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Notchers' News

ISSUE 16

DECEMBER 2011

The network for cricket scorers

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

IMAGINE INTERNET STOPS PLAY

CLERICUS

Let's fast forward a few seasons.

In their infinite wisdom the ECB have by now decreed that all Premier League matches are to be scored by both scorers on a laptop – using the excellent Total Cricket Scorer (TCS) program. Each match is also to be scored using TCS's on-line facility.

No problem so far – until at one match there is only one scorer who is wonderfully computer-literate but uses no manual back-up at all. Midway through an over he loses the internet connection and his laptop screen goes blank. What does he do now? He has no option other than to rush onto the pitch asking for play to be halted until he can sort out his computer problem!

Would this be the first recorded instance of 'Internet Stops Play'? What would the umpires make of this interruption? Presumably a suspension of play under Law 3.10 would be deemed appropriate – although this would not be the scorer's problem.

Is this too far-fetched?

Well, no, the problem described above has already happened – although not in an ECB Premier League match as far as we know.

This story highlights the danger of being *over-reliant* on computers, and also the need for two scorers to be present at all matches. I'm actually very much in favour of computer scoring but I think there remains a demonstrable need for one of the two scorers to be scoring in the old-fashioned way – in a book. The use of technology cannot be allowed to interfere with the progress of the match.

Play-Cricket.com and 8 ball overs:

Experiences of two scorers

Our evening league regulations require that matches are 15 x 8 ball overs but the Play-cricket website politely tells me 'only use 6 ball overs please'. Innings often end on the 7th or 8th ball of an over; I then cannot record the bowling summary accurately and the number of balls received by all of the batsmen can never agree with the number of balls bowled.

Our Play cricket web manager has tried to address this issue without success so we've given up! The outcome is that I only record the result – no frills!

Our evening league used 8-ball overs until this season too, so I shared your frustration.

The league administrator I think got fed up with it too, and I'm sure Play-Cricket was a deciding factor in them deciding to switch to 6-ball overs this year.

I used to convert the overs to their 6-ball equivalents, then discovered that Play-Cricket wasn't very reliable at adding part overs (sometimes $0.2+0.2+0.2=0.5$). I pointed this out to them but they haven't fixed it. I came across the same problem when I wrote a scoring program in Basic back in 1983, and managed to write a workaround, so I see no reason why they shouldn't!

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 pages 2 and 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 2012.

Please mark your entry NN

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.

The Scratchers' XI (batting first)

- 1 At the start of an eventful over the batting side's score is 133 for four.
The first ball is called and signalled No ball, the ball goes to the boundary whereupon the umpire repeats his signal of No ball, followed by signals for Bye and Boundary 4;
the second ball is hit past mid-on and the batsmen run two;
the third ball is hit in the air, the batsmen complete one run and turn for a second before the ball is caught at extra-cover;
the fourth ball goes to the fine-leg boundary – the umpire signals Leg-bye and Boundary 4;
the fifth ball goes to the fine-leg boundary – the umpire signals Dead ball;
the sixth ball is called and signalled Wide ball – the batsmen run two before the striker is run out attempting a third run;
the seventh ball is called and signalled No ball – the striker snicks the ball through the slips, the batsmen run, the throw from the fielder at third man hits the helmet lying on the ground after the batsmen have crossed on, but not completed, their second run – the umpire repeats his signal for No ball and then signals Short run, followed by the signal for 5 penalty runs to the batting side;
the eighth ball is hit to mid-wicket, the batsmen run three and there are four overthrows;
the ninth ball is hit high in the air, the batsmen are running their second run when the non-striker shouts "Drop it". the ball is dropped and the batsman is given out Obstructing the Field.
How many runs have the batting side scored now?
- 2 ... and how many wickets have they lost?
- 3 ... and how many of the runs in that over would be recorded as extras?
- 4 ... and how many runs would be debited against the bowler?
- 5 ... and how many wickets would be credited to the bowler?
- 6 How many times during that over would the scorer be required to acknowledge an official signal from the umpire?
- 7 From the ninth ball of that over, which batsman would be out – Striker (5) or Non-striker (10)?
- 8 In a one-day match in which the captains have agreed to play a two-innings match, Side A is dismissed for 162; how many runs must Side B score in order to avoid the possibility of being asked to follow on?
- 9 An umpire has miscounted the number of balls in the over – after seven legitimate balls have been bowled he calls and signals Wide ball – he then realises that he has miscounted.
How many balls must to be bowled before he can call Over?
- 10 The last hour is due to start at 6.30pm; play is suspended for rain at 6.25, but restarts at 6.35pm.
What is the minimum number of overs which remain to be bowled?
- 11 The last hour is due to start at 6.30pm; play is suspended for rain at 6.25 after 22.4 overs have been bowled; play restarts at 6.56pm. What is the minimum number of balls which remain to be bowled?

Extras: In normal circumstances how many pieces of wood should be on the field during play?

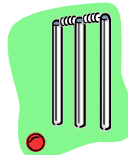
For the Notchers' XI innings please turn to page 3

The Christmas Challenge continued

The Notchers' XI

- 1 The last hour is due to start at 6.30pm; play is suspended for rain at 6.38pm after 3.1 overs have been bowled; play restarts at 7.01pm. What is the minimum number of balls which remain to be bowled?
- 2 The last hour is due to start at 6.30pm; play is suspended for rain at 6.38pm after 3 overs have been bowled; play restarts at 6.43pm, but there is another stoppage at 6.49pm after a further two overs have been bowled – this time play restarts at 7.03pm. What is the minimum number of overs which remain to be bowled?
- 3 Side B have scored 159 and needs one run to win; the striker hits the ball and the batsmen complete one run before the ball crosses the boundary without bouncing. What is Side B's final total?
- 4 The striker hits the third ball of an over into the covers and calls for a quick single, a fielder picks up the ball and, before the batsmen have crossed, throws it at the stumps at the bowler's end. The ball misses and goes on to cross the boundary, by which time the batsmen have completed one run – how many runs should be added to the total?
- 5 Which batsman should face the next ball – Striker (5) Non Striker (10)?
- 6 How many inches long is the bowling crease?
- 7 The striker plays a second shot in defence of his wicket, and the ball goes towards backward point – the batsmen run and cross before the fielder throws the ball at the bowler's end wicket. The ball goes on to cross the boundary after the batsmen have completed one run – how many runs should be added to the total?
- 8 In a match which is due to start at 2.00pm the captains toss at 1.35pm – how many minutes does the captain winning the toss have before he must notify his decision to bat or field?
- 9 The striker hits the ball high towards long-on; the ball falls through the foliage of a tree which overhangs the boundary line: even though the ball has brushed some leaves as it comes down a fielder catches the ball cleanly. How many runs should be scored?
- 10 How many of the official umpires' signals may be made while the ball is still in play?
- 11 At the start of an over a fielder returns without permission – the ball is immediately hit towards him; he fields the ball just after the batsmen have turned for their second run. How many runs should be added to the total?

Extras: ... and how many balls remain in the over?



Remember to mark your entry 'NN'

RESULT

.....

The Bourne score book : 'What do 'W' and 'D' stand for?'

A question from Mike Dixon

When Mike put the question he had already contacted Bourne, the score book publisher, on a number of occasions but they had been unable to provide a definitive answer to his question.

The question was put to two cricket historians and statisticians. Both admitted that they had not used a Bourne scorebook for many years and consequently their memories were faded. One offered the following:

".... my recollection is there was a footnote which said something like 'Enter W or D to indicate wet or dry pitch' - but I'm going back to the early 1950s, so that may not be entirely accurate.

At the time uncovered pitches were the norm at all levels of the game, so maybe there was some purpose in analysing performances on different surfaces, but I must admit I've never known it be done!"

If readers have any different thoughts on the use of 'W' and 'D' please let the Editor know.

SCORER TRAINING COURSES

EAST SUSSEX: A Level 1 Scorer training course will be held at Berwick Village Hall on Sundays 4th and 11th March 2012. from 10.00am until 4.30pm approx. For more information email dorfijon@tiscali.co.uk

SCARBOROUGH & DISTRICT ACU&S: A scorer training course will be held in Staxton on Sundays 25th March, 1st April and 8th April 2012 from 2pm until 5pm approx. For more information email cathy.rawson@btopenworld.com

Course details submitted to notchers@btopenworld.com are posted on the website and remain there until the course ends

SCORING FACILITIES AND THE ENGLISH COUNTY GAME

An article from the Association of County Cricket Scorers (ACCS) newsletter reproduced with kind permission from the author, John M Brown.

Scoring Facilities

Most (ACCS) members will have heard that we have recently approached Headingley and The Rose Bowl regarding the facilities which are provided for scorers at those grounds: in each case we have received a positive response from the Chief Executive, and we expect things to improve (as they have already done at Leeds). Sadly I have received a report that the Headingley scoring team were moved out of their new room for the recent ODI because the television broadcasters were not satisfied with the room with which they had been allocated.

Just where are scorers seen in the pecking order? We must continue our fight for full recognition.

The Ideal Score-box

Following recent comments about the less-than-satisfactory conditions for scorers at some of our county grounds, it has occurred to me to try and establish what conditions we scorers would like to see. This will necessarily be a personal viewpoint, and it may well be that colleagues will have other views: if so, we should be pleased to hear from you. It would be good to think that any future plans for new score-boxes or scoring positions might take the views of scorers into consideration.

I think that we would all agree that we need an uninterrupted view of the whole ground, including sight of the scoreboard, and this is probably gained from an elevated position (first or second floor ideal). It should be possible to open the windows and there should be blinds for protection from the sun where necessary. The worktop should be large enough to accommodate the laptop, printer and scorebook or sheets with ample plugs, easily accessible. There should be a user-friendly, height-adjustable chair for each scorer.

The room available should allow scorers to sit alongside each other, yet not feel that they are in danger of invading each other's space. There should be restricted access to the room, preferably limited to scorers alone, although there is a case to include an operator for an electronic scoreboard.

The room should have the means to control the temperature (ie heating and air conditioning or a fan), and there should be an easy-to-operate clear signal to acknowledge umpires' signals. Ideally the room would have drink-making facilities and a fridge.

It is better from the scorers' point-of-view if the room is near the dining-room, the changing rooms and umpires' rooms, and a toilet should be close at hand. Walkie-talkies/phones should be available to liaise with the public address or other members of staff who may be needed.

That just about covers my ideal situation, I think – what we can't control is the colleague with whom we have to work, so I'm afraid you'll just have to put up with me until I retire or fall by the wayside.

Editors' comment.

John's vision is of the ideal score box in which to score all types of County Cricket matches played in England and Wales. The scorer team at these matches provide live on-line computer scoring, generate information required by captains, coaches etc at intervals in play and produce D/L tables at matches limited by overs while also keeping a record in the County Cricket Club score book. Clearly they need the space and facilities to do their job.

Scorers officiating at grounds where the facilities are little more than a table and chair may be thinking 'I wish'. Should we just be wishing or can we make a difference? Change is possible but often an action is needed to initiate change.

Late last summer I declined to score in one score box because the window had become almost opaque - I couldn't see the game as well as I needed to and the umpires couldn't see my acknowledgement of their signals; the club chairman was aware of the problem; new glass had been purchased at the start of the season but had not been fitted.

I have been assured that it will be fitted for the 2012 season.

Will I be able to leave my chair & table in the car when I visit that ground in 2012?

Do you need to follow John's example?

Are you willing to identify and discuss inadequate scoring facilities at your club and those you visit?

Could you suggest simple (ideally inexpensive) ways of improving scoring facilities?

It's worth the effort if it improves the lot of scorers.

THE PECKING ORDER. A tragic-comedy

Keith Booth

Keith is the 1st XI Scorer at Surrey County Cricket Club. Keith submitted this article to the ACCS newsletter in response to the question put by John M Brown (see page 4) '*Just where are scorers seen in the pecking order?*' Keith has kindly given permission for it to be reproduced in Notchers' News

The following anecdotal evidence may go some way to answering the question.

It comes from a source very close to the scorers' room at a ground used regularly for international cricket and is based on overheard conversations. They may not be verbatim reports but they capture the gist of what was said.

SCENE 1: The Scorers' Room at an ODI. Enter ACSU (Anti-Corruption and Security Unit) Official

ACSUO: There's a problem about your accreditation. Some guy at ECB says scorers are not entitled to Players and Officials Accreditation.

Scorer: That's rubbish. Which guy? Chris Kelly?

ACSUO: No .. another guy. He's new. I can issue you with Visitors' Passes.

Scorer: We are officials, not visitors. I suggest you make arrangements for us to receive Players and Officials passes: otherwise, you will find this match takes place without official scorers

ACSUO makes call on mobile phone; approximately fifteen minutes later, Players and Officials passes are delivered to the Scorers' Room.

[Notes:

- (1) If the 'guy at ECB' was following the ICC's Minimum Standards for Players' and Match Officials' Areas at International Matches in force from 1 March 2011, he was absolutely correct. The definition of Match Official is "Any one of the following individuals: Match Referee, Umpire, Regional Umpire Performance Manager and any technical expert appointed by the ICC to provide technological support to the umpire from time to time." Notwithstanding a recent paper by the representative of statisticians and scorers on the ICC's Cricket Committee, scorers do not feature.
- (2) Would anyone really notice if a match did take place without official scorers? - always provided that someone, technical expert or not, could flash an acknowledgement light for umpires' signals. Presumably PA could make alternative arrangements to score the match from television.]

Scene 2: Scorers' Room. Dark clouds looming on horizon. Match likely to be rain-affected. Enter Match Referee

Match Referee (MR): Who's doing the Duckworth/Lewis?

Scorer: I am

MR: But you're the scorer ...

Scorer: Yes, I do both: we have a leg-man to do the photocopying and distribution.

MR: What if it malfunctions? I've had instances where the resumption of play has been delayed while the D/L is sorted.

Scorer: It doesn't usually, but if it does, there's a back-up system in the office.

MR: Are you on line to a second printer?

Scorer: No

MR: So how do you get at the second printer?

Scorer: We walk down the stairs.

MR: Could the scorers not sit by the photocopier?

Scorer: They could, but it's in a windowless room with no view of play.

MR: We'll need a ball-by-ball as well.

Scorer: In these weather conditions, I would do that automatically.

Scene 3: Scorers' Room. Some time later after a long first innings rain-break. Enter Match Referee.

MR: Have you done the D/L?

Scorer: The score at the stoppage has been entered, but we can't do anything about revised targets, until the first-innings score is known.

MR: It doesn't matter whether you do or you don't. That's what's been decided.

Continued on page 6

THE PECKING ORDER..... continued

Scorer: (thinks) Given recent umpiring cock-ups from the Barbados World Cup Final to the tea-interval at the Rose Bowl, he might have been grateful for that kind of back-up.

Scene 4: Scorers' Room. Between innings.

A wicket has fallen on final ball.

Entered in laptop for transmission to the Press Association (PA) and the world. D/L over-by-over and ball-by-ball printouts prepared in around ninety seconds and photocopied and distributed in accordance with Protocol within minutes.

Scene 5: Scorers' Room. End of Match.

D/L Report prepared from software to pass to Match Referee. Match Referee nowhere in sight. It is learned later that he's having a beer with his colleagues.

Scene 6: The Scorer's Home. Next morning.

D/L Report faxed to ECB for onward transmission to ICC.

Does that answer the question of where scorers are in the pecking order? Is it not impertinent of them to believe they are in it at all?

Having posed the original question JMB added:

"It has been suggested that Scorers might one day be replaced by IT-literate scoreboard operators who would also be linked with PA, and that first-class Scorers as we know them might become redundant, although counties may well choose to employ someone to keep a written record for the archives and posterity. What do (ACCS) members think?"

Clearly scoring is not without problems, whatever the level; we should all be working to heighten recognition of scorers. Ed.

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

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)



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.

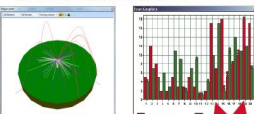
Send your contributions to: notchers@btopenworld.com

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Total Cricket Scorer



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



To download your free trial copy or for more information, please visit our website:

www.totalcricketscorer.com

support@totalcricketscorer.com

AS USED at Lord's

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