

BATTING FOR CHANGE

During a Test at the WACA in December 1979 between Australia and England, Australian Dennis Lillee went to the crease with an Aluminium bat (seen here holding it up to Allan Border). There were no rules against using such a bat, but trouble began when Lillee hit a ball that went for three runs. Australian captain Greg Chappell thought that the ball should have gone for four runs, and demanded he use a wooden bat.

English captain Mike Brearley (then complained to the umpires that the bat was damaging the ball. Lillee only faced four balls with the Aluminium bat.

In a fit of pique, Lillee threw the aluminium bat 40 yards towards the pavilion and grudgingly took the wooden bat. After the game, sales of the bat skyrocketed before the laws of the game were amended, specifying that bats had to be made from wood.

