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Notchers' News

ISSUE 21

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The network for cricket scorers

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

Scorers keen to learn

Fred Godson

The Northumberland Cricket Board Officials Association is running a Scorer training course at Benwell Hill Cricket Club (that's in Newcastle) on the three Thursdays 7, 14 and 21 March 2013 from 7pm to 9pm.

Fred Godson submitted the above advert in January for inclusion in this newsletter. Five weeks later he wrote again advising that he had already received 18 applications to attend the course and was pleased. (*I'd be delighted with such an amount of interest—Ed.*) On the down side, Fred and Colin Edwards felt that 18 was far too many for them to manage effectively; while each scoring record entry is explained carefully and projected onto a screen they realise that some of the attendees need guidance and support to enable them to make the correct entries in their own scoring records.

Their solution? Have a maximum of 12 at a course but to have a second 'overflow course'. The overflow course takes place on Tuesdays 12, 19 and 26 March 2013 from 7pm to 9pm and there are still a few vacancies.

For further details or to enrol on the course please email Fred at fred@fgodson.fsnet.co.uk

Sharing resources

Graeme Lowrie

Graeme Lowrie from Timaru, New Zealand, has been producing umpire and scorer training material for use by the New Zealand Cricket and Scorers Association (NZCUSA) for some 20 years.

His original scorer training material was based upon The Association of Cricket Umpires and Scorers (ACU&S) Scorer Correspondence Course material but his IT and presentation skills enabled him to produce a number of scoring aids including PowerPoint modules, cue cards etc and two learning booklets, 'Cricket Scoring - Getting started' and The Scorers' Companion. These may be printed as A5 booklets without restriction.

'Getting Started' has recently been revised revised to take account of the 4th edition 2010 amendments to the 2000 Code of Laws and can be accessed on the NZCUSA website. 'The Scorers Companion' is currently being updated and will be posted on the web-site in due course.

Notchers' News has been invited to include a link to the NZCUSA web-site and it has been suggested that we could do the same with resources available in other countries.

Notchers' News is an information sharing forum for cricket scorers and will provide links to cricket scorer training material and recognised cricket scoring bodies on their the web-site.

Visit the NZCUSA Web-site at <http://www.nzcusa.org.nz/>
Click 'Resources' and scroll down to find Scoring Resources

Many PowerPoint modules books & booklets over 4 levels used in the training of New Zealand umpires and scorers are also available at <http://www.southcanterburycricket.co.nz/library.htm>

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

The Christmas Challenge 2012: Results

John M Brown

The latest challenge was set in two different publications, Notchers' News, an independent newsletter for scorers, and the ACO newsletter. Fifty-seven entries were received in all, eleven from NN and forty-six from ACO. Of these only six were all correct, but there were several more who made only one mistake.

SOLUTION

	Scratchers	Notchers
1	74	0
2	93	198
3	42	7
4	35	1
5	45	3
6	7	7
7	5	4
8	0	4
9	0	5
10	2	2
11	10	7
Extras	7	24
Total	320	262

Result: Scratchers won by 58 runs

As always there were a few questions which caused more difficulty than most with **Scratchers 5** causing the most problems (31 errors). Many readers thought that, because the said fielder had gone off the field for only ten minutes for his second absence, then this would make no difference to the time at which he would be allowed to bowl. He had originally been off the field for 39 minutes meaning that he could bowl at 4.35pm: now he has been off for a further ten minutes, and he has still has to wait the full 39 minutes while he is on the field before he can bowl again.

Scratchers Extras was the question with the second most errors (26): even though the ball slipped from the fielder's hand, it would count as an overthrow and the answer would be 3 plus 4 overthrows (7). To those who think that this is unfair and that it should be counted as a misfield, perhaps they should ask themselves whether any overthrows, however made, are deliberate.

Scratchers 11 twenty people did not realise that the batsmen would not be sent back because the first run had not been legitimate.

Scratchers 1 (14 errors) resulted in several miscalculations, while for **Notchers 5** (12 errors) most wrong answers came from people who thought that a bowler would be able to bowl two accidental high full-tosses before being removed from the attack. He would, however, not be suspended until after he had bowled his third such delivery.

The other questions did not cause too many problems with only the following gaining more than five mistakes:

Scratchers 2 (10 errors), 3 (7 errors) 4 (6 errors), 8 (6 errors)

Notchers 1 (9 errors) and 2 (7 errors) .

The names of the six all-correct solvers were Frank Appleyard, Fred Godson, Keith Healey, Cliff Loverock, Garry Rank and Michael Turner. Congratulations to them and thanks to all those who entered.

The names of six all-correct solvers were put into the Umpire's hat and the winners drawn at random.

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

Frank Appleyard won the prize awarded to ACO entrants

THANKS FOR THE CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE

Lakshmi Hariharan

I attempted to answer the 2012 Christmas Challenge (my first time) and I enjoyed doing it immensely.

A lot of credit should be given to the people who are setting those questions.

It really helped me to read the Laws more carefully, understand and then answer, though I may not have interpreted all of the laws correctly. I will definitely go back and do the ones from the previous years.

DBS (Disclosure & Barring Service) Formerly CRB (Criminal Records Bureau)

Fred Godson

Is it a requirement that ALL adult scorers apply for a DBS/CRB check and register with the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA)? As an umpire I'm aware that it is obligatory for umpires in the leagues in Northumberland (and doubtless elsewhere) but I'm not sure what the position is for scorers.

I am also concerned regarding DBS/CRB and groundsmen, tea ladies, club bar staff and those adult players who find themselves in a team with juniors and having to get changed in the same dressing room.

What is the current guidance and who is supposed to monitor it etc?

CRB/DBS applies within the ECB Zone. What requirements for Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults apply elsewhere? Ed

Scoring with My Team

Martyn Fryer

Having, last season, been appointed as Middlesex 2nd XI scorer, after many years scoring, umpiring and coaching around the country, and having been engrossed by the many words written by, and in response to, Keith Booth's 'Whither Scoring', I would like, if I may, to add my two' penn'orth.

My approach to scoring has always been traditional (before A Scarlett Esq jumps on that – I am not talking about my use of triangles for byes!). I was always taught, and practised, that the Scorer is part of a team of 4 – 2 Scorers, 2 Umpires. That they, the Officials team, are responsible for managing the game and ensuring that fairness is safeguarded for the benefit of 'the game'. I have also noticed, although not been particularly happy with, the slightly subservient role of the scorer – a sort of 'seen not heard', 'speak when you are spoken to', 'medals for the umpires', 'for the love of the game' attitude. Really, as Keith Booth is writing, scoring is seen by many to be more of a hobby than a profession and as such we should just capitulate under the threat to our positions from OPTA, some parts of the ECB and probably others. Because of this '2nd class official' tradition some, if not most, are regarding the withering of scoring as a *fait accompli*.

Since my appointment with Middlesex, my view has changed somewhat. I am, as all aspiring officials are taught, part of a team. That team, though, is Middlesex CCC.

During a match, I work alongside another scorer, two (or sometimes more Umpires and Referees), maybe a scoreboard operator (or two). But please note I work *alongside* them. The team I am part of is Middlesex CCC. My 'chain of command', my bosses are the Second XI Coach, the Head Coach, the Director of Cricket and the Chief Executive. As with all employees of Team Middlesex, our responsibilities are really to our Members, and to the success and development of Middlesex CCC.

What has changed, with my appointment, is that I am now a Scorer in Professional Cricket, the change from scoring in recreational cricket is subtle, but at the same time vast. Firstly, my pay cheque is not signed by the ACO, nor by Chris Kelly, nor by the Umpires and Scorer, that I happen to be working *alongside* at any particular time. My pay cheque is signed by Middlesex CCC. With that comes the first indication of which is actually the team that I am most responsible to. Secondly, let's take the calculation of over-rates as an example. As we all know, Umpires are responsible for their calculation. We also all know, although in our 'slightly subservient position' we have often been reluctant to say, that the Umpires are not always right. In a professional environment, where relegation could be determined by the loss of a point for a slow over rate, where someone's career could be affected by such a relegation, where membership dwindles because of a lack of success, where the Club's income suffers because of their Second Division status, surely it is only right, and, indeed my duty as part of the (Middlesex) team, as an employee of the Club, to help the Umpires come to a conclusion that would not be so detrimental to MY team. To point out, that maybe the batter changing gloves every fifth over is worth a minute or two, or the moving of screens for the right, left batting partnership slowed us down a little, is surely part of my duty to my team. As another example, last season in one of my 2nd XI games, a ball was returned from the undergrowth, by a dog walker, 30 overs after being lost and replaced. The Umpire threw it to the (opposition) bowler and brought the 'old ball' over to the score box. I carried out *my duty to my team* (Middlesex) and informed him that this would be quite unfair to my batters. After some discussion, he agreed.

I am, and do feel, more a part of Team Middlesex CCC than I do, for instance feel a part of the ECB ACO, or indeed the Association of County Scorers, proud though, that I am, of being a member of both organisations.

I have tried to ensure that Middlesex CCC get very good 'value for money' from me. I have made the position of 2nd XI Scorer my own. I do not just put dots in a scorebook, do a few statistics and blend into the background. As many of my peers do, I get involved in players expenses, mileage calculations, yearbook reports and many other things that gravitate towards being the duties of a first class scorer. However, I do not stop there, I have taken coaching courses and regularly 'take the mitt' during warm-ups. I have developed new ways of presenting and collecting statistics that have more relevance to the points that our coaches are coaching. During the winter I am at Lord's or Finchley working with the full time coaches to help our players develop and improve. I have approached companies regarding being potential sponsors of the club. I have taken players to the airport for their BPL stints. I have even helped move furniture from one players flat to another. I visit clubs to talk to junior members about scoring, and visit maths classes in local schools to help present the use of maths in sport and the workplace. This use of my time, along with many other 'non-traditional' duties mean that rather than withering away, my future is looking good and my job as a 2nd XI scorer is far more than just a hobby. In fact, perhaps because of the effort I put in, and my realisation that my responsibility is to a different team than has been traditional, the Senior Management of Middlesex's first reaction to the recent 'perhaps we don't need away scorers' discussion was, "We can see no circumstances where we will not have a full time Scorer".

To summarise, there is no need for the position of First Class Scorer to wither. What is needed is the recognition that the traditional view of the duties and responsibilities of such a post holder have changed. The game has changed. The officiating has changed. The Laws have changed. The job has changed. I am not for withering, I am for working hard for MY team and securing MY position. If you as a scorer, or indeed you as a body representing scorers stand still then you undoubtedly will wither under the fast pace change of modern professional cricket. I won't be standing still, I will be developing my position and my job for the benefit of my team and myself, and perhaps waving goodbye to a few of the witherers?

THE LEARNING ZONE

ALL RUN FOURS

Mike Turner

Something cropped up while a couple of us were trialling Total Cricket Scorer during the indoor season. We noticed that when a 4 was noted as being “all run”, it didn’t count in the total of 4s and 6s for that batsman. I’ve always assumed that 4s, 5s and 6s, however they were scored, should count as just that, 4s, 5s and 6s, but maybe I’ve come to the wrong conclusion, and that the total of 4s and 6s are intended to be a count of boundaries. In which case, what if the 4 arises from an overthrow that reached the boundary – should that count? Or a 6 in a similar manner, an overthrow going to the boundary after the batsmen have run 2? Is that a 6, 4 or neither? I’d be interested to know what other scorers count in their tally of 4s and 6s.

From The Field

Helen Caird

This article is taken from the Leinster Cricket Umpires and Scorers Association Newsletter Issue number 226. April—June 2012

Helen Caird describes the following incident from her travel to ICC-Europe matches last Summer.

There was a single with four overthrows and the umpire got on the radio to confirm that five runs had been scored. Only two dot balls in the same over later the batsman was bowled. The problem was that it was the same batsmen who had scored the five runs! (Players’ shirts with numbers on them are very helpful to scorers.) At the end of the innings the umpires came to us and asked if we had any queries and when we mentioned this they smiled and said that they realised afterwards they had made a mistake in not sending the batsmen back to their respective ends when they ran two but only one counted.

Scorers are there of course to record what happened, not what should have happened.

Comment (from the same LCUSA Newsletter.

Helen Caird is of course correct in her remarks that it is the duty of the scorers to record what happens.

Could or should the scorers have intervened?

I suspect the answer depends very much on the personal relationship between the scorers and the umpires. Some umpires prefer to be saved from the consequences of their errors even at the cost of being shown up in public.

Others, we suspect would prefer their mistakes to be at least relatively private.

A similar situation arises when the umpires are about to allow a bowler to start another over after he has completed his quota. Being stopped by a roar from the scorers at this point is less embarrassing than being seen to take a bowler off mid-over.

Perhaps the extent of intervention is a topic for the pre-match discussion between the scorers and the umpires.

<http://www.leinstercricketumpiresscorers.net/>

Player Identification

Fred Godson

Amen to what Mike Turner writes. I would like to see his page of tricks and drills on the subject.

Not being a regular scorer, I find player identification the worst problem I have to deal with.

When scoring alone I resort to writing an identifying characteristics such as slim, balding, no jumper, etc in pencil until I can get the proper names from somebody on their team.

I suspect that many scorers find themselves in the same position. Ed

Scoring location

Mike Turner

I can understand why Phil Hill says scorers should sit away from players (NN 12, page 2) but I can’t agree entirely!

If I’m the only scorer I need to be close enough to be able to ask for help identifying the opposition’s players.

Besides, I don’t like putting barriers between myself and players; it’s satisfying to be able to answer questions about a bowler’s figures or batsman’s balls faced as the match progresses.

Sometimes it can benefit the umpires, as a scorer can act as their mouthpiece on the other side of the boundary, to explain to a confused player the reason in Law for an umpire’s decision, or strongly hint to the batting side that they are about to send out an illegal runner, or explain how the result will be decided in the event the scores are tied, and so on.

ENTAILLEUR

A poem by John Dykes

As we or often I sit here in a wooden box,
with a fine array of implements laid out,
I sometimes wonder what on Earth I'm doing there,
as I take the time to have a look about.

In amongst the dust and dirt there's a filthy cricket shirt
and old gear last used in nineteen forty-three.
There's a sandwich thick with mould and an apple core
that's old
and a heap of things I'd just as soon not see.

Up above are strings galore, to indicate the score,
though I can't see what they purport to say.
But every one and each from my seat is out of reach,
so I'm bouncing up and down throughout the day.

When the umpire calls out "Play" though he hasn't
looked my way,
I grab my pen and watch him with intent.
When the seventh ball is bowled I realise he's awful old
and the one run short he signalled wasn't meant.

Now there's drinks out on the pitch arrived there without
hitch,
and I realize I'm feeling rather dry.
But the fella with the juice must be playing fast and loose,
for without a glance he simply passes by.

At last it's time for tea, oh lucky, lucky me,
I'll just check the book and be there in two shakes.
By the time that I appear, I cannot find a chair
and the greedy sods have eaten all the cakes.

When the game gets under way towards the end of day,
the sun is low and blinding in my eyes.
Vague signals are a blight from the idiot in white
who never waits for me make replies.

When the last ball has been bowled, it's turning rather
cold,
and all and sundry swiftly leave the park.
But in the fading light I check to see the score is right,
and often finish when it's really dark.

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 Umpiring and Scoring (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:**

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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

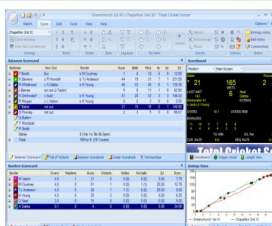
Share your cricket scoring experiences and scoring questions with readers.

Photos are welcomed and add interest to the newsletter.

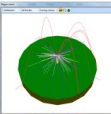
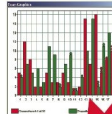
Send your contributions to: notchers@btopenworld.com

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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