



Notchers' News

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2021 Christmas Challenge Report

BY JOHN BROWN

There were only sixteen entries to the latest Challenge, by some way the smallest entry since I started about thirty years ago when there were more than one hundred competitors.

This was not helped by the fact that the ECBACO were unable to produce their usual December newsletter. Perhaps the time has come to call it a day. The standard of entries was pretty good this year, with only four questions causing more than three errors. Here follows the list of answers followed by comments on the more troublesome questions.

Solution

	Notchers	Scratchers
1	159	121
2	1	2
3	1	5
4	3	15
5	10	7
6	7	3
7	71	7
8	5	0
9	1	39
10	15	0
11	6	5
Extras	4	25
Total	283	229

Notchers won by 54 runs

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Notchers 2 described an unusual situation, one which I have never seen in over seventy years of involvement in the game, but it is covered in the laws (21.9) – seven entrants got this wrong. In Scratchers 4 six entrants thought that the match would end in a tie if the last batter was injured off the last ball of the last over and would have been unable to continue their innings. But, since it was the last ball of the last over, there would have been no need for them to continue, so they would be recorded as Not Out. If the injury had happened when there was still one or more balls to be bowled, then it would be recorded as a retirement and the result would have been a Tie.

In Scratchers 2 there were six mistakes where entrants forgot that it is possible to be dismissed in two ways from a Wide Ball – Stumped and Hit wicket. In Scratchers 5 there was some disagreement about what constituted the use of a limb in making an official signal. My interpretation was that the touching of the opposite shoulder involved the use of only one limb since the shoulder required no movement. The seven signals I expected to be counted were Dead ball, Wide ball, Six runs, Last hour, Leg-bye, Revoke last signal and Level 3 offence (part2). I am happy to report that any difference of opinion did not affect my list of All-correct entries.

There were only two entrants who made no mistakes – John Betts and Martyn Holloway-Neville. My congratulations to them and, as always, my thanks to all entrants, especially those who sent appreciative messages and seasonal greetings. Martyn was the winner when his name was pulled from the Third Umpire's hat and he has already received his prize, once again kindly provided by Cathy Rawson.

Scorer joins early mentor in Test ranks

BY PTG Editor, Thursday, 13 January 2022. PTG 3790-18648

Nathan Bester started scoring in Cricket Tasmania Premier League (CTPL) First XI matches with the Clarence club in Hobart at the age of just 13 in 1998, his first scoring colleague being New Town's Hazel Bradshaw, mother of the late Keith and herself Australian Test scorer number 76. On Friday Bester, 36, will join her in Test ranks when he debuts and becomes the fifth Tasmanian, and the nation's 116th, Test scorer for what is the island state's 14th ever Test, and first played there in the 145 years of Ashes rivalry.

When Bester started scoring there was, he points out, no such thing as Twenty20 cricket, and in the CTPL the short-form format was a 55 over a side whole day game, and two-day a 100 overs a side compulsory declaration agreement. In 2000, he moved to the north of Tasmania, recording the details of First XI fixtures played over eleven seasons by the Westbury club in the Northern Tasmania Cricket Association's (NTCA) competition. Then it was back to the south in 2010 when he became the First XI scorer at the CTPL's South Hobart-Sandy Bay for seven seasons, then since 2018 at the league's Lindisfarne club as Administrator and Senior Scorer.

His first representative game was in Cricket Australia's (CA) old Institute Challenge series in Launceston in 2001 involving development teams from South Australia, New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania playing in round robin format. He was appointed as the NTCA's scorer for the Intrastate Jamie Cox Plate series during the eight seasons it was played, then his senior state representative debut came during the 2008-09 season in a Twenty20 between Tasmania and South Australia with a crowd close to 7,000 at Launceston's NTCA Ground.

Bester has also scored for CA Under 17 Men's, Under 18 Girls and Under 19 Men's Championships played in Tasmania, and he was part of the scorer panel for the 2015 men's World Cup, scoring the Ireland-Zimbabwe match at Hobart's Bellerive Oval. There have also been England Lions Tour Matches, a One Day International involving South Africa, the final of the Sheffield Shield between Victoria and Western Australia in 2015, and CA's 2017-18 One Day Final between Western Australia and South Australia.

Bester will be working in the scorers' room at Bellerive Oval with Graeme Hamley, Test scorer number 89, for whom it will be his eighth Test since his own debut in 2005. His Tests to date have involved visiting teams from New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka (twice) and the West Indies (twice). When details of the match schedule for the 2021-22 Ashes series were first announced last year, neither Bester or Hamley could have imagined they would be scoring in an Australia-England Test match before season's end.

While relatively young for a Test debutant, Bester is not the youngest, for according to an important work undertaken by Canberra-based Adam Morehouse (Test scorer 94) on Test scorers, the researcher who has established and maintains the number list (PTG 1985-9499, 9 August 2016), the honour goes to the legendary scorer/baggage master for the Australian team Bill Ferguson (22) who was aged 24yr 348 days on debut 116 years ago (PTG 2527-12750, 1 August 2018). Morehouse says that all-up there have been another eleven scorers who made their debuts whilst they were in their twenties, the most recent being Marilyn Fowler (85) from New South Wales who was 28 when she debuted in 2000.

Why don't scorers get framed certificates on debut too ?

BY PTG Editor, Thursday, 13 January 2022. PTG 3791-18654

Every time one of Cricket Australia's (CA) match officials makes their debut at first class, List A or Twenty20 matches there is a quiet ceremony held out on the ground before play where the individual or individuals concerned receive a framed certificate that proclaims their achievement during which images are taken such as that below, and later displayed on CA's match officials' web site. That is at least the case when it comes to CA's umpires and referees, but when it comes to scorers nothing of the kind occurs. Umpires and referees of course play key roles in the management of any game of cricket, but no more than the scorers without whom nobody would know who scored what or took what, and ultimately who won the game.



March last year saw two framed certificates presented by CA for the List A debuts of match referee David Gilbert (second from left) and umpire David Taylor (third from left). On the far left and right respectively are Taylor's on-field colleague Gererd Abood and TV umpire Donovan Koch.

Scorer appointments to CA first class, List A and Twenty20 only come after each individual has, like umpires and referees, shown their competency and have provided key service over many years in supporting the game at grass roots level. In the case of scorers who make their debuts at the game's highest level, a Test match, their career often goes back decades of invaluable service to the game (PTG 3790-18648, 13 January 2022).

So why aren't such first class, List A and T20 scorer debutants recognised, like their umpire and referee colleagues, with certification of their achievements? And with Test umpires now wearing hat bands with their debut number on them (PTG 3786-18627, 10 January 2022), and in the case of Australian Test scorers we now know from Adam Morehouse's work what their debut number is, what about at least a framed certificate marking their hard earned achievement?

Long-serving Australian womens' scorer, statistician, dies

BY Kersi Meher-Homji, Sydney Morning Herald. Tuesday, 25 January 2022. PTG 3804-18716

Erica Sainsbury, who scored in 15 women's Tests and 63 women's One Day Internationals (WODI), the latter including the pre-International Cricket Council (ICC) World Cups of 1997 and 2000, has died aged 62. Sainsbury began playing cricket in the 1970s and featured in ten first-class matches for NSW, however, a serious shoulder injury ended her career, but her contribution to the game continued for the rest of her life.

Sainsbury was Australian women's team scorer (Test number 14 and WODI number 2) between 1987 and 2003, touring England and Ireland in 1987, New Zealand six times from 1990-2004, and India in 1997. As the official statistician for Australian women's cricket she compiled a comprehensive set of cricket records and became an automatic point of reference for the print and electronic media seeking information on women's cricket. She was a NSW selector from 1988 to 1995 and a member of International Women's Cricket Council Match Rules and Drug Committees, again a pre-ICC group.

In 1997, Sainsbury joined the Company of Cricket Scribes and brought fresh ideas in discussion with invited guests John Benaud, Tony Cozier, Kerry O'Keeffe, Harsha Bhogle, Jim Maxwell, Darrel Hair and David Frith, among others. Beginning in 2004 she was a ground announcer for Cricket NSW and since 2006 for Cricket Australia. She was a Life Member of Gordon District Cricket Club Women's Division and in 1997 won the Service Award for the NSW Women's Cricket Association.

Cricket historian Richard Cashman said, "Erica provided comprehensive statistical information to 'The Oxford Companion to Australian Cricket', providing figures for the biographies of women cricketers. She also provided stats to the book 'Wicket Women'. She was very professional in all that she did, had a good sense of humour, was modest and self-effacing, and her passing is a great loss to the cricket community.

My scoring sprint

BY Arun Kumar Manickavasagam

I had a terrific season which involved my international scoring debut in an official capacity as the New Zealand cricket scorer for the Test between New Zealand and Bangladesh at Hagley Oval in Christchurch. It was a very special day in my life because if someone had told my younger self that I would be scoring a Test match in New Zealand one day I would have asked two questions with curiosity: 1) Where is New Zealand and 2) What is cricket scoring ?

It was memorable for a number of reasons. The coincidence was Tom Latham played in the very first game of cricket (club) I scored in my life and he was the skipper in my debut game at the international level. Other highlights include:

- c TWM Latham b LRPL Taylor
- scoring the first "7" in my life (it is only the 6th instance in Test history that a 7 has been recorded)
- Highest individual score at Hagley Oval by TWM Latham 252
- 300th Test wicket for TA Boult
- 9th Five Wicket Innings Haul for TA Boult
- Yasir Ali's Maiden Test 50
- Liton Das's 2nd Test century
- Left handed scoring colleague
- Goose bump moment when the official scorers names were announced before play

Following my international scoring debut, media sources got in touch with me which was all very new to a boy who grew up not expecting to make any headlines. More can be found in the link below:

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/cricket/arun-manickavasagam-meet-chennai-born-engineer-who-is-new-zealand-cricket-s-first-official-scorer-from-india-exclusive-101642488651188.html>

Then followed my second Test between PROTEAS and BLACKCAPS and on my way to the venue I was reminded of the following quote by Nelson Mandela:

"Sport has the power to change the world. It has the power to inspire. It has the power to unite people in a way that little else does. It speaks to youth in a language they understand. Sport can create hope where once there was only despair. It is more powerful than governments in breaking down racial barriers. It laughs in the face of all types of discrimination." - Nelson Mandela

It was yet another memorable game to score albeit being a very short one. Last time New Zealand won against South Africa in a Test was in 2004. After the game the third umpire walked into the scorer's box saying that they couldn't get the game going any longer. I was slowly completing my meal digesting the fact that the game got over so soon and was almost the last person to leave the ground.

Then followed the Women's cricket world cup and my first game as an official scorer was the warm-up fixture between Indian women and South Africa women at Rangiora Oval followed by India women against West Indies women at the same venue in the capacity of an ICC scorer. I had the honour and privilege of meeting the Indian skipper Mithali Raj, the only female cricketer to surpass the 7000 run mark in WODI matches.

Other warm-up games included England v Bangladesh at Lincoln Green and a rain-shortened game between England and South Africa at Bert Sutcliffe Oval. It was very rewarding to experience one of the actual quiz questions happen in the game between England and South Africa. Below is the scenario and answers will be revealed in the next edition.

Scores are tied at 138. England need 1 run to win. Bowler pitches one up and the batter rocks back, plays a square cut and the ball races to the boundary but the batters complete a run before the ball has reached the boundary.

What is England's final score and what should the umpire's signal be ?

My next appointments were the group stage games as an ICC scorer between England and Pakistan, New Zealand and Pakistan followed by the game between India and South Africa as an official scorer in which the game went down to the wire and I would imagine any scorer would be living for situations like these. I will never forget the racing thoughts in my mind in the last over of South Africa's chase.

"Who caught it ? Who is on strike now ? Was it a run ? How many more runs are needed ? How many balls to come ? Will it be a super over ?"

It was terrific for South Africa and heartbreak for India. Such is sport, such is life! - small margins can make a big difference!!

More on the game can be found here: <https://parimatchnews.com/cricket/south-africa-beats-india-in-a-nail-biter-as-the-women-in-blues-crash-out-of-the-world-cup>

Next followed the knock-out stages of the tournament and I just didn't want it to end. I happened to meet Nasser Hussain during the semi-final clash between England and South Africa and he had just flown back after paying tribute to Shane Warne in Melbourne. I shared my passion for cricket scoring with him and also discovered that he was born in Chennai too - my home city! What a coincidence !!

I was delighted to learn that I had been appointed to score the finals between England and Australia at the same venue. Emotions were high the night before and I shed a few tears before the game as I received a phone call from one of the leading Canterbury cricket scorers wishing us "scorers" good luck. I will save the rest for the next edition!

The memories made and people I have met through the game have been priceless and I am very grateful to the people who have helped and supported me along this scoring journey - my home club Burnside West and New Zealand cricket for the appointments/opportunities.

*Share your cricket scoring experiences and scoring questions with readers.
Photos are welcomed and add interest to the newsletter.
Send your contributions to notchersnewsnz@gmail.com
Your questions, news and views are welcomed for use in future issues*



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