



INVENTOR & MAKER OF THE WEEK

Paul Hawkins

INVENTOR OF HAWK-EYE

Hawkins was born in April 1974. He grew up in Hampshire where he loved playing sports, especially cricket.

After university he was studying artificial intelligence, but he was also still playing high-level cricket. One day he drove 300 miles to take part in a cricket match. After stepping up to bat he was almost immediately called out. The umpire had made a bad decision but there was nothing Paul could do.

Instead of feeling angry about the bad call, he came up with the idea for a computer system that could track a ball.

In 1999, Hawkins and his team of computer programmers made it happen. They used 6-10 video cameras to film a ball from different angles. This helped them make a 3D picture of how the ball moved.

At first, their Hawk-Eye system was used on TV to show clever replays in cricket. They then realised it could help decide if a ball was in or out of bounds in cricket and tennis games. It has been said that it changed the game of tennis forever!

