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Notchers' News

ISSUE 13

MARCH 2011

The network for scorers

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

Where are the scorers?

John Brown

All readers will know that Law 3 starts by telling us that two umpires shall be appointed, one for each end; and Law 4 tells us that two scorers shall be appointed. This is the team of four, the four match officials.

And most of us, I am sure, will have seen the televised end-of match ceremonies at the end of Test matches and One-day internationals when presentations are made to the two match umpires, the third umpire, the fourth umpire and the match referee.

Where are the scorers?

They are probably still filling in the bowling analyses and balancing their books, but why aren't they on view with the other two (five?) **official** match officials and receiving the appreciation and recognition that they – and all scorers around the world – deserve?

I would suggest that most players, and some umpires, do not fully realise the demands made on a scorer during a match.

Scorers are required to concentrate, often in the most trying and uncomfortable of circumstances, so they do not miss a ball; to acknowledge all signals; to record all that they see and to make sure that their book balances with their colleague's (if they have a colleague, that is). They are thoroughly deserving of the appreciation of us all, yet I would guess that more tea ladies than scorers are thanked after every match.

Perhaps the role of scorers at all levels of the game would be more appreciated if their profile could be raised at the very top. Is it not time that presentation ceremonies at the end of international matches included an acknowledgement of the role of the scorer? All those in favour, say "Aye".

SCORING TECHNIQUE

Ceres

During a recent scorer training course Colin Charlton pointed out to me the practice described in Tom Smith's Cricket Umpiring and Scoring of drawing a single line when recording a batsman retiring not out (usually from an injury). (page 305, 3rd paragraph recording a batsman out).

Bearing that in mind, is what Tom Smith says the "totally" accepted scoring practice? How often have you drawn a single line? I must admit I never have.

What are your thoughts on 'best practice' when making scoring record entries? A section for the next issue of Notchers' News perhaps?

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>

Christmas Challenge 2010. The Third Umpire reports:

This year, for the first time, the Challenge was published in two sources, *Notchers' News* (the newsletter for scorers) and the ACO newsletter, so this report refers to entries from both publications.

There were 45 entries in all, the highest number since the early years when the Challenge first appeared in the old *ACU&S How's That?* newsletter.

The first of these, from Andy Hodder, arrived on 4th December while others, held up by delivery delays, had only two or three days in which to submit their entries before the closing date of 10th January. Since most of the entries were sent by email, I do not know where most of the competitors are based, but I was very pleased to receive entries from Australia (Brisbane), Hong Kong and Italy.

I have to confess that I was surprised to receive seven entries awarding penalty runs to the Scratchers' XI after the batsmen had caused avoidable damage to the pitch: this was not an extra-devious ploy on my part, but it was an oversight in that it had not registered with me that, as a result of the recent law amendments, the batting side now receive only one warning before the penalty runs are awarded. My thanks to Brian Shepherd and Wesley Ellison for pointing this out.

As a result only one entrant was all-correct, while a further six had only one error and seven more two errors.

Scratchers 3 proved a problem for twenty-five entrants who all assumed that the injured striker would be out and no runs scored: since the scores were level, the match would be over as soon as the non-striker and the runner had made good their ground (this has been agreed with the MCC Laws committee). Some people will, I am sure, remember the last ball of last season's Twenty20 final when a very similar situation arose and Somerset failed to run out the injured striker who had run to the bowler's end. In that match, however, although this was the run which won the final, it was **not the winning run**: it made the scores level and Hampshire were declared the winners because they had lost fewer wickets.

Only two of the questions (Notchers 2 and Scratchers 4) were answered correctly by all 45 entrants while there were eleven which attracted five or more wrong answers. Apart from Scratchers 3 (already referred to) with 25 errors, Scratchers 1 (15 errors) and 2 (14 errors) caused the most difficulty: in Scratchers 1, since the fielder who had left the field returned with his team-mates at 3.28, the 7 minutes while all the players were off would count towards the time when he would be allowed to bowl (ie $17 - 7 = 10$). In Scratchers 2, however, since the fielder did not return until two minutes after play had resumed, and although the eleven minutes while the players were off the field would not count against him, he would still have to wait before he could bowl (ie $13 + 2 = 15$).

If all this seems rather complex, it might help to consider what would have happened if the players had been off the field for two hours.

Notchers 1 (11 errors), Notchers 5 and Scratchers 8 (9 errors each), Notchers 8 and 11 (7 each) and Notchers 3 and 4 (6 errors) were the other questions which brought more than four errors and I hope that the correct solution will be enough for those entrants to see how they went wrong.

Bob Jones (ECB ACO) is the one who managed an all-correct entry (including 5 penalty runs) and our congratulations go to him. Those with a single error came from Umesh Bhasin, Richard Blomfield, Keith Healey, Steve Locke, Douglas Miller, Garry Rank and Niven Roper while those with a mere two errors were John Betts, Dave Bradfield, Wendy Hardy, Anthony King, Paul Toplis, Mike Turner and Andy White.

I send my thanks to these and all entrants for their interest and for any messages and greetings. I hope the coming year is a good one for you all.

The correct solution is: as follows

	Notchers	Scratchers
1	36	38
2	128	45
3	6	1
4	1	0
5	10	120
6	3	15
7	96	82
8	2	6
9	10	0
10	28	8
11	1 (*)	5
Penalty runs		5
Other extras	15	2
Total	336	327

Result: Notchers won by 9 runs

(*) 5 penalty extras to the fielding side as paragraph 3 of the report

Umesh Bhasin, a scorer from Hong Kong, is the Notchers' News reader prizewinner.

Bob Jones won the prize awarded to ECB ACO entrants

My thanks goes to the Third Umpire, John Brown, for setting and marking the 2010 Christmas Challenge and providing this excellent report.

Ed.

THE LEARNING ZONE

Learn from colleagues; share your experiences; ask questions; offer comment; support the learning process. Ed.

No ball, Boundary 4 then Bye but why?

John Brown

Every umpire and scorer knows that, if a bowler oversteps the popping crease, the umpire will call and signal No ball. If the striker misses the ball and it goes to the boundary, the umpire will repeat his signal of No ball, followed by signals for Bye and Boundary four and, of course, he will wait for an acknowledgment of each separate signal from the scorer.

Every scorer, and probably most umpires, would know that such an incident would be recorded as 5 No ball extras. But why? Why not one No ball and four Byes? New scorers find this one of the most difficult things to understand as they study to learn all the intricacies of the art of scoring. One of my students recently made the very pertinent point: "You told us that one of the four duties of the scorer is to **accept** all signals given by umpires, so why not this signal of Bye?" He was not impressed, nor convinced, by my reply that the signal of Bye was just to indicate that the striker had not hit the ball.

Can anyone explain why any runs accrued in this way (or as what would normally be Leg byes) should all be debited against the bowler? The only, somewhat glib and unconvincing, answer I have ever been given is that the bowler shouldn't bowl No balls. It would be so much easier and more logical, surely, to change this ruling so that any Byes and Leg byes accruing from an illegal delivery should be recorded as such.

REFERRAL TO THE THIRD UMPIRE - when is the player out?

Phil Hill

In the 2nd Ashes Test in Australia Ryan Harris was dismissed LBW in both innings and on both occasions he asked that the decision be referred to the Third Umpire (Special Regulations). This set Phil wondering:

In international matches, if a dismissal has been the subject of a referral when is the batsman actually out?

If, for example, the umpire gives a batsman out LBW at 14.42, the batsman asks for the decision be referred to the third umpire who reaffirms the on field dismissal at 14.44, what is the actual time of dismissal?

The question was put to two experienced and respected scorers who commented as follows:

I put time dismissed as the time when the final decision is made, so after the conclusion of any review.

I think this makes sense for a number of reasons. For example, the period from the time of dismissal until the time the incoming batsman must be ready to avoid being timed out, can clearly start only when a dismissal is confirmed post review.

David Kendix, MCC Scorer, Lord's

"I would say that the time of the dismissal is when the on-field umpire signals his decision **after referral**, either to confirm his original decision, or to rescind it."

Malcolm Ashton, Test Match Special (TMS) Scorer

..... the last word on PORTHCOWL BALL

J Brown

Re Phillip Stallard's Porthcawl query:

Byron Denning used to say Porthcawl just because it sounded like "fourth ball" and, after a while, just for amusement, he (and/or Gordon Lewis) added another five place-names which are to be found running across Glamorgan from east to west.

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

All the threes and a busy day for the scorers

Ashook Brijcoomar describes events in the Argentina v Bahamas match ICC WCL Americas Region Division 1 match played at Hamilton on 3 June 2010.

Argentina batted first and scored 333 in their 50 overs.

Bahamas lost 2 quick wickets in the first 3 overs of their innings Then the big hitting started;

The number 4 batsman scored a quick 133 runs from 59 balls with 14 fours and 11 sixes

By the end of the 19th over Bahamas had scored 200.

After 33 overs Bahamas had scored 332 for 7 only 2 runs required to win and 17 overs to get them.

Bahamas took the batting power play and started trying to hit the ball out the park.

First delivery - batsman out, Run out, and the score is 332 for 8.

Second delivery - batsman out, caught behind, and the score is 332 for 9; 1 run needed to tie and 2 to win.

Third delivery - the striker hit the ball hard towards the boundary; he ran 1 but thought the ball went for 4.

The umpire *did not* signal Boundary 4 or call time as the ball did not reach the boundary .

The batsmen attempted a second run and the striker was run out.

Why? I don't know; they could have taken the single and still had 16.3 overs to get the winning run!

The final score was **333 off 33.3 overs** - A TIE (Scores level and both innings complete)

To see the scorecard type the words **Argentina Bahamas 333 scorecard** into your search engine.

Sadly the names of the scorers have not been recorded.

Improving standards

Readers might be interested to see the following recently made rule change by the Derbyshire County Cricket League.

It is the last sentence which has been added for use in 2011.

Perhaps other leagues could be encouraged to follow suit.

(B6) Scorers

6.1 For matches in Divisions 1, 2 and 3 a deduction of 3 points shall be made from a team's total if a competent scorer, additional to those persons playing in the game, is not available for the complete duration of both innings.

6:2 A competent scorer is considered to be a person who

Has basic knowledge of the Laws of Cricket

Has basic knowledge of scoring procedures

Has knowledge of umpires' signals and is able to communicate appropriately with umpires

Is able to identify all individual players of the team for which they are scoring

Scorers should sit side by side, so that proper communication and checking can be maintained, and clubs should ensure that distractions such as players or third parties not relevant to the scoring of the game are not allowed.

ROOFED another question

Fred Godson

I have read with interest the different regulations in force in indoor cricket for a ball hit high up the walls or to the ceiling. Indoor cricket takes me back a long way. Our rule in the competitions in Northumberland was that if the ball hit the roof, or any wall except the one behind the bowler (which counted 4 or 6), you got one run, but could be caught and so out if the ball had not touched the floor. I had never heard of the method of dismissal "Roofed"

My question is does the bowler gets credit for the wicket when a batsman is dismissed 'Roofed'?

I think he should because, just like caught, he has induced the striker to make a bad shot.

The Mercantile Cricket Association is the smallest competition in Melbourne, but has the very best location, 10 minutes from the GPO. Fawkner Park was named after one of the city's founders, and we have been playing here since 1922.

We have 60 sides in six grades, but only five or six regular scorers. The players look after their scorebooks, and only take it seriously when the scores are close. There would be a riot if we tried to introduce a rule to provide a scorer or risk playing one short. Match officials are regarded by many as necessary evils. No wonder some think of us as coarse colonials!

I must have got the cricket bug from my Great-great-great-grandfather, who came to Australia as an unsuccessful London pickpocket in 1832. The judges did him a big favour by putting him on the bay ship as the rest of the family succumbed to cholera within a few years. Many years later, in Cooma NSW, while watching a cricket match, two of his sons were struck by lightning and had their boots blown off by the force! The match was played for a cup in the family name, so they must have been local legends or benefactors. I don't know if they had scorebooks on their laps.

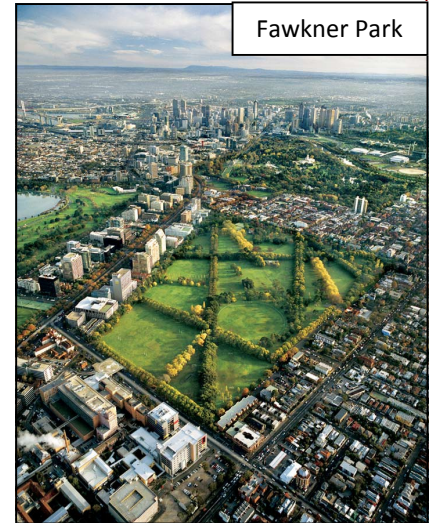
Gideon Haigh likes my scorebooks. He has quoted some of the marginalia in 'The Vincibles: A Suburban Cricket Odyssey' (2002).

I think the Pommy edition is called 'Many a Slip: A Diary of a Club Cricket Season' (2002).

When I found the Notchers website I added a link to the MCA website (<http://mca.asn.au>) as it is sure to create some interest here.

If you or any of your readers are ever in Melbourne, please come and say hello.

(The Editor has Simon's contact details)



Fawkner Park

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)



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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

June newsletter copy date:

21st May 2011

Your questions, news and views are welcomed for use in