

Tin Can Tommy

A popular game played in the village during the 'hard' times was Tin Can Tommy. Very little equipment was required ... a tennis ball, an empty tin can (preferably a 2lb. Golden syrup) and 2 sticks each being about 9 inches in length. Any number of players could take part, both boys and girls, divided into two equal teams, an attacking side and a defending side. If there were an odd number of children the side who was a player short could allow one of their players to have two 'lives' and attack twice after being out the first time!

The tin would be placed on the road and the two sticks would be laid on top of the tin in the shape of a cross. The first of the attacking side would stand several yards away on a marked position and would throw the ball at the tin. The defending side would stand at a defined distance away from the tin. (similar to fielders in cricket). If the ball were to hit the tin and dislodge the sticks the next objective of the attacking side would be to replace the tin back on its original position, replace the sticks on top of the tin and shout "Tin Can Tommy". This would gain a score of one point and the game would continue by the next attacker in the side trying to dislodge the sticks. The defending team's objective when the sticks were dislodged would be to collect the ball and try to hit any one of the attacking side by throwing the ball at them. Every attacker would try to dodge the ball. If hit by the ball the attacker was out. The game would continue until all the attackers had been dismissed and the score noted.

The roles would then be reversed so that the attackers became the defenders and vice versa. Several innings could be played and the side scoring the most points would be declared the winners. This game kept everyone running around without having expensive equipment and the road could be used safely as there was little or no traffic.

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