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Notchers' News

ISSUE 12

DECEMBER 2010

The network for scorers

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

Breaking records a scorer's view

Chris Mountain.

When it comes to cricket, I am lucky. Have I mentioned I have scored at Lord's? For Australia, no less. On the flip side, I spent time under a table this season as a match went on through a shower and the paper was spotted with raindrops. How else could I score a cricket match...

It is 4am. My feet are cold and I have 3, maybe 4, layers of clothing around me. Two gloves on one hand, just one on the right. The gas for the patio heater, so effective 2 days before, has run out. I am scoring a cricket match in the dark of an August night. In front of me are 23 tired men, and one tired lady, from Blunham Cricket Club, or rather a selection of them as whilst the Pink team are bowling, the Purple team are batting in their 14th innings and many of them are using the free time to sleep. For those still awake it is a short run-up, a ball bowled and the batsman playing it defensively. The next ball much the same. Overs raced through with the odd hit into the outfield for an easy single, maybe a boundary. Few runs are taken quickly as, with the clock reaching 90 hours, energy levels are fading. The occasional shout of 'what am I on, scorer?' breaks the silence.

Blunham CC is the British home of World Record attempts. Their first attempt in 2008 saw just over 59½ hours of continuous play. The intervening 24 months have seen teams in Australia & New Zealand push the mark first to 67 and then to 100 hours; over 4 days of non-stop cricket. Blunham want the record back before the Ashes series. Unlike our southern hemisphere cousins, foul weather is much more of a threat. Whilst England and Pakistan managed little play at Lord's, Blunham played on. Their determination to get the record back and raise money both for themselves and several charities meant they played in over 20 hours of rain. One umpire, who is familiar with all the weather which the Lake District fells can throw at him, said he had never been so wet than when he stood that Thursday afternoon.

My initial arrival found a Pavilion busy with a Friday evening crowd, plus a live band in a field behind. Most were watching the cricket and the bar was making good money. After chatting for a while and signing in as a witness, I took over the book. It was hectic to follow. 55 overs in 2½ hours is rare in any form of cricket, but with every bowler using a short run and plenty of dot balls, time to stop & think was at a premium. Well served with tea I pressed on. Dom Aloia hit a century, Benny Howard a 50 (a first in his life, he claimed) Wickets were few as players batted for the greater cause of breaking the record, letting team mates sleep in the knowledge that they should be able to grab 10 or 15 winks in a few hours. As Friday evening became Saturday morning and those watching headed for bed, the 40 hour mark was passed. A break for food, in which the sausages (or was it bacon) disappeared in a flash (hence my confusion and missing out) before the next 3-hour fielding session begins. My 4 hours almost complete a tired looking Jody arrives for her 4-hour shift with the book.

Monday 2am - a different scene. The fielders, much quieter than 48 hours before, were dry but a cool north-westerly wind had picked up. Dipen Dixit arrived for his fifth or sixth session of umpiring, in addition to the couple of club matches around Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire, at the weekend. Play went on at the same pace as two days before with up to 25 overs in one hour. I hear that during one session, two of the players bowled 87 overs between them, without a break, during the rains. Another century, another 90 or so from Aloia. When Pink bat again the sun starts to rise, the effect of the natural light creeping across the ground. Little warmth emanates at 6am but the four generators dotted around the boundary can be switched off for the last time, a sign that the finishing line is in sight. An innings begun in darkness finishes with an autumnal sunrise.

About right for a Bank Holiday!

The things we do for cricket!

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>

The Christmas Challenge

The Notchers have challenged the Scratchers to yet another fireside fixture this year

Readers are invited to accept the Challenge by solving the clues on page 3 to discover how many runs each player scores. You are invited to complete the scorecard and give the result of the match.

There are no trick questions, and all relevant information is provided in the clues.

Normal Laws of Cricket (updated on 1st October 2010) apply (no special regulations).

You should record all these scores in batting order, and complete your solution by giving the result of the match.

Not all of the questions relate to what is considered 'essential knowledge for scorers' but, with a little research into the MCC Laws of Cricket 2000 Code 4th Edition - 2010 you should be able to work out all of the answers.

The 2000 Code 4th Edition - 2010 can be found at <http://www.lords.org/laws-and-spirit/laws-of-cricket/>

Please send your entry (limited to one per reader) to arrive with The Third Umpire by 10th January 2010.

The mailing address is The Third Umpire, 60 The Lawns, Rolleston-on-Dove, Staffordshire, DE13 9DB
or email johnmbrown60@gmail.com.

All entries will be examined and the names of all those whose entries are correct will be put into the Umpire's hat, from which the winner of the prize will be drawn at random.

Visit page 3 to score the Christmas Challenge fireside fixture, and good luck to you all

Getting the score right; a basic lesson in teamwork

Phil Hill

Phil is an umpire in Melbourne in the Mercantile Cricket Association (MCA) and spends a great deal of time researching cricket and cricket history; he has a podcast at cricketpodcast.com. He recently accessed the Notchers website via the MCA site .

Phil writes as follows:

Hello from Australia and thank you for a most interesting newsletter.

In an early season match I was at the Canterbury ground in Melbourne, a very wide ground with a very long boundary to the pavilion. The ground gained some notoriety a few years ago when we introduced a rule that not only disallowed sixes on one side of the ground **but also** penalized the batsman for so doing. Some ***** residents were complaining.

I was joined by two new captains and a new umpire, standing in his first game. Plenty of work for me to make sure that the captains and new umpire knew our rules that cover our 80 over games.

I think it is important that the scorers sit away from the players at all times and this day brought home this point rather graphically. I started the game off in the normal way, which includes getting an acknowledgement from the scorers. As often happens about 10 people around the scorer's table put their arms up (including a bloke who was doing Sudoku puzzles, though I didn't know this at the time).

What happened next? An all too familiar story! The match started but with just one scorer. After a while, the players drifted away from the table and, realising that there was only one person scoring at the table, I called out "the scorers must sit together". The man with his head down in the Sudoku puzzles went and sat with the sole scorer and continued with his book of puzzles.

It gets worse. At the drinks break (20 overs) both captains wanted clarification of the rules; I did not have time to check the scores as is expected of all umpires in the MCA at all intervals. I am fond of saying "the drinks break is not a break for the scorers." All umpires should touch base with the scorers as often as possible and confirm that we agree the score. In the MCA we have two umpires in every game but we do not have dedicated scorers and scoring mistakes abound. We, as umpires, have to oversee the scoring as well as the play out on the field.

We finished the first innings and the scores were a mess. There was a possible range of **twelve runs**. The captains finally agreed the first innings score as it was impossible to decipher the correct tally. To completely ruin my day the match was a nail-biter decided by only two runs; if the captains had accepted a different first innings score it might have been a win by wickets!

This game taught me a valuable lesson. Both sides had reason to complain about this fiasco; they could have disputed the scores and demanded that the MCA decoded the score book (if possible) and decided the result. Thankfully the spirit of cricket prevailed.

The lesson? Umpires should be careful to ensure that the scorers sit away from the players and that only the scorers acknowledge the umpires' signals.

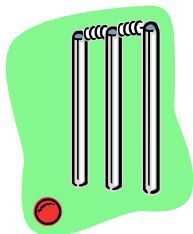
NIKOLAUS SZKUTKO (seen in the centre of the photo) is an umpire and scorer in Queensland, Australia. Last season he officiated in matches at temperature extremes. In April 2010 he stood with a local umpire in the hottest of conditions in the village of Seenigama in Sri Lanka. In August he scored in the coldest conditions (for an Australian) in Texas, Queensland - Wanderers Cricket Club Inc. was on its annual 12 day bus tour of selected Queensland towns coaching school children and playing against local XI sides.



The Christmas Challenge

The Notchers' XI (batting first)

- 1 In a match scheduled to start at 14:00 hrs, the captains toss at 13:36 hrs: at how many minutes after 13:00hrs is the latest time the captain winning the toss must notify his decision to bat or to field?
 - 2 In a two-day match Side A declares their first innings closed at 227 for 8: how many runs must Side B score to avoid the possibility of being asked to follow on?
 - 3 A member of the fielding side tells the umpires he is leaving the field for treatment; he is soon ready to return and is waiting on the boundary edge when the fourth ball of the over is hit in his direction. He runs onto the field, picks the ball up as the batsmen turn for their second run, throws the ball to the wicket-keeper who removes the bails and appeals with the striker just short of his ground.
How many runs should be added to the total?
 - 4 ... and how many of those runs would be credited to the striker?
 - 5 ... and which batsman would face the next ball:
Striker (15), non-striker (10), either (5)?
 - 6 ... and how many balls remain to be bowled in the over?
 - 7 What is the area of the protected area (in square feet)?
 - 8 The striker makes a legitimate second strike at the third ball of the over to protect his wicket; the batsmen run and, after they have crossed, the fielder throws the ball in an attempt to run the non-striker out; the throw misses and the batsmen complete three runs.
How many runs should be added to the score?
 - 9 ... and which batsman should face the next ball:
Striker (15), non-striker (10), either (5)?
 - 10 A member of the fielding side leaves the field (with permission) at 15:04 hrs; it starts to rain at 15:17 hrs and the players leave the field. All members of the fielding side return to the field to resume play at 15:28 hrs: At how many minutes after 15:00 hrs would the fielder who had earlier left the field before allowed to bowl?
 - 11 The batting side have received a first warning for causing avoidable damage to the pitch. The umpire calls and signals Wide ball, the batsmen run 3, but, in running, cause further avoidable damage to the pitch.
How many runs should be added to the total?
- Extras:* ... and which batsman should face the next ball:
Striker (15), non-striker (10), either (5)?



The Scratchers' XI

- 1 A member of the fielding side leaves the field (with permission) at 15:04 hrs; it starts to rain at 15:21 hrs and the players leave the field. All members of the fielding side return to the field to resume play at 15:28 hrs: at how many minutes after 15:00 hrs would the fielder who had earlier left the field be allowed to bowl?
 - 2 A member of the fielding side leaves the field (with permission) at 15.04 hrs; it starts to rain at 15:17 hrs and the players leave the field. Play resumes at 15:28 hrs, but the fielder who earlier left the field does not return until 15:30 hrs: at how many minutes after 15:00 hrs would he be allowed to bowl?
 - 3 Side B needs one run to win from the last ball of the match. The injured striker is batting with a runner: he hits the ball and runs, the runner and the non-striker both run. They all reach the other end safely, but a fielder returns the ball to the wicket-keeper who removes the bails and appeals.
How many runs should be scored?
 - 4 The scores are level: the striker hits the ball high in the air, and the batsmen complete one run before the ball is caught by extra-cover.
How many runs should be scored?
 - 5 How many inches wide is a cricket pitch?
 - 6 In a match scheduled to start at 13:45 hrs, at how many minutes after 13:00 hrs is the earliest time at which the toss may be made?
 - 7 The last hour starts at 18:30 hrs: at 18:41 hrs, after 3.2 overs have been bowled, the players leave the field for rain. Play resumes at 18:52 hrs.
What is the minimum number of legitimate balls which remain to be bowled?
 - 8 The striker hits the ball high over long-on where the fielder steps back over the rope, then jumps and, while in the air, parries the ball back into the field. After doing so, the fielder lands with both feet in the field of play: the batsmen have completed two runs by the time the ball is returned.
How many runs should be added to the total?
 - 9 The striker hits the ball high over mid-wicket: a fielder knocks the ball in the air, steps back over the boundary rope, and returns to complete a catch.
How many runs should be scored?
 - 10 The striker hits the fifth ball of an over, the batsmen complete two runs and turn for a third when the bowler deliberately trips the non-striker who remains on the ground. The ball is thrown to the wicket-keeper who removes the bails and appeals: how many runs should be scored?
 - 11 ... and which batsman should face the next ball:
striker (15), non-striker (10), either (5)?
- Extras:* ... and how many balls remain in the over?

RESULT

From player to scorer

Lakshmi Hariharan

My experience of scorer training Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)

As a player in India my State Captain expected me to take my turn at scoring on those occasions when there was no appointed scorer. I decided to stop playing at a higher level some 5 years ago and it was then that scoring began to turn from an ad hoc activity to a serious one. About 3 years ago my employer deputed me to work in Singapore, a country not well known as a cricket playing nation compared with India but, ironically, my professional scoring started there. As cricket was my only pastime I started to score on a regular basis for the Singapore Cricket league, initially in Division 4 but quickly moving up to Division I. The time in Singapore also exposed me to International Cricket scoring ACC and ICC competitions. It was then that I realised that Scorers need to be qualified in order to be competent at that high level. All my fellow scorers in the League had passed some form of exam whereas I was an 'unqualified' scorer. In discussion with one of the ACC Development Officers it was suggested that I should register with the State Cricket Association once I returned to India.

On returning to India it was with a lot of scepticism that I registered with the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA); there are a lot of in the KSCA area and the standard is at a different level; I never thought that I stood a chance even to score one League match here. As luck would have it, the Association was looking to encourage lady scorers and build a base for Ladies Cricket. The intention was to give ex-players and the current crop of players a chance in their own league and build a strong foundation as in the men's game. A month later I had a call saying that I had been nominated for the BCCI Scorer's course to be held in Bangalore where I reside. I could not have asked for more and enrolled without a second thought; this was a golden opportunity. Before this my only formal scorer training had been via the Scorer Correspondence Course with Cathy Rawson with support and encouragement from Sarah Seabright while in Singapore.

The BCCI was a 3-day long training cum assessment sessions.

DAY 1 included explanation of the Laws of Cricket and how each of them applies to the scorer. The various signals, duties as a scorer etc were explained in detail. I found this very useful though I already knew most of the Laws from my playing days but I feel that a newcomer who is not as familiar with the laws would definitely benefit from these sessions.

DAY 2 was dedicated to detailed explanation of the two types of scoring: the Box method and the Linear scoring. Linear was a new concept for me. There were a couple of exercises to get familiar with the two ways of scoring. The examples were well designed with two/three scenarios to expose the different aspects to be taken care of while scoring. Though I felt that the linear method was less complicated I preferred the box method as I was more used to that. It took some time for me to get adjusted to the linear way of scoring.

On DAY 3 we had the assessment in two sessions.

The morning session included assessment of our knowledge of the Laws of Cricket, the statistical calculations a scorer needs to know, signals from the umpires, recording the result of limited overs and timed cricket matches and also several other aspects related to the laws and interpretation.

The second session was to assess how we would fare while scoring a 'real' match. We were shown a video of a T20 match and asking us to score that match using the linear method; I found this tough as both linear scoring and scoring a video presentation were new concepts. I felt that it was not a very efficient form of assessment; the video clip was modified slightly and caused some doubt in the minds of the scorers; a few things were missed out and the participants lost their thread mid-way through the innings. As many of the participants had been scoring cricket for less than a year I would have thought that asking them to score a regular match along with an experienced scorer would have benefitted them more.

We had 3 excellent trainers who were very patient and knowledgeable and I benefitted from this course. Scoring is a very practically oriented activity and needs a trainer who is knowledgeable and patient, who can describe events on the field of play well and enable the course participant to picture them and know what entry to make in the scoring record; this is especially when a real life scenario is not possible. It was an enriching experience to undergo the training.

Back with SCORING IDIOSYNCRASIS

Phillip Stallard writes about PORTCAWL ball (NN Issue 10, page 4)

"Although I knew Byron Denning, I never had the pleasure of scoring with him. However, I did score on a couple of occasions with Gordon Lewis, who was his successor as the Glamorgan First Team Scorer. Gordon told me that the full list of names was:

Newport Cardiff Bridgend Porthcawl Neath Swansea.

They're not all ports (Bridgend and Porthcawl are the exceptions) but, with the exception of Porthcawl, they are all stations on the South Wales main railway line. I can't remember why Porthcawl was used instead of Port Talbot (which is the "proper" fourth station on the line), but may be someone else can?"

Simon Phillips came across the Notchers website last summer and has been catching up with past issues of the newsletter. The article in Issue 5 May 2009 about unusual names for unusual overs caught his eye. He writes:

"In a Mercantile Cricket Association match in Melbourne last summer, Gunbower United CC v Burnley CYMS CC, my fellow scorer asked him what to call an over in which a bowler concedes runs off every ball. Not uncommon, of course, but what is the opposite of a 'maiden' over? We decided that, as a maiden is chaste, the opposite would be a 'hussey'. Works on many levels.

So what would you call an over where extras are scored off every ball?

Readers' questions - the learning zone

The questions have been put by scorers who really do want to know how scorer colleagues would have dealt with scenarios they experienced when scoring matches. Sadly the response from Notchers' News readers has been disappointing. We can all learn a lot from one another; we need your questions and comments to support the learning process.

Thanks to Tony Izzard who consulted with three of his colleagues, took up the challenge and offers the following comment on the questions which appeared in Notchers News (NN) Issue 11; Page 4
Misplaced your copy of NN 11? You can find Issue 11 and access the questions on the website at www.notchers.co.uk

PART OVERS AND STATISTICS

Mike Turner

Law 22.5 'If an umpire miscounts the number of balls, the over as counted by the umpire shall stand'. Tom Smith's P.161 adds 'Scorers must record the actual number of balls bowled; they must not add additional dots to make up a 6 ball over and nor must they miss out dots if more than 6 balls are bowled. When adding up the number of balls bowled and received the scorer should remember to record the actual number not the number there should have been'.

Therefore: 1st incident Bowler A 8.3 overs Bowler B 1.2 overs.
2nd incident Bowler A 0.3 overs Bowler B 0.4 overs.

STATISTICAL TESTER

John Brown

Andrew Hall bowled a part over, six balls, six runs and 1 wicket. He bowled the next over from that end and finished the match with a wicket from the fifth ball (and 2 runs conceded from the over). He has bowled 11 legitimate balls but not a complete over. Bowling figures: 1.5 overs, 0 maidens, 8 runs, 2 wickets. (part over cannot be deemed as maidens
However, I would not penalise any of my students if they recorded 0.11 - 0 - 8 - 2
(though I would have done if they had only recorded one wicket as appeared in the question in NN11)

The contributor wasn't sure if there was a perfect answer and would probably adopt Tony's approach as a scorer instructor

WHAT CONSTITUTES A BOWLER'S SPELL

Sue Drinkwater

Law 22.7b 'If for any reason, other than the end of an innings, an over is left uncompleted at the start of an interval or interruption of play, it shall be completed on resumption of play'. In a multi-day game the bowler would complete the over and it would be deemed a continuation of his previous spell and similarly this would be the case where the bowler delivers the penultimate over of the day and bowls the 1st over of the next day. (in my opinion)

It is of interest to note the ECB Fast Bowling Match Directives for youngsters - 'If the interruption is of 40 minutes or more, whether scheduled or not, the bowler can commence a new spell immediately'.

ROOFED

Wraye Wenigmann

In issue 10 Wraye asked for readers experiences or opinions with regard to the dismissal 'roofed'
Your Editor asked: What happens in the indoor cricket leagues and competitions in your area?

Do any of you score Indoor Cricket? In the absence of feedback your Editor searched the net and found some indoor regulations regarding the ball hitting the roof. *They vary; scorers should read the League or Competition Special Regulations carefully before scoring matches*

The Bath Indoor Cricket League (UK)

If the batsman strikes the ball which hits the ceiling/stanchion or part thereof, either directly or indirectly, then he shall be given out and no runs scored.

DCB League (Anglia, UK)

The batter shall be given out if the ball strikes the wall above the agreed line and if it goes above the suspended lights.

Crewe-Nantwich (UK)

Coppenhall Leisure Centre, 6. There will be a continuous line around the hall marked on the walls, 8 feet from the floor. A ball off the bat hitting the wall above this mark, or hitting the roof or girders, will be given out unless the ball is deflected by a fieldsman.

The 4th Bavaria International Championships (Germany) U9, U12 and U15 Indoor Cricket Tournaments 2010

The batter can be out "roofed" only from a fair delivery. The batter shall be out "roofed" if, after making contact with the batter's person or bat, the ball hits the ceiling, or any apparatus attached to the ceiling. If the batter is given out "roofed", no runs shall be scored.

Serious Cricket League at the Dummer Cricket Centre (Basingstoke, UK) 2010 / 2011 Season

A batsman shall be adjudged 'caught' if a fielder catches a ball rebounding off either the off side and leg side netting /walls. This also applies to the ceiling and the netting/ walls behind the wicket keeper, but **NOT** the bowler.

ICC Europe: (Their regulations include 'The side walls above a line drawn approximately 2.5 to 3 metres shall be considered part of the ceiling')

The striker shall be out "roofed" if, after making contact with his person or bat, the ball hits the ceiling, or any apparatus attached to the ceiling, without intervention by a fielder. The striker can be out 'roofed' only from a fair delivery

Email notchers@btinternet.com with your thoughts on these and any other scoring matters

Towards the end of the 2010 season I was appointed to score a 2 day 'development' at a lovely county ground. My colleague, Pat, and I were to score the match from the media box - up 3 flights of steps - next to the big 'Score Box' where the very pleasant 'more senior' gentlemen were operating the scoreboard. We could communicate with them by telephone and a small monitor allowed us to see the scoreboard display. We could also see the smaller scoreboard opposite.

As neither Pat nor I knew all of the players we met the team managers to obtain names and descriptions. We were promised 'subs' during the day to support player identification. On the first day all went well and we were getting to know who was who. The 'subs' popped in regularly to check that we knew names at bowling changes etc. The chaps in the scoreboard box got muddled several times but my colleague called through to them at opportune moments while I continued to watch the game; for most of the time the 'Board' was correct.

Day 2 was easier - we knew the players better and all we needed to know from the runners was the name of a close catcher under a big cap!

About an hour into play there was a rattle on the stairs; neither of us looked up as the players knew that they could talk to the back of our heads when we were busy. Who came in? We will never know - we presume it was a parent! What followed was something like this:

You've got the bowlers wrong. This is bowler 2; bowler 1 has bowled 5 overs and bowler 3 took over at that end; this is bowler 2 and it's his 7th over. We both checked our sheets and, still watching the games I very calmly said 'Yes, we know'

But this bowler is ***** and you have *****. We checked our sheets, watched the game, and I calmly said 'Yes, we know'

But you have put up on the board bowler 1 is bowling. We replied - 'Oh you mean up on the Board.....that's not us!'

Oh...its not you.....you are not the scorers? Yes, WE ARE THE SCORERS, you want the SCOREBOX, that's next door.

We carried on doing our job, from which we had not waivered during all this. The guy took a few deep breaths and very quickly did the biggest back track from any comedy sketch you have ever heard

Oh..... oh..... great.... so you ladies know what you are doing..... that's fantastic..... you're doing a brilliant job.

Its next door..... ok..... well you are doing a great job..... mmmmmmm.....

I helped him out of the large hole he had dug " you can stop grovelling now and go and shout at the guys next door!"

It was so funny, but who it was, we have no idea, as we just carried on being 'great' ladies and "knowing what we were doing"!

ADVERTISING SCORER TRAINING COURSES

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

To advertise your course (free of charge) send you 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 .

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

Refill pack of 50 sheets £10 + P&P

Contact milsteadmsr@btinternet.com for more information

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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