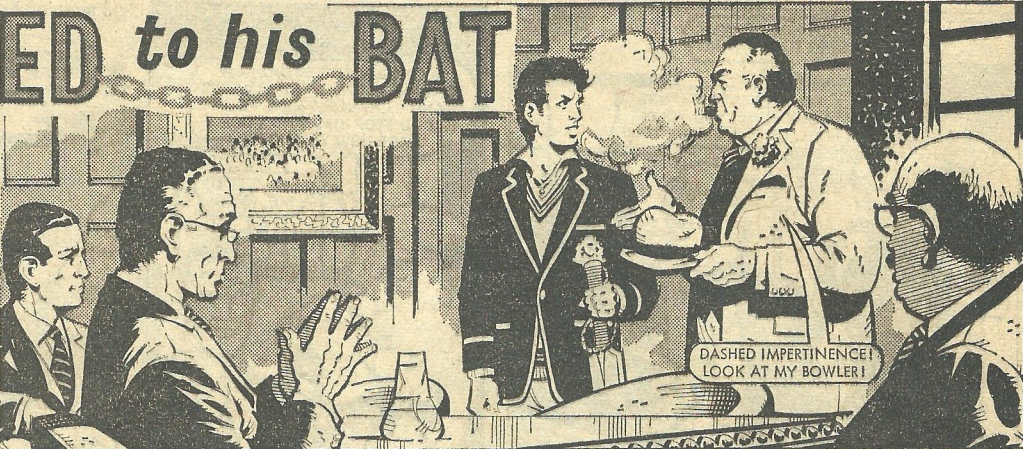


A battered bowler hat threatens John's whole cricket career.

# CHAINED to his BAT

**JOHN TAGGART**, the wonder batsman of Moorshire, who was chained to his bat, had bashed in the bowler hat belonging to Sir Selsey Willmot, an ex-England captain. John had been out for a duck in the first innings of the M.C.C. match against Australia, and the boy had claimed that it was Sir Selsey's fault, because he had blown cigar smoke in John's face. Now John had been summoned to attend a special committee called to consider the young batsman's conduct.



DASHED IMPERTINENCE! LOOK AT MY BOWLER!

After John and Sir Selsey left the room, Mr Hitchin, the chairman of Moorshire, was called before the committee.

FIRST OF ALL, GENTLEMEN, I WOULD LIKE TO SAY I'VE GIVEN JOHN A GOOD TICKING OFF AND HE'S SORRY HE BEHAVED IN SUCH A MANNER! YOU MUST ADMIT HE HAD SOME EXCUSE! SELSEY'S CIGARS ARE A BIT STRONG! THE LAD WASN'T WELL WHEN HE WENT IN TO BAT! HE'S NEVER HAD TO PUT UP WITH SMOKE OF ANY KIND.

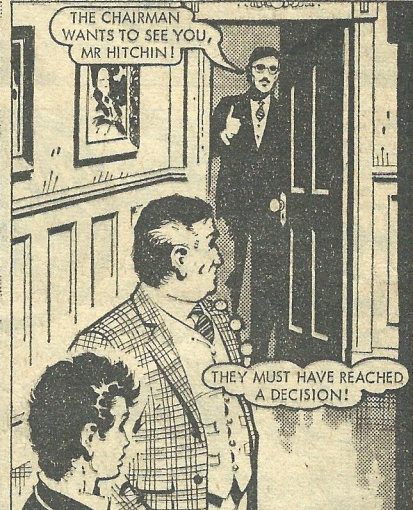


Mr Hitchin joined John outside the committee room.

THE TEAM IS IN TROUBLE, MR HITCHIN! WE ARE ONE TWO NINE FOR EIGHT!



AND YOU COULD BE IN TROUBLE TOO, JOHN. IF THE COMMITTEE DECIDE TO TAKE ACTION, IT COULD RUIN YOUR CAREER!

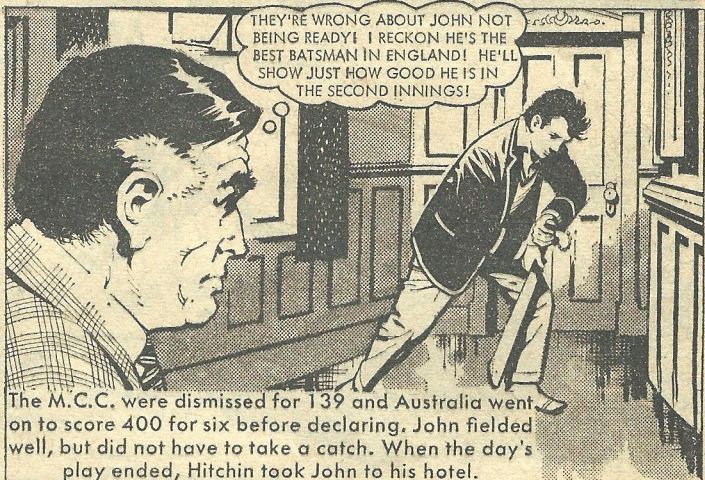


THE CHAIRMAN WANTS TO SEE YOU, MR HITCHIN!

THEY MUST HAVE REACHED A DECISION!



WE'VE DECIDED TO TAKE NO ACTION, HARRY! WE ARE TELLING YOU INSTEAD OF TAGGART, BECAUSE WE FEEL THE REAL TROUBLE IS THAT THE BOY HAS BEEN PREMATURELY PICKED FOR THIS CLASS OF CRICKET! HE'S NOT REALLY READY!

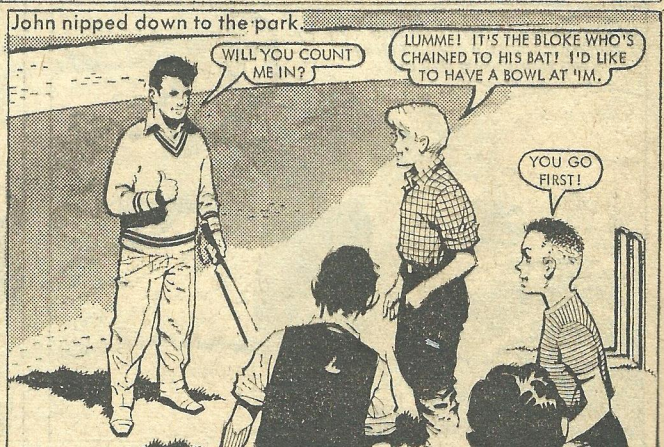


THEY'RE WRONG ABOUT JOHN NOT BEING READY! I RECKON HE'S THE BEST BATSMAN IN ENGLAND! HE'LL SHOW JUST HOW GOOD HE IS IN THE SECOND INNINGS!

The M.C.C. were dismissed for 139 and Australia went on to score 400 for six before declaring. John fielded well, but did not have to take a catch. When the day's play ended, Hitchin took John to his hotel.



THERE'S A CHANCE FOR SOME PRACTICE WITH THESE LADS! I DON'T WANT TO LET MR HITCHIN DOWN TOMORROW!



John nipped down to the park.

WILL YOU COUNT ME IN?

LUMME! IT'S THE BLOKE WHO'S CHAINED TO HIS BAT! I'D LIKE TO HAVE A BOWL AT 'IM.

YOU GO FIRST!