

"BRENT TO PIETERSEN": A DRIVING TEST

A short advertising film by Richard Heller

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EXT. LORDS CRICKET GROUND. DAY

Wide-angle view of Lords Cricket ground. A match about to start, with a full bowling side, two batsmen, two umpires. No crowd except a few scientists in white coats, with various measuring instruments, and an array of camera operators.

CHIEF SCIENTIST

Good morning, everybody, or good afternoon or evening if you are watching in a different time zone. You are about to watch a scientific experiment in the field.

Repeat wide-angle view of Lords, for a beat.

CHIEF SCIENTIST (CONT'D)

The field in question is Lords Cricket Ground, where the batsman is Kevin Pietersen of England.

ON Kevin Pietersen at the batting crease, taking guard, no helmet so we can see his face, with an easy smile.

CHIEF SCIENTIST (CONT'D)

The bowler is David Brent, from the Pavilion end.

ON David Brent from The Office, in cricket whites. He waves.

CHIEF SCIENTIST (CONT'D)

David Brent has a lifetime bowling average of 81.34 in the Slough Interoffice League. Best figures of 1-62 against the Wernham Hogg Under-Elevens. Making some last-minute adjustments to his field. Always very precise in his field placings.

ON David Brent, making pompous signals.

CHIEF SCIENTIST (CONT'D)

At last he's ready. Brent to Pietersen, easy two pace run-up.

ON Brent bowling to Pietersen, from behind Brent.

CHIEF SCIENTIST (CONT'D)

No great pace, ball of full length...

ON Pietersen hitting a massive straight drive for six.

CHIEF SCIENTIST (CONT'D)

Straight drive from Pietersen. That's gone a long way.

ON the ball, comfortably clearing the Pavilion.

CHIEF SCIENTIST (CONT'D)  
That has cleared the Pavilion by a long way. We'll have to wait official confirmation, but that is almost certainly the biggest hit at Lord's, possibly the biggest in the history of the world.

ON Brent, looking aggrieved.

BRENT  
Ugly shot, really. Not very professional. I did him in the flight.

CHIEF SCIENTIST  
While they're looking for the ball, time to look at the shot again, with our analyst.

Slow motion replay.

THE ANALYST (O.S.)  
Pretty ordinary delivery and it gets the treatment from Kevin Pietersen. He is totally in control. Doesn't need much power, just timing. Absolutely perfect timing.

CHIEF SCIENTIST  
And while they're searching for the ball outside the ground, we have time to administer some refreshment to each player.

INT. THE TAVERN BAR AT LORDS. DAY

On Brent and Pietersen at the bar, chatting.

CHIEF SCIENTIST  
To Dave Brent we administer orange juice and to Kevin Pietersen a pint of beer.

ON the bar, where barman delivers an orange juice and a pint of beer.

BRENT  
I was asked to turn professional, but I had to give priority to my business career.

PIETERSEN

What a tragedy...

He takes a deep gulp of his beer. SLOW DISSOLVE, as Brent talks and Pietersen grimly listens and drinks.

CHIEF SCIENTIST

They are still looking for the ball,  
so more refreshment is administered.

ON the bar, where Brent is holding forth to a bored Pietersen. Each holds an empty glass.

BRENT

We have loads of laughs in our office.  
Can't help it, I'm just a natural  
entertainer. Same again?

PIETERSEN

(now desperately bored)  
Same again...

ON the bar, where barman delivers another orange juice and another pint of bitter. SLOW DISSOLVE again, as Brent talks on and Pietersen grimly listens and drinks deep.

BRENT

So, KP, when your cricket career's  
all washed up, don't hesitate to  
send me your CV. Glad to take a  
look - when I'm not partying!

CHIEF SCIENTIST

They finally located the ball, at  
Marble Arch, so the contest will  
resume.

EXT. LORD'S CRICKET GROUND. DAY.

Repeat wide-angle view of the match, briefly. Then ON Pietersen, about to bat, smile just a little bit crooked.

ON Brent, again pompously waving his field around.

CHIEF SCIENTIST

Brent finally satisfied with his  
field. Bowls again to Pietersen.

Identical delivery.

CHIEF SCIENTIST (CONT'D)

Full length, no great pace. Pietersen  
launches another straight drive.

Pietersen misses and is bowled. ON Pietersen's astonished face. ON Brent, cock-a-hoop, as Pietersen walks away from the shattered stumps.

CHIEF SCIENTIST (CONT'D)  
And he's bowled him! Middle stump.  
Pietersen bowled Brent, six. Let's  
see that again, with our analyst.

Slow motion replay of second ball.

THE ANALYST (O.S.)  
That was exactly the same delivery  
as the first. It was there to be  
driven and Pietersen tries to repeat  
that perfect straight drive. But he  
just lost control, his timing was  
completely gone. He gave his wicket  
away, but it's in the scorebook.  
Pietersen bowled by Brent.

CHIEF SCIENTIST  
So there it is. Scientific proof  
that you cannot drink and drive.

ON Pietersen, straight to camera.

PIETERSEN  
I cannot drink and drive. What makes  
you think you can?

[Or possibly VOICEOVER: Kevin Pietersen cannot drink and  
drive. What makes you think you can?]