

and Cedric was on two. Harry was sweating even in the December cold, but he couldn't stop smiling. He was having the time of his life.

"Round thirteen!" Boris announced. "Seekers, take your places!"

They'd been out there for almost two hours already, and the crowd had thinned a little. Obviously some people hadn't realised just how long it was going to take four seekers to go for the snitch fifteen times. There were still plenty of people out watching them, though — they'd even gained a couple of teachers, in the form of Flitwick, McGonagall and Sprout.

Round thirteen didn't last long — Viktor caught the snitch within the first few minutes, taking him up to five points. Harry grit his teeth, refusing to let the Bulgarian wizard get too much of a lead. If he was going to lose, he wanted to do so by only a point or two.

Round fourteen ended up with Harry hanging practically upside-down off his broom to catch the snitch above the heads of a group of sixth year girls, having to be very careful not to crash right into them. He brought the snitch back to Boris and settled in for the final round. He was only one point behind Viktor. Maybe, just maybe, he could catch it and send them into a tiebreaker.

As they reset, Viktor smirked at Harry. "Coming for my lead, are you?"

"Gonna try," Harry returned with a grin, mounting his broom and squeezing his eyes shut on Boris' command. He took off at the whistle, settling into his usual loop and seeing the other three do the same. All of them were desperate to score one last point — Viktor to secure his victory, Harry to go for the tiebreaker, and Cedric and Fleur to just stop Viktor beating the rest of them by too many points.

Suddenly Fleur was dropping into a dive, determination on her face. Harry automatically moved to follow, eventually seeing what the French witch was seeing; the snitch was practically right next to Boris, back where it had started. Cheeky little thing.

Boris seemed to realise the issue and dropped to his belly on the grass, rolling away before the two seekers could come crashing into him. Fleur was just edging in front of Harry, but he pushed on, leaning as far forward on his broom as he would dare without tipping too far and going arse over teakettle. Fleur clearly wasn't as comfortable pushing the boundaries as Harry, keeping her centre of gravity squarely over the middle of the broom, and it was that hesitance that allowed Harry to edge out and grab the snitch just ahead of her. He had to lurch back as soon as his fingers closed around metal, sliding to a halt.

The crowd was roaring. Cedric was laughing. Even Fleur looked grudgingly impressed. Viktor, on the other hand, pulled up next to Harry, staring at him for a long minute. "I was not expecting you to be this good," he said eventually, looking quite put out about that. Harry beamed.

They returned to Boris, who looked utterly gobsmacked by the turn of events. "Friends, we have a tiebreaker situation! Harry Potter and Viktor Krum have both finished on five points! Cedric Diggory and Fleur Delacour will bow out for this final round, if I can please have a round of applause for their efforts."