

**N**ow, that was a Test match! What an exhilarating five or should I say, four, days. The attitude that both teams had, in fact that they have had for both Tests, has been exceptional and especially considering the circumstances and lack of spectators.

I do have to admit that I had TMS on in the background on the 4th and 5th days and despite my frustration with the banality of a lot of the so-called 'banter' it was easier listening to it than going into the house to watch the match unfold on SKY Sports and far more conducive to me getting work done.

I do not care whether who the commentator is but ridiculous comments such as 'England could do with around ten an over tonight' (at the end of Day 4), 'You get the feeling that this is slipping away from England' (West Indies 78-4 with around 52 overs remaining or my choice for bland comment of the year, 'Even though it is the fifth day, we did lose day four.'

Time to confess - I turned TMS off at tea, went for my afternoon walk with Lorraine and turned on to watch the end on SKY and I am glad that I did. I like Cook as a commentator but I am afraid the others in the 'box' are not my cup of tea, or glass or red, or pint of Pale Ale...I am flexible.

Expecting England to score at ten an over against bowlers with no restrictions, pumped up to stop scoring and with field settings akin to Mike Brearley all those years ago (10 on the boundary!), was rather sieve and inexcusable commentary. The match itself was a super contest. I was one of those who suggested ditching the West Indies series in favour of an Australia mini-tour and I now realise the error of my thoughts. The West Indies have been a breath of fresh air and all is set for the decisive Third Test.

Once again though the pampered elite of cricketers - with their security team in place, advisers, mental health experts and entourage of very important non-playing personnel cannot stop a member of the squad from breaking the rules...what was Mr. Archer thinking of? Did he believe as some sportsmen are often accused of believing, that no laws apply to him? In a way I am glad that he didn't play because it gave Woakes, Broad and Curran the opportunity to bowl as a unit and they did so, very effectively. Understandably Bess was bowling too 'fast' when the pitch would have helped him, but it is difficult having the confidence needed to take a chance and to bowl slower. As for Phil Tufnell's seemingly constant criticism of Bess not 'slowing it down' - I do think Mr Tufnell has forgotten how many times he let England down. Be as witty as you like Tuffers, but you were not a hero more often than you were one. What did you end up with, 120 odd wickets in 42 Tests at nearly 40!!

In a previous long ago Virtual Wisdener I sarcastically criticised the inability of those who run English cricket to organise a free drinking session in a brewery (you all know what I mean) by their total ineptitude at sorting out the fixtures for the re-commencement of domestic first-class cricket. If we are due to start on August 1st then my disillusionment knows no bounds. Why haven't they announced a fixtures list?:

1: They are afraid that with advance knowledge of the fixtures, hundreds of thousands of county members will camp outside cricket grounds in their caravans or sleep rough overnight in tents, eager to barge past the surprised security staff in order to break-in to see Leicestershire play Durham.

2: They actually, as many of our WCC members believe, do not give a penny for the cricket fan, so not announcing any fixtures is a way of keeping the game firmly in their own hands.

3: They are in negotiation with select sponsors who will, for a large fee, payable in used Euros, have a box or two at every match. The box will be for all four days of a county match and the sponsors and guests will have to live together in the box, all drinks, food, drinks and drinks are included.

4: They haven't started talking about a fixture list yet.

5: Somehow has decided on a fixture list but that person forgot that Westeros, Elfdom, Middle Earth and Narnia don't have cricket teams.

Anyone who answers the question, rightly or wrongly, with wit or not, will be entered into a draw to win a LapTop case or Ruck Sack. These items come from the charity the WCC supports (see page 8).

A massive sincere thank you to everyone who has bought from Wisdenworld...the email that went out on Friday had an unbelievably response and again, thank you all.

Bill

*PS: - A 'real' letter will be sent out shortly to all Wisden Collectors' Club members with important, good, news, please look out for it.*

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**A**n eventful year has passed since I last wrote the Notes. The Ashes, won by England at The Oval in 1953, were deservedly won back by Australia at Adelaide in 1959.

Hanif Mohammad, of Pakistan, created a new world record for an individual score by making 499 at Karachi, and Garfield Sobers achieved the highest personal Test innings by scoring 365 not out for West Indies against Pakistan at Kingston, Jamaica. At home, Surrey again dominated the County Championship and won the title for the seventh time in succession, a feat without precedent. The fight for the Ashes held the attention of the cricketing world in recent months and not for the first time it produced a good deal of controversy. England went to Australia with the unofficial title of "World Champions." At the time no one could deny that they ranked above all their rivals; yet when they went into action their standard of play bore no relation to their exalted position and they were toppled off their pedestal.

So, after an interval of six years, Australia regained the Ashes and England can look forward to a hard struggle when they attempt to turn the table in England in 1961. To the millions of enthusiasts who got up early in the morning to listen to the news from Australia, England's failure came as a bitter disappointment.

Defeat can be as honourable as victory when a side has gone down after giving of their best; but during those cold winter months we at home felt that England had been badly let down by the batting and fielding. The bowlers performed admirably, particularly Statham, Trueman and Laker, but apart from May and Cowdrey all the specialist batsmen failed.

#### *Throwing*

**During the recent M.C.C. tour of Australia, one read constant references to the questionable bowling actions of several men who** opposed P. B. H. May's team. Four of them, Meckiff, Rorke, Slater and Burke were chosen for Australia. Even some old Australian players did not mince their words in criticising these young men. What can be done to check unfair tactics?

The danger of not stamping on offenders in the past has led to the problems which now confront the authorities. They have only themselves to blame for the spread of this menace to the game. Too much responsibility is left to the umpires, who, I feel would take action if they knew they could rely on support from the officials above them. I remember Frank Chester's experience during the first Test between England and South Africa at Trent Bridge in 1951. Chester disapproved of C. N. McCarthy's action at the beginning of England's first innings. South Africa batted almost the whole of the first two days. On the third morning Chester, who was at square-leg when McCarthy was operating, watched the bowler intently. It was quite obvious that he was studying his action. After the lunch interval, Chester rarely looked that way again.

#### *The Wettest Summer*

**Cricket in England suffered cruelly from rain in 1958. Two years ago I recorded that 1956 was the wettest season in memory and now I** have to state that last summer was even worse. Our visitors from New Zealand lost 174 playing hours--nearly a whole month's cricket--and Lancashire reported the loss of 159 playing hours. One county match, Yorkshire v. Nottinghamshire at Hull, was abandoned on the second morning, so waterlogged was the ground. Compared with 1957, attendances, through the turnstiles, dropped by half a million. The financial blow would have been overwhelming but for the regular help most counties now receive from their supporters' organisations who distribute liberally profits accruing from football competitions.

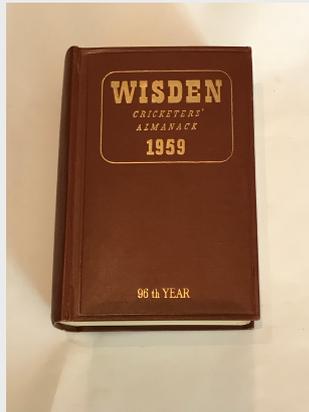
## A Look at the 1959 Wisden

Since the war much time has been spent in trying to find solutions to overcome the difficulties presented by the English climate.

In order to re-start games as soon as possible after rain, experiments in drying the pitch have been tried with the aid of blankets, absorbent rubber mats, rollers of various textures and suction machines which quickly pick up surface water. Yet, with all these aids, irritating delays continue and the public becomes less inclined to risk hanging about in the hope of seeing some cricket.

*Editor's Notes, Sydney Pardon*

**Three batsmen, PBH May, MJK Smith and RE Marshall each scored 2000+ runs in First-class cricket.** In total 63 batsmen scored 1000+ runs. Eighteen bowlers took 100+ wickets. GAR Lock with 170 was the leading wicket taker, D Shackleton on 165 was the next.



R Subba Row hit 300 for Northamptonshire in the drawn county match against Surrey at The Oval. Bowling for Northamptonshire against Yorkshire, G.E. Tribe had second innings bowling figures of 14.2 - 10 eight wickets for nine runs. Yorkshire were bowled out for 67 and 65 in a ten-wicket defeat. Northants won four of their next five county championship matches.

Batting for New Zealand against England at Leeds, W.R. Playle scored 18 runs in 194 minutes.

Surrey won the County Championship for a seventh successive season.

In a season when bowlers dominated some notable results occurred. In scoring 158-8 declared, Derbyshire still managed to defeat Notts (84 and 72) by an innings and two runs. In the Derbyshire v Hampshire match at Burton, the home side made 8-1 when play ended on Day One. On day two 39 wickets fell with Hampshire being dismissed for 23 and 55, Derbyshire made 74 and 207.

Essex scored 186 in reply to Surrey's first innings score of 79, Surrey were then bowled out for 74 to lose by an innings inside two days.

In another low scoring match Hampshire, in reply to the Glamorgan score of 72 declared on 120-6 and bowled the home side out for 46 to win by an innings and two runs. The top scorer in the match with 42 was A.J. Watkins of Glamorgan.

Batting on a drying pitch in response to Lancashire's first innings score of 351, Glamorgan were bowled out for 26. No batsman reached double figures.

Kent were bowled out for 61 by Leicestershire at Gillingham and responded by making 39, despite being 24 without loss at one stage. Only Prodger of Kent and Hallam of Leicestershire reached double figures in each first innings.

Lancashire defeated Hampshire at Manchester after bowling the visitors out for 50 in their second innings. Ten days later again at Manchester, needing 205 to beat Surrey, the home side were bowled out for 27.

Wisden reported in the match report for the Lancashire v Yorkshire Friendly at Liverpool that the home side did not enforce the follow, 'Instead Lancashire batted briskly in the second inning.' (Lancashire scored 125 in 38.1 overs). Yorkshire were subsequently bowled out for 79.

*The 1959 Hardback in stunning condition can usually be found for between £60 and £70. The soft back is a little trickier to find in exceptional condition, but when found it should cost between £35 and £40.*

*Prices for very good editions, hardbacks with strong boards and super cover gilt (maybe slightly dull spine gilt) and soft backs with spine bowing, these should be around £45 and £32 respectively.*

## The Kit Bag

**Bramble Bank, a sandbar in the middle of a stretch of water off the south coast of England, is a disaster area for shipping. But what's bad for industry is apparently great for cricket.**

Twice a year, for about an hour on each occasion, the sandbar surfaces as a temporary two-acre island. Despite the fact that pools of seawater cover the pitch, and players have to wear galoshes instead of their standard cricket boots, sportsmen take full advantage of the challenge: to play a cricket match during the hour when the island is available. Of course, the winning team is usually one of the local sailing clubs; generally the one that can get the most players to the shore.

The Bramble Bank is renowned as being the location of an annual cricket match between the Royal Southern Yacht Club and the Island sailing Club. The match takes place when the bank is exposed but never lasts very long before the tide returns. The undulating surface with large puddles ensures it is more a social occasion than a serious cricket match. The ultimate example of this is the scoring - the victor of the game is pre-determined as the two clubs simply take it in turns to "win" the match, regardless of how the match progresses. The event was last held Thursday 22 August 2013.

The Bramble Bank, otherwise known simply as "The Brambles" is an arrowhead-shaped sandbar in the central Solent which is uncovered at low spring tides. At other times it presents either a significant

navigational hazard or a useful escape from the strong Solent tides. The bank is moving very slowly westward. It is marked at its southeastern limit by the Brambles post sea mark and on its western limit by the West Knoll buoy

On Tuesday 11 November 2008, on approaching Southampton Docks for her last visit prior to retirement, the Cunard liner Queen Elisabeth 2 ran aground on the Bramble Bank at approximately 0530 hrs. She required 4 tugs to pull her clear on the rising tide and arrived in Southampton approximately 90 minutes late. An interesting reference to this practice is found in Hansard, the British parliamentary record, during the debate on the Licensing Bill (Lords) in Standing Committee D, on 8 May 2003. In this debate the Island's MP, Andrew Turner is discussing the problems of licensing when the event to be licensed falls between two authorities, and in a light-hearted way cites the example of the Bramble Bank cricket match. Similarly, Goodwin Sands is another target for hasty games. Most of the year the sandbar hovers dangerously just below the surface. But unlike Bramble Bank, Goodwin Sands has come dangerously close to causing a cricket catastrophe.

In November 2006 a BBC television team attempted to stage a Goodwin Sands cricket fixture. Unfortunately the escapade showed how easy it was to be caught by the rising tide. The television crew lost an estimated £100,000 worth of equipment and the cricket club lost equipment as lifeboats rescued stranded crew and players.

**Newcomers this season to the Wisbech and District Cricket League (Cambridgeshire), Schweppes Food C.C. are unlikely to forget their debut in the competition.** Playing away against Leverington A in a Knock-out Cup match on Friday May 23rd they dismissed the home side for 50...and were then all out themselves for just ONE run!

Schweppes lost their first wicket to the opening ball of the innings. The second ball produced their solitary run, scored by Michael Hunns, and then another wicket fell to the third. The bowler was Colin Bailey, who went on to return the remarkable analysis of eight wickets for one run in five overs. The entire innings lasted just 54 balls.

The 'total' is a record for the League, and is believed to be the lowest ever recorded in the district.

The sensational news is that since that happened, Schweppes have now done it again, within nine days of the previous disaster. This time their opponents were Barroway Drove C.C., who batted first and scored 49. Schweppes in turn were skittled out for one in just 39 balls. Alan Howlett scored the run, while David Fennel took 5-0 and Barry Fletcher 5-1.

To score 1 all out may not in itself be a record, to do so twice in nine days must be unique.

*Cricket Monthly 1960*

A 'disgruntled Yorkshireman' returned all his tickets for the Test match against Australia at the Oval (August 17-22, 1961).

In a letter to Surrey County Cricket Club he said: 'I originally purchased the tickets under the impression that I should be watching England v Australia. However, since England has elected to play their Second XI, I feel I may more profitably be engaged in watching the England first XI (i.e. Yorkshire) v Worcestershire.

**England XI** at The Oval: Pullar, Scubba Row, Cowdrey, May, Dexter, Barrington, Murray, Lock, Allen, Statham and Flavell.  
**Yorkshire XI** v Worcestershire: Bolus, Taylor, Padgett, Close, Sharpe, Wilson, Trueman, Bings, Gillhouley, Platt and Ryan.

England escaped with a draw.  
Yorkshire won by an innings and 13 runs.

*The Yorkshire Post, September 1961*

We have said that forty matches were played continuously through twenty weeks, beginning on May 7 and ending on September 22. With the two spare days that were arranged for, there were 118 days possible; fourteen matches were finished in two days, and ten entire days were lost owing to rain, so that there were ninety-four hard days' play.

### *McDonnell's Captaincy*

We have also said that of the forty matches played, the Australians won nineteen and lost fourteen, the remaining seven being drawn. McDonnell won the toss on seventeen occasions, and lost it on twenty-three, so that he has no reason to thank his luck for any share of success gained.

McDonnell's conduct as captain of the eleven was by no means unanimously approved by the team or by English cricketers who took interest in the matter, and it is an open secret that but for Beal's tact, the loyalty and level-headedness of Turner, and the unswerving obedience of Ferris, there was now and then a possibility of the same sort of muffled mutiny which in some former teams has been unpleasantly apparent.

Now the tour is over, and there can be no harm in speaking all one's mind, we may say that we think on many occasions McDonnell showed want of judgment. We do not mean in his batting, though after the marvellous Manchester performance his rashness was apparent to anyone; but in the general management of his bowling. He never seemed happy unless he had Turner on at one end and Ferris at the other. Of course we all knew very early in the tour that there were no other great bowling stars, and that it was a Turner and Ferris trip or nothing. The young bowlers stood the work magnificently.

### *Young Bowlers*

Ferris, the slighter and less robust of the two, was now and then stale and below himself, but Turner worked with superb energy, skill, and determination, and commanded the admiration of even the most lukewarm follower of the game. But what would have happened if the dry weather had come at the beginning of July instead of the beginning of August? How would the team have fared if disease had seized one of the best bowlers instead of the best batsman?

No one, save the veteran Boyle, had had any experience of English grounds, and the team had not been taught to place reliance on any one else. McDonnell's policy said as plainly as if he had spoken the words, Our bowlers are Turner and Ferris; we only put the other men on to give them a rest. We have no great opinion of Trott's leg break bowling, and think it probably too slow to be effectual against good batsmen, at any rate during such a season as we have had. Worrall, however, showed that he was by no means to be despised, and he was certainly far more

successful than S. M. J. Woods, who after his heavy work through the Cambridge season played for the Australians in the representative matches. And what are we to think of Boyle?

### *Boyle*

It is true that he is, as Australian cricketers go, a veteran, but when he was here in 1884 he took sixty-seven wickets for about 17 and a half runs each, and two years before he took a hundred and forty-four wickets for something over 11 runs each. Surely if he was worth bringing at all in 1888 he was worth bowling more than a hundred and fifty overs. As it is, his record for the season shows that he took eleven wickets for 18 runs each, and scored 153 runs. There was no reason at all in bringing him if no more use than this was to be made of his services.

To show how completely Turner and Ferris monopolised the bowling, obeying McDonnell's orders, the averages give Turner bowling nearly two thousand six hundred overs, Ferris over two thousand two hundred, and Trott only five hundred, while no one else in the whole season approached even three hundred overs. Of course, McDonnell should have made full use of his best men when the occasion required it, but a wise general does not have his crack regiments engaged in every skirmish, and there were plenty of sides who would not have been able to do much with Boyle keeping a good length at one end, and the changes played upon Worrall, Trott and Lyons at the other.

The wonder is that McDonnell's policy succeeded. We doubt very much if it would ever succeed again. Let alone the chances of accident - and before now Spofforth and Palmer have had to stand out from their side - there is the practical certainty that with the wickets harder than they were during the summer the work would have beaten Ferris, if it had not even been too much for the strength and resolution of Turner.

### *Batting and Bowling*

The batting and bowling tables at the end of the matches will show, to keep our promise, how the Australians compared with contemporary Englishmen. We should say that what are called the representative matches were the following nine: Three against England, and one each against the Gentlemen, the Players, the North, the South, the M. C. C. and Lord Londesborough's Eleven. These tables will show how McDonnell came out at the top of the batting throughout the season, how Bonnor displayed his inequalities of form, playing a giant's game one day and a lawn-tennis game the next. Trott amply and fully justified his selection by scoring the highly creditable total of 1212 runs, with an average of over 19 per innings. We have already said all we need say in praise of the steadiness of Bannerman, and we hope that no

one will overlook the enormous loss sustained through Jones's illness. Turner hit freely and well on many occasions and played the keen, plucky, and confident game that great cricketers play on great occasions. Lyons, after beginning in the most miserable fashion, came out at last like a cricketer, and played at Hastings, in the middle of September, a really admirable innings of 84. We should not be in the least surprised to see this player here again, and then he should prove a success.

#### *Painfully Slow*

Edwards's method of scoring is painfully slow, and, though we give him every possible credit for good intentions, we do not think that he is an element of strength in a touring eleven. Of course it is trying a man pretty highly to put him in a team of this sort, and many a cricketer who plays creditably enough for an English county would fail under the severer test. Jarvis failed in this way. He went in 52 times and his best score was 39. Ferris - plucky little Ferris, of whom no great things were expected as a batsman - was useful often enough. He hit with plentiful lack of science, and a princely contempt for the hands of the fieldsmen; but he made runs, and in the England match at Lord's the runs he made went a long way towards winning. Worrall is a batsman of the rural or bucolic type. He must be a descendant of that village wonder who hit 'bloomin' 'ard, bloomin' 'igh, and bloomin' often.' But Worrall is degenerate. He certainly hits hard and high - and seldom. Blackham's batting, notwithstanding that early innings of 96, was a conspicuous failure, and in fifty-eight innings he made less than 550 runs. Boyle did very little, and S. M. J. Woods went in ten times to make 54 runs.

#### *Comparison*

We ask the readers of this annual to compare the Australian batting table, the features of which we have just been describing, with the English batting against Australians. There was only one Australian average of over 20, but we have to go a very long way down the English list before the point of 20 is reached. Of course it may be urged that these English averages were obtained in fewer matches; but the same men, playing against the same bowling that was brought against the Australians, averaged for their counties and their clubs for better than did the Colonial batsmen. In the representative matches, though the advantage is still on the English side, the comparison is somewhat closer, and so too was the result of the matches, for with one drawn game there were four victories to the Australians, and four to English teams. It is, however, for the bowling and the bowling of Turner and Ferris that, as we have said, the tour of 1888 will be memorable in cricket history. We hope these young bowlers will come again and be given another chance on English grounds against the pick of our batsmen. Save for illness or accident they are sure to do

themselves credit, and if they are better supported than they were this summer, and somewhat more sparingly used, they will, we feel sure, come through a second ordeal as triumphantly as they came through their first. Ferris was thought by many people to be at least the equal of Turner, but as the season went on it was apparent that the young left-hander was not only less vigorous and enduring, but that he lacked the terrible knack of hitting the wicket which Turner had acquired.

#### *Splendid Ferris*

Ferris is a splendid bowler, and worthily carries on the traditions of the Colonies, but few people here, and certainly not ourselves, will maintain that he is a cricketer of the same class as his great colleague. Turner at one bound has reached the highest point in cricket fame. We knew he was a fine bowler before he came over, but no one, and least of all the Australians, will say that a merely Colonial reputation nowadays will place the seal of enduring fame against a cricketer's name. Since he has gone through this wonderful season's work, taking more wickets in important eleven-a-side matches than we believe any bowler had taken before him, Turner ranks with the best. We shall not attempt to decide whether he or Spofforth is the greater, because they have never been tried under equal conditions.

#### *Matter of Opinion*

Who are the absolute best among the great bowlers of a period must always be a matter of opinion. Experts have differed, and continue to differ, not only about the bowlers of the past, but about the comparative merits of men that they see every day, and we shall not be guilty of the rashness of saying whether Turner or Spofforth is the greatest of Australian bowlers; nor will we commit the lesser indiscretion of excluding from the fanciful competition the names of Palmer and Giffen. All we shall say is that in ability to hit the wicket, Turner seems to be superior to Spofforth. Of the three hundred and fourteen men he got out last summer two hundred and ten were out through the ball hitting the wicket. We do not say that they were all clean bowled, for they were bowled probably in some cases off their legs or after the ball had hit the bat. Spofforth, so far as we know, has no record to equal this, but Turner had the wettest of wet seasons to help him, and we do not think that, in the matter of skill and resource in bowling for catches, Turner has as yet proved himself anything like the equal of the wily Demon. We now give two lines of figures, though here again we must leave the readers of this annual to form their own conclusions.

They represent respectively the season's work of Turner for the Australian eleven and the season's work of Lohmann in eleven-a-side matches for Surrey and other great sides.

If these figures prove nothing else they prove that even with the presence of a new man of phenomenal ability the old country has not the smallest reason to feel dissatisfied. In looking through these figures readers must bear in mind that Lohmann bowled in four or five fewer matches than Turner.

	Overs	Mdns	Runs	Wickets	Average
C.T.B. Turner	2589.3	1222	3492	314	11.38
G.A. Lohmann	1936.3	907	2707	253	10.17

In concluding this review of the tour we should say that Blackham's wicket-keeping was excellent all through the summer, his form on many occasions being considered quite equal to that of his best days. As this was Blackham's sixth tour in the country higher praise is impossible. Jarvis kept wicket excellently on several occasions. The figures of the colleagues were as follows:

Blackham	21 caught	21 stumped
Jarvis	14 caught	12 stumped

#### Good Fielding

The fielding of the side, though now and then it fell to pieces unaccountably, was decidedly good. Trott was excellent at point, Bannerman on the off side was pretty well as safe and quick as ever, Bonnor made some grand catches in the long field, and Worrall and Edwards were capable of stopping anything that came to them. The team sailed for home in the Orient steamer Cuzco, on October 12, from Tilbury, having been entertained in a cordial and friendly way by many people after the tour ended. The most noteworthy banquet was that given at Bailey's Hotel, Gloucester Road, Kensington, by Mr. F. H. Dangar, president of the New South Wales Cricketing Association. Here a large company of between two and three hundred sat down, including nearly all the members of the team, several prominent English cricketers, and journalists connected with the sport.

Lord Harris, in responding for the cricketers of England, expressed his confident hope that four years would not be allowed to elapse before another Colonial team visited England. He bore testimony to the admirable feeling and true cricketer's instinct displayed by McDonnell and his eleven, and he said, whatever their changes of fortune might have been, they no doubt won the match which of all others they would have chosen if they had been asked before they sailed which they would rather win - the England match at Lord's.

For the sake of showing how Australians who had been here before batted or bowled this season and in former seasons we append the following:

#### Comparative Tables - Batting

JMC Blackham	Yr	Inns	Runs	HS	Average
	1878	22	256	53	19.90
	1880	18	205	42*	13.10
	1882	43	612	62	17.00
	1884	43	690	69	17.10
	1886	52	740	71	15.35
	1888	58	548	96	9.35
HF Boyle	1878	23	119	18	7.00
	1880	17	195	69	15.00
	1882	45	300	39	9.12
	1884	38	262	48	10.22
	1888	29	153	36	8.90
AC Bannerman	1878	26	256	71*	11.30
	1880	12	196	38	17.90
	1882	56	1201	120*	22.13
	1884	52	961	94	19.11
	1888	63	943	93*	16.47
GJ Bonnor	1880	17	145	36	9.10
	1882	47	815	122*	20.15
	1884	52	937	95*	19.60
	1886	34	581	49	18.23
	1888	64	1204	119	19.45
PS McDonnell	1880	19	418	79	23.40
	1882	55	900	82	17.16
	1884	54	1225	103	23.29
	1888	62	1393	105	22.51
AH Jarvis	1880	11	167	41	16.70
	1886	52	825	96*	17.43
	1888	52	597	39	12.90
SP Jones	1882	32	370	59	11.29
	1886	66	1530	151	23.58
	1888	20	303	61	16.15

Bowling	Yr	Ovrs	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Avg
HF Boyle	1878	440.2	194	620	64	9.44
	1880	516.1	239	616	39	15.31
	1882	1208.2	535	1682	144	11.99
	1884	738	292	1172	67	17.33
	1888	149.1	72	203	11	18.50
SP Jones	1882	40	9	85	1	85.00
	1886	170	56	342	13	26.40
	1888	68.3	19	134	10	13.40
JMC Blackham	1884	3	0	8	1	8.00
	1886	21	9	36	0	-
	1888	12	4	26	1	26.00

The 1889 Wisden is available in one original format: Paperback. Over the years the 1889 has become difficult to find in completely original condition. Finding one with a facsimile spine or even one with a facsimile cover of covers seems to be the norm. A completely original edition will cost between £800 and £1100, but this will increase. A rebound edition lacking the original wrappers may be in the £300-£450 price range and one with a facsimile spine but original covers between £500 and £650. Willows editions are also becoming increasingly scarce and the price paid should be around £110-£130.

## The 1970 Season (part 2)

### **Bowlers pray for rain; Rest of the World chosen: May 3 - June 5**

Will it never rain in England again, the bowlers groan! The week's cricket has been conducted with much incident and excitement under an azure sky. The grounds are hard, and ring out like hollow concrete under the fielders' chase. 'Like walking on broken egg shells at Worcester,' Tom Graveney's team have told me . . . but not complaining.

Most wickets have been firm and fast, but some unfortunately have broken, over-dry, in this prolonged spell of fine weather.

Colin Milburn went to the nets at Northampton, and the cricketing world wished him well. He held out little hope of batting with adequate vision, but owed himself the effort of trying—the first attempt to play since the car accident which took away his eye last May. He was surprised by the reasonable sight he got of the ball and thinks he will try again.

After many amateur selectors and professional critics had their game of selecting the Rest of the World team for the first Test at Lord's, Messrs F. R. Brown, Ames and Sobers, the captain, produced the official choice, and no more formidable line-up of batsmen, or at least stroke-making batsmen, could be imagined:

B. A. Richards, E. J. Barlow, F. M. Engineer, L. R. Gibbs, Intikhab Alam, R. B. Kanhai, C. H. Lloyd, G. D. McKenzie, R. G. Pollock, M. J. Procter, G. Sobers (capt.) and the twelfth man Mushtaq Mohammad. County players feel that there could be 'an awful lot of stick flying around' for our bowlers, but no one would really worry too much about batting against them. Time will tell, but I agree. England bowlers, stand up and be recognised! The best of British luck to you.

Ray Illingworth is one, because he has been announced as captain for the first Test. Colin Cowdrey's lack of runs debars him, but his Gillette Cup innings of 83 not out on Saturday against Worcestershire proclaimed his classic presence.

The week has been notable for the elevation of Sussex to the top of the County Championship table after their win over Hampshire. There was only one county game this week because of the Gillette Cup. Sussex got through that too with a win with eight balls to spare against Essex at Chelmsford.

The Gillette Cup came first. There were comfortable wins, Surrey over Glamorgan, Kent over Worcestershire, Middlesex over Derbyshire, Somerset over Northants, Nottinghamshire over Leicestershire, and Hampshire over Bucks. Lancashire got home against Gloucestershire by 27 runs. Man of the Match awards went to Michael Buss, 72 and two for 25 in 12 overs; Stuart Storey, three for 13 in 12 overs; Brian Luckhurst, 96; Freddie Titmus, five for 26; Roy Virgin,

One of the most momentous decisions ever taken in cricket was the cancellation of the South Africa tour to the UK in 1970. The VW is proud to continue to reprint Glamorgan Captain A.R. Lewis's journal of the 1970 season. The political and sporting impact on all and a detailed look at how the 1970 domestic cricket season unfolded. It is important to point out that none of the images used were contained in the original article.

103 not out; Ron Nicholls, 75 for the losers; Brian Bolus, 75 not out; Barry Reed 143 not out.

The John Player League followed the next day when Derbyshire lost for the first time. It was at Northampton and Dennis Breakwell broke the seam bowlers' customary privilege by capturing four for 10 in eight overs in his orthodox slow left-arm style. Derbyshire are still top with 16 points, Glamorgan and Somerset follow with 13, and Lancashire and Notts have 12.

With wins for Sussex over Hampshire, Warwickshire over Notts, Gloucestershire over Yorkshire, Derbyshire over Worcestershire, and Glamorgan over Somerset, the County Championship table reads as follows at the top—Sussex 76 pts, Glamorgan 75, Warwicks 72, Lancs 71.

Kent beat Cambridge University in an even game which was a credit to the University. Majid apparently has students hurrying from their colleges at lunchtime if news reaches them that he is not out at lunch. His reputation blossomed with a magnificent 159. Bowling to Majid at Fenner's in this dry spell is considered by even the best county bowlers an expendable experience!

### **Alan Ward strikes: June 6 - 12**

Sussex had little joy following their elevation to the top of the County Championship table. Derbyshire struck them down uncompromisingly, beating them at Buxton in the week-end Championship match and flattening them in the John Player League at Derby. Chief executioner was Alan Ward, who took 10 wickets at Buxton and on Sunday captured four early wickets in four balls. His was the performance of the week, but not far behind was Barry Richards, who played an extraordinary innings of 155 not out in Hampshire's 215 for two against Yorkshire at Sheffield, and Harry Pilling— 401 runs in two matches for Lancashire.

In the Sunday League Kent routed Surrey on an exceptionally bad wicket at Tunbridge Wells. Cowdrey won the toss, though Brian Luckhurst and Mike Denness played well enough to suggest that Kent would have taken a lot of holding anyway. But Surrey are emerging now, after two years of promise and potential, as the most professional and most consistent force among the counties. They went to the top after beating Essex at the Oval, only to lose the leadership during three days off to Glamorgan,

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who accounted for the same Essex side at Ilford. With the number of matches played in brackets, the table reads : Glamorgan (9) 94 pts; Lancs (7) 86 pts; Surrey (8) 85 pts; Sussex (8) 81 pts.

BBC TV have made an agreement with the Test and County Cricket Board to cover the Rest of the World series, all but two days, which coincides with the General Election.

A few eyebrows were raised on Friday when the England selectors announced their first Test team. Four opening batsmen were included —Edrich, Luckhurst, Denness and Alan Jones (Pictured, left). Four better openers than Geoff Boycott at the moment—a



healthy sign, and 1 do not aim to be facetious. Not so healthy in the middle order, it seems. I wonder if it could be anything to do with the acceleration of an innings for bonus points in the first innings, when the wicket is at its best?

Dudleston (104) and Tolchard (92) put Leicestershire on their winning way against Derbyshire, and the job was nicely rounded off by Illingworth, who took five for 35. Harry Pilling got two centuries in the game against Warwickshire—119 not out and 104 not out. It was a batsman's game, because John Jameson collected 158 not out in Warwickshire's first innings.

I believe that professional cricketers have revelled in the County Championship tussle so far. All the star players are present, the competition has been eminently fair and played extremely hard. There is great parity between teams.

Surrey would seem the best equipped to forge ahead. Glamorgan have played inconsistently through a period of injury to key players. Gloucestershire's 74 points from six games firmly asserts that their run at the top in 1969 was no temporary escape from the lower reaches of the table. Indeed, any side is capable of beating any other.

It is a fascinating prospect, and money apart, it is a great shame that there is a Test series. The day must come when Championship cricket is reduced and Tests no longer deprive counties of vital players. Still my job is to chronicle not opine. 'You are not paid to think, just play,' the good old autocrat captain would command his professionals. The editor might well inform this diary keeper, 'You are not paid to think, just write!'

#### **Virtuoso Sobers: Championship heats up: June 13 - 19**

1 suppose the event, or non-event, of the week was the start of the first Test between England and The Rest of the World. The 'event' was the most magnificent innings by Garfield Sobers, who, having personally bowled out England for 127, then proceeded to follow Barlow's fine century with a treat of sustained magic, to the extent of 183 runs in four and three-quarter hours.

The 'non-event' was England's batting— Edrich withdrew through injury to his finger —and the only batsmen emerging from a rather pained experience with a ticket for the second Test certainly booked seem to be Luckhurst, d'Oliveira and Illingworth, who has nobly compiled 63 in the first innings and 36 not out in the second. Alan Ward's bowling gave rise to most optimism when one considers Australia, or even getting out of the series 'in one piece.' Ward took four for 121 in 33 overs in The Rest of the World's mammoth innings of 546. England have so far replied with 127 and 228 for five.

The accolade goes unquestionably to Sobers. It is fascinating now to recall the balderdash that was talked and written about him the summer before. A 'retarding of the reflexes,' someone said; 'the edge has gone,' 'he has played too much in one lifetime.' This deed of virtuosity at Lord's held the purist enthralled, and even the stuffy statistician could rejoice in the trivia—only a dozen men in the history of Test cricket have taken five wickets or more in an innings and made 100 in the same match. Sobers, including this performance, has done it three times. When he bowled out Sharpe, he became the second player in Test history to take 200 wickets and score 2,000 runs. Well, that just about keeps everyone happy!

Sussex crept back to lead the table midweek but were overtaken by Surrey and Lancashire by the Friday. Their elevation came as a result of a fine win over Warwickshire in a game of outstanding batting and bowling mixed with some pretty ordinary displays of those same skills. Kanhai stole the limelight on the first day with a superb innings of 162, John Snow claiming four for 72.

Then it was the turn of Jim Parks (Pictured, below). He chastised the Warwicks attack when the Sussex innings was in ruins around him. He was unbeaten with 162. But then it was the turn of Tony Buss to make the decisive break. His six for 54 in 21 2 overs routed Warwicks and the 40 or so runs required was a formality.

Northants beat Kent by an innings on an appalling wicket at Dover. Dennis Break-well took eight second innings wickets for 39 in 17.1 overs. The work of the county pitches committee seems to be piling up.

The extremely dry weather has hampered preparation and the temptation to water late, in order to get a binding quality, has too often produced a crust top which has no resistance to the ball and disintegrates over the three days.

Winning the toss has been one of the paramount skills during this Championship month.



John Mortimore made his first appearance of the season this week, now fully recovered from the breaking of a collar bone sustained in a football match before the season started. A return also for Maurice Hallam, out of retirement just for one match, against Warwickshire at Nuneaton. Rohan Kanhai this week became the first player to score 1,000 runs. My unfortunate colleague Alan Jones, who had made such a brilliant assault on the '1,000 in May' target, ran into injury, ill-luck and a moment of indifferent form, just as the month ended and his first Test match came along. He deserves another chance.

Brian Close returns to the Yorkshire side on Saturday. A shoulder injury has kept him out of cricket for just over a month.

The Championship table shows Surrey to be top with 114 points. Lancashire 110, Sussex 104, Glamorgan 99, Warwickshire 93. For academic interest a peep at the bottom reads: 17th, Somerset with 35 points, Worcestershire 47, and Yorkshire 49. Yet the table is not truly balanced at present. For instance, Worcestershire and Yorks have played only six games. Warwicks have played 11, and Surrey, Sussex and Glamorgan 10.

Harry Pilling continues prolific. His fourth century in a fortnight helped Lancs beat Middlesex. A young Warwickshire leg-spinner, Tidy, took five for 24 against Leicestershire, and Frank Hayes, late of Sheffield University, made a spectacular debut (94) against Middlesex for Lancashire.

Derbyshire continue top of the John Player League, though they had no game on Sunday. Lancashire beat Essex, and are second four points behind. The table reads : Derbys 24, Lancs 20, Somerset 17, Kent 16. Somerset obviously finding the short game more to their advantage at the moment.

### **England in ruins: June 20 - 26**

On Monday, the fourth day of the first Test match, England went under by an innings and 80 runs to the Rest of the World. Ray Illingworth fought it out with characteristic determination and took his personal score to 94. But Intikhab, who had modest figures for most of England's second innings, mopped up the tail and came off with six for 113 in 54 overs. Genuine pace or leg spin—tail enders often play one or the other with reasonable skill, but rarely do they manage to survive both.

So Gary Sobers accepted the £2,000 win money from Guinness; the Rest of the World selectors simply adjusted their 12th man position, Younis replacing Mushtaq, and England's selectors rushed back to the committee rooms.

From the start it always seemed that England's fairly inexperienced batting would suffer all the nerves and tension of representing their country, and of trying to prove their worth, or at least potential, for Australia.

On the other hand the hired stars had no nationalistic palpitations thundering under their shirts. They could play relaxed, yet still concentrating, such was the honour of playing for a World team, and such was the handsome prize money. Talent apart, the psychological dice was heavily loaded against England.

The remedy was put forward later in the week by the selectors, who replaced Jones, Denness, Sharpe, and Shuttleworth with Edrich, Fletcher, Amiss, Cowdrey and Greig. The team is to be chosen from 12.

At the head of the County Championship table by the end of the week are Surrey 118, Lancashire 115, and Sussex 113. Somerset got their first win of the year. A fine century by Roy Virgin helped them home to the target of 252 in 170 minutes plus 20 overs, set them by Derbyshire.

Lancashire's Frank Hayes made a name for himself again in his second Championship match. He was stumped off Peter Sainsbury, dancing down the wicket with his score at 99, in the penultimate over of the game. Quite superb stroke-play, by every account.

Batting bonus points seem to be the key to the head of the table, so fine has been the climate and flat the wickets.

Majid Khan (Pictured, right) continues to present Cambridge with fresh authority. He played a brilliant innings of 157 at Edgbaston after Alan Smith had put the University in to bat, and followed it with an 85 in the second innings. Oxford, to their credit, played three days' consistent cricket at Guildford against Surrey, and Surrey were at no time able to force a winning advantage.



Sussex's Championship chances halted when they limped out of a game with Northants, conceding defeat. Parks, bruised foot, and M. A. Buss, pulled muscle, were unable to bat in the second innings, which Brian Crump ripped open with figures of five for 48.

Glamorgan followed-on at Derby for the first time since 1966, lost to the bowling of Ward and Buxton, and slipped down the table. Hampshire beat Somerset with runs from Richards, Turner and Livingstone, and ... (seven for 61) from Butch' White.

Lancashire have caught Derbyshire in the John Player League. Somerset persisted with their good form in this competition by beating Derbyshire. Lancashire overcame Hants, while Sussex got their first Sunday win of the season, over Northants. Ken Suttle took four for 24.

There is mixed news of Geoff Pullar at Gloucestershire. His arthritic knee is likely to keep him out for a while, some experts say completely. One hopes not. Two well-known and well-loved cricketers died this

week. B. H. 'Bev' Lyon, the former captain of Gloucestershire, whose dynamic captaincy and personal example on the field led his county to their best years since W. G. Grace, from 1929-34. Also A. F. 'Bert' Wensley of Sussex. He played consistently from 1922-36. He was 72.

There has been much discussion concerning the requested release of Rest of the World players from Test matches on the Sunday, so that they might do their stuff in the John Player competition for their county. This week the TCCB formally announced that they would be released, but that England players would remain subject to the traditional restriction. It seems quite an anomalous distinction, one which might have been waived in this unusual year of representative cricket.

### **Illingworth again to the rescue: June 27 - July 3**

The second Test began at Nottingham on Thursday and everyone recognised the implications and ramifications should England fail to get into the game and be overrun as they were at Lord's. Failure by the new batsmen, Fletcher and Cowdrey (Amiss was made 12th man), would mean an even more frantic search for men in form, or perhaps more patience in waiting for Cowdrey to strike form, and then, a second rout would deprive the already underpopulated Test arena of spectators through the series.

As it turned out, Tony Greig, making his debut, enjoyed success with the ball to the extent of dismissing Richards, Sobers, Engineer and Kanhai for a mere 59 runs in 18 overs. Basil d'Oliveira also made most of the chill, damp and blustery conditions in trapping Barlow, Pollock, Intikhab and Gibbs for 43 in 17-4 overs. David Brown replaced Alan Ward who has injured an ankle, and he helped with the tail, getting rid of Procter and McKenzie. So a Rest of the World total of 276 is modest compared with their many talents. Clive Lloyd, severely dealing with the bad ball, especially on his legs, held the innings together with an undefeated 114.

But England failed on Friday. They scored 279, led by three, but lost the chance of gaining a telling initiative. Edrich and Luck-hurst put on 78 for the first wicket, but it was Illingworth again who saved the effort after Cowdrey and Fletcher had failed, with a fighting knock of 97. Barlow with five for 66 caused most damage. At the moment everyone wishes England to make a close contest of the match. The interest aroused by the conception of the series is mild. An England landslide to two defeats would just about extinguish it.

In the first Championship game of the week no team forced a win. It held the table just about as it was with Surrey top, and Lancashire and Sussex pressing. But by the end of the week Northants have jumped into second place only four points behind the leaders. The truth is that the contest is close and very open. A mere 25 points separates the first and the eighth side—not

such a wide margin under the bonus points scheme. Lancashire have most batting points, 43, and Northants 41. Sussex have 53 bowling points—the only side in the fifties. Yorkshire, lying joint 13th, have only gathered 11 batting points. Kent, a team which always merits short odds in the Championship flutter, lie 15th. They were bottom at the start of the week. Yet with half the fixtures yet to play, truly anything can happen — a fascinating season at county level.

Lancashire and Derbys, 28 points each, continue to have things much their own way in the John Player League. Leicestershire beat the third team, Somerset, thanks to a most fierce onslaught on the Somerset bowling. Marner 75, Tolchard 48, Inman 58, Illingworth 52 not out, provided most of the slaughter in a total of 262 for six in 40 overs. Jones was the most economical Somerset bowler, conceding just 41 runs off eight overs!

But the League is that sort of competition. When a side wins, its bowlers appear to have bowled tidily and captains look expert tacticians. When one loses, the bowling looks to be sprayed hopefully from end to end, and captains seem to have fielders everywhere but in the right place. Leicestershire are a dangerous batting side, and can make any side look disorganised in the field.

Lancashire have awarded a county cap to David Hughes, 23, their left-handed all-rounder. He has been very much part of Lancashire's success over the last two years, notably in the League, where his accuracy has contained the best players.

Mike Edwards unfortunately cracked a cheekbone at Guildford, but ironically he was positioned at slip not at short-leg, the 'hot seat' which he usually occupies. David Green, Gloucestershire, aged 30. plans to retire at the end of the season. I am certain he will be seen again on the first-class cricket field. His talent is ripe and Gloucestershire need him badly. Yet he faces the constant problem of the professional: When to get out? The longer one delays retirement the more difficult it becomes to begin on the ground floor, or even half-way up, in another 'industry.'

Leicestershire are reported to be seeking the services of the Sydney-born batsman Bruce Neil, 23. Bramall Lane was visited by Bert Lock and will be reseeded. The only other titbit which brought a smile from many but a grimace from all who faced them, is that Les Jackson and Cliff Gladwin are to pair up again in an MCC side to play Derbys in a Sunday League rule game. Rush for a thigh pad and put a towel down the inside of the right leg! The two former heroes may not possess the venom which made them so respected by all batsmen, but they can smile, satisfied to see the elixir of Derbyshire fast bowling has been safely passed down the years - Copson, Gladwin, Jackson L., Jackson B., Rhodes, and now to Alan Ward. They say young Hendricks has promise too. Yes, Derbyshire is definitely thigh-pad country

## Illingworth Talks Out of Turn

**R**aymond Illingworth, Chairman of England's selectors, will have had a certain amount of explaining to do on his own account when arriving in Australia. Instead of queries about England's own poor performance from Illy, there might well have been a few pungent questions for him to answer, notably from Messrs M.J.K. Smith (Manager), K.W.R. Fletcher (Team Manager) and M.A. Atherton (Captain) of the England team currently touring the Antipodes.



*'Atherton and his men will address him bluntly and frankly. They should not,' says Collins, 'expect an apology, for being a professional Yorkshireman means never having to say you're sorry.'*

The facts are not absolutely clear. Did Illy know he was going on record at a Sports Writers' luncheon? It's almost inconceivable that he did not. Streetwise to the last drop of his Yorkshire blood, Raymond must have known the dangers of making off-the-cuff remarks to a hungry bunch of news hounds.

He is, of course, popular with the cricket writers. Refreshingly, not to say disarmingly frank, about the merits or shortcomings of individual players and the state of the game at large, he is always good for background copy if not for quotes.

This was a different audience, though. They were not obligated. They were given a good story, jocularly meant or not, and they used it. Raymond was unwise to jest, if jest he did. What emerged sounded like a bleat about the way the tour was being handled by Smith, Fletcher and Atherton. Feature writers had a field day, none more so than the Sports Feature Writer of the Year, Patrick Collins, in the Mail On Sunday.

Leaving aside the nature and worth of these press awards, Collins is readable and pithy.

*'Ray Illingworth's performance on the eve of England's latest battle was far from harmless. It was the boorish, self-regarding whine of a man whose every public utterance proves his unsuitability for office. Before a ball had been bowled Illingworth succeeded in undermining his captain, insulting his tour manager and demeaning his team manager.'*

*'He (Atherton) was reminded that Illingworth had saved his job... "although he's never acknowledged it, he knows I saved his neck". A curious rendering of history, this, since I recall Illingworth's defence of his captain as having been rather more inept than anything seen at White Hart Lane this season. Particularly pathetic was the complaint that Atherton had "failed to give me a tinkle".'*

Collins goes on to deride the notion that Illingworth could not ring Atherton because he did not know where the team would be at any particular time, dismisses his attempts to amuse his hard-boiled after-luncheon audience as 'mirthless, bullying sneers', hopes that when Raymond arrives in Australia

There is, of course, a school of thought that Illingworth should be seen and not heard. Having finished his official duties by selecting the team, it is now up to the shy, retiring M.J.K. and Keith and Michael to get on with it without let or hindrance. Under the current arrangement, lily's job is done until the next home series. It should be now anyway.

What happened when England did take the field at the Gabba could well result in the longest running stream of excruciating puns ever to grace the pages of England's tabloids. You have been Warned. Just as England were Warne out by Australia's leg-spinner, who bowled Warne too many flippers for the comfort of England's batsmen, making use of the Warne patches outside the right-hander's leg stump. What a Shane it all was!

If that makes you wince, you may have found it difficult to stomach the hyperbole in the broadsheets when they were describing Warne's triumphant progress. Maybe I've got it wrong, but I find it difficult to equate even Warne's bowling with:

*'No shame lay in being beaten by Warne, as great a spinner as ever was born. He does things no one else even thinks about, and he does them standing on his head. In his hand a cricket ball curses and spits and sings and whispers and screams and shouts.'*

Well, if Peter Roebuck, writing in The Sunday Times of December 4 has read it aright, it's small wonder that England were defeated. What with Illy in one ear, the noise made by the ball propelled by Shane in the other, the England batsmen were in a hopeless position. As if that weren't enough, Warne's unorthodoxy extended to delivering the ball standing on his head and, as Peter says later, *'England continue to fight in chains'*.

Those who see the Mirror's story, promoted by the disillusioned Don Topley and another Essex player whom even some members of the Essex team hadn't heard of - about the fixing of two Essex v Lancashire matches - as a 'spoiler' for The Sun's expose of Bruce Grobbelaar, may not be wide of the mark.

We await the results of the TCCB enquiry. But it would be unwise to hold your breath for any startling revelations. They are about as likely as a quote from M.J.K. Smith appearing in print.

*Daily Mail, The Times, 1995.*

**H E BOWLED fast in the land of spin. He hit the ball powerfully in the manner of the Occidentals not in the wristily delicate style of the Orientals. He defied the stereotypical image of the Indian cricketer so much it was easy to see his was an unusual talent. But then he is as Indian as tandoori roti, as down to earth as Haryana politics, as natural as the rivers of the Punjab plain and as nationalistic as a yeoman farmer tilling the soil of the country.**

For 16 long seasons and a day he was the country's leading all-rounder, if not the world's, and the world record-holding Test bowler, his template of 434 wickets and 5,248 runs likely to be the standard for a long time to come. Kapil Dev Nikhanj came from hardy stock and that was obvious as he was just beginning to stun the world as a gawky youth who had batsmen ducking for cover facing an Indian Test attack and who hit the ball with a refreshing freedom that hardly comes to the sophisticates.

He has now retired from the arena of cricket as a polished person ready to charm a profitable business deal out of Uncle Scrooge. That is how far Kapil has come from his beginnings as a dream-struck youth who spent more time on the cricket field than in the libraries and classrooms of the academic world. And he did not merely transform himself through the popular medium of cricket.

His cricket bore the alchemic touch for India, transforming its dull past, relieved only by sinuous spin bowling and the couple of significant Test series wins abroad in 1971, into a bright and vibrant future. If his team stood on the balcony at Lord's pouring champagne on thousands of fans who were sent into a tizzy by India's 1983 World Cup victory, it owed a lot to him. This was an enactment of the classic Cinderella story in cricket, of an unfashionable side conquering instant cricket, very much the vogue in this day and age.

His instinctive response to batting gave the side a depth it had not imagined would be possible, while his cultured bowling, off a naturally springy, technically sound and ideally side-on action, was often the spearhead on the pacier pitches found abroad and his mastery of the art of swing a more than useful weapon at home on the dust bowls. His all-round talent gave India in the limited-overs game a fashionable image it may never otherwise have gained. And he was for the major part of

his career an incisive Test bowler who bowled more and took more wickets than anyone in history.

It may have been a popular thing to speak of his retirement and how he tended to drag it a bit towards the end. Maybe he was pushing the goalposts a little farther than he should have. But he tarried for less than a season after passing Sir Richard Hadlee's

benchmark of 431 and by doing so he was seen to be clinging to reputation in an Indian side that was fast changing into a rich legacy for the new generation. He himself was looking for the George Foreman touch to deliver one final punch before taking his bow.



His friends had to come out with strong words and arguments to convince him of the need to step down gracefully, while the narrow vision of his worst critics forced them to wish he would not break the world record. But having said that, it must be admitted that such vacillation is a national trait in the Indian gerentocracy where just no one, save Mrs Sonia Gandhi and Sunil Gavaskar, has moved away from the spotlight gracefully.

Kapil may have begun to resemble the dancer Rudolf Nureyev just a bit in the last days of a fantastic career on the stage when the limbs and body were not responding to the commands of the mind and spirit.

But then such men are driven, their faith in their talent lending the unshakeable belief that they cannot be replaced. And that is true, too, for Kapil Dev will leave a void that Indian cricket will not be able to fill for a long time to come, for there certainly won't be a fast-medium all-rounder emerging too soon even from the coaching land.

In a statistically minded game, he leaves behind a mountain of achievements in Tests and One-Day Internationals which will be hard to scale. Behind the figures was a spirit which never accepted defeat meekly. He played the game hard but never was he once guilty of breaching its spirit. He was a member of a generation which fought tough battles while the quick and waspish tongues of sergeant-majors on war duty gave birth to the term 'sledding'. But Kapil never once descended from the lofty principles he held so very dear. Cricket is quite the gentleman's game which he played with dignity but which is not as common as believed. There will be a very special place for him in cricket history.

Batting	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	100s	50s	Average
Test	131	184	15	5248	163	8	27	31.05
ODI	225	198	39	3783	175*	1	14	23.79
FC	275	383	39	11353	193	18	56	33.00
LA	309	270	48	5461	175*	2	23	24.59

Bowling	M	O	M	Runs	W	BBi	5w	10w	Average
Test	131	4623.2	1060	12867	434	9-83	23	2	29.64
ODI	225	1867	235	6945	253	5-43	1	-	27.45
FC	275	8141.5	1903	22626	835	9-83	39	3	27.09
LA	309	2491.1	330	9161	335	5-43	2	-	27.34



1951

*My First Wisden remains my favourite, from Sir Alan Haselhurst.*

**I could make a case for the selection of any one of several editions to rely on in the solitude of a desert island. So in the end it is probably sentiment which governs my choice – namely my first Wisden.**

We were on holiday in Filey in 1951. I was told this was the resort to which I had been brought as an infant in pre-war days. I was shown embarrassing photographs that appeared to prove the point. Returning to Filey as an awkward adolescent, I was bored out of my mind. Too old to get much fun playing on the beach, too young to get satisfaction from sunbathing, and I couldn't swim.

I had, however, developed an interest in cricket (Yorkshire born and domiciled, don't forget) and this had been stimulated by the excitement of the West Indies tour of England the previous year. Hutton was in his pomp and Yorkshire had challenged strongly (but in vain) for the County Championship. So what was not to like in the 88th Wisden published in 1951? In buying it for me at W.H. Smith in Filey, my father may well have thought it would keep his moody son quiet for the rest of our stay. It did. And for long thereafter. Little did he know what he was starting and how much over the years it would cost me, and later my wife. I became completely immersed in the treasure trove of detail in the 1,018 pages of the 1951 edition. I read all the accounts of the West Indian triumphant emergence and the summaries of Yorkshire's match. Then my horizons were stretched by Wisden's coverage of Australia's matches in South Africa and New Zealand and of the Commonwealth team in India 1949-50. The only disappointment was the absence of a report of MCC in Australia 1950-51. In those days that would have to await the 1952 edition.

Having hoovered up all the salient features of the volume to hand, I looked forward eagerly to its successor. But why wait? What was wrong with using some pocket money to snap up the 1950 edition? More pleasure! And then the 1949 edition. Why at the time I went no further back I cannot now understand. Of course I went determinedly forward, always with the softback edition, the style with which I had started. Happily, much later in life, my wife has made up for my former negligence by enhancing my birthdays and Christmases with some of those older almanacks.

But the 1951 edition remains the pivot of my collection and would on its own revive the most rewarding memories – especially if the island was close to the Caribbean!

*The above illustration was first used in the WCC publication, Desert Island Wisden - a collection of stories and anecdotes from collectors on which Wisden they would choose to take onto a desert island and why. Each reason could be whatever the contributor felt - personal, poignant, cricketing. The above choice was from Sir Alan Haselhurst.*

*We will be using more choices in future issues of The VW. Thank you to Bob Bond for allowing us to use the above.*