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# Notchers' News

ISSUE 6

JULY 2009

## The network for scorers

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

### EGGHEADS v NOTCHERS

A team of County Cricket Scorers challenge the BBC 2 Eggheads  
The *re-scheduled* date for screening of this match is  
**Tuesday 8th September 2009 on BBC 2 at 6pm**

### A SCORING SURPRISE

Be prepared - you never know where you might end up scoring.

On Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June, I made my way to Lord's to see two games in the group stages of World Twenty20. I was on a guest ticket from one of that day's official scorers (Neil Smith - Worcestershire CCC) and was slightly nervous of sitting on my own in the crowd, but keen to see the Netherlands play live.

Neil invited me up to the scorebox for a short visit before play began, where I discovered Gloucester ACU&S umpire/scorer Clive Jones operating the scoreboards and he gave me a good explanation of how it all worked.

Before I could disappear to my seat, the scorebox manager cleared a space at the scoring bench and invited me to stay for the rest of the day, so I took my seat alongside the two scoreboard operators, the two official scorers and the scoreboard manager and watched both games from the best seat in the house!

As many scorers do, I had intended to score the game from the crowd but on homemade scoresheets. I prefer to use linear scoresheets, but they are quite big to manage on your knee in a packed crowd, so my husband had recently devised a single A4 linear sheet with just the right amount of detail to fit one T20 innings on one page and it was these sheets that I had with me. I decided to brave the comments, get out the sheets (and a reduced set of coloured pens) and score the games anyway, but I needn't have worried as no one had a bad word to say about them.

Not only did I have a comfortable seat, excellent view and sociable company all day, I learnt a lot about the workings of the scorebox in such tournaments and was surprised just how much control the media have over proceedings. It was a brilliant scoring experience and all the better for being unexpected.



View of left end of pitch from my seat



View of right end of pitch from my seat

Sue Drinkwater

## ARE SCORERS VALUED?

Comment and questions from 'Notchers' News' readers

### **CERES asks the perennial questions:**

- ✍ How often do you score with a *SCORER* colleague.
- ✍ Do leagues and clubs take the MCC Laws of Cricket seriously? (Law 4: Two scorers shall be appointed....)
- ✍ Do you prefer to score on your own (hard work) rather than with an ever changing procession of players or the reluctant person who has been persuaded to score in order that the club avoid a fine, deduction of points or run the risk of playing with 10 players?

### **JOHN M BROWN who scored for one day at Trent Bridge during two T20 World Cup matches asked "whatever happened to the team of four". He went on to say:**

I was 'horrified' at the way scorers were treated - no access to dressing-rooms, nor to the umpires or match referee; meals brought in paper bags (I understand that at The Oval they were given meal vouchers and had to queue with the public).

There was no mention of scorers on the match programme, nor over the public address - we felt even less than second-class citizens.

I could also mention the difficulty I had in getting T20 accreditation as well - it finally arrived on the day while I was waiting to go in at the gate.

### **From a meeting in Chelmsford for the London and East Region of ECB ACO in March 2009.**

Scorers/scoring never got a mention. In a question and answer paper (two sides of A4) there was one word on scorers and it was the very last word.

The writer comments:

Why they can't set a team to work on umpires and another team to work on scorers goodness knows. Scorers can only vote with their feet. We shall wait and see if things improve.

### **Cathy Rawson reports on scoring ICC Associate Nation and European competitions**

For many years I've been privileged to be the Denmark scorer at ICC competitions, ECC competitions and other matches. (Chris and I go as volunteers, booking our holiday dates & venues to tie in with Denmark cricket)

At these competitions the scorers have been included in the team of 4 (or more where there have been 3rd umpires, match referees etc!)

We are included in the officials briefing prior to the competition, eat with the umpires at matches and are often provided with walkie talkie radios for *essential* communication between umpires and scorers.

Even in the presence of an on-line scorer we complete ICC or ECC match summary sheets which we *and the umpires* sign. The umpires are required to check that the scoring record is correct before signing as, once they have signed the sheets, they are deemed accountable for any inaccuracies. Having said that, if problems arise the teamwork is such that the scorers invariably revisit their scoring records and resolve any issues (usually simple transcribing errors as the forms invariably are completed in a bit of a rush!). The umpires usually furnish the scorers with the name of the man of the match, the last piece of information for the summary form.

While not included in any presentation immediately after the match (we're invariably far too busy completing the scoring record anyway) the scorers are invariably included in the presentations held at the end of the competition.

### **Do you have any comments (positive or negative)? 'Are scorers valued?'**

**Your thoughts on ways of addressing some of the negative issues are particularly welcomed.**

**Ed.**

On the fourth day of the Leicestershire v Surrey match at Grace Road an interesting scoring situation arose.

Meaker (Surrey) was removed from the bowling attack at the instruction of the umpire when he bowled his second fast high full-toss (yes, it is only two such offences at first-class level).

The high full-toss was the first ball of Meaker's 18th over.

The over had to be finished by another bowler, Newman, bowling for the first time in the innings.

### **THE QUESTION IS:**

at the end of that particular over, how should the Overs column be completed in those two bowlers' analyses?

## Bring your own scorebook....

Sue Drinkwater

I have a nostalgic fondness for a beautifully handwritten scorebook and one of the attractions of scoring for an international side is that my fair hand will live on forever in the annals of scoring history. Sadly this is no longer true as many teams now rely solely on electronic records and it is becoming commonplace to find no scorebook provided.

I was recently privileged to score at Worcester in the Ashes warm game between the England Lions and Australia. The Lions management had already double-checked that one scorer would be working electronically, so I arrived at New Road armed with my laptop and the latest version of Total Cricket Scorer®, hoping that the Lions would provide a scorebook to use as my paper backup.

I was not surprised to find that this was not the case and so I used my home printed linear worksheets as my security to computer failure.



Sue and her colleagues hard at work in the New Road score box

My colleague was not expecting this scenario and was bitterly disappointed to discover no Australian scorebook either. The only score sheets available were not suited to a lengthy match and so he purchased a standard score book from the club shop to use for the next four days.

Over the course of the match I printed off a small rainforest of stats for the Lions but the Australian camp were self-sufficient and failed to trouble the scorers at all. In fact neither side were in the slightest bit interested in how the match had been recorded.

We had a fantastic time and mingled with players and officials alike during the lunch and tea intervals, but bizarrely at the end of such a high profile game, the "Australian book" went home with its owner and my worksheets and laptop went unnoticed straight in my scoring bag.

## UNIQUE EVENTS?

**John M Brown** reports an unusual, probably unique, coincidence when the Leeds and Bradford UCCE team were bowling in their match against Derbyshire on 6-8th May at Derby.

In Derbyshire's first innings Alex Blake bowled five No balls, two of which were beamers, and umpire Hartley had him removed from the bowling attack after he had bowled only 1.5 overs.

In the second innings Blake was allowed to bowl again, but after just 1.5 overs he fell to the ground clutching his thigh: once again he was unable to complete the over and was unable to take any further part in the match.

Such an occurrence can surely never have happened before, but I suppose it is sad that, for me the scorer, this will be the most memorable aspect of the match which ended in an unexciting and predictable draw.

**Philip Stallard** scored for the Forty Club against Cowbridge School and writes.

It's a regular fixture, but what made it noteworthy was that one of the Forty Club players, Robert Leachman, was playing on his 922nd ground! He apparently holds the world record for the most number of grounds played on, but he hasn't stopped yet. Next month, he'll be playing for the Forty Club at Gowerton, so that will be 923 and counting as I'm sure he's played at a few more since Cowbridge!

This set Philip thinking about the number of grounds he's scored at over a period of about 20 years or so and it's just over 100. He's sure this isn't a record by any means and invites people to put forward their "records".

## CATCHING UP - NEWS FROM COLLEAGUES

### CERES HAS RISEN:

I would like to say hello to those scorers who contributed articles for "View from the Scorebox" in a journal which has not appeared for a couple of years now!!

At present I am still assisting in the education of scorers by tutoring on the ECB ACO Level One scorer's course.

To those who have completed a correspondence course with me, either through ACU&S or ECB ACO, I do hope you are enjoying scoring at your chosen level and are increasing in knowledge and confidence.

Feedback from scorers who have completed the course has been that they found it worthwhile and enjoyable.

### DOROTHY HOBDEN reports on scorer training in West Sussex

I ran a scorers course at Berwick in March 2009 with 11 scorers attending.



Nine scorers requested examinations and were offered ACU&S Introductory and Standard level examinations.

Five scorers passed Level 2 (Standard) and were awarded Sussex accreditation passes.

Two took and passed Level 1(Introductory). All received ECB Level 1 certificates. The group was a good one and it was a pleasure to run the course. Dorothy hopes to do the same again next year.

**Cathy & Chris Rawson** ran the first scorer training course in the Scarborough area for more years than the local association cared to remember. There was no examination as it was felt that just providing training was a good start!

**Ian Hardie attended and, having scored a couple of matches, he emailed Cathy as follows:**

-  First match we had a short run. My fellow scorer did not know what to do. The course proved its worth straight away
-  The next match was a 20 over Evening League match. The umpires were player umpires. With only a few overs of a finely balanced match remaining one of the batsman dislocated his knee. An ambulance was called and, as the batsman could not move, the game was halted. By the time the ambulance crew were able to move the batsman the light was beginning to fail and the captains decided to leave it as a draw.

**Ian asks: What should be the correct means of deciding the result of this match?**

*More of your questions, news and views are welcomed for use in future issues*

### USEFUL EMAIL ADDRESSES

England and Wales Cricket Board Association of Cricket Officials (ECB ACO)

<http://www.ecb.co.uk/ecb/ecb-association-of-cricket-officials/>

International Institute of Cricket Umpires and Scorers

<http://www.umpires.tv> (For scorer specific information email [scorers@umpires.tv](mailto:scorers@umpires.tv))



**For books, scoring equipment and coloured pens or to access the Bulletin Board;**

**Visit the Acumen Books website at:**

**[www.acumenbooks.co.uk](http://www.acumenbooks.co.uk)**



### MILLENNIUM SCORING RECORD

The A3 scoring record originally designed by members of the ACU&S Scorers' Board. Contact [milsteadmsr@btinternet.com](mailto:milsteadmsr@btinternet.com) for more information

Binder and 50 sheets (= 100 innings) £20 + P&P

Refill pack of 50 sheets £10 + P&P

### Scorer Correspondence courses

ECB ACO offer an Introductory level course - For more information visit the ECB ACO web site.

A standard level equivalent course is independently run to the high standards previously set by The Association of Cricket Umpires and Scorers. It is open to anyone wishing to learn more about cricket scoring.

For more information contact [cathy.rawson@btopenworld.com](mailto:cathy.rawson@btopenworld.com)

Share your cricket scoring experiences and scoring questions with readers. Photos are welcomed and add interest to the newsletter.

The next issue will include articles on **computer scoring**.

Send your contributions to: [notchers@btopenworld.com](mailto:notchers@btopenworld.com)

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