

## **What a wonderful start to the cricket season and am I right in thinking that less time has been lost in the first three rounds that at any time in over twenty years?**

I am sure most of you also know that the matches are available to watch on YouTube, so fill your boots. I had Kent v Lancashire on in the background on Saturday as Luke Wood and Danny Lamb each scored centuries in a mammoth first innings for the visitors and then was captivated by the bowling of Matt Parkinson in the second innings.

The majority of games in the first three rounds have been tremendous and it bodes well for the rest of the long-game season.

The three divisions already seem to be finding some sides out - Leicestershire, Glamorgan, Kent, Nottinghamshire and Durham seem to be having early season woes, but in saying that most of the games they have been involved in have been fairly close - possibly with the exception of Leicestershire's first defeat at the hand of soft Hampshire and Kent losing by 200 runs against Yorkshire and an innings by Lancs, but there have been performances to savour from players from these sides.

It was wonderful to see Hameed of Notts back up his half century against Warwickshire with a hundred in each innings against Worcester. It is hard to forget how well he did when he played for England and then the injuries and loss of form he suffered, so it is just wonderful to see the player coming good. The season has been full of runs - back in April 2019 it was the bowlers who ran riot in the early games.

I don't know about you but having all matches starting on a Thursday - knowing that is *the day* for the Four-Day game - it gives the championship more importance - or am I being carried away by Lancs winning two out of three?

### **Wisden 2021**

This year was a mammoth task getting the almanack out and the only person I could rely on was Libby - her packaging skills are beyond compare...she is now back at University and in a few weeks Abbey will be off too. Back to the 2021.

Some overseas collectors have received their edition, but may I ask for a little patience if you are still awaiting the arrival of your order as my understanding is that postal services are still struggling in some places.

I am keen to know your thoughts on the 2021. Your review, no matter how brief or how long, is important

and in the next issue of the VW I will be printing a selection, so please, tell me-

**- What Do You Think of it?**

### **Some Offers.**

Whenever a competition in the VW offers a book, or a copy of The Nightwatchman or Wisden Cricket Monthly there tends to be more entries, so after having a little chat with the publishers of the two magazines and the recent publication, Golden Summers, we are pleased to have some 'reader offers' (now that's a saying from a long time ago). Please have a look at page 17.

### **Wisden Collectors' Club Auction.**

The Wisden Collectors' Club website is on the verge of being re-vamped, which hopefully will remove the glitches it has been encountering and as soon as the new site is live I will let everyone know. It will go live and it will feature our first auction in over a year. This auction is a special one. Not only will lots include an 1896 original Hardback and a selection of 1870 and 1880 original paperbacks, but as always every single lot will begin at 0.99p, with NO reserve or Buy-It-Now price...and owing to the amazing generosity of every Wisden collector who has put books into this auction - 20% of every final price will be donated to The Alzheimer's Society.

If you have never bid on an auction, then the chances are that you are not a member, and you need to be a member to bid so please feel free to contact me and I will give you membership options.

I don't know about you but since we have been allowed to meet people outside I am still a little anxious about doing so. Odd isn't it, but after an awful long time of not doing normal things, it is now baby-steps in getting used to doing them again. A lovely pub near us started doing take-away Sunday dinners, so Abbey and I drove to collect ours and while we waited we sat outside and had a drink. I had a Timothy Taylor's 'Landlord' and Abs had a Prosecco (what did you expect)? It was strange. But you know what, I can see myself doing that again...just sitting inside or outside of a pub and actually having a drink. It will take time for us all to feel comfortable about getting back to doing the normal things and a lot of us will be nervous, but Wisden is out, cricket is being played, football has regained its senses (temporarily) and in a few weeks Lorraine and I can sit outside a pub and start to wonder when we can see the girls again...because we miss them.  
Keep safe and well

# The Bowler's Holding The Batsman's Willey

**Cricketers are often vilified by fellow sportsmen for their tendency to scarper indoors at the first suggestion of bad weather. Not so in Sweden, where members of Guttsta Wicked CC recently inaugurated one of cricket's most original venues on the frozen surface of Stockholm harbour.**

The game's Laws are a little sketchy on play in such conditions, so a few modifications were necessary.

A Flic pitch was laid on the 30cm-thick ice and boundaries were outlawed on the lightning fast outfield, making running between

the wickets the only means of scoring. This had the added advantage of keeping people warm. A limit of six runs was imposed and all-run sixes were commonplace.

Temperatures hovered around freezing point, about 20 degrees warmer than the previous fortnight. Gusty winds were also a problem, sometimes blowing the stumps out of position, and at other times knocking fielders over. Only one fielder was wearing ice skates, so found himself retrieving the ball 90 per cent of the time.

In a six-a-side game, Guttsta Exiles made 230 in 15 overs, a total which proved 13 too many for the Guttsta Nomads. For obvious reasons, bowling figures were not recorded.

(2004)

**'We are delighted to offer a solution to a problem encountered by cricket scorers the world over. Our new** computer programme will allow those responsible for keeping the records of the game the opportunity to have everything they need on one data disc. The runs scored, bowling statistics and much more can be stored, with the facility to include the season's records for 112 different players. This programme is IBM compatible.'

*IBM Solutions Press Release December 1989.*

*The data disc was available for £47.50 and a machine to run it on was £745.00.*

**Peter Roebuck's benefit year under the banner 'Rupert's Year' includes the opportunity to become a member of Rupert's exclusive 300 club. A year's membership costs £20 and entitles you to a club tie or a ladies headscarf and the entry of your membership number into four cash prize draws. Among other plans there will be a benefit match at Downside School, which has a long association with Somerset, on Bank Holiday Monday, May 7 between Somerset and a Downside Invitation XI.**

(Membership did not include entry into the Benefit match.)



**Speaking in the House of Lords during a debate about the new Broadcasting Bill, the former England Test captain the Rt. Rev. David Sheppard, now the Bishop of**

Liverpool, spoke out against the granting of exclusive TV rights for sporting events to satellite companies. Referring to television as 'the window of the poor', he said: 'As a cricketer, I believe it would be greatly to the loss of the game if Test matches were only shown on channels for which people had to pay a second time, for a dish or a subscription fee, beyond the license fee... television is the main way in which those who cannot travel because of age or shortage of cash are able to share in main-line events.'

*July 1990.*

**'If you have lost 29lbs, you should have a lot of loose skin around your face and neck, which he doesn't have. The eyes look bigger, which is a sign that someone may have had plastic surgery.'**

*Plastic surgeon Dr James Van der Merwe on Shane Warne before the drug bust.*

**'Should they play in England, a country quite prepared to visit far more destruction on Iraq than Mr. Mugabe has ever visited on his own land? Perhaps it is time to entertain the unthinkable; a cricket boycott of the home of cricket.'**

*Imran Khan suggesting boycotting England because of military support for war on Iraq.*

**"I saw something during this Test I thought I'd never see in my time as an England captain. Rahul Dravid went up to Michael Vaughan and asked him how he played Murali. That is a first for me: an Asian batsman asking an Englishman for advice about how to play spin."**

*Nasser Hussain.*

**"The former Australian Test cricketer..."**

*The way the county announcer introduced Steve Waugh at Worcester.*

**"The foremost Australian Test cricketer..."**

*What the announcer, Phil Trow, maintains he said.*

**"The instructions were that he shouldn't bowl off more than six or seven paces. We knew damned well that if he bowled off any sort of length run-up, he would get a bit carried away."**

*Academy director Rod Marsh pillories England coach Duncan Fletcher after Simon Jones picks up an injury having been asked to lengthen his run-up.*

**A man from Essex staked what is believed to be the largest-ever fixed-odds bet of £554,000 on Surrey winning the County Championship at odds of 33-1. He stands to make a profit of £16,787.87.**

*The Cricketer, March 2002.*

*(Surrey won the championship!)*

### Flowers and Olonga

**In an unparalleled show of political intent and bravery by international cricketers, two Zimbabwean players, Andy Flower and Henry Olonga, wore black armbands during their first World Cup match, against Namibia in Harare on February 10, and issued a statement protesting against the 'death of democracy in our beloved Zimbabwe'.**

The Zimbabwe Cricket Union, of which President Robert Mugabe is patron, reported them to the World Cup event technical committee, but Olonga said he would refuse to play if he was instructed not to wear the

armband. There was greater concern about the reaction of Mugabe, whose palace is across the road from the Harare Sports Club ground. He was not named in the statement.

Flower, 34, the wicket-keeper/batsman, former captain and Zimbabwe's leading player, has said that he will retire from international cricket after the World Cup, and is set to spend the next three years outside the country, representing Essex and South Australia. His biography *In The Firing Line*, due to be published after the World Cup, is said to be highly critical of the Mugabe government.

But 26-year-old fast bowler Olonga, who was the first black player to represent Zimbabwe, remained defiantly at his home in Harare. 'If the guys want to take me out, they can do it,' he said. They know where I live.' A born-again Christian, he maintained that God would protect him.

Olonga was banned by his club, Takashinga, for what its chairman Givemore Makoni called a 'disgraceful act'. He had been sent to play for the side, formerly known as the Old Winstonians, by the ZCU to act as a moderating force.

'If they give me a ban, they give me a ban,' said Olonga, who is a talented opera singer. 'That's of little consequence in the wider picture. I'd like to carry on playing professional cricket for another five years or so, but if needs be I'll pursue my musical ambitions. I did some classical recitals at a concert in Harare recently, but I'd like to try getting into pop. That's where the money is.'



I thought it would be a little different in this edition of the VW to focus on a few news stories from just one month from one year, rather than historical snippets from many different years. I did this when I stumbled across a number of particularly interesting stories from April 2003. I hope you find them as interesting as I did, although to be honest they also made me feel as if nothing has really changed in

The other team members were informed about the armbands just before the match started - none followed suit - and only Andy's brother Grant, an all-rounder in the national side, knew about the statement beforehand.

*(Please turn to Page 10 a contemporary article on the events relating to this piece)*

### Shane Warne

**Shane Warne, the Australian leg-spinner who had been battling to regain fitness in order to appear in the World Cup, returned home on the day of his country's first match after a drug test revealed the presence of a prohibited substance. The results showed traces of two banned diuretics, hydrochlorothiazide and amiloride.**

The 33-year-old gave a urine sample to the Australian Sports Drug Agency on January 22, a day before the first VB Series Final at Sydney when he returned from a lay-off caused by a dislocated shoulder sustained on December 15. He was due to be out of action for four to six weeks but was bowling again by January 10.

Warne had already announced that he would retire from One-Day International cricket after the World Cup in order to prolong his Test career. He faced a maximum penalty of a two-year ban, which could prevent him from fulfilling a lucrative contract to captain Hampshire next season.

He maintained that he had never taken performance-enhancing drugs, and explained that his mother gave him a tablet which speeds up the removal of water from the body, so that he could look good for his return to

## YOU'RE OUT



### Shane Warne to appeal against 12-month ban

the international arena after a heavy night out. Such diuretics are usually employed to treat high blood pressure and fluid retention caused by conditions like heart disease.

But the substances, which dilute urine, can mask the presence of performance-enhancing drugs, and they



## It Happened in April - 2003

In 1986 because they were used to lose weight quickly. As well as his speedy recovery from injury, Warne lost Two stone in a year, and became noticeably more muscular. He put his transformation down to exercise and strict dietary regime, in marked contrast to his previous predilections for beer and fatty foods

The ICC began drug testing for the first time at the World Cup after a pilot scheme was introduced at the Under-19 World Cup in New Zealand in 2001/02. At the Champions Trophy in Sri Lanka last September a doctor warned players to discuss all medication with their advisers.

Two other Australians have been found guilty since the Australian Cricket Board brought in testing procedures in 1998. In a case that echoes Warne's predicament, the New South Wales batsman Graeme Rummans was banned for a month in March 2002 after testing positive for a diuretic, probenecid, which he had used to treat a boil on his shoulder; he convinced the ACB he had not been seeking to gain an unfair advantage.

The Western Australia and former Kent fast bowler Duncan Spencer was the first cricketer to be found guilty of using drugs to enhance his performance and received an 18-month ban in April 2001 when he admitted taking nandrolone, an anabolic steroid, to recover from a back injury.

### Darren Lehmann

**Darren Lehmann, the Australian left-hander, was handed the heaviest punishment in the 10 years since the ICC's code of conduct was introduced when he was found guilty of making racist remarks about Sri Lanka during the VB Series in Brisbane on January 15.**

Banned for five One-Day Internationals, he is the first player to be charged with a racial offence under Level Three of the ICC's revised code of conduct, which was introduced in March 2002.



The 33-year-old shouted abuse of a racist nature on his return to the dressing-room after being run out, and the outburst was heard by the Sri Lankan management. A Level Three breach constitutes: 'Using language or gestures that offends, insults, humiliates, intimidates, threatens, disparages or vilifies another person on the basis of that person's race, religion, colour, descent or national or ethnic origin.'

In the run-up to the World Cup the ICC's chief executive, Malcolm Speed, was eager to use the new, stricter disciplinary code and considered charging him

with a Level Four offence, which carries a maximum penal tv of a life ban. Speed wrote to match referees and international players calling for an improvement in player behaviour.

Match referee Clive Lloyd said that he might have given Lehmann an eight-match ban, the maximum ban under Level Three, but took into account his impeccable record' and swift apology.

### Latif and Gilchrist

Rashid Latif, (Pictured, Right) the Pakistan wicket-keeper, threatened to sue the entire Australian team after his opposite number Adam Gilchrist (Pictured, Below, Left) accused him of racist abuse during the World Cup match at Johannesburg on February 11, but he later decided to drop the action.

The Australian team manager, Steve Bernard, lodged a complaint that Latif referred to Australia's vice-captain in a racist manner. A review of Sky Sports's coverage of the match had shown Gilchrist reacting angrily to an apparent comment from Latif. "What was that? What did you just call me?" he exclaimed early in his innings before running to the bowler's end to complain to the umpire?



When Gilchrist returned to the striker's end he told Latif: "I heard what you said. I've just reported you. That's a racist comment. You're gonna go [pay] for that." Gilchrist later reported the incident to the Australian team management, who

referred it to the match referee Clive Lloyd. "There was not sufficient evidence to prove the allegations," said Lloyd. "Accordingly Rashid Latif is exonerated of the charge."

They have tarnished my image,' said Latif at first. T could not have lived with the slur of being tagged a racist.'

He went on, "I had a very good relationship with Gilchrist and I can't believe what he's done. He levelled baseless allegations and I'm very disappointed and upset."

He later conceded that his legal threat was said it in the heat of the moment, but I don't think it is worth it to pursue the case. This is my last World Cup and I want to enjoy it.'

*"A large proportion of this book is about cricket in the 1990s when I was growing up and entering my teenage years. If asked to recall cricket events from 2000 onwards, I would struggle immensely. But the 1990s is full of nostalgia for me and its events are firmly engraved in my memory, even if England continually frustrated its fans during the period.*

*Sometimes it is nice to live in the past, just sometimes.'*

### England 1986 - 1988

**My love of cricket began in 1986 when I was seven years old. For the next two years I developed my interest in the game but my memories from 1986 to 1988 are not that clear. I would watch the home games on TV but that was only possible in the summer holidays and there was no live transmission from England's away games.**

I remember the 1986 Oval Test with Ian Botham breaking Dennis Lillee's record for the most Test wickets. I also watched David Gower and Mike Gatting making centuries and took a dislike towards Mike Gatting as he had dethroned David Gower (my hero) as captain in 1986. In my souvenir booklets I graffitied over Mike Gatting's pictures, writing that he was rubbish. It was truly odd.

I also first started playing the game in 1986. I joined Harrow Town Cricket Club in Rayners Lane, a few miles from where I lived in Pinner. And I got winter training from Tim Selwood, an excellent coach who taught me to bowl left arm spin, around the wicket. Some would argue the "spin" part was stretching reality.

I was excited about the Ashes down under in 1986/1987, saw coloured clothing cricket for the first time and heard about Allan Border and Steve Waugh. In 1987 I saw Chris Broad make 99 in an ODI against Pakistan at The Oval, watched Ian Botham on TV have a polite chat with Saleem Yousuf about his claim for a catch (it had clearly bounced) and have a faint recollection of the World Cup that autumn. But the following winter was all about Mike Gatting and Shakoor Rana.

And then in 1988 I saw England pick four captains in one series and was at The Oval Test to see Viv Richards register a duck. For my ninth birthday that year a relative put a signed piece of paper in my birthday card, an autograph from David Gower. I was thrilled and I still have that memento.

In the autumn of 1988 England would find themselves unwelcome in India due to political reasons. So my first 24 months as a cricket follower were certainly eventful. Things could not get any more ridiculous or controversial...could they?

Whenever I come across someone who has taken the time to put their recollections about the game into print, I am keen to help give them a wider audience. One such person is Rajiv Radhakrishnan.

Rajiv is in his early 40s and has been a cricket enthusiast for over three decades. He enjoys playing, watching and writing about the game. He represents Old Merchant Taylor's' Cricket Club and attends the Lord's Test each year.

He has written over 90 letters on the sport and they have been published in The Cricketer Magazine, The Wisden Cricket Monthly and The Sunday Times.

In 2019 he wrote a book for private publication and his work was referenced in Wisden 2021. I am delighted to reproduce some of the content from his book, 'A Life in Cricket.'

Aside from cricket, Rajiv has an interest in tennis, true crime and history. He lives in North London and works in the city.

### The English summer of 1989

**In the spring of 1989, as a 10 year old primary school pupil, I was looking forward to seeing the Australian cricket team for the first time in the flesh as they embarked on an Ashes campaign in England. However, before their arrival there was the important issue of appointing an England captain.**

The contenders for the top job were the G. Men: Mike Gatting, Graham Gooch and David Gower. My hero, David Gower, was sacked from the position in 1986 and in the intervening three years Mike Gatting had held the post for most of the time, except in 1988 when a further three captains were appointed.

Amidst this turmoil, a fresh start was needed for the 1989 season and, as described in David Gower's 1989 video documentary, "The still young prince was recalled to the monarchy". This was now going to be my Ashes summer, with three ODIs followed by six Tests and lots of tour matches stitched within.

The proposed batting order was my dream team: Graham Gooch, Chris Broad, David Gower, Allan Lamb, Mike Gatting and Ian Botham. I left the wicket keeper and bowling department choices, however, solely to the national selectors.

From the 1986/1987 series down under (my first Ashes memory), the Australian survivors for the 1989 series were Allan Border, Geoff Marsh, Steve Waugh, David Boon, Dean Jones and Merv Hughes. I had not heard about Terry Alderman and Mark Taylor, two new additions from the last Ashes encounter. By the end of the series I would never forget them.

The three ODIs were an even contest (1-1 and a tie) and a light hors d'oeuvre before the main course of the

corner, no thought given to the opposition. Looking back, there was a lack of respect.

Before the first Test at Headingley, disaster struck with Mike Gatting and Ian Botham ruled out with injury. In fact, throughout the whole series at no point did England field my preferred top six at the same time.

And then the second and third nails in the coffin. David Gower did not pick a spinner and then opted to field first. These decisions still haunt him today. Australia amassed over 600, the match was lost and England never once got back into the series.

There were injuries, deaths in families and of course the South African rebel tour which meant David Gower never had his best team on the pitch but that does not detract from the ruthlessness with which Allan Border disposed of England. Having suffered two Ashes defeats as captain, Allan Border came with a tough streak and lifted his team to new heights. Australia fielded the exact same side in five of the six Tests and each of them contributed in the series.

Steve Waugh and Mark Taylor launched their careers with a bucket load of runs and Terry Alderman rolled back the years with over 40 wickets in the series. "Graham Gooch LBW Terry Alderman" was a regular entry in the scorecards throughout the season.

England on the other hand picked 29 players and naming them has become the subject of many a pub quiz. The team deteriorated from one Test to the next, no more so than at Lord's for the second Test.

I was at the ground on the Saturday, my first trip to HQ and Australia were 10 runs behind England but with only four wickets in hand at the beginning of play. England were in a reasonably strong position, but Steve Waugh stole the show in front of a packed house at the home of cricket. He stewarded the tail and registered 152 not out. Australia finished on 528 and would go on to win the match.

Reports ran that David Gower cut a lonely and pathetic figure in attempting to lead England during Steve Waugh's innings. The words cut deep, he was my hero.

The series progressed, Steve Waugh was finally dismissed, David Boon, Allan Border and Dean Jones supported the greedy Mark Taylor at the top of the order and the equally greedy Steve Waugh at six; and Merv Hughes and Geoff Lawson ably assisted Terry Alderman. This team would evolve and conquer the world and it all started in 1989 (or perhaps in 1987 with the World Cup victory).

The fourth Test at Old Trafford was where the Ashes were lost. David Boon (Pictured, Right) hit the winning runs, the Australians on the balcony raised

their arms in delight and the TV cameras were then allowed into the changing rooms where the beer and champagne were flowing. Allan Border was getting drenched and the camaraderie was so evident. One of the TV commentators, however, said that in the home changing room it was so quiet you could hear the pipes creak. It was a hollow feeling.

The next Test at Trent Bridge was a further humiliation. Mark Taylor and Geoff Marsh batted the whole of the first day, making more than 300. David Gower opened in the second innings, following on, shouldered arms and was bowled. The dismissal was indicative of the whole series, a weak surrender.

The final Test at The Oval saw Allan Border trying to make a century (he made 76), relaxed and content; and oddly, given the score line, David Gower played a delightful innings of 79. But the dark clouds were gathering over him, a 4-0 defeat against the old enemy being a bitter pill for the TCCB to swallow. He was promptly sacked as captain after The Oval Test.

1989 was a watershed moment in English cricket. David Gower and Ian Botham rarely played again for England, relics of a bygone and amateurish era. It was left to Graham Gooch and Allan Lamb, new captain and vice-captain, to pick up the pieces in the autumn of 1989 and take England forward into a new era of professionalism. With them, they took rising stars such as Robin Smith, Angus Fraser and Alec Stewart. While the results for England in the 1990s were not great, the seeds had been planted and by the millennium they had begun to bear fruit under Nasser Hussain.

Thirty years on, the Australian players who were part of that Ashes triumph always speak with great fondness about the tour. They played hard and partied hard and the bond and special feeling during that summer remain strong.

It was their time, a bunch of young men playing at their best and creating history. Their only issue with the series is that it would have been an unprecedented 6-0 were it not for the weather.

Allan Border summed up the tour as the highlight of his career. When they left for England they were deemed the worst Australian team to arrive for an

Ashes contest. When they returned home four months later, they were welcomed as heroes.

The WCC would like to thank Rajiv Radhakrishnan for allowing us to reprint extracts from his book -





## Tom Graveney

**The recall of Tom Graveney (Pictured, Below, Centre) to the England team against the West Indies last summer after years in the wilderness proved to be an unqualified success. It was not only a romantic move, but entirely logical, because nearly everyone in the game, other than the Selectors, knew Tom to be the most dependable batsman in the country, and that he should have been picked several seasons earlier. What our Selectors had failed to appreciate, until it was almost too late, was that once Tom had settled down at Worcester he became a far more consistent player than he had ever been in the past when he had so often played for England with varying degrees of good fortune. He has always been a very fine batsman, but with maturity he became a great one.**

Tom reached his peak in 1964, when Worcester won the title for the first time, and those responsible for choosing the England team had written him off as past his prime.

Although Middlesex in 1947 were an exception, the Championship is decided mainly by bowlers, but in the whole history of the game it is doubtful if one single batsman

has ever exerted as much influence on the outcome as Tom did for Worcester in 1964. He carried the batting, scored well over two thousand runs, hit a number of centuries, and made more than fourteen scores of over fifty. However, it was not only the runs he scored, but the number of occasions he steered his side to a reasonable total when the pressure was on and the pitch was poor. He bestrode the scene that summer and without him his county would never have triumphed. Against Essex on a lively wicket Tom made 106 out of 229, and because of that fine innings they won the match. This was merely a typical example of his mastery, but our Selectors chose to ignore him, while we lost the Ashes to one of the weakest Australian teams to visit this country. It did not make sense at the time, and in retrospect appears even more nonsensical.

The final irony of Tom's recall last summer was that afterwards he should be chosen on merit for the World XI (to play in Barbados) and yet he was not even considered good enough to be a member of the parties to tour Australia and South Africa when he was in fact batting even better than he is today.

I first encountered Tom Graveney when Essex went to play on the lovely school ground at Cheltenham which had a beautiful batting wicket. This match became stamped on my memory because the luncheon interval

In a series of articles in *Playfair Cricket Monthly* in the 1960s, Trevor Bailey focussed on players he knew and played with. This article on Tom Graveney was published in 1967.

Tom Graveney died in 2015 and his obituary in the 2016 *Wisden* included:

'When it came to earning marks for artistic impression, or inspiring lines of poetic enchantment, few England batsmen have ranked higher than Tom Graveney. Not everyone was keen to rhapsodise: many of cricket's more pragmatic minds – Len Hutton and Peter May among them – remained immune to his charms, and doubted his temperament for Test cricket. Like David Gower, Graveney became the subject of anguished national debate.'



was lengthened and enlivened by one of the most remarkable speeches I have ever heard. The speaker, a local dignitary, commenced by telling everyone, and apologising for the fact, that mediocrity was the outstanding feature of both teams, and that Gloucester had done nothing of note since the pre-war days of Walter Hammond.

I was sitting next to their skipper, Basil Allen, at the time and he was, not surprisingly, very, very incensed, as only two years previously his team had failed to carry off the Championship by the narrowest of margins. The speaker continued by welcoming us, 'the men from Exeter' and then was kind enough to suggest that there was an element of hope for both sides. Gloucester, for example, possessed two promising young cricketers, 'the brothers Gravity'. From that day forth I have always thought of Tom as 'Gravity'.

On the field I was immediately impressed by Tom's style and also noticed that high flowing backlift which suggested that he might be a candidate for a bouncer. In those far-off days he was comparatively naive, accepted the challenge, and swished at a head-high delivery which later he would have contemptuously ignored. The result was a catch at the wicket and round one to myself. I need hardly add that in the years that lay ahead Tom was to take his revenge on numerous occasions. I have lost count of the number of centuries he has made against Essex for both Gloucester and Worcester, not to mention the fifties.

My first tour with Tom was to the West Indies (in 1953/4) and it was then that I really began to know him as a person and not merely as a talented batsman from another county. We soon discovered that we had a number of things in common. We both liked hot

fascinated by the calypso rhythms, although I regret to confess that Tom sang them far better which was hardly surprising as the audience appreciation of my voice has never been more than one. We both were keen, though very far from expert Bridge players and on the way back from the Caribbean once played from 9 a.m. until 2 a.m. with breaks only for refreshments. We both liked golf, but here the similarity ended, because Tom could also play it. He is a fine golfer with an exquisite swing who would have done really well if he had decided to concentrate on it instead of cricket. We both have always enjoyed parties, especially those which are impromptu and develop from nothing

Subsequent tours both official and unofficial have increased my regard for him both as a player and as a person. We have had moments of triumph, such as retaining the Ashes at Adelaide, and moments of disappointment, like losing them in 1958, when the main reason for our failure was not the throwing controversy, but the plain unvarnished fact that we failed to play to our potential as a team. However, above all else both of us have enjoyed touring and consider ourselves fortunate to have seen so much of the world under the best possible circumstances.

Every time I see Tom at the crease one adjective immediately comes to mind, elegant. There have been few, if any English batsmen more attractive to watch over the past decade. This grace stems from his build and high backlift, combined with tremendous natural ability. His high back lift did on occasions prove to be his undoing against very fast bowling in the early stages of his career in Test cricket, but is one of the main reasons why he possesses so much spectator appeal. A drive by a person with a short back lift may well be as effective as one by Tom, but it can never be as exciting to watch. A cover drive by him represents more than four runs, it is a thing of beauty, to be remembered and treasured.

Tall and distinguished, Tom has batted with an elegance that puts him far ahead of most of his contemporaries in terms of style, but the sad fact remains the most handsome batsmen do not always make the most runs.

In county cricket he has always been a prolific scorer, but in Test cricket when the going was hard he has not always been as successful as his ability warranted. When we toured Australia under Sir Leonard Hutton, Tom did not really come into his own until the end of the tour. In the final Test, with the series over he scored a wonderful hundred and in New Zealand he overshadowed everybody with a series of innings of quite exceptional merit.

Technically Tom has always been a very correct player, apart from a slight tendency to hit across the line

when scoring on the leg side. What then was the reason for his comparative failure at international level, until his triumphant reappearance on the international scene last summer?

I have an idea that in his early days his temperament unconsciously resented the restrictions which have inevitably become part of so many Test battles when the opposition had top class attack. The knowledge that he could not afford to make a mistake affected his reactions so that he was unable to play his normal game. In County Festival matches he has looked truly Olympian so that it is difficult to understand why in some of the sterner Tests he has appeared merely mortal.

I believe that Tom improved as a player when he left Gloucester. In 1960 he captained his county and, despite an injury, comfortably headed their batting averages. Then the Gloucester Committee decided to relieve him of the captaincy and appointed a fairly inexperienced amateur, C. T. M. Pugh in his place. Understandably this was a bitter personal blow and predictably Tom resigned from the county and decided to go elsewhere. Gloucester were unwilling to release their most talented cricketer and he had to miss an entire season of cricket before he became eligible to play for Worcester.

The undercurrents and the inevitable wrangle left their mark on a fairly uncomplicated, easy going individual so that when he reappeared on the first-class scene some of the fun in his batting had been replaced by an increased determination to score runs. He quickly settled down to become the most consistent player in the country, churning out score after score. Thus a new, harder, more ruthless Graveney was born, but because of his style still a delight to spectators everywhere.

Of all the great batsmen I have bowled against none have been as predominantly front foot as Tom. This tendency was probably encouraged by the fact that on so many of the Gloucester grounds the ball tends to keep low, combined with the fact that because of his height he is able to ride the ball that lifts sharply. Against the faster bowling he largely employs a half-cock shot with the weight on the front foot. To overcome the problem of scoring off a bowler who keeps the ball just short of a length he has developed a semi-push semi-drive on the up played late with the weight on the front foot. It is a most effective, highly individual, and rewarding shot.

Like all great batsmen he has a wide variety of strokes, but relies very largely on scoring his runs with straight bat shots in an arc between extra cover and forward short leg. This is the safest way, because one is employing the full face of the bat and is less likely to edge the ball.



Tom was a fine all-round fieldsman, better than average in most positions and possessing a remarkably safe pair of hands. As a slip, in his prime I would rate as very good without ever quite attaining true greatness. He is an occasional bowler, whose best ball is the leg-spinner which does not turn. Although vigorously denied by Tom, I have a shrewd suspicion that this was normally quite unintentional.

Having played with and against Tom for so many years it is difficult to select one occasion which does full justice to his ability as a batsman, but I believe his performance against Essex at Romford provides an adequate tribute to his talents. On that occasion the wicket was so green that it would have served as a wonderful colour advertisement for a fertiliser and the ball moved about in a most bewildering fashion. It was a seam bowler's paradise. Gloucester were removed for 153 of which Tom contributed exactly one hundred. In their second innings they stumbled to 107. Once again Tom was easily the highest scorer with 67, and indeed was somewhat unlucky to be out caught down the leg side off a genuine glance. In this match only two of his colleagues reached double figures, but what was even more impressive was the way he made his runs. Everyone else struggled and failed as the ball moved viciously off the pitch, as well as swinging in the air, but Tom never appeared to be in any difficulty. It was a classic example of how to bat under really difficult conditions, a triumph of technique and application, which only a great player could hope to produce.

*Trevor Bailey, 1967.*

#### Tom Graveney Career Statistics -

Competition	Test	First-Class	List A
Matches	79	732	45
Runs Scored	4,882	47,793	1,147
Batting Avg	44.38	44.91	31.86
100s/50s	11/20	122/233	0/6
Highest Score	258	258	98
Balls Bowled	260	5,479	-
Wickets	1	80	-
Bowling Avg	167.00	37.96	-
5 Wkts/Inns	-	1	-
10 Wkts/Match	-	-	-
Best Bowling	1-34	5-28	-
Catches/Stmpgs	80/-	553/1	15/-

#### Fist-Class career

1948-1960: Gloucestershire

1961-1970: Worcestershire

1971-72: Queensland

#### Firs-Class debut

Gloucestershire v Oxford University, 1948.

#### England debut

v South Africa, 5 July 1951.

#### Final Test

v West Indies, 12 June, 1969

## THE BIG SPRING QUIZ - The Winners

Thank you so much to everyone who took part. An astonishing 257 of you sent in answers to all the rounds. Over two hundred people scored 50/80 or more and I am not ashamed to admit that I was not one of those!

If anyone would like the list of all the questions and answers then please contact me.

In the end twelve people each answered every single question correctly, which considering that these were not easy questions is a splendid achievement.

In the end I decided to give three prizes and three names were drawn out by Libby.

First Prize of a £100 Wisdenworld Gift Voucher and also a copy of the excellent book, Golden Summers, goes to: **Elaine Turbet.**

Second Prize of a £50 Wisdenworld Gift Voucher and also a years' subscription to The Nightwatchman, goes to: **Simon Alexander**

Third Prize of a 2021 Wisden goes to: **Stephen Reynolds.**

**Thank you to everyone who took part.**

## Flowers and Olonga

**'It ain't got nothing against 9 them Viet Cong.'** This was a remark for all time: a simple, forthright and courageous statement from a sportsman that cut right through all the politicians' crap. It was a statement from Muhammad Ali, announcing that he was refusing to be drafted to fight in Vietnam. For this, he was stripped of his title, forbidden to box, and sentenced to jail.

Sport has huge symbolic meaning in the great world: that is why power maniacs from Hider to Mugabe have always loved the stuff. But sometimes - very, very rarely - an athlete goes the other way, raises his eyes from his own navel and makes a comment or gesture of piercing insight and meaning about the doings of the real world. Such things are all the more memorable for coming from a sportsman: from someone who is stepping outside of his normal concerns. There is a term for it, incidentally: ultracrepidarianism, meaning the exact opposite of sticking to ones last. On very rare occasions, sport has urgent need of ultracrepidarianism.

A second example: the black power salute given on the Olympic medal podium in 1968 by Tommie Smith and John Carlos, the American sprinters. They greeted the Star Spangled Banner with clenched fists to demonstrate that they had a few reservations about the country they were representing.

It was simple, eloquent, dignified, cool. It made martyrs of them, inevitably: they were chucked out of their sport. But they created an image that will always be remembered: not just as an aspect of the civil rights movement in America, but as a token of the symbolic power of the sport and the people who take part in it.

All of which brings us to the courage, eloquence and cool of Andy Flower and Henry Olonga. The Zimbabwe issue had become trivialised by the ludicrous contortions of the ECB, the ICC and, to a lesser extent, the England players. It reached a state when no one was sure whether England were taking a moral stand or whether they were concerned about safety.

The only sure thing about it all was that for an awful lot of people it all came down to money. Tim Lamb, chief executive of the ECB, gave us a definition of cricket that will never be forgotten. Cricket is, he said, part of the international leisure and entertainment business'.

Some of us think cricket is worth a bit more than that. Some of us think that cricket has an emotional and a symbolic meaning that goes beyond the strutting of cabaret performers. And among those people are Flower and Olonga.

Zimbabwean cricketers Andy Flower and Henry Olonga took a stand against their country's dictatorship, which had Robert Mugabe as the supreme dictator by wearing black arm bands during the 2003 World Cup, in the match against Namibia in Harare.

The repercussions were immense. We are pleased to reproduce this excellent article, written at the time by the Sunday Times Chief Sports Writer, Simon Barnes. We are also delighted to be able to reproduce the statement issued by the two players.

They produced an eloquent, straightforward, incisively written reason for their wearing of black armbands during the World Cup. How splendid it was that the two of them did it together. Flower is the white man, once rated the finest Test batsman practising his trade, the heart and soul of the Zimbabwe cricket team more or less since they achieved Test status.

And Olonga was the first black African to represent Zimbabwe, a sporting hero and an opera singer: an African renaissance man. Both said they loved their country, both said they hated what was happening to it. Both made it clear that they were happy to play cricket for their country and their countrymen, but not for its leader.

We don't look for gratuitous political rants from professional sportsmen. Andrew Casade carried an anti-poll tax placard at a tennis tournament in Telford and it was toe-curlingly embarrassing. But this business of Flower and Olonga mattered. What's more, it was something that needed a sportsman's voice.

*After the match, one man was arrested for wearing a black armband. During Zimbabwe's next group stage match against India, nearly 200 spectators wore black armbands, to support the protest*

Great sporting events glorify the nations they take place in. This rubs off on the leaders, a fact appreciated not only by Hitler and Mugabe, but

also by the Argentinian military dictatorship, the Soviet Empire and the all-American money machine.

Flower and Olonga made it clear that every run scored and every wicket taken is a symbolic blow against Mugabe. They have turned the tyrant's weapons against him. Their stand spells out all we need to know about the politics of this World Cup. It was simple, straightforward, honest, courageous: all things beyond the grasp of most politicians and sports administrators.

The statement itself gets right to the heart of the matter. It is a powerful blow for sanity, decency, and hope. So naturally there is talk about their being censured by their own country, and by the ICC. This is what happened to Ali, to Carlos and to Smith. All three of them were recognised as heroes later on. Ali, Smith, Carlos, Flower, Olonga: they all stepped beyond their sport. By doing so, they did their sport much honour.

## **The Statement of Andrew Flower and Henry Olonga**

*Issued 9.30am February 10, 2003, at the start of Zimbabwe's opening World Cup match against Namibia*

It is a great honour for us to take the field today to play for Zimbabwe in the World Cup. We feel privileged and proud to have been able to represent our country. We are however deeply distressed about what is taking place in Zimbabwe in the midst of the World Cup and do not feel that we can take the field without indicating our feelings in a dignified manner and in keeping with the spirit of cricket.

We cannot in good conscience take to the field and ignore the fact that millions of our compatriots are starving, unemployed and oppressed. We are aware that hundreds of thousands of Zimbabweans may even die in the coming months through a combination of starvation, poverty and Aids. We are aware that many people have been unjustly imprisoned and tortured simply for expressing their opinions about what is happening in the country. We have heard a torrent of racist hate speech directed at minority groups.

We are aware that thousands of Zimbabweans are routinely denied their right to freedom of expression. We are aware that people have been murdered, raped, beaten and had their homes destroyed because of their beliefs and that many of those responsible have not been prosecuted. We are also aware that many

patriotic Zimbabweans oppose us even playing in the World Cup because of what is happening.

It is impossible to ignore what is happening in Zimbabwe. Although we are just professional cricketers, we do have a conscience and feelings. We believe that if we remain silent that will be taken as a sign that either we do not care or we condone what is happening in Zimbabwe. We believe that it is important to stand up for what is right.

We have struggled to think of an action that would be appropriate and that would not demean the game we love so much.

We have decided that we should act alone without other members of the team being involved because our decision is deeply personal and we did not want to use our senior status to unfairly influence more junior members of the squad. We would like to stress that we greatly respect the ICC and are grateful for all the hard work it has done in bringing the World Cup to Zimbabwe.

In all the circumstances we have decided that we will each wear a black armband for the duration of the World Cup. In doing so we are mourning the death of democracy in our beloved Zimbabwe. In doing so we are making a silent plea to those responsible to stop the abuse of human rights in Zimbabwe. In doing so we pray that our small action may help to restore sanity and dignity to our Nation.

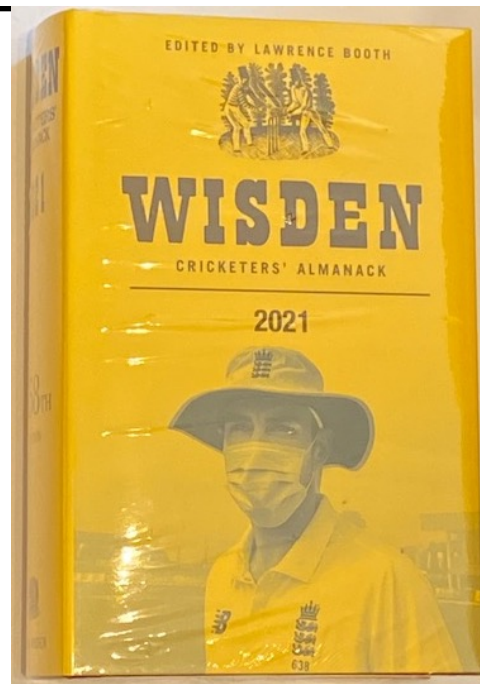
## *Wisden 2021*

*The newspapers have had their say, the journalists have penned their thoughts...but what do Wisdener readers think about the 2021 edition.*

*Your thoughts are just as important and I want to know what you think.*

*Whether it is a one-line comment or a broader review, please send your thoughts to*

[furmedgefamilly@btinternet.com](mailto:furmedgefamilly@btinternet.com)



*In the next edition of The Wisdener I will be printing as many as I can!*



# The VERY-FRIENDLY Cricket Quiz - Round 1 Results

I have no idea what else to call this little competition, but it seems to have hit the spot with Wisdener readers. So much so, that yet again I am apologising for the delay in getting results out to you all.

Four hundred and sixteen of you took the time and trouble to have a go and I am delighted to print below the results of the first round...there are individual prizes for each round throughout the season and for those of you who stick with it, prizes for the overall winner.

Round One Table:

<b>1st</b>	Ian Knowles	54
<b>2nd</b>	Bob Pook	45
<b>3rd</b>	David Ackland	42
<b>-</b>	Giles Falconer	42
<b>5th</b>	Colin Morris	40
	Sandra Bowden	40
<b>7th</b>	Mark Mojsak	39
	Mark Hilton	39
<b>9th</b>	Chris Rowsell	38
	Neil Fraser	38
The ones not near the top - yet!		
<b>-</b>	Ray Birchall	22
<b>-</b>	Mike Cotterell	18
<b>-</b>	Dave Hennesey	18
<b>-</b>	Pete Sayer	16
	Simon Wilson	16

The questions and answers to Round 1 were as follows:

1: Essex v Worcestershire - How many wickets will fall on Day 1? (the first day will be the day the first ball is bowled).

**Points** - if you guess 'x' wickets and you are right, you get 'x' points). **Answer 3**

2: Notts v Durham - No matter which team bats first, what will the first-wicket partnership be? **A - 5**

**Points** - a spot on answer gets 10 points, if you are within 5 runs you get 2 points. You don't get 10 + 2 if you are spot on)

3: Warwickshire v Derbyshire - How many scores of 50 or more will there be in this match (a century/double century etc counts as one? **A - 5**

**Points** - 1 point for every one you get, if you get the exact number, a bonus of 5.

4: Gloucestershire v Surrey - How many batsmen in the first innings for both sides (completed or not) will get 'ducks'? **A - 2**

**Points** - 1 point for every one you get, if you get the exact number, a bonus of 5.

5: Leicestershire v Hampshire - In the first innings for both teams, how many wickets will fall before each team scores 100? **A - 2**

**Points** - 1 point for every one you get, if you get the exact number, a bonus of 5.

6: Middlesex v Somerset - Which team will score most in its first innings? **A - Middlesex**

**Points** - 2 points if you choose correctly. If scores are the same, no points given.

7: Lancashire v Sussex - How many wickets will Sussex lose in the match? **A - 12**

**Points** - 1 point for every one you get, if you get the exact number, a bonus of 5.

8: Northants v Kent - Will this match be a Northants win, a Kent win, a Draw or a Tie? **A - Draw**

**Points** - A correct forecast gets you 2 points.

9: Yorkshire v Glamorgan - How many wickets will the highest wicket-taking bowler take across both innings? It does not matter if more than one bowler have the same total. **A - 6**

**Points** - 1 point for every one you get, if you get the exact number, a bonus of 5.

10: Tie-Breaker - What will be the highest first-innings team score be across all 9 matches (the innings does not have to be completed) **A - 612 - 5 declared by Hampshire v Leicestershire.**

**Barbados, the tiny island the size of the Isle of Wight, has long been known as the cricketing gold mine of the world, and when it gained its independence last November, a local beer firm said: 'Why don't we play the Rest of the World to see if we are the best cricket country?'**

The firm put up the money, the world's top stars accepted invitations (regrettably a few had to drop out for various reasons, including Bobby Simpson, Graeme and Peter Pollock and Colin Bland) and on March 8th the first-ever inter-global Test match started at the Kensington Oval, Bridgetown, Barbados.

Let me say at once that this was no festival match like the Rest of the World matches that wind up the season in England. This was a Test in all but name. And you only had to watch England opening batsman Bob Barber (Pictured, Right) waving his bat angrily at Charlie Griffith after ducking five bouncers in seven balls to appreciate that this five-day game had all the tension and passion of a real, live Test.

I was standing right next to the wicket when Gary Sobers, the Barbados captain, tossed up with Bill Lawry, the World skipper. The pitch looked like concrete to me, with little or no grass, but one of the Barbadian players who wasn't playing said: 'It will fly because it's got some moisture in. Gary will put them in.'

### FIRST DAY

Sobers did. Barber and Lawry opened to Hall and Griffith, and surprisingly the ground was not even half full. The explanation was that shops did not close until lunch-time, but after lunch everyone came along, even filling the trees at the back of the ground.

The newspapers were full of ads saying that so and so firm would close down from such and such time to enable their employees to watch the cricket. Most schools were closed down and a half-price children's stand was crammed with 500 more than it was built for. These children showed a fantastic knowledge of the game, cheering all the right things and barracking slow play.

Lawry did not last long. Much to the delight of the youngsters, he followed a Griffith delivery outside the off stump and was caught behind by 22-year-old Alfred Taylor, a hotel manager who could well be the West Indies wicketkeeper against England next winter.

That was 9 - 1, and at 31 Kanhai mishit a bouncer from Hall and was caught by Lashley at square leg. Barber



Thank you to everyone who contacted me to say how much they enjoyed reading the contemporary reports of the 1963 England v West Indies Test series, and an apology to those of you who did not enjoy them.

For those of us who sometimes see cricket nowadays as very categorised - with nothing unusual in the long game and the emphasis on innovation in the limited-overs game, I offer a report from a match back in 1967 between a Rest of the World XI and Barbados. Sadly, nowadays unless there was an enormous financial incentive and worldwide TV coverage such a match could never happen and the worlds finest players would not consider taking part. The article was written by Brian Scovell and first appeared in Caribbean Cricket.

started with his usual rush but slowed almost to a stop when he saw the ball lift and cut. The wicket was indeed flying. One delivery from Griffith to Kanhai was a vertical take-off job, sailing almost straight up into the air to Kanhai's absolute disgust.

Graveney (31) played well in his partnership with Barber (30) and was unlucky to be dismissed by a brilliant diving catch by Lashley in the gully off Hall. Barber left at 92 - 4, and though the World were being shot away, I did not think Hall and Griffith used this wicket half as well as, say, Cartwright or even D'Oliveira would have used it. They were far too erratic. Hall, troubled by a back injury, was considerably slower than he had been in England last summer.

D'Oliveira came in to a tremendous reception. He made 16 before being l.b.w. to Holford (122 - 5). Borde, the Indian batting star of the series against the West Indies, played impressively off the back foot and was only two short of a well-deserved 50 when he trod on his wicket trying to hook a Griffith bouncer.

Borde protested that he had completed his shot, but umpire Cortez Jordan over-ruled him. By this time the wicket was playing easily, and Mushtaq Mohammed (Pictured, Left), 51 not out and John Murray on 33 entertained the now capacity crowd with some fine stroke play against the tiring bowlers (the temperature was 85 degrees most of the afternoon). At the end of the first day's play the World were 250—7, level pegging.

### SECOND DAY

Mushtaq (pronounced moustache by my taxi-driver) took his score to 82 before Sobers, at last coming on with his slow stuff, trapped him into giving Bynoe a catch at first slip with his googly. Hawke hit out well for his 23 and the World were all out 308. Hall (4—85) and Griffith (2—85) bowled 46 of the 102-4 overs sent down.

Sobers complained of a slightly damaged finger when asked why he had only bowled nine overs. Had he been fit to bowl more on the morning of the first day, the World would probably have not made such a useful total.

The Barbados first innings was a fiasco. They were bowled out for 84 in 154 minutes. Bad batting was the cause of their sensational failure because the wicket was playing better on the second day than at any time in the match.

Hunte left first at 18, the victim of a trap set by Lance Gibbs. Gibbs suggested to Hawke that he should try an occasional one down the leg side to tempt Hunte to glance. Hawke obliged, Hunte glanced and Murray caught him low down. A first-class example of profiting on local knowledge!

Robin Bynoe, Hunte's opening partner, performed stodgily on the back foot and it was no surprise when McKenzie bowled him with a yorker. Next ball McKenzie brought a stunned gasp from the 13,000 crowd when he had Nurse l.b.w. with an extremely fast ball that kept a little low. Barbados were 28 - 3, and instead of Sobers, we saw Brancker. Lashley was already in, but why not Sobers?

Sobers's (Pictured, Below) refusal to admit his own



batting brilliance soon proved a colossal blunder, for with Brancker and Lashley out of the way, he had no one to help him salvage the operation.

His cousin, David Holford, chipped a bone trying to catch Mushtaq the day before and could only come in at number

eleven with no glove on his left hand. Gibbs (3 - 13) and Mushtaq (3 - 23) neatly wrapped up the Barbados tail, Gibbs bowling Sobers for 32.

As a contest, it was now strictly no contest. Would Lawry enforce the follow on? There was no doubting his intentions. He was not going to let Barbados slip out of this one ... he decided to bat a second time himself. With a lead of 224 he was virtually in an unassailable position because the wicket was bound to wear.

Griffith launched a bumper barrage against Barber, and twice Barber swatted his bat overhead in annoyance as bouncers flew past him. Barber obviously let this treatment fluster him, for when he was six he played over a yorker from Hall and was bowled.

It was noticeable that Griffith bowled half-volleys to Kanhai, the next batsman, a Test colleague. Lawry (33) fell to a Griffith bouncer in the last over, giving a simple catch to wicket-keeper Taylor. So the World closed the day at 47 - 2 and the players all went off to their parties and receptions. Barbados is certainly a most hospitable part of the world!

### THIRD DAY

The World were dismissed for 276 and set to score 501 to win; Barbados scored 65 - 1. It was John Murray's (Pictured, Below, Right) day. His 121 in 179 minutes was batting of outstanding class and courage.

Kanhai, the overnight batsman, looked out of touch and quickly fell to a Taylor catch off Griffith, fishing outside the off stump. Graveney (10) tried his flat hook shot to a Griffith ball on his off-stump, missed and lost his off-stump. Borde (15) was superbly caught by Sobers, diving to his left in his favourite hip pocket position at backward short-leg. The World, 89 - 5, were in a tricky position but Mushtaq (57) and Murray would not admit it.

They put on 97 in 87 minutes before Mushtaq sportingly walked after edging Sobers to Taylor. Murray by this time was

playing some sizzling strokes and his hooking of Griffith's bumpers

was just the exciting cricket that these West Indian crowds love so much.

D'Oliveira, struck on the foot by a Griffith full toss in the first innings, limped in with Barber as runner to hold out 68 minutes for five runs while 69 more runs were added.

For sheer quality of stroke-play, I rated Murray's innings an even better one than his century off the West Indies in the last Oval Test match. Then he had Tom Graveney with him. This time it was his own show. When he was 88, Sobers took the new ball and stationed himself at fine-leg after ordering Griffith to bowl bouncers. The hook shots came all right, but they all eluded Sobers. Murray took 11 off four balls from Griffith and Charlie's first three overs with the new ball cost him 21 runs.

Murray's century came with yet another four, this time off Hall. There were 17 boundaries in his 121, and if the England selectors wanted final proof that he is a good batsman as well as a great wicket-keeper, this was it.





Barbados bowler, but he came in for much criticism from the locals on the grounds that he had wasted two new balls by bowling far too short. I agreed with them.

Bynoe (27 not out) and Hunte (36) made a sound start as Barbados set out on their impossible task after tea. Hunte appeared to be hit on the foot by a Barber full toss, but astounded everyone by turning and walking back to the pavilion once he had seen Hawke catch the ball at short leg. Umpire Cortez Jordan said he would not have given Hunte out, but Conrad said he had definitely hit the ball.

At the Governor-General's cocktail party later his colleagues applauded his sporting approach.

#### FOURTH DAY

It was never really on and so it proved. At 3.30 Barbados's last wicket fell at 238, giving the World victory by 262 runs. The challenge had been worthwhile, but the mission was beyond the powers of an island with a population of only 250,000.

Bynoe was first to go, bowled Gibbs for 37. Gibbs followed this up by bowling Lashley at 82 - 3, and by the way the ball turned, shot and popped, Barbados were going to do well to top 200.

Their four left-handers, including Sobers, were made to fight for survival as Gibbs and then Barber and Mushtaq went round the wicket to bowl into the big holes that appeared in the bowler's foot marks.

Survival was impossible . . . even for such a genius as Sobers. At one stage in his 37-minute innings for three he was slow-hand clapped! Barber, who bowled 21 overs of beautifully controlled leg-breaks and googlies (2 - 36), got one to pop and Hawke held the catch off Sobers's glove. 99 - 4 and it was nearly all over.

But Nurse (Pictured, Below) with 48 and Taylor a hard-hit 46 in 43 minutes entertained the capacity crowd before Lawry took the new ball to finish the innings off. Holford did not bat. The crowd did not mind the result. They had seen some wonderful cricket, and cricket is all they care about in Barbados.



Barbados v Rest of World XI.  
Kensington Oval, Bridgetown, Barbados  
March 8,9,10 and 11 1967.  
Toss: Barbados  
Umpires: J. S. Butler and C. Jordan

Rest of World XI 308 ( M. Mohammed, 82. CG Borde, 48. WW Hall 4 - 85 ) and 276 ( JT Murray, 121. M. Mohammed, 57. CC Griffith 5 - 82 ).  
Barbados 84 ( GS Sobers, 32. M. Mohammed, 3 - 23. LR Gibbs, 3 - 13 ) and 238 ( SM Nurse, 48. A Taylor, 46. LR Gibbs, 3 - 59 )

Rest of World XI won by 262 runs.

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The Virtual Wisdener is the publication of the Wisden Collectors' Club and the WCC would like to thank all the publications including John Wisden & Co for allowing us to reprint extracts and articles from their wonderful archives.

## The Virtual Tea Interval

'I went down the street to my 24-hour local shop. When I got there, the guy was locking the front door. I said, "Hey! The sign says you're open 24 hours." He Said, "Yes, but not in a row!"

I couldn't figure out why the cricket ball kept getting larger. Then it hit me.

Boy: The headmaster is so dumb!

Girl: Do you know who I am?

Boy: No...

Girl: I am the pHeadmaster's daughter!

Boy: Do you know who I am?

Girl: No...

Boy: Good! \*Walks away\*

Why did the surgeon not like the movie"

It was the uncut version.

I hate my mood swings. They're great!

My boss said I should go home because I really don't look good. I don't know if I should be happy to get the extra rest, or just offended.

"I love working with animals!"

Roland, 46, butcher.

"I just can't take anymore."

Fred, 41, freshly caught shoplifter.

"Talk about overreaction – I just take home something small from work and they're immediately calling the police!"  
Carl, 48, Nursery teacher.

"I'm sorry but I won't be rushed. They play my song on the radio – that song plays till the end!"  
Muriel, 36, not the ambulance driver of the month.

What is the worst combination of two sicknesses? -  
Diarrhoea and Alzheimer.  
You're running, but you don't know where.

Q: Is Google a he or a she?

A: A she, no doubt, because it won't let you finish your sentence without suggesting other ideas>

People tell me I take mini-golf too seriously, but my caddy disagrees

A little boy looks at his mum's wedding photograph and says, "Mummy, why is the girl always dressed all white?"

His mum answers, "The girls is called a bride and she is in white because she's very happy and this is the happiest day of her life."

The boy nods and then says, "OK, and why is the boy all in black?"



Wife: "I've had it with your silly remarks about my weight. I'm leaving you!"

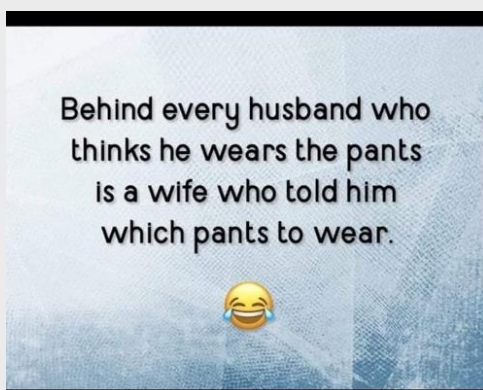
Husband: "But honey, what about our child?"

Wife: "What child?!"

Husband: "Oh, so you're not pregnant?"

Just a quick note to say thanks to everybody for all the wonderful birthday cards and money yesterday. And to the Royal Mail for giving me the job.

They say one glass of wine in the evening is good for your health, but how many should I be having in the morning?



I like to watch Love Your Garden when I have my tea and then True Crime before bed. I feel really confident being able to bury a body and know what to plant on top of it. Lucy Beaumont.

Who's idea was it to sing "Happy Birthday" while washing your hands? Now every time I go to the bathroom, my kids expect me to walk out with a cake!

My husband purchased a world map and then gave me a dart and said,  
"Throw this and wherever it lands – that's where I'm taking you when this pandemic ends."  
Turns out, we're spending two weeks behind the fridge!

This edition of The Virtual Wisdener  
has been sent out to  
8,129 people

The current membership of the  
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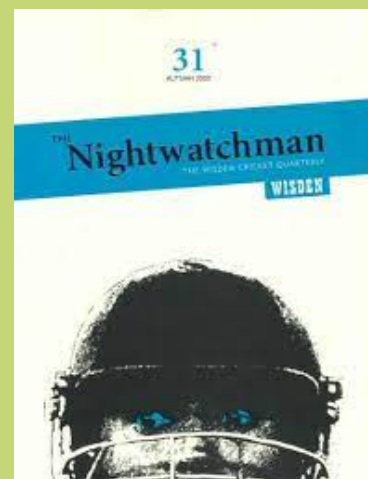
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## STOP PRESS.....The VERY-FRIENDLY Cricket Quiz - Round 2

I have always wanted to do a "STOP PRESS" and now I have.....

Even more of you took part in Round Two of the Very-Friendly Wisdener Quiz - doesn't that just roll off the tongue and first-place\* had to go to the tie-breaker, the two protagonists even guessed within Three runs of each other when it came to the highest individual score across all the latest round of matches.

### Round Two

1st	Michael Saunders	50*
	Stuart Howard	50*
3rd	Michael Epton	48
	Sean O'Neil	48
	Hilary Richardson	48
6th	Steve Nicholas	45
	Nigel Giffen	45
8th	Steve Garrett	43
	Ed Gaunt	43
	Liam Brocklehurst	43
-	John Sparing	25
-	Carl Hannaway	24
-	Liz Thomson	24
-	Graham Handley	19
-	Alan Fowler	19

In the next issue I will publish the League Table after two completed rounds. Round three for matches beginning on May 6th will be sent out soon.

1: Durham v Derbyshire - How many wickets will fall on Day 1? (the first day will be the day the first ball is bowled. **A - 4**

**Points** - if you guess correctly you get 10 points, incorrect answers, no points.)

2: Warwicks v Essex - No matter which team bats first, what will the second-wicket partnership be? **A - 8**

**Points** - a spot on answer gets 10 points, if you are within 5 runs you get 2 points. You don't get 10 + 2 if you are spot on)

3: Worcestershire v Nottinghamshire - How many individual completed innings of between 30 and 60 runs (inclusive) will there be in this match ('not outs' do not count) **A - 10**

**Points** - 1 point for every one you get, if you get the exact number, a bonus of 10.

4: Hants v Gloucs - How many of the bowlers used in this match will fail to get a wicket? **A - 4**

**Points** - 1 point for every one you get, if you get the exact number, a bonus of 10.

5: Leicestershire v Somerset - In the first innings for both teams, how many wickets will fall before each team scores 50? **A - 4**

**Points** - 1 point for every one you get, if you get the exact number, a bonus of 10.

6: Middlesex v Surrey - Which team will bowl the most maidens in the first innings? **A - Middlesex**

**Points** - 5 points if you choose correctly. If both are the same, no points given.

7: Kent v Lancashire - How many wickets will Lancashire lose in the match? **A - 10**

**Points** - 1 point for every one you get, if you get the exact number, a bonus of 10.

8: Northants v Glamorgan - Which sides' top 3 (in the batting order) will score the most runs? **A - Northants**

**Points** - A correct forecast gets you 5 points.

9: Sussex v Yorkshire - How many half centuries will there be in this match (a hundred or more counts as one half century)? **A - 3**

**Points** - 1 point for every one you get, if you get the exact number, a bonus of 10.

10: Tie-Breaker - What will be the highest individual batsman's score be across all 9 matches (the innings does not have to be completed).

**A - David Bedingham scored 257 in the first innings for Durham against Derbyshire, the second-highest score in Durham's first-class history.**



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