

IN THIS ISSUE:

- The art of cricket scoring is at risk of dying out (page 2)
- Obituary. Lesley Morgn (page 2)
- Ten ways to abuse a scorer (pages 3 & 4)
- ICC World Cup; where were the medals for the scorers? (page 5)
- Adverts & useful addresses: (page 5)

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.

PCS-Pro and Wagon wheels.

Mike Turner

Something new that has cropped up in my scoring life.

I have been delighted by PCS Pro and how it seems that with every update, some new and exciting feature has been made available. One such was the appearance of wagon wheels on play-cricket from matches where I have produced them. But this has led to a problem. Every club can see each other's wagon wheels, and once my team were aware of this they expressed concern that other teams could make use of this to analyse our batsmen's strengths and weaknesses. The outcome was that I immediately stopped producing them: in my mind wagon wheels are intended to enhance the experience of the team, not to hinder.

There is an argument that, at high levels, batsmen should see this both as a challenge and as an opportunity to improve their play to cover any such weaknesses, so wagon wheels available to all is probably all well and good. I'm not to sure it should apply to my club playing at a few levels below professional so I am quite happy to abide by my team's wishes, though it is a shame that I have the ability to make a greater use of the software, but I cannot use it.

Perhaps by the time the next Notchers News appears, further updates of PCS Pro will have meant that this openness of wagon wheels will have been addressed. But in any case, I'd love to hear what other scorers think of this conflict between duty to club and desire to produce as much useful information as possible.

MCC Scoring

Mick Warren

Following an invitation from the MCC circulated to Notchers' News readers (see the NN home page) I put my name forward to the MCC scorer panel.

I contacted the MCC office, was emailed a link to the application form and was informed I had been accepted. I was provided with a password to access the website and instructions on how to apply to score MCC Outmatches.

I was not too ambitious and picked 5 or 6 local school games then spotted the secretary matches; dare I apply for one of them? I decided yes and applied for a couple. I submitted the request and sat back to wait for a reply

I did not expect any response other than the message 'not selected' but to my surprise I received "you have been accepted". Great, but it seemed I had ticked a wrong box and had been selected to play in a school game at Bloxham batting at number three! A quick call to Kate in the MCC office soon put this right and in due course I received two further school scoring appointments. As for my cheek in applying for secretary matches I was accepted for two.

A three-day, yes a three-day match - I'd never done a three day in Oxford University Parks.

The second was a one-day match at the beautiful Wormsley ground.

Thanks Notchers' News for pointing me in that direction.

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 art of cricket scoring is at risk of dying out 'within ten years' as ECB pushes for digital record-keeping.

Alec Wallace. *Daily Telegraph* 1st June 2019

My thanks to Alec for giving permission to publish this article in Notchers' News. Editor.

Picture the clubhouse of a village cricket team and there will no doubt be a couple of devotees sat down flicking through old scorebooks, deciphering the codes and symbols to paint a picture of the ebb and flow of games from years gone by.

But the art of pen-and-paper cricket scoring is at risk of dying out "within five to 10 years", as the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) is encouraging club teams to move towards keeping digital records.

Scoring matches on tablets and laptops is commonplace in national and county cricket, and when used at club level it allows live-tracking of matches, including statistics on where the ball was hit, the amount of time a batsman was on the crease and how many balls they faced.

But **Brian Smith**, league administrator for the Kent Cricket League, says he thinks the move will lead to traditional scoring methods becoming extinct "within five to ten years".

He said the complex tallying systems being preserved in scorebooks around the country will probably die out, as organisers are struggling to keep young people interested in the tradition.

The lines, dots and codes of a traditional scorebook take a lot of effort to master, but have become a loved pastime of cricket aficionados *CREDIT: PAUL GROVER FOR THE TELEGRAPH*

He told The Daily Telegraph: "Over the next few years we are in danger of losing some well-established scorers because effectively their position is under threat.

"Try to explain scorebook to a youngster with a pen and paper, it just does not work. If you give them a screen with buttons to press they're all over it.

"There's a divided opinion between your old-school scorer who has been doing it for 20 to 30 years or so, you won't get them away from using a scorebook. But going forward, the youth are all into using technology and they will happily use that if it's available.

"All clubs are encouraged to run both simultaneously, they should have a manual scorebook being run along with any laptop or scoring app. Because I have been aware of at least two instances of games where there has been a power cut or something that has created a problem with the digital score."

A spokesman for the ECB said they were encouraging teams to use the digital systems which are "designed for every user, from professional scorers down to people playing grassroots".

They added: "People can do it easily and go online to keep up with live scores via the app. So if you're a club player who's not able to play at the weekend, or a parent and your child is playing, you can keep up to date with what they are doing even if you're not at the ground. It is designed to make the game as open and accessible as possible."

Richard V Isaacs, a club scorer and cricket statistician, said traditional scorebooks are becoming redundant and that it will be a sad day when they are no longer used.

He told The Telegraph: "The pen-and-paper scoring days are still sacrosanct in my eyes but more clubs and leagues are pushing further into the digital age with records being held completely online, where you risk losing them.

"There are many scoring programmes these days and all have their merits, but it does need to be a seriously robust system if it is to work week in week out.

"I am a club statistician and the scorebook is vital to me. I have all of the books from yesteryear in my backroom but I can see, in years to come, this not being the case."

Lesley Morgan. My thanks to Lesley's Club, League, and colleagues for their contributions to this tribute.



Southern Premier League cricket, Wiltshire and the recreational game in north-west Hampshire has been saddened by news of the death of Andover CC stalwart Lesley Morgan, the club's President, past secretary, scorer, registration and Club Mark officer to name but many roles.

Lesley was an integral member of Andover for over 40 years and, right up until her untimely death, was actively pushing ACC forwards as President of the club.

Lesley was massively involved with scorer training and development, both as a member of The Association of Cricket Umpires and Scorers and ECB ACO. Together with Lynn Allen and Polly Rhodes, Lesley helped to set up the scorer pathway which spanned the gap between ACU&S and ACO.

She also scored for the Minor Counties team.

Ten ways to abuse a scorer - and how the scorer should react

Mike Pike. Old Wilsonians CC, Kent

1. Never give a scorer a team sheet nor a batting order

The job of the scorer is to record the events of a game on a ball by ball basis so that, at its conclusion, it perfectly represents its content and, most importantly, its result.

But the scorer also has to record the contribution each of the 22 participants make - e.g. runs scored by batsmen, wickets taken by bowlers and catches taken by fielders.

Cricketers tend to be precious and sensitive souls - see also 10 –and so it is important that runs, wickets and catches are assigned to the correct player and providing a scorer with a team-sheet and batting order helps him/her to identify the participants.

Teams tend to change from week to week - the only consistent member of the side is the scorer - so the latter needs all the information he/she can get - apart from anything else he/she is outnumbered 11 to one, sometimes 22 to one - see also 7.

The Scorer's response

Make up a team with the likes of politicians, actors, soap stars, famous cricketers etc.

Your team might look something like this:

Boris Johnson, Jeremy Corbyn, Jo Swinson - it is important to be even handed - Marlon Brando, Judi Dench, Mick Jagger, Paul McCartney - showing my age there - Brian Lara and Denis Compton.

2. Stand in front of the scorer at every opportunity.

This is very easy when the scorer's table or box is at ground level but becomes more problematic when it is raised in any way. In the latter circumstances the tallest members of the team should be designated for this purpose whilst others should stand on a box if necessary.

The Scorer's response

Sit in front of the sight-screen when it is the offender's turn to bat.

3. Never give the scorer a drink during the drinks interval.

The simplest way to ensure this does not happen is to bring out 15 cups - 11 for the fielders, two for the batsmen and two for the umpires. To add insult to injury, if there is some liquid left in the jug then throw it on the grass - preferably in front of the scorers.

The Scorer's response

Go and get your own drink and make sure you have not returned by the time play is about to re-commence.

4. At the tea interval, when scorers have a lot of work to do before partaking of said repast - e.g. reconciling the batting and bowling figures, putting the score of the team batting first in the appropriate place - pile up your plate with as much food as it can take even if you have little or no intention of eating it all so that there is little or nothing left by the time the scorer arrives.

The Scorer's response

Have a quiet word with the tea provider before the game asking if they can put some food aside for you.

5. Having ignored the scorers all afternoon - see also 6 - at the completion of the game hassle them for your bowling figures. If you are a batsman ask how many balls you faced - even if you know full well that the scorer does not count balls faced.

The Scorer's response

Explain, politely, that you have a lot of work to do at the conclusion of a game. See also 4 - and, of course a player can see his/her bowling figures but please wait until they can be authenticated.

If a batsman wants to know how many balls he/she faced then let them have the book so that they can count them themselves, although your first comment should be "not enough, otherwise you would not have been out".

6. Never offer to change the score-board - interestingly, when Old Wilsonians played a pre-season friendly at Bromley Common they provided both a scorer and a score-board operator.

The Scorer's response

Simply do not change the board

Continued on page 4

Ten ways to abuse a scorer - and how the scorer should react.

..... continued

7. When your team does not provide a scorer.

This is when you really come into your element. Before the game do not apologise for this omission. If you are bowling first, offer to provide the name of the bowlers but make sure that you do not fulfil this promise. As a tease you may let him/her know the names of the openers, although you should give them in the wrong order, but, after that, give no information at all. When you bat, do not provide a scorer from the team and even if you do, make sure they change every few overs so there is no consistency.

The Scorer's response

There is, in fact, employment law relating to lone working (*in the UK*) so it depends on how brutal you want to be; you can simply refuse to work on your own for example, this is well within your rights. If you wish to be more co-operative - scorers are always willing to help in any way they can - simply keep the score but do not ascribe any runs to specific batsmen whom you do not know - this is within the rules of the game. Alternatively explain that if you confuse the batsmen, as will almost certainly be the case as you have never seen them before and it is unlikely that he/she will be your next door neighbour nor work at the local supermarket - then it is the team's fault for not scoring; surprisingly this invariably makes no difference at all and the opposing side will say 'OK'.

8. Swag.

Scorers are happy to look after your swag bag but always ensure that they are full of mobile phones with the loudest of ring-tones

The Scorer's response

Politely - scorers are always polite - ask them to off their mobile phones and remind them that although you are more than happy to look after their valuables you do so "at their own risk and are not responsible if anything goes missing"

9. In a game without official umpires.

Just as many sides do not provide scorers these days many do not provide umpires, so a player has to stand-in. If you do so then never inform the scorers that the game is about to start. Just say 'Play' to those on the field and do not check to see if the scorers are ready ... and **never** signal Wides, No balls, Byes, Leg byes and Boundaries.

The Scorer's response

If the ball goes over the boundary and the umpire does not signal simply record the ball as a dot ball - there are many other examples but you get the picture.

10. When you score a lot of runs or take a lot of wickets then ask for your stats to be put on play-cricket, even if it is only a game in the back garden with your little brother who is six and sister who is four. In these days of league cricket virtually all games are put on play-cricket but there are a few which are not, and there is a reason for this, namely that they are not considered to be of such a magnitude to warrant being recorded in such a manner.

The Scorer's response

Offer to put such stats on play-cricket, almost to the extent of insisting if a batsman gets a duck and a bowler takes 0 for 60 in 5 overs.

This article first appeared in the Kent Cricket League 2019 Handbook. Mike kindly agreed to it being featured in Notchers'

Mick Warren tries something new.

I've been scoring at schools and Colleges in Oxfordshire for a number of years and have been trying to think of ways to make young players aware of the scorer.

This season, if the score box was in a suitable position I tried something different. When the game was completed I joined the players and coaches lining up to shake each other hands as they leave the field. I had a few strange looks to start with - the 'who are you and what are you doing' looks - but after a couple of games the players looked for me and even thanked me for scoring. **Has anyone else tried this?**

From the ACUMEN BOOKS Newsletter

My latest boundary observations reveal there are still problems between umpires and scorers! Twice I have seen matches start without scorers being in position and ready. Umpires **MUST** check for certain.

I would also like to see a signal that the scorers can give to show that they have seen a signal but are NOT ready to proceed - perhaps because of computer problem, lack of team list or other issues. **Any thoughts on this NN readers?**

The ICC World Cup; where were the medals for the Scorers?

Margaret Cottingham asked "Is there a reason why all the officials got medals but no mention of the scorers?"

From what Marion has been hearing the scorers haven't been recognised at any of the matches.

Medals for on field umpires, third umpires, match referees etc. but nothing for scorers.

At Lords the scorers would at least have been given a name check on the scoreboard before the start of the match as well as on the scorecard but so too would the umpires. As her husband put it, ICC don't see the need for scorers.

The following comments are taken from the Scorers Facebook page.

Mel Ive: So the umpires get awarded their trophies but no scorers?

Andy Lynch: I would sympathise with them direct but their names weren't on the scorecard either.

Hetty Tovey-Steens: From what I read on the ICC site only the umpires are seen as officials and the names of the scorers are not mentioned. Thanks to Chris Mountain we know their names! Thank you for doing a great job scorers!

Ian Craven: They didn't even get a mention!

George Kitteringham: Typical. The fuss that's made about Umpires and scorers being a team, yet how often are scorers omitted. I must say though that any domestic final I have scored in Leinster and indeed 3 All Ireland Finals, scorers have always received a medal. Only time scorers were not mentioned was when I did a Womens International but then that was an ICC competition.

Barry Oliver: ICC don't recognise the need to have scorers.. perhaps the two other umpires could have scored???

Andrew Scott: All scorers do a good job. They are part of the officials team and deserve medals.

John Virr: And they wonder why we struggle to recruit scorers.

Steve L Roberts: Arguably the most important job, well at least equal to the other officials.

John Challis: Yes, you should get a gong same as the umpires?

..... and there was plenty more in the same vein.

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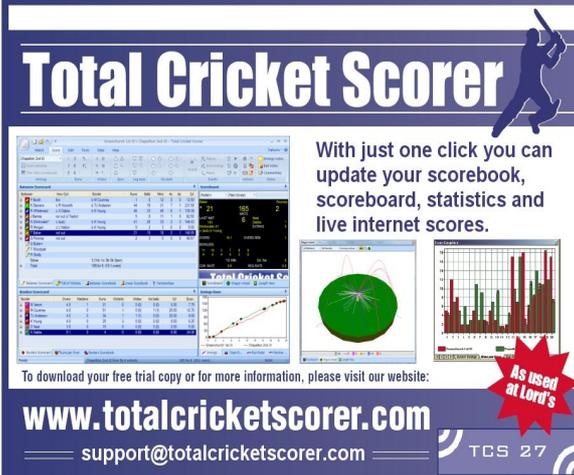
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Your questions, news and views are welcomed for use in future issues