

IN THIS ISSUE:

- More thoughts on 'The score is disputed' (page 2)
- Umpire and scorer teamwork ... or not (page 3)
- First Class landmark for retiring Kiwi scorer (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.

Distractions

Phil Wolski, Colchester & Essex CC

Phil wrote following a 'distractions' thread on the Play-Cricket Scorer Pro forum some time ago. He has kindly given permission to include this (updated by him) version in NN.

You need to impress on people that you are doing a professional job and that any distractions are a nuisance.

I first became tough on this after:

- A drink got spilt over my computer (n.b. a computer fatal glitch and why I keep a linear sheet as back up) during unauthorised access
- Some players thought they could use my score balcony to have a crafty smoke out of the gaze of their parents despite it being illegal in a three sided enclosed part of the building.

Scoreboxes will also become everybody's junk hole (particularly hosting junior kit) unless you take the initiative to create the storage rules. For example, I created a "lost kit" box and anything left smelly and drying in my vicinity (gloves, boxes, helmets) now ends up in that. I ensured that we had storage boxes and built storage provision out of old kitchen units. Nobody dare mess up my perch. You must rule your roost.

Ideally, as a quid pro quo, you then need to provide a data provision service to a timetable that you dictate. For example;

- I educate people to follow 'live scores' on the mobile phone APP/Play Cricket. More recently, I have embraced the new video technology available in PCS Pro. They can now review 4's 6's and Wickets using action replays via the Play Cricket Match Centre or U-Tube. A bonus is they then tend not to put their mobile phones in the 'valuables bag' so the scoreboard isn't blighted by constant ringing and text bleeps.
- I am happy to be the guardian of wallets and keys, but I will discourage 'phones unless turned to silent. No access to the 'valuables bag' unless between innings is also a wise security precaution and reduces intrusion. I will take it from captain and return it to captain. You must make the rules.
- Players and Coaches know that I will automatically supply them with a print out of the scorecard and 'over by over' at each interval which they can compare against match targets during mid-match team talks. Players also know that after the match (if requested) I will email them a Wagon Wheel if they hit a 50 or a ton.

It is all about creating a discipline where you provide timely data at a relevant time, but at a frequency YOU dictate. Mastering the new PCS Pro features which include video and analysts tools has elevated the perceived status of good scorers to one of far higher respect than previous.

It is amusing how you can rapidly shift from being the scoreboard 'dictator' to being considered the ultimate 'professional'.

..... but if you are soft on discipline you will end up as everybody's 'janitor'.

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>

More thoughts on 'The score is disputed'

Paul Toplis wrote:

I have read with interest the discussion on scores where the umpires and scorers could not agree, and can understand that if two scorers have not been properly appointed then there is greater responsibility on the umpires.

Clearly if there is only a "stand-in" scorer, who may have missed something, or the scoring has been shared between players there is a potential for errors at a hand over from one "stand-in" scorer to another; the umpires who have been in place for the entire match may then be better placed to be sure about the continuity of events and their impact on the score. However if there are two appointed and competent scorers who can spend time making sure that all signals are understood and acknowledged and they then agree their scores, see that batsmen are at the right end and are wanting to do their best job, then life is different.

Under the laws on correctness of scores – 2.15 & 3.2, scorers are tasked to "agree with the umpires", the umpires to "satisfy themselves as to the correctness" in relation to the score, wickets and overs.

It seems that as laid out and read with common sense the expectation is that unless the umpires can help the scorer to identify an error, which is possible, then the scorers' record ought to be accepted as correct. If this is not the case then there has to be a question raised about the function of the scorer and why their job cannot be taken on by the umpire. Certainly if, as in some incidents, there is one umpire who has the same score as the scorers there should never have been a dispute.

On a recent level 1 umpires course the presence of a scorer was considered helpful at one or two points as this allowed the tutors to emphasise that the officials appointed to a match should be a team. The umpires have much to exercise their minds in applying the laws along with humour and common sense to make the game work – it seems right they leave the scorers to get the scores correct.

My scoring experience has been that umpires will accept my record of runs scored, even when I am scoring alone, and certainly if I am scoring with a partner. Yes there may be the need to check that we have understood issues where errors may occur, has there been one or two short runs; did we understand that there were no runs scored after it appeared two had been scored as we failed to note that these were disallowed leg byes?

There are umpires who do want to work as a team and will ask me how many balls there are to come in an over if they cannot agree; I like that to happen rather than having to guess and say to myself "that was only a five ball over – why?", or worse having to cross out my record for runs scored at the end of an over as I glance up to see a seventh ball being bowled when I knew the over was complete.

With teamwork and mutual respect we can help to make sure that no game, or individual milestone, is spoiled by any error in the recording of the score.

So to end with a question, in an attempt to forge an improvement in teamwork; should there be a scorer available and part of the team leading umpires courses and vice versa if resources permit?

Martin Betts wrote:

As an umpire (but not a scorer) of quite a few decades of standing in many countries including England and at Premier League level here in Australia, I think it's absolutely absurd that an umpire tries to score as well as manage the game on field. On the urgings of English colleagues I have tried it seriously, but believe there is no way by far the majority of umpires can carry out all the key duties expected of them as well as keep an accurate score.

By far the majority of true scorers approach their tasks in a 'professional' way just as umpires take theirs very seriously, but to try and override a scorer's work on the basis of an umpire's count is ludicrous and arrogant. The Laws of Cricket include a section on scorers - just let them get on with their important craft and pay them the respect that is due to them!

Martin is the Editor of 'Playing the Game' (PTG), an e-newsletter for Tasmanian Cricket umpires, scorers and referees.

Many articles from PTG have appeared in Notchers' News with his kind permission.

Umpire and scorer teamwork ... or not?

Mick Warren

Mick shares a couple recent 'umpire/scorer teamwork incidents with readers.

Firstly, continuing on the subject of umpires querying the score as recorded by the scorers:

In a Schools match at Eton College the umpire was keeping a linear score. During the interval between innings he informed me that I was one sort in the total and insisted that I change my record.

I listened, explained that if I did add one run at the point he suggested it would change the 'Batsman facing' throughout their innings. I asked to see his record so I could compare it with my linear sheet. He hadn't realised that I had done a linear sheet alongside computer but, once we had compared our linear records, he very quickly agreed that the score as recorded by the scorer and displayed on the scoreboard was correct.

Another good lesson learnt - always doing a side sheet not only gives me support should I encounter a computer problem but also makes it easier to check information with the umpires, over by over, when they believe the score may be incorrect.

Another recent incident with Umpires:

Again a Schools match, this time at Malvern College. I arrived in good time for a 13.00hrs start and made my way as directed to the scoring point to find it was on a balcony.

I asked for and waited patiently in anticipation that table, chairs and a fellow scorer would appear in good time and reminded the home coach that I required appropriate furniture on the balcony promptly so that I could prepare to score the match.

Time went by. As it was getting closer and closer to the start time and still no table or chairs I found the umpires, explained the situation and advised them that I would be unable to score without the necessary table, not to mention team sheets. The umpires were not interested; they just informed me that the game would start at 13.00hrs whether I was ready or not!

Start time arrived; the umpires proceeded to the middle; the coach finished his pre-match preparation with his team then came to the balcony to organise the table etc.

By this time the umpires were in position on the field and ready to call play. They waved to balcony to see if scorer was ready (*I say scorer as I was on my own; the coach was scoring but planned to do this on his phone as he walked around the boundary*). The umpires continued to wave to scorers and even shouted 'Scorers' but, given that I was in the process of setting my laptop up with the belated team sheet I had just received, I refused to acknowledge and continued to prepare to score the match. Sadly the umpires allowed the game to proceed and continued to signal to a scorer who was not acknowledging. For my part I kept a linear sheet and I eventually caught up two overs into the game thanks to my linear sheet.

That's not the end of the story. There was a drinks break half way through the innings and due to the problems at the start I needed a comfort break. On my return I found the umpires again looking at an empty balcony as the bowler's end umpire signalled four runs. Again no check that the scorers were ready and, until the call of over, I had no way of knowing if that signalled four came from the first ball of the over or that I had missed one or more balls in the over.

Mutual respect and umpire and scorer teamwork is important. It is discussed on most umpire and scorer training courses and is essential if the batting, bowling and other facts and figures are to be correctly recorded.

I find the lack of respect scorers get from some umpires to be very frustrating.

Absent scorer.

Editor

I was reminded of an incident many years ago. The match in question was a friendly.

There were no appointed umpires. Two men in white coats went onto the field of play and play progressed smoothly. Runs were scored, a wicket fell and no-one appeared concerned that the score wasn't appearing on the scoreboard until the ball was hit to the boundary, the umpire signalled Boundary 4 but received no acknowledgement. A quick investigation revealed that there was no scorer!

Thankfully one of those men in white coats umpired regularly and was keeping a record of the score; he advised both teams that the score was now 30 - 1 and told the batting side captain to send a player into the scoreboard to keep the score.

This incident became part of umpire training courses with the instruction '**check that the scorers are in place and ready**'.

First class milestone for retiring Kiwi scorer.

Playing the Game (PTG) Editor.

From PTG 2753-13743. Friday, 15 March 2019.

Wellington, New Zealand, scorer Ian Smith, is to reach a key personal first class milestone before retiring in the last round of this southern summer's New Zealand Cricket Plunket Shield match between Wellington and Canterbury, a game that at the time of writing is scheduled to get underway in the country's national capital on Sunday. Smith will be recording the details of what will be his 250th and last first class game, while his scoring colleague Cheryl Styles, is also headed for retirement after what will be her 119th first class fixture.

England-born Smith, 75, started scoring for Wellington's Kilbirnie Cricket Club in 1962 and debuted at first class level in the 1963-64 austral summer at Wellington's Basin Reserve, a ground that will also see his last such game .

The current season is his 56th at first class level, his 250 first class games including 51 Tests, and he has also recorded the details of 256 List A games, 54 of them One Day Internationals (ODI), and 76 Twenty20s, 7 of them T20 Internationals (T20I).

His first Test was in 1968 and he has only missed one at the Basin Reserve in the time since, that being the 1990 when he was looking after his wife Elizabeth who was ill (PTG 1075-5228, 13 March 2013).

Styles, 69, who was born in Wellington, started scoring for that city's Johnsonville Cricket Club (JCC) in 1982 and continues to do so. Her 119 first class games since 1985 include 35 Tests, most of them with Smith, and there have also been 101 List A fixtures (44 of them ODIs). Her 47-years of service to the JCC saw her elected as a Life Member of the club, and the scorer's facility at its home ground is named after her.

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

Share your cricket scoring experiences and scoring questions with readers. Photos are welcomed and add interest to the newsletter.
Send your contributions to: notchersnews@gmail.com
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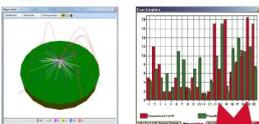
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TCS 27

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