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Notchers' News

ISSUE 30

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The network for cricket scorers

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

Payment for scorers

Name submitted

Is it right that, while umpires usually receive a fee, most scorers have difficulty getting any sort of remuneration for their efforts?

On average I travel in the region of 600 miles each year to score the 'away' league fixtures for my club. I could also travel extra mileage if we are drawn away in cup matches, all at my own expense.

Is this a normal occurrence all around the country?

Is this the norm - that we do it for free just for the enjoyment that we get from watching cricket?

What are your experiences?

Do you receive expenses or a match fee or do you pay for pleasure of scoring for your club?

Editor's note: The scorer submitting this question included club and league details and gave permission to print provided that these details were not included when putting the question.

RECORDING STATISTICAL INFORMATION

Lakshmi Hariharan

Two questions came up in discussion between a group of scorers here in Bangalore, India.

1 A scorer mentioned that in South Africa wide deliveries are included when calculating the number of deliveries in a partnership (50, 100, etc.). However we do not count them in the partnership runs here. When I asked why I could not get a clear answer.

I was told ICC stipulates that wide deliveries are not to be counted towards the partnership runs. I was unable to understand if there was a specific reason as to why ICC follows that way, if that is true and would welcome help to clarify this

2 Calculation of Net Run Rate (NRR):

The discussion was around how to define the number of balls in the innings. It was not clear if we use the total deliveries received, or total number of fair deliveries received. With respect to the latter, it was not clear what we term as a fair delivery. No-ball is considered as an unfair delivery by the Law. So that lead to the discussion of wide delivery; whether it is considered as a fair delivery or not.

Do we then apply Law 22.3 (Validity of balls) or should it be mentioned clearly in the tournament rules?

Again, I would welcome help to clarify this

The newsletter can only be successful if copy is received for publication. Please submit articles, letters and questions to notchers@btopenworld.com

Search for the 'Notchers' group on Facebook

<http://www.notchers.co.uk>

THE IDEAL SCOREBOX

Fred Godson

This article was prompted by the December 2014 issue of Notchers' News, in which Philip Stallard is reported as asking what we want from a scoring position. I have responded in a slightly different way by setting out what I think would be an ideal scorebox.

When I started in cricket more than 60 years ago most league clubs had a score-box of some sort, but usually it was no more than an unheated, unlit wooden hut. The scoreboard comprised nails or hooks on either the outside of the score box or a separate, adjacent scoreboard, numbers to hang on to them and the appropriate words "TOTAL", "WICKETS", etc. Sometimes the scoring position was integral with the pavilion, and often still is. I'm sure that all club scorers will, at some time or other in their careers, have experienced some of the poky, often dirty little wooden boxes that we've had to put up with in our time, frequently doubling up as the groundsman's hut, or the cleaner's cupboard, gear cupboard, equipment room, the dump for anything and everything that the club doesn't really want but doesn't want to throw away, the overnight, or even week-to-week, parking place for the players' "coffins", etc. - with minimal facilities, grimy windows, uncomfortable seats, cobwebs and their 8-legged residents, dead flies, wasps, and so on.

Times have moved on a bit since those far-off days but I still see fairly new cricket grounds where pavilions and score boxes have been designed and built without proper thought and planning as to where the umpires' room and score box should be located and what they should comprise. I have yet to see a cricket ground which incorporates all the features of what might be called an ideal scorebox, or an ideal umpires' room either. One or two are quite good but, with very little extra effort and cost in comparison with the total outlay on a new sportsground or cricket field, they could be made ideal. This is probably due to innocent ignorance by architects but could also be innocent thoughtlessness by club committees with regard to what scorers and umpires really need.

I have given some thought to the matter and offer a preliminary specification; other readers are bound to have ideas of their own. Perhaps an agreed blueprint could be put forward to the powers that be, or could representatives of ECB or ECB ACO take this on board and produce a finally agreed specification of their own to be made available to all cricket clubs and others concerned with building cricket grounds.

My spec. might look a bit formidable when set out as a list like this but you might as well ask for everything in the hope that you get at least something!

SCOREBOX

- 1 Substantially built, preferably of stone or brick with sloping slate or tile roof, all up to modern standards, with cavity wall insulation, loft insulation, double glazing and draught-proof. Interior walls plastered and painted.
- 2 Ideally, a separate building, the scorebox integral with the scoreboard, preferably on the opposite side of the ground from the pavilion, so that members in the pavilion can see it clearly. If the scoring position must be located elsewhere, e.g. in the pavilion itself, the main scoreboard still to be directly opposite the pavilion and linked electronically with the scoring position.
- 3 Inside dimensions of the main room to be no less than 18 feet (across the front) by 15 feet (depth).
- 4 The scoring position in the scorebox to be at least 12 feet above ground level and such that the entire field of play can be seen by both scorers from their normal sitting position.
- 5 Access by stairs at the rear, either internal or external, but also with a ramp for disabled access.
- 6 Lockable door(s), for safety of equipment when the scorers leave the scorebox
- 7 Mains electricity, mains water connected and phone line provided; also all necessary electric and electronic connections, plugs, points etc, to enable computer scoring and telephone communication.
- 8 Windows along the entire front, between desk and ceiling. Horizontal blinds, which can be tilted, and raised and lowered easily, for all windows. A separate window in front of each scorer which opens and closes easily.
- 9 A fixed flat scoring desk, with drawers beneath but also appropriate knee-holes and running the entire length of the front wall, so also minimum 18 feet; depth minimum 24 inches and at normal desk height (30 inches above the floor); surfaced like a kitchen bench with a smooth and durable material such as melamine, with the edges rounded off.

Continued on page 3

THE IDEAL SCOREBOX continued**Fred Godson**

10 Adequate lighting, with a dimmer switch. Possibly also two portable reading lamps.

EQUIPMENT AND CONTENTS

- 1 Four very comfortable, but durable, padded chairs with arms (for two scorers, their assistant, AN Other, such as a reporter). Durable carpet on floor.
- 2 Provision for 3 staff - minimum 6 coat hooks and 3 full-length lockers which lock.
- 3 A telephone on the desk between the two scorers with connections to an outside line, to the secretary's room in the pavilion, to the umpires' room, and to the two dressing rooms.
- 4 Two bright, electric acknowledgement lights on the outside wall, facing the field, one above each of the scoring positions, each with a push-button switch on the desk but at the back, in front of each scorer.
- 5 On small fixture or table at back, an electric kettle with, underneath, a cupboard (sugar, biscuits etc.). Above the table a decent-sized shelf.
- 6 Small refrigerator (milk, cold drinks etc.). Possibly also a small microwave oven.
- 7 Toilet and small sink, towel rail and towel.
- 8 Portable electric radiator and electric fan (air-conditioning for a scoreboard perhaps a bit over the top !). An extractor fan perhaps?
- 9 Full-length mirror on wall.
- 10 Interior clock on wall above desk.
- 11 Waste-paper basket or bin(s).
- 12 Bell on wall inside scoreboard, operated from the umpires' room (for alerting when play is about to commence or resume, lunch or tea to be taken, etc.).
- 13 No articles or equipment whatsoever that are not related to scoring or scorers' requirements

SCOREBOARD

- 1 Ideally, a repeat scoreboard somewhere on the other side of the ground from the main scoreboard, so that spectators anywhere in the ground can see one scoreboard or the other without leaving their seat.
- 2 The display on the scoreboard of sufficient size, colour and brightness to be seen even in brilliant sunshine. Scoreboard to include a large clock. Probably also an exterior steel roller shutter for protection, ideally electrically and remotely operated

Most scorers and umpires will be, or have been, connected with at least one club, so if you hear that a new cricket ground or pavilion is likely to be built in your area why not get in quickly and let the club know what scorers would really like. There's no harm in trying -once the plans have been agreed and the building started it will be too late.

CricHQ**Peter Danks**

The use of CricHQ surfaced a couple of years ago. I think it is starting to re appear and I am writing to ask if readers of Notchers' News could air their views on whether they like or dislike the programme?

I would be very interested in learning of the experience of scorers who have used it and are continuing to use it. For those who don't - why not?

Do leagues support its use in the same way that many leagues seem to favour Total Cricket Scorer (TCS)?

CricHQ does allow cricket to be scored, administered, analysed and followed by supporters and is well supported by team coaches.

THE IDEAL SCORING POSITION AND ITS FACILITIES

.....continued

This article is taken from 'ACCS GUIDE TO BEST PRACTICE', a document compiled by AK Hignell on behalf of the Association of County Cricket Scorers (ACCS) and is published with kind permission from ACCS

POSITION:

Scorers should have an uninterrupted view of the whole ground, including sight of the scoreboard, and this is probably best gained from an elevated position (first or second floor ideal).

FACILITIES AND ACCESS:

It should be possible to open the windows and there should be blinds, rather than shades, for protection from the sun where necessary. The worktop should be large enough to accommodate the laptop, printer and scorebook or scoresheets with ample power points, easily accessible for both scorers. There should be a user-friendly, height-adjustable chair for each scorer.

The appointed scorers should be able to sit alongside each other, and each should have a decent view of the playing area without feeling that they are in danger of invading each other's space. There should also be space for the other scorebox personnel to operate effectively

There should be restricted access to this room, and having visits by members of the public whilst play is in progress is not deemed good practice. The scoring room should be lockable, either by key or swipe card. When all members of the scoring team have left the room it should be locked.

The room should have the means to control the temperature (i.e. heating and air conditioning or a fan), and there should be an easy-to-operate device which the scorer can use to acknowledge umpires' signals. Ideally the room would have drink-making facilities and a fridge.

The room should be located near the umpires' rooms, the changing rooms and the dining room and a toilet should be close at hand. Given the configuration of some grounds, especially those that have been recently redeveloped, this may not be possible.

TEAMWORK IN THE SCOREBOX

CLERICUS

My colleague and I were both computer scoring on TCS and, as is normal in our League, neither were keeping a regular manual back-up.

Halfway through an over in the first innings, my colleague's computer froze inasmuch as he was able to do everything apart from input a ball, edit a ball or delete a ball – which wasn't much help! *'I'll continue scoring and catch you up when you get the program back.'*, I said.

Even the tried and tested method of closing TCS and re-starting the laptop failed him - on three separate occasions! Out came a linear score sheet, and he continued.

Three overs later, the battery in my mouse failed so I then switched to a basic linear sheet whilst replacing the battery. This took longer than I thought because the laptop initially failed to recognise the 'new' device. I was able to input the two or three 'missing' overs fairly quickly once the laptop finally recognised the mouse again. Everything then went serenely through to the luncheon interval.

My colleague decided that the only way he would be able to use his laptop for the remainder of the match would be to delete the match from TCS. I was able to export the match TCS file via a memory stick to his laptop as well as supplying the necessary print outs that his team's coach required.

I'm pleased to report that even though these events were quite stressful we both remained cool, calm and collected and supported each other.

JULIA SCULLY wrote as follows below on receiving the March 2015 Notchers' News

I'm busy scoring the CWC from the South African Broadcast Company's studios in Johannesburg, at the most ungodly hours of the morning, for our commentary team, and I just love getting your newsletters, there is always something interesting and I learn from just about every newsletter I get. Thank you.

.... and I love receiving the news, questions and other contributions which ensure we have a regular newsletter. Ed

TED LESTER

18 February 1923 – 23 March 2015

Edward Ibson Lester (always known as TED) was a Scarborough who played for Yorkshire County Cricket Club.

His first class career was from 1945 – 1956 during which he scored 10,912 first class runs which included 25 centuries, 50 half-centuries, a top score of 186 and a batting average of 34.20. He had a safe pair of hands taking 108 catches (as befits a goalkeeper who played for Scarborough Town). Ted was also one of only 2 men to have scored a century in both innings of a Roses match, the great Percy Holmes being the other batsman.

Ted played for the 2nd team for seven years and captained them for his last four years. His charges during this time included Geoffrey Boycott, Phil Sharpe, John Hampshire, Doug Padgett, Brian Bolus and Chris Balderstone.

On retiring from playing Ted became the Yorkshire Scorer finally retiring in 1992.

Ted became the first County Scorer to take the ACU (scorers were not included in the name then) examination for scorers and naturally passed with a very high mark. He involved himself with ACU Scorers' Committee activities and became an Advanced Examination Scorer Marker. He was an outright champion for many years of the neglect of County Scorers in cricket competitions.

I have known Ted since 1978 and I shall miss our annual conversations on the state of cricket when Hazel and I holidayed in Scarborough. After retirement and a lifetime of travelling around the UK with a suitcase Ted did not wish to travel but stayed in his beloved Scarborough. He thoroughly enjoyed going to the theatre and listening to the Scarborough Spa Orchestra Classical music performances with Mary, his wife of 63 years.

I shall miss you Ted, God Bless You.

Brian Molloy, assisted by Kevin Lester

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.

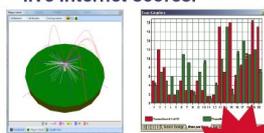
Photos are welcomed and add interest to the newsletter.

Send your contributions to: notchers@btopenworld.com

September newsletter copy date: 21st August 2015

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:

www.totalcricketscorer.com

support@totalcricketscorer.com



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