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<http://www.notchers.co.uk>

Notchers' News

ISSUE 7

OCTOBER 2009

The network for scorers

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

Welcome to a larger than usual issue to make room for contributions on computer scoring, valuing scorers and your questions & answers PLUS.....
..... a report of the Eggheads v Notchers match on BBC 2

COMPUTER SCORING

CERES OPENS THE DEBATE

- There seems to be an increase in the use of computers to record cricket matches. This can be seen as a positive step as it allows quite a lot of statistics to be produced.
- Who are the statistics for? If they are to be used by the club coach or team manager or club statistician then this is good for the game.
- Are computer scorers putting themselves (or their colleague!) under undue pressure by also keeping a score book?
- Are computer scorers additionally keeping the scoreboard up to date? I accept that it is not in the scorer's role to maintain the scoreboard display but if it is an integral part of the score box or it is electronically controlled - this task WILL present itself.
- Are you the one who regularly asks your colleague "how did that over go?" because the computer has taken your too much of your attention (perhaps due to involvement with activities other than scoring a match)?
- Does lineal scoring provide as much statistical information as the use of the computer or the traditional box type score book?

OVER TO YOU!

ROB SISK COMMENTS

I recently spent an enjoyable 5 days scoring at Arundel Castle with 2 very good 1st class scorers who were using the PA Based system. He reports that he found the following a must.

- A reliable supply of electricity
- No other distractions should be tolerated, particularly listening to other cricket matches or sports on a radio
- Avoid using mobile phones (*ideally they should be switched off!* Ed)
- Don't try to score in a scorebook AND use a computer scoring programme unless you are fully experienced with the computer programme you are using
- Having the ability to get on with your scoring colleague if they are not using a computer
- Being in a place within the pavilion where you are unlikely to be distracted
- Ideally, be in a score box

Computer scoring: Some thoughts from Sue Drinkwater

I always thought that computer scoring was cheating and took away all the skill involved. However, having sat alongside others using a computerised scoring system, I am now a total convert. I have realised that you still need the same knowledge of cricket to score with a computer as on paper as you still need to know what has happened on the field of play and how to record it; you are merely using the computer to do the recording for you.

It would be quite dangerous (as far as accuracy goes) to try and computer score without a good working knowledge of the laws of cricket, as it is all too easy to just click on a scoring button without checking what the computer is recording (i.e. the correct number/type of runs and who is on strike etc.). Anyone computer scoring really must be vigilant and double-check all these things.

It is really good to know that, at the end of the game, I can't have got the maths wrong as the computer agrees with me and, if you have been cross checking with a colleague (as in a paper system) all the way through, then everything should be fully balanced and correct.

I don't use the computer for all games, as it's not always appropriate such as when scoring outdoors with no electricity supply or when the players names have not been supplied in good time before the start of the game. I always use it for multiday games or when I have the luxury of a fully equipped score box.

The programme I use is Total Cricket Scorer (TCS) which I find really user friendly. When I ran a workshop to enable scorers to try out TCS, they were all up and running within minutes of me loading the trial version on their laptops, so I would recommend this for anyone to have a go. Try re-inputting one of your old scoresheets in your own time or scoring a match off the TV, although this can prove tricky as not all umpire's signals are shown on TV.

It takes a long time to get a game set up in TCS, so you need the players names well in advance but it is good to be able to edit the ball data and change things retrospectively, if an umpire informs you of a change of decision later on (such as turning a run into a Leg bye several overs later).

A contribution from Rocky at Total Cricket Scorer (TCS)

In 2004, one of the directors of Code 27 Ltd (who still plays cricket - the rest of us have long since realised our limitations and are now just content to watch) realised that there was little in the way of computerised scoring packages available, and as we are a software development company we were well placed to do something about it! Total Cricket Scorer was developed as a sideline to our main business, the aim being to try and bring cricket scoring into the 21st century whilst establishing the company name as a provider of quality software.

Developed over the last 5 years, Total Cricket Scorer is now the leading computer based cricket scoring package available. It has a simple and intuitive user interface that allows even novice scorers to produce professional standard scorebooks with the minimum of fuss. Fully flexible in operation, TCS is used across the entire spectrum of the cricket hierarchy; from Test grounds such as Lord's and Edgbaston to local village Sunday league sides and schools.

The development of the program is largely led by the requirements of the users, i.e. scorers on the front line! There is also a constant need to keep up with the whims of the powers-that-be with their tweaks to the rules and regulations: substitutes, Twenty20 super overs, front foot no balls, and new balls in limited overs matches have all been implemented within Total Cricket Scorer (even though they may then disappear from the regulations as quickly as they arrived!).

Integration with the ECB's Play-Cricket system has proved to be very popular, a quick click of the mouse and the match data from TCS is added to the Play-Cricket site; no need to re-enter any information and using the data from TCS ensures 100% accuracy. Using the Live Scores system within TCS you can even have your score updated on the internet in real-time.

There was insufficient space to include any screenshots in the newsletter. To see current screen displays visit <http://www.totalcricketscorer.com/> and click on 'screenshots' in the left hand menu bar.

Ed.

Planned future developments include a new 'linear' style scorecard – alongside the existing traditional scorebook - and potentially a fully customisable 'scoreboard' view so you can pick and choose which data is displayed on screen.

Code27, like most other companies in the current economic climate, are actively seeking other software development work. This does not have to be cricket related! You can visit the Code 27 website at www.code27.com or contact info@code27.com to discuss any software development requirements etc.

COMPUTER SCORING:

Cathy Rawson

While I've played with a variety of computer scoring and statistics programmes over many years I haven't used computer scoring in earnest until this season. The trigger was a request from the Denmark Coach to score their ICC World Cup Qualifier warm up and competition matches using his computer and PitchPad so full match summaries back to Denmark immediately the matches were over.

I tried using PitchPad for the warm up matches and failed. I read the manual, set up and scored made up matches (with difficulty) then attempted to score live matches; a scorer familiar with PitchPad volunteered to computer score one match but quickly gave up. I was disappointed as I knew a scorer colleague used the system on a Palm computer successfully and concluded that the programme on the computer being used was 'buggy'. I emailed PitchPad twice but have had no response, causing me to question the level of software support available.

I had previously computer scored matches using Total Cricket Scorer (TCS), completed a box type scoring record and kept a shortened lineal worksheet (back up in case of problems) without difficulty so agreed to return to South Africa 10 days later with my own computer and TCS. I knew that I could print the completed scoring record to pdf format so that they could be emailed to Denmark as requested. With the exception of a power problem on the first day (I input some of the innings ball by ball data after the match!) all was well and all matches were scored without difficulty.

The scorers in South Africa were very impressed with the programme, particularly the 'undo' button to make a quick correction if the wrong key had been pressed (such as scorer error; late signal from the umpire; 7th ball) and the edit ball data option. As we invariably arrived at the grounds 90 minutes before the scheduled start my scorer colleagues had the opportunity to use TCS and made their own practice matches (easily deleted later). They expressed the view that TCS was easier to use, more versatile and more reliable than the official scoring programme they were using. Several accessed the TCS website after our pre-match scoring sessions.

Using the computer scoring did make me give extra thought to the following:

Team working:

Colleagues scoring in paper have much more work to do as they have to make up to 5 entries in the scoring record for each delivery plus the extra information required for other incidents. Remember that, with so much to record by hand at the fall of the wicket, the last thing they need is to be harassed for the name of the new batsman etc. The computer scorer, with information recorded in all areas of the scoring record at the press of the button, should always wait for their

colleague. When working with or as a computer scorer I prefer the 'on paper' scorer to lead on checking so that they are not put under unnecessary pressure.

Checking:

It should be easy; agree information with your colleague, either from your scoring record or from the computer but do make sure that the two are the same.

Communicate:

Workloads can vary; computer with on paper back up; ball by ball in a box type score book; collecting extra information for coaches. And we can all miss things. Communication is essential - one to Smith; No ball Leg bye; end of over check etc. Make sure you're both recording the same match data!




Keep a paper backup:

If your computer fails (eg; power failure; programme locks up;) you still have to score the match. Play will not wait for the computer to be up and running again!

Scoring using a Palm/handheld Computer?

The display is limited on a Palm top and reviewing the last over/checking can be difficult so do check and agree end of over and fall of wicket information before moving on to the next delivery.

Don't be tempted to go walkabouts as:

-  the umpire will signal to the scoring station and you might miss the signal
-  communicating with your colleague becomes a problem
-  the risk that the scoring records do not agree increases

This season I've recorded all matches using TCS, some live and some after the event. Saturday League matches (team names are available in time to set the match up) have been scored live when in score boxes with an electricity supply. All Evening League matches (players names often provided during play) and other Saturday games were input after the match.

The computer gives accurate information throughout an innings PROVIDED the right buttons have been pressed. I need to: concentrate; know what the entries are for every event on the field of play; check that the entries are correct; be able to identify mistakes in the scoring record; accept that just because the computer says something it doesn't mean that it is right - two computer scorers scoring the same match can produce different data if one (or both) have made just one incorrect entry.

The players enjoyed reviewing their statistics and I was able to produce the end of season statistics in about 5 minutes.

Answers to the questions asked in Notchers' News Issue 6

From IAN HARDIE (see Notchers News 6; page 4)

With only a few overs of a finely balanced evening league match remaining one of the batsman dislocated his knee and could not be moved until the ambulance arrived. The light was beginning to fade; the captains decided not to resume play; they agreed the result as a draw. The question put was: **What should be the correct means of deciding the result of this match?**

It has been established that the Evening League Playing rules do not cover matches being stopped by serious injury; nor do the League Regulations envisage the possibility of a drawn match.

Ideally, once the injured player left the field of play, the match should have been completed.

Law 16.9 conclusion of a match, states that *a match is concluded when;*

- ✍ A result is reached
- ✍ the minimum overs for the last hour of play and agreed time for close of play has been reached
- ✍ However the league's Special Regulations of 20 over innings replace the last hour and agreed time criteria
- ✍ If, without the match being concluded as above, players leave the field for adverse conditions of ground, weather or light, *or in exceptional circumstances* and no further play is possible thereafter.

It appears that the match would be deemed to have been concluded 'in exceptional circumstances'.

Law 21 states that if a match is concluded (as law 16.9) without being determined as a win, umpires awarding the match or a tie, then it shall count as a draw.

It appears that the captains complied with the Spirit of Cricket and made an appropriate decision.

John M Brown reported on an interesting scoring situation in a Leicestershire v Surrey match when Meaker (Surrey) was removed from the bowling attack at the instruction of the umpire having bowled his second fast high full-toss (yes, it is only two such offences at first-class level), the delivery being the first ball of 18th over.

The over had to be finished by another bowler, Newman, bowling for the first time in the innings.

John, an experienced scorer instructor who has regularly instructed on this topic, posed the teaser:

At the end of that particular over, how should the Overs column be completed in those two bowlers' analyses?

Not many responded to this question, perhaps because it doesn't happen often but it could happen to anyone of in our next match as scorer.

At the end of the over in question:

Meaker had bowled 18.0 overs the .0 indicates that he had bowled at least one delivery in his 18th over but had not completed the over

Newman had bowled 0.6 overs six deliveries that count in the over but do not comprise a complete over;
had they all been dot balls this would not count as a Maiden as it was not a complete over

... and a question from Ceres for you to ponder

LOST BALL (LAW 20)

Over the years a number of scorer instructors have told a group that, while they need to be aware of how to record Lost ball, it is something that they are unlikely to come across it. Several have received a phone call during the next playing season telling of a Lost ball scenario in the match that he/she scored at the weekend.

CERES recently attended an umpires meeting (not his own local association) where question 1 below generated much discussion and divided views.

Smith is batting with Jones;

Smith hits the 3rd ball of the over towards the longest boundary; it bounces inside the boundary and does not cross the boundary. There are no calls or signals from the umpire.

The batsmen cross and make good their ground having completing 5 runs when a fielder calls Lost ball.

1. Who faces next delivery?
2. Does the ball count as one in the over?
3. How many runs are scored and how/where are they recorded

As a scorer you might say "umpire's jurisdiction" but you still have to make the necessary entries in the scoring record. What will you record?

Answers in the next issue.

EGGHEADS v NOTCHERS by John M Brown

So now it is over and the world knows that The Notchers lost a well-fought contest with the Eggheads.

The programme was eventually broadcast on Wednesday 9th September.

It all started in 2007 when somebody suggested that it would be a good idea to enter a team of county scorers to challenge the Eggheads team on BBC television. As ACCS secretary, Alan West was asked to gather together a team and to make enquiries of the BBC as to how we might be accepted as potential challengers. The six-man team (one of them a reserve) was Alan West (Lancashire), Keith Booth (Surrey), Mike Charman (Sussex), Keith Gerrish (Gloucestershire), Tony Weld (Hampshire) and me (Derbyshire).

We were offered several dates when we would all be able to attend an interview/audition in a building on the fringe of the City of London and eventually found a day which suited us all. In March 2008 we met up in a nearby pub and walked together to the building to which we had been summoned. We were met in the foyer and taken up, together with another group of hopefuls from Wiltshire, to a large unimpressive room. Here we sat in a semi-circle while a young woman put us through a set of questions on similar lines to those asked in the quiz itself. This took little more than forty minutes, and we were told that we would be

advised of the outcome in the not-too-distant future.

It seemed quite a long time before we heard that we were being offered the opportunity to appear on the show.

Alan had made it very clear that we would not be available to record during the cricket season since our scoring work would prevent us from all being available on the same day. Even so we were offered two different dates during the season, and twice Alan had to put them off and remind them that we would not be available during the summer months. Towards the end of the season we were sent a list of about ten dates in late November or early December, and asked to select one which suited us all.

We were probably virtually unique as a team in that we were from six different parts of the country whereas most contestants would have been groups who met each other frequently. We used email to try to establish which of the eight or nine potential topics might be strengths or weaknesses, and found that there were a couple of categories which nobody fancied. When I suggested that Alan, whom I knew was a regular quizzier and might have a greater knowledge of the sort of questions which we would be asked, might be the one who was held back for the final General Knowledge round rather than risk him being eliminated in one of the preliminary rounds, I and the rest of the team were told that I was a defeatist, which seemed rather strange.

We were called to meet at the BBC Television Centre in Shepherd's Bush at 2 o'clock on Wednesday 3rd December, and taken to our Green Room by two attractive young

women. Here we were given a briefing together with the opportunity to ask questions, and there was a generous

supply of snacks and drinks (non-alcoholic, of course). We learnt that they usually record five programmes in one day (but only three on our day) and that a team of challengers had won their contest that very morning, so we should be playing for a potential prize of £2000 at the most: I don't think that figure was very high in anybody's thoughts as the adrenalin started to flow. We had all been asked to bring three shirts (not white, nor blue, since this would match the backdrop) and these were taken away by the Wardrobe Department who selected those which they wanted us to wear on the set.

We were taken to the Make-up Department where we were given a quick tidy-up, as much as anything to make sure that there no parts of our faces which would reflect any light. Next we went to a small dressing-room where we changed into the chosen (and newly-pressed) shirts; then back to the Green Room to await our call to the studio.

The time soon came and we were shown into a huge room with much of the floor space and ceiling filled with cameras, cables and lighting equipment. We spent some time testing our individual sound levels, and we pre-recorded the opening sequence in which we introduced ourselves. It was just as well that we had a practice run at this since there were at least two of us, myself included, who needed to repeat their opening words.

The Eggheads team arrived and introduced themselves with a quick word and handshake. Then came the question-master, Dermot Murnaghan, and almost immediately we were under way. There were a few opening pleasantries during which Alan explained how we had come by the team name of *The Notchers* and then we were into the first round of questions. One by one we were called up and one by one we were eliminated, although all of us, I think, acquitted ourselves well. The rest of the team were kind enough to allow me Sport as my specialist subject, although when I got questions on motor-racing, women's tennis and boxing, I was not so sure.

On screen it looks as though the individuals involved are sitting in their own sound-proofed rooms, but in fact they are both sitting, about fifteen feet apart, on the same cushioned bench in the same studio with an individual camera each. There is a large screen separating the two contestants from the main set so they can only hear what is being said, but have no view of the rest of the team, nor the question-master.

We were asked to look into the camera at all times while we were in the spotlight, and only move when we were told to do so by one of the many extra bodies involved in the production.

Sadly Alan was left on his own for the final round, so the rest of us were squashed together on the hidden bench while he did battle with all five of the Eggheads. He did very well and almost beat them when the experts struggled with the name of the newspaper which had had a recent change of editor.

EGGHEADS v NOTCHERS

After much discussion (and disagreement) they guessed the right name, *The Independent*, and five questions later (two of these questions were edited out, presumably to prevent over-running) Alan was eliminated in a sudden death question.

The Eggheads came to commiserate with us and Judith, my opponent, was gracious enough to confirm that it must be very frustrating to be beaten by someone like her who had got through with a couple of complete guesses.

We were away from the studio at six o'clock having shared a memorable four-hour experience, with the information that 'our' show would probably be broadcast at the end of March or early April. Much later we were told that some

rescheduling meant that the transmission had been delayed until June, but then we heard that we had been postponed until 8th September.

Apparently, although we were not told the reason, the schedulers had decided to show a fifteen-week long series of repeats which culminated in a team of young men winning £75,000.

Clearly somebody was not very good at maths as we were later told that our date would be 25th August; by now it came as little surprise when we were told that we were back again to 10th September. Finally came the message on Tuesday morning, 8th September, that the broadcast was scheduled for the following day, Wednesday 9th September. The rest, as they say, is history.

YOUR COMMENTS ON "ARE SCORERS VALUED?"

From Wraye Wenigmann

Scoring in continental Europe can sometimes be a completely different ball game – please excuse the pun! We have few experienced umpires and fewer scorers. We lack facilities on many grounds and often have to make do with even less. We have no pavilions or score boxes; we have party tents and picnic tables. We do not have elegant teas; we have chicken curry and rice on paper plates. I have scored a lot of games alone on home-made sheets, sitting on a picnic blanket! Well, you expect things to be a bit more rustic over here.

Over the years, I have developed a working relationship with my city, State and national teams and I am treated very well indeed at all our home games.

My problems stem with other teams and as far as I can see, there tend to be some international truths to scoring. It is an absolute joy to be paired with another experienced scorer. It is also a joy to share my table with a child or wife, so long as they are keen to have a go and learn. But the pits of the earth are the reluctant player/12th men scorers! They moan about selection, the umpires and the conditions; you would think they were all victims of a heinous conspiracy – that was surely a wide, that was never an LBW - and they never know how to score the extras, do they?

There is no excuse for regional teams not providing a scorer – however reluctant he or she may be – but the Laws are often blatantly ignored. For national teams this should be different, but not always; I have officiated ICC Europe games where teams have brought neither scorer nor score book. For my own country, Germany, the truth is simple. We cannot afford a proper scorer for away games; the national budget is too small. This is true for so many ICC Associate members. So long as the position of scorer remains an afterthought instead of an integral part of the third team, this situation will continue.

Chris Bryant has her doubts about how well scorers are valued.

She sent this email to sales@ecbacoshop.co.uk on 22 July 2009 asking for scorers to be included and not forgotten:

"Dear ACO Sales,

Thank you for your brochure, received today.

One again scorers (male & female) and/or lady umpires (yes, there are some) have been completely ignored for provision of specialist clothing/equipment. I am most disappointed in the contents of the catalogue.

We thought the new ECB ACO was created to INCLUDE us. Cricket officials are supposed to form a team, but all too often the scorers are forgotten or just ignored.

PLEASE help rectify this by provision of even a few suitable items.

Yours very disappointedly,

Mrs Chris Bryant, Scorer member of ACO"

At the time of publication Chris has not received a response.

Chris also reports that she spent a very cold day at a local cricket club. The score box over the other side of the ground had been converted to show the electronic display so there is now no shelter for scorers, apart from a covered veranda where the wind whistles round the corner unabated. At the time a team from that club had just been accepted into a more prestigious which required certain standards to be met before teams could join. On asking if their lack of provision for scorers had been questioned the response was: "Oh no - the only additional thing we had to provide was a clock". Need I say more!

Chris likes the ground and enjoys the company but makes the point that if even the more senior leagues do not require provision for scorers, what hope have we to improve the scorer's lot?

TWENTY/20 CRICKET QUESTIONS

The recent Twenty/20 competitions generated a number of questions from readers including:

What is the generally recognised procedure / symbol for accounting for a 2 run penalty “No Ball” in the scoring record?

The No ball symbol (a circle) is used and the appropriate number of runs recorded in the No ball extras row.

When Special Regulations determine that two runs are scored for a No ball then the circle represents two runs and any additional runs are scored as numbers or dots inside the circle in the usual manner.

A side note indicating that in this match/competition the penalty for a No ball is 2 runs can be used.

What is the generally recognised procedure / symbol for accounting for a “Free Hit” in the scoring record?

A representative of the Association of Cricket County Scorers advises that there is no generally accepted symbol for the ‘Free Hit’. They tend not to make any entry for the ‘Free Hit’ as it has no real relevance to the score; some might include a marginal note (particularly if, had it not been a free hit, the batsman would have been dismissed!).

Am I correct in assuming that the 2 run “No Ball” penalty is only for a foot fault infringement and the “Free Hit” is for this type of “No Ball” only. ANY other “No Ball” is a 1 run “No Ball” penalty and there is no “Free Hit”?

You would need to consult the Special Regulations for the competition in question. They do differ!

The ICC Twenty20 World Cup regulations do not vary Law 24.12 which means that the penalty for all No balls is 1 run.

Competition Regulations can be found on the websites of the ICC, ECB and other national cricket boards.

Is there any limit to the number of overs a bowler can bowl?

Individual competition regulations set the maximum number of overs that a bowler can bowl. Refer to the Special Regulations

When the scores are tied in the Twenty/20 competition how is the winning team determined – Wickets Lost? Run Rate? Net Run Rate? Other?

Again you would have to consult the Playing Regulations for the Twenty/20 competition in question.

Regulations for the domestic Twenty/20 game in the UK differ from the ICC Special Regulations making it difficult to offer a definitive answer. If scoring matches from the TV you are recommended to view the competition regulations on line first.

Your questions, news and views are welcomed for use in future issues

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)



For books, scoring equipment and coloured pens or to access the Bulletin Board;

Visit the Acumen Books website at:

www.acumenbooks.co.uk



MILLENNIUM SCORING RECORD

The A3 scoring record originally designed by members of the ACU&S Scorers' Board. Contact milsteadmsr@btinternet.com for more information

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

Refill pack of 50 sheets £10 + P&P

Scorer Correspondence courses

ECB ACO offer an Introductory level course - For more information visit the ECB ACO web site.

A standard level equivalent course is independently run to the high standards previously set by The Association of Cricket Umpires and Scorers. It is open to anyone wishing to learn more about cricket scoring.

For more information contact cathy.rawson@btopenworld.com

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

The next issue will include the *Christmas Challenge*.

Send your contributions to: notchers@btopenworld.com

October newsletter copy date: 24th November 2009

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

CODE 27

As used at Lord's