

Notchers' News

Issue 54

The 64 Over Day – A Tough Challenge in the Score Box

Paul Toplis

What is it that makes a day scoring a cricket match the most challenging test of the scorer's skill? Is it a 60-over cup match or 90 overs of test cricket? The latter certainly would be with a colleague. Scoring alone - because the ability to do so, or the expense of two sets of fees is prohibitive, is always a bigger challenge. So, I would like to suggest that it may be scoring solo at the Johnners Trust festival for blind and visually impaired cricketers. With just three players from the London club I score for regularly taking part as guest players for Staffordshire there were four eight-over-a-side games to score featuring four different teams, not including Staffordshire who had their own scorer. In order to involve as many players as possible in an event meant to encourage the development of cricket for those with visual impairment scorers faced the challenge of needing to ensure that batters were asked to retire on reaching 20; counting a two-run penalty for wides and no balls; and dealing with eight bowlers having to be used in each innings. The small matter of double runs for the totally blind batters just being thought of as being normal; the one helpful restriction was that the first seven overs were just six balls including wides and no balls but, as the last over could be ten or twelve total deliveries, there were probably as many balls bowled as there would be in any regular eight overs.

There were two very rewarding highlights from an exhausting day. Firstly, to see a totally blind bowler deliver a double wicket maiden that both started and finished with a bowled dismissal. The other was to see a totally blind batter loft an excellent drive over extra-cover for a boundary twelve. The next morning an overheard discussion at breakfast was about how excited and pleased the bowler was to have had twelve scored off one ball – it is a fairly rare event. In the UK those responsible for organizing between eighty and one hundred matches for blind and visually impaired players from Durham to Somerset would always be very pleased to hear from scorers who might help with a game or two, or perhaps more! At present in particular there is a need for scorers for Hampshire and Somerset; and a whole home season is no more than six matches.

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From Score Box to Press Box

Ray Markham

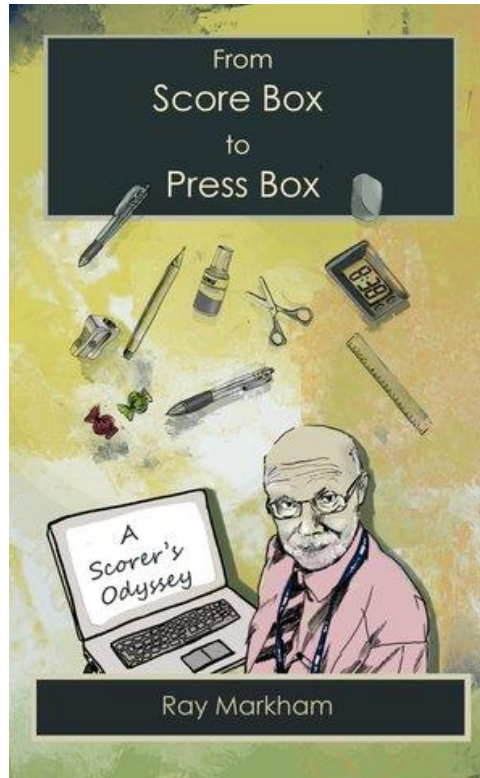
This book is about a cricket scorer's hilarious and engaging personal journey from the rickety loft above the changing rooms in the pavilion at Sprotbrough C.C. to the hallowed halls of Lord's and beyond.

If you enjoy funny, real-life stories, then you'll love this book. It takes you into the unpredictable and unsung world of the cricket scorer, giving a unique, behind-the-scenes glimpse of what goes on in and around the scoreboard and also in the press box at international matches.

As you journey with our intrepid scorer, prepare to meet D.B., Lady Hamilton, Clarissa, Mavis, Sid, Charles, the claustrophobia chorus, the duckbill platypus, coaches, players and umpires, all with hilarious and comical results; discover the joys and trials of scoreboxes and operating scoreboards, eating cricket teas and scoring with players who don't want to be scoring; be surprised by what scorers have to do, where they have to score, and what they have to put up with; watch out for grinning pigs

flying low over scoreboxes, and a cameo appearance by Sachin Tendulkar; laugh out loud at the mishaps, conversations and situations which our resourceful scorer encounters as his odyssey unfolds.

Also, find out what it's like to score in the press box at the various Test Match and ODI venues in England and Wales, including the sort of questions the scorer gets asked, and what it was like to score the men's World Cup Final 2019.



Written in a brilliantly descriptive way, with exceptionally dry wit, a sharp eye for detail and engaging anecdotes, this book provides a charming, informative and highly amusing read.

‘Ray is passionate about what he does and it is apparent in this delightful, uproariously entertaining autobiography, which should form a part of any cricket lover’s collection.’

Arun Sengupta, Chief Cricket Writer at CricketCountry.com

‘I found myself not wanting to put this book down! It really is a delight – funny, informative and with such an inspiring story, progressing from ramshackle youth-team scoring to Test matches. It mixes humour and insight perfectly, and deserves to be widely read.’

Stephen Chalke, cricket author and writer

Can now be purchased direct from the publisher, CricketMASH, at <http://cricmash.com/order-form-from-score-box-to-press-box>

or from Amazon [kindle version also available] and various bookshops.

Timed Out

Cliff Hall

Law 40. Batsman 'Timed Out'

The requirement of Law 40, is that a three-minute interval is available from the instant of dismissal to the incoming batsman taking his position at the appropriate end.

A difficulty for Umpires is the timing of that interval. There is precision involved in knowing whether 179 seconds has elapsed, (not out on appeal), and 180, (out on appeal).

To assist me, perhaps others, in this umpiring responsibility, I have collected data on the changeover time whilst umpiring club cricket in the Cheshire Cricket League in season 2021.

A simple summary of the results is:

Number of timings = 158 across four divisions of the league

Number of innings timed = 32

Average changeover time = 66 seconds, (hence average time to spare = 114 secs)

Quickest observed = 33 secs

Slowest observed = 106 secs

About 90% of changeovers take place in between 43 and 88 seconds. It appears from this that the three minutes allowance is generous and should not be exceeded in normal circumstances.

It can be deduced from the data that there is no significant difference in the changeover time according to the standard of cricket, across four league divisions, being played at club level. The most significant effects are the distance from the pavilion to the wicket and then any batsmen's conference taking place before the incoming batsman assumes his position.

If batsmen cross on the field of play, as is required in some competitions, then an Umpire can be confident that the time allowance is not under threat.

This data is drawn from open cricket which involved two lady batters in the 158 records and so the reference to the male gender is deliberate.

The Timed Out Law applies if 'Time' is not called for any reason. The calling of 'Time' might be due to two reasons, either an exceptional circumstance or the dealing with circumstances where the Laws require the calling of 'Time'. Exceptional circumstances are for an umpire to determine but the distraction of a helicopter landing (almost) in the playing area is one such, in my experience. The Laws require the calling of 'Time' under Law 42 - Players' Conduct. It is my understanding that the calling of 'Time' means that the clock has stopped, in this context, and the timing of any incoming batsman is suspended.

Returning to the data, it is of interest to know, in normal circumstances, how likely it is, statistically, for the three minutes allowance to be exceeded. The tests on the type of distribution displayed by the data indicates that there is no reason to exclude Gaussian – often known as a ‘normal distribution’. The appearance of a histogram of the data suggests a ‘normal distribution’. The data analysis indicates that the probability of exceeding three minutes changeover is 1 in 30,000: zero in practical terms. The Umpire can take the view that it requires exceptional circumstances to exceed the time limit. How it is to be ascertained that three minutes has elapsed is vexatious: the analogue pavilion clock is not going to be sufficiently precise. A scorer may be able to assist with such detailed recording of timings, otherwise an Umpire could carry a stopwatch. If players cross on the field of play, or, if there becomes no need to look anxiously towards the pavilion for the appearance of the incoming batsman then there can be confidence, on appeal, to give ‘Not Out’, under Law 20, without reference to a chronometry.

Key to a happy marriage – keeping scores in Sharjah

Agence France-Presse, January 20, 2014



Hakim and Nafisa Jariwala may have discovered the secret to a happy marriage by scoring cricket matches in Sharjah and Dubai, home from home these days for Pakistan's international programme.

Hakim has now racked up over 200 matches in Sharjah and Dubai, scoring for the world's media at the press boxes at the two venues.

The couple, originally from Mumbai, run their own garment and toy business in the UAE, but their shared passion is cricket and when Pakistan played Sri Lanka in a one-day match recently, it marked Hakim's 225th game as a scorer.

He has since officiated at two more matches, concluding with the ongoing third and final Test between two Asian nations.

“We enjoy scoring together,” 52-year-old Hakim told AFP.

“It is our passion and a common interest and supplementing each other in scoring strengthens our love bond as well.”

Scoring, like umpiring, is an essential part of a cricket match and is as old as the game itself.

The scorers keep an account of the whole match, the runs scored, the balls bowled, wides, no-balls and the dismissals and then preserve the score sheets with the organisers.

As the game evolved with coloured clothing and white balls, scoring has been made easier through computers.

In 1993, the cricinfo.com website was launched and over a period of 20 years has revolutionised every aspect of scoring and statistics.

But despite the march of technology, scoring books are still filled manually, using coloured pens for different entries in batting and bowling.

England's Bill Frindall led the way for all the scorers, having a significant contribution in a career spanning over 30 years and 377 Test matches.

Wendy Wimbush was a common sight at Lord's and other England grounds as was India's Abdul Rehman in Calcutta.

Pakistan had a famous scorer Mohammad Riaz, who was also a bus conductor, while Andrew Samson is one of South Africa's top scorers while Charlie Watts became famous for his books in Australia.

The late Mohammad Ali Jaffri was the most popular scorer in the Gulf region, completing 200 one-day matches in 2009 and it was Jaffri who inspired Hakim.

"I learned scoring from Jaffri in the early 80s," said Hakim.

"When one-day cricket was brought to Sharjah in the 1980s I was the deputy to Jaffri in most of the matches. This could be two world records – 225 one-dayers (at December 22) and a unique wife and husband combination of scorers."

Compared to her husband, Nasifa is a newcomer who made her debut in Sharjah in the December 22 one-dayer.

"I have been scoring but made my entry at international level last week," said the veil-clad Nafisa. She claims they never fight, not even over her favourite player - Pakistan's Shahid Afridi.

"I like Afridi as a player and Hakim doesn't but even that never becomes an issue between us," she says.

Life has been busy for the couple, but they always take time out for scoring in cricket matches.

"Just like cricket players do, I will carry on as long as I am fit," said Hakim.

Christmas Challenge – 2022

Once again, The Notchers have challenged The Scratchers to a fireside fixture this Christmas. Readers are invited to accept the Challenge by completing the scorecard and giving the result of the following match. Please send your entry (limited to one per reader, please) to The Third Umpire, 60 The Lawns, Rolleston-on-Dove, Staffordshire, DE13 9DB to arrive not later than 31st January 2023 (*or* email johnmbrown60@gmail.com): please **mark your entry NN**. All entries will be examined and the names of all those whose entries are correct will be put into the Umpire's hat, from which the winner of the prize will be drawn at random.

You are invited to solve the clues in order to discover how many runs each player scores. **You should record all these scores in batting order, and complete your solution by giving the result of the match.** Normal Laws of Cricket (2022 Code - updated) apply (no special regulations). There are no trick questions; all relevant information is provided in the clues, and you should assume that the umpire gives appropriate signals.

Scratchers XI (batting first)

1. In playing forward the striker slips and drops his bat so that the blade is behind the popping crease: the batter is flat on the ground in front of the popping crease with his foot resting on the bat handle. The short-leg fielder picks up the ball and fairly breaks the striker's wicket.: there is an appeal. What is the correct decision? Dead ball - 10; Not Out – 20 or Out – 30?
2. Team A were bowled out for 147. Team B have scored 147 for 8 when the bowler bowls a No Ball which the striker hits to the boundary. The batters do not run. What is Team B's final score?
3. A ball, called and signalled No Ball, passes very wide of the striker's leg-stump and runs over the boundary. How many runs should be added to the batting side's score?
4. ... and how many should be debited against the bowler?
5. The bowler throws the ball at the striker's wicket before entering his delivery stride. What should the bowler's end umpire signal? No ball and allow play to continue – 10; No Ball followed by Dead Ball – 20 or just Dead Ball – 30?
6. A batter is out Bowled and the next batter is ready to receive the next ball after two and a half minutes have passed. There is an appeal – is the batter Out -10 or Not Out -20?
7. The ball is caught by the wicket-keeper after a hit, not having touched the ground, rebounds off short-leg's helmet. Is the striker Not Out -10, Out caught – 20 or is it a Dead Ball - 30?
8. The striker drives the ball in the air and it hits the top of the stumps at the bowler's end. The ball ricochets to mid-off who catches the ball. Is the striker Out – 10 or Not Out – 20?
9. The striker plays forward, the ball deflects from his bat onto the ground and spins towards the striker's stumps. The striker plays a second shot to defend his wicket; the ball loops up from his bat and the wicket-keeper reaches in front of the wicket to catch the ball and then fairly breaks the wicket with the striker standing out of his ground. There is an appeal: what should the umpire's decision be? Out Caught – 10; Out Hit Ball Twice - 20; Out Obstructing the Field – 30; Not Out – 40; Out Stumped – 50; or Out Run Out – 60?

10. The striker hits a No Ball back to the bowler who throws the ball at the striker's wicket; the ball deflects off the stumps and runs over the boundary. There is an appeal and the striker is given out Run Out, but the umpire quickly revokes his decision when he realises that the striker was avoiding being hit by the ball. How many runs should be added to the total?

11. The striker prepares to receive the ball in a normal right-hander's position. After the bowler has started his run-up, the striker turns to face the other way, and the ball, fairly delivered, passes behind the striker's legs, but not so wide that it would have been called Wide Ball if he had remained in his original position. What should the bowler's end umpire signal – Wide Ball – 10 or No signal - 20?

Extras: The striker, playing forward, is beaten by a sharp leg-break which is then deflected by the wicket-keeper to first slip who throws the ball at the stumps with the striker out of his ground. There is an appeal: what decision should the striker's end umpire give? Not Out – 5; Out Stumped – 10; Out Run Out – 15?

Notchers XI

1. A ball, called and signalled Wide Ball passes very wide of the striker's leg-stump and runs over the boundary. How many runs should be added to the batting side's score?

2. ... and how many should be debited against the bowler?

3. Team A were bowled out for 147. Team B have scored 146 for 8 when the bowler bowls a No Ball which the striker hits to the boundary. The batters do not run. What is Team B's final score?

4. The striker hits the ball to the square-leg boundary but, in doing so, the grille on his helmet is dislodged and falls on his wicket and removes a bail. There is an appeal – how many runs should be added to the total?

5. The striker snicks a ball to deep third-man. The fielder throws the ball just after the batters have turned for their second run. The ball hits the fielding helmet on the ground behind the wicket-keeper and is deflected to mid-wicket whereupon the batsmen run two more. How many runs should be added to the total?

6. A batter is out caught off the last ball of an over. Which batter should face the next ball – the new batter – 10 or the Not out batter -20?

7. The ball is hit to deep mid-wicket; the batters run and have just started on their second run when the fielder throws a wild return which goes to the boundary. The umpire signals Short run and Boundary 4. How many runs should be added to the total?

8. An attempted slower ball pitches off the pitch, and the striker advances to hit the ball while it is still rolling and his back foot is still on the pitch. The batters run two – how many runs should be added to the total?

9. A No Ball pitches short and the striker ducks to avoid being hit by the ball but it hits him on the shoulder. The batters run two: how many runs should be added to the total – 1 run – 10; 2 runs – 20 or 3 runs – 30?

10. The wicket-keeper, standing back, runs up to the stumps as the bowler is running up: what signal should the umpire give? Dead ball – 5; Dead ball and 5 penalty runs – 10 No signal - 15?

11. The striker pads up to a ball which is passing wide of off-stump: the ball is deflected off the top of the striker's pad onto his bat and it continues over the boundary. How many runs should be scored? 0 runs – 5; or 4 runs – 10?

Extras: The striker misses a No Ball and stands out of his ground: the wicket-keeper fairly breaks the wicket and appeals? What is the correct decision? Not Out 5; Out Stumped - 10 or Out Run Out – 15?

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 welcome for use in future issues