

A SCORESHEET¹ FOR THE LOWER LCU DIVISIONS.

1. Sympathy for Team Captains

Let me define what I mean by the “lower LCU divisions” – in 2019 it is those divisions in Leinster Cricket where games are played without the requirement for dedicated scorers being a requirement and it is left to the batting side to keep the scorebook. Here are my observations on what happens it comes to the matter of keeping the score in these lower divisions.

A. The captain arrives at the ground and:

- thinks he/she remembered to throw a scorebook in the bag;
- trusts that there are a few empty pages that are not too grubby in that scorebook that might be in the bag;
- is delighted to find a blunt pencil or a ink refill in the corner of the change room because his/her best pen disappeared after the first game of the season; and
- hopes that a few people selected to play have some vague idea of scoring as the captain cannot score, bat and umpire all at the same time.

B. Every captain soon realises that there are always three types of players on every team:

- those who volunteer to umpire or hide so that they can avoid scoring at any cost;
- those who know nothing about scoring and will not learn so they always have an excuse not to be asked to score;
- those who know nothing, or a little, or are out-of-practise but realise this is a team sport and are willing to give it a try.

¹ For the purposes of this document I use the words scorebook and scoresheet interchangeably and in all case am referring to the Block Scoring method.

So usually the score book is passed between 3 or 4 players during each innings and while each does it differently something comes out at the end.

C. At the end of the game the home² Captain is faced with a scoresheet that at first glance appears to be complete but on closer scrutiny reveals that:

- the scoresheet has not been totalled up;
- the scoresheet when totalled does not balance;
- there is no correlation between what is captured under the bowling extras and what is captured under the bowling analysis;
- some scorers tried to ball count because they saw it at the recent world cup but others who had never heard of “ball counting” mistook some of the more elongated dots for 1 run;
- the pen leaked so badly it appears that a squadron of angry red ants with dirty feet paraded on the scoresheet; and
- the scorers did not fill in the fall of wickets record and foolishly the captain thinks *“I can work it out from the record of overs”* until he sees that record of overs was only kept for 10 overs and then forgotten.

Sometimes having come off the field having just won the game, in the rush to pack everything away and get home the captain does not realise the problems until he/she is trying to enter the scoresheets online and at this point discovers that only the first name or nickname of the opposition team member has been captured and it is impossible to identify the player from the database³ - who would have guess that Reginald Shaparayyapathth was called Bob by his team mates.

² The trend seems to be that the whole game is scored in the home team’s scorebook and the visitors take a photograph for their record. I support this practise as it supports the home team captain who is responsible to submit the scoresheet and avoids transcription errors.

³ This and all the other problems must surely have driven captains to drink and there is a golden opportunity for a social scientist to get that PhD by examining the correlation between alcoholism and cricket captaincy in the LCU. In one example in the 2014 season I was emailed photographs of both teams’ scorebooks in an attempt to help the captain enter a valid scoresheet (there was no doubt as to which team had won) and it took some very advanced alchemy, serious black magic, a large glass of Shiraz and a stream of phone calls and emails to figure out who, what, why and how.

2. Current Scoresheets

While there is nothing intrinsically wrong with the scorebooks and scoresheets I have seen used across the LCU it is clear to me that each scoresheet attempts to be all things to all persons.

This is quite reasonable as the designers are trying to make a scoresheet that can:

- Be used for all versions of the game (5 day games, 50 over innings, 20:20, etc);

The result is that the manner in which the sheet needs to be filled in can be complex and assumes either some form of training has taken place or the scorer has taken time to deeply consider and reflect on what needs to be done, how to do it and even practise it – this does not help those who know nothing, or know a little, or are out-of-practise.

There is often only provision made for 6 bowlers yet each is allocated 30 overs when in the lower leagues you can often have 7 or 8 bowlers being tried out and no single bowler is allowed more than 10 overs in a 50 over game, 9 overs in the 45 overs game and so on.

One of the areas I have noticed that is a constant problem is the recording of extras – it looks like a dogs breakfast because scorers are unsure what to record and so little space is given to write in.

- provide all the statistics and information anyone could ever want so lots of space is used up to capture lots of details like: balls faced, time in, time out, ball to 50, time to 100, no of times the batsman hits the ground with his bat each time the bowler steams in, etc, etc, etc.

The result is that the scoresheet attempts to fit so much on a page that compromises in relation to space are needed and some parts of the scoresheet are so cramped, if a bowler has more than two bowling extras in an over, you simply run out of space.

For many teams it is a struggle to record the basics and balance the book never mind fill in the stats – so I advocating stripping them out and providing lots of space for the important stuff.

- Be used as the perpetual record of her game.

This is not the case anymore – in the 21st century the scoresheet is a temporary record until the online LCU scoresheet has been filled in and submitted and the LCU will hold the record for posterity. How many club storage areas have a pile of old scorebooks moulding away in a corner and will never be looked at again before they are thrown in the recycling bin.

3. Towards a Scoresheet for the Lower LCU Divisions.

Before you read on it would be helpful if you download my 50 overs scoresheet from here: <https://www.samuelritchie.com/cricket-scoresheets>

The 20 over scoresheet you can find at the same site is very usable if printed on A4⁴ in landscape mode. The 50 over scoresheet is best printed on A3⁵ in landscape mode and is easily scaled to B4⁶ size which is a good compromise. You will notice the 50 over .pdf has two pages so if you can, print it double sided. As you read on you will see why.

a. Necessary Details Only

The minimum information that must be captured is detailed in section 3.1 of the regulations⁷ *“to record all runs scored, all wickets taken and, where appropriate, number of overs bowled”*.

My starting point was imagining that I received a scoresheet from a captain who asked me to enter the details on CricketStatz and then to submit it to the LCU. What information do I want to see in the scoresheet.

⁴ A4 paper is a sized in metric and is 210 × 297 millimetres – the usable area is less as there is space on the right for binding.

⁵ A3 paper is 297 × 420 millimetres – twice the size of A4.

⁶ B4 paper is 250 × 252 millimetres – a nice size in between A4 and A3.

⁷ Cricket Leinster Season 2019, Competition Playing Regulations, League Divisions 5 – 17 inclusive, revised 03/04/2019.

Home Club	Won Toss	Visiting Club	Won Toss	Innings of	Played at	Date
Scorer		Scorer		Umpire 1	Umpire 2	League / Cup

Figure 1. Details

As shown in Figure 1 there is room for the usual details and a place to add a tick to indicate which team won the toss. For those games where you do have umpires and/or a dedicated scorer(s) there is room to capture their details as this is also required.

There are a few regulations related to starting times so here is space just above the notes as shown in Figure 2 is place to insert the start time.

Start time:
Notes:

Figure 2. Start Time

Then there is space for a declaration of the final score and result as shown in Figure 3 and hopefully this matches up with what CricketStatz calculates.

Final Score	Result
for	

Figure 3. More Details

b. Bowlers

With reference to Figure 4 there is lots of space to capture the bowler's full name as well as space to total up individual stats. Then to assist with balancing the batsmen and bowlers there is space for overall bowler's totals and assistance with how to add fielding extras and penalties.

Up to 8 bowlers can be captured and everything over 10 overs per bowler has been stripped out. Then you score an early season game where a team has a new captain with a lot of new players who have just joined the club and they proceed to try everyone out, even the wicket keeper, as a bowler. So turn the page over and you discover space for those rare times you have to record more

than 8 bowlers. There is also a little guidance as to the correct symbols to use when recording what bowlers deliver.

Bowler	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Overs	Maidens	Runs	Wickets	Wides	No Balls
1																
2																
3																
4																
5																
6																
7																
8																
Totals																
+ Wide ▲ Bye ✂ I have no idea what I am doing											LB + B + P →		← Other Wickets			
○ No Ball ▼ Leg Bye ☹ Oops the captain is going to kill me											Totals					

Figure 4. Bowlers

c. Fall of wickets and Over-by-Over records

These are two areas of the traditional scoresheet that the scorer often forgets to fill in – so I have reduced this to the bare minimum so when they do remember it is not an onerous task – CricketStatz works out the partnerships.

Wicket	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Score										
Batsman Out										

Figure 5. Fall of Wickets

Over	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Score																									
Wicket																									
Bowler																									
Over	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
Score																									
Wicket																									
Bowler																									

Figure 6. Over by over

As I have stripped out everything else that is not necessary I am hoping that the message eventually sinks in that everything on the sheet is required and needs to be filled in.

d. Batsman and Extras

With reference to Figure 7 there is lots of space to capture the batsman's full name and nickname and no excuse not to write *"Caught @ 1st slip, Amazing catch by Richard (Dick) Forrest"* in the how out column. I have added space to capture the number of 4 and 6's as these can be counted at leisure after the game.

I think the real value on my sheet is how extras are handled – the same as the cumulative score and you can read off the answers when totalling up. Space for 50 wides I hear you say? I scored a match in Division 4 where there were 58 wides⁸. But just in case turn over the page and you will find space for another 25 wides.

A high scoring game? No problem turn over the page and you can record another 150 runs.

On the back page is more space for additional notes for that rain delayed day when you write your life changing soliloquy, homily or oration.

⁸ Look at <https://www.crickettleinster.ie/match-centre/results/view/-st-finians-college-2013-05-06-123000> I had to use the wides row as well as the penalties row as well as most of the notes space to record the 58 wides. The umpires were exhausted from throwing their arms out and the fielders were exhausted from the 9.4 extra overs worth of balls that had to be bowled. The captain must have been too embarrassed to put the number of wides against each bowler on CricketStatz even though they were accurately captured in the scorebook.

Last words

For the avoidance of doubt I am not claiming to have solved all the problems I have mentioned in sections 1 and 2 and no doubt with all the scoresheets in the world and all good intention some scoresheets will still be as mixed up as vomit in a tumble dryer. But it is an attempt to help captains and teams across the LCU and has kept me busy through a few bouts of insomnia.

I am open to suggestions and any corrections you may spot. I have made the .pdf of the scoresheet freely available and also the Visio® masters if you want to design or personalise your own scoresheets.

Some ideas to use the Visio® masters:

- a version better suited to left handed scorers;
- add your club logo to the page;
- cover the margins with inspirational quotes;
- print and bind a season's worth of sheets for each club team.

If you want to add blocks to capture other stats please go ahead.

I would be appreciative if you fed my ego by leaving my moniker on the sheet or gave me credit if you modify my design.