

IN THIS ISSUE:

- The Christmas Challenge report: (page 2)
- 'The score is disputed' Readers responses: (pages 1 & 3)
- 'My Scorer's Dream' A response: (page 4)
- Adverts & useful addresses: (page 4)

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.

'The score is disputed; an on-line forum discussion'

This article in NN44 prompted several readers to share similar experiences or thought on the subject. A representative selection is shared here and on page three. Editor.

Marion Cottingham reported one of her experiences in the 2018 season.

The 45/45 over match was between two county teams (Seniors).

We scorers were sitting on the boundary (no score box facility) and therefore were using book and pens.

The scorers knew their players and were liaising/agreeing the score with each other at the end of each over, fall of a wicket and at any other time as appropriate.

In the second innings we noted the 'home' umpire was continually talking to his umpire colleague and looking at the scoreboard at the end of each over. This continued for 10 overs. At the end of the 17th over the 'home' umpire came across (with the other umpire following) and said we had the score incorrect by 1 run and this mistake, our mistake, had happened in the 7th over!! We were told the batsmen were at the wrong ends and that there was one run too many on the score.

We were amazed and perplexed at this because, as far as we were concerned, all events on the field of play had been accurately recorded. The umpires remained insistent and, in order to prevent an escalation of the discussion I suggested (against my better judgement) that to resolve the issue we would amend the batsman's score when he next ran a single i.e. mark as a dot ball instead of a run. It meant that we had to "fiddle" the stats; fortunately the same batsman was at the wicket. Neither scorer was happy with this but we felt under pressure to comply.

My comment to my fellow scorer after this was '*how on earth will we reconcile balls faced to the relevant batsmen?*'

Rosalie Reeder, Scorer, Kent ACO, wrote:

With reference to the 'The score is disputed.'

When the exact same thing happened to myself and a colleague in the Kent League, the Senior Kent League Panel Umpire said in quite an officious manner:

'No, you are not here to score, you are here to 'record' the score, we are here to score!'

I wonder how many other umpires are aware of that?

Retired from Panel umpiring but still active as a Level 3 Scorer a reader wrote:

As an umpire I did my best to record the score using a 'clicker' device and recorded the score at the end of each over on my overs card. Like many of my colleagues I would occasionally miscount the balls in over in an action-packed over and accepted that it was possible that I miscounted the score in that over too.

At drinks and other intervals I would go to the scorers and ask them 'do you agree the score?' and 'what do you have as the score?'. If both agreed I was happy to accept this as the correct score, even if my total was one or two runs adrift from that that in both scorebooks.

Why? I was focussed on umpiring to the best of my ability and I accepted that we all make mistakes.

Scorers keep a comprehensive, ball-by-ball, record of events on the field of play without being distracted by appeals etc. Why should I doubt them?

The newsletter can only be successful if copy is received for publication. Please submit articles, letters and questions to notchersnews@gmail.com

Search for the 'Notchers' group on Facebook

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

The Christmas Challenge 2018: Results

The Third Umpire

There were forty-seven entries for the Challenge this year, including several from over the seas, Canada, Ireland, Luxembourg, USA and the Isle of Wight: Not all entrants showed whether they were readers of Notchers News or the ACO newsletter as requested, but, as usual, the majority were ACO members. There were ten all-correct solutions.

Solution

	Notchers	Scratchers
1	15	5
2	64	27
3	150	29
4	0	113
5	10	5
6	62	10
7	1	2
8	6	2
9	0	15
10	15	0
11	1	6
Extras	7	5
Total	331	219

Result: Notchers won by 112 runs

As usual the large majority of the questions presented our entrants with very few problems, but there were a few which need further comment.

Scratchers 2 dealt with the time the lunch interval should be taken if a wicket falls within three minutes of the scheduled time. With the recent change of law, the expected answer was that the interval would be taken immediately, so the answer should be 27. There were twenty-one people who made an error with this one, seventeen of them giving 30 as their answer. I hope they will all agree that, if the clock was showing 1.27 when the wicket fell, they would expect the bowler's end umpire to call "Time" and take the players from the field.

There were fourteen errors for Scratchers 11 when several entrants failed to add the one run for a No ball.

There were only three other questions where there were more than five errors, two of them linked.

In Notchers 7 and 8 (nine errors each), the ball would become dead as soon as the ball hit the cap lying on the ground, so the second run would not count.

In Notchers 6 (eleven errors), the fielder who had been sent off the field would be off for the remaining two balls of that over and then a further ten overs, giving the solution 62 legitimate balls rather than 60.

The successful entries were sent in by John Betts, Russell Brown, Jonathan Cousins, Malcolm Doody, Daron Gregory, Martyn Holloway-Neville, Cliff Loverock, Vijaya Mallela, John Smith and Mike Turner. The NN winner was **John Betts**.

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 **John Betts** and he has already received his £20 prize

As always I give my thanks to all those who sent in an entry, especially those who included friendly and appreciative comments. The entrant from Canada even sent best wishes for Brexit!!

Third Umpire, John M Brown

My thanks go to John for the time and effort put into devising, marking and reporting on the Christmas Challenge.

Thanks also to those who took up the challenge and demonstrated their knowledge of the Laws of Cricket and scoring practice.

Editor

SCORER'S APPEAL FOR PEACE

From "How's That?"
Issue 310, Autumn 2007

Rain or shine I do my best
Every run (and wide) recorded.
Staunch supporter of your quest,
Pains to concentrate afforded.

End of game – men surge in panic –
Calculating becomes manic.
Team swarms round to close the hut –
Can't think straight – can't tot it up!
You've had you fun – you've had your
action,
This moment's my small satisfaction.

Bowlers, wides, time, balls they
faced.....
All the boys are now imbibing.....
Leg byes, averages, (up the pace).....
Look's like I'm still out here scribing.
Stats at last passed round the Bar,
("One run in 30 balls – that's tragic!")
You've grown to like how full they are,
-
How'd they get there? Well, that's
magic!

My thanks to Sheila Harding for submitting this poem

More on 'The score is disputed; an on-line forum discussion'

Cliff Hall, an umpire in Cheshire, admits to some cricket-scoring knowledge rather than experience, following a correspondence course under the tutelage of Peter Danks. He offers this objective view of the events described in the on-line forum discussion.

Concerning the discussion in Notchers' News, (issue 44 December 2018), headed 'the score is disputed'. The discussion relates to occasions where the umpires disagree with the scoreboard and the scorebook itself.

As an umpire of recreational cricket, often involving second and third XIs, this disparity in scorers' and umpires' reckoning is a common occurrence. It is often that there is no scorer accompanying a team and the single-book scoring task is shared among several players from the batting team. With these circumstances in mind, here are a few reflections on the reported discussion on scorer/umpire disagreement on the score arising in the course of a match.

Starting with the Laws, Law 2.11 on disagreement and disputes, places the final decision jointly with the two umpires. In the specific case discussed, this seems to be the actual outcome and the umpires' record of runs, wickets and overs prevailed. Umpires maintain a record and it is good practice for umpires frequently to agree their tally of runs, wickets and overs. Typically, this will be at the fall of a wicket as well as other breaks in play.

Law 3.1 requires the appointment of two scorers and 3.2 requires that the scorers agree with each other on the correctness of the scores - based on what they witness in play and the umpires' signals which they acknowledge. Law 2.15 brings together the umpires and scorers and requires the umpires to be *not only satisfied on the score but also for them to agree this with the scorers*.

Underpinning these Laws is the guidance, which features in umpire training, on the importance of teamwork between umpires, captains and scorers in facilitating and managing the game.

It appears from the reported discussion that the umpires prevailed: it is in Law that it is the umpires who must be satisfied.

As to the comment in the article 'scorers score and umpires umpire' then this is not a tenable view: this describes only a division of labour, (who does what), and not the responsibility under the Laws. Umpire responsibilities includes the scorekeeping task. Again, the comment 'scorers having control over the score' is similarly untenable.

As to the specific dispute, then umpire training also points to unwritten Law 43 – 'the common sense' law. It seems that there is very good evidence to indicate that the scorers' record, with all of its cross-checking features, was more accurate than the umpires' notebooks. Law 43/common sense could have been invoked whereby the umpires thanked the scorers for their part in the teamwork effort, decided to accept the balance of evidence and made a note in their notebooks that the umpires have agreed with the scorers to amend the umpires' record of runs.

Although I have had many occasions to 'chivvy' the scorers, there have been occasions when the scorers have helped me out during our obligatory checks. Teamwork is in evidence there, but, Law 2.11 does put the final decision with the umpires.

A disputed score and the consequences

This match took place over 10 years ago but is still very much remembered by the home team scorer, a well respected ACU&S Qualified Umpire and Scorer, who kindly voiced his experience of a disputed score incident.

The Minor Counties level touring team had brought a Panel umpire and qualified scorer; the home team had both a Panel appointed umpire and qualified scorer. Both scorers knew and were able to recognise their team members.

Both scorers were using the Frindall scoring system; they were checking and agreeing information at the end of over, fall of wicket and other opportunities and also enjoying the cricket until a very similar situation to that described in the on-line forum discussion arose.

The scorers were aware that the umpires were coming together regularly and looking at the scoreboard.

At the drinks break the umpires came to the scorebox and asked if the score was correct. Both scorers agreed the score as displayed. The touring team umpire said that he disagreed with the scorers and that the scorers must have made a mistake in an earlier over.

The scorers read out the events in that and subsequent overs, pointing out that the batsmen had been at the correct ends throughout and that it was difficult to make a mistake when using the Frindall system. They asked if there had been any Wide or No ball deliveries to account for the extra run but the umpire's over record did not go into sufficient detail. The scorers indicated that if there had been a signal the umpires had not received an acknowledgement from the scorers; also that the scorers had not been aware of any 7-ball overs.

The touring team umpire insisted that the total score as displayed be changed to agree with his record.

The touring team scorer declined to do so and, when told he had to, he opted to pack his bags and leave the scorebox.

The home team umpire checked that the home team scorer was happy to continue. While not necessarily happy he was willing to continue but the umpires must exercise patience and accept that as a lone scorer he had to make the routine check and balances even more carefully, that the scoreboard might not be updated as promptly as when there were two scorers and that *the score as recorded by him would not be changed*.

Thoughts in reply to 'My scorer's dream' (Mick, issue 44)

Steve Price

I completely agree with many of the points that Mick raises in his article. However, I also agree with the editor that amendments to the laws themselves are perhaps not the way forward. To encourage discussion, I would suggest the following points, by way of a 'middle way'.

Anecdotally, I know that some of the umpire trainers mention and encourage a good relationship with scorers, and make a particular feature out of the 'third team'. If this were actually made a formal and more prominent part of the umpire training course, then perhaps some of the problems that Mick raises might be solved in this way, or might not arise in the first place.

Linked to the above, in many leagues, umpires are expected to submit a report after each match. It would perhaps help to improve facilities for scorers if these were made a part of the umpire's reporting process. Similarly, if leagues were to introduce a report form for scorers, whereby qualified and experienced scorers could report back on the parts of the match which are pertinent to them, then the leagues would have a much clearer idea of the problems faced by scorers, and could hopefully encourage clubs to take action.

Finally, it really is important that we as scorers continue to take some responsibility for our own destiny, both individually and collectively. The scorers-hut at my previous club was burnt down by local jobs a few years ago – so for the last two years I have made sure that I made a (polite) pain in the backside of myself at the club until something was done! We are the only people with the power to make our clubs value us – by discussing and highlighting poor facilities directly, we are far more likely to get something done than by amending the laws of the game. We need to attend the ACO national conference, we need to make sure that we get to local meetings and training whenever possible, and stay in contact with our county and regional scorers' officers. In the West Midlands area, for example, we have a closed Facebook group that we use to stay in touch with each other and share our stories, triumphs and gripes. It really is amazing how much valuable information is shared in this particular way.

I know that Heather Vernon, our new national scorers' officer (congratulations, Heather!) is very keen for us to make our voices heard in order to improve the match experience for everyone. If we all start pushing for some of the above at our local level, then we can hopefully spread best practice and make a real difference. I am not claiming to have all of the answers, or that they are contained in the above. However, I hope that by putting my thoughts down on 'paper' I have provoked a few more thoughts and ideas from other members of our community.

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SCORER TRAINING

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 An independent scorer correspondence course continues to be available.
 For more information email cathy.rawson@gmail.com

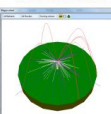
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As used
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TCS 27

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