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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.

MATCH CONCEDED?

Fred Godson

I was scoring an evening match, of sixteen 8-ball overs per side. We were in the 13th over of the first innings and the team I was scoring for had reached 150 runs without losing a wicket when disaster struck one of the batsmen keeled over on his ankle and lay prostrate at one end, quite unable to move and refusing to be lifted or even touched. An ambulance was called and arrived about fifteen minutes later; it was driven onto the field and up to the pitch, where the injured player was assessed and given essential treatment before being moved into the ambulance and taken to hospital. This had all taken a good half-hour.

The number 3 batsman joined the not out batsman on the field of play ready to continue the innings whereupon, to the amazement of the batting side, the fielding side refused to carry on with the match. They expressed surprise that the batting side wanted to carry on with the match when one of their number was on his way to hospital. They said they were too upset to carry on and thought that the team-mates of the injured player should be too. Half of them were already changed anyway and starting to drift towards their cars.

Umpires are rarely appointed to matches in the lower leagues and there were no official umpires at this match. An argument broke out between the two sides with the batting side obviously wanting to carry on and the fielding side wanting to abandon the match (I don't suppose that having to bat second and face a possible eventual total of nearly 200 had anything to do with it at all!).

The batting side, knowing that I was also a qualified umpire, tried to get me to adjudicate, or advise. I did my utmost to keep out of the dispute but did say that, as there was still plenty of light, there was no reason in law why the match should not continue. The batting side then said that, to save time, they would declare and let their opponents start their innings immediately but their offer was declined. Much disgruntlement followed with angry words, black looks, gestures, no handshakes, no high-fives or any of that jazz. Eventually the stumps were pulled out, the opposition quickly changed and upped and left, and the batting side adjourned to the bar, confident that when the matter came before the league committee, which it duly did, they would be awarded the match, which they duly were, with full points.

It's the first time in 60 years' umpiring and scoring that I have ever been present at a match in which the result was "Match conceded". But there's always something new happening in cricket....

Ed's comment

I've scored several matches where an ambulance has been called and the player taken to hospital but play has always continued after the event until a result was achieved. When my own son sustained a serious injury I know that his team's interest and enthusiasm was lacking but they played and a result was achieved. (I went in the ambulance leaving a scorer colleague with the book; his team lost)

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>

STAR OR DAGGER - AN ANOMALY

Andy Scarlett responds to the Vic Isaac's article (Notchers News 25; page 5)

I was working in the score-box at Lord's when penalties were introduced to scorecards and was asked by the print room where they should appear on the scorecard. I suggested that penalties should appear after the traditional B for Byes, L for Leg byes (often recorded as r for Byes and s for Leg byes in recent years), etc. I also suggested that perhaps Lord's should come into line with the rest of cricket. Just like Vic Isaacs, my experience had always been that * means Captain. Next thing I heard was that I was wrong (nothing new here) about the star/dagger symbols. As an ex-military man, I have seen the parade where one man gets out of step and slowly everyone else changes to be in step. Here is the story following discussions with Lord's staff and research in the Lord's library and looking at old scorecards.

In the early days of scoring, there were no indicators of Captain or Wicket-Keeper. In the late 19th century, the word Captain began to be shown against a player. Later, Captain was abbreviated to Capt. I have a Lord's scorecard of 1900 that has this shown. The next addition to appear was that of Wicket-Keeper. This was soon abbreviated to Wkt or Wkt Kpr. However, this was short-lived and the asterisk was introduced to denote the Wicket-Keeper.

Subsequently, the decision was made to remove the word Capt and replace it with a symbol. Since the asterisk had already been used, the dagger symbol was used. Pre-war the symbols used in this fashion were common on scorecards. This practice continued until after WWII. I have seen scorecards from Hove and Trent Bridge with the symbols this way around.

The next change came from Wisden (1961 I think) when they introduced the use of the asterisk to denote Captain.

As Wisden is seen and read by more active scorers than scorers who attend matches and buy scorecards, it appears that this is where the change of use started. Slowly scorers have moved to * denoting Captain and the printed scorecard have followed suit until Lord's is the only user of the original form. I think that Old Trafford were one of the last grounds to change over. However, it must be said that Lord's always provide a legend to explain.

This is the result of my research but who really knows.

A TALE OF WOE

Martin Gentle responds to the Roy Jennings's article (Notchers News 25; page 5)

I am sorry that Roy experienced problems regarding the renewal of his ACO membership.

Following my appointment as ECB ACO Membership Services Manager in June 2013 new systems and processes have been introduced to improve communication with members whose Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) is due for renewal.

Specifically, these actions are as follows:

- A reminder is issued approximately 3 months before the certificate expires. This is not foolproof and should not be relied upon as people move house.
- In the run up to membership renewal we contact all members whose DBS expires before January of the following year and so hopefully reducing the number of instances similar to Roy who didn't realise his membership hadn't been renewed.
- County Membership Services Officers (MSOs) receive monthly reports showing members current DBS and membership status.
- All membership renewals receive a confirmation either by email or by letter.
- All members who do not renew by the end of March will receive either a letter or email to let them know.

We do not apologise for the fact that a current DBS is a requirement of membership and whilst ultimately it is the responsibility of the individual not the ECBACO to obtain the certificate we now try to do all we can to make sure that the member knows his DBS has expired and/or his membership has not been renewed.

If a member has any general questions regarding DBS and their membership, please contact us on 0121 446 2710 or by email ecb.aco@ecb.co.uk

MANAGING SCREEN FREEZE OR COMPUTER FAILURE

Nathan Bradley

I'm a twenty-one year old with Cerebral Palsy which confines me to a wheelchair. I love cricket and cricket scoring and, thanks to the correspondence course and great support locally from Gavin Lane and Nicholas Evanson, I've become a level 1 accredited scorer member of ECB ACO. I'm very dedicated to what I do and have a huge, almost obsessive attention to detail. Every little piece of the puzzle must be in place; if not, I get frustrated with myself.

This season I've taken up a position with Heathcoat CC in the Devon Premier League. I was appointed to score for Devon CCC in their preseason friendly against Somerset CCC 2nd XI at Knightshayes Court on April 13th 2014. I'm a determined individual and I haven't yet come across a mountain I can't climb (apart from the steps to a few score-boxes - but I still do the job anyway!).

I have ambitions of becoming a First Class scorer in the future. While my physical disability does make it difficult for me to write quickly it does not hinder my ability to score well on a computer using TCS. However I am well aware that computers can and do crash and, given that it is difficult - if not impossible - for me to keep up a written record if I encounter screen freeze or computer failure, what should I do?



SCORING AT AN MCC CORPORATE DAY IN 2012

I would appreciate thoughts and suggestions as to how I might be able to keep a back-up record of the match available, just in case the computer does go down.

Interim response from the NN Editor:

I've experienced screen freeze but thankfully not often. On each occasion I had to use Task Manager to close TCS (ctrl, alt, delete); Task Manager indicated that the programme was 'not running'. When I then started TCS again it automatically opened the match, usually at the end of the last complete over recorded before the problem occurred and the 'catch up' was only a couple of overs on each occasion. If you suffered a similar experience I hope that your scorer colleague would help you to catch up, particularly if they were book scoring or keeping a linear worksheet to support their computer scoring. Before the match starts ask if they would be willing to talk you through 1 or 2 overs to catch you up should you encounter a computer problem

If your handwriting permits you could keep a very rough record of all deliveries from screen freeze on a line per over basis - for example, **1 . + 4 1 1 .** - just enough to allow you to catch up. Once you've used it and confirmed the score with your colleague you can bin it so no handwriting issues.

Always have paper and pen handy; in an emergency there isn't be time to search for them!

You could trial this option before the start of the season; start to score an imaginary match (or one on the TV); close the match through Task Manager then open it again while scoring the imaginary (or actual) deliveries on hand through to the point where you've caught up again.

This doesn't help you if the problem was some sort of computer failure and you had to switch to a back-up laptop or i-pad. That's where I need to do some of the research.

Input from **Lee at TCS support:**

There would be two options available to cater for the terminal demise of the PC. One is only really useful if you are on a network, in that you can direct the backup to be on a network drive (this is what they do at Lord's). The other option is to use Live Scores.

In TCS itself you can download from Live Scores and then carry on scoring. You simply right click on the live score in TCS (in the Live Score window) and select 'Download...'. You can also do this in the iPad/iPhone app by selecting 'Load Live' on the menu.

This would seem the best approach and a user would then be able to continue from the point of the last live score update. Information on Live Scores is on the TCS website

LEARNING ZONE

The occasion is an Asia Cup match against between Bangladesh and Pakistan. Abdur Rehman came on to bowl the 11th over.

Abdur Rehman's **first delivery** was high and wide; the umpire called and signalled No ball

His **second delivery** was chest high; batsman Imrul Kayes hit it to deep mid-wicket where he was caught; the umpire called and signalled No ball; Kaye was 'not out'. The batsmen had run and changed ends.

Umpire Cloete consulted with Pakistan captain Misbah-ul-Haq before allowing Rehman to bowl the next delivery

The **third delivery** was another high full-toss which was dispatched by Anamul Haque to the boundary.

The umpire directed the captain to 'suspend the bowler forthwith' (see Law 42. 6 & 7)

Watch the video and read more at

<http://www.smh.com.au/sport/cricket/its-a-shame-about-rehman-20140305-34672.html#ixzz335rmn1uv>

Rehman's bowling figures were reported as 0 - 0 - 8 - 0

HOW WOULD YOU RECORD REHMAN'S BOWLING FIGURES?

SPECIAL REGULATIONS CONFUSE OFFICIALS AND COMMENTATORS ALIKE

At the World T20 competition in March 2014 some dismissals were referred to the third umpire to confirm that the delivery was valid. If, on examining the video footage, the third umpire was of the opinion that the delivery was a No ball then the on-field umpire made the call of No ball retrospectively. But what if the ball had been hit in the air and fairly caught, the batsmen had run and crossed then a retrospective call of No ball meant that the striker was not out. What scoring record entries are required?

The Pakistan v Bangladesh provides an example. Pakistan batting: over 18.1; Shehzad was on strike; he pulled to long on and was caught. Having reviewed the video footage the third umpire advised the on-field umpire that the delivery was a No ball. One run was added (No ball penalty); the batsmen had crossed and Afridi faced next ball (free hit); **no other run added.**

It is understood that the first time this scenario presented the umpire and scorer teams engaged in discussion to ensure that the Special Regulations for the competition were correctly applied and the right number of runs added to the score (causing a short delay in play!)

Sadly it appears that the TV commentary teams and the Press were not fully aware of the Special Regulations and voiced undue criticism of the scorers.

The Laws of Cricket (2000 Code. 5th Edition. 2013) state:

Law 24. para 14: Any runs completed by the batsmen...shall be credited to the striker if the ball has been struck by the bat...'

Law 24. para 12: The ball does not become dead on the call of No ball.

..... ***but always read the Special Regulations for league or competition you are scoring so that you are able to make the correct scoring record entries***

SPECIAL REGULATIONS NOT ALWAYS HELPFUL

In the Exmouth v Cornwood match Cornwood were all out for 69.

Exmouth were 61-4 off 11.1 overs when the rain stopped play.

Net run rate (NRR) applies in rain-interrupted match and when play resumed the umpires calculated that Exmouth needed 62 runs to win, a figure that everyone agreed with. The first ball delivery was a Wide ball and the match was declared complete. However the rulebook includes another regulation which states that NRR cannot be used until twenty overs of the second innings have been completed, something that all parties had overlooked. When this was realised the match was declared as 'no result'.

Footnote: Following an appeal the match has been awarded to Exmouth. Hopefully lessons have been learnt.

In Scarborough Beckett League Division B and C matches the bowlers are restricted to a maximum of 12 overs each. There is no information on reducing the number of overs per bowler in rain-affected matches.

Two teams chose to reduce the overs per bowler to 9 when the match had to be reduced to 35 overs a side

An unattributed "Scorers' poem"

Vic Isaacs

I saw this in an Army Scorer's journal when I was in Germany many years ago and always remembered it. I felt however that you could change the name of scorer to umpire or even more relative to referee.

The scorer stood at the golden gate, his head bowed very low.
 When St Peter came to ask his fate, which way he had to go.
 "What have you done" St Peter said "to gain an entry here?"
 "I've been a cricket scorer sir, for many and many a year"
 "A cricket scorer," St Peter said, as he gently pressed the bell,
 "please step inside and chose your harp, you've had your share of hell."

THE SEVENTEEN DELIVERY OVER

Cathy Rawson

I came close to suffering David Whitbread's experience (NN 25. page 5) on just one occasion many years ago now. The match was between Kent II and The Army played at Beckenham and the second over of The Army's innings was of seventeen deliveries with twenty-three runs scored from them.

Computers were not in use at this match to cause a problem - computer scoring was in its very early infancy then. The box system scorebooks in use had limited space and Cliff Booth and I encountered great difficulty recording so many entries; we had no alternative but to use more than just the one box for this over.

I suspect that we'd have used more than the one line had we been using linear scoring systems.

Having finally completed his marathon over the bowler in question did not bowl again that day!

Hopefully such marathons will not present too often - it's something I wouldn't wish on any scorer colleague.

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:

www.acumenbooks.co.uk



MILLENNIUM SCORING RECORD

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

Binder and 50 sheets (= 100 innings) £20 + P&P

Refill pack of 50 sheets £10 + P&P

Contact milsteadmsr@btinternet.com for more information

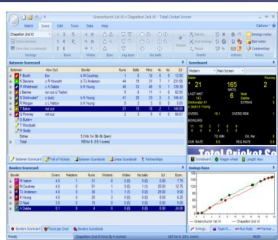
Scorer Correspondence courses

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

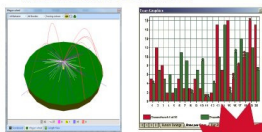
A 'scoring cricket limited by overs' course is independently run to the high standards previously set by The Association of Cricket Umpires and Scorers. It is open to anyone wishing to learn more about cricket scoring.

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

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