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# Notchers' News

ISSUE 37

MARCH 2017

## The network for cricket scorers

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

### Is this the future for scoring?

Mick Warren

Another season almost over and time to share my thoughts with fellow Notchers. You may recall from a previous edition of Notchers News that I score and organise umpires and scorers for Oxfordshire Schools up to end of June; I then do emergency cover for any club as required. I'm putting pen to paper now to express my frustration with the way County Youth scoring is going.

I was fortunate to receive a request to cover a County Board U17 two-day fixture in 2016, my first. I looked up ECB regulations etc, received the home team-sheet in advance and got as much preparation as I could done before the match. As the home scorer I arrived at the ground in plenty of time to set up the match on TCS and familiarise myself with the score box and facilities. Great so far, but that is the point when things started to go downhill.

I was informed that, due to lack of funding, the opposition had not brought a scorer but the coach had downloaded a game app he had found on the internet and would be scoring on his telephone. Okay I thought, at least I would have a colleague to give me opposition names, batsmen, bowlers etc. No such luck! I had to chase the opposition coaches for the team-sheet and by now time was getting short. As for help in the score box, our friend with the iPhone disappeared and wandered around the ground for the rest of the game, leaving me to score and operate the score box on my own with no information on opposition players. He did visit the score box at regular intervals but only because he required assistance to correct his record of the game. Thankfully the umpires were willing to use the radios and, thanks to their help, I got by. Sadly the anticipated great experience of scoring my first 2-day match turned into something of a nightmare.

In January 2017 I was informed that Oxfordshire are not appointing an U17 scorer. The team coach is to score the match on an iPad using that play station app. I've since learnt that the Oxfordshire Cricket Board 2nd XI will do likewise – one of the coaches will multi-task!

Is this the way County Youth match scoring is going? Are Notchers' colleagues experiencing this? If there is little demand for scorers at the higher level matches I wonder if there is any point in advancing through the levels to become a qualified scorer.

Having said that, Schools cricket do appreciate the advantages of having a good scorer and Premier Leagues expect all teams to provide a competent scorer able to use TCS (and frequently to understand DLS procedures).

I agree and acknowledge there is great satisfaction in book scoring. A balanced score sheet correct with no mistakes at the end of a game gave me great satisfaction but we have to move with the times and I find TCS almost as satisfying. What I object to is the lack of respect shown by cricket administrators who appear to believe that people with no experience of cricket-scoring can score matches on a PlayStation app on a telephone simply because it is a cost-saving exercise.

Law 4: Two scorers shall be appointed to ..... obey, acknowledge, record and check  
Two coach/scorers, one sitting with the batting team and one walking the boundary; an umpires nightmare!  
Will both coaches see every signal, let alone obey, acknowledge, record and check? Who will update the scoreboard? Will the scores agree? If not, how is the result to be determined?

Ed.

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 2016: Results

## The Third Umpire

There was a welcome increase in entries this year with a total of sixty-two for the Challenge; of these fifteen were all correct. Twelve of those entries came from readers of Notchers' News and exactly fifty from ACO members.

### Solution

	Notchers	Scratchers
1	129	140
2	4	47
3	3	97
4	5	5
5	102	45
6	12	0
7	85	7
8	6	5
9	10	3
10	1	3
11	1	0
Extras	15	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>373</b>	<b>355</b>

**Result:** Notchers won by 18 runs

The large majority of the questions presented our entrants with very few problems, but there were two in the Notchers XI which need further comment.

Notchers 2 asked how many separate signals would you expect the umpire to make after the striker ducks (to avoid being hit by a No ball), the ball hits his helmet and runs to the boundary. The expected answer is four – signal No ball, repeat the signal when the ball is dead, signal Bye to show striker did not hit the ball, signal Boundary four.

There were thirty-nine entrants who did not give the expected answer, the majority of them giving three, but the question asked how many “separate” (not different) signals would you expect.

Another competitor, with whom I had an interesting dialogue, felt that a pre-signal should be expected so that the scorers would know that a Bye signal was to follow. I did not include this since a pre-signal is not an official signal, and I would not expect it to be given after the call and signal of No ball.

It is an interesting point, perhaps worthy of a ruling from above!

There were twenty-three errors for Notchers' Extras when competitors were asked to say who should face the next ball after the non-striker was run out at the striker's end after the batsmen had run for what would have been illegal leg-byes.

The law tells us that the batsmen should be returned to their original ends after they have both made good their ground. Since the non-striker failed to make good his ground, there is no need for the striker to be sent back and the incoming batsman would face the next ball.

In Notchers' 6, three people claimed that a bat is made of two pieces of wood (blade and handle) – so it is, but I felt that that would have been an unfair answer. Since they all explained why they had given 14 as their answer rather than the expected 12, I did not penalise them. Similarly there were a couple of entrants who included a spare bail for each umpire: while I agree that it is good practice for umpires to carry spares, they are not “required” as the question asks.

It becomes more difficult every year to try to think of original questions which require a numerical answer, and I do my utmost to avoid ambiguity – and I have all the questions and answers checked by an experienced umpire and a leading scorer. I hope no-one feels too disgruntled if their solution does not match the official one.

The successful entries were sent in by Vic Allen, Angus Birkin, Jonathan Cousins, Malcolm Doody, Keith Healey, Frank Hodgkiss, Martyn Holloway-Neville, Cliff Loverock, Vijaya Mallela, Andrew Mason, Howard Moon, Nik Szkutko, Steven Smith, George Temperley and Mike Turner.

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 **Angus Birkin** and he has already received his £20 prize

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

Third Umpire. John M Brown

I hope that many more NN readers took up the challenge than submitted their entries. Hopefully many have the satisfaction of knowing that their answers were correct. Perhaps it will give you the confidence to submit your answers in December 2017. Thankyou John for another excellent Christmas Challenge.

Ed

## How scoring made me political

Elizabeth Ammon

I received this article some time ago and have agonised long and hard before including it in Notchers' News. Having sought advice and reassurance from colleagues I am sharing it with readers in the belief that it will be of interest. Yes, it is political, but it is a reminder that there is so much more to our wonderful game than just runs and wickets. Ed.

Published in 'Cricket Monthly', May 2016 and in 'Playing the Game' 1839-9208

A friend recently asked me what it was that had made me left-wing. "Cricket", I replied. "Cricket made you a socialist?" said my friend. "Those aren't words you'll hear too often".

I suspect they aren't. But it was certainly cricket that awakened my political side and made me realise how important the game at the lower levels was to a sense of community.

I am not from a political family. I don't think I ever knew who my parents voted for, and politics was certainly not a topic for discussion in my very Middle England family. My dad and brother played for one of the lower teams at Sheffield Collegiate Cricket Club - a long-established club that has become well-known for having bred Michael Vaughan, Joe Root and Richard Kettleborough. And I, a 15-year-old girl, discovered that you could earn yourself a crisp ten-pound note if you were willing to spend your Saturday afternoon doing the scoring.

One week at our home ground at Abbeydale Park and every other week away to whichever South Yorkshire town or village we were assigned to play. Sometimes this took us to pretty villages in the Peak District. Mostly it took us to small towns and villages around Sheffield, Rotherham and Barnsley. Places that invariably had a pithead. Towns with a long and proud history of deep-shaft mining. Towns where every man was employed in the pit, as his father and grandfather had been before him. But it was ending. There was to be a concerted assault on the mining industry that led to the long and bloody miners' strike of 1984-85, following Margaret Thatcher's decision to adopt a policy of reduced subsidies, pay restraints and pit closures. Decisions made in Westminster ripped the heart out of the towns I was visiting with my pencil case. Arguments about the mining industry are not for these pages, but one thing isn't in doubt: the programme of pit closures devastated entire communities across South Yorkshire and other parts of the UK.

As a teenager I wasn't equipped to understand the intricacies of the economic arguments - all I knew was that I would sit there with my scorebook in places like Grimethorpe, Maltby, Dinnington, Royton and Treeton, where the pit had either closed or was threatened with closure and there was a palpable sense of anxiety.

As a scorer in lower-league recreational cricket, you invariably sat at a table outside the changing rooms, alongside the players waiting their turn to bat. One couldn't help but hear or get involved in the conversations. Yorkshiremen aren't known for showing their emotion but listening to the batsmen of varying ages, shapes and ability discussing the present and the future, there was genuine worry, real anguish. I heard gruff voices break as they talked to their brothers, uncles, cousins and mates about what they were going to do for work or how they were going to pay the mortgage or the rent.

One incident has never left me. I saw a portly offspinner break down in tears when asked for his match subscription. He didn't have it. He couldn't scrape together the five pounds he was being asked for. It made me angry. It made me sad. It made me feel helpless. And it turned me left-wing. Aside from their own future there was the future of the cricket club to worry about. The National Coal Board subsidised the clubs - they maintained the pitches, looked after the upkeep of the clubhouse or the miners' welfare club where we would have our tea and drink after the match. Without that how could they continue?

Those visits also showed me just how much cricket was at the heart of the community. It wasn't just for the white middle-class. Cricket provided an escape from the worry the communities were facing. It provided friendship, support, bonding and laughter. It showed me the importance of the wives and girlfriends too. Those weren't enlightened times; I never saw a woman actually playing cricket, but I did see them to be the ones who held the club together by making the teas, running the bar, organising fundraising, selling raffle tickets.

I travelled to these places only for a few years. Soon I went off to university and then moved down to London after graduating. But those few years, listening to the cricketers and seeing the profound effect of the decisions of the Conservative government of the time on them had a lasting effect on me.

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## How scoring made me political

Continued from page 3

Some of those cricket clubs folded. Thankfully many have survived. They retain the name of the colliery or the miners' welfare, but with the pit long gone, the clubs have to do endless fundraising to survive. My own relationship with cricket has changed. I made an unexpected move from scorer to journalist and broadcaster.

Those years serve as a reminder to me that cricket is so much more than press conferences, decisions made by the International Cricket Council in Dubai, and whether England will pick two spinners.

It's about community, companionship and hope.

It's cricket that made me political and gave me an awareness of those with lives different to my own, and those years as a scorer that poked me to speak up against injustices. And for that I shall always be grateful.

I suspect that many of us started to score simply because friends or family members were already involved in cricket. Whatever your reasons, has your involvement in cricket made a difference to your life?

I often say that I have two families, my own and my cricket family. The people I've met and continue to meet within the cricket fraternity and the experiences we've shared have certainly made a difference to who I am and what I value.

Ed.

### CRICKETING CURIO?

While doing a crossword Peter Danks came across the following clue:

'Nickname of John Peerybingle's wife in a novella sub divided into chapters called "chirps" by Charles Dickens.'

The answer was **DOT** and the book was **Cricket on the Hearth**.

Peter put the question: Is this the first mention of the dreaded Dot ball in cricketing literature?

### BLIND CRICKET ENGLAND AND WALES (BCEW)

BCEW urgently needs more scorers, particularly for their matches in Northamptonshire, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire.

If you feel you could help please contact Paul Topliss: email [bcewscorer@gmail.com](mailto:bcewscorer@gmail.com) ☎ 02072 320939

Visit <http://www.notchers.co.uk> and open 'BCEWfixtures' to see the dates when scorers are still needed.

### ADVERTISE SCORER TRAINING COURSES IN YOUR AREA

Notchers' News (<http://www.notchers.co.uk>) hosts a list of known courses which is updated as information is 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:**

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### 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

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Contact [milsteadmsr@btinternet.com](mailto:milsteadmsr@btinternet.com) for more information

email [milsteadmsr@btinternet.com](mailto:milsteadmsr@btinternet.com) for more information

### SCORER TRAINING

**ECB ACO offers 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@btpopenworld.com](mailto:cathy.rawson@btpopenworld.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@btpopenworld.com](mailto:notchers@btpopenworld.com)

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