

### **Was the game over? What was the Score?**

#### **An umpiring quiz open to all members (except qualified umpires – you know who you are!)**

You may not know that there were several games last season between Len's Lions and Trevor's Tigers, all of which had close endings requiring the rulings of a good Umpire. How would you rule on the following:

1. In the first game, Trevor's Tigers scored 200 all out. The game went down to the last over. With the last ball of that final over to go and the score on 199 for 9, Trevor bowled a really good ball at Len, who was batting at his usual number 11 spot. Len played back and got a thick edge towards short Third Man. Len called "Wait" but his partner realising that at least one run was needed, shouted "Come on. Run One", so Len set off late for the run but in doing so he stepped on his own wicket. Third Man, not knowing what had happened, collected the ball and hurled it at the striker's end, but by this time the non-striker was in with his bat grounded just behind the popping crease. The ball rebounded from the one remaining upright stump and went on over the Mid-off boundary.

There was a loud shout of "Howzat" from all the fielders claiming Hit Wicket but the Lions claimed four overthrows but.

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2. The next game, amazingly, also went to the last over. Strangely enough, Trevor's Tigers again scored 200 all out. Obviously, Len was batting when Trevor started his long run-up to bowl the last ball of the game. Len's Lions were on 200 for 9. One wanted to win - one ball to go! Suddenly, Len had an idea. As Trevor started his run-up Len called "Yes" and started running. Trevor didn't know what to do, so he held on to the ball whilst the batsmen ran a single and started celebrating.

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3. The next game went to a similar tight finish. Trevor's Tigers again scored 200 all out. Len was batting when Trevor started his run-up to bowl the last ball of the game. Len's Lions were on 200 for 9. One wanted to win with one ball to go! As Trevor ran in to bowl, he noticed that Len was taking guard well outside his crease so he threw at the Bowler's end stumps, hitting them with Len still well out of his ground.

There was a loud shout of "Howzat" from all the fielders but.

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4. Another game between Len's Lions and Trevor's Tigers but this one was less close. Len's Lions batted first and score a respectable 250 all out. The Tigers were always behind the required scoring rate, so that when Len ran in to bowl the last ball of the game and with his team 9 down Trevor needed to hit it for 6 just to tie the scores. He bowled, Trevor swung and missed the ball but then so did the wicket-keeper. The ball hit the keeper's helmet which had been placed on the ground behind him and then ran down and crossed the fine leg boundary. Trevor was jubilant, "Five runs for the ball hitting the helmet plus four byes – we won". But

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5. It was really windy for the next game in the series but the game went on anyway. It looked like another tight finish was in store after the Tigers scored 150 all out. The Lions were struggling to score runs but eventually reached 146 for 9 as the last ball of the game was bowled – 4 needed just to tie. The ball was bowled and Len swung mightily but failed to connect properly. Instead the ball looped up to mid-wicket and Trevor ran in from the mid-wicket boundary to take what should have been a straight forward catch but as he ran in another huge gust of wind not only blew his cap off his head but, more importantly, carried the ball over his head where it landed on his cap. The ball was fielded and thrown to the keeper restricting the batting team to one run but Len celebrated joyously. “Five runs to us for the ball hitting the cap. We win” But....

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6. What a comical end to our next game. Chasing Len’s Lions score of 200 all out, Trevor’s Tigers were pretty much up with the required rate but kept losing wickets and, to make matters worse, Trevor twisted his ankle so had to have a runner for the last few overs. Last over 196 for 9, 4 wanted to win with the injured Trevor on strike. First ball he pushed the ball towards extra cover and called for a run, his runner set off towards the bowlers end and so did Trevor (forgetting his injury). After a few paces Trevor collapsed in pain in the middle of the pitch, at the same moment the non-striker realised that he couldn’t make it to the other end in time so called “NO” and stepped back in his crease but the runner didn’t hear him and continued running. He was grounded past the bowlers end popping crease when the ball thrown by the fielder put down the bowler’s end stumps and there was a loud appeal for run-out. Both runner and non-striker were well in but Trevor was on his knees in the middle of the pitch, well out of his ground.

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7. It looked like there would be another tight finish in store in the next game. After the Tigers scored 150 all out, the Lions were struggling to score runs but eventually reached 148 for 9 as Trevor bowled last ball of the game. And a good ball it was, onto which Len got a thick inside edge. The ball cannoned from bat onto his pads and started rolling towards his stumps. Len reacted quickly knocking the ball away to the offside where it was fielded at Gully. The fielder saw that Len had stepped outside his crease so he hurled the ball at the stumps but he missed and the ball carried on to the Mid-wicket boundary.

Double celebrations ensued. The Tigers claiming a wicket for “Hit the Ball Twice” and the Lions claiming 4 overthrows but

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8. The season’s last game between the Lions and Tigers came to yet another nail biting finish. Len’s Lions batted well scoring 200 for 9. The Tigers batted well and were keeping up with the required rate but losing wickets along the way. As Len ran in to bowl the last ball of the game, the scores were level. One required to win, a dot ball and the game would be a drawn but a wicket would result in the Tigers winning by losing less wickets. Trevor knew that Len would try to tuck him up by bowling his left arm over at his legs, so he backed away to make room to cut the ball through the offside. Len bowled, Trevor swung but the bat slipped from his hand but, amazingly, the ball hit the bat and flew to slip who caught it, Jubilation from the Tigers who all appealed for the catch but

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