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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>

Notchers' News

ISSUE 17

MARCH 2012

The network for cricket scorers

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

Internet stops play; an apology

Regular readers of Notchers' News (NN) will doubtless recollect that in June 2010 Nick Cousins, Senior Executive Officer, ECB ACO, sought, and was granted, permission to include articles from Notchers' News in the ACO newsletter. Since that time a number of NN articles have been used in in the ECB ACO newsletter.

Those who receive both publications have probably noticed that the article "Internet stops Play" penned by Clericus (NN, December 2011) was reproduced in the ACO newsletter under the header "Don't check the plug, it's the satellite" where it was wrongly attributed to John Brown. Notchers' News would like to make it very clear that John Brown and Clericus are not one and the same person.

Nick Cousins has apologised unreservedly to Clericus, John Brown and NN on behalf of ACO and has undertaken to include an apology in the next ACO newsletter.

Comment and questions relating to the article 'Internet stops play' appear on page 3 of this issue

A plea for help from Gerry Byrne

During the early part of the year my computer crashed and had to be replaced.

Over the years I had prepared and saved scorecards using the programme 'Cricket Data'. While I had back-up copies of the scorecards I cannot access them as I lost the programme with the old computer.

I understand that the company which originally produced Cricket Data had ceased to do so.

I am writing to ask if any NN readers have a version of Cricket Data or know where I can source a copy.

If you are able to help please email me at byrnegy@iol.ie

I am working on an archive project to celebrate the upcoming centenary of League Cricket in Leinster and need the programme to enable me to reproduce the scorecards.

International Institute of Cricket Officials (IICUS) and Scorer Training

IICUS recently announced an alliance with Cathy Rawson to enable the delivery of an IICUS e-learning scorer training course. As Notchers' News goes to press this is work in progress; the course material has been submitted and will be checked before being prepared for uploading onto the IICUS website.

The course focuses on scoring cricket matches that are limited by overs. An additional module relating to cricket matches limited by time will be made available (on request) on completion of the course.

An IICUS certificate will be awarded to candidates who demonstrate scoring competency through both the course work and a satisfactory result at examination.

IICUS is not a membership organisation. It already provides umpire training to a BTEC qualification and a BTEC qualification for scorers may well prove possible in the future.

For more information access the IICUS web-site at <http://www.umpires.tv>

The Christmas Challenge 2011: Results

John M Brown

Many thanks to the few readers who sent their entries to my latest Challenge before the January closing date. Many readers will know that the Challenge appears in two publications, Notchers News and the ACO newsletter. The ACO newsletter was delayed in its distribution, so their entries were later arriving than those for NN: I found these waiting for me when I returned from my trip to watch England doing their own challenge in the desert. My review of the competition refers to entries sent for both sources. In all I received 32 entries (twelve for NN and twenty for ACO), and amongst these there were nine all correct. The preferred solution follows here, but I did make allowances for a couple of answers for which entrants made points which I decided were valid (see below).

SOLUTION

	Scratchers	Notchers
1	161	59
2	7	10
3	18	160
4	19	4
5	1	5
6	11	104
7	5	4
8	88	0
9	0	6
10	19	4
11	74	6
Extras	12	6
Total	415	368

Result: Scratchers won by 47 runs

The questions which caused the most problems related to the number of overs in the last hour: this perhaps reflects the fact that the majority of club cricket is played under limited overs regulations with no requirement for the last hour to be considered.

The laws, however, refer to what I call "proper cricket", so I feel justified in including questions on this aspect of the game.

In Scratchers 11 (10 errors), when play restarts 26 minutes have been lost (26 divided by 3; ignore remainder 2) ie. 8 overs, so 12 overs plus the two balls remaining from the unfinished over remain to be bowled.

In Notchers 1 (8 errors) 23 minutes are lost (23 divided by 3) ie. 7 overs, so 9.5 overs (59 balls) remain.

In Scratchers 3 (12 errors) the extras were made up as follows:
5nb, 4lb, 3w, 2nb, 5 pen = total 19.

Other questions which produced five or more errors were:
Scratchers 1 (7), 4 (9), 6 (7); Notchers 2 (6), 5 (5), 7 (6).

Perhaps I should point out that questions Scratchers 9, Notchers 8 and Notchers 9 reflect recent changes in the law.

I decided to make allowances for Scratchers 6 - I realised that I did not specify that the four overthrows were produced as a result of the ball being thrown to the boundary and the batsmen might have run the extra four (and no signal from the umpire), so I did not penalise anyone who gave 10 as the answer to this one.

In addition I allowed a different answer for Scratchers 12 - some entrants pointed out that the umpires would be carrying spare bails: even though the law does not say that this is a requirement - and the rules state that "normal laws apply", I decided to give them the benefit of the doubt. I suspect that, if the Decision Review System had been used, the "Umpire's Call" would have applied and they would have been given out!

Many thanks to all entrants for entering and for the kind words from some. The all correct entries came from:

Notchers News (NN) entrants:

John Betts, Sheila Harding, Wendy Hardy, John Mountford, Nick Szkutko (Brisbane) and Michael Turner

ACO: Mike Archer, M Elango (India) and Bob Jones.

The names of those submitting correct entries were put into the Umpire's hat and the winners drawn at random.

Wendy Hardy is the Notchers' News reader prize-winner and receives a cheque for £20.

Bob Jones won the prize awarded to ACO entrants

I was disappointed to note that less than 6% of those receiving the newsletter directly via the Notchers' News mailing list submitted entries BUT

I was delighted to see that of the 12 NN readers who took up the challenge 6 got all the answers right. Well done.

My thanks goes to the Third Umpire, John Brown, for setting and marking the 2011 Christmas Challenge and providing readers with another comprehensive report.

Ed.

INTERNET STOPS PLAY: Readers' comments

FROM TOTAL CRICKET SCORER:

Thank you for the latest edition of the newsletter and your continued support.

Whilst we would certainly recommend any users of any computer software to have a backup solution in case of hardware or other failure the scenario described should not cause a problem with TCS. TCS can work fine with or without an internet connection and so 'Internet Stops Play' wouldn't be likely. Of course a PC 'dying', being dropped or hit by a ball for example (we have been sent a picture of a 'computer/ball interface' in the past) would be something a user should have a backup plan for.

We just didn't want any users or potential users to think that a lack of adequate internet connection would prevent them using the software. Lee. support@totalcricketscorer.com

Clericus responds: When the internet connection went down the only way the on-line scorer could restore the connection was to reboot the computer. TCS was not an issue; the internet connection and the requirement to score on-line was. Ed.

Nick Cousins writes:

I seldom enter into the pragmatic debates around scoring – but having read the leading article which seems eminently sensible and follows best practice as recommended by ECB ACO – what advice do you offer in a situation (at say a Premier League game) where both scorers insist on using a computer and neither wishes to use a book - (as well as or instead of)?

Clericus drafted the following response:

At matches where on-line/computer scoring is demanded by a league or competition, then the guidelines should include something along the following lines:

- The home scorer should be the on-line/computer scorer
- The away scorer should keep a written scoring record which incorporates all the data required to facilitate updating by the computer (home) scorer if a computer problem arises
- There should be a pre-determined **points** fine for failure to provide a written scoring record; this must be enforced by the umpires. (note: in some countries, competitions and even some areas/leagues in the UK the umpires are required to sign the written scoring record as confirmation that this is the agreed score/result)
- Should there only be one scorer who is the on-line/computer scorer then the umpires must agree before the start of the match what action they will take in the event of any computer/internet issues
- The home scorer should be required to export the TCS (or other computer scoring programme) scored match to the away team scorer to avoid the need for them to input the match information at a later time

Having scored with on-line/computer scorers on quite a number of occasions and used computers to score matches I do appreciate some of the problems related to checking that the scores agree (at the end of the over, fall of a wicket, end of innings and other convenient times). The computer is fantastic as it does the arithmetic as the entries are made; the end of over information etc is completed as the scorer clicks to agree that the over is complete. The scorer who is keeping a written record needs a little longer to complete all of the necessary entries. It was felt that best practice is for the person keeping the written record to take the lead on checking as they are making or have made all the necessary scoring record entries.

The computer scorer must appreciate that the computer provides a huge amount of information quickly and accurately BUT the accuracy is only as good as the information entered. We all make mistakes, eg. hit the key for Bye when the signal was Leg-bye, put runs off a No ball all to No ball extras when the striker hit the ball etc; there will be occasions when the computer scorer has made the mistake and the written record is the accurate reflection of events on the field of play.

Teamwork is essential, regardless of the medium being used by each scorer to keep an accurate record of the game in play.

I'm sure that readers will have their own views - some for and some against those offered above.

Feel free to put them into an email for inclusion in the June issue of Notchers' News.

Ed.

Cathy Rawson reflects on potentially difficult on-line scoring moments:

Thankfully I've never experienced an '**Internet stops play moment**' but, after reading the article from Clericus, I did reflect on matches where similar problems could have arisen.

At an ICC competition in Namibia in 2007 Juanné Louw and I scored the first match (Namibia v Denmark) together; we were both keeping written scoring records and preparing to score the match when a young man (not Namibian) joined us; he told us that he was the official ICC appointed on-line scorer and needed to be in the score box with access to a power supply etc. We were both keeping written scoring records so could change our scoring positions to meet his needs and still have a good view of the playing area. Juanné and I obtained team lists and made the usual pre-match entries in our scoring records; our on-line scorer colleague disappeared until just a few minutes before 'Play' was called.

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INTERNET STOPS PLAY: Readers' comments continued

As we started to score the match the on-line scorer was inputting team lists and asking who won the toss, which side was batting, who was facing, bowling etc; you can imagine our frustration as we tried to concentrate on the match. Several overs had been bowled before he was in a position to look up and see what was happening. Even then he frequently asked us to read out the events of the last over, tell him who was facing (even after a dot ball!) etc. He did improve a little as the competition progressed but there were occasions when the tolerance of we 'on paper' scorers was stretched to the limit.

He probably knew his cricket. He certainly knew about computers. Sadly he failed to appreciate the need to be prepared before the start of the match and clearly lacked the knowledge of how to record some events. He couldn't see that some form of written back up is essential and thought that a computer was all he required. Had he been a lone scorer the start of the match would have been delayed and I suspect that there could have been issues with the correctness of scores.

In 2009 I was the Denmark scorer at the ICC World Cup in South Africa. Scorer provision at this competition was excellent; at all venues I enjoyed the company of two official scorers who were keeping comprehensive linear scoring records plus an on-line scorer; I sat with or at a table adjacent to the SA Scorer Team from where I was able to provide names of the Denmark players and participate (by listening to the official scorers) in the end of over checks etc.

Danni, the on-line scorer at one venue, encountered major problems throughout the day as the internet connection repeatedly went down. She tried to recover the connection without switching off the computer without success and consequently had to reboot the computer (and voice her frustration); on each occasion she missed an over or more and had to catch up.

The official scorers continued to record the match on paper and, at the end of each over I remember that the end of over checks frequently went something like this:

*3 off the over, score 57 off 9 overs, Smith 22 off 28 balls, Jones 13 off 13 balls followed by
.....and this is for you Danni over 5, Miller bowling: dot, single, dot, two, dot, four*

so that Danni to catch up again. If she had been the sole scorer I suspect that the internet certainly would have stopped play! The need for a written back-up, team work and a calm approach were all clearly demonstrated that day

On a completely separate note, while the on-line scoring programme in use at all venues met the needs of the competition it paled in comparison with TCS. At most venues the scorers tested TCS on my computer and wished that they were using it.

Just for the records, when I score using the computer I always keep lineal and summary sheets. If I do run into problems I close the computer and continue to keep the book - I can enter details from the scoring records to the computer after the match.

Juanné Louw, Windhoek, Namibia, writes:

I read through your article 'Internet stops play'. I actually find it amusing that the play was stopped for that. Any scorer scoring on a laptop should still keep notes, or record something on paper while scoring on the laptop.

I prefer to score using the normal book method and haven't even tried scoring on a laptop. I had a problem with someone scoring on a laptop in one of our club games recently. The lady was just learning how to score using the Pitchpad scoring programme. She had only scored one game before this specific game. After about five overs we encountered our first problem, she had mixed up the batsmen in the first over and only realized it after about five overs which meant that she had to go back and correct everything while I kept on scoring using my linear method. After the first innings with a few more hiccups, she finally was on track.. Then, as she proceeded to do the change of innings she wiped out the whole first innings. She only scored the 2nd innings and requested I send my summary of the first innings to her.

I am not a big fan of scoring only on a computer/laptop, especially in Windhoek where some of the grounds do not even have an electricity point. Either two manual scorers or one manual scorer and one on the computer. But then the one on the computer should also keep their own notes, etc, so as not to bother the other scorer constantly when the power trips or the screen goes blank.

'FOUR' and 'SIXSIX' in the cumulative run tally

Merry Farmer, Pennsylvania, USA

When I received my first correspondence course assessment I was surprised to hear that Cathy had learnt something new as she hadn't seen 'FOUR' or 'SIXSIX' used when crossing off 4's and 6's in the cumulative total. I initially told her that this method was taught to me by a Yorkshireman as a way to prevent confusion due to a lot of long lines. I've found it's very helpful and it doesn't take all that long.

I have had to correct myself. I asked Klaus about it and he said that wasn't the one who told me about scoring that way. In fact, he'd never seen it either until he was looking over my shoulder one day. He thinks maybe it's an Indian thing? We're not sure. The mystery deepens! Does anyone know the origins of this method of crossing off in the cumulative score?

Scoring in Kimberley

John M Brown

I have recently returned from a trip to Kimberley in South Africa, where I was privileged to accompany the England Learning Disability team as their scorer in the Tri-Nations tournament for the Intellectually Disabled. I had not even heard of this team before I was invited to join them, and I feel that news of the work which is being done with these disadvantaged cricketers should be more widely spread and acknowledged.

In order to qualify for this team, each player must first have an IQ of 75 or less (as assessed by an educational psychologist): many of them have other difficulties such as autism, attention deficiency, and some difficulties in fitting in with the usual social expectations of society.

The team is fully recognised and supported by ECB, who provide the players with full playing kit, cricket bags, use of the official ECB coach and much more. In South Africa they were even accompanied to the tournament opening ceremony by four police cars, sirens blaring and lights flashing as the roads were cleared to give the teams' coaches and kit trailers an uninterrupted journey to the Kimberley Oval.

This group of fourteen boys and young men (average age 20) were all thoroughly pleasant people, a pleasure to work with.

The tournament consisted of two forty-over matches each against corresponding teams from Australia (average age 30+), the winners of the previous three tournaments, and South Africa; and this England team, with whom the six-strong coaching and management team, five of them volunteers, had worked so hard over at least eighteen months, showed remarkable qualities of technical ability and tactical know-how, and they managed to win all four of their group matches, three of them after being made to fight really hard.

They met the all-black South African team in the final and again showed considerable resolution and skill in winning the match by 19 runs.

I believe this is a cause for some celebration, and that the whole world should know that we have yet another team of World champions in our midst. I understand that the trophy will be kept alongside the Ashes urn in the Lord's museum.

Of particular interest to our readers here, however, is my experience of scoring in a different continent. I arrived for the first match about ninety minutes before the scheduled start and I was soon able to introduce myself as England scorer to Cheryl who I assumed was the home scorer. She made sure that I had a good position and could set up my laptop satisfactorily. I was somewhat surprised when another scorer, Patricia, arrived and sat between us: during the match I found that my input was being virtually ignored and that Cheryl and Patricia were working together as colleagues.

In my ignorance of local ways, it took me until the second innings of the match to realise that in this part of the world the scorers are appointed in the same way as umpires. They are not attached to individual clubs, but they have to be qualified members of the local scorers' association if they are to receive appointments. For this particular tournament they had been issued with blue polo shirts embroidered with the badges of the three participating countries, the name and year of the tournament with the title *Scorer* beneath.

In my ignorance I was involved in six matches myself and for each of them I found that I was the third scorer, made to feel welcome, but not one of the official scorers. All the scorers used a standard linear scoring sheet and I believe that they all had identical sets of pens and other equipment in their scoring kit. As with umpires, there is a standard payment (I didn't ask how much) for all scorers, paid by the local competition organisers – not directly by the participating teams, as is usually the case for club umpires here.

In addition I went to watch a fifty-over match between two first-class provincial teams: here there were seven scorers working in some role or another, all of them wearing their Griqua West Scorer shirts. There were the two official scorers, two working on the very detailed scoreboard (including balls received, up-to-date bowling analyses, etc), one for the benefit of the press, one had a more supervisory role (and was, I believe, the appointments officer) and another whose role I did not establish. And there was at least one other scorer member present – she was not on duty, but they were there because they saw themselves as a united group of friends with a common interest.

Continued on page 6

Scoring in Kimberley

John M Brown

It seemed to me that the status of scorers in South Africa is much greater than in the UK, particularly at club level. It was clear that the umpires and scorers saw themselves as much more of a team than is often the case here, and that they saw each other as friends and colleagues, and as professionals. In the matches I attended there was much talk about where each of them had been appointed for the coming weekend and with whom they would be working. It seemed to be the responsibility of the home club to ensure that the scorer was properly accommodated and looked after. I am pretty sure that, if there had been anything unsatisfactory about the scoring facilities, the local association would have taken some action and the home club would have been required to improve conditions.

This has all given me much food for thought: I would guess that the majority of scorers, like me, are pleased to be attached to a club and to follow their progress throughout the season, year after year. But, if the status of scorers is to be recognised and valued in the way which scorers believe they should, then perhaps this would be a way forward. I wonder what other readers think.

What do readers think?

If you have an opinion please submit it in time for the next issue of NN. Ed.

News from Hong Kong

In December 2011 five scorers sat the Scorers Examination. Congratulations go to the three successful candidates, Umesh Bhasin, Justin Fletcher and Sally Greig.

Alice Jones, the driving force behind the Hong Kong Cricket Association scorer training programme, had hoped to present them with their certificates and submit a photo for NN. Regrettably it proved impossible to arrange a convenient date and time to suit everyone in the short time before Alice and her family emigrated to Brisbane, Australia in January 2012. All of the successful candidates have now received their certificates.

Justin Fletcher has taken over from Alice as the Scorer Coordinator for the Hong Kong Cricket Association.

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)



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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

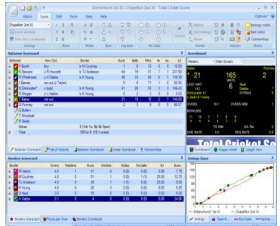
Share your cricket scoring experiences and scoring questions with readers.

Photos are welcomed and add interest to the newsletter.

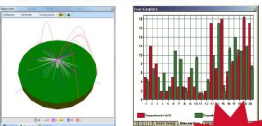
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June newsletter copy date: 21st May 2012

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