

# SPORTING DESIGNS

## News and Technical update

### Recent changes, enhancements and corrections to Scoreboards.

November 2012

We have a policy of continual improvement in all areas. Some of these improvements come about after feedback from users and we thank those who have made suggestions and pointed out problems.

**Different types of scoreboards.** All of our scoreboards are made from aluminium and powder coated. They cannot rot or rust and can be left outside all the time though they should be left upright. This is because most have air vents top and bottom and are designed to be upright. Our scoreboards are made to order and you can have any layout and any size of scoreboard, even up to 6 metres high.

If you want, we can supply all the parts to fit your own frame.

For the very lowest cost, we can even provide manual digits



**Modes.** Our clock and team scores scoreboards can be set up for various modes and switching from one mode to another is simple:-

- Polo
- Arena Polo
- Hockey
- Rugby
- Football (soccer)
- Running races

Netball  
Lacrosse  
Polocrosse

For cricket, see later.

**Acrylic (Perspex).** We now locate the protective, clear acrylic in aluminium channel (see photo below) which is much more secure and allows the acrylic to expand in hot weather without letting rain in. For extra protection we can supply polycarbonate which is unbreakable. Also we can supply non-reflective acrylic which helps prevent reflections from the sun but makes it more difficult to see the digits at an acute angle.



Acrylic held in aluminium channel

**Flip digits.** Flip digits work best when used regularly. When permanently powered, the controller can be set to automatically exercise the digits a few times every day. This prevents any of the flaps from sticking because of dirt.

If you do have any flaps which are sticking, please don't spray them with anything. Although this will probably work in the short time, it will attract dirt and make them worse. Instead, clean the hinge mechanism with industrial alcohol and use pure graphite powder on the touching surfaces. Of course, Sporting Designs can do this for you.

**Change of controller.** Up to 2010, we used a Wago 750-842 controller made in Germany but due to supply problems changed to a Rabbit SBC BL4S200 made in the USA. We continue to support and update both types as both controllers are still current models and the software programs are all written in-house.

**Cricket scoreboards.** Sporting Designs can now provide cricket scoreboards of any layout. You can have any of up to 15 values displayed depending on your budget. We can also automate an existing manual scoreboard. The cricket scoreboard is controlled by a larger wireless console which can also run from batteries for a few hours or from mains. The range is over 300 metres so the scorer can sit anywhere, watching the scoreboard. The cricket scoreboard is particularly easy to use; pressing a button such as

“Batsman out” updates all the relevant values such as “wickets”, “last man” and “next batsman”. There is also a 20 step “Undo” button if you make a mistake.



The Sporting Designs Cricket scoreboard at Wellingborough School



The Cricket Controller

**Solar panels.** Solar panels are very useful for scoreboards which are used in the summer and left out. We normally use a marine 24 volt solar panel with a controller which prevents the batteries from becoming over charged and so gives them a longer life. It is not practicable to use a solar panel for winter use as there is not enough sun. A solar panel with controller are not expensive and saves a lot of hassle re-charging batteries.

**Analogue clock for polo.** For traditionalists, we can now provide an analogue clock for polo. This can be with or without automatic scores and chukka number and we can provide any size of clock. The clock uses a stepper motor which allows it to go fast/slow and at the end of a chukka moves quickly back to

zero ready for the next chukka. The analogue clock has all the facilities of our normal scoreboard such as automatic bell / horn, fast forward, reverse etc. The clock face can be any size up to about 3 metres in diameter. To show players and umpires that the clock is running / stopped, the scoreboard has a small fast rotating arm (seen at the top right of the clock in the photograph below).



Analogue clock with automatic scores at Guards Polo Club

**Improved wireless system.** The wireless system Sporting Designs uses in all the scoreboards has been improved with the addition of 2 switches to let us tune the frequency. This reduces the possibility of interference from other wireless devices. We usually select No 1 for all our devices.

**Scoreboards for rent.** We have a variety of scoreboards for rent (apart from Cricket) for that special occasion. These include a big one on a trailer, a small 'hockey' / 'arena' / 'running' one, a polo clock and an analogue polo one with manual scores. We can also supply a sponsor's banner to go on the top of our big scoreboard. For those customers who rented our big scoreboard last year, we are re-building it in for 2013 as it was originally built in wood and slowly collapsing. If you do want to rent one, we recommend that you reserve it as soon as you know as we can get quite booked up in the summer. We can also supply a timekeeper / scorer if you require.



'Big' scoreboard



Polo clock with manual scores



Hockey / Arena scoreboard

**The Future.** We will continue to improve the polo scoreboard and of course fix any problems.

Sporting Designs is working on two major projects. One is an automatic team colour changer where you will be able to change the team colours remotely. The other one is for polo to let the umpire carry a small unit which will stop the clock whenever it 'hears' a loud whistle.

If you are interested in either of these, please contact us. If you have any other ideas, we'd love to hear them.

## Suggestions

We are very pleased to receive **any** suggestions from you as we want to improve the operation of the scoreboard and make it easier to operate. Please contact Paul Girdham, Sporting Designs Ltd. Thank you.

Sporting Designs Ltd., One Barkers Field, Long Clawson, Leicestershire, LE14 4PL, UK

Tel: 07860 303 217

Email: [mail@SportingDesigns.co.uk](mailto:mail@SportingDesigns.co.uk)

Web: [www.SportingDesigns.co.uk](http://www.SportingDesigns.co.uk)

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