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# Notchers' News

ISSUE 19

SEPTEMBER 2012

## The network for cricket scorers

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

### Linear vs Box scoring

Mike Turner

There's been a trend in recent Notchers News for linear scoring to be presented as obviously superior to traditional box scoring. Please can I put the other point of view!

I can do linear scoring if required (I have a pass in the [ACUS] Advanced exam which provides some evidence for this) but I have not yet been convinced that for me it is better than box scoring. There are three main reasons for this:

1. Players are much more familiar with box scoring, so at the end of the game (if we've won!) they'll pore over and can easily interpret my completed scorecard, which gives me great satisfaction. Further to this, this has inspired some of them to purchase sets of coloured pens and score our games in colour, with balls faced recorded to batsmen, when I'm not there. I don't think there's any way they would have had confidence to do this in a linear book.
2. If I make a mistake, I have confidence I can locate and correct it due to the existence of multiple entries on the scorecard. On a linear scorecard with only one entry, I have found this less easy to get sufficient evidence to make corrections with confidence.
3. I have yet to see a linear scorecard in which it is easy at a glance to follow the progress of a bowler's performance in an innings. The single entry has to go in one of the batsman's columns, which are as a result very good to follow, but at the expense of clarity for the bowler. Again I like the satisfaction of seeing a bowler look through a good spell of his in the scorebook. When lots of wickets fall close together, this becomes hard to follow, and I think a player unfamiliar with linear scoring is more likely than not going to give up trying. Recently I took on the task of looking through old linear scorecards to identify hat tricks: even with my experience this was a very tricky operation.

If linear scoring became the norm, then I guess point 1 would be less relevant. I understand that regular linear scorers say that they make fewer mistakes, so point 2 is perhaps not that significant. I would say to this that I rarely make a mistake when box scoring and what's more, I *know* I've not made a mistake because the duplication of entries tells me so: linear scoring doesn't give me that warm feeling. Point 3 is still the clincher for me: I like my scorecards to have clarity for both batsmen and bowlers. Until I see a linear scorecard which displays that clarity, I'd like to stick to box scoring whenever I can.

### BOWLER ACCIDENTALLY BREAKING THE WICKET IN HIS RUN UP

During the Test Match, the scorers were asked:

"How many times was dead ball signalled when Finn knocked the wicket with his knee?"

Should the scorers have recorded these events?

Should all dead balls be noted in the scoring record?

ANDY SCARLETT

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>

## CRICKET---A METAPHOR FOR LIFE

GORDON VEERASAWMY

How is LIFE like a GAME OF CRICKET?

Life is like a game of cricket where we may contest with those from differing cultures and where we share our common threads of values, practices and philosophy in this game of life. We respect those who participate in a contest because they too have their game to play.

Cricket has the field of play. The playing field of life is anywhere and everywhere - with our family, in our homes, at work, at play, on holiday. It's there in all that we do.

We are equipped with gifts and talents, our weaknesses and our strengths. We may also be equipped with physical elements with which to face an opponent - our bat; our ball; our gloves.

We face one other but we're also supported by one another - our team members, our family and friends.

We use our taught skills and material means to attack or defend depending on the situation or relationship in which we find ourselves.

Our attackers can be likened to that of the bowler who uses aggression to bowl length/line/ bounce to find our weaknesses and defeat us.

The wicket can change so we have to be prepared to change our bowling or batting style to cope with the opposition. In life, we have to be flexible and willing to embrace change- of bowler- of wicket.

At times, we have to defend our wicket- our self; our family; our team

Like cricket, life is full of slips - there is always someone or something that you might misjudge and who might catch you out or run you out; will you be ready?

In the field when we have to take our turn, we can be part of team occupying prime positions ready to take that wicket. Sometimes we can feel alone when fielding in isolated spots on the ground; in life we could find ourselves with friends but still isolated.

Cricket, like life, has its Laws, Special Regulations, Scorers and Boundaries.

Players push the boundaries in their search for success and celebrate as they achieve their goals, be it the quick single, the Boundary 4 or 6, the first 50 or 100, the first wicket, the 5-wicket haul and the good catch, throw or piece of fielding , all recorded in the scorer's book - of your life.

Scorers record every single, every boundary; every downfall--- and all the extras !!

Scorers and statisticians record events on the field of play; they aim to produce an accurate and informative history of the game from which statistical information can be gathered.

Umpires seek to apply the Laws and ensure that the game is played within the Spirit of Cricket. Their knowledge of the Laws, experience and concentration enables them to make decisions based on first-hand evidence.

If a player thinks the umpire has made an incorrect decision should he drop his head or show dissent or should he accept the decision with humility?

If he knows he is out should he be fair and walk without waiting for the umpire to make the decision for him?

We all make mistakes; are we willing to acknowledge our errors? Are we willing to forgive? In life too we have the enforcers of the Law; we have officials who exercise their authority with knowledge, discretion and integrity.

Life and cricket are both steeped in history and statistics and we respect and applaud those who have played their innings before us on their pitch of life.

Not everyone can be a Sobers or a Warne, a Dickie Bird or Bill Frindall - or wants to be!!!

We recognize that there will always be those who are better than us. We recognize and respect the talents of each person and allow them to shine. We shall always have our time to shine.

In this game of life, there are those who seek material recognition for success - not all can achieve their century or five wicket haul on their pitch of life. Not all can collect their trophy in life.

So with life, we have to learn the basics from those who are wiser and older than us; only then can we consider ourselves equipped to perform in the arenas of the world and in our field with the promise of fair competition.

Life is like cricket- we eventually retire to the rooms for rest and relaxation.

As in life, we all will be timed --- OUT !!!

Gordon sent this article to his cricketing friend of many years, Peter Danks. Peter forwarded it to Notchers' News. Gordon, who now lives in Australia, has kindly given permission for the article to be used in the newsletter.

Ed.

## THE LEARNING ZONE

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

### UNDERLINING: Responses to the scenarios set by Tony Izzard (Issue 18)

The *Leinster Cricket Umpires & Scorers' Association (LCU&SA)* included Tony Izzard's posers in their recent newsletter. Their editor recorded 'Thanks to Inge Bevers for correcting our attempts!' The answers they offered are shown in blue below each questions

**Mike Turner** admits that recording run out is one of his hobby horses. He uses  $\backslash/$  or  $/\backslash$  - a diagonal line to either side of the entry to indicate the run out dismissal and whether the striker or non-striker has been dismissed. The answers given in red below are how **he** would record these instances in the scoring record.

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?

Most scorers enter 'r' to indicate a run out. The scoring record entry would be . (a dot ball, underlined because the batsmen had crossed and were not at the ends expected from the score) or possibly r - for run out in the bowling and in the *striker's* summary

$\backslash/$

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?

As above (LCU&SA)

$/\backslash$  (Mike Turner)

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**?

1 and r (LCU&SA)

$\backslash1/$  (Mike Turner)

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**?

1 and r (LCU&SA)

$\backslash1/$  (Mike Turner)

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**?

2 (LCU&SA)

$\backslash2/$  (Mike Turner)

HOW DID YOU DO?

Andy Scarlett has confirmed that Tony Izzard's comments on the underline have been noted by the MCC. He adds that "readers should remember that Tom Smith's is a guide and not a substitute for a formal scoring course."

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

I have just been reading NN and was about to put fingers to keyboard when Taylor was run out by de Villiers following a Steyn relay from Amla fielding. What would you have recorded? The official scorers both put de Villiers whilst Sky showed Amla. CricInfo commentary mentions only the bowler and batsmen. However, the CricInfo scorecard shows all 3 fielders. The Opta feed is also showing Amla because they have not updated their software to allow assists. The content of the How Out column is often dictated by the space available and the size of the scorer's handwriting. This is where the notes space can be used to record the extra information, always assuming that there is a space for notes. My view is to be consistent in what you record.

Andy Scarlett

On the run-out issue, I have always credited everyone involved, and even got the guy who wrote the scoring programme that we used on television in South Africa to give the option of using up to 3 names, with the proviso that the "out stat" could be manually edited if there were more people involved - long throws from the boundary, to keeper, and maybe to bowler's end, I have had 4 people involved in a run-out before now.

Julia Scully

I've adopted the policy (95% of the time) of crediting the fielder making the throw in when more than one is involved, although I don't have strong opinions as to whether this is the best way. Occasionally a different fielder deserves more credit and I can change this "rule" accordingly. I have no problem with crediting a fielder when it's the batsmen's mix-up causing the run out: no different in my eyes to a batsman popping up a dolly catch. We have kept records for the club of run outs for 4 or 5 years now, I would say for fun, but on more than one occasion I feel sure that it has influenced the awarding of the club's fielding trophy.

Mike Turner

## WHITHER SCORING - your responses

### **Andy Scarlett writes:**

Once again, Keith Booth has produced an article that provokes thought and comment.

I can add a scenario where the ECB failed to appoint any scorer to an International.

I understand that the standard scoring record proposed by the ICC was created in the box style. It was pointed out that most of the scorers who score Internationals use linear scoring records and would continue to do so. The idea of a standardised scoring record seems to have arisen from the commercial department of the ICC and not the Scorers' side. I believe the ICC were thinking more along the lines of being able to pass copies of completed scoring records to the media and others. Perhaps the ICC thought their target audience might not be able to follow a linear scoring record.

Tom Smith's, which is a guide, has traditionally followed the box style explanation of scoring because the vast majority of recreational scorers and player scorers use box scoring records. We seem to be training scorers to complete publishers products rather than training using the simplest method and let publishers catch up. I have suggested to the ECB ACO that the first method taught to scorers should be the linear method. The ECB ACO has embraced computer scoring with the introduction of a Total Cricket Scorer (TCS) training course. As ECB Premier leagues choose to use TCS then standardisation, as far as computer scoring is concerned, will come.

In considering centralisation, I tend to agree with Keith but the use of the ECB ACO National Scorer Administration Officer is introducing a form of panel appointments. It does highlight the ability and need of a scorer to be able to quickly learn to identify players not previously known to the scorer. The matter of pay is difficult. Many scorers would score for nothing for their clubs. I have suggested to those scorers that they could still take a fee and then donate the fee back to the club which might then be able to claim the tax. Whilst some leagues have chosen to penalise teams for lack of scorers by a points deduction, others levy fines. In those leagues, scorers tend to be paid the amount of the fine. The ECB ACO rate for scorers is the same for umpires and includes mileage.

Keith raises the matter of qualification for scorers. Within the domain of the England and Wales Cricket Board there are the ECB ACO Recreational Scorer Levels (RCL) 1, 1A, 2 and 3. These are in place and there are ECB ACO training courses in place to support these levels. The first of the new RSL 3 courses should be run this year. Under the Scorer initiative, any scorer could have an assessment carried out by an ECB ACO trained Scorer Assessor. If the scorer was not a member of the ECB ACO, there would be a charge. Other providers of scorer training courses are, of course, available. This leaves the professional game.

The RSL 3 is aimed at scorers who want to score multi-day cricket and one day matches using Duckworth Lewis. It is not meant for the professional game. Keith has mentioned Level 4 (I take this to mean First Class County) and Level 5 (International) and inferred that the silence is coming from the ECB ACO. The ECB ACO is concentrating on the recreational game. The existing band of scorers at the First Class County level are all members of the Association of County Cricket Scorers (ACCS). Perhaps it is time that the ACCS take on an educational role. For Level 4, I would suggest that the ACCS should be the body to set the standard and then the ECB ACO, or any other training organisation, can create and deliver training to meet that standard. Similarly, the Level 5 requirement should be set by the ICC. However, the ICC struggle to even recognise scorers so perhaps the ACCS should again set the standard.

### **Peter Wiseman writes:**

I picked up on the recent chestnut of computer scoring in Keith Booth's recent article when he mentions that scoring in ECB Premier Leagues will 'shortly' be carried using the Total Cricket Scorer (TCS) computer scoring programme with its links to Play-cricket.com

I've got news for those who make these ridiculous decisions: I know of at least 6 scorers in the Shepherd Neame Kent Premier League (including me!) who will not be going down the road of laptop scoring.

From my own point of view, I have sat alongside scorers using laptops and, almost without exception, a problem has arisen with the system crashing, power cut, screen freezing etc. which has resulted in my manual book being the only definitive record of the match - it even happened at Lord's last season when I scored for Scotland (manually) against the MCC.

I have been scoring for Beckenham CC's 1st XI for 21 years now and I am not going to be dictated to as to the method with which I score matches. As was mentioned in the article of the League in Leicestershire having introduced a points penalty for no scorer, I know exactly how difficult it is to find scorers these days. Gone are the days when you could find a youngster to do it with the promise of five bob (0.25p UK sterling) and a free tea.

My message to the ECB is to leave scorers to use the methods they prefer as force will only drive excellent scorers away from the game and the game itself cannot afford to have that happen. ECB would be far better employed in spending money to really benefit clubs, perhaps through funding support for sightscreens, covers, resurrection of disused cricket squares or the provision of other much-needed facilities rather than dishing out free laptops.

## WHITHER SCORING?

Keith Booth

### PART 2: Away from Professionalism

Ten years ago, a paper entitled *Towards Professionalism* was kicked around between ECB, ACCS and an ACU&S in its death throes. Nothing came of it, the professionalisation of scorers was sidelined and the organisation purportedly representing the interests of scorers was complicit in that marginalisation. By accident or design, the decision to do nothing turned out to be the right one as scoring at county and international level has moved not towards professionalisation but away from it.

The evidence? Well, let's start at the top. ICC Codes of Practice and requirements for match officials' areas have several thousand words. 'Scorer', 'scorers' and 'scoring' are not among them. England no longer take a scorer on overseas tours. Malcolm Ashton acted as scorer, then analyst, between 1995 and 2007 when it was decided that the budget could be spent in better ways, like batting, bowling and strength and conditioning coaches. It was a number of years before that the concept of a dedicated England home scorer was abandoned. No international touring side now brings a scorer: until a few years ago, the TCCB and then the ECB found one to accompany those that didn't. Now, the host ground provides a couple: so with the increased number of international venues, a host of scorers are able to dine out on the claim they have scored for England or one or more of a number of international sides.

The increase in quantity has perhaps meant a decline in quality, but it doesn't really matter anyway. Much of what international scorers used to do in the way of over rates, timings etc is now undertaken by match referees and third and fourth umpires, the media have a pretty accurate (more accurate in some cases) record of what's going on and provided there is someone to flash a light to acknowledge umpires' signals, no one would really notice if scorers weren't there. Some do Duckworth/Lewis in ODIs and Twenty20s, but the software is now almost idiot-proof and that task could easily be undertaken by a separate D/L Match Manager or indeed one of the off-field umpires. Yes, there's a feed to the media too – formerly undertaken by the Press Association, this year replaced by Opta (see below) - but overseas internationals have been scored from radio and television and there is no reason why the same should not apply for internationals at home and a fee and the cost of complimentary tickets be saved into the bargain.

At county level too, the role has diminished. Much of what scorers used to do even ten years ago is now done elsewhere – and, in most cases, done rather better. For example:

#### (a) Media Liaison

Scorers used to provide the press with bowling figures, batting statistics for fifties and centuries, as well as averages, career statistics, etc. That sometimes still happens on wifi-less outgrounds and where facilities are shared or adjacent, but in general journalists covering the match have both current and historical information available on their laptops. The current match information is, of course, generated electronically –formerly undertaken by the home scorer, now by a separately appointed analyst - and is transmitted to a central database, then farmed out to the websites, normally bang up-to-date and far more efficient.

#### (b) Umpire Liaison

Longer-serving scorers will remember a time when they were responsible for calculating over-rates. They were worked out over a season, (at one stage over two half-seasons): the target was 18.5 per hour after various time allowances and there were monetary fines for those who failed to reach it. In 1993 and 1994 most counties came out at 18.51 or 18.52: no county was fined. In 1995, TCCB asked umpires to keep an independent check: several counties were fined. Over rates are now calculated on a per match basis; the requirement, with less generous allowances, is 16 per hour, the fine is in points rather than money and the umpires do the sums. Scorers, of course, do help as in many cases they are in a better position to time stoppages and need to keep up as it's a requirement that the over rate is shown on the scoreboard, but the ultimate responsibility is nevertheless that of the umpires.

Likewise on Playing Conditions and Regulations. At one time scorers were more *au fait* with them than some of the umpires. Not any more. The advent of an ECB Umpires Manager and assessing and mentoring systems mean that umpires have to be more clued up. To an extent, their job depends on it. There is little doubt that umpires and scorers do work in partnership, but even less doubt as to who are the senior partners in both pay and status and every other way.

#### (c) Analysis

The now defunct PA software had provision for the production of what it called 'starbursts' ('wagon-wheels' or radial scoring charts are more familiar terms) showing where batsmen scored their runs and where bowlers conceded them. It was not particularly accurate as the graphics assumed that the pitch took up about a third of the playing area and the angles are consequently distorted, but it was quite nice to be able to give one to a batsman scoring (if not a bowler conceding) a maiden century. However, as a coaching aid, it was way inferior to Feedback Cricket, the ECB analysis system - used initially by England but now extended to first-class counties - which gives additional more accurate information on *inter alia* the length and direction of the ball and is supported by video evidence.

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## WHITHER SCORING?

Continued from page 5

(d) Statistics –

Conventionally, scorers have provided averages and other statistics for captains, coaches and club management. They still do, but particularly at first-class level, gone are the days of calculating and updating them after every match. Information is now available – almost instantly and, provided the original input is accurate, probably more accurately too – on Cricinfo and other websites. And, perhaps more relevant for tactical planning, so are those of the next opponents.

So, much of what scorers were doing a decade ago is being done elsewhere - and being done rather better. All the above activities are peripheral to the main activity of recording the match. But there's no doubt that the scoring hinterland has shrunk. Should scorers fight to recapture it and rebuild towards professionalism? Emphatically, no. If a better service to the game of cricket is provided by others - and in virtually every activity listed above, it is - then leave it alone and accept that scoring is not a profession, is now little more than just scoring and there is no case for extending ECBACO qualifications beyond level 3.

Professionalism is about being party to a specialist body of knowledge, about qualifications, responsibility for personal development and self-policing. Time then to stop flogging a dead horse, time to take stock and time to stop pretending that cricket scoring is a profession. It's not; at sub-first-class level it's a hobby, at first-class level, a job, albeit a hobby and a job that provide a service to those playing, umpiring, and reporting the game.

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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**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.

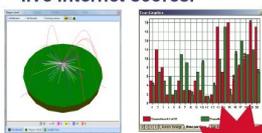
Send your contributions to: [notchers@btopenworld.com](mailto:notchers@btopenworld.com)

**December newsletter copy date: 20th November 2012**

## 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:

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