

Notchers' News

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Christmas Challenge (page 2)
- Cricket needs Scorers. An adaptation of a presentation by John Proctor. (page 3)
- A "front foot" No ball question (page 4)
- Adverts & useful addresses (page 4)



ISSUE 3

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The network for scorers

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

From the Editor

Training is essential to maintaining and improving standards of scoring and I'm delighted to learn from colleagues that scorer training is taking place at some locations within the UK. Most is based on the ACU&S training methods but I'm aware that both ECB ACO and IICUS have run scorer training courses and hope that these too will soon be widely available.

I confess that I had hoped to find more information on local course dates, venues and fees on the ECB ACO and IICUS websites.

Remember to use the County Board network (UK) and the local newspaper and radio to advertise courses and other cricket scoring activities in your area.

Have you tried a different and innovative training method? Did it work? Then tell scorer colleagues world wide through the pages of the newsletter.

Scoring MCC outmatches

Comments from Phil Rogers and Roy Jennings

After speaking to Brian Mulholland, at Derby Scorers Meeting, I applied to be on the MCC Scorers Register, and was successful.

My first match, played at Carlisle Cricket Club, was the Austin Friar's School v MCC on 7th May, 2008. It was a bright, sunny day and the surroundings and facilities at the ground were immaculate.

It was brilliant to be greeted by Dudley Smith, the school games master, with the words, 'We've got a proper scorer.....'

Everybody made my day very enjoyable. It was the first time that I had scored in a 'timed' match and also very strange to have a lunch break, and a tea break, in a one day match, even though only 90 overs were bowled.

Scoring on the balcony outside the players changing rooms whilst enjoying the sun was bliss.

The School won by 7 wickets, with a 16 year old lad, Alec Blaylock, scoring 96 not out: a name to watch for in the future as he was also a good right arm seamer as well.

Subsequent matches have been equally enjoyable. PHIL ROGERS

Jackie Chapman has mentioned the problems of identifying players, especially when you are scoring on your own.

This is especially relevant to me when scoring MCC games against schools. I don't know most of my own team let alone 11 boys wearing identical clothing and using identical kit. The expression "thank goodness for Tippex" has often been used to overcome the odd mistake!

This season I had the pleasure of scoring MCC Ladies v India Ladies. What joy, the club where the game was played provided someone to operate the scoreboard and the MCC provided radios to the umpires and score box.

The umpires were great and advised every bowling change and incoming batswoman's name. This all made for a very enjoyable day for the scorers.

ROY JENNINGS

*Interested in scoring MCC Out Matches?
Contact Brian Mulholland at
Brian.Mulholland@uwclub.net for further
information on and an application form for the
MCC Scorers register.*

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

The Christmas Challenge

You may have thought that your seasonal torture was over – but No - the Scratchers have challenged the Notchers to yet another fireside fixture this year. Subscribers are invited to accept the Challenge by completing the scorecard and giving the result of the following match. Please send your entry (limited to one per reader, please) to The Third Umpire, 60 The Lawns, Rolleston-on-Dove, Staffordshire, DE13 9DB to arrive by first post on 14th January 2009. All entries will be examined and the names of all those whose entries are correct will be put into the Third Umpire's hat, from which the winner of the prize will be drawn at random.

You are invited to solve the clues in order to discover how many runs each player scores. **You should record all these scores in batting order, and complete your solution by giving the result of the match.** Normal Laws of Cricket apply (no special regulations). There are no trick questions, and all relevant information is provided in the clues.

The Scratchers' XI (batting first)

- 1 In a five-day Test match the first three days are rained off without a ball bowled. If NZ score 262 for 6 declared, how many must Bangladesh score in order to avoid the possibility of being asked to follow on?
- 2 The striker snicks a ball, called and signalled No ball, to fine leg – the batsmen have crossed on their third run when the return throw hits the fielder's helmet lying on the ground. How many runs should be added to the total?
- 3 In how many ways may the striker be dismissed from a Wide ball?
- 4 The striker hits the ball high in the air; the batsmen run and have started on the second run when the non-striker calls, "Drop it". The catch is not taken but, on appeal, the umpire gives the batsman out?
Which batsman (Striker = 10, Non-striker = 20)?
- 5 and how many runs are credited to the striker?
- 6 A fielder notifies the umpires that he is leaving the field at 3.17pm. He returns at 3.36pm: at how many minutes after 3 o'clock will he be allowed to bowl?
- 7 The wicket-keeper misses a ball which has been called and signalled Wide ball and it rolls down a disused goalpost hole in the outfield. While the fielders try to retrieve the ball the batsmen run and just after they set off on their tenth run, a desperate fielder calls Lost ball. How many runs should be added to the total?
- 8 The striker aims a shot at a ball which has been called and signalled No ball, but he misses. The ball runs off his pad and the batsmen run three, one of which is accidentally run short at the bowler's end. As the batsmen set off on the fourth run, a fielder makes a wild return which goes to the boundary, by which time the batsmen have completed their fourth run. How many times would you expect the umpire to make one of the 14 official signals?
- 9 and how many acknowledgements should there be from the scorer?
- 10 and how many runs should be added to the total?
- 11 and how many of these runs should be debited against the bowler?

Extras: What is the maximum number of players who may legally be on the field while play is in progress?

The Notchers' XI

- 1 How many of the umpires' 14 official signals require the use of only one limb?
- 2 How many feet does a batsman have to cover to complete one run (ie popping crease to popping crease)?
- 3 The injured striker hits a No-ball to long-on – his runner and non-striker complete three runs. With the striker still standing out of his ground the wicket-keeper fairly breaks the wicket with the ball, and the striker is given out? How many runs should be added to the total?
- 4 The striker pads up making no attempt to play the ball – the ball ricochets from his pad to his bat and runs away to the third man boundary. How many runs should be added to the total?
- 5 The tea interval has been arranged for 4.15pm. The ninth wicket falls off the last ball of an over at 4.17pm: at how many minutes after 4pm is tea now scheduled to be taken?
- 6 The last hour starts at 6.30pm: at 6.46pm, after 4.4 overs have been bowled, it rains and play is suspended until 6.53pm. After another nine balls have been bowled the players leave the field at 6.57pm for another shower. When play starts again at 7.11pm what is the minimum number of balls which remain to be bowled?
- 7 The wicket-keeper misses a ball which has been called and signalled Wide ball and it rolls down a disused goalpost hole in the outfield. While the fielders try to retrieve the ball the batsmen run and just after they set off on their fourth run, a fielder calls Lost ball. How many runs should be added to the total?
- 8 The batsmen run four, but the striker runs short on the first run and the non-striker runs short on the second run? The umpires do not consider either short run to have been deliberate. How many runs should be added to the total?
- 9 Off the fifth ball of an over the batsmen run three, but both batsmen run short on the second run? The umpires consider the non-striker to have run short deliberately. How many runs should be added to the total?
- 10 and which batsman should face the next ball (Striker 10, Non-striker 20)?
- 11 The striker plays forward but misses and the ball drops into the top of his pad: a fielder dashes forward, removes the ball and throws it at the stumps at the non-striker's end. The ball misses and goes on to cross the boundary. How many runs should be added to the total?

Extras: In how many ways may the non-striker be dismissed from a Wide ball?

Result: _____

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

An abridged version of a presentation given by him at an ACU&S Seminar for umpires and scorers some years ago

Notchers

According to a Coats painting in the Tate Gallery the Notchers, the early scorers, sat on a low mound within the field of play. A bit of Latin

Parte alia visus qua libera copia detur

Parvo in colle sedent duo pectora fida, parata

Cultellis numerum crescentem incidere ligno

roughly translated as

In another place, from where there is a clear view,
two faithful souls sit on a small hill,
ready with little knives to cut the growing number on the wood.

It appears likely that Notchers operated in pairs in double wicket matches but singly in single wicket matches

The Hambledon Order book of 1779 ordered that "the names of members shall be inserted in a book together with the names of players and the number of notches gott by each".

The Laws of Cricket, 1800/09 refers to the term notch but this appeared in the game as long ago as 1577 as a nick made on a stick to keep the score or record. Score - to notch or mark. It appears likely that the word notch and run, both of which were used in the 18th century, are synonymous. The term A run appears in the 1744 Code, the first 'Laws of the Noble Game of Cricket'.

There is no clear point at which notching of sticks was replaced by scoring with a pencil and paper but an article in "The Cricketer" in 1953 suggested that notching was in use in Derbyshire as late as the end of the 19th century.

..... and back with 'who needs scorers':

Bookies need scorers

The advent of betting created the need for detailed records not only of the team scores but for individual batsman too. The 1788 Code prohibited gambling by players and umpires but there was no such restriction on scorers. Clearly gambling isn't new to cricket and the more information scorers and statisticians record and collate, the greater the number of betting opportunities created, especially spread betting.

Reporters need scorers

It is generally accepted that W H (Bill) Ferguson is credited with the greatest advancement in scoring techniques through his design of linear scoring and of scoring charts in 1905. He was indeed the first person to become an applied scorer, largely through his fascination with figures, and designed his system because he was dissatisfied with the shortcomings of conventional systems which did not readily provide answers to the many enquiries received from the press. Besides conventional scoring activity and his charts, he kept records of every stroke made, every ball bowled and who fielded it.

Captains were known to study these charts to determine strengths and weaknesses of opposition players.

Captains and Coaches need scorers

Some years ago Darnley Boxill, a Bajan Accountant, produced a linear scoring system which was designed to enable computer analysis of the data. His notion was to record every delivery received by every batsman and analyse it in such away that it would clearly show what shots had been deployed, with what degree of success and against which type of bowling, and of course vice versa - how had particular bowlers bowling particular types of delivery succeeded or otherwise. It may be a coincidence but when England visited the Carribean in 1993, after his development work, they recorded their lowest ever total against the Windies - 46 all out at Port of Spain.

I am not suggesting manic activity in our cricket clubs but most of them do not seem to appreciate the wealth of information that they have potentially available where they have a skilled scorer at work on their scoring activity.

It is possible, with some little effort to develop the application of that data and those statistics.

For example, team management -

- identification of strengths and weaknesses of your players and of opponents
- development of batting and bowling skills after becoming aware of shortcomings

The cricket community needs scorers

There are more than 6,500 cricket clubs in England and Wales with some 450, 000 cricketers playing on a regular basis.

There are tens of thousands of schools with over 2.1 million children playing cricket in its various forms.

THEY ALL NEED SCORERS and UMPIRES.

Do leagues not require qualified scorers? Should their playing regulations not demand it?

Is cricket in your area on the wane? Are standards of behaviour worsening? Are umpiring and scoring standards diminishing too?
Are you doing anything about it?

Many clubs rely on a few stalwarts to do everything. Losing these staunch supporters results in loss of experience and know how; worsening standards of pitch, grounds and premises maintenance.

How can this be achieved?

The club is the vital developmental link.

Clubs need encouragement and support from their County Cricket Board (England and Wales) or their national or regional cricket authority. Clubs may need to examine their:

- attitudes to and treatment of new players, parents, friends and potential volunteers
- subscription structure to cater for different membership groupings including family groups
- attitude to age-group cricket

Volunteers are needed from inside and outside cricket - willing advisers to help clubs with such things as legal and financial issues, maintenance of grounds, replacing tap washers or what have you.

Most of our young cricketers have two parents. We need those parents to become involved in our cricket community and not just to act as taxi drivers. We should see these good ladies and gentlemen as the source of our next generations of coaches, umpires, scorers, club administrators and the myriad other tasks which make up a successful cricket community.

A welcoming, friendly, caring attitude from club officials will be essential to convincing folk that they want to get involved with, **to be part of that cricket community.**

Not all youngsters interested in cricket will make the grade as players and our message must be that too can play their part in the game. One of my young scorer students with two left feet and no apparent hand eye co-ordination took the Introductory Scoring course so as to stay in the game with his mates. He scored 98% in the ACU&S examination. Great!! a new young, then 12 year old scorer. I've lost him now. The coaching sessions, which he attended more in hope than anticipation, found his co-ordination and he became the leading member of the under 14 squad.

One swallow does not make a summer nor does one successful cricketer conversion. But we should be encouraged by that and other experiences to pursue the notion of mates together so as to achieve our aims.

A "front foot" No ball question from Wendy Hardy

My local Twenty/20 Competition is introducing free hits this season following a front foot No ball only. What exactly is a free hit?

How will I know that the no-ball results in a free hit, and how do I score a free hit in the book.

The following is a direct quote from ECB's Regulations and Playing Conditions for 2008.

"The delivery following a no ball called for a foot fault (Law 24.5) shall be a free hit for whichever batsman is facing it. If the delivery for the free hit is not a legitimate delivery (any kind of no ball or a wide ball), then the next delivery will become a free hit for whichever batsman is facing it.

For any free hit, the striker can be dismissed only under the circumstances that apply for a no ball.

Field changes are permitted for free hit deliveries.

The Umpires will signal the free hit by (after the normal No Ball signal) extending one arm straight upwards and moving it in a circular motion."

Calling on experience scoring ECC and ICC matches where the competition regulations include a free hit following a front foot no ball and having taken advice from a County Cricket Scorer, it appears that there is no recognised way to show a free hit in the scoring record.

Some enter it as an ordinary ball and make a note if anything unusual happened from it eg batsman 'dismissed'. Others make a note in their note book (over & delivery) in case a question is raised later.

Perhaps we should make a side note in the scoring record every time (and hope that they are few in number!)

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



Correspondence courses

ECB ACO offer an Introductory level course and 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

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

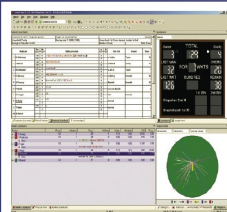


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Share your cricket scoring experiences and scoring questions with readers. Photos are welcomed and add interest to the newsletter.

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