



Collingwood LBW Dismissal The Brit Oval, England vs India

Many experts felt that Hawk-Eye had given an inaccurate prediction for the Collingwood dismissal in the third Tests against India. General belief indicated that the ball would have missed leg stump, whereas Hawk-Eye showed it just clipping.

This ball has been examined in great detail to investigate our prediction of this delivery. The following provides a more in-depth view than was available “live”. We hope this will be of interest as we endeavour to maintain our deserved reputation for accuracy and reliability.



Figure 1: Final frame before ball hits the pads

Figure 1 does suggest that the ball is going down the leg side. Collingwood is playing a shot typical of a delivery which would be heading down the leg side and the eye naturally follows the centre of the ball, which is already towards the outside of leg stump.

However, on closer examination, a combination of factors shows that this delivery would have clipped leg stump:

- 1) Collingwood was not far forward (Figure 2).
- 2) At the point of release Collingwood is probably too far across his stumps, resulting in him in playing the wrong shot for this delivery (Figure 3).
- 3) The ball straightened off the wicket, so was moving to the leg side very slowly after pitching (Figure 4).
- 4) Closely examining the trajectory post-bounce shows that the natural projection of the ball is to hit leg stump (Figure 5).



Figure 2: Collingwood is hit just outside his crease.



Figure 3: Frame on release: Collingwood is well across and the ball is delivered close to the stumps.



Figure 4: Ball pitching. The ball is 2.3cm to the leg side and is 6.7 metres from the stumps

The following image combines all the frames after the bounce in to a single image. The blue virtual ball is positioned at the “hit/miss” position so the left edge of the ball is exactly in line with the right edge of the leg stump. The natural projection of the actual ball is to the left of the blue virtual ball, therefore implying that the ball would have clipped leg stump.

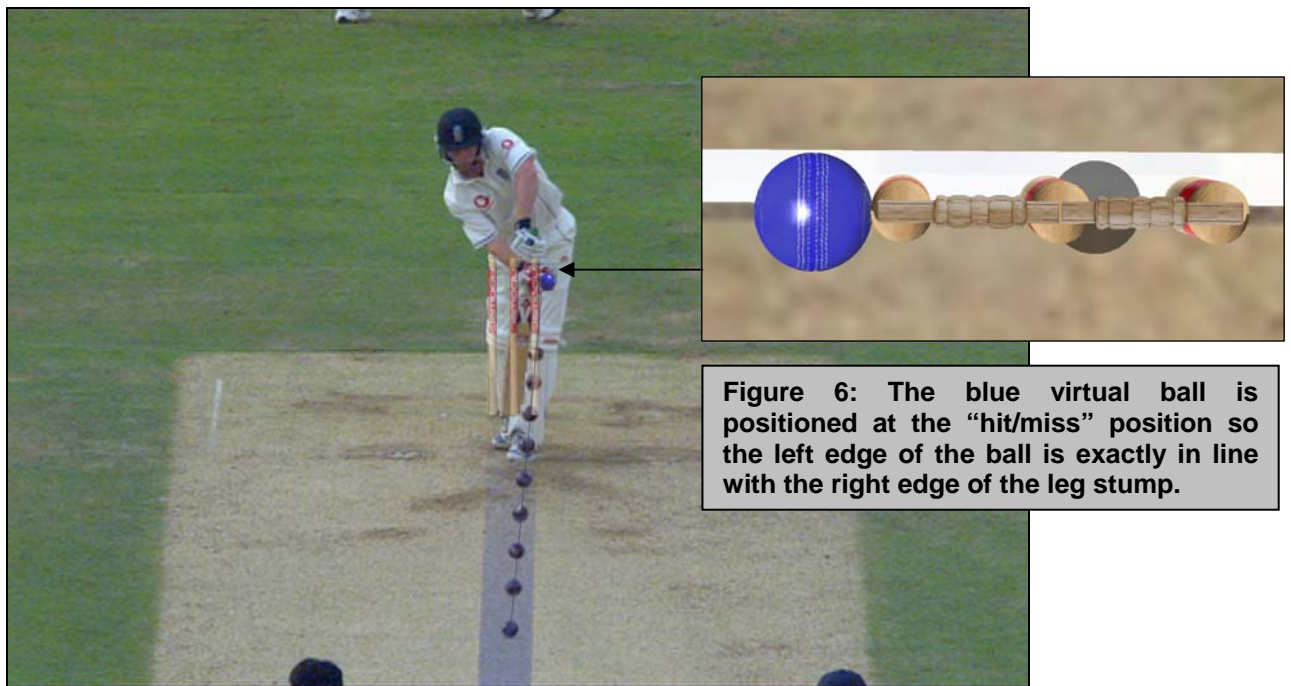


Figure 6: The blue virtual ball is positioned at the “hit/miss” position so the left edge of the ball is exactly in line with the right edge of the leg stump.

Figure 5: Combination of balls post-bounce.

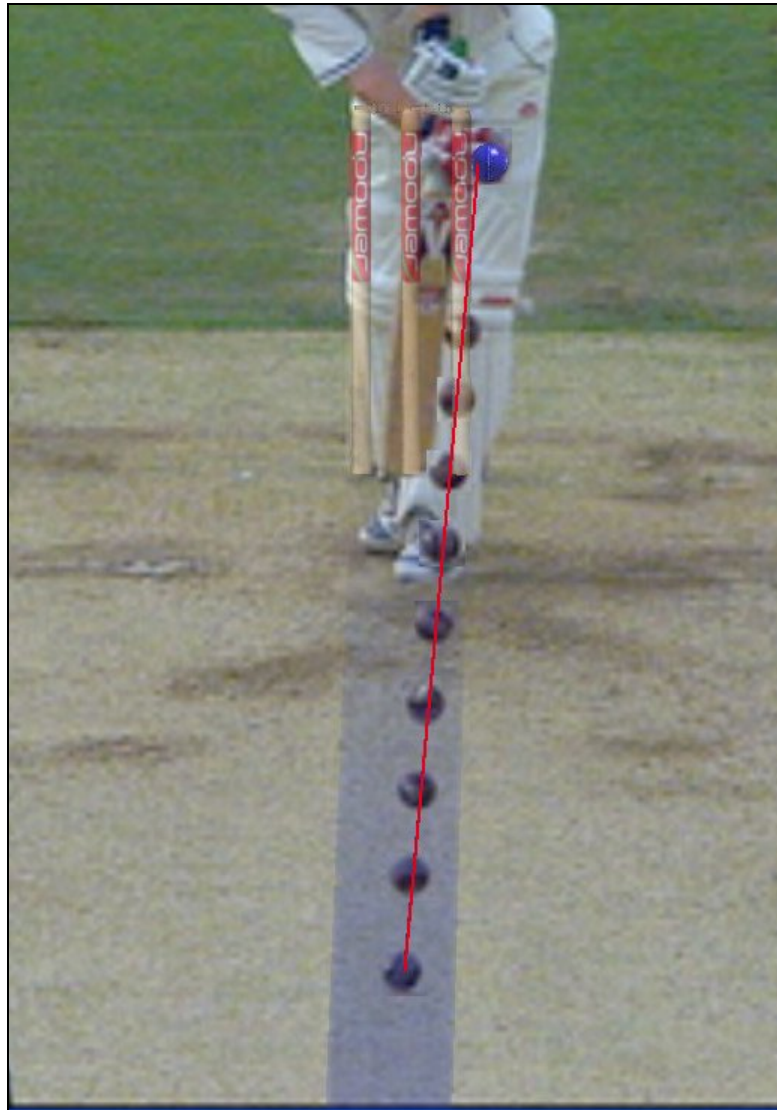


Figure 7: A zoomed-in version of Figure 5.



Figure 8: Same as Figure 5 with virtual balls in the same position as the real balls.



Figure 9: Same virtual balls as in Figure 7, but shown from a side-on angle to demonstrate how much the ball moves between frames.

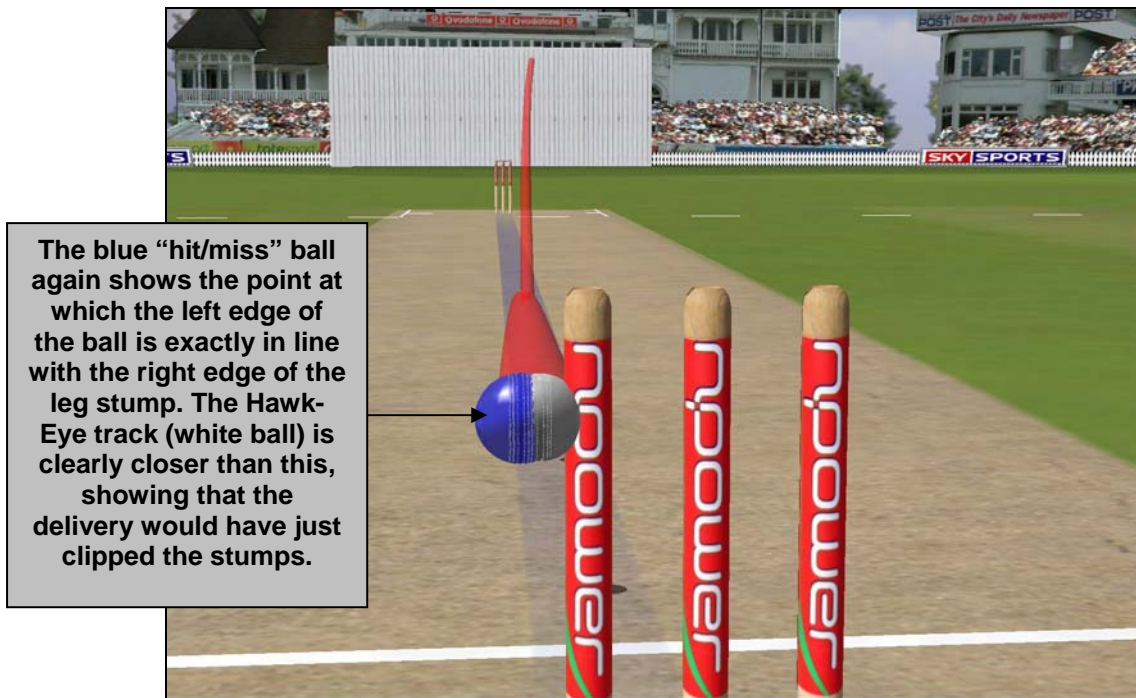


Figure 10: Hawk-Eye track showing that the ball would have just clipped the stumps.

Whether the umpire should have given the benefit of doubt to Collingwood is a separate issue, and is not discussed in this document.

General Feedback

Hawk-Eye has continued to evolve over the last six years by establishing close relationships with its customers. We welcome questions about our system, whilst we embrace and act positively on constructive feedback from all cricket commentators and experts.

For any incident where it is felt that Hawk-Eye’s prediction is inaccurate we will endeavour to investigate in as much depth as possible. If the resulting investigation proves that the system was inaccurate, we will hold our hands up and use it to make the system even better. In this case we hope our commitment will go some way to reassuring people.

For any questions, please feel free to contact us directly:

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It is helpful to know as soon as possible after a controversial incident so that all of the relevant images and data are saved off and analysed accordingly.