

IT'S CRICKET, is it not

1. bbw
2. Last Over

What was the question?

In which sport does this young (British) sportsman excel?
Hint: It's not ski jumping, and not curling or Fingerhakeln either.



No, it's not suicide bombing (very funny!), tug-of-war, sumo wrestling, cock fighting, synchronised swimming, unsynchronised parachuting, caber toss, or football (Andrea Pirlo is ITALIAN, and it's not him, anyhow). Most of you went for rugby or darts or snooker – but "(British)" was obviously a red herring. Nor is this the portrait of the yodelling or three-kiwi juggling champion of the Home Counties: our athlete is droning out the Airman's Hymn (sung after the tune of *Eternal Father, strong to save*), at the request of his sponsors; and the fruit in his coat of arms are Worcester Black Pears. Beard watching? Close, but I'm afraid it's a miss, too.

Among the thousands of you who were probably misled by the funny hat, Christof alone correctly identified Moeen Ali's sport. (Aditi had to be disqualified because she only sent in the [correct] answer two hours after it had been publicly revealed.)

Yes, Moeen is the man who the future of English **TEST CRICKET** rests on!

And why not: these are desperate times. However, even now, it wouldn't be cricket to give the English an unfair advantage in the barbate person of Moeen Ali. With immediate effect a clarification has therefore been added by the WCC (pronounced "double you double see", short for World Cricket Council) to Clause (c) of Law 36 of the MCC Laws of Cricket (reproduced below). The expression "any part of his person" in that clause (presumably also hers: but let's not complicate matters) is henceforth to be interpreted as also including **temporarily sprouting parts**, in particular facial hair of all types as identified on the accompanying chart and picture.

In future, Law 36 will be referred to as the LBW/BBW Law, and umpires must specify whether a batsman is to be considered dismissed lbw or (in the case of Moeen) bbw.

BBW can't make matters worse for the DRS (Umpire Decision Review System). Sure, ball tracking technology is unreliable, and it can be manipulated (watch the Pakistani!), but nowadays a B is wagged before a W at such breakneck speed that no human eye could hope to see it deflect a ball. In their own interest, given their inadequate spin bowling, the BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India) will surely now reconsider their refusal to use DRS before they run the risk of an unexpected whitewash through the wolly curtain of Moeen's B before the English W.

MCC MCC



1. Out LBW The striker is out LBW in the circumstances pictured above and set out in plain words below.

(a) The bowler delivers a ball, not being a No ball, and (b) the ball, if it is not intercepted full pitch, pitches in line between wicket and wicket or on the off side of the striker's wicket, and (c) **the ball not having previously touched**

his bat, the striker intercepts the ball, either full pitch or after pitching, with any part of his person [except of course the hand holding his bat], and (d) the point of impact, even if above the level of the bails, either (i) is between wicket and wicket, or (ii) if the striker has made no genuine attempt to play the ball with his bat, is either between wicket and wicket or outside the line of the off stump, and (e) but for the interception, the ball would have hit the wicket.

2. Interception of the ball (a) In assessing points (c), (d) and (e) in 1 above, only the first interception is to be considered. (b) In assessing point (e) in 1 above, it is to be assumed that the path of the ball before interception would have continued after interception, irrespective of whether the ball might have pitched subsequently or not.

3. Off side of wicket The off side of the striker's wicket shall be determined by the striker's stance at the moment the ball comes into play for that delivery. See Appendix D.

© Marylebone Cricket Club 2013

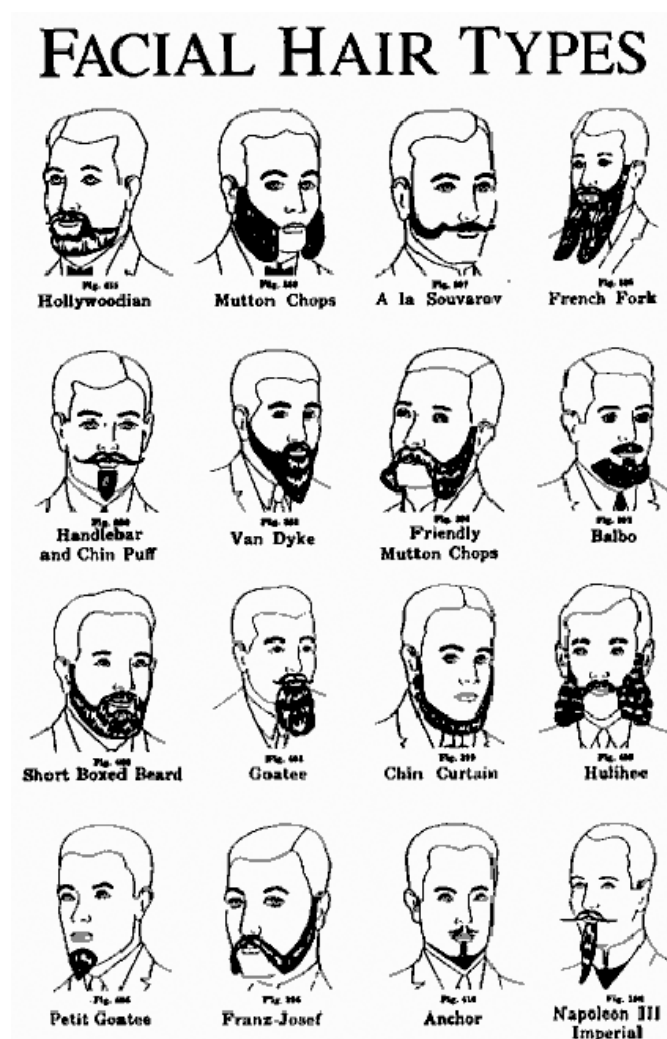


Fig. 476.
100 Centuries ("Sachin Tendulkar")

the guardian



Breaking news:

- Glamorgan cricketer Bernard Hedges has died aged 86, the club has announced. More details soon ...



Last Over:
Bernard Hedges (center), awaiting the fatal googly