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# Notchers' News

ISSUE 18

JUNE 2012

## The network for cricket scorers

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

### VALUING SCORERS - 'No Scorer points penalty'

#### ENGLISH LEAGUE PLANS TO PENALISE CLUBS WITH NO SCORER

*Source: Tasmanian Cricket Umpires & Scorers Association Newsletter*

Leicestershire's Premier Division, the top flight of club cricket in the county, is set to introduce a rule during the coming northern summer (2012 season) that would see a side lose three championship points if it fails to provide a scorer for any game, says a report published in the 'Leicester Mercury'. Some clubs are said to be 'blessed with scorers who do a magnificent job week in and week out', but not all in the league are as fortunate.

The Stoughton and Thurnby side, who did not have a regular first-team scorer last summer, are said to be looking to ensure they do not fall foul of the proposed new rule. Club secretary Leigh Moore has advertised widely in the county for expressions of interest, but so far he has had no response.

Moore is said to be hoping that situation will soon change, although he admits that "the rewards of the job", a free tea every Saturday afternoon during the season, "might not seem great" at first glance. However, he points out that transport can be arranged to away matches and the club are willing to send any would-be applicants on an England and Wales Cricket Board scorers' course. He believes that the post could suit a retired person or anyone who has an interest in cricket.

If the club is unsuccessful in their quest it could be faced with the prospect of naming a second or third-team player as the first-team's twelfth man and, effectively, scorer. Such a move would not, he says, "be popular because they all want to play". Moore did not elaborate on what would happen in that situation should the player concerned be needed on the field during a match.

League secretary Rod Watts, who is also an umpire, told the 'Mercury' that having two reliable scorers takes pressure off the umpires "because it means they (*the umpires*) do not have to check the scores so often".

Leagues taking a positive approach to ensure that two scorers are appointed are to be congratulated. I'm sure readers would welcome news of other initiatives to encourage clubs to provide a scorer. I was surprised to receive this bit news from the opposite side of the world! Ed.

#### ARE YOU A FACEBOOK USER?

#### NOTCHERS NEWS HAS A FACEBOOK PAGE

NN readers are invited to apply to join this 'closed' group. Simply go to your Facebook page and search for Notchers.

*(I admit that I'm not into Facebook but the group administrator keeps me informed! Ed)*

The newsletter can only be successful if copy is received for publication. Please submit articles, letters and questions to [notchers@btopenworld.com](mailto:notchers@btopenworld.com) <http://www.notchers.co.uk>

## PLAYER IDENTIFICATION

Chris Rawson

I am growing increasingly concerned that, in important international competitions, scorers are being appointed who either don't know the players or who are not taking the trouble to identify the players correctly. This obviously has the potential to cause errors in official statistics.

The ECB has recently appointed a company called Opta to provide on-line commentaries of all first class cricket matches in the United Kingdom. Hitherto much of this service had been provided by the First Class scorers who scored on-line on laptops provided by PA Sports. Opta have employed 9 people to cover the 18 first class counties. There was an expectation that the Opta employee would be in the score box with the official scorers; this presents a problem at some grounds where the score box cannot cope with any additional personnel. I understand those Opta scorers will have the facility to telephone the official scorers if there are problems – such as identification of players. Whether the official scorers will have the time to deal with telephone enquiries at busy times – when a wicket has fallen in a T20 match, for example – remains open to question.

In Notchers' News 17 Cathy has referred to her experience of an IT literate on-line 'scorer' at an ICC competition in Namibia. I was reminded of another incident when the same gentleman turned up to the match between Argentina and Denmark. A conversation at the beginning of the Denmark innings went something like this:-

'Carsten Pedersen and David Borchersen opening for Denmark. Pedersen facing.'                    'Thank you.'  
'That's 1 to Pedersen.'                    'Thank you. Who's facing now?'

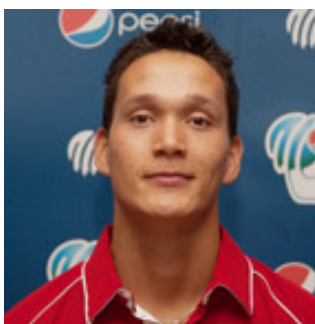
I found it very difficult not to make a very pithy comment!

As you may have worked out, I follow Danish cricket very closely and there were two incidents during the recent ICC T20 World Cup Qualifier in Dubai which further illustrate my point.

ESPNCricinfo provided 'live scores' for the competition – which included ball-by-ball written commentary. For the 2<sup>nd</sup> over of the match against Oman read as follows:-

- 1.1 Ranpura to Klokker, 1 run, mistimed lofted drive, in the air towards mid-wicket
- 1.2 Ranpura to Klokker, no run, back of a length, forward defense, beaten
- 1.3 Ranpura to Klokker, no run, forward defense, beaten again, good tight channel
- 1.4 Ranpura to Klokker, 1 run
- 1.5 Ranpura to Aftab Ahmed, 1 run, leg stump ball. Steered to fine leg
- 1.6 Ranpura to Klokker, 2 runs, flicked nicely to fine leg, fielder wide of fine leg runs and collects the ball

Score the over and you will see that Freddie Klokker received the 1st and 5th deliveries with Aftab Ahmed facing for the rest of the over. It shouldn't have been that difficult to correctly identify the players given that Klokker is a left-handed batsman, whereas Aftab Ahmed bats right-handed!



MNL (Martin) Pedersen

In the same match, the final scorecard was incorrect. It showed MNL Pedersen's bowling figures as 4 – 0 – 23 – 2. The only problem was that it should have been MR Pedersen!

As you can see the two Pedersen's do not look alike. Martin is about 178 cm tall and bowls brisk medium pace off about 15 paces  
Michael is about 190cm tall and bowls off-breaks off a 5 or 6 pace run-up.

And the players also wear squad numbers on their backs - Martin is #57 and Michael is #44!!



MR (Michael) Pedersen

I contacted ESPNCricinfo about this and, to their credit, they have now amended their records.

One of their e-mails back to me claimed that '*Player identification is a common problem at associate level.*' Oh really? It wouldn't be if teams were allowed to take their own scorers to international competitions.

Cricket, more than most sports, revels in its statistics. If they are not correct, for whatever reason, the game as a whole suffers.

## THE LEARNING ZONE

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

## UNDERLINING

While updating some scorer training material Tony Izzard noticed an error in the scoring section of the new (2010) edition of Tom Smith's Cricket Umpiring and Scoring. The second bullet point on page 247 states that: 'If the striker is out Caught when running and they have crossed to change ends the entry will be w' The underline under the w has been omitted

Notchers' News is advised that the omission has already been identified by the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) and is flagged up as an issue to be addressed at the next reprint. In the meanwhile scorer instructors are advised to tell all those attending courses. Readers may wish to make a manual amendment to their copy of Tom Smith's Cricket Umpiring and Scoring (2000 Code. 4th Edition 2010).

Tony believes that the whole section on underlining merits a review and would like to see the following included in the text:

Underlining is used when the batsmen are not at the ends as expected from the scoring record entry.

He would welcome more examples; the only two given are 'Short Runs' and 'Caught' if the batsmen cross; there is no mention of Run out, a dismissal when the batsmen often cross and when underlining may be required. He highlights the fact that the run out batsman may be the non-striker - no entry needed in his batting summary but the scorer may need to underline the entry in the striker's summary.

Tony offers the following posers. Some of the situations described require the use of underlining; some do not. What will your scoring record entry be when:

1. The striker hits the ball; the batsmen run and cross; the striker is run out at non-striker's end without completing a run?
2. The striker hits the ball; the batsmen run and cross; the non-striker is run out at striker's end without completing a run?
3. The striker hits the ball; the batsmen complete one run and turn for a second run; the striker is run out at non-striker's end; the batsmen have not crossed on the second run?
4. The striker hits the ball; the batsmen complete one run and turn for a second run; the striker is run out at striker's end; the batsmen have crossed on the second run?
5. The striker hits the ball; the batsmen complete two runs and turn for a third; the striker is run out at striker's end; the batsmen have not crossed on the third run?

Answers in the September issue of Notchers' News

## RUN OUT Who do you record as the fielder effecting the dismissal?

The following text appeared in the email that brought Issue 17 (March 2012) of Notchers' News to many readers:

*'Over the last few days I've received correspondence about 'Run out' and, in particular, which member or members of the fielding side should be given credit for a Run out dismissal.'*

Readers were invited to offer their thoughts on the subject.

*Andy Scarlett wrote:*

I put the name of the fielder who actually breaks the wicket even if there is a brilliant throw from the deep.

My logic is that the brilliant throw did not run the batsman out. I know it upsets people but that is a consistent stance I take. I compare it to giving a catch to 2nd slip when the ball was first parried from first.

I was at a meeting yesterday with OptA, the company that has taken over the recording of "stats" from the PA Sports system. They will show ALL fielders involved in run out and catches. In one of the recent Aus v Sri Lanka matches, but for a fielder's foot touching the rope, we could have had 3 players involved in a run out.

A question for scorers to consider for the future. Will the notes section be big enough for recording all these 'assists'?

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## THE LEARNING ZONE

### RUN OUT Who do you record as the fielder effecting the dismissal?

Sally Pitman writes:

A direct hit is easy – I name the fielder who throws the ball at the wicket .

When a fielder has fielded the ball well and made an excellent throw straight into the hands of the keeper (or bowler/fielder) standing over the stumps it is that fielder's name that goes in the book.

If the 'keeper (or bowler/other fielder) is involved I will only include his name IF he has made a genuine contribution to the Run out dismissal!

On occasions the throw-in is so awful that the run out is only completed thanks to the efforts of the 'keeper (or bowler/other fielder) – then it has to be the name of the 'keeper (or bowler/other fielder) .

When there are relays where it would seem to require three names I tend towards awarding credit to the fielder whose contribution to the run out is the greatest.

I give credit where credit is due!!! And if all else fails then just leave it as 'run out'!

Donald Keighly, Biddestone CC Scorer, wrote:

I have scored for more years than I care to remember and in many different scoring facilities, where you are not able to see the whole ground and therefore cannot always identify the outfield thrower. The other problem is that as I am looking at the batsmen running (to count the runs) I have to ask a close fielder to confirm the name of the outfield thrower.

If the ball is returned to the wicket-keeper who runs out the batsman then I record the run out to the thrower.

If the outfield thrower returns the ball to another fielder (who runs out the batsman) then I have the option to share the run out to the two fielders.

If however, the wicket-keeper gathers the ball (without any other fielder being involved) and runs out the batsman then I would give the credit for the run out to him.

Cathy Rawson wrote:

Scorers accessing scorer correspondence courses can struggle with both underlining and who to credit with a Run out dismissal. They're not alone - I sometimes struggle with Run out too, particularly when I'm the only scorer; I'm busy trying to watch the batsmen running, where the ball is going and which fielder is chasing it; as a result there are occasions when I genuinely don't see who fielded the ball.

Sometimes it's difficult to determine which fielder's name should be recorded as two or more of the fielding side may be involved in a run out. Who do you give the credit to?

- ⇒ the player making an excellent stop and quick throw-in?
- ⇒ the player achieving a direct hit at the stumps?
- ⇒ a player/the keeper who is backing up well, collects a difficult throw-in and goes on to break the wicket
- ⇒ No-one? The run out may have been down to the batsmen's poor calling and not really to the credit of any member of the fielding side!

Run out dismissals appear in statistics, but to date I haven't seen statistics for the number of Run out dismissals credited to the members of the fielding side. I suspect that we record the information because the players like it and because recording all events on the field of play as accurately as possible gives us satisfaction.

At higher levels I suspect that this information is more for commentators and journalists than for statisticians!

### An injured striker with a runner

Mike Turner

The injured striker had a runner.

*All three batsmen* took a run; the fielding side put the wicket down at the wicket-keeper's end. The decision?

Striker run out, no runs scored – or so the scorer might be expecting.

Unfortunately the player-umpires were having none of this and refused to dismiss the striker.

I was at a different match, otherwise I'm sure they'd have asked me what I thought, as they know I like to study the laws. Our senior player (30-plus years with the club who does quite a bit of umpiring himself) was shocked when I told him that they'd made the wrong decision.

## WHITHER SCORING?

Keith Booth

### PART 1: Scoring in Kimberley - A Reply

*John Brown invites the thoughts of readers on his experience of the Tri-Nations Learning Disability Tournament in Kimberley and his reaction to differences in scoring appointments and methods in South Africa. Here are mine.*

My first instinct was to ask what John was doing there anyway. No reflection on him that he turned up expecting to be official scorer and then discovering that he wasn't and I'm sure the experience of being involved in a worthwhile cause was invaluable, but when the ECB does not appoint scorers for the senior or Lions sides, what are they doing making an appointment to the England Learning Disability team when the tournament organisers had already made perfectly adequate arrangements to have the matches covered by local scorers? It does point to an absence of planning and advance consultation, but is not unprecedented. In 1905, Bill Ferguson, scorer for the Australian touring team (or so he thought), was turfed out of the scorers' cubicle at Lord's and in 2009 for the World Twenty20, ECB arranged to have two official scorers at each match, only to have Ireland and Scotland each turn up with their own. There were doubtless similar incidents in the intervening century.

However, what John was really seeking was a response to his view that the South African method of the central appointment of qualified scorers to provincial and senior club matches and standardisation of scoring methods may have something to teach us. Let's have a look at the differences and see whether anything can be learned. There seem to be three main areas: (1) standardisation; (2) centralisation of appointments; (3) qualifications and professionalism. John is concerned about the status of scorers and the way in which they are valued. Status is not derived automatically from occupying a certain position or being at a particular rank of a hierarchy. Like respect, it has to be earned. I would ask a different question which is how can we use experience of what happens in South Africa to improve the standard of service to the game?

#### (1) Standardisation

There is obviously some merit in this, though I'm not sure that I'd go so far as having identical shirts and sets of pens. IT has led to some standardisation: all matches at first-class level have been covered by computerised scoring for more than twenty seasons now and ECB Premier League matches will shortly be scored on the TCS system which will facilitate links to Play Cricket.

Manual records have become less significant, but where they are used, it would surely be a service to players and coaches to have them all the same instead of the present *pot-pourri* of box and linear methods. At first-class and county 2<sup>nd</sup> XI level, where scorebooks are still used, they are generally the same, purchased centrally from the same supplier, the layout varying little from that designed by Herbert Strudwick in the 1930s. Club books have more variety and the linear systems used by county scorers are, with the exception of those that use the Frindall scorebook, of their own design or that of their predecessors, basically modified Frindall, similar in their essentials but with their individual idiosyncratic variations.

A few years ago, the ICC tried to introduce a standardised scoresheet for limited overs internationals: it was intended to facilitate the work of umpires and match referees, but, although the forms for those officials have become standardised, albeit with a few annual variations, the standardised scoresheet fell by the wayside, along with the importance of scorers in internationals. Had it survived it may well have been used as a blueprint for lower levels.

Towards the grass-roots of the game, however, it is not unusual for there to be no scorers and for the job to be undertaken – if at all – in turn by members of the batting side. So, perhaps not a lot of scope for standardisation there, unless the marketing ambitions of Stephen Fleming and Brendon McCullum are fulfilled and their CricHQ floods the world market.

Linear scoring is the preferred method of Cricket South Africa and is taught by the provincial scorers' associations. The much-vaunted *Tom Smith*, while devoting several pages to a method that is a refinement and extension of one with its roots in the eighteenth century, interprets 'linear' (or 'lineal' as it's called in the book) as being worthy of a one-line mention in a volume of almost 300 pages. Computer scoring is similarly dismissed in the next line.

Scoreboards too are virtually identical on the major grounds in South Africa: so players, umpires and spectators know that they will be able to find pertinent information on runs required, overs remaining, etc, in the same place, irrespective of the ground on which they happen to be. In England, although most counties have upgraded their scoreboards in recent years, there has been no attempt at uniformity and the required information, if it's there at all, is on a different place on each ground.

#### (2) Centralisation of appointments

John tells us that scoring appointments are made centrally and that scorers are attached to their provincial association, rather than individual clubs. That seems to work well enough here for umpires, both on the county scene and in Premier Leagues. I'm not sure that it would for scorers, who are likely to feel an attachment to a club as a wife, girlfriend, sister, daughter or non-playing member and might be reluctant to abandon that and travel out of their comfort zone to the other side of the county.

Continued on page 6

## WHITHER SCORING?

Continued from page 5

County clubs have conventionally appointed their own scorers, with no reference to any centrally established ECB criteria. Nothing wrong with that: they appoint their own players too, but by agreement with the PCA pay a minimum rate to capped players. Unlike the situation John describes in Kimberley, rates paid to scorers vary considerably and it is tempting to argue that counties might be persuaded to pay a minimum rate to scorers, based perhaps on a percentage of the capped players' minimum rate or the rate paid to umpires. The counter-argument – and it's a strong one – is that while capped players and umpires are required to reach a high standard to justify an agreed level of pay, scorers are not. I was once asked by the guest of a county Chairman whether any one could do the job or whether scorers had to be certified. The answer is that some of them probably should be, but in the sense he meant it, no, any one could do it. To justify a minimum rate of pay, minimum standards of competence should be a requirement.

### (3) Qualifications and Professionalism

It is here that there is the biggest discrepancy between South African and British arrangements. John refers to appointments being dependent on scorers being qualified members of the local scorers' association. Huge difference here. A minority of county scorers have qualifications going back to ACU&S days, but most are not qualified – or indeed, assessed. That doesn't necessarily mean they're bad scorers. As in any job some are better than others, but they have no choice but to remain unqualified, because there is no qualification available. ECB ACO has been active in getting Level 1 and 2 qualifications off the ground and scratching the surface of Level 3, but try to get an answer on what's happening at Levels 4 and 5 and the silence is deafening.

*Whither Scoring, Part 2, 'Away from Professionalism' will appear in Issue 19 (September 2012)*

*Whither Scoring, Part 3, 'Scorers—Who needs them?' will appear in Issue 20 (December 2012)*

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](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 Umpiring and Scoring (IICUS)

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



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### MILLENNIUM SCORING RECORD

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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.

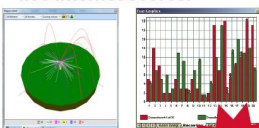
Send your contributions to: [notchers@btopenworld.com](mailto:notchers@btopenworld.com)

**September newsletter copy date: 20th August 2012**

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