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Notchers' News

ISSUE 10

JUNE 2010

The network for scorers

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

Newsletter to receive a boost in circulation

The first issue of the newsletter went out to about 80 scorers in July 2008 .

It now goes *directly* to some 150 scorers; it also reaches many others as readers cascade it to scorer colleagues and as it is accessed from the newsletter's own website and from the websites of cricket umpire and scorer associations, cricket leagues and other interested parties.

The aim of the newsletter remains the same, to provide a networking forum for scorers everywhere, whether or not they are members of any local or national scorer association.

The ECB Association of Cricket Officials has formally requested permission to include Notchers News with the newsletter circulated to their members.

Your editor was happy to grant this request as it fulfils the aims of the newsletter.

Your news, stories, photos and questions make the newsletter.

The editor simply collates the newsletter and, as the reserve of material for use in future issues is low, looks forward to receiving contributions from readers everywhere.

Notchers' News will continue to be an independent production.

INDOOR CRICKET

A query from Wraye Wenigmann

In Germany we have a rule on "roofing" - if any player skies the ball, he is automatically out.

For the past 5 years I have given credit to the bowler for this dismissal.

In a recent tournament, because there was nothing in the written competition regulations, an experienced (non-German) umpire allowed this dismissal off a no-ball.

I would like to hear readers experiences or opinions with regard to the dismissal 'roofed'?

Editor's comment

When I was introduced to Indoor Cricket in the early 1970s I recollect that Sports Hall managers were very concerned about damage as a result of cricket balls hitting the roof and the higher sections of the walls as these tended to be of a material more susceptible to damage.

Special Regulations (often specific to the venue) were agreed to deter players from hitting the ball in the air.

On a very quick search of the internet I was able to identify several options on 'roofed' and 'caught off the walls and the roof'

What happens in the indoor cricket leagues and competitions in your area?

The newsletter can only be successful if copy is received for publication. Please submit articles, letters and questions to notchers@btopenworld.com

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

IAN BEVERIDGE

Past Chairman of the Scorers' Board of the Association of Cricket Umpires and Scorers (ACU&S)

Based on contributions from **Mac Wylie** (formerly ACU&S Regional Councillor, Scotland)

Neil Leitch (Scorer, Scotland National Team)

Sally Pitman and Cathy Rawson (members of Scorers' Board, ACU&S, during Ian's chairmanship)

Ian Beveridge, a founder member and long serving chairman of the Scorers Committee (subsequently known as Scorers' Board) of the ACU&S, died peacefully on 6th May 2010 following a short illness. He was aged 90.

Ian took up umpiring in the East of Scotland League in the late 1960s/early 1970s at the end of his playing career, obtained his umpire qualification and became secretary of the East of Scotland League's local association. However his main interest was always in the field of umpire & scorer development and training. He realised the need for umpire & scorer training and arranged classes for those who wanted to develop their knowledge and skills in either discipline.

Neil Leitch, a scorer for the Scotland National Team, reports that when he left school in 1972 Ian soon had him pursuing interests in both umpiring & scoring. When Neil came to the conclusion he would never make a decent umpire Ian had him attending courses on scoring, followed soon by instructing, albeit at a fairly elementary level. Ian encouraged Neil to attend classes (held in Ian's house) and take the Association of Cricket Umpires scorer examination (ACU - no Scorers in the name then!). When the Advanced Scorer Examination was introduced Neil recalls doing the training and the examination as a 'test candidate'.

It was through Ian that Neil got his first experience of scoring in a Scotland game. Ian had been asked to supply a scorer for MCC in their Edinburgh game against Scotland in 1975 and nominated Neil, thereby forming an ambition in him to become the regular Scotland scorer. It took seven more years, but he got there!

Ian became Scotland's first Regional Councillor in 1980, represented Scotland umpires & scorers at national meetings of ACU. By then he was developing a keen interest in scoring and the development of scorer training, an interest which coincided with an aspiration on the part of ACU to address the needs of its scorer members. Ian's nomination to the new Scorers' Committee was a natural progression and it's probably fair to say that from here on he developed a far greater prominence in ACU umpiring & scoring matters than he did in Scottish cricket.

As Scorers' Committee chairman he became all things scoring, working tirelessly to ensure the development of scorer training, examinations, correspondence courses, instructors' manuals. He liaised with the Training and Examination Committees and did his utmost to ensure that General Council considered scoring matters on an equal footing with those of umpiring. He was a hard taskmaster with high expectations of his colleagues on the Committee but he always led by example.

Probably his most significant achievement as chairman of the Scorers' Committee and one which undoubtedly gave him much satisfaction was when, having persuaded General Council that The Association Cricket Umpires be renamed **The Association Cricket Umpires and Scorers**, the proposal was successfully put to the membership.

Ian was very a principled man and always wanted what he thought was best for scorers and scoring. His views were not always popular but, through discussions, the committee was always able to move forward. With scorers now recognised within ACU&S and confident that Scorers' Board would continue his work he retired, handing over the reins to the Deputy Chairman, Dennis Cooke.

General Council of ACU&S subsequently proposed Ian's nomination as a Life Vice President of the Association which was endorsed by the membership at the following AGM. While no longer actively involved in cricket, Ian continued his keen interest in the affairs of ACU&S until the association ceased its activities in December 2007.

For many years Ian was 'Mr Scoring' within ACU&S and scorers worldwide will be forever grateful for his endeavours.

Has the Christmas Challenge run its course?

In Issue 9 we asked for your views. To date only four readers have responded.

All said that they enjoy the challenge and would like it to be an annual feature.

Some used it as an opportunity to test their knowledge of the Laws of Cricket; others used it as a refresher and researched the questions thoroughly; all look forward to checking their answers against those published

The editor and the Third Umpire ask you, do you want a Christmas Challenge in the December 2010 issue?

E-MAIL NOTCHERS NOW - THE FUTURE OF THE CHALLENGE IS WITH YOU

SCORER TRAINING IN HONG KONG

Alice Jones and Cathy Rawson

Alice gives the background to this article:

A lack of scorers has always been a problem in Hong Kong. The task of scoring usually fell upon the players, their partners or wives (if they were interested). My initial scoring experience was learning from the players who also had to function as the scorer.

I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity of undertaking a proper scorers' course conducted by Kathy Walker who had contacts with the ACU&S (UK). I became a qualified scorer and recognised by ACU&S (UK) by examination.

Quite a few of the "old school" scorers (wives/partners) left Hong Kong after 1997.

The Hong Kong Cricket Association saw a need to organise scorers training courses. Since then I have helped by running a few courses on one evening a week for 5 weeks. However, people in HK find it difficult to attend evening courses because of work commitments and I found it difficult to run because of my own work commitments. When I saw in *Notchers News* that Cathy Rawson was running correspondence courses for scorers I was overjoyed and considered this as both an ideal opportunity and training solution for Hong Kong cricket! Thus I contacted Cathy through email and invited her, on behalf of the Hong Kong Cricket Association, to run a correspondence course for the training of scorers in Hong Kong.

Cathy reports that she was approached by Alice in May 2009 and that, over the next five months (and many emails), they discussed what the HKCA scorer training needs were, how they could best be provided, the availability of examinations, assessment of scoring skills in the practical setting and what it might cost. Funding of the training and examination was to be met by the HKCA, a demonstration of their commitment to their scorers.

I had already started to write a new 'cricket limited by overs' correspondence course. This is the type of cricket most of us score every weekend throughout the season. As I worked up the course I was just about keeping ahead of the four scorers who had were already accessing it, two in Singapore and two in the UK. I owe particular thanks to Debbie Pienaar, the first to undertake each module of the new course, for proof-reading the material and identifying errors (usually my typing!) as she worked her way through the material.

In the early days of planning Alice was looking at perhaps up to eight scorers enrolling; it soon became clear that some of the participants had little or no experience of cricket scoring but I was totally unprepared for the email saying: *'I have finally managed to get the list of participants, there are 58 of them. 40 of them don't have any cricket experience, I will organise one talk to introduce cricket and the basic theory of scoring to them face to face.'*

We agreed a start date of November 2009 for the 18 participants with some scoring experience. They received a 'starter pack' which included an innings to be scored; some showed great enthusiasm and submitted their first completed scoring record ahead of the start date. Fourteen of the eighteen have started the course and two are now ready to take the mock examination (Alice is planning for them to take it under examination conditions). The fourteen participants have, between them, submitted 40 assignments (completed scoring records and answers to questions on the Laws of Cricket relating to scoring); written feedback on every submission has been provided offering suggestions to improve scoring technique and identifying any learning needs.

Alice arranged several face to face sessions with the forty participants who had little knowledge of cricket.

Running face to face tutorial sessions for people who do not know cricket at all proved to be very challenging.

Explaining the game of cricket was difficult - thank goodness I've played a little cricket myself.

Cathy provided PowerPoint slides and presentations which helped me to explain the basics of completing a scoring record. I was very impressed with the learning attitude of the participants. They have demonstrated their enthusiasm to learn not only by being attentive but also asking very sensible questions. However their commitment to their daytime job meant that the assignment returns have taken much longer than expected.

The PowerPoint presentation used as the basis for the tutorial sessions is to be made available on the Notchers' website.

Cathy wasn't surprised when five of this group opted out of the training initiative following the face to face sessions and confesses that she was expecting the number to be higher. It quickly became apparent that the remaining 35 clearly had listened well to the tutorials with Alice and applied what they had learnt when scoring the initial scoring record.

Despite the fact that they weren't 'up and running' until several weeks after the first group 34 of the 35 have submitted their first assignment and between them they've returned 69 assignments.

Copies of all the assessments have gone to Alice so that she can offer support and mentorship.

When several scorers encountered the same problem with scoring record entries Alice organised additional group sessions and address any perceived learning needs.

SCORER TRAINING IN HONG KONG

Continued from page 3

The quality of the scoring has visibly improved as the participants worked through the course material and the assessments of their work are getting shorter. I've been impressed with the enthusiasm shown, and with the questions asked by the course participants while working through the course material and when receiving their assessments.

Alice writes that the course material is being handled with super efficiency;

The participants receive the modules by email; they complete the assignment, it is scanned and send by email to Cathy; written assessments are returned within a few days (isn't technology wonderful - what would we do without it?); the comments are clear and comprehensive.

I am looking forward to the next stage of organising the exams for the participants!

Alice and Cathy hope that the combination of the seminars, correspondence course and local mentorship can deliver at least enough competent scorers to service the demands of cricket in Hong Kong.

We will update you as the scorers progress to an end of course examination. This will be marked by independent scorer markers and has been accepted by the HKCA as a measure of the scorers' knowledge. Assessment in practice (scoring matches) will follow to ensure that the scorers are able to apply their knowledge to practice.

RAINDANCE

by John Dykes.

Six sacred sticks in hallowed turf,
two threes a chain between.
Two elders come with stately tread,
white-coated on the scene.

Each then a pair of wooden pegs
upon the batons places,
white clad young men come hurrying out
and take allotted spaces.

Two more young men, armour clad,
each with a willow stem,
stride out toward the sacred sticks
and stand in front of them.

One elder hands a bright red orb
to one well built young swain,
then calls out "play", the clouds erupt
and down comes pouring rain !

More of those unusual events

From Robbie Burns

In one match I had:

- 2 lots of penalty runs to the batting side, one in each innings (Ball hitting the helmets behind the keeper),
- A call of "No ball" from the square leg umpire who then indicated encroachment by the keeper by cupping his hand and moving them forward. He later answered an appeal and turned to me making a similar movement. Caught by the keeper. A good example of team work by the officials.

In another match, an over-60s match an "all run" 5 occurred

From Lorna Piper

"Swarm of bees stopped play" - we had to wait until the bees fly off before we could continue the game.

SCORERS' IDIOSYNCRASIES

by Andy Scarlett

Following on from John M Brown's 'Smudge over' in Issue 5 of Notchers' News (you can find it on the Notchers' website), you might be interested to know that Mike Smith would never mention that a Smudge was on until the fourth ball had been delivered.

A few other 'sought after occasions' are:

My own is the '123 for 5' (12345) which would be perfect with batsman 6 on 7 and batsman 8 on 9! I am still waiting for the 765 for 3!

The non maiden over with 111111 or 222222 etc. - I saw a 444444 in a 2nd XI trophy match last season between Derby and MCC young Cricketers.

In some score boxes the response when a colleague has been asked which ball has been bowled might be Porthcawl, meaning fourth ball. It comes from a previous scorer for Glamorgan, the late Byron Denning, who named each ball for a port in Wales. The names for the other balls seem to have disappeared but Porthcawl remains.

David Kendix (MCC Scorer at Lord's) noted once that the scoreboard had entries in a sequence 1, 2, 4, 8, 16, 32 and 64. Now that's what I call idiosyncratic!

Hello to the Notchers' magazine.

I felt the need to lend some support to one of the few forums available to scorers.

I was reminded, having read your last edition, that I too added the entry 'helicopter stopped play' at Lt. Bardfield Village CC's ground last season; the club agreed to be used as an emergency landing field for the village as we are more or less centrally situated, not dreaming that it would ever happen! The patient was dealt with, the pilot was offered a cup of tea (what else) and play was resumed after thirty-five minutes. While the helicopter landed off the playing area it was not felt safe for play to continue considering the high level of any insurance claim had a wayward ball stuck the machine!

I will be torn between the score-box and the field this season as several payers have asked me to act as umpire. I passed the ACU&S level one umpire exam, having originally taken the course in order to learn the Laws then, having made use of the correspondence courses offered by the ACU&S, passing the ACU&S Introductory and Standard level scorer exams.

I have been quite upset at times over some of the decisions given by players standing as umpires; the 'Spirit' of the game is soon forgotten when defeat looms! What to do? I am keen to try and help cricket from going the way of so many sports; but there is so much pleasure to be had from a score book accurately filled in with every detail and statistic recorded; I think that the book will win!

Good luck with the magazine, and good luck to all scorers and other officials during the coming season.

ADVERTISING SCORER TRAINING COURSES

Notchers' News (<http://www.notchers.co.uk>) hosts a list of known courses which will be updated regularly.

To advertise your course (free of charge) by sending course details and contact information to notchers@btopenworld.com

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 'scoring cricket limited by overs' 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.

Send your contributions to: notchers@btopenworld.com

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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:

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