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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.

SCORING ON A TABLET COMPUTER

John Williams

I use Total Cricket Scorer (TCS) on iPad2.

The program does not have all the features of TCS for laptop computers, but it does all the basic scoring functions very well.

It also has the all important 'undo' feature for the times when, not if, I make a mistake.

Being a cautious sort of person I also maintain a simple manual sheet to record each ball event.

This has proved to be very useful when I have had computer problems, as it enables me to carry on recording what is happening in the game whilst sorting out my computer problem, and it is then very easy to enter the backlog of balls into the computer once the computer problem is resolved.

I have also used my manual sheet to enable a scorer colleague to catch up several overs worth of play after his computer 'froze'.

I have even re-entered a complete T20 innings into my iPad during the innings break.

Having a consistent routine is fundamental to accurate scoring.

I record the event on the manual sheet first, paying particular attention to what I see - who is bowler, who is striker, what has umpire signalled.

Then I record on computer, making sure that what computer displays agrees with what I have written; I double check any discrepancies - it is usually the computer entry which is wrong; then the all-important 'Undo' function comes into play!!!

I am happy to share my spreadsheet which contains my manual sheet template with any scorer who is interested in using it - just email me at johnwilliams@keme.co.uk and I will send it to you.

CricHQ

From INGEBORG BEVERS:

I'm part of the Electronic Scoring subcommittee to the ECB Scorers Committee. Part of this role is to link with Cric HQ. If Notchers News readers can offer any opinions or feedback on this programme I would like to hear from you. Your comments will assist me in gathering user information and exploring improvements with the software providers/developers. My email address is ingeborg_bevers@yahoo.co.uk

Sadly response to the question put by Peter Danks was minimal and the few response submitted to the editor did not support use of CricHQ

I was asked to trial CricHQ some years ago. I spent many hours scoring practice matches prior to the matches but with little success; it wasn't user-friendly and the support was poor.

I tried but failed to score a live match but was unable to complete it; I reverted to TCS.

CricHQ may well have improved since then; I leave it to others to trial it and comment.

Editor

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>

Recruiting scorers?

A Scorer

I love scoring, whatever the level of cricket, but I'm happiest in a clean score-box in the company of a scorer who will be with me for the entire match. The articles 'Payment for scorers' and 'The ideal score box' (Notchers' News 30) had already caused me to reflect on the apparent shortage of scorers in my locality although I'm acutely aware that the problem is far more widespread.

I started think about *'What might have put me off becoming a scorer?'*

INADEQUATE SCORING FACILITES

- Do I really want to sit outside a cricket pavilion for up to 3 hours on a chilly evening scoring a cricket match? Even worse, do I want to sit outside at that small wobbly table with gaps for pens to fall through and have to protect the score book from the wind (and even rain) and myself from excessive sun or cold.
- Do I want to spend my time sitting in a score hut that houses anything from lost property through to cricket equipment, sawdust and a mower?
- Will I be able to stop players and spectators walking in front, or even worse, stopping to watch the match in front of me? If I can't see the match I can't score it!
- Can I stop players or spectators sitting directly next to the scorers' table? It's hard enough to concentrate on scoring but far more difficult when I'm surrounded by lots of noise, bad language and constant questions.

LACK OF EQUIPMENT

- Why can't we have an electronic scoreboard like the club down the road? It's much quicker and easier and takes a lot of pressure off the scorer.
- Will the club supply the equipment I need? I don't have a scorebook, pens, clock, binoculars and the other equipment that the other club scorer has?
- Will I be provided with a suitable scorebook of my choice? Not all scorers like the same format.
- If the League requires computer scoring, is there an adequate electricity supply? And whose laptop is to be used?

TRAINING

- Can I go on a course to enable me to learn to score or to improve my ability? If there is a course fee will the club pay it for me?

EXPENSES

- Is a match fee payable?
- Is someone willing to take me to matches and bring me home? Not all scorers can drive and some cannot afford the fuel or bus fares to get to the ground.
- Will I have to pay for my own tea?

RESPECT FOR THE SCORERS

- Will I be expected to keep getting up to change the scoreboard? I don't want to be shouted at because the scoreboard hasn't been updated quickly when a wicket has fallen off the last ball of the over?
- Why do the players bother the scorer immediately a wicket falls and want to know how many runs the out batsman has scored and off how many balls? Don't they realise that scorers have a lot to do when a wicket falls?
- Why do the players bother the scorer to find out how many overs each bowler has bowled?
Why can't they ask the umpires?
- Why do they take drinks out to the players but not to the scorers?
- Why don't the players say thank you to the scorers? After all, they shake hands with the umpires and the other players.
- Will I be told about cancelled or re-arranged matches?

I'm sure that readers can add to this list.

It seems that we have a lot of barriers to overcome if we are to recruit and retain scorers.

I've given a lot of thought to the issues. I'm not sure that anyone can come up with achievable solutions.

The Derbyshire CCL and Leicestershire Premier Division are reported to have introduced 3 penalty point deductions if a team do not provide a competent scorer. The Derbyshire CCL even specified what the term 'competent scorer' meant.

If all leagues implemented a penalty point deduction when a club fails to provide a competent scorer will clubs become more proactive and find new scorers and ensure that they are trained appropriately?

Continued on page 3

Recruiting scorers?

Continued from page 2

On the subject of payment, many leagues have appointed umpires who receive a fee set by the league. Scorers are usually part of the cricket club set-up which is good as they know all the players. Consequently payment, expenses etc. are a matter for the club. Many scorers, myself included, are unpaid volunteer scorers and make their way to matches at their own expense – all very well provided the volunteer can afford to subsidise their club in this way.

I've encountered a huge variation in scoring facilities; I expected this as the matches I've scored were at markedly differing levels too.

There appears to be a close relationship between clubs with decent facilities and clubs having a regular scorer. It has been noticeable that at clubs where the scoring facilities are less than adequate (or even non-existent) I have rarely enjoyed the company of a dedicated scorer; players came and went. Some of the players have been good and happy to score for as long as necessary. However most didn't want to be there and spent most of their time looking at their mobile phones and texting; inaccuracies were commonplace.

Statistics have always played a great part in cricket but, having seen the state of some scorebooks completed by players, I am left to wonder whether anybody cares about the accuracy of end-of-season averages. Too often, bowlers analyses aren't completed and the names of catchers are omitted.

And finally I can only agree with Fred Godson's words (NN 30) – the cost of incorporating a dedicated scoreboard into a new build would have been far less than the cost of extending to include a scoreboard at a later date.

Author's details submitted but not published at author's request

Payment for Scorers: Your comments

Jane Dalley

Over the past 10 or so years I have scored 2 junior and 2 senior matches each week and extras such as cup games and T20s. I have done this willingly as one or other of my sons has been playing.

A couple of weeks ago I was offered £10 from the home team as they didn't have a scorer (no surprise there!) so I kept both books. That was the first and only time any suggestion of payment has been made. With the senior matches the Umpires are paid but scorers only at the discretion of their club.

In my opinion scorers ought to be treated in the same way as umpires.

Philip Stallard

I don't receive any payment from my club (Newport CC) or from the Forty Club.

I have received a (fairly small) fee for some of the "special" matches I've done in the past such as Glamorgan II and MCC outmatches. I understand that this will be the case for some matches this year.

The ideal score box: Your comments

Colin Pearson

I would add an external mirror - or security camera - so that I can see what is actually displayed on the scoreboard. Internal tell - tales are not always reliable - even on electric boards.

John Proctor

Apropos Fred's scoreboard design, I had occasion recently to visit Leverstock Green CC in Hertfordshire where the wake had been laid on for a friend who had passed away. Marion & I were greeted like long-lost friends by the member tending the bar (we last set foot in a wooden building for our farewell party 27 years ago)!

We now entered a 1 year old brick building which was fantastic. Our friendly barman unlocked the communicating doors between public and private space and allowed us to wander. The scoring and umpiring facilities were the best I have ever seen in club premises. The only thing missing was Fred's repeater scoreboard but the re-building did cost 6 figures so maybe when the Club committee have worked out how to redeem that debt they will then find money for a repeater.

Having used that facility several times when scoring for the Isle of Wight over 50s, I have vague memories of an excellent one at Dartford CC, Kent and a remote control facility at Finchhampstead, Berkshire I can testify to the value of such since it enables you as the scorer an immediate view of what you are telling the world (including the umpires).

No, you did trouble the scorer!

Journalist: Liam Cromar

Article published in 'Cricinfo' on Saturday, 15 August 2015

Playing The Game (PTG) listing: 7,913.

In Mel Brooks' western farce 'Blazing Saddles', the villain, upon hearing his henchman bellow "We'll head them off at the pass", slowly turns round, grinds out, "I hate that cliché", and unloads his pistol into his foot. I haven't yet been moved to similar violence by any of the inane comments cricket frequently provokes, but there is one that might just tip me over the edge, displaying as it does a total lack of appreciation for one oft-forgotten role: the thoughtless utterance that a batsman dismissed for a duck "didn't trouble the scorers".

As any scorer knows, a duck, particularly a golden duck, is anything but no trouble for the scorers. Barely have the details of the previous wicket to have fallen been entered - how out, over when out, time out, how many balls faced, how many runs scored, partnership, bowler's name, fielder's name if applicable, current score of the not-out batsman - than the whole process has to be repeated for the fresh dismissal, perhaps even before the first has been completed. Commentators must imagine that all that scorers have to do is jot down a zero and relax.

I should say scorer rather than scorers. In the low-grade circles where I've played much of my cricket - primarily social and so-called "friendly" matches - it's often a minor triumph to locate a single person capable of bringing a pencil and scorebook together with a modicum of knowledge and accuracy. Forget about having two dedicated scorers: the best that we'll realistically be able to hope for is a single "volunteer" from the batting side.

Law 4, of course, specifies two scorers. Why? To explain this apparent wasteful redundancy to the unenlightened enquirer, the patient scorer can make use of the observation of King Solomon, who said something along the lines of "Two are better than one; if one should fall, the other can help his partner up". (Though Solomon's taking of a septuple-century of wives suggests that perhaps he took this principle to extremes).

With a myriad potential pitfalls for the beleaguered scorer, it's amazingly easy to miss a run, or forget to note it down in all three areas of the sheet (bowling analysis, batting analysis, and run-by-run tally), sparking, when the discrepancy is finally noticed, a frantic trawl through the sheet, looking for the error. In a tight chase, the worry is cranked up: is the scoreboard incorrectly ahead? Have the batsmen duly misjudged their pace? When the other scorer is present, errors can both be avoided and more quickly recovered from.

A second scorer remains a utopian dream in these circles, though. You're on your own. Forget being out in the middle, where at least you have a comrade at the other end. Here in the solitary confinement of the scorers' box, no-one can hear you scream. Come to think of it, being left alone is preferable. Unless someone's genuinely helping you by acting as a spotter, constant intrusions to "see how we're doing" only distract you.

Gah - I make that a seven-ball over - did I miss a wide? Or has the umpire just lost count? Not 100 per cent sure he's on the ball. I'm pretty sure in the last over he didn't signal byes to a ball the batsman obviously left. Maybe he doesn't know how. Oh, what's he shouting now? "Scoreboard!" Not my job. Look at those waiting batsmen lounging on the grass. They're not doing anything. Scorers aren't supposed to do anything other than keep the score. Remember Law 4. Don't suppose anyone here knows Law 4. It's the fielding skipper now. "Are the overs right?" Yes, as a matter of fact they are. Check with the umpires: they should be keeping an account. It's not easy being me.

Let's now take this cocktail of madness and throw in the role of captaincy. It's quite possible that as the captain I'll be one of the few who knows, at least in theory, which symbols to inscribe where. Which means that not only will I be doing all of the above, but also that come my turn to bat, I'll be looking around distractedly, sizing up team-mates for their ability to take the pencil when I head out.

Most of those with any cricket sense are already on the field. If Tim's out next, he could take over, so I could go out to bat, but if Alex's out, that won't help us. Actually, Alex knows how to umpire, so he could replace David as umpire, who can then come and score before he goes out to bat. Better get padded up then. Where's my equipment? Have to dash into the changing rooms at the end of this over and hope a wicket doesn't fall before that, or I'll have to send Louis in ahead of me.

It can be seen that by now any hope of sending the best batsman in for the match situation has long vanished. By now it's a desperate attempt to simply keep the game moving. If I've been really canny, I'll have constructed the batting order to maximise chances of a scorer and umpires being available at any one time. In reality, ten overs in, I'll most likely be strapping a pad on with one hand and scribbling frantically with the other. Not the best way to prepare mentally for an innings.

I can't bear to imagine what I'll discover on my return. Some horrible scrawl, probably in biro, with illegible squiggles in the bowling analysis and question marks all over the batting analysis. Wides will probably have been entered as Ws, and wickets as Xs. It'll be a near-miracle if the batting analysis matches the bowling, and if either corresponds to the run-by-run tally. Normally there's a tacit agreement between the captains to just accept the highest total of the three. At least in friendly matches it's not as if there's much riding on the match, aside from pride, honour, bragging rights, careers and reputations.

Believe it or not, scoring in its pure form is a joy. Yes, it's often underappreciated and unrecognised, but it remains an absolutely vital part of the game. Umpires could theoretically be dispensed with, but no scorers means no play. It allows one the pleasure of observing intently the game in a way that few others will. And when not stressed, I can't be the only one that takes real satisfaction in a neat and correctly balanced scorebook. ***Just don't talk to me about "not troubling the scorers".***

Useful snippets?

DLS v VJD for use in rain affected matches

<http://www.espncricinfo.com/magazine/content/story/890877.html>

V Jayadevan, argues that VJS has more internal consistence than DLS when calculating the runs required by the side batting second in rain affected matches.

<http://www.espncricinfo.com/magazine/content/story/881493.html>

Steven Stern, argues that in internal consistency of DLS is equal to (if not better) than that of VJS

THUNDERSTORM BEST PRACTICE

http://www.berkscoa.co.uk/documents/BCOA_Thunderstorm_Best_Practice_V1.pdf

Berkshire Cricket Officials Association guidelines and useful reading for anyone involved with the game of cricket

From the editor:

In this UK playing season I've been aware that appointed umpires have intervened in incidents and abandoned four matches (at least) and made reports to their League Disciplinary Panel. One player has already been banned for several years.

I frequently hear comments of 'the football mentality' entering the game of cricket.

What impact does this have on scorers? Do we want to give up our day only to witness such behaviour?

Often we're scoring the match because a family member or friend is playing and the disturbance may involve or have an impact on them.

Will this make it even more difficult for us to encourage parents, siblings, children and friends to become cricket scorers?

and a last word I've still been shivering from the cold as I've driven home from a couple of Evening League matches this season despite wearing so many warm and windproof layers that I resembled the Michelin Man! Not a good advert for recruiting scorers!

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

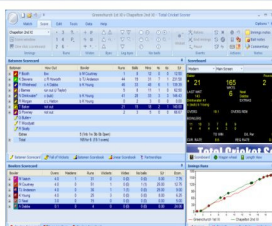
Share your cricket scoring experiences and scoring questions with readers.

Photos are welcomed and add interest to the newsletter.

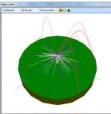
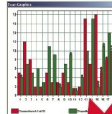
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As used at Lord's

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