



THE DEATH OF CRICKET
By Paul Smith

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THE DEATH OF CRICKET

A tragedy by Paul Smith

Characters

Chairman of The Cricket Board of the UK
Chief Executive of The Cricket Board of the UK
Board Member 1
Board Member 2
Board Member 3
England Cricket Captain
Interviewer

SCENE ONE - A Press Briefing

CHAIR

I was appointed to this position 4 years ago and I have one more year to serve. In that time, I will hope to have achieved my aim. To transform the game of cricket. It's a far cry from my life running supermarkets. Stack em high. Sell em cheap. Fast food. Exactly my plan for this game. I loved selling baked beans and pot noodles. I fucking hate cricket. What a fucking boring sport. Give me boxing any day. Quick, to the point and over in a few minutes sometimes. Not this fucking nonsense which goes on for fucking days. I always say you don't have to like the product you sell, but you have a duty to mould it to your liking. And I mean to make this sport something that everyone wants. I don't care who stands in my way and who gets knocked over in the process. Progress. That's what we need to achieve. Progress. Not something that's boring, dead and fucking out of date.

CHIEF

We are so lucky with our Chair. He does speak as he finds and leaves you in no doubt about his aims and priorities. He is one of the clearest thinking businessmen I have ever worked with and a visionary of the game. I sincerely share his view that we have a duty to save this old-fashioned game from drowning in its own self-importance. In many ways, we have helped transform the sport in recent years with the increasing use of technology and the support for the 20/20 format across the world and the increased support for the women's game and we are looking to make further changes and bringing in new and exciting formats and using more and more technology. This is an exciting time for the sport, the players and the general public, many of whom we are targeting to enter the world of cricket - a new world, an exciting world and one which is finally accessible to all.

SCENE TWO - A TV Interview

- INTERVIEWER Welcome gentlemen, it's good to have you with us today for the important announcements which I know you are very keen to make. Firstly, Mr Chairman, you have made a number of controversial comments and outlined some significant changes in the game of cricket over the tenure of your office, do you think you are going to make more friends or enemies after today.
- CHAIR Well, as I mentioned before, I don't actually give a flying fuck what people think of me. My job is to take this sport and bring it into today. It can't be stuck in the middle of the 19th Century or whenever it was founded. My aim is to get every family in the whole of the country watching and playing cricket. Who can argue with that as an aim?
- INTERVIEWER I doubt anyone can, Thank you. Mr Chief Executive. We have seen the amazing changes in cricket brought about by the advent of the 20 over game and white ball cricket in general. What can we expect to be seeing in the future?
- CHIEF Well the 10 over game is already having a major impact and we are delighted it has the backing of one of our national captains who is totally behind the white ball format. Obviously the 100 ball plans are well advanced, and we are so looking forward to rolling this out. We do have plans to bring the 10 over game into the country and are looking at a further development which will see a whole competition in a day which will see a round robin format and knockout 10 ball game. Fantastic.
- CHAIR I think we should also add that we are trying new techniques within the game and so people should look out for that. I am fed up with this fucking complicated method of measuring the accuracy of the way in which a ball is bowled. It's just bollocks. The whole point of the bowler is to get it to the batter down the other end of the pitch. So, throwing will be quite legitimate. We expect to see more under arm stuff and as many bouncers as the guys care to bowl.
- INTERVIEWER Are you not worried about the safety of the players?
- CHIEF Of course we are concerned about that, but we have to measure that with the need for more excitement. The players have increasingly good protection and so we will make sure they are well catered for in that department. So, don't worry.
- INTERVIEWER And I believe technology will become an even more important part of the game
- CHAIR Umpires will be made redundant. Don't need them anymore. That make far too many errors. All bats and stumps will be fitted with electronic signaling devices and from that we will be able to see what has been hit and where. Same with batsmen's protection. Arm guards, pads, all will have sensors.

Automatic decisions will be made. No need for reviews. Just slows down an already slow game.

INTERVIEWER

Well, gentlemen, thank you. Exciting times. We will be back with you in a moment.