

The Wife Again Has The Last Word

What would cricket be like if we had women umpires?

No doubt the decisions made would be no less controversial than those made by male umpires.

This was proved recently, when Mrs. Elsie Cummings, an enthusiastic cricket fan, of Princess Road, Chickenley, was asked to umpire a Dewsbury and District league match between Moorlands second XI and Birstall Carr Millis second XI because the appointed umpire failed to arrive.

Very few women, I should imagine, can boast of having umpired a friendly match, let alone a league match.

But perhaps if women umpires became popular some batsmen might refrain from making wild gesticulations and glaring stares when given out by a shapely blonde umpire.

A MAN'S JOB

But Mrs. Cummings has no desire to become a regular umpire. "It's a man's game, and umpiring is a man's job, so leave it to them," she said.

A scorer for many years for Moorland's second XI, Mrs. Cummings has umpired once before, but she tells me that although she is very keen on cricket and watches games quite regularly, she has never played cricket and never will.

"I do not like to see women playing men's games," she said. "They can be just as useful making teas in the background, rather than playing on the field," she added.



When did she start taking an interest in cricket? When she met her husband, Mr. Gilbert Cummings, 18 years ago, and began to support his cricket team. "At first I used to take my knitting," she said, "until I was asked to be scorer, and now I wouldn't miss a match for anything," she added.

An official of the Dewsbury and District League told me this week that Mrs. Cummings had done exceptionally well and both sides had been quite satisfied with her decisions.

Footnote.—I do not think Mr. Cummings, who was playing for Moorlands 2nd XI, will give such glowing reports on her performance. She gave him out.