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Notchers' News

ISSUE 28

DECEMBER 2014

The network for cricket scorers

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

Fred Godson reflects on 'scoring location'

After reading articles by Phil Hill (NN12.2) and Mike Turner article (NN 21.4) Fred wrote:

My opinion on scoring close to or away from the players depends on whether or not I can identify all the players on the team I'm scoring for.

If I don't know the players I prefer to sit somewhere within shouting distance of the players so that I can ask them who is who, and silently suffer the din, chaff and antics perpetrated by the non-batting batsmen (after all, they come to enjoy themselves and you can't expect a bunch of mainly young lads to sit quiet for 2 or 3 hours - not these days, anyway).

However, that somewhat relaxed attitude does not apply if I'm in a *dedicated* score-box; I find noisy or unruly behaviour from players wholly unacceptable and ask them to leave.

If I know the players I prefer to sit away from them and where there is some peace and quiet and it's easier to concentrate on scoring.

I do wish though that clubs would give a bit more thought to the location of the scoring position. Some are appalling - next to an open-all-day bar with a football match on the TV and the volume turned up, for example - and often an alternative location is possible.

At my home club we are fortunate to have two separate scoring locations: the main score-box, which is on the opposite side of the ground to the pavilion, and the "little score-box" as we call it, located in the pavilion but separated from the bar/tea/TV room by a wall which is solid enough to shut out most of the noise emanating from that area.

And talking of the ideal scoring location

A scorer colleague found this photo of Kenny Nisbet on Facebook. Thankfully it doesn't appear to be a windy day!

We've all suffered as we've scored cricket matches under difficult circumstances and remember them all too well

Some time ago Philip Stallard wrote "I won't name my worst grounds for fear of not being welcomed back!!"

He went on to suggest that we write about the best grounds we've scored at.

What made us rate them so highly? What do we want from a scoring position?

If you had to mark the scoring position what would you want to see on the marking grid?



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>

The Christmas Challenge

The Scratchers have challenged the Notchers to yet another fireside fixture this year

Readers are invited to accept the Challenge by solving the clues in order to discover how many runs each player scores, completing the scorecard and giving the result of the following match.

You should record all these scores in batting order, and complete your solution by giving the result of the match.

Normal Laws of Cricket (updated on 1st October 2013) apply (no special regulations).

There are no trick questions; all relevant information is provided in the clues and you should assume that the umpire gives the appropriate signals.

Not all of the questions relate to what is considered 'essential knowledge for scorers' but, with a little research into the MCC Laws of Cricket 2000 Code 5th Edition - 2013 you should be able to work out all of the answers.

The 2000 Code 5th Edition - 2013 can be accessed at <http://www.lords.org/mcc/laws-of-cricket/laws/>

Please send your entry (limited to one per reader please) to arrive with The Third Umpire by 10th January 2015.

The mailing address is The Third Umpire, 60 The Lawns, Rolleston-on-Dove, Staffordshire, DE13 9DB
or email johnmbrown60@gmail.com.

All entries will be examined and the names of all those whose entries are correct will be put into the Umpire's hat, from which the winner of the prize will be drawn at random.

Please mark your entry 'NN'

The Scratchers' XI (batting first)

1. In a one-innings match the scores are level on 197 when the striker hits the ball, called and signalled No ball, for a Boundary 6. What is the final total of the winning team?
2. A fast bowler bowls a high full-toss which passes over both the striker's and the wicket-keeper's heads and then runs on to cross the boundary.
How many separate (not necessarily different) signals would you expect the umpire to make?
3. ... and how many acknowledgements should the scorer give?
4. The umpire calls and signals Wide ball – the batsmen run two, but the striker is run out before completing the second run: both umpires signal Short run. How many runs should be added to the total?
5. How many inches wide is the pitch?
6. A bowler has bowled 13.3 overs, including four No balls and five Wide balls.
How many separate deliveries has he bowled?
7. ... and how many of those deliveries are counted as balls received by the batsman?
8. The striker hits a No Ball, the batsmen complete two runs; the fielder's return hits the helmet lying on the ground, and the ball deflects over the boundary. How many runs should be added to the total?
9. ... and how many of those runs should be credited to the striker?
10. How many minutes is an incoming batsman allowed before he must be ready for the next ball to be delivered if he is to avoid the possibility of being given out Timed Out?
11. The striker plays no shot at a ball which runs off his pads and hits the helmet lying on the ground.
How many runs should be awarded?

Extras: It has been agreed to play a match with thirteen players on each side.

What is the maximum number of fielders allowed on the field while play is in progress?

For the Notchers' XI innings please turn to page 3

The Christmas Challenge continued

The Notchers' XI (batting second)

1. At the start of an eventful over Team A have scored 113 for 4.
The first ball is hit for a boundary 4;
Ball 2 – batsmen run three, there are overthrows, and the batsmen run two more; when the ball is dead the umpire signals Leg-byes;
Ball 3 – called and signalled Wide ball which goes on to cross the boundary;
Ball 4 – striker given out lbw;
Ball 5 – striker hits delivery, called and signalled No ball, batsmen complete two runs and have crossed on the third when the non-striker deliberately knocks the ball away with his bat. On appeal he is given out Obstructing the field;
Ball 6 – striker hits ball and the batsmen run three before an umpire signals Short run;
Ball 7 – the striker and the wicket-keeper both miss the ball which goes on to cross the boundary;
Ball 8 - the striker plays no shot at a ball which deflects off the top of his pad onto his bat and then travels over the boundary.
What is Team A's score at the end of this over?
2. ... and how many wickets have Team A lost now?
3. ... and how many of those runs would be debited to the bowler?
4. In a two-day match Team A have scored 207 all out.
How many runs must Team B score to avoid the possibility of being asked to follow on?
5. According to the laws, in a match of more than one day, what is the minimum number of overs which must be bowled before a second new ball may be taken?
6. How high is a set of stumps to the nearest centimetre?
7. The striker hits the ball a second time in defence of his wicket, and a fielder throws the ball at the wicket in an attempt to run him out: the ball misses the stumps and goes on to cross the boundary.
How many runs should be added to the total?
8. The striker edges a No Ball; the wicket-keeper misses the ball which goes on to deflect off the helmet lying on the ground and the batsmen run two before the ball is returned to the wicket-keeper.
How many runs should be added to the total?
9. If a Wide Ball becomes irretrievable on the field of play (eg down a hole left by a goalpost), and the batsmen have crossed on the eighth run when a fielder calls Lost Ball, how many runs should be added to the total?
10. The toss is made twenty-three minutes before the scheduled start of play.
How many minutes does the captain of the team winning the toss have before he must notify his decision whether to bat or field first?
11. In how many different ways may a batsman be dismissed for which the bowler receives the credit?

Extras: Assuming that no special agreement has been made before the toss, how many feet in front of the wicket may the covers extend?

RESULT

Remember to mark your entry 'NN'

A message from Ray Markham

Hello cricketing friends!

Thought you might be interested in an article about my work as press box scorer written by an Indian journalist during the recent Test series and posted on the Zee India website. If you would like to read it, please click on the link below.

<http://www.cricketcountry.com/articles/ray-markham-the-press-box-scorer-who-made-it-from-the-loft-to-lords-165457>

ALAN WEST

1st XI Scorer, Lancashire CCC 1998 – 2014

Alan had spent a full and successful career in education before the opportunity to score for his home county came along in 1998.

For most of his early years cricket had played a huge part in his life: as a young man he had played league cricket regularly and he became involved for many years in the running and organisation of the Ribblesdale League in south Lancashire.

For quite a while he had worked in a voluntary capacity reporting on league cricket on BBC local radio: on occasions we believe that he had to score and commentate simultaneously, no mean feat to do just one, but straightforward enough for a man of Alan's calibre.

When the role of Lancashire scorer presented itself he was delighted: he had always supported the county, ever since he had been old enough to recognise the existence of separate counties, and now all his many years of voluntary work in the game were to be rewarded in a more tangible way than he had imagined possible. He proved to be the ideal man for the job, good-humoured, conscientious and thorough in all that he did.

Alan was one of the best of colleagues – while passionate about his own county, he was able to appreciate the strengths of their rivals and always had good words to say about Lancashire's opponents when due.

In addition he was a most enthusiastic quizzier: every Monday evening during the quiz season he would be representing his local pub team and he had the honour of captaining 'The Notchers', a team of county scorers, in the BBC television programme, Eggheads. Those who saw the programme on television will remember him as the 'not out' player in the final round when he almost beat the resident team single-handedly. He was also a prolific tackler of crosswords - one who enjoyed talking about this hobby with any players or colleagues with a similar interest.

Alan cared very much about the role of county scorers; he was a member of the Association of County Cricket Scorers (ACCS) and served as a Committee Member and Secretary before being their Chairman for five years. During his time as Chairman he worked extremely hard on ensuring that the role of ACCS was fully appreciated and maintained for future years.

Alan first became ill at the start of the 2010 season and he decided that scoring was going to be too much for him after the first few weeks. After undergoing a full course of chemotherapy he seemed to be fully recovered and was able to return to his scoring for Lancashire first team for the next three seasons. When Lancashire were the county champions in 2011 this probably gave him more pleasure than any other event in his cricketing career.

He became ill again at the start of the 2014 season and handed over his duties to Darrin White while he undertook more chemotherapy. It was remarkable how strong and positive he remained during these difficult times, and he was convinced that he would be well enough to return to the job he loved in 2015.

Sadly it was not to be and Alan will be greatly missed by all his friends and colleagues around the counties.



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Scorer Training Course

Middlesex Cricket Board ACO

Level 1 2015: Weekends of January 24 and 25 and February 7 and 8

To be held in the London area - see the website for further information

An application form for the courses can be found at www.mcbaco.org.uk

More reflections on Notchers' News articles

Fred Godson

On the appointment of two scorers:

I was astounded to hear that county cricket might do away with having two official scorers (NN Issue 20, page 1) and am very much against the idea. While not involved with First Class or County Cricket the notion of there being two scorers, one for each side, is rooted fundamentally in my brain. Apart from the pleasure of the annual reunion, it is extremely comforting to know that you have a reliable colleague to whom you can turn if things go wrong. And of course they do go wrong, from time to time. I'm of the view that to be put in the position of being the only official scorer, albeit with an OPTA analyst, could prove extremely onerous. It's so easy to miss something, such as a late signal, a quick extra run, the batsmen being sent back to their original ends, or even a delivery when the fielding side are getting through their overs quickly. Is the OPTA person going to be as good as a trained, experienced official scorer? I don't think so.

On Linear v Box scoring:

I liked Jenny Booth's thoughts on Linear v Box scoring (NN Issue 20, page 1). I can see both points of view. Although I studied and did examples of Linear when I was doing my ACU & S Advanced Scoring course many years ago I have never used it in practice. That's because, 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 fine for me, and for virtually every other scorer I've come across. But I quite see that for first class, with their two innings each side and always the chance of a batsman rattling up a couple of hundred runs, Linear is essential. I think it's horses for courses. 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.

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.

England and Wales Cricket Board Association of Cricket Officials (ECB ACO)

<http://www.ecb.co.uk/ecb/ecb-association-of-cricket-officials/>

<http://www.notchers.co.uk> hosts links to other websites offering information for scorers



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 TRAINING

ECB ACO offer courses - For more information visit the ECB ACO website

A scorer correspondence course which aims to achieve the same high standards previously set by The Association of Cricket Umpires and Scorers is open to those wanting to learn more about cricket scoring.

For more information contact cathy.rawson@btopenworld.com

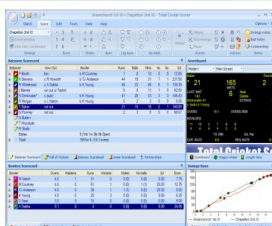
Share your cricket scoring experiences and scoring questions with readers.

Photos are welcomed and add interest to the newsletter.

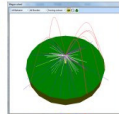
Send your contributions to: notchers@btopenworld.com

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Total Cricket Scorer



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