear in this issue please be assured that it has been saved for a future issue.

December newsletter copy date: 27th October 2008