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Notchers' News

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The network for cricket scorers

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

A scoring poser

Tony Izzard

A question put to those attending a scorer training course generated much discussion. The question is now put to Notchers' news readers but you are given a second scenario to consider.

The facts:

You are scoring an Evening league cup match; each side is limited to 20 x 6 ball overs

Side A scored 168 - 8 from their 20 overs. It is the last valid ball of the 20th over.

Side B are on 168 - 9; The opening batsman for Side B is facing. He is 97 not out from 86 balls and has never scored a hundred before (*and you are his parent!*)

For both scenarios you are asked how you would you record:

- the score of the opening batsman
- the final score of Team B
- the match result
- entry in the notes box (starting with the over number/ball in the over) for the opening batsman's 100 if/when he succeeds in scoring his maiden century

Scenario 1

He strikes the ball with his bat and the batsmen run and complete 1 run before the ball rolls over the boundary. The umpire calls 'Over' and 'Time'.

Scenario 2

The bowler delivers a Wide ball. The wicket keeper sees that the batsman is out of his ground, removes the bails and appeals. The bowler's end umpire having called and signalled 'Wide Ball' turns to the scorers and repeats the signal only then calls 'Time' and removes the bails.

Tony would welcome your answers - submit them to notchers@btinternet.com and they will be forwarded to him.

Answers and a summary of readers' views will appear in the September issue of NN

Thoughts on the article 'Linear v Box scoring'

Fred Godson

I liked Jenny's article (NN page 4) and can see both points of view. Although I studied and did examples of Linear when I was doing the ACU&S Advanced Scoring course many years ago I have never used it in practice. With the sole exception of one match for Northumberland I've never scored at a level any higher than club so I've never used, nor needed to use, anything other than Box. That's always been sufficient for me, and for virtually every other scorer I've come across.

However I quite see that Linear is just about essential at 1st Class and similar matches when there is the chance of a batsman rattling up a couple of hundred runs. I think it's horses for courses.

Certainly all the players are familiar with Box, and it has the virtue of everything being there on one sheet of paper per innings, unlike Linear, where besides the ball-by-ball sheet you need a couple of extra sheets for summaries.

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>

Scoring in the Cricket Tasmania Premier League

Nathan Bester

This is my 2nd season in the Cricket Tasmania Premier League and, after a first season where I certainly learnt the steps of the trade, this season has seen my role become a lot more active. After eleven seasons scoring for Westbury Cricket Club in the Northern Tasmanian Cricket Association I felt I needed a challenge and moved down to South Hobart Sandy Bay Cricket Club (SHSB) at the start of last season (2011-12). As much as it was a sad thing leaving Westbury I think it was the right decision even if it meant travelling three hours for cricket each weekend. Unfortunately our season has seen another year of being empty-handed in the 1st Grade competition after losing a tight Grand Final by five wickets.

In First Grade games both scorers use computers. This season Cricket Tasmania has rolled out a new program called Statsmaster, an online scoring program, and we use it alongside Total Cricket Scorer (TCS) for First and Second Grade. The home side usually uses Statsmaster and the away side uses TCS. We encountered teething problems with Statsmaster early on and a number of scorers in the seven other member clubs grumbled about things that were largely trivial. Yes, there are a lot of basic components to it but they are manageable with a lot of commonsense. At times I've done lower grade games this season and managed to convert a scorer who was quite apprehensive with the Statsmaster program into one who trusts the program a lot more and that is certainly an accomplishment.

I'm one of a panel of four people in the local scoring association who do all the state and international representative games during the season on a rotating roster. Hopefully this will continue for the 2013-14 season as this has been a worthy experience that has come a lot earlier than I thought.

The season has been hectic for me with representative commitments, one domestic one day game, nine women's matches, a national U17 carnival (5 games), a second XI match and - the cream on the top - two Australia A v England Lions games. Add those to the ten first grade games, two second grade games, four U17 games, four matches under lights including the first Australia A v England Lions game at Bellerive (now known as Blundstone Arena) and a local T20 game and you can see why I (along with many others) enjoy the winter months.

At First Class or State Representative games the scorers are required to communicate with the two other scorers controlling the scoreboard, an online scorer, any media representatives (could be from three to four at a state game to potentially thirty for test matches) and, on occasions the match referee and third umpire. We speak to the Match Referee and Third Umpire rather than the on-field umpires as both have two-way radios to communicate to the umpires if needs be.

During a Grade match or other club game the scorers communicate with both umpires, the club coach, players and others with an interest in the match. 99% of the time we are all in agreement and the games I've done have been largely straightforward.

There are a number of very good and experienced State Panel scorers in the local scoring association. There are also some that have, in Martyn Fryer's words (Notchers' News 21 page 3), "withered" through either not doing the basics well or being too apprehensive or unable to concentrate for long periods - or a combination of all of the above! I am the only scorer in the Premier League Competition from 1st Grade through to the U17s that does wagon wheels at club level.

The umpires always come to the scorers at the end of each session of play to agree the scores and check that there are no problems. It is generally accepted that the scorers should not go down and tell the umpires if there is a problem.

In matches where by-laws (*special regulations*) apply such as age-group restrictions regarding the number of overs to be bowled in a spell and the time before that bowler can bowl again communication is important.

A key for scoring is not only an ability to adapt to new technology but to also do the basics well.

A key basic is having a knowledge of the Laws of Cricket along with the By Laws (which I commonly call The Bible). While the Laws of Cricket do change from time to time the By Laws for the Two Day games vary from those in the 1st Grade through to U17's where the playing times and the number of overs in a day are widely different.

Another basic is player recognition, which is really done through practice of picking up the little things (such as sweatbands, vests, armbands etc.). In all grades here players wear numbers on the shirts but it is always wise to check the details before the start of each match, especially to cover yourself.

There are times where scorers become stressed and we are all guilty of that (myself included) and usually it's down to things beyond their control. We had double-header T20 games and were just finalising the work from Game 1 when the printer didn't want to print the scorecards; I was trying to download the information for the next game to the computer and that didn't want to work either and there was plenty of frustration in the scoreboard. To add to that we lost the T20 by 1 run chasing 192 and there was a high possibility of a super-over situation so it was tight stuff. It was probably one of those games where we could be very relieved it was over.

Being a First Grade scorer at SHSB I certainly feel I have been welcomed into the fold, gained the respect of the players, officials, committee members and even the opposition. I feel that I have become a real part of the team. I have learnt how other scorers work so that I know what to expect when I score matches with them next season.

If you know your stuff, take pride in your performance, are approachable to players and officials and not insular or protective then you'll fit in like a glove. As for the winter, well it's time to hibernate, put your feet up and reflect on the past cricket season!

THOUGHTS ON THE ARTICLE 'SCORING FOR MY TEAM'

(Notchers' News 21 page 3)

Mike Turner writes:

Martyn Fryer's article is fascinating. It opened my eyes to a somewhat different way of looking at the role of the First Class Scorer, and some of it could apply at the recreational level. I try to maintain a knowledge of all the laws, not just those that apply to scoring, and when we don't have appointed umpires, my team will often look to me to help with doubtful points that arise in the game. It has often occurred to me though, that on balance this works to the detriment of my team. If I explain a point of law that works to the disadvantage of my team, they'll accept it and the other side of course will do so too. If on the other hand it works to our advantage, it can be awkward if the other side don't like being "lectured to" by a mere scorer. Over the years, I think I have earned the respect of most sides we regularly play, so the balance is slightly less to one side, but Martyn has made me think whether my attempts to help in matters of law, being on balance to the advantage of the opposition, are such a good thing.

Regarding scorers intervening. Early in my scoring career I read an article in the ACU publication *How's That*, which stated that scorers must never attempt to correct an umpire's mistake. Shortly afterwards I was scoring a game where the opposition had provided an umpire, and it became clear he was going to permit one of our bowlers to carry on bowling after he'd finished his allocation. Should I interfere? Recalling this article, I chose not to, the bowler bowled one more over, and then was told his spell had finished. After the game our players saw from the scorebook what had happened, and it was clear that they could not understand why I hadn't spoken up. So I revised my stance, and since then I have always shouted out at potential repetitions of this incident, whether there are appointed umpires or not. I believe that umpires have welcomed me doing this, I'm certain the players have, and I'll happily continue doing so! In indoor cricket, when I am close enough to speak to the umpires, it's even easier to intervene, such as when batsmen are at the wrong ends (although I will never question an umpire's decision over whether batsmen have crossed), and again, if it's done tactfully, there is little cause for embarrassment.

Fred Godson writes

I enjoyed Martyn Fryer's article on his work with Middlesex CCC. He certainly gets the most out of his job. However, for him it is now a JOB, rather than a leisure-time occupation, and I think that makes the world of difference. Each to his own, of course, but as far as I'm concerned I wouldn't relish that much commitment. I much prefer the voluntary element in what I do for cricket.

Keith Booth offers three points regarding Martyn's article:

- 1 Readers might like to check their dictionaries for the difference between 'whither' and 'wither'. Martyn's subtlety may be lost on some of them.

(NOTE: One use of 'whither' may have been changed at proof reading. Apologies to Martyn if this was the case. Ed)

- 2 Martyn is absolutely right to involve himself in other activities - players' expenses, match reports for Yearbook, helping with practice, chauffeuring players etc. Streetwise colleagues will aim for similar diversification to reduce the chances of the dreaded P45 landing on the doormat, but it is administrative assistance, not scoring, and does not detract from the general thesis that the role of the county scorer is diminishing.
- 3 Specifically on over-rates, a little caution is required. MCC's pre-war 'Notes and Instructions to Umpires' include 'It is not the scorer's business to dictate to the Umpire. The Umpire should direct the scorer what to record.' The language has since been modified and the need for consultation recognised, but the principle remains the same - any decision is that of the umpire. As a professional scorer, Martyn will be aware of Playing Condition 16.4 for LV Championship Matches:

'The Umpire at the bowler's end will inform the fielding Captain, the batsman and his fellow Umpire of any time allowances as and when they arise and the scorers at the earliest opportunity. (This matter will not be subject to retrospective negotiation) . '

Experience is that umpires are pretty generous and reluctant to penalise a side making a conscious effort to get on with it.

As an aside, it's quite different in internationals where the calculations are done by the umpires at the end of the match and are subject to retrospective negotiation - but by the umpires, match referee and captains. Scorers do not feature!

There is thus a gap in transparency between domestic cricket where the over-rate is available to anyone caring to look at the scoreboard and international cricket where it's known only to the inner cabinet

..... but that's another debate.

Scoring practice and 'inconsistencies'

Ian Bagshaw

In my opinion as a humble umpire scorers have the hardest task on the ground. They cannot relax for a single delivery and when a wicket falls life can get frenetic especially if it's the last ball of an over, a team target is met and a new bowler comes on to the scene. Over the years I've stuck out my neck on behalf of scorers, initially through the ACU&S Journal "How's That?" and more recently through the ECB ACO newsletter. Last year I responded to an article in the ECB ACO Newsletter 12 - Spring 2012 which gave me the opportunity to write on a 'hobby-horse' of mine; now questions raised at a recent scorer training course have caused me to revisit the issue again.

There is nothing in the Laws of Cricket that dictates how scoring should be effected; only conventions some of which are long-standing and, to quote a colleague - "barking" - and some which have changed for the better e.g. the use of triangles for byes and leg byes being preferable to the use of letters B and L and recording multiple runs scored with horizontal lines rather than a series of unconnected diagonal lines in the Cumulative Run Tally. What disappoints me, as an umpire primarily, is that the scoring fraternity in general doesn't seem to want to ask questions and hence change procedures for the better.

I can see why a Wide Ball can be deemed to be a delivery NOT counting as a ball received by the batsman but consider an innings comprising 10 consecutive wide deliveries resulting in 10 wickets, Stumped or Hit Wicket; Innings closed at 10 all out and not a ball received according to current scoring practice. **Logical? I think not.** Consider also the situation at Law 24.7, a rare *event* which the Scorers must be able to handle; the delivery which comes to rest in front of the striker's wicket. No ball and Dead Ball are called, signalled and repeated to the Scorers in sequence and the ball doesn't count either as a ball received or delivered. **Logical? Yes**

For ease and consistency I am of the view that ALL deliveries, except the one described in Law 24.7, should be counted as balls received.

When recording the balls received in a batsman's 50 any Wide deliveries faced are not included in the total.

When recording the deliveries in a TEAM total of 50 runs then the total of ALL deliveries is noted i.e. it includes all No balls, Wide balls and any deficient or excess overs (e.g. 5 or 7 ball overs). This will not tally with balls received by all the batsmen. So, where's the consistency for the poor, bewildered and, possibly, harassed new scorer?

I believe that there are inconsistencies in recording any *additional* runs resulting from Wide & No ball deliveries and those from Byes & Leg byes

Wide Ball:

- an add cross (+) indicates a one Wide ball penalty extra against the bowler
- an add cross with a dot in each of three corners (#) indicates four Wide ball penalty extras, all against the bowler. **Logical? Yes** - the basic symbol indicates the *event*, a penalty against the bowler, and the dots three additional Wide ball extras, still against the bowler, as the batsmen completed three runs
- a 'w' in one corner of the addition cross (#) indicates that a wicket, credited to the bowler, has occurred from the Wide ball and that the Wide ball is a penalty extra against the bowler. **Logical? Yes** - the basic symbol indicates the *event*, a penalty against the bowler, and the 'w' the wicket credited to the bowler i.e. Stumped or Hit wicket.

No Ball:

- a circle indicates a one No ball penalty extra against the bowler;
- a circle with two dots inside indicates three No ball penalty extras, all against the bowler. **Logical? Yes** - the basic symbol indicates the *event*, a penalty against the bowler, and the dots two additional No ball extras, still against the bowler, as the batsmen completed two runs;
- a circle with a number '3' inside indicates a one No ball penalty extra against the bowler, the basic symbol for the *event*, and three runs completed as hits by the striker, four runs in all. **Logical? Yes.**

Bye: a triangle with apex up (Δ) indicates one Bye

Leg Bye: a triangle with apex down (∇) indicates one Leg bye

Now the inconsistency... The umpire has made his pre-signal and the scorers are expecting one or the other yet, with current scoring practice, the basic symbol means nothing. The Bye or Leg bye extras are recorded by the number of dots inserted in the relevant triangle e.g. two dots indicate two Byes or two Leg byes. **Logical? No**, not to new scorers undertaking scorer training courses that I've assisted recently.

Continued on page 5

Scoring practice and inconsistencies

continued from page 4

In the interests of both simplicity and consistency what is wrong with the triangle indicating the *event* and the dots the additional runs as with Wide Balls and No Balls. After all, if the batsmen didn't run there would be no symbol other than the conventional dot.

The argument that the Wide and No ball situations incur instant penalties and are therefore special cases doesn't hold up. This is only of relevance to the umpires as the scorers should not record anything until appropriate signals are made and received.

Aware that bowling extras are penalties and that fielding extras, apart from those awarded under Law 42, are not why I chose the word '*event*' to separate out the different aspects of the various entries. Let's give our new and future Scorers a break and change from tradition etc; the game is complex enough. Never mind the 'diehards' who have the attitude that they had it to learn and that it's good enough for them and their predecessors so why shouldn't newcomers suffer similarly?

So, in summary...

No ball: *the symbol means the type of extra* and dots inside the additional runs scored being No ball extras
For No ball deliveries that are struck, the same philosophy applies but the additional runs scored are shown as numbers and recorded to the striker

Wide ball: *the symbol means the type of extra* and dots in the corners the additional runs scored being Wide extras

Byes and Leg byes:

Following the previous logic, the symbols could/should mean *the type of extra* and the dots inside the additional runs scored as Byes or Leg byes. These dots, whether inserted into or having the triangle drawn around them, are difficult to determine in the space available. Players, umpires and scorers all know that these runs should not be recorded against the bowler or to the striker I, along with other experienced scorers, see no good reason for not putting a number inside the appropriate triangle.

Finally, and I hadn't really thought about it before, I do think that a change in the Laws could be proposed whereby the additional runs resulting from No ball deliveries and currently recorded as No ball extras should be counted as Byes (and let the 'keeper' have poorer statistics) or Leg byes as appropriate. On the other hand I can see the logic of wanting to discourage bowlers from bowling No ball deliveries at all so perhaps this is a step too far at this stage.

In case you are jumping up and down wishing you could get your hands around this upstart's neck I'll state my pedigree: I qualified as both a Full Umpire and Qualified Scorer member of The Association of Cricket Umpires and Scorers (ACU&S) in 1981. I examined aspiring umpires and trained scorers under the ACU&S regime and now help with scorer training under the UK ECB ACO regime. I'm also being encouraged to become an Umpire Assessor, being still active in the Southern Electric Premier Cricket League.

Ed's comment:

Having qualified in 1981 it's possible that Ian never knew the No ball Law prior to a new Code of Laws approved in 1979 and implemented 1980.

Prior to the 1980 Code of Laws any additional runs made as extras from a No ball delivery were recorded as Bye or Leg bye extras *in addition to* the one run penalty scored as a No ball extra - the format that Ian advocates.

I can remember the challenges to the score book, particularly from bowlers, when I started to record all runs from a No ball delivery as No ball extras.

This topic has been raised before in NN (13.3, 14, 3-4 & 15.4) and in the ECB ACO journal (Issue 9, May 2011)

What do readers think?

Umpires acknowledging the scorers' acknowledgements

CERES

It was very nice to see the umpires in the recent Women's World Cup umpiring correctly in so far as repeating Wide and No ball signals but, most of all, nodding to tell the scorers they had seen *their* acknowledgement.

I first met this helpful gesture when in Cape Town in 1997 and mentioned to ACUS Council members, hoping that umpire 'trainers' would note it for their instruction but it did not happen.

Perhaps if we scorers tell our umpire colleagues what a good idea it is they might give it a try. It might even further improve the "team of four" relationship but do not hold your breath!!!!

Scores found to be incorrect after the conclusion of the game

Michael Moriarty

A situation arose in an Albany Junior Cricket Association (West Australia) local match where the scores at the end of the game were agreed as **Team A 87 : Team B 86**

However after checking the books later (away from the ground) it was found that the scores were actually reversed, in other words Team B had won the game. The errors in the books were not discovered until later that evening.

In the Spirit of the game clearly Team B has won the game. However Team A believes that the agreed score at the conclusion of the match should stand.

Is there an official 'ruling' on this? Any assistance appreciated.

*Note: Michael has been given an interim response with references to the appropriate Laws of Cricket
He would like to hear your thoughts on who had won the match*

Graeme Lowrie invites you to visit some New Zealand umpire training material which may be of use:

Module 4.7 on Duckworth-Lewis & module 4.8 on basic scoring (Level 4 syllabus) which could be of use:

<http://www.nzcusa.org.nz/content/pcs-and-resources/level-four-umpiring.aspx>

A PowerPoint on Duckworth-Lewis system at

<http://www.nzcusa.org.nz/content/training-and-exams/training-and-exams/default.aspx>

A quote for the newsletter from Graeme:

'Scorers record every mistake players make, and there are plenty in the scoring record - those mistakes appear in the newspapers'

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)



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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.

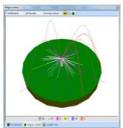
Send your contributions to: notchers@btopenworld.com

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As used at Lord's

TCS 27

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