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# Notchers' News

ISSUE 25

MARCH 2014

## The network for cricket scorers

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

### AUSSIE ASHES SCORERS WITH CENTURIES OF EXPERIENCE

Tasmania CUSA. Playing the Game: Issue 1237-5967

Ten Australians, who between them had already recorded the details of close to 150 Tests, were appointed by their respective state associations as the official scorers for the five-match Ashes series in Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth, Melbourne and Sydney.

The ten who carried out the key task of officially recording details of play during their respective games are: Brian FitzGerald and Judy Harris for the opening Test in Brisbane this week; Rita Artis and Neil Ricketts the second in Adelaide; Sandy Wheeler and Anne Ridley in match three in Perth; Kevin O'Neill and Craig Reece in the Boxing Day fixture in Melbourne; and Christine Bennison and Adam Morehouse in Sydney in the final contest very early in the new year.

Reece is the longest-serving Test scorer of the ten having worked in that role for the first time in 1980 in England for the West Indies touring side at the age of 23 in Tests played at Trent Bridge, Lord's, The Oval and Headingley. O'Neill debuted in 1981, Harris in 1986, Artis 1989, Wheeler 1995, Fitzgerald 2002, Bennison 2003, Ridley 2010, Morehouse 2011, and Ricketts last austral summer.

For Brisbane-based Harris the game was her thirtieth Test and eighth that involved England, O'Neill his 27th and 6th in an Ashes series (27/6), Artis 24/4, Wheeler 19/5, Reece 19/4, FitzGerald 15/4, Bennison 10/4, Morehouse and Ridley both 2/2, and Ricketts 2/1. With the exception of two Tests Harris scored in Darwin in 2003 and 2004, and Reece his four in England in 1980, all their others and those of their eight colleagues were played at their respective state's home ground, either the Adelaide Oval, the 'Gabba' in Brisbane, the Melbourne Cricket Ground, the WACA in Perth or the Sydney Cricket Ground; although Morehouse actually lives in Canberra and travels to Sydney for senior-level representative games played there.

All of the ten official scorers named to support the Tests in Australia worked as scorers well before being appointed to their first Test, starting at club level before moving on to general representative, first class and one-day internationals prior to reaching the pinnacle of the game. O'Neill for one has over fifty years of such service behind him and information for him and the others indicates that between them the ten have given in excess of 250 years of service to collecting, collating and providing information that is vital to any match, and that provides the multitude of statistics those interested in the game spend so many hours thinking, talking and sometimes arguing, about.

All of the official scorers recorded details of their Tests using the traditional pen and ink on score sheets and books. Other scorers were, of course, working in support of radio and television broadcasters and newspaper journalists to provide details direct to a world-wide audience via the internet, but they looked to the official scribes when they needed clarification of any matter. It was the official scorers that the four on-field umpires assigned to the series were signalling to and looking for acknowledgement.

The Tasmania Cricket Umpires and Scorers Association newsletters which include this and many other interesting articles can be found on their website at <http://tcusa.tas.cricket.com.au/>

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>

## The Christmas Challenge 2013: Results

John M Brown

This year we received forty-eight entries in all, eight of them from the readers of Notchers' News, thirty-one from readers of the ACO newsletter and a further nine who did not identify in which publication they had seen the Challenge.

RESULT	Notchers	Scratchers
1	6	144
2	58	5
3	163	36
4	0	164
5	8	5
6	68	8
7	70	0
8	4	4
9	0	0
10	6	5
11	15	1
Extras	20	29
<b>Total</b>	<b>418</b>	<b>401</b>

Some of the questions were set with a particular view to ensuring that entrants had taken in the changes in the revised version of the Laws (wef 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013).

One of those questions was **Scratchers 8**, the one which caused more errors (17) than any other question. There are now only four ways in which a batsman can be dismissed from a Wide ball – Hit wicket, Stumped, Obstructed the field and Run out. It is no longer possible to be out Handled the ball from a Wide ball.

**Notchers 10** caused 14 errors: this would count as an overthrow - those who are puzzled by this should realise that a ball slipping out of a fielder's hand is not a misfield, but an inaccurate, albeit unintentional, throw. If you think that is unfair, perhaps you should consider whether any overthrows are deliberate.

The answers to **Notchers 9** (12 errors) and **Scratchers 11** (10 errors) have changed after the 2013 law changes – it is no longer possible to score runs after a second hit in defence of the striker's wicket.

**Notchers 11** (12 errors) – since the captain winning the toss must give his decision whether to bat or field immediately, and since the latest permitted time for making that toss is fifteen minutes before the scheduled start, then the answer must be 15.

**Scratchers 11** (12 errors) – although the striker could be out caught in the situation described, no runs may accrue if he has not played a stroke at the ball after it is deflected from his pad. So, only the one run for the No ball would be added to the score.

**Scratchers 6** (11 errors) – each bail has two spigots, so there are usually eight on the field of play.

There were five questions (Notchers 1, 3, 4, Scratchers 5 and 10) which nobody got wrong, while the others were answered wrongly by between one and seven entrants.

There were a very creditable fourteen all-correct entries this year: Frank Appleyard, Mike Arnold, Mel Gaskell, Fred Godson, Laurence Golding, Keith Healey, Cliff Loverock, Vijaya Mallela, Norman Moore, Stewart Orrock, Garry Rank, Richard Verrinder, Michael Turner and Andy White.

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

The Notchers' News winner was **Vijaya Mallela**. He has already received his 32 US dollars prize (= £20 UK sterling)

Special mention must be made of Vijaya Mallela, entering from the other side of the Atlantic: his entry was received less than two and a half hours after his copy of Notchers' News had been emailed to him.

The Third Umpire thanks those entrants who sent friendly and/or complimentary messages, and all who have taken part.

Our thanks to John Brown for devising another excellent Christmas Challenge.

It takes time and effort to produce a new selection of questions geared to encouraging readers to carefully consider the Laws of Cricket and how they are applied.

The number of entries from Notchers' News readers was disappointing. I'm aware that many readers use the quiz as a learning opportunity but do not submit an entry. I know that John would be better rewarded for his efforts if more readers rose to the challenge and submitted their scores and the match result.

Ed.

## PLAYER RECOGNITION: THE RULE OF THREE

Mike Turner

Back in NN21 Fred Godson asked for my tricks and drills on player recognition. I have to confess I've only really one, my "rule of three", which I use to help me keep tabs on the fielders.

I should have found out the wicket-keeper's identity before the innings start and, one way or another, the name of the current bowler. (If I'm on my own and the opposition are fielding I'll try to corner their captain before the start to get him to show me the name of the keeper and opening bowlers on the team list....and if I haven't a team list I'll get that off him first. Oh, and I'll be sure I know *his* name too, hopefully that's another player ticked off.) So that leaves nine fielders to spot.

Early in the innings, when the opening bowlers are likely to stay on for a while and the runs may not be coming too fast, it's a good time to take a close look at these fielders. Fortunately also early in the innings the nine fielders tend to form a sort of spiral from the keeper, from the slips and gully, through the cover fielders, mid off, mid on, mid wicket, square leg, fine leg and third man. (Obviously not all of these positions are filled.) So if they're my own side my challenge is, between balls, to silently reel off their names to myself in three sets of three, round the spiral: my rule of three. That way I can be confident I know even the least familiar, least distinctive player. If there are two or three I'm struggling to tell apart I'll pay particular attention to small differences, such as in their kit. (I have binoculars and I'm not ashamed to use them, regularly.)

A left hand/right hand batting combination means I will need to perform the routine again when they change ends, as some fielders change sides and others don't; and I start again when the bowling is from the other end. By the time the opening bowlers come off and the runs start flowing I should have seen most of the fielders from various angles; I stand a good chance of being able to tell them apart at a glance and I can concentrate on the scoring as the pace of the innings quickens. But I'll keep returning to the rule of three at quiet moments throughout the innings, particularly when the fielders have spread far and wide to new positions, although by then the "spiral" will be somewhat crooked.

That's OK if I can recognise most of my players, but what if there are some I just don't know the names of, or I'm on my own and the other side are fielding? Then instead of names, for my rule of three I reel off short descriptions that ideally will identify them uniquely. "Balding, Glasses, Beard. Beanpole, Youngster, Red cap. Very youngster, Other red cap, Other Opening Bowler." A problem here: two in red caps and I can't easily tell them apart, but now it's in my mind, I'll be watching these two closely, and hope eventually something will click. Sometimes there are facial differences that are hard to describe in words but make me think "he reminds me of..." and for the rest of the day that player becomes say Alastair Cook (if he's fortunate) or Fat Elvis (less so). As the innings goes on, I'll put their actual names to the descriptions: I know the name of "Other Opening Bowler" for starters, and "Glasses" might be the captain, and as new bowlers come on (I'll still call "Bowler's Name" if there's no one nearby to ask), and fielders are called by name by their team-mates, I pencil the descriptions next to the names on the team sheet, which becomes a look-up table. I rarely bother to learn the names once I've found them out; in my mind I stick to calling them by my original descriptions. If they've already batted, you'll likely have some of the "look-up table" completed already, if you've been lucky enough to catch glimpses of the batsmen when not wearing helmets, or if they have a distinctive build: but be wary, players sometimes change caps or put on/take off glasses after batting. Or you'll discover the one with big shaggy hair you were confident you'd spot anywhere on the field turns out to be the keeper, which is of only limited help!

All this might sound like a lot of work, and you may never be able to name all eleven before the innings ends, but crucially it will mean that when a bowling change is made, you'll be a step ahead: "Help, I don't remember seeing him. Hold on, count the red caps: only one, and that's Fat Elvis, so Alastair Cook's taken his off - yes the umpire has it - and (check my notes) I know his real name is Brown because they were calling him 'Browner' earlier". Or when a bowler returns from the opposite end to before, you won't be fazed by the change of angle because you'll be used to seeing him at all angles when fielding. At the end of the innings, when you're interrogating the opposition players to find out the catchers' names and being met with blank looks, you can say "I think it was either Davies or Murphy?" and get a spark of recognition back: "Yes, it was Murphy".

The only other tip I have is if you have line of sight of the batsmen waiting to come in, use it often to see who is padding up *before* they put their helmets on. This one is most valuable for your own players: unlike when they come on to bowl you can't quickly scan around the other ten players to check it's the player you think it is and there's nothing more embarrassing as a scorer than to admit to your colleague you don't know your batsman's name.

There's a long-term pay off to all this hard work too. That opposition captain who you had to press hard to give you a team list at the start of the match, is now astonished that somehow you know the name of the late call up from the youth team who got the run out - because he's forgotten it. "Magically" his team's scoring record has all the bowlers and catchers named correctly too. This will stick in his mind, so come the return fixture, he'll be eagerly presenting you the team sheet with a grin on his face before you've even thought to ask for it. And since you last saw him he's been giving all the other scorers he's come across a team sheet too, telling them the names of the keeper and opening bowlers, and you'll have done the rest of us a big favour.

## A tale of woe

Roy Jennings

This is a sad story, mostly self inflicted, which may serve as a warning to scorer colleagues.

In December 2012 my Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) was due for renewal; sadly I overlooked this.

In January 2013 my membership of the ECB ACO was due for renewal; given that I made payment by direct debit I assumed that, as usual, this would happen automatically.

In December 2013 a member of the County Board ACO advised me that, according to their records, my membership of ECB ACO had lapsed. I contacted ECB ACO and received confirmation of this; before renewing membership, ECB ACO ensures that a valid Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) certificate is in place (*this has taken the place of CRB*); I was advised that ECB ACO membership cannot be renewed without a current DBS. I was also advised that members being lapsed because DRB was not in place were not advised that this action was being taken - not helpful to the member concerned.

In December 2013 the laptop I used for scoring ceased to function and added to my tale of woes; if I was to continue computer scoring I would have to invest in a new one. I wanted to transfer TCS software from my failed computer to a new one to find that the software is licensed to a particular PC, not a person. When I contacted TCS I was advised that:

*"The licences are purchased for a specific PC and are normally not transferable. However, we will transfer the licence on this occasion if you can provide the email the licence was purchased with. Please also provide the old TCS registration id (Help/About) and the new TCS registration id you see on the first dialog once TCS has been installed".*

As my video chip had failed I had no screen display and was unable to obtain the information required.

The morals of this tale:

- ⇒ make sure that their DBS check is in date
- ⇒ check that if you are a member of the ECB ACO that your renewal fee has gone through your bank.
- ⇒ if you score using TCS be sure to record all the details of their software and be aware that the software is specific to one computer.

I thought long and hard about the problems described above and eventually made the decision to retire from cricket scoring.

## Who are the scorers?

Your correspondent (details supplied)

For some games at club level, there is often only one, or indeed no designated scorer. As the level gets higher, it is probably going to be the case that there are two. At the higher levels of the game, the situation changes. It is pretty certain that there will be two official scorers. However, there is often a plethora of individuals doing on-line scoring. So how does this collective might of match recording operatives operate? Or, is this a cooks and broth mismatch?

Your correspondent is fortunate enough to be appointed occasionally to such high level games as one of the official scorers. Let us focus on one such recent game – the who, when and where of the game are irrelevant. Safe to say, this was a “big” match with a good deal of public interest. In the scoring facility, there were no fewer than four people recording the match. The two official scorers, and two on-line operators (OLOs). As you will hear, there was a mystery third OLO somewhere else (we know not where) who was broadcasting via the ether. Also, both official scorers, in addition to a linear paper record, were operating computer scoring programs. The output of one of these was to be going online. Or so we thought!

So, what went right, and what went wrong?

It was really good that all four of us were in the same scoring facility. In other “big” games in my experience, this is not always the case. This afforded the opportunity of cross-checking of detail, and identification, among all present. One of the OLOs went as far as to double check his output with the official scorers, who had agreed all particulars, before sending his final scorecard “live”. This happened at the end of both innings.

However, all was not perfect, even given this apparently ideal set up. There were different versions of the final scorecard on different websites at the end of each innings and at the end of the game. Further, the mystery third OLO published a scorecard online which one of the scorers thought was coming from him!! This was also at variance with the official record.

So, what can we learn from this? Several things that are interlinked are worth a mention.

Location: If it is humanly possible, then the norm should be that the official scorers and as many OLOs as possible are in the same place. After all, the umpires signal to the official scorers, and someone in a completely different location may not pick up a leg-bye signal or two.

Communication and Teamwork: The example described above where the OLO cross checked with the official scorers is a great example of what should happen. This should be the norm, and all parties should work together throughout each innings and the end to ensure that all of the records are consistent, and published accordingly on all platforms.

Clarity of operation: It should be clear who is going “live” via each program. Although it is useful practice with the techniques of computer scoring, there is no need for someone to multitask unnecessarily.

Your correspondent would suggest that the match recording operatives should, pre-match, establish a process to ensure that everything can run as smoothly as possible. This probably does occur in many settings already, but the practice should be extended so we can avoid the anomalies described above.

Oh, and there was no rain, so we avoided that particular complication...



## Barrage of illegal deliveries results in Computer 'crash'

Tasmania CUSA. Playing the Game: Issue 1250-6035

New South Wales Under-19 bowler Tom Skelly established what may well be a world record when his first over in a one-day national championship match against the Northern Territory in Hobart consisted of a total of 18 deliveries, 11 of them wides and one a no ball. Skelly, a fast-medium bowler, who represented NSW at the 2010-11 Under-17 and 2012-13 Under-19 championships, gave Brisbane-based umpire Murray Branch a solid work out on what was the first day of the two-week long championship series.

Scorer David Whitbread's running sheet shows the over as:      + + + + + . . + O . . + + + + + . .

Such was the intensity that the Cricket Australia 'Statsmaster' computer scoring program could not cope with the number of deliveries; the software 'crashed' after the 14th delivery, by which time 9 wides, one no ball and four 'dot' balls had passed.

*Note: The symbols + (Wide ball) and O (No ball) are used above as advocated in 'Tom Smith's Cricket Umpiring and Scoring'. Ed*

## Star or dagger - an anomaly

Vic Isaacs

For a number of years I have been puzzled as to how to show a captain and wicket keeper in the scorebook.

During my many years as Hampshire scorer the use of \* (star) for captain and † (dagger) for wicket-keeper was normal practice. However this is not universally accepted as several scorers show them the other way round. The prime example is on scorecards produced at Lord's where they show them as dagger for captain and \* for wicket-keeper.

For a number of years I have been preparing scorecards of past matches for inclusion in the cricketarchive.com web site. These are mainly matches played by my own club but also those played by the Army since 1906, over 1,000 matches to date. As a result of variations in recording who was captain and who was wicket-keeper means that I sometimes find myself having to make a guess.

I would appreciate input from Notchers' News readers.

## 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.

## 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/>



**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

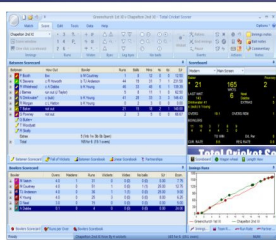
Contact [milsteadmsr@btinternet.com](mailto:milsteadmsr@btinternet.com) for more information

## Scorer Correspondence courses

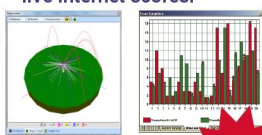
ECB ACO offer an Introductory level course - For more information visit the ECB ACO web site.

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)

## Total Cricket Scorer



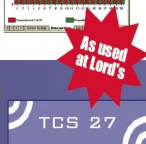
With just one click you can update your scorebook, scoreboard, statistics and live internet scores.



To download your free trial copy or for more information, please visit our website:

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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)

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