A Faustian Turn

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In a few days the inaugural Twenty20 World Championship will begin and with it the horror of the other World Cup which ended less than six months ago should be put to rest. That may be an overly simplistic point of view but for the International Cricket Council (ICC) and international cricket in general this tournament could be their last chance at saving some face. Doping, forfeited matches and a World Cup that was possibly the worst managed event in the history of bad events have taken the sheen off the prestige cricket once held. The Twenty20 Championship is a last ditch effort to "move with the times" and resurrect the brand that is cricket. Truth be told the farce of a competition is nothing but a sign of the times where money is the only real motivation, but that thought is hidden behind the facade that the new version of the game is the only real crowd pleaser and that these championships will really be for the fans, not like that sham they called the World Cup. Twenty20 is the last prostitution of a game already stripped bare. That's what people are really paying money to see.



Remember the name Stuart Robertson, in years to come he may be known as the mad scientist behind the hair brained scheme that is Twenty20 cricket, but then again in this era of globalisation and all things capitalist he may just be remembered as a revolutionary; history will be the judge of that. He is widely accredited as the man that came up with the concept over five years ago. While working for the England Cricket Board he came up with the idea of the shortest possible version of the game and one which would become hugely popular. The basic premise behind the idea was to attract a few thousand paying spectators to come and watch a match between first class teams which started late in the evening (after office hours and school) and would only last a maximum of three hours. In 2003 the scheme was tested for the first time and it proved to be a thundering success. Forty years after the Gillette Cup on the auspicious day of Friday the 13th the tournament started