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Notchers' News

ISSUE 39

SEPTEMBER 2017

The network for cricket scorers

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

The Laws of Cricket (2017 Code)

The new 2017 MCC Code of Laws comes into effect on 1st October 2017

ECB ACO members should have received a copy with Issue 29, Summer 2017 of the ECB ACO quarterly magazine. Copies can be purchased from the MCC shop or Acumen Books (both offer on line ordering)

Changes in the Laws **will** make a difference for scorers and the entries made in the scoring record.

LAW 18 - Scoring runs

Lost ball has been deleted from the Laws and all references to runs scored from a Lost ball have also been deleted. When the umpires consider a ball to be lost they will call and signal Dead ball. The number of runs scored are those runs completed plus the run in progress if the batsmen had crossed at the time when Dead ball is called, as outlined in Law 18.9.

For deliberate short runs (Law 18.5), the first and final warning when deliberate short runs have occurred has been removed. This is considered as cheating and now carries an immediate penalty without a warning.

A new section (18.10 Crediting of runs scored) clarifies how runs are scored. Scoring of extras (Byes and Leg byes) from a No ball delivery has changed and is explained at Law 21 below.

Laws 18.11 and 18.12 describe clearly the ends the batsmen should go to in specific circumstances.

LAW 19 – Boundaries

This Law defines what constitutes a boundary, what is meant by a fielder being beyond a boundary and how boundaries are scored. The content is primarily to clearly instruct the umpires in the application of Law 19.

There is a new paragraph (19.2.7) dealing with animals or spectators entering the field of play, which places the onus on the umpires to decide whether or not a boundary would have been scored.

Scorers should continue to record Boundaries in accordance with the signals given by the umpires.

LAW 20 – Dead ball (previously Law 23)

Law 20.1 has been adjusted to take account of the removal of Lost ball; instead, either umpire will call and signal Dead ball when satisfied that the ball in play cannot be recovered.

The ball will no longer become dead if it becomes trapped in the helmet worn by a fielder.

LAW 21 – No ball (previously Law 24)

Law 21.16. *The changes to this Law make a big difference to the entries made in the scoring record.* Byes and Leg byes off a No ball delivery will be credited as such, rather than as No ball extras.

As an example, if a No ball goes for 4 Leg byes, it will be recorded as one No ball extra and 4 Leg byes, as the appropriate signals from the umpire.

Scorers using a box type scoring record and recording all deliveries in all areas of the scoring record will have to make an extra entry (one in each of the bowling, cumulative score, No ball extras, Bye or Leg bye extras, bowling and number of No ball deliveries = 6 entries!)

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>

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Remembering a Wonderful Day

Mick Warren

The first thing I remember is attending an Oxfordshire ACO meeting on Wednesday 1st March where Andrew Scarlett informed me that, if I was available, I had the opportunity to score at a one day international. My initial reaction was that it was a leg pull until this appointment was announced during the meeting!

Of course I accepted the offer and set about finding out all of the details. The match in question was the One Day International between England and Ireland at Lords on Sunday 7th May. As I was able to use my preferred method of scoring on the day, I opted for TCS backed up by basic linear sheet.

It's fair to say that I can't remember too much about the days and weeks building up to the big day. There were some formalities that were required beforehand; a passport photo for match day access ID, reading and signing of a confidentiality agreement. In addition, I was very nervous about a number of things; would I be able to identify the players, would TCS let me down, how would I get there? All unnecessary thoughts of course, but Andrew Scarlett was able to calm me down and put me at ease. His advice was to treat the match itself as "just another game" and try to forget the fact that it was an International event. The advice sounds simple, but it really did work!

Come the day of the match, my travel arrangements worked perfectly. I arrived at the ground in good time, collecting my ID pass and undergoing security checks before being allowed anywhere near the score box. The nerves surfaced again in the lift which takes you to the box, but Andrew Scarlett was there to meet and help settle me in.



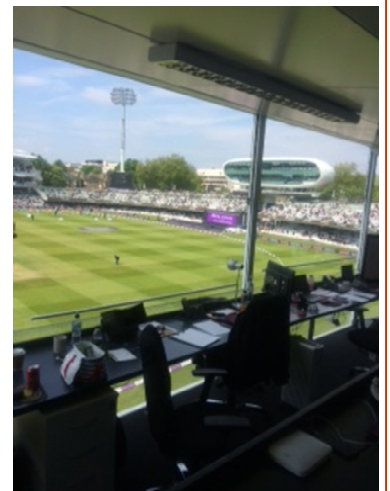
My first impression was WOW! What a view, the wide, glass frontage gives a panoramic and uninterrupted view of the ground.

I was introduced to the two Susans who operate the score board and identify the players (I'm sure they do other things but I did not have time to investigate!) and then set about getting settled in to my spot.

Laptop – check, Linear score sheet – check, Notebook – check, Pencils – check. So much space and a comfortable chair!

David Kendix, the England scorer, arrived and introduced himself whilst one of the Susans distributed the confirmed team sheets. This included all the player squad numbers, so hopefully the identification problem I'd worried about for days on end wouldn't arise. I'm ready, bring it on!

Well here we go. The information arriving in the box is non-stop. Ireland won the toss and will bowl first. There are team sheet corrections as some of the squad numbers on the original sheets were incorrect. Roy and Hales will open the batting for England, Murtagh will open the bowling for Ireland. I'm ready, or so I thought, then the dreaded error message on TCS **"Program not responding must close"**. There's nothing I can do other than close TCS and Mr Kendix is not amused! Thankfully all the practice and training kicked in automatically. I didn't panic and continued to record deliveries on my linear side sheet and wait for TCS to re-open. This seemed like a lifetime, but in reality it was only four balls; all I had to do was input three dots and a four and then carry on as if nothing untoward had taken place. I can wholeheartedly recommend the linear side sheet to all scorers.



All further aspects of the game proceeded as I'd hoped, with information on bowling changes, catchers and new batsman coming through without delay. I was able to liaise with the Susans at the end of each over and my pre-match worry about identification was unfounded.



Mr Kendix was very efficient and although he scored with just a linear sheet and no laptop, everything agreed as we went through the final figures at the end of the match.

It's fair to say that there was only one disappointment with the day. As the weather was not ideal, we were unable to open the big windows - I would have loved to savour the atmosphere of the crowd as well.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to Andrew Scarlett and his team for the excellent organisation of the day and to say a huge thank you for what was a fantastic opportunity - a day that I will always remember.

Scoring For BCEW; Blind Cricket England & Wales

Paul Toplis

Scoring cricket matches for the blind and visually impaired is usually a very rewarding experience. The players really appreciate the effort made on their behalf and there are amazing characters to meet. Some have represented England in matches at venues all over the world. Others have their own amazing stories, such as the lady who took up the game at 78 years of age!

There is a range of skill and ability which is recognised within the league structure. In 2018 the structure may be changed to include a two-tier national league as well as the current County and Regional games.

A development festival weekend funded by the Brian Johnston Memorial Trust takes place every September.

Organising these matches is quite demanding; the Primary Club give excellent support and donate a travel and equipment grant to every club every year but the players need extra support at the grounds. They also need to have enough umpires and scorers to officiate at all their matches.

Many of the BCEW clubs have a willing volunteer who will score most of their games but few can boast a reserve scorer should their regular scorer be unavailable. Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Somerset and Hampshire are all currently without a regular scorer and often have to rely on a the goodwill of a scorer, possibly from the other end of the country, to score their matches. We anticipate that next summer the number of games may be over 100 (having reached ninety-nine this year) offering scorers the opportunity to become involved in this unique form of the game of cricket.

A number of scorers have come forward to support BCEW over 2017 but it would be excellent if, going into 2018, more scorers are available to avoid the need for scorers to make trips from afar to provide support for games.

Anyone who has scored normal red ball cricket will be able to adjust to the variations in the game but there are some interesting little technical issues to be aware of:

- The game is played with a size three football with a bell inside so that the players can hear where the ball is.
- All teams must include a minimum of three totally blind players in each side.
- Those who are totally blind score double runs, making use of some scoring apps tricky as singles result in the batsmen being at the wrong end. (TCS can be used successfully but remember to 'switch batsmen' after a one run = 2 runs is scored and to use the drop down menu for a Boundary or all run 4 = 8 runs).
On one occasion 18 runs were scored off one delivery. A fielder with very poor vision, made a great effort to stop the ball on the boundary but was then unable to locate it as it had stopped and gone silent. Help came from a partially sighted team member but the running continued and a fifth was in progress when a hard shy at the stumps went for four overthrows! This rule also means watching for leg-byes is critical as these are never doubled.
- The "total" batsmen get two lives on LBW only so their first "dismissal" is a dot ball with the second being a wicket for which the second bowler gets full credit.
- The umpires may need a little more help to check the limits on bowling as the "totals" have to bowl a minimum of three in every ten.
- The umpires have to watch carefully for catches as a "total" can complete a catch after one bounce as well as on the full.
- In the regional leagues batsmen have to retire at 50 so there is a need to track individual scores with particular care,
- In the regional leagues overs are mostly limited to nine balls in total even though this may be of only two or three legal deliveries.
- If you have a score book with sufficient space to record wides you will be very lucky at most games. The average number of Wide deliveries is about one an over, so there is rarely enough space. There is usually just about space for the No balls deliveries that happen, on average, about once every other over.

Only one scorer is appointed to most matches. Scorers wanting to find out a little more/gain experience before taking on a match on their own are always very welcome; come and sit alongside the appointed scorer ; they will welcome your company and support. By all means bring a friend. There is always something that they can help with (from retrieving the ball to helping players select their tea from the usually excellent choice of food which they may not be able to see).

At the time of writing in August BCEW players have generated over 18,500 batsman's runs with 17 hundreds and 119 fifties; over 700 bowler's wickets and nearly 170 run outs from the 83 matches completed.

SCORERS WANTED FOR BCEW CRICKET

Live outside the UK? Your challenge is to find out more about visually impaired cricket in your country.

The Laws of Cricket (2017 Code)

LAW 23 – Bye and Leg bye (previously Law 26)

As described under the heading 'LAW 21 – No ball', Byes or Leg byes which occur off a No ball delivery are to be scored as Byes or Leg byes.

LAW 33 - Caught (previously Law 32)

With the wearing of helmets by wicketkeepers and close fielders now compulsory at many levels of the game, it has been decided that a helmet will be deemed as being part of the fielder's person, meaning that a catch can be taken after the ball has struck the helmet, or become lodged in it. *(Umpire's jurisdiction but scorers should be aware)*

LAW 34 - Hit the ball twice

Law 34.3 allows the striker to hit the ball for a second or subsequent time in defence of his/her wicket. The wording now makes it clear that no runs are to be scored after a lawful second strike. However the penalty for a No ball and any Penalty runs incurred not in relation to this situation, except for the ball hitting the helmet on the ground, will be awarded in line with other similar changes throughout the Laws. Accept the signals and instructions given by the umpires.

LAW 37 - Obstructing the field

Handled the ball has been merged into Obstructing the field. This will have no effect on whether a batsman is dismissed but the method of dismissal will be 'Obstructing the field'. If you have any doubts regarding any method of dismissal check with the umpire at a convenient opportunity (eg. drinks break, interval).

LAW 38 - Run out

A batsman can now be Run out if the ball rebounds directly from a fielder's helmet onto the stumps.

LAW 39 – Stumped

The restriction on a stumping not being allowed if the ball rebounds from the helmet has been lifted. *(Umpire's jurisdiction but scorers should be aware)*

LAW 42 - Players' conduct (New Law)

This is a new Law that deals specifically with players' misconduct. Four different levels of offences have been created. The umpires shall determine into which of the Levels an unfair action falls and will apply the appropriate sanction.

The four levels of sanction are set as:

- Level 1: Warning then 5 penalty runs to the opposition for a repeat offence.
- Level 2: 5 Penalty runs to the opposition.
- Level 3: Offending player is suspended for a number of overs, depending on the length of the match, plus 5 Penalty runs to the opposition.
- Level 4: Offending player is removed from the field for the rest of the match, plus 5 Penalty runs to the opposition.

For all offences the umpire will call Time and summon the relevant captain, who will be informed of the breach of Law and the associated penalty.

New signals have been created, which are covered in Law 2.13. The signals are made to the scorers, not the players.

Level 3 offences: The signal starts with the umpire putting an arm out to the side of the body and repeatedly raising it and lowering it, followed by raising both hands, all fingers spread, to shoulder height, palms facing towards the scorers.

Level 4 offences: The signal starts with the umpire putting an arm out to the side of the body and repeatedly raising it and lowering it, followed by raising an index finger, held at shoulder height, to the side of the body.

This system is designed to give the umpires on-field penalties to tackle poor behaviour. However, as with other penalties under the Laws, these new sanctions are intended as deterrents, the presence of which should reduce the frequency of poor behaviour, so that they would only rarely be applied.

This brief overview of those changes in the MCC Laws of Cricket 2017 Code which will impact on scorers and scoring is taken from information on the MCC Website.

The relevant documents can be found at:

<https://www.lords.org/mcc/laws-of-cricket/new-code-of-laws-october-2017/> (SUMMARY)

<https://www.lords.org/assets/Uploads/MCC-Laws-of-Cricket-2017-Code-Final-8-May.pdf> (DRAFT)

Scorers are encouraged to access these documents, familiarise themselves with the content and ensure that they have a copy of the MCC Laws of Cricket 2017 Code when scoring matches.

Your comments on articles in the June newsletter (NN 38)

Scoring and scorers sitting together

Name withheld at request of contributor

I am so in agreement with the comments regarding scorers sitting together! I've suffered scorers sitting apart several times - once in particular when the parent-scorer sat with the spectators and I ended up bellowing from the score box to find out names of batsmen and agree the score!!! Given the difficulties in identifying visiting batsmen (particularly younger people) when they wear helmets and similar cricket gear I consider the company of the scorer from the visiting side to be extremely helpful. I find more and more that I am a lone scorer which, in itself, one can cope with providing all information is forthcoming but sadly quite often it is not. I do ask umpires to flag up when a change of bowling takes place; some do and some don't. This helps. I also ask visiting teams who do not bring a scorer to ensure that a team member scores their innings with me, again to help identify the batsmen.

I love my score book and the feeling of reconciling everything at the end of the game. However it has to be recognised that computer scoring is the way forward and succession planning is essential. I promoted the use of computer scoring at my local club a couple of seasons ago and we now use TCS for all home matches - our score box being geared up to use this facility without too much hassle. We do still have to print off the sheets and download manually however. It is a paradox though - if I am using the computer and have accurate information the batsmen are identified for you! I do wholeheartedly agree that computer scoring is very impersonal and it is quite boring! My lads seem to like this system as all of their statistics are to hand immediately; this seems to be the way of things now - the need for instant gratification!

At present I have a good mix of using both book and computer so that I can appease both ways of scoring.

I share the worries of other colleagues about the ridiculous situation that we have between the ECB and CriqHQ.

Scoring and Apps

Philip Stallard

I haven't got a phone which uses Apps, and I have no intention of getting one just for scoring! Therefore, I've decided (on advice from others) not to use TCS V9, and am trying to soldier on with V8.

I haven't thrown away my coloured pens yet ... in fact, I think that I need to get a new set ... so I'm still sticking in there!

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



THE MILLENNIUM SCORING RECORD

An A3 binder with capacity to score 100 innings, each of up to 65 overs Binder and 50 double sided loose leaf sheets (100 innings) £20 + P&P
Refill pack of 50 double sided loose leaf sheets £10 + P&P
email milsteadmsr@btinternet.com for more information

LINEAR SCORE BOOK

Designed to take all games played in one club cricket season.
Each sheet will take 70-80 overs per side with all appropriate statistics.
Price £18.00 + p&p.
Contact Polly Rhodes at pollyrhodes@aol.com for more information

SCORER TRAINING

For information visit the ECB ACO website (See above)
Scorer training courses known to Notchers News are advertised on the Notchers website
A scorer correspondence course continues to be available.
For more information email 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

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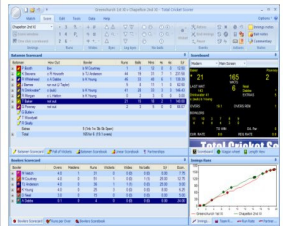
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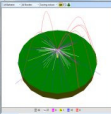
Books, scoring equipment and coloured pens

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As used at Lord's

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