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# Notchers' News

ISSUE 34

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## The network for cricket scorers

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

### Notchers' News

Editor

Hello readers

As editor my role is to collate articles submitted by you, the many scorers worldwide who receive Notchers' News (NN) directly from me, via their scorer colleagues or from the website. Sadly I've heard very little from NN readers since Issue 33 was circulated so there is little to share with you all in this newsletter.

I enjoy reading and look forward to receiving your scoring anecdotes, tales from the score box, questions on scoring practice and more. Your emails and comments suggest that you do too.

Please help me to make the newsletter a good read for scorers by sharing your experiences and thoughts through the newsletter.

### A couple of questions.

Nathan Bradley

#### 1 Using a Frindall score sheet

I've acquired a Frindall score sheet which, being familiar with linear scoring I can complete. Is there a Notchers' News reader who is able to offer advice with regard to the system (meaning the notation) Bill would have used.

If anyone can help I would love to hear from you

#### 2 Scoring opportunities in Australia or New Zealand

I'm planning to travel to Australia or New Zealand at the end of the UK cricket season/start of the Southern hemisphere cricket season. I would like to find a club that would like a scorer for their forthcoming cricket season and am happy to base myself anywhere as I am keen to gain the experience

Anywhere, any club can get in contact. If they can help me a bit with finding accommodation that would be a bonus but that can be sorted later.

I would just like to hear from any club wanting a dedicated ECB ACO Level 2 scorer.

You can contact me at: [nathancabopino@aol.co.uk](mailto:nathancabopino@aol.co.uk)

### TCS PROBLEMS

Gus Mackay, crichq Managing Director-Europe has written as follows:

"We are still having a few issues as we have a bug in the system and working on it. There are currently upgrades ongoing which are limiting some parts of TCS (live scores is one of them)"

If you have difficulty finding match information at TCS Live scores try changing the number of days of the search (up or down!) - it has helped on occasions.

If you encounter any TCS problems please contact TCS support (& NN if the problem is unresolved)

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>

## Cricket: A game for men in white coats.

Martin Johnson

This article appeared in 'The Cricket Paper' on Tuesday, 10 May 2016 and was subsequently published in the newsletter 'Playing the Game' (PTG 1825-9129).

It is a well-known fact that one of the more difficult tasks a person can be asked to undertake in life is to try explaining cricket to an American, and never is this more true than if the task is being attempted while pointing out the game's subtler nuances on one of the village greens of England. Especially when dealing with that peculiar tradition – in lower club cricket at any rate – of dismissed batsmen returning as umpires.

“So let me get this straight. That batsman guy who was out has now come back again wearing a white coat, and is now called an umpire?” “You’ve got it”, you reply, whereupon our visitor ponders for a while... “So, if some other batsman guy in the same team is out, but the guy who’s been out himself but is now the umpire says that he’s not out, then he’s not out, right?”

And when you confirm that he has summed up the situation more or less perfectly, the American wanders off in search of a darkened room in which to lie down. Seriously, what other sport is there in which a decision can be given, possibly determining the entire result of the game, by a member of one of the two teams? And in what other sport can such a miscarriage of justice – instead of resulting in carnage – be amicably resolved by an apology over a pot of tea and a buttered scone?

There is something uniquely therapeutic about taking the car out for a Sunday afternoon spin, happening across a game of cricket on the village green, and passing a gentle hour or so watching from the boundary edge. Even when the cricket isn't entertaining, the dialogue usually is, and most of us have had a chuckle when a batsman gets bowled middle stump having an agricultural heave, and arrives back in with some implausible excuse. “Bad luck, Bert. What happened?” Bert replies: “Swung both ways and then nipped back at me. Bloody unplayable it was”.

In the world of village cricket, this is followed by him unbuckling one of the team's two sets of pads, handing them to the next man in, and unzipping his fly to remove the protection from his vital bits. Which in this case is a rolled up copy of the 'Exchange and Mart', because there is only one box in the club's kit bag. Along with five gloves, four of which are left-handed, and a couple of bats, one without a rubber on the handle, and the other so old it's got Len Hutton's endorsement on the front.

And with just one ball for each innings, every time it flies over cow corner and into an adjacent meadow, the game can't go on until it's found again. I was at one such match when an impressive cover drive was only prevented from going for four by a superb piece of fielding just in front of the hedge by a spectator's black Labrador. Anyway, off went the dog, pursued by its owner, both sets of players and several spectators, and when the ball was finally retrieved, it had been so thoroughly chewed that quite apart from being perfect for a spot of reverse swing, a really skilled practitioner could have made it loop the loop.

This being village, rather than Test, cricket, the game miraculously managed to stagger on without a fourth umpire running out with a box of spare balls to pick from, nor did everyone leave the field when it started raining. And as for light meters being consulted when all 11 fielders are wearing sunglasses, play didn't stop even when you could see the moths being lit up by the dipped headlights from the cars passing by at the back of the ground.

The old umpire Arthur Jepson must have had his roots in village cricket when, in that famous Gillette Cup semi-final that was still going when the Nine O'Clock News came on, Arthur turned to a player querying whether it was too dark to carry on and said: “You can see the moon. How far do you want to see?”

Village cricket appears oblivious to most of the golden rules applied by its Test match cousin, which means that batsmen who have been at the crease for a long time are totally unaware that this is not possible without being revived at regular intervals by people running on with water bottles and fresh sets of gloves. And they'll never get the hang of complaining about people moving in front of the sightscreen until they actually go out and buy one.

Cricket is played in America; apologies to cricketing colleagues there, though you may well empathise with the above! In April 2016 the ICC confirmed that the 2016 ICC World Cricket League Division Four tournament would take place in Los Angeles, with all matches to be played at the Leo Magnus Cricket Complex. It will be the first time a World Cricket League tournament has been played in the United States. The six qualifying teams are the United States, Bermuda, Denmark, Italy, Jersey and Oman

## Working together as a team

Tony Izzard

In his former role as Hampshire County Performance Officer Tony wrote '10 Top tips' for his umpire colleagues. The following are well worth sharing with scorer colleagues.

### The third team (The 'A' Team)

It is always worth remembering that along with the scorers you are part of the third team and as such the scorers must always be included in the arrangements for the match. Regardless of any personal feelings you may have, either misplaced or valid, to earn respect **you must work together and support each other** – this support can be subtle and go unnoticed by all except those close to umpiring and scoring.

Umpires and Scorers seen working together is an extremely positive sign.

### Signals

The initial call and signal of 'No Ball', 'Wide Ball' and 'Dead Ball' is only for the benefit of the on-field participants – the signal on its own should be repeated to the scorers once the ball becomes dead.

The pre-signal has been omitted from the latest edition of Tom Smith's but is still used, strongly recommended and considered best practice. It is a low-key signal, not acknowledged by the scorers, that the umpire gives while the ball is in play to indicate to them that an official signal (Byes or Leg byes – no others) is going to be given when the ball is dead

### Ground, weather and light (GWL)

Always maintain a 'watching brief' to monitor match conditions regarding GWL issues even when it seems 'set fair'.

Unfortunately, more than once cricketers have been struck by lightning and under your duty of care you must always take action to safeguard against any possibility of such a tragedy occurring. The meteorology 30/30 ruling is that if thunder follows a lightning flash within 30 seconds or less all personnel are at risk of being struck by lightning and play must cease immediately. Play must not re-commence until 30 minutes after the last lightning flash.

When evaluating the conditions of GWL the state of the game is irrelevant in arriving at a decision.

### 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.

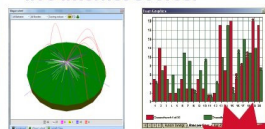
Send your contributions to: [notchers@btopenworld.com](mailto:notchers@btopenworld.com)

**September newsletter copy date: 18th August 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](mailto: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*