

CHAPTER 1

NEW RULES

Alfie and Fitzer were walking along the school corridor when they spotted Mr Moffet pinning something on the notice board.

Budsville Primary School
Team Conker Championship

RULES:

1. THREE PLAYERS TO A TEAM
2. BEST TWO OF EACH TEAM GOES FORWARD
3. NO BORROWING - PLAYERS MUST USE THEIR OWN CONKERS



‘Hey!’ said Alfie. ‘They’ve changed it to a **team** contest.’

‘Whacker Walsh won’t be happy with that,’ grinned Fitzer. Whacker had won the individual competition for the past two years.

Just then, Whacker and Emily Farrell nudged the two pals out of the way.

‘A TEAM Competition? Huh! That won’t stop me from winning! I’ll have the best team in the school,’ Whacker boasted.



He turned to Alfie. 'So, Green, who's going to be your third player?'

'Maybe it'll be Conor Hoolihan!' Emily suggested, and she and Whacker broke their sides laughing.



Alfie was
furious.



‘That’s right,
Emily. Our
third player **IS**
Conor Hoolihan. See you at the games
on Monday.’

Alfie walked off with his head held
high.

Fitzer ran after him. ‘Alfie!’ he
screached. ‘Have you gone **CONKERS**
BONKERS? Conor Hoolihan is the
worst conkers player in the whole of
Budsville.’



Fitzer was right. Conor Hoolihan was so bad at conkers that his nickname was 'Knuckles'. After every conkers match his knuckles were black and blue with bruises. Sometimes he even hit himself!



‘Well,’ Alfie said, ‘I couldn’t let Whacker have the last laugh. Anyway,’ he added hopefully, ‘maybe Conor will say no.’

But Conor didn’t say no. He was **DELIGHTED** to be asked to join Alfie’s team.

The three boys agreed to meet the next day in the park to pick their conkers for Monday.

