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# Notchers' News

ISSUE 33

MARCH 2016

## The network for cricket scorers

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

### CricHq and Total Cricket Scorer (TCS)

### A New Zealand Scorer

TCS registered users were recently advised that TCS had been bought by CricHq.

I have used TCS for about nine years, seven of which have been in New Zealand, and I love it.

For the first time ever in my experience the TCS website live scores crashed last Saturday (13/02/2016) in that it only gave the updated total – I could not access the detailed score.

I contacted TCS Support immediately and received the response "CricHq run and manage the site now; your email has been passed on to them".

When nothing had been done by Wednesday evening I emailed the CricHq support desk and asked what was going on? At 4:15pm on Thursday the system was still down and still no response from CricHq. Live scores were back the following weekend with no problems.

I wonder as to the intentions of CricHq with regard to the future of TCS and CricHq.

#### CricHq have responded as follows:

*"Recently we were notified of a potential infrastructure capacity problem with TCS which we took steps to rectify by upgrading the servers. Unfortunately this affected some users ability to view live games for a few days for which we apologise. As we gear up for another big summer of cricket on TCS rest assured we will do everything we can to make the product even better for you and your clubs community".*

### Scoring visually impaired cricket

### A BCEW Scorer

Last season I took up the challenge and scored a match for Blind Cricket England & Wales (BCEW). Having read the Playing Regulations carefully I decided that linear scoring was my best option. I'd been advised that I would probably be the only scorer and I didn't know any of the players.

When I got to the ground I was made most welcome. I had little opportunity to speak to the coaches prior to play as they needed to devote much of their time to their players and match planning. I was given team lists and classification of the level of visual impairment of each player and was also able to meet the umpires before play commenced.

The score box was basic but adequate. The scoreboard was in front of the scoring position and not easy to operate from inside the score box. Thankfully a parent volunteered to keep the score board up to date and to help me by identifying players and being an extra pair of eyes in case, just in case, I missed anything. This proved invaluable, particularly as there were eight bowling changes in the first 10 overs of one innings! At the end of each innings I borrowed the umpire's overs cards to confirm that I had all the bowling changes; I then completed my linear worksheet and the match summary sheet.

I enjoyed the experience and have volunteered to score BCEW cricket in the 2016 season.

Fancy the challenge? Then email [les.clemenson@btconnect.com](mailto:les.clemenson@btconnect.com) for more information.

***BCEW needs more scorers and offers training to meet the extra needs of visually impaired cricket.***

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)

Search for the 'Notchers' group on Facebook

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

## The Christmas Challenge 2015: Results

The Third Umpire

For the third year in a row we received forty-eight entries for the Challenge, and a most commendable eighteen of those who took up the challenge submitted all-correct solutions.

Twelve of those entries came from readers of Notchers' News and the remaining thirty-six from ACO members.

### SOLUTION

	Notchers	Scratchers
1	2	167
2	7	7
3	6	0
4	116	13
5	4	7
6	27	5
7	10	55
8	1	4
9	108	8
10	0	3
11	5	5
Extras	3 (or 2)	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>289 (or 288)</b>	<b>283</b>

**RESULT: Notchers won by 6 (or 5) runs**

One question caused the Third Umpire to reconsider his original solution.

When he set the question, **Notchers extras**, "For how many of the umpires' signals is the umpire required to repeat the signal after the ball is dead?", he expected the answer 2 (No ball and Wide ball), but the very large majority of entrants included Dead ball as well.

His thinking was that the ball was already dead when the first signal was made and so did not meet the criterion he had intended but, on consideration, he realised that those who included Dead ball were entitled – and correct – to do so.

Since the umpire's decision is final he has decided to allow either answer.

As usual there were a few questions which caused more difficulty than others, although in each case there were more people who produced the right answer than the wrong.

**Scratchers 4** produced the most wrong answers (14), almost all the defaulters giving the answer 12 rather than 13, that being the number of overs the young bowler would have to wait before he could bowl again from the same end.

The "eventful over" gave some problems in **Notchers 4** (7 errors), **Notchers 6** (11) and **Notchers 7** (10), where I would guess that the problem was careless calculation rather than ignorance of the law.

**Scratchers extras** (10 errors) was the only other question to produce more than six mistakes, while there were only two questions which received correct answers from everyone.

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 is **James EMMERSON**. He has already received his £20 prize

The successful entries were sent in by Tushar Agarwal, John Betts, Peter Danks, James Emmerson, Fred Godson, Sheila Harding, Frank Hodgkiss, Martyn Holloway-Neville, Keith Healey, Keith Horsley, Stewart Orrock, Garry Rank, Robert Ridge, Steven Smith, George Temporley, Paul Toplis, Mike Turner and Richard Verrinder. The NN winner was James Emmerson.

As always I give my thanks to all those who sent in an entry, especially those who included friendly and appreciative comments.

The Third Umpire

Once again I offer thanks to The Third Umpire for yet another excellent Christmas Challenge.

I love the 'eventful overs' which have appeared in the last two Challenges.

I hope that, like me, readers have enjoyed the challenge and given careful thought to the Laws of Cricket and how they are applied. As there were fewer incorrect answers and consequently less explanations it seems that those who submitted entries had done their homework.

As always The Third Umpire and I would love it if more entries were submitted. That's the best way in which readers can show their appreciation of the time and thought that goes into each Christmas Challenge.

Thank you John

## Moving On, Umpire to Scorer

Mick Warren

I have been involved with cricket all my life, playing, umpiring and scoring and the administration of an umpire and, more recently, a scorer panel for Oxfordshire Schools. I had to retire from umpiring for health reasons and took up the challenge of scoring for a local school. I had always scored with paper and coloured pens and felt very satisfied whenever I completed a score sheet with no mistakes but, realising that the future is computer scoring, I decided that I must take up a new challenge. I would use my laptop and the Total Cricket Scorer (TCS) programme.

Initially I completed a score book alongside the laptop but, as I became more confident with TCS, I opted for just TCS. 'But what if .....?' I can hear you asking. As I use a laptop with a 12-hour battery power failure or no power to the score box is not a problem. I always have a scorer colleague as each school provides a scorer so, in the event of "computer crash" my colleague, usually completing a paper score book, carries on scoring while I sort myself out. It is easy to catch up with TCS. Should there be a problem I always carry a Supply of score sheets and pens for the emergency.

### My essential equipment

- Something Fluorescent to acknowledge umpires' signals (see advert)
- Extension lead, wireless mouse, pencil & paper
- ECB team sheets (needed to get the players names as it's very rare to have the same players two weeks running)
- Two-way radio (I will talk about this later)
- Supply of Millennium Score sheets & pens

### It's important to be organized so I set myself a procedure for Setting up

- Meet Colleague
- First thing switch on my laptop, open up TCS and check that it's working correctly
- Check I have a good internet signal ready for on line live scores (the school loves this to be available)
- Meet the umpires, ask to see team sheets for both teams and make a copy of the players - surnames and initials.
- Make a note of type of game for today's match (as this will vary from game to game in school cricket)
- Meet the captains and find out the likely batting order and the names of the opening bowlers
- Return to score box and, using the team sheets, set up the match on TCS.
- Check that the match is 'on line' once the match set up is completed (I use my iPad to check if game is on line)
- Check the electronic score board is responding
- I'm ready just and waiting for the result of the toss so that I can update the information in TCS

### That radio

One of the advantages of TCS is information such as catcher's name can be added or amended at any time later in the game. The bowler's name must be added before you can start. This is when the two way radio and a good relationship with my umpire colleagues is essential. Thankfully the Oxfordshire schools umpires are happy to use the radio, both to provide me with information and to check the ages of the bowlers to ensure that none exceed their respective age group bowling restrictions; no degrading shouting between scorers and umpires.

### Facilities

All of the schools provide good scoring facilities with ample space, a good view of the playing area and an electronic score board. They have also promised that they will action any advice given to improve.

The league clubs requesting scorers are the Premier League clubs again usually with good facilities.

All Schools offer internet access as do the Premier League Clubs who are required to provide live scores, result reporting and on line player registration.

### Expenses

Premier and Feeder league clubs in Oxfordshire ask me to appoint scorers to cover when their regular score is unavailable. I appoint on the understanding that they receive the same expenses as the umpires do; the clubs willingly agree as it is better that being fined or losing points if they do not provide a scorer as the league match regulations require.

The schools are willing to pay the same expenses as umpires

### Conclusions

Computer Scoring and TCS is here to stay despite the resistance of the long serving pencil and pen enthusiastic. TCS live scores allow students, parents and others to follow the games and the easy access to statistics is appreciated by all.

Clubs will resist paying expenses as long as there are club members willing to do it free of charge.

Two way radios have proved a great asset with the school cricket where you do not get the same team players two weeks running and identification proves a problem but there is a resistance from League umpires to adopt their use.

**Brian Molloy****1931 - 2016****A tribute from scorer colleagues**

Brian joined the RAF as part of a select group of mature officers with a direct commission to bring business experience to the Supply (Logistics) branch. He served at a number of RAF stations including working alongside the Army at Andover. Hazel, his wife, reported that his first love was football and running though most of us knew him for his contributions to cricket. And Brian joined the RAF Cricket Umpires and Scorers' Association and designed the RAF CU&SA logo. He became the Combined Services representative to the Association of Cricket Umpires (ACU - as it was then) designing their original logo too. When the ACU Scorers Committee was formed Brian was one of the original members.

Andrew Scarlett met Brian when he joined the RAF back in the 1970s and served with him on the RAF CU&SA committee where Brian was secretary and later the chairman. When the ACU started to acknowledge scorers with formal examinations the RAF scorer papers, devised by Brian, were used until the ACU developed their own. Andrew was tested with those first papers and became a member of the scorer training team which Brian led.

Vic Isaacs recalls that it was Brian who marked his ACU exam "so many years ago I can't remember" and gave me a mark of 98.75%. When Vic asked him about the missing 1.25% Brian told him with a chuckle "no-one's perfect".

Peter Danks first met Brian in about 1974. He attended an RAF scorers' course at which Brian was one of the three tutors. Brian marked his exam and wrote: "two excellent papers - both frighteningly efficient. Yours is the first 'full house' I can recall, congratulations." Last summer Peter scored a match at Bryanstone School and noticed that Brian's umpire coat and other memorabilia were on display in the Cricket Pavilion; they are to remain there at the request of Brian's wife, Hazel.

The certificates presented to successful candidates were designed by Brian; he also hand lettered the scorer's name and posted (and on occasions personally delivered) them to the candidates.

Scorer umpire and scorer colleagues describe Brian as being interested in scorers and scoring, keen to encourage the younger people, always offering a good word and a smile, always charming, incredibly supportive and a dapper umpire and scorer - always smartly turned out.

Friends and colleagues from RAF Adastrians, Dorset CCC, Bryanstone school and many more attended Brian's funeral. Our thoughts are with Hazel and her family and friends.

**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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:cathy.rawson@btopenworld.com)

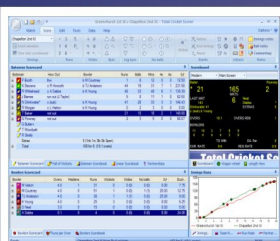
Share your cricket scoring experiences and scoring questions with readers.

Photos are welcomed and add interest to the newsletter.

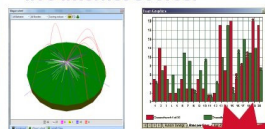
Send your contributions to: [notchers@btopenworld.com](mailto:notchers@btopenworld.com)

**June newsletter copy date:**

**18th May 2016**

**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.totalcricket scorer.com](http://www.totalcricket scorer.com)**

support@totalcricket scorer.com

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AS used at Lord's

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