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# Notchers' News

ISSUE 15

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## The network for cricket scorers

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

### TIPS FOR SCORERS

Geraldine Banks

-  **Get to know your umpires.** Some umpires indicate leg byes in advance (the hand held out slightly to one side) while others don't; some call Wide and No ball loudly, others don't (either loudly or at all!). The better you get to know the umpires, the more you'll be aware of what to expect.
-  **Don't be afraid to talk to the umpires before the game,** or at any interval. If there's something you're unhappy with (e.g. no second Wide/No ball signal) then say so - politely. Remember that the umpires and scorers form a team - or are supposed to. It is easy to blame poor communication on the umpires but it is equally easy not to make any effort to improve it; don't fall into that lazy trap.
-  **Watch the players in their warm-up/nets beforehand.** Knowing how players stand, how they run, how they catch has been a godsend to me in many a game - especially when helmets are being worn or you have several players of very similar height/build. Remember that distance distorts height anyway. Look for 'clues' to help you identify players as they come onto the field - either batting or fielding (different coloured grips on the bat, long sleeves/short sleeves etc) - and remember all players change headgear - just because they start off wearing a cap/helmet doesn't mean it'll stay on so don't rely on that as your only identification aid.
-  **In terms of actual scoring — learn linear.** It's much easier, despite what the uninitiated will tell you. It is a much simpler system within which to spot the odd 'slip' (never call them 'mistakes') — and most linear systems have a nice 'notes' column in which to note things like Powerplays etc.
-  **Concentrate.** Sounds like a basic, but it's surprising how hard it can be to concentrate for up to 50 overs at a stretch. People forget that scorers (and umpires) have to see *every* ball of the game. Batsmen and fielders have it easy by comparison. Keep watching until you're sure the ball is dead; don't start writing until you are sure there's no signal coming; drop your head a fraction too soon and you're likely to miss something important. Try to remain calm - and almost impartial; yes, I know that's hard but if you get too caught up in the emotion of what's going on the pitch then the accuracy of your scoring will suffer. Keep the celebrations (or disappointment) for afterwards.
-  **20/20 scoring requires speed and accuracy.** The main thing is to make sure the scores are correct at the end of the innings - each over is likely to be high scoring and you can have a flurry of wickets. Don't worry about having the scoresheet looking nice — just make sure it is *right* — you can correct the spellings later.
-  **Keep confirming the score with your colleague.** It might sound as if you have Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder but spotting a little slip early is a lot better than only discovering it at the end of the innings - or, worse still, at the end of the game when the teams have left the field and the scores don't add up.
-  **Remember that your main responsibility is the scorebook — and not the scoreboard.** It is important that the board is up to date but it is considerably more important to ensure the right figures are recorded in the book. At the end of the match it's the score in the book that counts, not the one on the board. Having said that, do your utmost to ensure that the board is kept up to date at least at the end of every over, even if it means getting someone else to do it. Remember to change the number of overs too; having the wrong number of overs on a board is a very common error.

*When Geraldine wrote this article for Leinster Cricket Umpire and Scorer Association in September 2010 she also wrote: "I probably have a bit of a cheek giving tips for scoring now that I've 'retired' - however, over the years, I guess I've picked up a few 'good ideas' as to how to make scoring a bit less stressful -and a bit more accurate!"*

*Thanks to Geraldine and LCUSA for giving permission to use this article. Ed*

## SCORING IPL - an awesome experience

Julia Scully

Long before the movie 'The Bucket List' was made, I had a list of things to do and places to see before I die; and high on the list was a visit to Eden Gardens in Calcutta (now Kolkata) to witness one hundred thousand screaming India fans at a cricket match. So when I got an email in February asking me if I was available to score at IPL 2011 I jumped at the chance! 5 April saw me on a flight heading north to the top of Africa, turning right bound for Hyderabad, followed by Calcutta (and the hallowed ground that is Eden Gardens), Bangalore, Indore, Cochin and Mumbai. Nothing, absolutely nothing prepares you for your first trip to India. You are confronted by noise and heat and humidity and the smell of spices and, of course, cricket! There are huge billboards with various international and Indian cricket stars bearing down on you wherever you look! The India people take cricket to a whole new level; they are fanatical, knowledgeable, partisan and vocal. There are several TV stations that air only cricket, nothing but cricket 24/7, so I was in my element.

I'm aware that the IPL isn't exactly test cricket, but the experience was nevertheless monumental for me. My first few matches were in Hyderabad, famous for pearls, then there was a 2 hour flight to Calcutta and a visit to the Cricket Association of Bengal at Eden Gardens. Match 4 of the 2011 edition of the DLF IPL between the Kolkata Knight Riders and the Deccan Chargers wasn't significant in the tournament, but for me there were two things worth remembering about that game: Jacques Kallis made another 50 and I scored my first match at Eden Gardens. I don't remember much about the match itself, it passed in a blur as T20 matches do for scorers. It was the second match in a procession of 18 matches in all for Crew D (that was the TV crew I was assigned to), but I will never forget the feeling of being at Eden Gardens in Calcutta. Bucket list: watch cricket at Eden Gardens - tick!

The commentary position at Eden Gardens is at fine leg (to a Right Hand Batsman, which I'm not) and it is a little odd not being able to see the deviation on the ball, but hey, I wasn't going to complain. I would have been happy to be sitting in the back row of the bleachers! The atmosphere was amazing, most IPL matches provide a razzamatazz usually reserved for the circus. The stadium was full and it was a wonderful sight, despite the limited seating arrangements in the "new" Eden Gardens - there goes the dream of sitting among a hundred thousand other cricket fans. There may have been only 65 000 screaming fans, but they still raised the roof! They cheered when Kolkata Knight Riders made runs or took wickets and there was a deathly hush when the Deccan Chargers got a wicket or scored a boundary. It was eerie!

The KKR won the match easily, DC didn't have a good first half of the tournament at all, although they did better in the latter stages. Calcutta was hot, humid, and tremendously exciting. As I sat looking out of the windows of the commentary box at the landmarks I'd previously only seen on TV, I thought about the extraordinary circumstances that brought me to one of the most famous cricket grounds in the world. Had it not been for the Indian elections in 2009 forcing the IPL to move to SA, I would not have met the TV crew at home and wouldn't have made the contacts that had now helped fulfil this dream.

India is a country of contrasts, fabulously rich and heartbreakingly poor, colourful (the women's saris and most trucks) and dull (the buildings could do with a lick of paint), loud (the hooters of thousands of auto-rickshaws are an assault on the ears) and quiet (walking on the beach at Cochin at sunset), filthy (waterways and rivers clogged with plastic and heaven only knows what else) and spotlessly clean (the many temples). It is always vibrant, the people seem to be happy despite hardships and poverty. There is always a deal to be made, the food is outstanding and the cricket is the best thing ever.

India is a lot of things, but boring isn't one of them. Would I go back? Hell yes, in a heartbeat!

Julia lives in Kensington, a suburb of Johannesburg and used to score for Wits University club side and for Transvaal/Gauteng at the Wanderers. She no longer scores for a club or provincial side as she is busy scoring for SABC radio, having also scored for SuperSport and SABC TV in SA and Nimbus and IMG in India.

### A bit of scoring trivia

John M Brown

For those of us who enjoy cricket scoring trivia, this must surely be a world record!

During the CB40 match between Derbyshire and Middlesex at Chesterfield on 21<sup>st</sup> August 2011 Wayne Madsen faced the first ball of an over from Toby Roland-Jones and there was a leg-bye; from the second ball Chesney Hughes took a single; next ball was deflected off Madsen's pads, the wicket-keeper dived to his left, but was unable to prevent the ball going to the boundary – 4 leg-byes; fourth ball – 1 leg-bye. It was at this point that I looked back at the previous over by Roland-Jones and I saw that Madsen had again managed a leg-bye off the fifth ball of that over: I remarked to colleague Don Shelley that this must surely be a new record of some sort. Hughes took a single off the fifth ball of the over and, believe it or believe it not, Madsen took another leg-bye off the last ball of the over

Since the intervening over had been a maiden with all balls faced by Hughes, Madsen had now faced five consecutive balls and all five of them had resulted in leg-byes. Surely this can never have happened before in any class of cricket anywhere in the world?!

# Electronic Scoring in Leinster Cricket — Early Days

An article from the Leinster Cricket Umpire and Scorer newsletter dated July/August 2011

This season saw the revamping of the Leinster Cricket Union's (LCU) structure and a large part of this revolved around the launching of a dedicated website for cricket in Leinster — [www.cricketleinster.ie](http://www.cricketleinster.ie). The plan was to accept match result cards electronically; in fact it was eventually made compulsory for all men's league and cup fixtures. As part of this the LCU realised that they would need to use a dedicated software package for this purpose.

**Paul Reynolds**, Chair of the Open Competitions Committee explains:

The scorecards that appear on [cricketleinster.ie](http://cricketleinster.ie) are produced by the *Cricket Stanz* software, and any electronic scoring package that was to be recommended by the LCU also had to be compatible with *Cricket Stanz*, which severely limited scorers to effectively three options:

- *Total Cricket Scorer* - a market leader and impressive all round package. It can be expanded to produce live scoring on the web and to control electronic scoreboards.
- *PitchPad* - this has now been around a while, and perhaps is starting to show its age. It is the only free software compatible with the LCU site.
- *Inningz* - The new kid on the block, downloadable from the app store on iPhone and iPad. The LCU worked with *Inningz's* developers to help them get an Apple-compatible product available to us.

*So how does it work in practice? STELLA DOWNES, SCORER FOR CLONTARF CC AND IRELAND reports her experiences.*

Because of the usual lack of table space for scorers, I didn't fancy using my laptop, especially as I planned to continue using my scoring sheets as well. I decided to try *Inningz* on my iPhone and was delighted to discover just how easy it is to use. It takes some time before the game to input all the players, but you can import your team list from previous games and that helps. There have been very few issues with the matches I've done so far but I'm always glad to have my score sheets to keep the game recorded when I've encountered a problem.

I ran into a major problem recently as the system doesn't allow for the situation where interruptions in the first innings lead to the target for the second innings being revised upwards. I contacted *Inningz* support and they said that the system currently doesn't allow for that but that they would address the issue. They seem to address issues quickly so I'd be optimistic that it'll be sorted out promptly. They have accommodated penalty runs that alter the second innings target.

The only other problem I've found is the fact that you can only go back one over if you discover you've made a mistake. You seldom need to go back further than that, but there are bound to be occasions where you do need to. If you discover an error after more than an over, you have to go back to the beginning of the whole match! If you are using linear score sheets it is quick and easy to start again and catch up while continuing to score the game, but it would be a nightmare if you use the box system.

As *Inningz* is a relatively new system there are bound to be issues that need to be ironed out and their support team is very good at replying to emails. Once the D/L problem is ironed out I would highly recommend *Inningz* as a convenient and easy method of electronic scoring, especially for those trying computer scoring for the first time. *Inningz* doesn't have all the added extras of other scoring systems like scoring wagon wheels or updating the scoreboard on the ground, but is a really simple system and reduces the amount of hardware you have to lug around!!

At the end of the game the scorecard can immediately be exported to the Leinster site. There were a few issues with this initially but these seem to have been ironed out.

Users of *Inningz* reported major problems recently, when trying to incorporate D/L targets - a problem that may take the developers a while to fix.

***There is good evidence that technology is improving and adapting every day.***

Electronic scoring is definitely the way of the future and has been embraced enthusiastically by the LCU. Cricket Ireland (CI) is also looking closely at this development and there is the possibility of a CI-endorsed product becoming available in the future. While it may take a little time to get used to - and power supplies in some grounds would definitely be an issue - most scorers that have taken the plunge are delighted with the results.

It should be noted that all electronic recordings are subject to the whims of technology. It is very easy to lose a lifetime of records in an instant with a dropped device; back-up and hard-copy storing methods are essential. Of course it also means that the pleasure of poring over an old scorebook found at the back of the cupboard is an experience ever more cherished.

**Comment.** *LCU is clearly highly progressive and has established links to the various developers. Compatible software can help scorers by giving them a quick and easy way of submitting scorecards. (There are help-files on the LCU website.)*

*One word of warning: it is essential to keep a written record as a backup. It's not a question of if technology will breakdown; it is a question of when.*

Thanks go to the LCUSA and Stella Downes for their kind permission to use this article. 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?

(See issue 13, page 4 and issue 14, pages 3 & 4 for question and reader's comment)

*John Brown posed the original question; he now replies to the responses.*

I was interested to see that my question on the recording of a boundary off a No ball when the ball has not been hit with the bat produced a good response, although I have to say I remain unconvinced by most of the arguments against my proposal.

Consider the following scenarios:

Legitimate ball, striker hits to boundary – 4 runs debited to bowler

No Ball, striker hits to boundary – 5 runs (1nb + 4) debited to bowler

Legitimate ball, striker misses ball which goes to boundary – 4 Byes recorded (not debited to bowler)

No Ball, striker misses ball which goes to boundary – 5 runs (1nb + 4?) **all** debited to bowler

But, in the last case, WHY?

Although I have some sympathy for the case put for the wicket-keeper in the case of a No ball given for a high full-toss, no-one keeps records of the number of Byes conceded by wicket-keepers, do they? And how often do we hear commentators say, "The wicket-keeper stood no chance with that one", when a legitimate ball is fired down the leg-side, but not wide enough to be called Wide ball. I don't think, when a wicket-keeper is being selected, anyone asks how many Byes he has conceded this season.

None of the points put forward by your correspondents has convinced me that it is right that any runs which would normally be credited as Byes or Leg-byes should be debited to the bowler just because he has bowled a No ball.

I scored an ODI at Lord's a few years ago (Eng v Aus) when Darren Gough was playing: the bowling analyses were regularly updated on the electronic scoreboard. Gough bowled a No ball which was deflected off the striker's pad and the batsmen ran two. The scorers recorded three No ball extras: during the interval Gough approached the scorers in the dining room and told them that they had made a mistake, and that two of the runs recorded against him should have been Leg-byes. When we told him that we were correct, he told us that it was a 'bloody silly rule' (or words to that effect!). Although I enjoyed being able to increase his knowledge of the laws, I must admit that I do have some sympathy with his point of view – why not 1 No ball extra and 2 Leg-byes? This time there are no spurious arguments about fairness or otherwise to the wicket-keeper.

And I still maintain that it would be more logical to record them separately as No ball and Byes or Leg-byes; and no, I don't think there is a problem recording two different sorts of extra off the same ball any more than there is recording No ball and runs to the striker off the same ball.

## REFLECTION

### An Umpire-Scorer

As an umpire and a scorer, I am particularly conscious of the need for good communication between the two. When umpiring I use the 'pre-signal', try to give clear and concise signals & to remember to turn sideways for the Leg bye signal. When scoring I try to give prompt and separate acknowledgements.

As the UK season draws to a close, it is interesting to reflect on my experiences this year.

Many scorers have acknowledged my signals, but a significant number have failed to acknowledge any signals - despite agreeing to before the match. The top of a scorer's head has become an all too familiar sight! Despite Law 3.14(b), I am not prepared to constantly delay play by shouting for the scorers to acknowledge - the over rates are already slow enough!

Nonetheless I always try to confirm that the scorers agree the score at the end of each innings, and thank them for their efforts.

But the problems in communication are not all one way. Few, if any, umpires have ensured that the scorers are in place before calling 'Play', especially true after drinks intervals when the scorers may have taken the opportunity to 'use the facilities'.

Umpires' signals have generally been good, though a few die-hards finish the Boundary 4 signal with their arm outstretched.

There are a number of umpires who turn to the scorers to signal Wides, No balls, Byes and Leg byes while the ball is still in play; they have been kept waiting for an acknowledgement until the batsmen have stopped running!

So there is scope for improvement for umpires and scorers alike.

**TEAMWORK?**

## TOM SMITH'S CRICKET UMPIRING AND SCORING

Written by Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), the Guardian of the Laws of Cricket, this fully revised edition of Tom Smith's Cricket Umpiring and Scoring covers all the changes that were included in the Laws of Cricket (2000 Code 4th Edition 2010).

The new edition is due for general release NOW - September 2011 at a recommended retail price of £18.99 (UK sterling)

Copies can be ordered for immediate despatch from the MCC Shop at Lord's at a price of £14.99 plus P&P [www.lords.org/mcc/](http://www.lords.org/mcc/)

Copies should also be available from Acumen Books and the usual on-line and high street retail outlets

Email [notchers@btinternet.com](mailto:notchers@btinternet.com) with your thoughts on these and any other scoring matters

## RECORDING MISCOUNTED OVERS SPLIT BETWEEN TWO BOWLERS

### Accepted scoring practice v statistics

Mike Turner

Under the name 'willscorer' I've added a reply to the topic 'Unofficial annotations in scorebook' to the Acumen Message Board at <http://nompere.proboards.com/index.cgi?board=scorersbox&action=display&thread=477>

I didn't get any support for my preferred way of dealing with a miscounted over split between two bowlers. I'm still not convinced I'm wrong! I'm not suggesting an additional dot is added or that one is missed out: the balls faced by the batsman, and indeed balls bowled by the bowler, must be accurate; I don't believe in covering up an umpire's mistake, although neither do I believe in drawing attention to it unnecessarily. However the unit of measurement (that we're required to record under Law 4) of the amount the bowler has bowled is the over, not the ball, and because an umpire can miscount, we've always accepted that the number of legal balls bowled may not equal 6 x the number of overs. But, the sum of the overs bowled by all bowlers ALWAYS equals the total number of overs in the innings. Breaking that rule solely for the reason the miscount came in an over split between two bowlers just feels wrong to me.

One way of looking of it is to think of 0.3 overs as not 3 balls bowled, but instead three-sixths of an over. If we record Bowler A as having bowled three-sixths of an over (0.3) and Bowler B two-sixths (0.2), then between them they appear to have bowled five-sixths of an over, which isn't true. So in my mind they must add up to a complete over: the question then is how to do this, and I believe that, because the error in counting could be corrected at any point while the over is in progress, and only at the over's end does it become reality, it's Bowler B's figures that have to accommodate it.

Related to my question is John Brown's statistical tester (see Issue 11, page 7 and Issue 12 page 5).

Although our primary purpose is to record accurately the runs scored, wickets taken, and overs bowled in order for the result of the match to be accurately determined, a secondary purpose of the scorer is to facilitate the collation of statistics. Recording a bowler's overs bowled as 0.11 makes no difference to the result, but it does make the collation of statistics that bit more complex, as the reason for that entry has to be explained in a note, only for the statistician to convert it to 1.5 overs anyway. At the end of the season we don't see a bowlers total overs given as (say) 424.23, but instead 427.5, as those part overs over the season are all added together. Why do anything different to this just because two part overs were bowled during a match? Another reason I dislike it is I feel it draws attention to the scorecard and scorer unnecessarily, and, instead having the effect of highlighting the scorer's accuracy, since it makes no difference to the collation of statistics, it might well mark him out as someone who has missed the point.

I worry sometimes that the partnership between scorers and statisticians is undervalued in importance. If as a scorer I decide that I must record something in one particular way, only for the statistician to come along and disregard it because it will cause inconsistency when compiled with other matches, then between us we've done the game of cricket a disservice by not agreeing common practice between us. A case in point is another one I've mentioned to you previously: do Wide deliveries count as balls faced by a partnership?

There seems to be no consistency in approach worldwide so it's left for statisticians to clear up the mess.

### ..... and miscounted split overs really do happen

On 14th August 2011 Mike Turner experienced this situation again as described below:

"You won't believe this, but it happened to me again yesterday. Bowler A bowled 3 legitimate balls, then a 3<sup>rd</sup> beamer, called No ball, and he was suspended from bowling. Bowler B took over, bowled 2 legitimate balls, and the umpire called over.

It happened early in the match, so I had plenty of time to decide how to record it, but eventually I chose to do as most of the correspondents to Notchers News thought correct, and gave it as 0.3 overs to Bowler A, 0.2 overs to Bowler B, and gritted my teeth as play-cricket told me the overs didn't add up!"

### ..... Can teamwork can reduce the incidence of miscounts?

Umpires check with one another how many balls remain to be bowled in the over. In my experience, on the few occasions that the umpires are uncertain as to how many deliveries remain to be bowled in the over they seek confirmation from the scorers. Work with your umpire colleagues and be ready and willing to assist. Ed

## RECOGNITION FOR SCORERS

**ADNAN FAROOQ** was delighted to receive an award after scoring the Final of the Patron's Trophy (Grade-II) Tournament held at the Pindi Cricket Stadium, Rawalpindi.

The presentation ceremony was organized by the Pakistan Cricket Board.



### **NIXON YORKSHIRE INTER-LEAGUE KNOCK OUT CUP**

Both scorers were busy completing the match summaries when the presentation ceremony started following the final of this event - a situation experienced by many scorers.

They were impressed when they heard an acknowledgment of the 'often forgotten' role of the scorers and delighted to receive an engraved trophy.

## TOTAL CRICKET SCORER COMES TO iPhone

In July 2011 TCS 27 Limited issued a Press Release as follows:

TCS 27 Limited has announced that their world leading Total Cricket Scorer (TCS) product will be launched on the iPhone in September. The new app will be integrated with the PC application enabling users to interface to Play-Cricket and a number of third party products. It will also allow the upload of match data to the popular TCS live score service making it ideal in situations where a laptop is not practical.

Further information on the PC, Android and iPhone applications can be found at the official website:

<http://www.totalcricket scorer.com>

**NOTE FOR SCORERS RESIDENT OUTSIDE THE UK:** Play-Cricket is the website used by clubs within the England & Wales Cricket Board

## 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 course details and contact information to [notchers@btopenworld.com](mailto: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 (IICUS)

<http://www.umpires.tv> (For scorer specific information email [scorers@umpires.tv](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:cathy.rawson@btopenworld.com)

Share your cricket scoring experiences and scoring questions with readers.

Photos are welcomed and add interest to the newsletter.

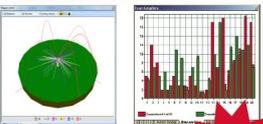
Send your contributions to: [notchers@btopenworld.com](mailto:notchers@btopenworld.com)

**December newsletter copy date: 21st November 2011**

## Total Cricket Scorer



With just one click you can update your scorebook, scoreboard, statistics and live internet scores.



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TCS 27

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