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Notchers' News

ISSUE 23

SEPTEMBER 2013

The network for cricket scorers

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

ON THE JOB TRAINING

Peter Danks

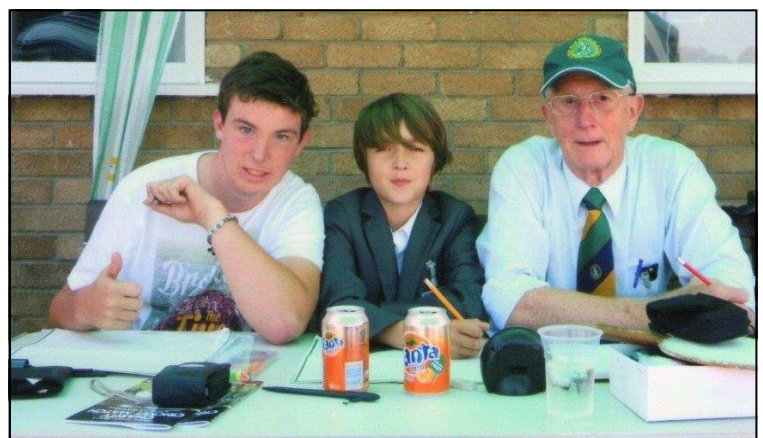
One of the regular fixtures for the Bunbury Cricket Club calendar is a match against Dame Norma Major's XI at Alconbury, near Huntingdon. This year it was played on 13th July 2013 in very warm conditions.

I am usually the sole scorer at Bunbury games but with Huw Williams, our commentator, sitting alongside there are usually two pairs of eyes watching the action. What was different this year was being asked to introduce scoring to two young boys. Harry, grandson of the Chairman of the local Mencap Society, and Sam were both keen to learn how to score.

The pace of charity matches is very quick as scorers of these matches will know, so the introduction was a case of saying to the boys that this goes here and that goes there, rather than explaining too many of the laws relating to scoring. It was disappointing that the local umpire declined to assist the scorers by using the walkie talkie radios available or by awaiting our acknowledgements of his signals. Nevertheless the boys kept up well and seemed to enjoy doing the addition, learning the various parts of the score sheet and asking questions if they were not quite sure of any procedures.

Perhaps this is the way ahead - teaching scorers in the practical setting

Other aspects of scorer training could still be taught in the classroom or by correspondence course and perhaps at a gentler pace.



Scoring group from left to right - Sam, Harry, Peter Danks

David English is the founder, organiser and fundraiser for the ESCA Bunbury Under 15 Cricket Festival. The 27th festival was held at Durham University this year.

Joe Root became the 60th cricketer from the 26 previous Festivals to play for England in a Test Match at Lord's and, of the team that played at the Lord's Test in 2013, only Jonathan Trott and Kevin Petersen have not played in this competition.

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>

50 YEARS ON AND COUNTING

Vic Isaacs

In 1963 as a young Army private soldier I knew little about cricket until the day that I arrived at a pre-season match between The Lancashire Fusiliers and The Royal Scots Greys at Bury in Lancashire with a few friends. As I settled down on a bench on that nice spring day I heard the Sergeant Major bellow my name. I rushed over the field wondering what on earth I had done to be greeted with *"Isaacs, you have A Level Maths?"* *"Yes sir"*, I replied. *"Good you can score"* was the response as he handed me a book and a rather blunt pencil. I was non-plussed; I had never scored a cricket match before. As I arrived in the score box I was greeted by a far more experienced scorer thankfully.

The match progressed and really I did not watch much of it as I was just copying the other scorer's book, ball-by-ball. He had sharpened my blunt pencil and loaned me an eraser. I always had an aptitude for neat handwriting so I carefully recorded the match. My team the Fusiliers won although for the life of me I cannot remember the scores. I returned the book to the Sergeant Major who inspected it, said *"Very good, that will be your regular task in future"*, and so a scorer was born.

General Orders on the Daily notice board posted my name with the team to various matches to travel up and down the country on Wednesdays during that summer. The following year we went on tour to Germany to play various BAOR sides. Three years later, having been promoted to Lance-Corporal and become a dab hand at scoring I was asked to score for the Army UK side at Aldershot, a post I held for 4 years before being posted to Singapore and then Cyprus where I continued to score matches.

In 1972 I left the Army and moved to Southampton where I joined the local cricket club, Romsey, as a scorer. Romsey CC's ground was on land donated to the club by Lord Louis Mountbatten and he sometimes came and watched.

In the winter of 1974/75 a friend of mine mentioned that Hampshire were looking for a scorer for the following season. Having recently been made redundant (and after consulting with my wife) I wrote to the then secretary of Hampshire CCC, Desmond Eagar. In January 1975 I attended an interview with him and the Hampshire captain Richard Gilliatt.

I took with me a letter from the Army Cricket Secretary at that time, Colonel Victor Tennuci, and copies of my scoring records from Romsey. They liked what they saw and I started with a Benson & Hedges Cup match against Surrey at The County Ground, Southampton.

The Surrey scorer Jack Hill was extremely helpful, as were many of the other county boys. Bert Avery of Gloucestershire had the most beautiful handwriting, an old English quill; many people thought he wrote the match up after the game as it looked so lovely, but that certainly wasn't true. Ted Lester, the ex-player, scored for Yorkshire. Jack Mercer who took 2,000 wickets for Glamorgan scored for Northants; he was an amateur member of The Magic Circle and during a rain break he would pull an egg out of my ear or get a pack of cards and show me some amazing tricks. I enjoyed 31 years with Hampshire moving from the County Ground to the Rose Bowl in 2001 when I decided to retire when diabetes was beginning to take its toll on my wellbeing and the constant travelling was making me very tired.

Hampshire had a string of great players in my time, Barry Richards, Gordon Greenidge, Malcolm Marshall to name but a few. I was, in the main, treated well at Hampshire. There were a few players who felt the scorer was someone to be seen and not heard but in all it was 31 very good years. The pay could have been better but I doubled the job of scoring with Public Address and became well known as the "Voice of Hampshire". I visited many Test and County grounds through the years too many to mention, Trent Bridge being one of my favourites.

In 2006 after my Hampshire years I moved up North to be near my son where I scored for Ramsbottom CC in the Lancashire League, quite an interesting experience. We've all moved back to Southampton where I score for Calmore Sports in the Southern Premier League. Having been a pioneer in computer scoring when it was first introduced in the counties I continue to computer score using Total Cricket Scorer, a computer scoring programme which I love.

ORLANDO SOFTBALL CRICKET LEAGUE

Neil Dewkinandan

The Orlando SoftBall Cricket League (OSCL) was founded in 2011. It aims to:

- promote Softball cricket in a controlled and structured environment while still maintaining a grass root approach
- make participation as cost effective as possible
- create a competitive balance through various levels of competition

While similar to cricket played under MCC Laws of cricket and ICC Regulations it does have some significant differences:

- bowling is under-arm
- the ball is a compressed rubber ball
- the length of the pitch is 60' (ft)
- the wickets are 12" (inches) wide with four (4) stumps each

You can find out more about OSCL and the rules governing Orlando SoftBall Cricket at <http://www.oscl.info>

Dave "Doc" Sutton

31 May 1941 - 17 July 2013



I first met Doc at Arundel Cricket Club (ACC). Driving past the club on his way through Arundel Doc's attention was taken by the thatched pavilion and the picturesque cricket fields. Initially, he was content to take photographs, and then became more involved when he started putting the numbers up on the score board while I was scoring.

Doc was a medic in the navy for many years. As a civilian he worked at his local surgery undertaking clinical and financial audit. Those of us who work with numbers find satisfaction in keeping a neat and accurate cricket scoring record and Doc was no exception. He soon learned how to score. He took his scoring exam through courses held at the West Sussex Association, based at the Arundel castle cricket ground, and went on to become an active member of the WSACUS/ACO.

Doc was the second team and club team scorer at Arundel Cricket Club for many years. He became more involved in the club, joining the committee as club treasurer and league representative. He started scoring for the Sussex Seniors many years ago and, despite not being in the best of health, was always available to score; always one of the first to put his name down for a cricket tour. He loved telling the story of the snake that fell onto his scorebook from the branches of a tree when we were in Malta. That 6-inch long snake was a two-foot long python by the time we returned to Sussex! Doc was a great story-teller. He enjoyed circulating entertaining navy stories by e-mail, embellished by his own imagination.

Doc was an enthusiastic ambassador for cricket scoring and the association - ACUS and ECB ACO. Doc was active in the local West Sussex Association and took every opportunity to attend local and national meetings and workshops. His love of scoring was obvious and he always encouraged less-experienced colleagues to join the Association to improve their skills. Doc was also enthusiastic about technology. Besides his interest in photography and astronomy he encouraged the committee to invest in an electronic score board at ACC and he was one of the first scorers in our cricket leagues to use Total Cricket Scorer.

When his health started to seriously deteriorate a few years ago Doc very reluctantly put his scoring pens away but he never lost interest in his cricket. He came along to watch Arundel and Sussex Seniors games for as long as he was able. Doc passed away peacefully in the local hospice after suffering a lengthy period of ill health. He will leave an empty place in the score box and I will miss him.

Peggy Chitty - Arundel Cricket Club and Sussex Seniors Cricket

SIXTY YEARS ON

Peter Danks

I was very thrilled to be appointed to score at the Oval for the Champions Trophy this year.

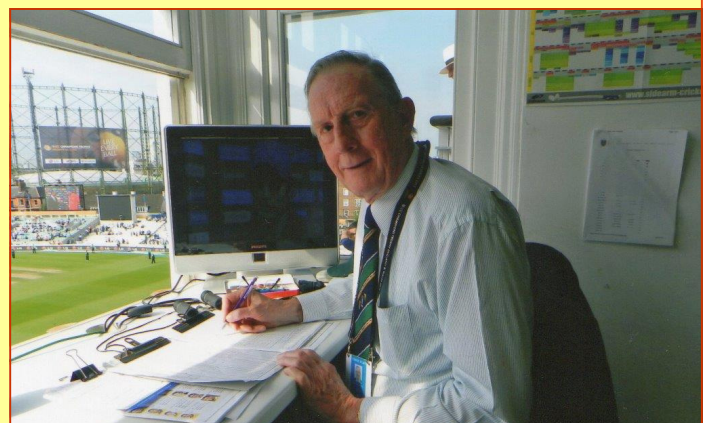
60 years ago I scored my first game at the Oval; sitting on the grass by the boundary boards in front of what is now the new main stand incorporating the Media Centre. It was the final Ashes Test of a very exciting series.

I used the traditional style scorebook - no lap tops or TCS in those days; or electronic scoreboards. Many readers will remember the traditional scoreboard in the area in front of the gas holder. The gasholder was in use in 1953. My lasting memory of the game was seeing Denis Compton hitting a boundary from Arthur Morris at seven minutes to three on Wednesday 19th August to win the game and secure the Ashes in Coronation year and then joining the crowd as we raced over to the pavilion to listen to Len Hutton, the first professional captain of England, address the crowd. How things have changed.

This year I was in the comfort of a score box with an excellent view of the pitch and of famous sights of London e.g. the London Eye - not around 60 years ago.

Linear scoring and a match scorecard are the norm for some scorers while others use a computer programme to record the match. In 1953 the scorers names were recorded on match day scorecards but scorecards were not available at this competition. It was disappointing not to have a souvenir of a wonderful day.

In the semi final England defeated South Africa but lost narrowly to India in the Final (a disappointment for me).



Peter Danks scoring at the Oval (2013 Champions Trophy)

The Learning Zone

Answers to the scoring questions put by Tony Izzard in Notchers' News, Issue 22.

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!*)

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'.

Martin Caddick and Andrew Lipscombe both answered correctly, Martin wrote that:

Once the 1st run is completed, that run stands and ends the match before the ball crosses the boundary

So: The opening batsman is on 98 (Not Out)

The Final score is 169 - 9

The match result is Win for Side B by 1 wicket

No notes box entry as the opening batsman has not scored 100

Suggest that Mum takes up residence in the Doghouse having first blamed the umpire who clearly should have deemed the run to be short in the circumstances. If desperate - blame your son (or daughter) for completing the run.

Andrew qualified his response as below lest the umpire should award the boundary allowance.

'If the umpire signalled a boundary four, we must accept the signal; it may be that the umpire judged that the boundary preceded the completed run. In this case, the batsman gets his century (ending 101), recorded as on ball 20.6; Team B finishes with 172, still winning by one wicket with no balls remaining.'*

(Editor's note: It might be wise to check with the umpire before making an entry in the scoring record)

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.

Again Martin Caddick and Andrew Lipscombe offered the correct answer. Martin offered the following:

According to Law 25.3(a) (obviously etched in my memory) a Wide ball is considered a wide at the instant of delivery, although not called until after it passes the wicket. Therefore the winning run from the wide is accrued at the point of delivery and the subsequent stumping is irrelevant. Had the batsman hit the ball and had been caught, the ball would not have been considered a wide and the outcome would have been different.

The opening batsman is on 97 (Not Out)

The final score is 169 - 9

The match result is Win for Side B by 1 wicket

No notes box entry as the opening batsman has not scored 100

(Editor's comment: Consider making a note that the innings ended at 19.5 overs - the last delivery was not a valid delivery - not one that counts in the over)

Mum is safe and the doghouse - remains unoccupied

From Loft to Lord's: a Scorer's Odyssey

A book by Ray Markham

Ray writes: The book is about my own personal journey as a cricket scorer and the amusing things that happened to me as a club & university scorer. All the incidents described in this book are based on actual experiences in my years as a cricket scorer and I'm sure many scorers will readily identify with at least some of the stories described.

An extract from Malcolm Ashton's review of the book on (TMS, Lord's Test) will be published in the December issue of NN

See page 6 for more information

World Cricket League Division 6 2013 – the Friendship Tournament

Some musings from the island of Jersey submitted by “Pen and Computer Technicians (PCT)”

July of this somewhat more clement summer saw Jersey host World Cricket League (WCL) Division 6, with participants from the home island, Africa (Nigeria), Asia (Bahrain and Kuwait), South America (Argentina) and Oceania (Vanuatu). So there was a rare mix of nationalities and culture to make for a colourful occasion. Six scorers were involved, each of us allocated to a single team throughout the week.

The scoring PCT was assembled by the indefatigable Gina Kearns, the island’s chief scorer, with Drew Livingston as the other island member of the team. The rest of an experienced scoring group were from the mainland in the form of Cathy and Chris Rawson and Claire Sunderland from England, and Ken Nisbet supplying the Caledonian input. Many of us had met before at other tournaments but, where that was not the case, we soon got to know each other.

The tournament began in the hot and sunny weather that most of us had experienced prior to flying out. So, this was going to be warm and very thirsty work. Indeed the first meeting of our own little PCT involved the consumption of lager shandy, which is an unusual refreshment for some. (Some consumed other unfamiliar refreshments as the week unfolded, but that is another story...)

After the first two games, the two qualifiers from WCL 7, Nigeria and Vanuatu, had established themselves as serious challengers to the host island. Argentina won their first WCL game for several years on the first day, which put a big smile on their faces. The two Middle Eastern nations were struggling – sadly for them, that was to be the theme for the rest of their week.

By the time of the first day off on Tuesday, some reflection on how things were going was already taking place.

The styles of scoring record that the PCT used varied widely. One scorer was to use the official tournament sheet, which was an unfortunately monolithic and pernickety creation. This inevitably made it hard for a scorer to provide uniformity for his/her team. Of the other quill and ink records there was a colourful mix of Box and linear sheets and TCS was the program of choice of those that favoured technology. Sometimes the scoring locations made it difficult for the TCS scorers to see their screens.

On the subject of computer scoring, there were other people doing online provision. Questions to be considered:

- the official scorers are appointed as precisely that, so why is the information produced by, say, Cricinfo regarded and treated as the fount of all knowledge when it is not always consistent with the official record?
- are all online scorers well versed in quill and ink methods?

As a group, we strongly recommend that online scorers should be adjacent to the official scorers, keep their own written record, and check that we all have the same hymn sheet to sing from. Simple?

After a relaxing Tuesday off, including a splendid “at home” *chez* Ferguson - many thanks to Doug and Rosemary for their hospitality - it was back to the action. Jersey maintained their 100% record, Nigeria and Vanuatu kept up their challenge for one of the promotion places, and Argentina won a second game.

Perhaps motivated by news of the umpires’ equivalent prior to the Friday rest day our very own PCT had their own group meal in the centre of St Helier. The very convivial evening was extended by some members of the team. A little...! Rest and relaxation was the order of Friday, with activities including visits to the beach and the zoo. The sights at both were probably both varied and interesting...

So, it was on to the sharp end of the tournament with the last set of group games on the Saturday. But wait a minute, that forecast does not look at all smart! Rain and more rain was due; Plans B, C and more were being hatched just in case. (They all seemed to centre around the real ale pub, but that is another matter...)

It was with a mixture of relief and surprise that we all assembled in the morning to find that the rain had not arrived, and we got all three games under way. Ha! We ignore the giver of rain, *Jupiter Pluvius (JP)*, at our peril in cricket. JP was just delayed in transit. The rain duly arrived, and none of the games were concluded. (and we were unable to action Plans B, C,). That got the great and the good scouring the regulations, and the upshot was that there were no cross-over matches, but a rerun of the Saturday fixtures on the Sunday. This was “Good News” for Nigeria as it meant a win over Argentina would probably see them over the promotion line with Net Run Rate as back up.

World Cricket League Division 6 2013 – the Friendship Tournament

Continued from page 5

In the end, so it proved, Nigeria won their match comfortably and Jersey defeated Vanuatu to win the tournament. However, if it were decided on colourfulness and exuberance, Vanuatu would probably have walked it. All smiles from the two qualifiers, and from Vanuatu, who were just that sort of squad. It is believed that representatives of many teams were seen out late in the centre of St. Helier that night, but the sources could not be revealed...

All in all, a very enjoyable week for this PCT; many great memories, some souvenirs (although Claire did not quite manage to hijack the Vanuatu teddy bear...) and good company. We even had a laugh with the umpires sometimes. It is a matter of judgment and good fortune when assembling a team of any sort. It would be fair to say that Gina managed to call on large quantities of both when assembling this group. Who knows if and when we shall all meet again. Current systems in place in Europe dictate against it. However, there are such things as email, SMS, Facebook (even Ken has been dragged screaming and kicking into the 21st century, leaving the 20th as a blur...), so there is no excuse not to keep in contact somehow!

Cathy, Chris, Claire, Drew, Gina & Ken

(Thanks to Ken who managed to capture so much from our many discussions and produce this article for Notchers' News)

From Loft to Lord's: a Scorer's Odyssey

A book by Ray Markham

The book has recently been published on Amazon Kindle at £4.06.

Readers who do not have a Kindle can contact Ray at ray.sheila@sky.com to make arrangements for him to send it to them as a Word document.

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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MILLENNIUM SCORING RECORD

The A3 scoring record originally designed by members of the ACU&S Scorers' Board.

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Refill pack of 50 sheets £10 + P&P

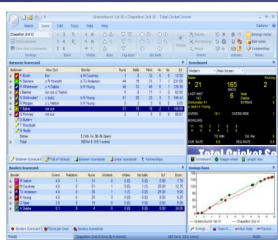
Contact milsteadmsr@btinternet.com for more information

Scorer Correspondence courses

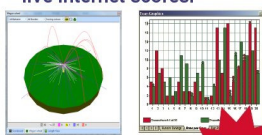
ECB ACO offer an Introductory level course - For more information visit the ECB ACO web site.

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

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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

December newsletter copy date: 21st November 2013

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