

THE YORKER

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First Indian Team in Australia 1947/48



Standing [Left to Right] P Gupta (Manager) G Kishenchand, CR Rangachari, KM Rangnekar, K Rai Singh, JK Irani, MS Ranvirsinhji, DG Phadkar, W Ferguson (Scorer)
Seated : CT Sarwate, CS Nayudu, VS Hazare (Vice-Captain), L Amarnath (Captain), MH Mankad, Amir Elahi, SW Sohoni
Front: PK Sen, HR Adhikari

THIS ISSUE

CELEBRATING DIAMOND JUBILEES: THE END OF ONE ERA AND THE START OF ANOTHER

The theme of this issue of the Yorker celebrates two very special 60th anniversaries: Don Bradman's final home Test matches and the inaugural Australia versus India Test series in the summer of 1947/48. The summer displays in the Library and foyer also celebrate this theme and have been designed to complement the Yorker while highlighting some of the collection's Indian and Bradman treasures.

We have three articles covering different aspects of this topic - an extract from Alf Batchelder's *Only Yesterday, Don Bradman at the MCG* covers The Don's final Tests in Australia, Boria Majumdar examines cricket as a metaphor for the relationship between Australia and India over the past 60 years, and Ken Williams has provided an extensive research article on the first Indian Test tour of Australia, detailing the development of Indian cricket, biographical vignettes on the Indian team and the tour itself.

Other articles featured include Ann Rusden's latest addition to our Treasures from the Collection series on the cricket belts and buckles display in the MCC Museum, two statistical analyses by Ross Perry on Australia at the Cricket World Cup, and Shane Warne and Glenn McGrath's contribution to Australia's dominance of international cricket since the mid-1990s, and Alf Batchelder's exploration of the influence of spin bowling on the development of the weapon for the Dambusters.

I would like to especially thank Dr Boria Majumdar for sharing from his collection some wonderful illustrations of the 1947/48 tour.

NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY

The first year of operation of the Library in the Fourth Members Pavilion has seen a growth in event-day usage by MCC members and their guests. We experienced record crowds during the 2006 Boxing Day Test match with an average of more than 1000 visitors to the Library for each of the three days, including an all-time record 1357 visitors on the third and final day of the match. It was a wonderful opportunity for our colleagues from the Marylebone Cricket Club Museum, in Melbourne for the Ashes exhibition, to see us in matchday operational mode.

The football season saw a steady increase in numbers with a dozen days of 300-plus visitors and an average of 165 clients using the Library services each match day. The Library's event fact sheets have proved extremely popular with members. If you are unable to attend and collect these and would like to subscribe to receive them, please contact the Library staff on 9657 8876.

We have had reduced operating hours on non-match days due to the staff's commitment to research and reference work for the National Sports Museum which opens in March 2008, with the Library services available from 11am to 3pm, Mondays to Fridays. We will return to regular hours (10am to 4pm) in March 2008.

David Studham

Melbourne Cricket Club Librarian

MCC LIBRARY

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The views expressed are those of the editors and authors, and not those of the Melbourne Cricket Club.

Submissions of research articles and book reviews can be made to The Editor, *The Yorker*, MCC Library PO Box 175 East Melbourne 8002 or via email to library@mcc.org.au

TREASURES FROM THE COLLECTIONS : CRICKETERS' BELTS AND BUCKLES



The display of cricket belts and buckles in the MCC museum arouses great interest from many visitors and this article is in response to that interest.

BELTS



Twelve belts displayed in the museum case illustrate the variety worn by players in the mid 19th century when belts were an essential part of cricketers' apparel. Some were plain coloured cotton canvas while others were embroidered and one on display has a printed cricket design on the webbing fabric.



Embroidered belts are examples of Berlin woolwork which was very popular at this time.

It was in the first decade of the century that a Berlin lady saw the possibilities of painting even-weave embroidery designs on squared paper where each square represented one stitch. Her husband was a printmaker and bookseller and they produced hundreds of patterns after 1810. Artists were commissioned to copy popular paintings and these were then printed using copper plates.

Publishing patterns in this way meant that they became available to many embroiderers. Publishing houses in Hamburg and Nuremberg as well as in Berlin produced patterns in quantity which were then exported and Berlin Embroidery, or "Berlin Work" as it was known, achieved vast popularity in Europe.

Berlin patterns were not widely available in England until 1831 when a Mr Wilks opened a business in Regent Street in London. This became highly successful as large numbers of quality, hand-painted patterns were imported not only from Germany but also from Paris and Vienna. By 1840 some 14,000 patterns were in regular use. This material was disseminated in printed albums of patterns circulated through women's magazines.

Berlin embroidery was worked on a variety of even-weave materials. Sometimes the background was left unworked highlighting the worked design and the attractive fabric. Other designs completely covered the material. The stitch employed in the embroidery is Oblique or Slanting Gobelin or called Gros Point worked over two threads of the material. Petit Point or Tent stitch is worked over a single thread.



Wool was the most common thread used but beads were also employed to enhance and highlight the design.

The designs on the cricketers' belts are floral, different flowers being depicted. As these were the patterns that were widely available it seems to explain their use for the belts. They are not what one would expect to be used for cricketer's apparel! These belts would have been worked by the mothers, sisters, wives and friends of the cricketers.



BUCKLES

The belts were fastened by factory-produced metal buckles which became "de rigueur" for fashion of the time. The MCC has an impressive collection of these items which make a fascinating study as there are many designs.



ADE'S CHAMPION BELT.

Commemorative of the First of England's Victories in America.



Patented by the Invention of the Thimble, Collars, Stocks, and all the Principal
 Clock and Watch-makers in the Kingdom.
 Made in London, by W. G. Grace, 1854. No. 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100.

Buckles were first introduced in England in 1854 by Edward Ade of Oxford Street, London, together with the plain belts. The buckles were an early example of sport impacting upon commercialism and fashion.

One of the belts in the MCC display was worn by a member of George Parr's team, the second English team to visit Australia in 1864, as its buckle has the names of all the team members incorporated in its design.



The large team canvas on Level 3 of the Members Pavilion shows very clearly all members wearing blue uniform belts with buckles. The belts are plain like one of those displayed in the museum. Similar belts and buckles are shown in the photo of Victorian cricketers from the 1850s and the portrait of T.W. Wills in the MCC Museum.



Cricketers' buckles have been found in many odd locations and there are numerous theories on how they might have arrived there.

In an article written by the editor of the Cricket Memorabilia Society No 14 March 1992 it is told how an Aborigine 1000 miles north of Perth found a buckle early last century and the theory is that it was possibly a memento of a gold prospector. As well as motifs of the lion and kangaroo, the design incorporated scores of the first Test match played in England and so was probably produced for team members of both sides in that 1880 match. It is noted in the article that the buckle was given to the East Molesey club in Surrey by the visiting Australians in 1953.

Another was found by Mr Clive Williams in 1979 on the bank of the River Tweed in Scotland. It has been dated as 1830-1840 by the Victoria and Albert Museum. Experts from the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew have

placed the cricketer depicted as playing in Barbados, as the tree shown on the buckle is the native Barbadian palm tree. It is now acknowledged as the oldest known West Indian cricketing artefact and was used on a stamp to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of West Indian Test cricket in 1988.



The finding of cricket buckles across the globe reinforces how widespread the trend was for wearing these items. Like all trends, fashion changed and by the 1870s there was a strong move to replace the wearing of belts with buckles with ties and sashes.

The volume on cricket from the Badminton Library series has this note on the need for belts or scarves. "Cricketers' trousers had a strap and a buckle at the back in lieu of braces. The buckles were removable for washing. Trousers needed to have loops for either a scarf or belt to go through." It then quotes W.G. Grace as preferring a scarf as there was no buckle as on a belt. This was from WG's book *Cricket* at the end of his chapter on batting: "And a belt instead of a scarf is sometimes an element of danger. The handle of the bat may come in contact with the buckle, and the noise be mistaken by the umpire for a snick off the bat. In fact, I once saw a man given out that way. The ball passed so close to the bat, that the umpire, hearing a snick, thought it must have touched it; and, on being appealed to, unhesitatingly gave him out." That was WG!



With the advent of modern methods of support for trousers, by the end of the Great War belts, buckles, sashes and ties went out of fashion for cricketers' needs.

ANN RUSDEN

Ann Rusden is a co-author of *The Centenary Test* and *In Affectionate Remembrance*.

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ONLY YESTERDAY



The latest addition to the MCC Library's publishing program is Alf Batchelder's **Only Yesterday: Don Bradman at the Melbourne Cricket Ground** tracing the playing career of cricket's greatest batsman at Australia's most historic sporting site. Publication coincides with the diamond jubilee of The Don's last Test series at home, and the first tour of Australia by an Indian team. So it is appropriate that we have chosen to print in **The Yorker** an extract dealing with the 1947/48 series, which included the only Test in which Bradman made a century in each innings, the third Test at the MCG.

But first, here are a few words from Alf on what sparked his interest in writing the book and why he has chosen this particular title.

'Don Bradman was unquestionably the greatest drawcard that the Melbourne Cricket Ground has ever seen. Curiously, while the basic Bradman story has become very well known, the significance of the MCG in his career has not received due recognition. While it was at Melbourne that The Don played so many of his significant innings, writers have devoted much more attention to his deeds at other Australian venues, particularly Sydney and Adelaide. With 2008 marking the centenary of his birth, as well as the sixtieth anniversary of his last Tests in Australia, it seemed appropriate to examine Bradman's Melbourne performances in the context of events surrounding him both nationally and overseas.'

For more years than I care to remember, MCC member Dudley Walton has regaled me with tales of his childhood days as a spectator at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. On December 30, 1932, he saw the "greatest disaster imaginable" when Don Bradman was bowled first ball. Once, the very young Walton courteously approached The Don for an autograph, which has been treasured ever since. Recalling the moment recently, he said, "I remember it so clearly - it seems only yesterday."

"Only yesterday". In my research for this book, I encountered those words many times. Memories of Bradman have remained so vivid that, 60 years after he retired, those who saw him still feel that it all occurred "only yesterday".'

Alf Batchelder's **Only Yesterday: Don Bradman at the Melbourne Cricket Ground** is published by Australian Scholarly Publishing and retails for \$45.00 inc GST.

After the war, cricket boards from several countries sought to organise series against Australia. For 1947-48, a tour was scheduled in which India would play five Tests for the first time. Two years after World War II ended, Australia was still enduring shortages, rationing and currency restrictions. In addition, strikes plagued the wharves and the public transport systems. Any solace that peace may have provided was overshadowed by the threat that communism presented to the stability of Australian society and international relations. Nevertheless, it was generally recognised that conditions elsewhere were far worse. Thousands regularly sent relief parcels to Britain. In August 1947, the Melbourne Cricket Club allocated £500 to send food to Lord's to "be distributed to needy persons in the County of Middlesex." Despite such sympathetic gestures, not many Australians fully appreciated conditions outside their shores. Their knowledge of India and its recent history was superficial. Few understood that the coming tour would take place in unique circumstances.¹

During the war, little actual conflict occurred on Indian soil. Nevertheless, the war had enormous consequences for the British Empire's "Jewel in the Crown". As in Australia, Britain's declaration of war meant that India was also at war, but the Indian reaction was somewhat different.

For many years, successive British governments "had declared their intention of giving India full self-government." When the Viceroy, Lord Linlithgow, "without consulting a single Indian, ... plunged 400 million Indians into a war they did not understand or even know much about", even those sympathetic to the British cause were "outraged". While many Indians fought for the Empire, others viewed the war as an opportunity for independence. As the gulf between British policies and nationalist aspirations widened, Japan's early successes fostered the belief that India's rulers were not invincible. In August 1942, Mahatma Gandhi launched his "Quit India" campaign at a mammoth rally on Bombay's Chowpatty beach. By 1946, "faced by an India where there was an almost revolutionary fervour", the government of Clement Attlee agreed that independence could not be postponed. Two centuries of British rule ended at midnight on August 15, 1947, when the Indian tricolour replaced the Union Jack on the ramparts of Delhi's Red Fort. Terrible violence followed the high elation of that moment. Since the sub-continent was now partitioned into two nations with different religions, Hindus from Moslem Pakistan fled to India, while Moslems from India sought refuge in Pakistan. In September, ten million people were moving through the Punjab in search of peace and security, but horrific massacres turned this exodus into one of the twentieth century's most violent episodes.²



Never before had touring players commenced a Test series in the shadow of such turbulent and momentous events at home. The trip to Australia had been born amid some optimism. During the war, high scoring from "Vinoos" Mankad, Vijay Merchant and Vijay Hazare had produced a golden age of Indian batting. Against Lindsay Hassett's Services team, India had won its first representative series but was outclassed in England in 1946. Unfortunately, some key players were missing when the team arrived in Perth in mid-October 1947. Rusi Modi and Merchant had withdrawn.

The curious omission of Mushtaq Ali meant that India arrived in Australia to face Lindwall and Miller without a recognised pair of opening batsmen. As a result of Partition, Fazal Mahmood was unavailable. As Mihir Bose put it, "Overnight an Indian cricketer had become a foreign national."³

For the Indian cricketers, the opportunity to play in Australia was "another dream come true. For long they had been eagerly looking forward to matching their skill against the great Don Bradman." During the winter of 1947, Bradman's health had improved considerably. When he welcomed the Indians with 156 for South Australia, it was clear that he "was patently far ahead of his form of the previous season." He hit 100 against the Victorians in Adelaide, and scored his hundredth first-class century while leading an Australian Eleven in Sydney. As he "cut and drove and hooked with all the venom of his palmiest days", The Don thrilled the crowd with 172 in 177 minutes. Bill O'Reilly recognised that Bradman was indeed back to his old self: "His running between the wickets, his extraordinary self-confidence, and his ability seemingly to read the bowlers' minds combined to make the innings a Bradman masterpiece." In difficult conditions in the Brisbane Test, the Australian captain produced a chanceless 185 that Keith Miller described as a "phenomenal" exhibition.⁴

During the Sydney Test, Bradman responded to a presentation marking his hundredth century by saying, "It can't be very long before I shall have to put my bat away for good." His recent dominance and the immense public interest in his deeds left little doubt that, at 39, he was still far and away the most significant force in Australian cricket. The inevitable void that would follow his retirement worried Dick Jones, chairman of the Sydney Cricket Ground Trust. Mr. Jones forecast a "terrific" slump "unless new faces are found and interest in the game is again created." A Melbourne paper put the situation bluntly: "He is indispensable". The

paper suggested that "a national testimonial" should be launched to keep Bradman in the game until after the 1948 tour of England. Nothing came of that notion, but Johnnie Moyes wrote that Bradman "must not be allowed to pass from the scene without the public having the chance to show its appreciation. A testimonial match, in which Bradman, of course, would play, could be held towards the end of next season."⁵

Before the Test, the Australians had net practice at the Albert Ground. Peter Le Get "stood behind the nets in awe as all the great players batted and bowled":

As each player came to bat Bradman would ask him which bowlers he wanted to face and the whole practice was fairly good natured.

I can remember Don Tallon, the great wicketkeeper, bowling alternately right and left-handed, which was fairly novel. When Sid Barnes' turn came to bat, Bradman asked him if he would like Ian Johnson to bowl at him, to which Sid, having just batted for a day and a half against Victoria, including Johnson, in a notoriously slow innings, said, "No thanks, I've seen enough of Ian." General laughter all round, which the captain joined in. Bradman himself batted last, and as he strode into the net, perfectly attired, the spectators broke into a respectful round of applause. Whereas practice had been a little lighthearted for the others, when it came to Bradman's turn it was deadly serious.⁶

Since Australia led 1-0, the Third Test in Melbourne was critical for India. The players had been disheartened by the rain and sticky wickets in Brisbane and Sydney. So far, Mankad and Sarwate had failed to provide a solid start – their highest opening stand in four innings was 17. In previewing the Test, Hec de Lacy said that key batsmen like Gul Mohamed were "slashers, who hit at every ball with lamentable lack of selectivity" and needed to "learn patience and wait for the ball to hit." By "all the rules and standards of Test cricket", the touring team was "second best". The Indians had admitted from the outset that, against Bradman's Australians, they would need everyone "to play to the top of their form", as well as a large slice of luck. Their great advantage was that, in the absence of rain, they approached the game "in an exhilarating fashion".⁷

On New Year's Day, luck was not with them when Don Bradman won the toss and decided to bat. The pitch was the first prepared by new MCG curator Bill Vanthoff. Poor health had forced Bert Luttrell to step down in 1947 after 38 years' service, but his successor had produced a strip that "looked a picture".

The partnership of Barnes and Morris had reached 29 when Mankad bowled Barnes for 12. Since the First Test, most of the Australians had honed their skills in Shield matches, but the only innings Bradman had played since then was his 13 in the rain-affected Sydney Test. He was therefore a little uncertain when he faced the Indian bowlers in Melbourne. Nevertheless, he treated the 45,327 spectators to a "sound and chanceless" 132 in 197 minutes but, according to Moyes, it was "not a typical Bradman innings". Indian captain Lala Amarnath gave his bowlers "a field shrewdly placed to prevent fast scoring." While The Don was "never in doubt or in trouble" against a persistent attack that was only medium fast, his timing "was not as accurate as usual". The only delivery to beat him came after an attack of cramp. He swung wildly at a ball from Dattu Phadkar and was out leg before wicket.⁸

On the second day, the Indian batsmen seemed likely to surpass Australia's 394. After an opening stand of 124 with Sarwate, Mankad went on to make 116 but the leg-spin of Sid Barnes thwarted the Indian advance. In two balls, he had Hazare caught behind by Tallon for 17 and trapped Amarnath well and truly leg before wicket for 0. At stumps, India was 6/262. After heavy overnight rain affected the uncovered wicket, Amarnath declared at 9/291.



As he had done so memorably in 1937, Bradman reversed his batting order. After having the heavy roller used on the pitch, he sent out tail-enders Ian Johnson and Bruce Dooland to open the innings. Johnson had been in wretched form with the bat. When a ball from Amarnath "curled off the shoulder of his bat to Hazare at second slip", he was out for his fifth duck in seven innings at the MCG. Bill Johnston came in with Australia 1/1. As a tail-ender, "Big Bill" was always sure to provide some excitement and a few laughs. At number three, he was no different. He played an Amarnath delivery to Nayudu, who juggled the ball. As the ball dropped from his hands, two other fielders tried to redeem the situation but the catch still fell to the ground. With eight fielders around the wicket, Amarnath was in deadly form. Unfortunately, sharp catching did not support his efforts. After Phadkar dropped Dooland, Nayudu dropped Johnston again, this time off Hazare. Just before lunch, Big Bill swung a ball "head high", but Nayudu ducked instead of going for the catch. At the break, Australia was 1/11 "when they could have been two or three wickets down." Finally, Johnston and Dooland departed. When Barnes was out for 15, Australia was 4/32.

Amarnath had taken 3/17, with three catches missed. A right-arm medium-pacer, the Indian captain "was swinging the ball so late that it seemed to have perfect length before it dipped across the pads and whipped away. He varied this in-swing with an out-swing that curled away rather than whipped." India's hopes now hinged on his duel with Morris and Bradman.

Bernard Allen recalls that, as soon as Bradman appeared, "everyone stood, and the crowd went wild." Initially, both batsmen played tentative strokes "as they tried to unravel the mystery of Amarnath's delivery." At the other end, Mankad pinned the Australians down "with his immaculate length". Bradman tried some aggression against him, but "had his enthusiasm curbed when a beauty rapped his pads." As the afternoon progressed, it became evident that luck had favoured the Australians once more. The wicket was in the throes of passing "from the difficult to the slow and easy stage". For a second time, Bradman had won his gamble of sending in the tail-enders.⁹

Without taking any risks, Morris and Bradman pushed the score to 50. The Don again had difficulties in penetrating the field, but at times he succeeded brilliantly. Once, as the master faced Phadkar from the Pavilion end, he sent one of his trademark cover drives to the fence in front of the northern grandstand. For the most part, his batting was marked by care rather than daring.



In his first hour at the crease, Bradman made 23, hitting the ball hard as he gathered runs "mostly in singles", but just before tea, he pulled a short ball from Amarnath to the fence. It was a stroke that emphasised that the tide of the game was now flowing against the visitors. At the interval, with Australia 4/102 on a "dead-pan wicket", India was in a "desperate" position.

After the break, The Don resumed with two boundaries that took his score to 50, compiled in 88 minutes. A cover drive from Hazare "flashed" to the fence. After he back-cut the same bowler for another four, Bradman turned on an unusual little display: "he intercepted on the full Gul Mohamed's throw from the boundary with the blade of his bat, juggling the ball two or three times and then with consummate ease hitting it back to the bowler – untouched by any hand."



SCRAMBLE FOR BOWLING. — When the last Indian wicket fell at the M.C.G. yesterday there was a rush by the Australians to collect the stumps and batle the batsman.

Yet another "glorious" drive past mid-off and a three down to fine leg took Bradman to 92. He was now doing "as he liked with the bowling." Facing Mankad, he turned one delivery into a full toss "and swung it to the mid-wicket fence." A "clever placement" brought two more runs, "and he got his hundred by turning Mankad's last ball to leg." In the last 42 minutes, he had added another fifty runs. He had contributed a century to a partnership that was then worth 158 runs.

Amid loud applause, The Don "took off his cap and waved to the crowd", for this was a rare moment in his career. While the 48,674 spectators were delighted by "the fast clip" at which he had brought up his century, they were applauding the fact that, for the first time, he had scored centuries in both innings of a Test. It was also the first time an Australian captain had performed the feat.

Late in the session, Bradman "proved once again how amazingly he can make the game follow his plan":

He turned his attention to helping Morris get his century that afternoon and succeeded in the last over of the day, when they dashed up and down the pitch to run four. Morris deserved the century. He had played splendidly. Had it been anyone but Bradman batting with him, his would have been the star turn.

By stumps, their efforts had added 223. Watching as ground attendants lowered the Indian Board of Control's flag, Hec de Lacy reviewed the afternoon: "the run-spring became a cascade until finally a torrent, and boundaries were a right, no longer a liberty."¹⁰

India was already in a hopeless position. Australia led by 358, with six wickets in hand. Rain early on Monday morning deepened their woes. Bradman immediately closed the innings and gave his bowlers free rein on the wet pitch. Miller and Bill Johnston opened the attack, with Lindwall as the first change. From ten overs, Johnston took 4/44, and Ian Johnson collected 4/35 from 5.7 overs as the Indians were dismissed for 125.

In Adelaide, Australia won the Fourth Test by an innings and sixteen runs, despite centuries in each innings from Hazare. Bradman contributed 201 to Australia's 674. His second hundred came in 79 minutes. At one stage, he was scoring at the rate of 75 runs an hour. The match ended on January 28, and the Indian team journeyed to Mildura for a match against a Victorian country team.

Two days later, Mahatma Gandhi was shot dead as he was making his way to a late afternoon prayer meeting in Delhi. His assassin was Nathuram Godse, a Hindu extremist who felt that Gandhi had betrayed his people, particularly on issues relating to Pakistan. The murder "threatened incalculable perils" in India. Rumours that Godse was a Moslem "opened up a ghastly prospect: next day rivers of blood would flow in India and Pakistan." Outside the sub-continent, some superficially viewed the

Mahatma as "just an old man in a loin cloth", but his passing caused world-wide grief. The funeral drew crowds that some claimed were larger than those attending the recent independence ceremonies. Lord Mountbatten, Governor-General of India, saw Gandhi as a man "of wholly different greatness to anyone he had met before", writing, "I think history will link him with Buddha and Mahomet, and the Indians include Christ in this classification."

In Victoria, the assassination raised thoughts that the Fifth Test at the MCG might be abandoned. The Indian manager, Pankaj Gupta, said, "We have been stunned. None of us could get any sleep last night. We just sat around sadly listening to the All-India radio. Some of us wept at the news." Despite their sorrow, the Indians decided to "complete their itinerary and keep faith with the public", but it is hard to believe that their thoughts were totally committed to cricket. As Mr. Gupta explained, Gandhi's death was "a national catastrophe, and it was difficult for the team to adjust themselves and recapture the incentive to win." Before the match started on Friday, February 6, both teams lined up on the arena to observe a minute's silence for the Mahatma.





After driving Sarwate for 1, Bradman ran up the pitch with his hand on his back as if in pain, but he continued batting, though he refused a couple of short but risky runs.

BRADMAN HURT

After each shot Bradman still felt his side as though it hurt him. Amarnath spoke to him, evidently suggesting he could retire temporarily if in pain, but Don went on batting.

Brown, at length, moved to 50 (two 4's) in 125 minutes.

When 57, however, Bradman walked slowly off with a torn muscle of the left side. He had been batting 85 minutes and hit four 4's. Australia was then 1/140 with Brown 50 not out.

The series generated a lot of public interest in Melbourne.

The night before, Don Bradman had gathered cricket writers from the Melbourne morning papers to his hotel room, where he read an announcement:

I have today advised my co-selectors that I am available for the Australian tour of England. At the same time I wish to say that the game against India will be my last first-class match in Australia, as I shall retire from cricket at the conclusion of the English tour.¹¹



Bradman batting against Mankad.

The Don began the Test by winning the toss for the fourth time in the series. Coming to the wicket at 1/48, he was again in good form, hitting four boundaries in 85 minutes as he made his way to 57. Johnnie Moyes believed that another century "seemed as certain as night follows day". However, a torn cartilage under his left ribs forced Bradman to retire hurt and, with his torso "heavily strapped", he could not complete his innings. While only 22,748 were on hand for what turned out to be his last Test innings on home soil, Melbourne's spectators could hardly complain, for The Don had scored more Test runs there than at any other ground. In fact, his nine MCG Test centuries were more than the likes of Trumper, Hill and Ponsford had compiled in their entire Test careers.

In Bradman's absence, Bill Brown was run out for 99, Sam Loxton made 80 and nineteen-year-old Neil Harvey stole the show with 153 runs in 249 minutes. In only his second Test, the left-hander turned on "a gloriously free exhibition" to become the youngest Australian to score a Test century. His rise to Test level had been speedy and spectacular. He first came to prominence, aged 13, in 1942, when he scored 101 and 141 not out for Fitzroy against the Melbourne Cricket Club Third XI. The *Sporting Globe* commented that "Such a feat in schoolboy cricket would cause a surprise, but when accomplished by a boy of his age in a game in which the players were all much older than he is, it is a remarkable one." By the end of the war, Harvey was considered the most promising player in Victoria and was

a fixture in the state team from the time he turned eighteen. Like all of the great left-handers, he combined attractive stroke play with more than a dash of flair. Against India, he brought up his initial century in first-class cricket by running five after swinging a delivery from Amarnath high towards the MCG's scoreboard boundary.¹²

The Australian innings ended in unusual fashion. Five minutes before the scheduled tea break, India's twelfth man brought out drinks. The amazed Hec de Lacy wrote "Never have I seen this happen before." Umpire Cooper then walked up to the wicket and removed the bails to start the tea adjournment. Before the players could reach the fence, Don Bradman, "dressed in civvies, walked on to the oval, and declared his innings closed" at 8/575.

India replied with 331. Forced to follow on, they collapsed for 67 on a badly crumbling pitch. The ball behaved unpredictably, with some deliveries keeping low while others "kicked". According to the *Sporting Globe*, the Indian batsmen "never had a chance and ... their second innings became a procession" as Australia won by an innings and 177 runs.¹³

ALF BATCHELDER

Alf Batchelder is the author of *Pavilions in the Park, the history of the Melbourne Cricket Club*, *Playing the Grater Game* and *Melbourne's Marines*. He is currently working on a biography of Hugh Trumble.

¹ Blainey, Geoffrey: *A Shorter History of Australia*, Melbourne, 1994, pp.192-198; Minutes of MCC Finance Committee Meeting, August 25, 1947; Minutes of MCC General Committee Meeting, August 26, 1947.

² Bose, Mihir: *A History of Indian Cricket*, London, 1990, pp.126-159; Attlee, Clement: *As It Happened*, London, 1954, pp.179-187.

³ Bose, Mihir: *op.cit.*, pp.126-144, 160-161.

⁴ State Library of South Australia: an unsourced cutting in the Bradman Scrapbooks, Volume 41, Season 1947-48, p.275; Rosenwater, Irving: *op.cit.*, p.321; Moyes, A. G.: *op.cit.*, pp.152-155.

⁵ Rosenwater, Irving: *op.cit.*, p.324; Moyes, A. G.: *op.cit.*, p.161; State Library of South Australia: an unsourced cutting in the Bradman Scrapbooks, Volume 41, Season 1947-48, p.273.

⁶ Le Get, Peter: *op.cit.*

⁷ *The Sporting Globe*, December 31, 1947, p.1; Bose, Mihir: *op.cit.*, p.161.

⁸ *The Sporting Globe*, January 3, 1948, p.7; Moyes, A. G.: *op.cit.*, pp.163-164; Rosenwater, Irving: *op.cit.*, p.324.

⁹ Allen, Bernard: Conversation with AB, MCC Library, December 4, 2006; *The Sporting Globe*, January 3, 1948, p.4; Moyes, A. G.: *op.cit.*, p.165.

¹⁰ *The Sporting Globe*, January 3, 1948, p.4; Moyes, A. G.: *op.cit.*, pp.165-166.

¹¹ Ziegler, Philip: *Mountbatten, The Official Biography*, London, 1985, pp.470-471; *The Sporting Globe*, January 31, 1948, p.1; February 2, 1948, p.9; Rosenwater, Irving: *op.cit.*, p.327.

¹² *The Sporting Globe*, February 7, 1948, pp.1,4; February 25, 1948, p.13.

¹³ *The Sporting Globe*, February 7, 1948, p.4; February 11, 1948, p.9.

INDIA AND AUSTRALIA – EMPIRE, RACE AND CULTURAL CHANGE: CRICKET AS A RELATIONAL METAPHOR

Cricket, it wouldn't be wrong to suggest, was and is the true national game in both India and Australia. This is precisely because it could be played against the English as part of the great imperial project. Hockey in India or Aussie Rules in Australia could not. Hence their legacies, like their origins, remain very curious in the sporting hierarchies of the two countries. It is important to ask "Why cricket and not hockey in India?" Answers lie in the George Orwell axiom, "Serious sport is war minus the shooting". If sport is in fact a metaphor (and in some cases a metonym) for war, then cricket simply was the necessity in India. Prowess in sport wasn't enough. Accomplishments had to be demonstrated in empire sport, which would mark a symbolic victory against the ruling colonial state.

To substantiate the point, even when India won gold medals in field hockey in the Olympic Games in the years 1928-1956, hockey could never rival cricket in colonial India. This is because Britain refused to participate in Olympic hockey contests in the years 1928-1936 knowing that the Indians were favorites to win the gold. This is especially interesting because Britain had won the Olympic gold in field hockey in 1904 and 1920, the only years when hockey was played before 1928 and years when India did not participate. Absence of competitions against the colonizer, it can be argued, relegated hockey in the Indian sporting hierarchy.

Speaking to the press at New Delhi on June 8, 2005, the Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer stated:

"I think Australia and India, which have a long historic relationship, can build on some of the history of our relationship. Now...our two countries love cricket and the Foreign Minister [Pranab Mukherjee] and I both love cricket. So, we spent a good deal of time over the lunch talking about our respective cricket teams and their prospects. We think that what we should do between us, between Australia and India, is to have a touring exhibition of Sir Donald Bradman's memorabilia here in India. And we think that this exhibition, which should be jointly supported by Australia and India, would be very popular and this exhibition of Bradman memorabilia would go to major centres in India- New Delhi, Calcutta, Bombay, Chennai and so on."

This announcement appears intriguing because Bradman, all his life, had "declined" opportunities to undertake an extensive visit or tour of India. However, Bradman continues to be revered in the sub-continent, a fact of life Downer seemed to be cashing in on. The Bradman aura was most evident to me in June 2005 while visiting a severely injured friend at his Calcutta home. Subir Mitra, managing director of the well known Bengali publishing company Ananda Publishers, was bandaged all over, with pain and agony written large on his face. Yet he did not want me to leave without seeing something extraordinarily important. This was a piece of paper bearing Bradman's signature, one of Mitra's treasured possessions. Interestingly, Mitra is no exception because Bradman, to millions of Indian cricket followers, is no less than a deity. And it might be mentioned in this context that Bradman was always dedicated in answering his correspondence and post from the subcontinent always made up a substantial component of this.

And the one time the Indians had the fortune, or rather misfortune, of facing Bradman was in 1947/1948, when a just independent India toured "down-under". This was the first India-Australia official cricket series and in 2007 we mark the sixtieth anniversary of this extraordinary tour of many firsts.

It was the first occasion that the Indians played official Test cricket against any side but England. Again, it was the first cricket tour that independent India had undertaken. And finally, it was the only occasion that the Indians had the opportunity of playing against Bradman.



The Indian team after landing in Adelaide.

For the record, the Indians lost the series 0-4, a result that appears mystifying given the Indian performance in the first class matches of the tour. Before the first Test at Brisbane, Amarnath, the captain, had established himself as the true leader with a grand 228 against Victoria, an innings Victor Richardson ranked as "one of the greatest ever played" in Australia. Mankad was regarded as the world's premier slow bowler, even better than Hedley Verity. He had almost single-handedly won India the match against the Australian XI with figures of 8-84. With quality batsmen like Hazare and Phadkar, the latter making his debut on this tour, the Indians certainly promised to put up a fight. And with Kishenchand, Sarwate, C.S. Nayudu and Sohoni showing signs of reaching their best before the first Test, not even the most ardent of Australian supporters anticipated the rout that followed.

And this rout, it can be asserted, was almost solely orchestrated by Donald Bradman. Bradman, though 39, was still at his best and his scores - 156 for South Australia, 172 for an Australian XI, (his 100th first class hundred), 185 in the first Test, 132 and 127 not out in the third, 201 in the fourth and 57 retired hurt in the fifth - bear testimony to his contemptuous domination of the Indian attack. In the six completed Test innings Bradman scored 715 runs at an average of 178.75, proving his ascendancy against the Indians. India might have done better but for partition, which had robbed the team of the services of Fazal Mahmood and Mushtaq Ali, the latter also claiming a family bereavement as the real reason for not undertaking the arduous journey across continents. Amidst the ruin, the lone star was the nation's premier batsman - Vijay Samuel Hazare.



Hazare returns from a nets session.

At Adelaide, in the fourth Test, the Indians began their first innings facing a daunting Australian total of 674. Though Amarnath and Mankad started well, with the former scoring a strokeful 46, half the side was soon bundled out for 133. It was then that Hazare found form. With an able ally in Phadkar, the Australian crowd witnessed a spectacular recovery and the Indians ended the day at a respectable 299 for 5. Eventually with Hazare out for 116 and Phadkar making 123, the Indians were all out for 381 and followed on.



Hazare and Queensland Country's captain Tom Allen toss the coin at the beginning of their match at Warwick.



Hazare relaxing with Hemu Adhikari.



Players waiting during a rain delay at the Gabba.



Skipper Amarnath and Hazare inspecting a ball.



In Canberra at a reception with the Rt Hon. Herbert Evatt, the Australian Attorney-General and Minister for External Affairs.

In the second innings the Indians were once again under pressure and once again it was Hazare to the rescue. As the contemporary newspapers noted, "It didn't matter what the ball was, on or outside the off stump, what its height or pace, it was played with amazing certainty...It was a display of batsmanship, which has very seldom been equalled, certainly not surpassed and never dwarfed. It was not so much the pace at which the ball travelled. It was the supreme artistry of it all."

It was batsmanship at its flawless best. This innings of 145 against a brilliant Australian bowling attack consisting of Miller, Lindwall and Toshack overshadowed the end result and even though India was all out for 277, they were hardly disgraced.

Looking back at that Adelaide Test, Hazare had mentioned to me during a conversation in October 2004, only a few days before he breathed his last, "Bradman seemed impressed with my batting and we became really close friends afterwards. Some years on, he even found time to write a foreword for my book."



DON. BRADMAN, shown after being clean bowled by HAZARE for 15 in the second Test Match against India at the Sydney Cricket ground yesterday.

Although Hazare will always be remembered as one of India's all-time great batsmen, he was also a reasonably good bowler. In fact, for him getting Bradman out in 1947/1948 was a bigger feat than scoring consecutive hundreds at Adelaide. "Though I got a couple of hundreds on the tour, another eternal memory is that of getting Bradman out on three occasions," he recalled. "While my first two successes against him had little practical value - he had scored well over 150 by then - on the third occasion I bowled him for 15. On that day, I was bowling outswing, and he seemed content in leaving most deliveries outside the off stump. It was then that I bowled an offcutter, which made its way through his bat and pad and crashed into the stumps. The bail was retrieved from well over a distance of 50 yards and the maestro seemed shocked. I could not believe what had happened, more so because he had been in prime form."

From the very start therefore, cricket has been a vehicle for both Australia and India to express national achievement and ambition. Even when bilateral relations were at a low ebb between 1950 and 1970, cricket was seen as the natural cultural bridge between the two nations. Yet, this was a rather uneasy phase of cricket relations, with Australian teams unwillingly going to the sub-continent and Indian teams barely supported down under because of their poor playing abilities (indeed only one Indian

team toured Australia during this period - 1967/68). In fact, this period of tension in sport parallels the Australian Government's neglect of India. With Australia continuing to view India from an Australian/Western Cold War stance until the early 1970s, there was no incentive for Australian cricketers like Bradman through Benaud to the Chappells to perceive a sub-continent tour as special. Even when personal friendships flourished between players such as Bradman and Hazare, and individual players earned popularity like Bedi in Australia and Benaud in India, they did little to promote deeper social and political exchanges between the countries.

Matters changed substantially under Prime Minister Gough Whitlam (1972-75) whose enlightened attitude towards India, and Asia generally, helped create Australian attitudes capable of more independent foreign policy formation, influenced more by regional factors than by the imperatives of its traditional Western alliance. This was helped by the enthusiastic response to Whitlam by the equally independent Prime Minister of India, Mrs Indira Gandhi. Improved political relations impacted upon cricket as well as allowing Australia's more structured economy to harness the economic worth of cricket in India.

This transformation has only been cemented in the years since. For example, India's tour of Australia in 2003/04 assumed tremendous significance back home, interest stimulated by the spectacular individual performances by the Indians in the Test series. This tour affected the normal schedule of middle class urban households and created a severe problem for cricket-crazy children and teenagers since most of the annual school examinations of the Indian Council of Secondary Education and Central Board of Secondary Education were conducted during the same period. But for most teenagers, India's performance "down-under" was an experience to cherish and most tried to become involved in the excitement by selectively viewing India's matches.

The growing significance of Indo-Australian cricket has had a perceptible impact on tourism "down-under" as well. In the wake of India's series in 2004, no fewer than 3000 Indians arrived in Australia to cheer their team, a first for Indian sport. With live television bringing the action to the comfort of Indian drawing rooms, Australia suddenly became an attractive tourist destination as well as a trading partner. Thus it is no surprise to know that bilateral trade between India and Australia during the calendar year 2004 touched a record A\$6.54 billion. This saw a sharp increase in the value of total trade of nearly 52% or A\$2.23 billion over the corresponding figure of A\$4.31 billion in 2003.

These figures, one can confidently assert, will only increase during the current tour, which has already been billed in India as "The New Ashes". With a growing history adding gloss to this rivalry, with time this label might well prove true.

BORIA MAJUMDAR

Dr Boria Majumdar, a Rhodes Scholar, is a leading Indian sports historian and journalist. His cricket books include **22 Yards to Freedom - A Social History of Indian Cricket**, (Penguin-Viking, 2005), **The Illustrated History of Indian Cricket** (Lustre Press 2006), and **Indian cricket through the ages: a reader** (Oxford University Press, 2005). He completed his doctorate on the social history of Indian cricket at Oxford University.

Editor's Note: Included in this and the following article are photos from Dr Majumdar collection. He notes:

"These photos are all taken from the personal albums of Vijay Samuel Hazare, which were his prized possessions till he breathed his last in November 2004. Each photo had a story and Hazare would relish reminiscing about these before ardent listeners. Australia 1947/48 was always remembered with fondness by Hazare and some of these photos are testimony why."

We thank him for permission to share these with our readers.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF CRICKET IN INDIA AND THE FIRST INDIAN TOUR OF AUSTRALIA IN 1947/48



The Indian team at Perth prior to the opening match of the 1947/48 tour.

Standing: P. Sen, Gul Mohammad, G. Kishenchand, D.G.Phadkar, J.K. Irani, K.M. Rangnekar, S.W.Sohoni, H.R. Adhikari, P. Gupta (manager).

Seated: C.S. Nayudu, V.S. Hazare, L. Amarnath (captain), V. Mankad, Amir Elahi.

At this stage the party comprised only 13 players, with Rai Singh, C.R. Rangachari, K.S.Ranvirsinhji and C.T. Sarwate not arriving until a fortnight later.

It is highly appropriate that we welcome the Indian cricketers to Australia this summer, as the 2007/08 season marks the 60th anniversary of the first Indian cricket team to tour Australia and the inaugural Test series between the two countries.

The 1947/48 tour represented a notable landmark for Indian cricket in several respects. Not only did it include the first Test series undertaken by India since it achieved independence from Britain in August 1947, it also was the first time it played Tests against a country other than England, the first time it had taken part in a five-Test series and the first time it played six-day (each of five hours) Tests, all of its previous contests having been limited to three or four days.

In 1947 India was the newest of the then six Test playing nations and was yet to record its first Test victory. Following its admission to the Imperial Cricket Conference in 1926, it had played its inaugural Test match at Lord's in 1932, and had subsequently participated in only three Test series, each comprising three matches – against England at home in 1933/34 and in England in 1936 and 1946. England had won six of these contests with the remaining four being drawn.

The Indians faced an immensely tough challenge “down under”. Australia had emerged much stronger than expected from the Second World War and had crushed England four-nil in the 1946/47 Ashes campaign. Don Bradman, after some deliberation, had returned to lead the side and was as formidable a run-scorer as ever, while the only other players with pre-war Test experience, Lindsay Hassett and Sid Barnes (Bill Brown missed the 1946/47 series through injury), who had both made their debuts in 1938, were now accomplished Test batsmen.

They were joined by a remarkably talented group of newcomers headed by Keith Miller, Ray Lindwall, Arthur Morris and Don Tallon and supported by Ian Johnson, Colin McCool and Ernie Toshack.

EARLY AUSTRALIAN TOURS OF INDIA

Although the 1947/48 season saw the first official Test series between India and Australia, two teams from Australia had previously toured India, both of which had played unofficial “Tests” against representative Indian sides. The first, captained by Jack Ryder, undertook an exhaustive 22-match tour in 1935/36, while the second, a Services team led by Lindsay Hassett, undertook a somewhat shorter visit 10 years later.

The 1935/36 tour came about at the instigation of the Maharaja of Patiala, an immensely wealthy and enthusiastic patron of Indian cricket. The ruler of a state in the Punjab region of northern India, Patiala was a capable cricketer who had led the 1911 Indian team to England and had spent much money in raising his own teams, in the process employing the best players from all over India and importing English coaches.

Following the inaugural Test series in India, against England in 1933/34, he was anxious to bring out an Australian side and to this end he appointed his cricket aide, the former Victorian and Middlesex cricketer Frank Tarrant, as his agent. Those wishing to learn about the tour and the background to it are urged to read Chapter 6 of Mike Coward's highly readable *Cricket and the Bazaar*. Suffice to say that the Australian Board of Control was horrified when approached by Tarrant to obtain permission to recruit players. They threw every imaginable obstacle in his path.

Determined to maintain its monopoly over international tours and not wishing its leading players to be unavailable for the 1935/36 Sheffield Shield season (the Test players were already unable to play as they were touring South Africa), the notoriously conservative and authoritarian board refused to allow the inclusion of anyone who had toured England in 1934 (even Bill Woodfull and Bill Ponsford who had since retired from first-class cricket) or any player who had participated in the 1934/35 Sheffield Shield competition.

It even refused permission for the long-retired Arthur Mailey and Jack Gregory to make the trip – although what sanctions the board could have taken against them had they decided to tour is unclear. Tarrant was not easily dissuaded, however, and eventually cobbled together a 17-man side composed of long-retired internationals and fringe first-class players, Jack Ryder (aged 46) being appointed captain with Charlie Macartney (49) as his deputy.

Other veteran ex-internationals included “Stork” Hendry (40) and wicketkeepers Jack Ellis (45) and Hammy Love (40). The youngest member was the 20-year-old Tasmanian, Ron Morrisby, a fine batsman who later refused offers to play Sheffield Shield cricket on the mainland. The only member who would have regularly appeared in Shield cricket in 1935/36 was the 44-year-old Queensland medium-paced bowler Ron Oxenham, and quite why the board relented in his case is unclear.

The board was so paranoid that it would not permit the team to be referred to as an Australian XI but decreed that it should be known as “The Maharaja of Patiala’s team of Australian Cricketers” and, even more incredibly, insisted that the representative Indian sides that it opposed it could not be referred to as All India. In fact, much to the disgust of board members, the press largely ignored these instructions, generally referring to the tourists as the “Australians” and their representative opponents as “All India XIs”.

The tour proved a huge success from both a playing and social point of view. Large and enthusiastic crowds thronged to all the matches, and despite the makeshift nature of the team, the Australians acquitted themselves remarkably well before injuries and illness took their toll late in the tour. They lost only three of the 17 first-class matches although, having won the first two unofficial “Tests”, they lost the third and fourth matches which meant the unofficial “Test” series was levelled two-all.

Ryder, who hadn’t played first-class cricket since 1931/32, was the leading run-scorer with 843 runs at 38.31 in the first-class matches and was closely followed by Morrisby with 813 at 38.71. The averages were headed by Wendell Bill, a stylish 25-year-old opening batsman from NSW who scored 623 runs at 41.53 before his tour was cut short when he suffered a broken jaw by a delivery from Nissar Mohammad.

The outstanding player, however, was Oxenham, who claimed 86 victims at the incredible average of 6.81 before his tour was also cut short by injury. Best support came from NSW leg-spinner Fred Mair (58 wickets at 20.44) and Victorian paceman Tom Leather (41 at 17.25). The “Tests” were low-scoring affairs, with Ryder making the only hundred recorded by either side when he made 104 in the first match at Bombay. The outstanding bowler in the “Tests” was India’s powerful speedster Nissar Mohammad, who took 32 wickets at only 12.46 apiece in the four matches.

The second Australian visit took place from late October to mid-December 1945, when a 15-man Services side led by Lindsay Hassett broke their return home from England to undertake a seven-week tour of the sub-continent that included a match against Ceylon. Tired, jaded and homesick after an exhaustive program of matches in England that included five “Victory Tests”, the Australians were not at their best, winning only two matches, including the one in Ceylon, and losing two, including the third “Test” at Madras.

The first two “Tests” both ended in high-scoring draws, but India won the third by six wickets, following centuries by Rusi Modi (203) and Lala Amarnath (113) and effective leg-spin bowling by Chandu Sarwate who took eight wickets in the match. Hassett, who scored four centuries, and ex-POW Keith Carmody were the team’s leading batsmen, but the Services’ other outstanding player, Keith Miller, was seldom at his best in the representative matches. As in 1935/36, the tourists drew large and enthusiastic crowds.

THE GROWTH OF INDIAN CRICKET

The phenomenal popularity of the most English of games in India, so apparent on these tours, has attracted much attention from cricket and social historians. As Richard Cashman has pointed out, “the Indian adoption of the English game of cricket was a paradox because, for the greater period of British rule, the sport was organised around exclusive clubs which were open only to Europeans”. Those wishing to learn about the growth of Indian cricket are urged to consult studies such as *A History of Indian Cricket* by Mihir Bose (1990), *Patrons, Players and the Crowd*

by Richard Cashman (1980), *History of Indian Cricket* by Edward Docker (1976) and Boria Majumdar’s recent highly acclaimed social history of Indian cricket, *Twenty-Two Yards to Freedom* (2004).

A fascinating early account of cricket in the sub-continent is contained in *Stray Thoughts on Indian Cricket* by J.M. Framjee Patel (1905), while Peter Wynne-Thomas’ *The History of Cricket From The Weald to The World* (1997) provides a concise but comprehensive summary of key developments.

Cricket in India had its origins in the 18th century, when British India was controlled by the East India Company. The earliest reference is to a group of sailors occupying themselves playing cricket while their boat was anchored off the coast of Gujarat in western India in 1721 but there are no further mentions until the last decade of the century.

The Calcutta Cricket Club was definitely in existence by 1792 and in 1797 there is mention of cricket being played in Bombay. The game grew steadily during the first half of the following century, with the company’s English employees seeking to establish familiar institutions in an alien environment, but for many years cricket was the exclusive preserve of the English and no encouragement was given to the local population to take up the game.

The first group of Indians to play cricket were members of the Parsi community in Bombay. Descendants of Persians who fled to India in the 7th and 8th centuries to escape religious persecution, they formed a distinct group in Bombay society and were prominent in commercial life as merchants and traders. The first Parsi cricket club was formed in 1848 and although short-lived it was soon followed by several others, despite having to make do with improvised equipment and facilities and no encouragement from the English – the first encounter between Parsi and English teams did not take place until 1870.

By the late 1870s however, Parsi cricket had developed to such an extent that a tour of England was contemplated. Eventually two tours (neither first-class) took place. On the first, in 1886, the tourists won only one match out of 28, but on the second, two years later, eight victories were recorded and one of their players, M.E. Pavri, took 170 wickets at 11 apiece.

The first tour by an English team to India occurred in 1889/90. Led by George Vernon, who had previously made two tours of Australia, including Ivo Bligh’s tour in 1882/83, the all-amateur side played 13 matches, all against exclusively European teams apart from a game against the Parsis at Bombay, which proved to be the only game they lost. Perhaps emboldened by this success, the Parsis undertook an ambitious tour across northern India and as far east as Calcutta in 1891. Playing against exclusively English teams, the tour was a great success in both social and cricketing terms, the team being unbeaten throughout.

Soon after their return home, Lord Harris, the Kent cricketer and former England captain who served as governor of Bombay from 1890 to 1895, arranged a match between a representative European team drawn from the Bombay Presidency and the Parsis. Referred to as the “fire-engine match” because they were called in to help drain the Bombay Gymkhana ground, it was ruined by rain but is regarded as the first first-class match to be played in India. A return game was played at Poona a month later, which the Parsis won.

These matches became an annual event, eventually developing into the Bombay Pentangular, which remained the most prestigious tournament until just after the Second World War. Harris, who later became a highly influential cricket administrator in England, did much to encourage cricket in Bombay, especially among the Parsis, who recorded further victories against touring teams from England in 1892/93 and 1902/03.

Cricket among the other communities was slower to develop, although the first Hindu club had been formed in 1866 and the first Muslim club 17 years later. As the standard of their cricket improved, both were admitted into the Bombay tournament in the early years of the 20th century, the Hindus in 1905/06 and the Muslims in 1912/13, the tournament now becoming known as the Bombay Quadrangular. (It became a Pentangular tournament from 1937/38 with the admission of a fifth side, The Rest, composed of non-European Christians, Jews and others of mixed descent.) The tournament was held for the last time in 1947/48, by which stage, because of growing opposition to communal sports, it was played between selected XIs.

When the British government took over control of British India in 1858, following the Indian Mutiny, one of its policies was to educate young members of the ruling families in the princely states at English-run colleges, such as Rajkumar College at Rajkot in central India, which was founded in 1870. Many Indians were introduced to cricket by this means, and while many took no interest in the game, others became good cricketers and enthusiastic patrons.

The most notable was the Maharajah of Patiala, who ran his own team from the 1890s and whose son was responsible for financing the 1935/36 Australian team. The most notable Indian cricketer of this period was K.S. Ranjitsinhji, arguably the finest batsman in the world in the late 1890s, who used his prowess at cricket to advance his claims to become ruler of the small state of Nawanagar in western India.

Ranji was effectively lost to Indian cricket when he was sent to England to further his education in 1888. He went on to play 15 Tests for England from 1896 to 1902, but although he declined to represent the country of his birth, he demonstrated that it was possible for Indians to play at the very highest standard and provided a powerful role model for aspiring Indian cricketers.

Until the First World War, first-class cricket was almost exclusively restricted to Bombay and Poona (a little over 100km south-east of Bombay), the only first-class match outside these centres having been played at Allahabad in northern India by Lord Hawke's English team against an All-India XI (composed entirely of Englishmen) in 1891/92. First-class matches were not staged at Madras until 1916/17, Calcutta in 1917/18, Lahore in 1922/23 and Delhi in 1926/27.

The first tour of England by an All-India team took place in 1911, previous visits planned for 1904 and 1907 having been aborted. Organised by a Parsi, J.M. Framjee-Patel, the 1911 team was restricted to Indians and captained by the Maharajah of Patiala. Twenty-three matches were played, of which 14 are ranked first-class, but the tourists won only two of the first-class fixtures and the tour attracted little interest from the public. The outstanding player was Palwanker Baloo, a slow left-arm bowler who took 75 wickets in first-class matches and more than 100 overall.

A major weakness in Indian cricket during this period was the absence of a central authority and its haphazard and fragmented structure meant that the next tour of England did not take place until 1932, while no first-class English teams visited India between the Oxford Authentics tour of 1902/03 and the first Marylebone visit in 1926/27. The latter took place at the instigation of the Calcutta Cricket Club, still exclusively English, whose delegates were invited by Lord Harris to represent India at the 1926 meeting of the Imperial Cricket Conference.

Harris persuaded them to make arrangements for a representative England team to tour England under the auspices of the Marylebone club during the following season. An ambitious program of 34 matches was arranged, including four in Ceylon and two in Burma, of which all but four are now accepted as first-class. The team, led by Arthur Gilligan, who had captained England in an Ashes series two years earlier, was a strong combination and contained several past and future Test players.

During the tour, Gilligan, at Harris' urging, stressed the need for the establishment of an Indian Board of Control. After much discussion this eventually took place in December 1927, with an Englishman, R.E. Grant Govan, as president and an ambitious and an innovative young Goan who would exert a strong influence on Indian cricket over the next quarter of a century, Anthony De Mello, as secretary. In May 1929, Grant Govan and Colonel K.M. Mistry attended the ICC meeting in London as the first official delegates from India.

EARLY YEARS OF TEST CRICKET

India's first Test match would in all probability have taken place during the proposed Marylebone tour in 1930/31, but with Gandhi's civil disobedience movement at its peak (the Bombay Quadrangular was suspended for four seasons from 1930/31) the tour had to be called off. As a result India's baptism into Test cricket did not take place until the 1932 tour of England.

Politics and intrigue have been a perennial feature of Indian cricket, and this was especially the case in the 1930s, the main protagonists being Patiala and Maharajkumar of Vizianagram, generally known as "Vizzy". The two were rivals for control of the tour, Patiala eventually winning out

and, ignoring the selectors, appointing himself as captain, with Kumar Shri Limbdi as vice-captain and "Vizzy" as deputy vice-captain.

Patiala and Vizianagram both withdrew, however, and Patiala then appointed the splendidly titled Rana Saheb Shri Sir Natwarsinhji Bhavsinhji, HH the Maharaja of Porbander, Limbdi's brother-in-law, as captain. Thirty-nine matches were arranged on the tour, of which 26 were first-class, and the tourists acquitted themselves creditably, winning nine matches and losing eight.

Porbander and Limbdi were nowhere up to first-class standard, however. Porbander appeared in only four first-class matches in which he scored just two runs – from a leg glance against Glamorgan at Swansea – while Limbdi's batting average was 9.62, so the team was led in most matches by its leading player, the formidable C.K. Nayudu.

Although losing the one-off Test match at Lord's against an England side led by Douglas Jardine – shortly to embark on the infamous Bodyline tour of Australia – by 158 runs, the tourists made the home side fight hard for their success. Nayudu was the team's outstanding player on the tour with 1618 runs and 65 wickets in the first-class matches, and three other batsmen, Naomal Jaomal and the brothers S. Wazir Ali and S. Nazir Ali, exceeded 1000 runs.

The outstanding bowlers were Nissar Mohammad and Amar Singh, who captured 182 wickets between them. Although each played only a handful of Tests, Nissar six and Amar Singh seven (the latter died of pneumonia at the age of 29), they are still widely regarded as the finest pair of opening bowlers in the history of Indian cricket. Both were genuinely quick, Nissar especially so, while Amar Singh was also a master of cut and swing.

Eighteen months later, Jardine, who was born in Bombay, led an England team on a five-month tour of India. The team was a powerful one, although Hedley Verity was the only player, apart from Jardine, to have toured Australia the season before.

The first Test match in India was staged on Bombay's Gymkhana Ground and an estimated 50,000 spectators were present to watch the first day's play. Lala Amarnath, playing in his first Test match, created history by recording India's first Test hundred, a spirited 118 in the second innings, but could not prevent his side going down by nine wickets.

The second Test, at Calcutta, was drawn, thanks to a fine rearguard innings by Nayudu in which he withstood a hostile attack for more than two and a half hours on the last day, and twin fifties by wicketkeeper Dilawar Hussain. Amar Singh captured 7/86, India's best bowling performance to date, in the third and final Test at Madras, but England went on to win by 202 runs.

Although Patiala had hopes that his son, the Yuvraj, might be appointed captain, the selectors chose the highly experienced Nayudu to fill the role in each of the Tests. The tourists lost only one match during the tour, against Vizianagram's XI at Benares. The result was a triumph for "Vizzy", who considerably enhanced his prospects of being appointed the next captain of India as a result.

India's defeats in the Test matches emphasised the need for a national competition along the lines of the English County Championship or the Australian Sheffield Shield, and at the urging of board secretary De Mello the competition got under way in the following season. Inevitably there was much bickering over who should provide the trophy, with Patiala providing one named after Ranjitsinhji, who had died in 1933, and Vizianagram another named after the Viceroy, Lord Willingdon.

When Bombay won the inaugural competition in 1934/35, it was Patiala's trophy that was presented, ironically by Lord Willingdon. Although overshadowed at first by the Bombay Tournament, which resumed this season following Gandhi's release from jail, the Ranji Trophy became and remains the premier domestic competition in India.

Initially 15 teams, divided into North, South, East and West Zones, took part, with the winners of each proceeding to semi-finals and a final. As the number of teams grew, a Central Zone was added in 1952/53 and the competition, currently comprising 27 teams, has continued to the present, albeit with modifications.

The next Indian tour of England took place in 1936. Captaincy was again a major issue as the Nawab of Pataudi, who had represented England

against Australia in 1932/33 and 1934, but was now back in India, was appointed but then withdrew. There were three candidates to replace him – the Yuvraj of Patiala, the Maharaja's son, a capable batsman who had made a half-century in the third Test in 1933/34, Vizianagram and Nayudu, the latter having led India in each of its four Tests to date.

After an extraordinary amount of intrigue and lobbying, "Vizzy" was appointed, and although only a moderate cricketer – he scored 600 runs at 16.21 on the tour – he led his country in each of the three Tests. Sadly, the tour was marred by factionalism and quarrelling among the players, and matters were not helped when Amarnath, the team's best player, was sent home for alleged insubordination (he was later exonerated) prior to the First Test, despite being at the head of both the batting and bowling averages at the time.

The tourists won only four of their 28 first-class matches, losing both the first and third Test matches by nine wickets. Their best performance came in the drawn second Test at Manchester, when having trailed by 368 runs on the first innings, they were rescued by a magnificent opening stand of 203 by Vijay Merchant (114) and Mushtaq Ali (112), during the course of a remarkable third day's play in which 588 runs were scored.

Merchant, who had made his Test debut in 1933/34, was the find of the tour, scoring 1745 runs at 51.32 and being named as one of *Wisden's* Five Cricketers of the Year. Mushtaq and Nayudu also exceeded 1000 runs. Nissar and Amar Singh were the leading bowlers in the Tests, although the latter played only infrequently because of a League engagement.

India did not participate in another Test series for 10 years, although a strong side, led by Lord Tennyson, who had captained England in three Tests against Warwick Armstrong's 1921 Australians, undertook an extensive tour in 1937/38. Five unofficial "Tests" were played, the tourists winning three while the home side won the third "Test" at Calcutta, where Mushtaq Ali and Amarnath both recorded centuries, and the fourth at Madras, where Amar Singh took 11 wickets and a highly promising all-rounder, Vinoo Mankad, made a century.

Cricket in India was relatively unaffected by the Second World War, with the Bombay Pentangular and Ranji Trophy continuing uninterrupted. Much fine cricket was played during this time, highlighted by some exceptionally high scoring, notably by Vijay Merchant and Vijay Hazare, the latter having come to the fore in 1939/40. As a consequence, India embarked on its first post-war tour, to England in 1946, with high expectations.

The team was led by the Nawab of Pataudi, who had come out of virtual retirement, with Merchant as his deputy. India's hopes of winning its first Test match were dashed, however, when England won the opening encounter at Lord's by 10 wickets, with newcomer Alec Bedser capturing 7/49 and 4/96 and Joe Hardstaff scoring a double century.

The tourists were again outplayed in the second Test at Manchester, Bedser again taking 11 wickets, but just managed to hang on for a draw, the match ending with their last pair at the crease and 126 runs still needed for victory. The remaining Test, at The Oval, was ruined by rain and ended in another draw, after Merchant contributed 128 to the tourists' first innings of 331.

Despite their disappointing record in the Tests, the tourists won 11 and lost only four of their 29 first-class matches, the best record by an Indian team in England to date. Although many of their batsmen struggled to adjust to English pitches in a damp and chilly summer, Merchant was in wonderful form throughout, scoring 2014 runs at 61.03.

The other star performer was Mankad, who became the last overseas player to complete the "double" on an English tour, scoring 1344 runs and capturing 129 runs. Like Merchant 10 years earlier, he was named as one of *Wisden's* Five Cricketers of the Year. Hazare (who also captured 56 wickets) and Rusi Modi both exceeded 1000 runs and Pataudi narrowly failed to do so, although he was often unfit and did little in the Tests.

Amarnath was a handy all-rounder, scoring 800 runs and capturing 56 wickets, but the other players were generally disappointing. Pataudi's captaincy came in for much criticism but despite the immense political upheavals back home as India approached independence, the tour was free of the dissension and bickering which had marred the 1936 visit.

THE TEAM FOR AUSTRALIA

The selection panel that chose the team for Australia was convened by Pankaj Gupta, who had managed the 1946 team in England and would fill a similar role in Australia. The board decreed that players were to be chosen on the basis of their form during the 1946/47 domestic season.

Eighteen teams took part in the Ranji Trophy competition, which saw Baroda (West Zone) winning the trophy for the second time by defeating Holkar (East Zone) by an innings and 409 runs in the final. Baroda made 784 in its only innings, highlighted by an extraordinary partnership by Vijay Hazare (288) and Gul Mohammad (319).

They became associated at 3/91 and were not separated until the score had reached 668, by which stage they had added 577 runs for the fourth wicket. Their stand remained the highest partnership for any wicket in all first-class cricket until July 2006, when Sri Lanka's Kumar Sangakkara and Mahela Jayawardene put on 624 for their country's third wicket in a Test match against South Africa in Colombo.

The team to tour Australia in 1947/48 was announced on March 16 and comprised the following 17 players: H.R. Adhikari (Baroda), L. Amarnath (Southern Punjab), Amir Elahi (Baroda), Fazal Mahmood (Northern India), Gul Mohammad (Baroda), V.S. Hazare (Baroda), J.K. Irani (Sind), G. Kishenchand (Kathiawar), V. Mankad (Gujarat), V.M. Merchant (Bombay), R.S. Modi (Bombay), Mushtaq Ali (Holkar), C.S. Nayudu (Holkar), D.G. Phadkar (Bombay), K.M. Rangnekar (Bombay), P.K. Sen (Bengal) and S.W. Sohoni (Maharashtra).

Against a background of growing political tension in India as the Hindu-dominated Indian Congress and the Muslim League failed to reconcile their differences as India approached independence from British rule, four of the selected players, all of whom were expected to be key players in Australia, withdrew. The most significant was the appointed captain, Merchant, who declared himself unfit.

The nature of his ailment is unclear, *Indian Cricket 1947-48* reporting it was due to stomach trouble but Michael Ronayne in *Test Cricket Tours – India* (1984) states that on August 27 he flew to South Africa to visit a specialist bone setter and withdrew from the tour a week later. Modi, one of the successes on the 1946 tour, also pulled out on the grounds that he was unfit, although as he was only 22 years of age and was the leading run-scorer during the 1946/47 domestic season with 981 runs at 65.40, his withdrawal seems somewhat puzzling.

The highly experienced Mushtaq Ali, who had been appointed vice-captain following the withdrawal of Merchant, pulled out only a few weeks before the team was due to leave following the death of his elder brother. After the period of mourning was over, however, he was persuaded by the Maharaja of Holkar to reconsider his decision only to be told by the board that he was no longer required for the tour.

According to Mihir Bose in his *History of Indian Cricket*, Mushtaq was convinced that he had been a victim of one of India's perennial cricket plots. The loss of these three accomplished batsmen seriously weakened the side and matters could have been even worse as Hazare at one point considered withdrawing as well, owing to the delicate situation in his home state of Baroda.

The other player to withdraw was Fazal Mahmood, the talented 20-year-old pace bowler from Lahore, which following partition was now in Pakistan and no longer part of India. He went on to become one of the finest fast-medium bowlers of all time, playing 34 Tests for Pakistan, and was mainly responsible for his country achieving famous victories over England in 1954 and Australia two years later during its formative years as a Test nation.

As a result, four replacements were needed, but owing to the travelling upheavals caused by partition, it was not until October 6, two days before the team was due to depart, that K. Rai Singh (Southern Punjab), C.R. Rangachari (Mysore), M.S. Ranvirsinhji (Nawanagar) and C.T. Sarwate (Holkar) were added to the touring party. They did not all arrive in Australia until October 27, by which stage the tour was more than a fortnight old.



The Indian team at the SCG (see front cover) with Gul Mohammad, missing from the original photo, inserted next to manager Pankaj Gupta.

THE TOURISTS

Only seven members of the 17-man party had previously appeared in Tests, with the two tourists to have played Tests before the war, Amarnath and Nayudu, being the most experienced with six appearances each. The average age of the squad was almost 29, with seven being over 30. The oldest was the 39-year-old Amir Elahi, while the youngest were the 21-year-olds, Sen and Phadkar, and 22-year-old Kishenchand. All but three members of the team represented either West or North Zone teams in the Ranji Trophy competition, the three not to do so being Sen and Sarwate (East Zone) and Rangachari (South).

Lala Amarnath: The captain of the touring team, whose full name was Nanik Amarnath Bhardwaj, was born in 1911 in the Punjab and at 36 was the second-oldest member of the team. An aggressive and accomplished all-rounder, he was a punishing batsman, renowned for his cover driving and cutting, and a skilful medium-pacer who bowled in-swingers and leg cutters off the wrong foot from a short, shuffling run up.

He made his first-class debut for the Hindus in the 1929/30 Lahore Tournament and in only his fifth first-class match hit India's first Test century – which took only 117 minutes – against England at Bombay in December 1933. He had represented Southern Punjab in the Ranji Trophy from its inception in 1934/35 and regularly appeared for the Hindus in the Bombay Tournament from the same season.

At times a controversial figure who was not afraid to express his opinions and challenge those in authority, he was sensationally sent home early from the 1936 tour of England, despite being the team's best player. As a result he didn't appear in Test matches between 1933/34 and 1946, when he was his country's most successful bowler in the Test series in England, taking 5/116 in the first Test at Lord's.

During the 1946/47 season he had recorded his highest first-class score of 262 in a trial game between the India to England Touring Team and the Rest of India at Calcutta, which bettered his previous best of 242 for the Hindus in the 1938/39 Bombay Pentangular.

Vijay Samuel Hazare: The vice-captain was born in Maharashtra in western India in 1915. Short and slightly built but possessing strong arms and wrists, he was a batsman of impeccable technique. He had immense patience and powers of concentration, combined with a wide range of shots and a strong defence. He was also a very capable medium-pace bowler.

He made his first-class debut with Maharashtra in 1934/35 and in the following season appeared for Central India against the Australian touring team. In 1937/38 he played in an unofficial "Test" against Lord Tennyson's English team and around this time received coaching from the great Australian bowler Clarrie Grimmett in the hope that he might develop into a leg-spinner.

According to historian Mihir Bose, however, Grimmett decided that he had no future in that direction but instead helped him to develop into a great batsman. He came to notice in 1939/40 when he made 316 not out in a Ranji Trophy match for Maharashtra against Baroda and went on to exceed 1000 runs in domestic first-class matches in both 1940/41 and 1943/44,

when he recorded his second triple-century, a remarkable 309 out of a total of 387 for the Rest against the Hindus in the Bombay Pentangular.

Because of the war, he did not appear in Test cricket until the 1946 tour of England, by which stage he was over 30, and in a modest start scored just 123 runs at 24.60 in the three Tests with a highest score of 44, although on the tour as a whole he scored an impressive 1344 runs at 49.77.

He was at his best in India during 1946/47, when he was the second-highest run-scorer in domestic first-class matches with 952 runs at 68.00, which included a score of 288 for Baroda, to whom he had transferred from Maharashtra in 1941/42, in the Ranji Trophy final. A Protestant, he was the only Christian in the touring party.

Hemchandra Ramachandra Adhikari: Known as Hemu Adhikari, he was born at Poona (now Pune) in western India in 1919. Short in stature, he was a neat and attractive right-hand batsman who made his first-class debut with Gujarat in the Ranji Trophy in 1936/37 but transferred to Baroda in the following season. His best season was in 1945/46 when he scored 603 runs at 67.00 including three centuries, while his highest first-class score of 186 was made for the Hindus against The Rest in the final of the 1943/44 Bombay Pentangular. He was also a handy leg-spinner, but in 46 first-class matches prior to the Australian tour had captured only 20 wickets.

Amir Elahi: One of three Muslims in the touring party, the others being Gul Mohammad and Irani, he was born in Lahore in 1908 and at 39 was the oldest member of the side. Originally a medium-pace bowler, he soon changed to leg breaks and googlies, and although yet to play in a Test match had long been regarded as one of the best bowlers of his type in India.

He made his first-class debut in 1934/35 and was a member of the Indian team that visited England in 1936, but took only 17 wickets on that troubled tour and did not appear in the Tests. He had been a prolific wicket taker in the Ranji trophy from its inception in 1934/35, first with Northern India and latterly with Baroda, and in 1946/47 he was the equal third-highest wicket-taker in all first-class matches with 41 at 25.48. He was also a useful hard-hitting lower order batsman.

Gul Mohammad: A diminutive and dashing left-hand batsman with quick footwork and a useful left-arm medium paced bowler, he was especially renowned for his brilliant fielding in the covers. Born in Lahore in 1921, he made his first-class debut in 1938/39, representing Northern India in the Ranji Trophy, and had appeared for the Muslims in the Bombay Pentangular from 1941/42 to 1944/45.

Having made six first-class centuries between 1940/41 and 1944/45, he was a member of the 1946 team to England where he excelled in the field but made only 473 runs at 22.52 and was dismissed for 1 and 9 in his only Test. However, he came into his own in the 1946/47 Indian domestic season when he compiled 868 runs at 51.05, a tally exceeded only by Modi and Hazare and highlighted by his brilliant 319 for Baroda – to whom he had transferred from Northern India in 1943/44 – in the Ranji Trophy final.

Jamshed Khudadad Irani: One of the team's two wicketkeepers, Jemi Irani was born in Karachi in 1923. He made his first-class debut, aged only 14, for Sind against Lord Tennyson's English team in 1937/38 and first represented Sind in the Ranji Trophy in the same season, but by the Australian tour he had appeared in only 14 first-class matches in which he had claimed just 13 victims. Tall for a keeper, he was a sound performer behind the stumps but only a moderate batsman, his highest first-class score being 46.

Gogumal Kishenchand: A diminutive right-hand middle order batsman whose full name was Gogumal Kishenchand Harisinghani, he was born in Karachi in 1925 and was the third-youngest member of the side. Despite an ungainly crouching stance, he possessed good footwork and a wide range of attacking shots.

He made his first-class debut for Sind in the 1940/41 Ranji Trophy competition and also played for Hindus in the Bombay Pentangular. A consistent run-scorer in domestic cricket, he had recorded two first-class double centuries, the higher of which was 218 for North Zone against South Zone in the 1946/47 Bombay Zonal Tournament.

Mulvantrai Himmatlal Mankad: Always referred to by his schoolboy nickname of "Vino", he was born at Jamnagar in western India in 1917 and was one of the most accomplished members of the team. Of medium

height and strongly built, he was an outstanding all-rounder – a right-hand batsman with a strong defence and wide range of punishing strokes who could adjust his methods according to the state of the game.

He was also a left-arm orthodox spin bowler of the highest class, renowned for his perfect control of length and flight. He made his first-class debut at 18 for Western India against the Australian touring team in 1935/36, and his Ranji Trophy debut later that season. In 1937/38 he scored a century in an unofficial "Test" against Lord Tennyson's English team but because of the war had to wait until the tour of England in 1946 to make his Test debut.

He made a huge impact, *Wisden* noting that "few men have accomplished finer deeds on that first tour to England". By the time of the Australian tour, he had represented Western India, Nawanagar, Maharashtra and Gujarat in the Ranji Trophy as well as Hindus in the Bombay Pentangular.

Cottari Subbanna Nayudu: Generally known as C.S. Nayudu, he was the younger brother of C.K. Nayudu, India's first Test captain, who was nearly 19 years his senior. Born in Nagpur in northern India in 1914, he was a right-arm leg break and googly bowler who could spin the ball sharply with a peculiar crouching and flailing action, a hard-hitting batsman in the lower middle order and a fine fieldsman.

He made his first-class debut in 1931/32 and appeared in two Tests against England in 1933/34, batting usefully to score 36 and 15 in his first Test. He toured England in both 1936 and 1946, appearing in two Tests on each visit with little success, so that his six Tests to date had yielded just two wickets at 114 runs apiece and 108 runs at 10.80.

Nevertheless he was a prolific wicket-taker and useful run-scorer at domestic level, representing Central Provinces and Berar, Central India, Baroda and Holkar in the Ranji Trophy and Hindus in the Bombay Pentangular.

Dattatraya Gajanan Phadkar: Born in Maharashtra in western India in 1925, Dattu Phadkar was the second-youngest member of the team. A highly promising all-rounder who was considered unlucky to miss selection for the 1946 tour of England, he was a right-hand fast-medium bowler who could swing the ball either way and an attacking middle order batsman.

He made his first-class debut in 1942/43 and represented both Maharashtra and Bombay in the Ranji Trophy as well as Hindus in the Bombay Pentangular. He was the leading wicket-taker in India during the 1946/47 season, capturing 56 wickets at 17.94 and also recorded his maiden first-class century, 143 for Sir Homi Mehta's XI in the Bombay Festival Tournament.

Kanwar Rai Singh: One of the four replacement players and the only Sikh in the team, Rai Singh was born in the Punjab in northern India in 1922. An aggressive right-hand middle-order batsman, he made his first-class debut in 1940/41 and had represented Southern Punjab in the Ranji Trophy from the following season.

He accomplished very little at first-class level until 1945/46, when he recorded his maiden first-class hundred and probably owed his selection to an innings of 158 for the Maharaja of Patiala's XI against V.M. Merchant's XI late in the 1946/47 season.

Commandur Rajagopalachari Rangachari: Chosen to replace Fazal Mahmood, he was the only South Zone representative in the team, having been born in Madras in 1916. A police officer, he was a strongly built fast bowler who generated considerable pace from a slightly round-arm action, and a good field close to the bat. He made his first-class debut in 1938/39 and since then had regularly appeared for Madras in the Ranji Trophy and for Indians in the annual Madras Presidency match against Europeans.

Khanderao Moreshwar Rangnekar: A dashing left-handed middle order batsman, he was born in Bombay in 1917. He made his first-class debut, for Hindus in the Bombay Pentangular, in 1939/40, and made his Ranji Trophy debut for Maharashtra later in the same season. Next season he transferred to Bombay and came to notice when he made 202 for them against his former team mates. He was in fine form in 1946/47 when his tally of 845 runs at 49.70 was exceeded by only three players.

Maharaj Shri Ranvirsinhji: Another of the replacements, he was born in Nawanagar in western India in 1919. A right-hand middle order

batsman, he had achieved little at first-class level and probably owed his selection to his princely status and the fact that he was a cousin of K.S. Duleepsinhji, who had batted with great distinction for England in the early 1930s before his career was cut short by illness.

He made his first-class debut in 1936/37 and represented Nawanagar in the Ranji Trophy in that and the following three seasons but then didn't play first-class cricket until 1946/47 when he made a modest 137 runs at 27.40 with a highest score of 46. His only first-class fifty, 53 for Nawanagar against Sind, was recorded in 1937/38.

Chandrasekhar Trimbak Sarwate: The most experienced of the four replacements, Chandu Sarwate was born in Madhya Pradesh in central India in 1920. A slightly built all-rounder, he was a capable right-hand batsman who could open the batting and drive hard down the ground, and a slow bowler who delivered both off and leg-breaks with a jerky action.

He made his first-class debut in 1936/37 and had represented Central Provinces and Berar, Maharashtra, Bombay and Holkar in the Ranji Trophy and Hindus in the Bombay Pentangular. A very successful all-rounder at domestic level, he toured England in 1946 but generally struggled and failed in his only Test, being dismissed for 2 and 0 and failing to take a wicket.

He had one notable triumph, however, when against Surrey at The Oval he made 124 not out at No. 10, adding 249 for the last wicket with Shute Banerjee, who made 121, the only time that Nos. 10 and 11 have made centuries in the same innings. To cap it off he then took 5/38 to bowl the tourists to victory. Despite a solid season at home in 1946/47 he was initially overlooked for the Australian tour.

Probir Kumar Sen: The second wicketkeeper in the party, "Khokhan" Sen was born at Comilla, Bengal, now in Bangladesh, in 1926. Short and stocky, he was the youngest of the tourists, being six weeks younger than Phadkar, and his boyish features made him seem younger than his 21 years.

A nimble keeper with safe hands and good anticipation, he made his first-class debut in 1943/44 for Bengal in the Ranji Trophy, but had appeared in only 14 first-class matches and secured just 14 dismissals prior to the tour. A useful batsman who sometimes went in first, he hit 142 for Bengal against Holkar in his first season but had reached 50 only twice since.

Sriranga Wasudev Sohoni: A stocky and strongly built right-arm fast medium bowler who preferred using the old ball and a hard-hitting middle or lower order batsman, Ranga Sohoni was born in Rajasthan in western India in 1918. One of the more experienced members of the team, he made his first-class debut in 1935/36 at the age of 17 and had appeared regularly for Maharashtra in the Ranji Trophy from that season as well as for Hindus in the Bombay Pentangular from 1941/42.

His best season was in 1940/41 when his 808 runs at 80.80 included an innings of 218 not out for Maharashtra against West India. He toured England in 1946, but took only 14 wickets and failed to make a half-century, although he appeared in two of the Tests, making 43 runs for once out but bowling only 15 overs without taking a wicket.

The team's manager, **Pankaj Gupta**, had filled the same role on the 1946 tour of England where he drew praise for his efficiency and good relations with the press. Born in 1899, he was a highly experienced sports organiser who had managed several Indian sporting sides, especially hockey teams, on overseas tours before the war.

The indefatigable Australian baggage man and scorer, **Bill Ferguson**, now 67 years of age and who had accompanied every Australian team to England since 1905, fulfilled a similar role for the Indian team in Australia and the party was completed by another Australian, **Tom Langridge**, as masseur.

Apart from the odd choice of Ranvirsinhji, the selectors appear to have adhered closely to their directive to choose players on the basis of performances during the 1946/47 season, those unluckiest to miss out appearing to be Bombay opening batsman Khanmohammad Ibrahim and Hyderabad off-spinner Ghulam Ahmed, both of whom eventually made their Test debuts in 1948/49.

The players' thrill of making their first tour of Australia must have been considerably tempered by the events unfolding at home. The partition of British India into the independent nations of India and Pakistan following the granting of independence on 15 August proved a traumatic event.

Although many parts of the new nations were comparatively unaffected, many others, especially in the Punjab and Bengal, became the scenes of appalling violence as millions of Hindus and Muslims attempted to flee from what had now become Pakistan to India or vice-versa. An estimated 600,000 died in the inter-communal conflicts that ensued and as many as 14 million Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs were made homeless.

THE TOUR

The Indians were the first touring team to fly to Australia rather than travel by ship. It was originally intended that they would sail aboard the *Orion*, but when its departure was delayed, which would have meant curtailing the early part of the tour, they decided to fly, departing Calcutta on October 8, and undertaking an arduous flight via Rangoon, Singapore, Surabaya and Darwin before eventually arriving in Perth two days later.

Of the four replacement players, Sarwate joined the team in Adelaide on October 23 but Rai Singh, Ranvirsinhji and Rangachari did not meet up with their teammates until six days later, by which time the team was in Melbourne and about to start its third first-class match.

The tourists had a week in Perth to get ready for their first match, against Western Australia at the WACA, but their preparations were hampered by continuous rain which forced them to practise indoors. The WA game had particular significance for the locals as the state was on the verge of its first season in the Sheffield Shield competition and was anxious to do well.



The tourists enter the field for the first time, against Western Australia at the WACA. Left to right: Dattu Phadkar, Lala Amarnath, Vijay Hazare, Gul Mohammad (partly obscured), Amir Elahi, Gogumal Kishenchand, Hemu Adhikari.

Unfortunately the match was ruined by further rain, which allowed only 33 minutes' play on the first day and none on the second. Play eventually resumed after lunch on the third day and WA's first innings, which amounted to only 171, was not completed until the final morning, Mankad giving an early indication of the good form he was to display throughout the tour by taking 5/68.

In reply the tourists managed only 127, an aggressive 57 from Mankad being the only highlight. Local leg-spinner Morgan Herbert troubled nearly all the visitors, taking 7/45. This earned him selection for the Australian XI game a month later, but he failed to take a wicket in that game and never managed to repeat that success.

The Indians' next match, against South Australia at Adelaide, provided them with their first encounter with Don Bradman, who never visited the subcontinent throughout his career. The home side batted first after Bradman won the toss, but the tourists had to wait several hours before they could see "the Don" in action as openers Reg Craig (100) and Dick Niehuus (137, his only first-class hundred) put on 226 for the first wicket.

Bradman arrived at the crease shortly before tea and, in an ominous indication of what was to come, reached his hundred just before stumps and went on to make 156 (152 minutes, 22 fours). He declared at lunch on the second day at 8/518, whereupon the SA opening bowlers quickly removed Adhikari and Kishenchand, but Mankad (57) and Hazare (95) rectified matters with a third-wicket stand of 152.

Later, Amarnath made a superb, chanceless 144 (187 minutes, 14 fours) which enabled India to get within 67 runs of the home side's total. SA declared its second innings at lunch on the final day, setting India 287 to

win in two sessions. They were soon in trouble, slumping to 6/60 before Mankad (116 not out in 175 minutes, 12 fours) and Amarnath (94 not out) saved the day with an unbroken stand of 175.



Lala Amarnath (foreground) leads the tourists from the field during the match against Victoria at the MCG.

The tourists finally had their full complement of players for their next match, at the MCG against Victoria, the current Sheffield Shield champions. The home side was a strong one, including established Test players Lindsay Hassett and Ian Johnson, as well as four promising players in Neil Harvey, Bill Johnston, Sam Loxton and Doug Ring, who all made their Test debuts during the summer.

Batting first after winning the toss, the tourists began disastrously, losing Mankad, Rangnekar and Hazare without a run on the board, all to Johnston, but Amarnath counter-attacked with a brilliant display of batting which Harvey later claimed to be the finest display of cover driving he ever fielded to. He hit a magnificent 228 not out (372 minutes, 10 fours), the highest score of the tour, which enabled India to reach 403.

Victoria fell 130 short in their first innings and were eventually set 334 to win, after Mankad and Hazare made amends for their first innings ducks with second innings half-centuries, but the home side declined the challenge and the match fizzled into a draw.

The fourth match saw the tourists lose for the first time, as New South Wales proved far too strong, winning by an innings and 48 runs. A century by Arthur Morris (162) and half centuries from Eric Lukeman, Jack Moroney, Keith Miller and Jack Pettiford enabled the home side to declare at 8/561 and in reply the Indians, severely hampered by an illness to the in-form Amarnath which prevented him from batting in either innings, batted unevenly to make 298 and 215. Hazare, who made 142 in the first innings, recorded his first century of the tour, while Adhikari fought hard to make 47 and 65 and Mankad maintained his good form with 67 in the first innings.

The tourists' next match was against an Australian XI, also at the SCG. The home side was captained by Bradman, who a week earlier had made his 99th first-class century in a Shield game against Victoria.

Batting first, the Indians made 326, with Gul Mohammad top-scoring with 85, his best score for the tour. The total was swelled considerably by a last-wicket stand of 97 by Kishenchand and Irani.

In the hope of seeing Bradman make his 100th first-class century, 31,103 spectators crammed into the SCG on the second day and they were not to be disappointed. Coming in to bat at 1/11 following the early dismissal of Bill Brown, Bradman was quickly into his stride and dominated a third wicket partnership with Miller.



Vijay Hazare is run out 38 in the Australian XI game at the SCG as the result of a smart return from Sam Loxton to keeper Ron Saggars. Keith Miller, hands on hips, has his back to the camera.

With one over remaining before tea, his score stood on 99, at which point Amarnath brought on Kishenchand, who had not previously bowled on the tour.

After playing his first delivery with exaggerated caution, Bradman pushed the next ball into the on side for a single, amid rapturous applause from the crowd and the Indian fieldsmen. He went on to make 172 and the Australian XI eventually gained a first innings lead of 54. Following half-centuries from Sarwate and Kishenchand (his second for the match), the tourists eventually set the Australian XI 251 to win in two-and-a-half hours.

They accepted the challenge but wickets fell steadily and they were dismissed 48 runs short of their objective, giving the Indians their first win of the tour. Mankad took 8/84 and provoked much comment by running Brown out at the bowler's end, an action he was to repeat in the second Test.

In their final match before the first Test the Indians narrowly lost to Queensland at the Gabba. They led by 28 on the first innings, thanks to another brilliant display from Amarnath who scored an unbeaten 172 (278 minutes one six and 14 fours), and were eventually set 242 to win in 151 minutes. They went for the runs, Amarnath sending in his hitters first, but wickets fell steadily and they were dismissed for 217 in the last possible over.



The inaugural Test between Australia and India began at the Gabba on Friday, November 28. The Australian team, in batting order, was Brown, Morris, Bradman, Hassett, Miller, McCool, Lindwall, Tallon, Johnson, Toshack and Bill Johnston, the last-named being the only debutant. A notable absentee was Sid Barnes, who had only just returned home after playing League cricket in England.

Of their squad of 17, the Indians left out three of the four replacements – Rai Singh, Ranvirsinhji and Rangachari – as well as Phadkar, Amir Elahi and the second keeper Sen, who was named 12th man. Adhikari, Irani, Kishenchand and Rangnekar all made their Test debuts. Bradman won the toss and made good use of perfect batting conditions on the opening day (all days in the series were limited to five hours).

Australia reached 3/273 by stumps, with Bradman unbeaten on 160, his third hundred in as many matches against the tourists. Heavy overnight rain restricted play to just an hour on the second day, in which time Bradman took his score to 179. Further rain on the Sunday, the rest day,

followed by hot sunshine then produced an unplayable pitch when play resumed on Monday. Bradman was soon out for 185 (288 minutes, 20 fours) and the Australians declared not long after at 8/382.

No batting side could have coped with the conditions when India batted. Lindwall removed Mankad and Gul Mohammad for ducks in his opening over, and Toshack's left-arm deliveries proved so deadly that he captured 5/2 from 2.3 overs as India was routed for 58. Forced to follow on, they struggled to 4/41 by stumps, 19 wickets having fallen during the day for 172 runs.



The rain then returned, allowing only an hour's play on the fourth day and none on the fifth, but the sun shone on the final day as India lost their last six wickets for 26 to be dismissed for 98, Toshack finishing with the extraordinary match analysis of 11/31.

Prior to travelling to Sydney for the second Test, the tourists played a two-day match against Queensland Country at Warwick. Phadkar (who also took 4/23), Adhikari and Nayudu all made half-centuries but the match was left drawn without a first innings decision being reached. India made two changes for the Sydney Test, omitting Rangnekar who had been dismissed for 1 and 0 at Brisbane, and Sohoni, who had taken 0/84, and introducing in their places Phadkar and Amir Elahi.

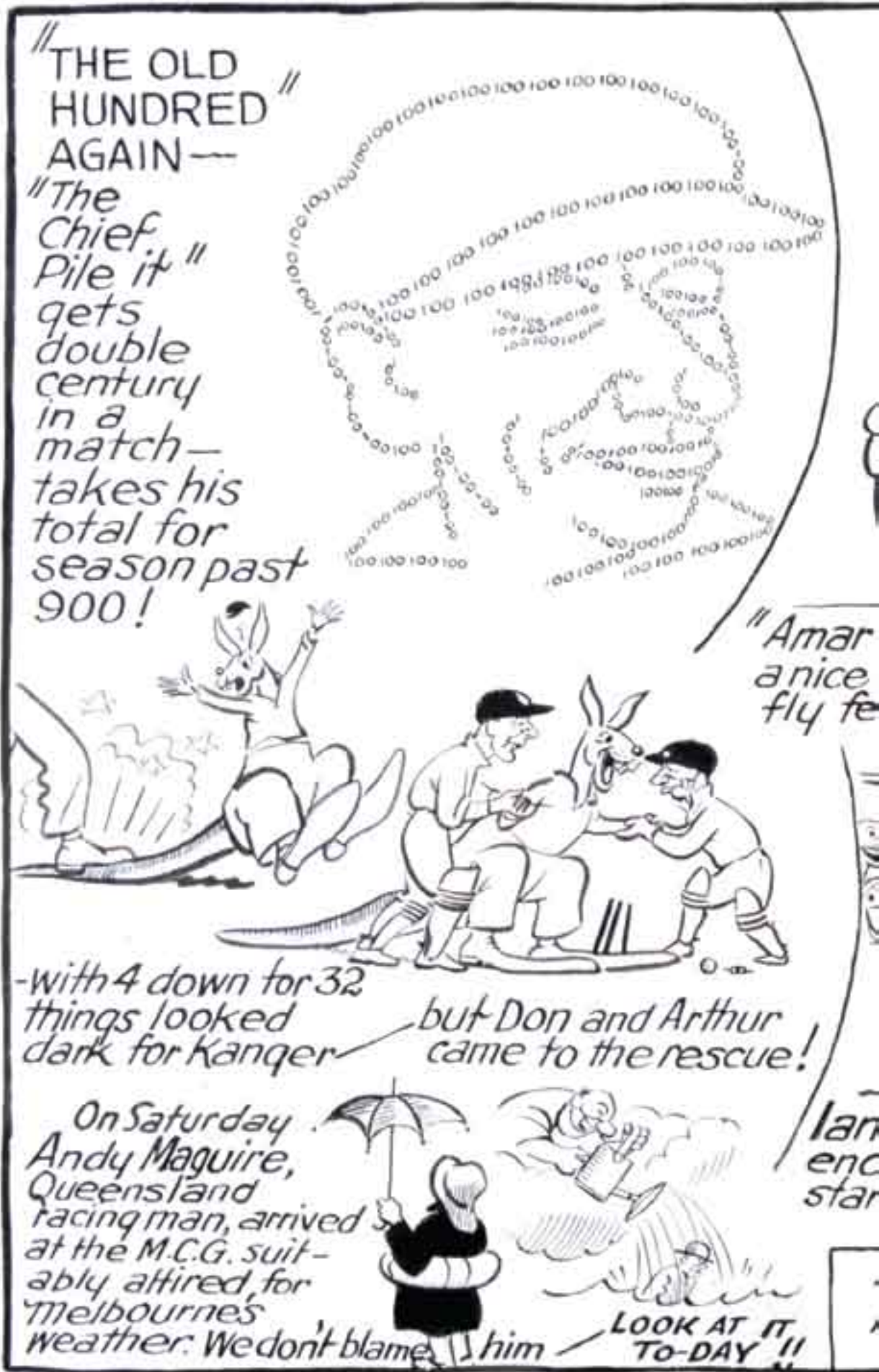
Amarnath won the toss for the only time in the series and elected to bat, but only 70 minutes' play was possible on the opening day in which India lost 2/38. Next day, in difficult conditions, solid innings by Kishenchand (44) and Phadkar, who, batting at No. 8, made an impressive 51 on his Test debut, enabled India to reach a modest 188. Australia was 1/28 at stumps, with the dismissal of Brown causing a sensation. In a repeat of the incident in the Australian XI game, Mankad ran him out at the bowler's end, this time without warning.

The term "Mankading" had entered the Australian sporting vocabulary and although many were highly critical of Mankad's sportsmanship, most felt that Brown should have learned from his earlier experience. No play was possible on the third and fourth days, and batsmen on both sides struggled on the fifth, when 16 wickets fell for just 140 runs. Australia was dismissed for only 107, with Hazare bowling Bradman for 13, his only failure of the series.

Ron Hamence, who had replaced the injured Toshack, top-scored with 25. Hazare took 4/29 and Phadkar, continuing his impressive debut, took 3/14. Leading by 81, India had slumped to 7/61 by stumps, an overall lead of only 142, but the rain returned to wash out the final day.

Before the third Test, which commenced at the MCG on New Year's Day, the tourists played two more up-country games – against a Western NSW XI at Bathurst and a NSW Country XI at Canberra. They won the first by 104 runs, Mankad taking 10 wickets in the match, but the second

On an action-packed third day's play of the third Test at the MCG, Amarnath declared India's first innings closed at 9/291, 103 behind Australia's total, in order to make the home side bat on a rain-affected pitch in its second innings. Bradman countered by sending his tail-enders in first and although Australia slumped to 4/32, the wicket rapidly improved and Arthur Morris (100 not out) and Bradman (127 not out) then added an unbroken 223 for the fifth wicket, to place Australia in a virtually impregnable position.





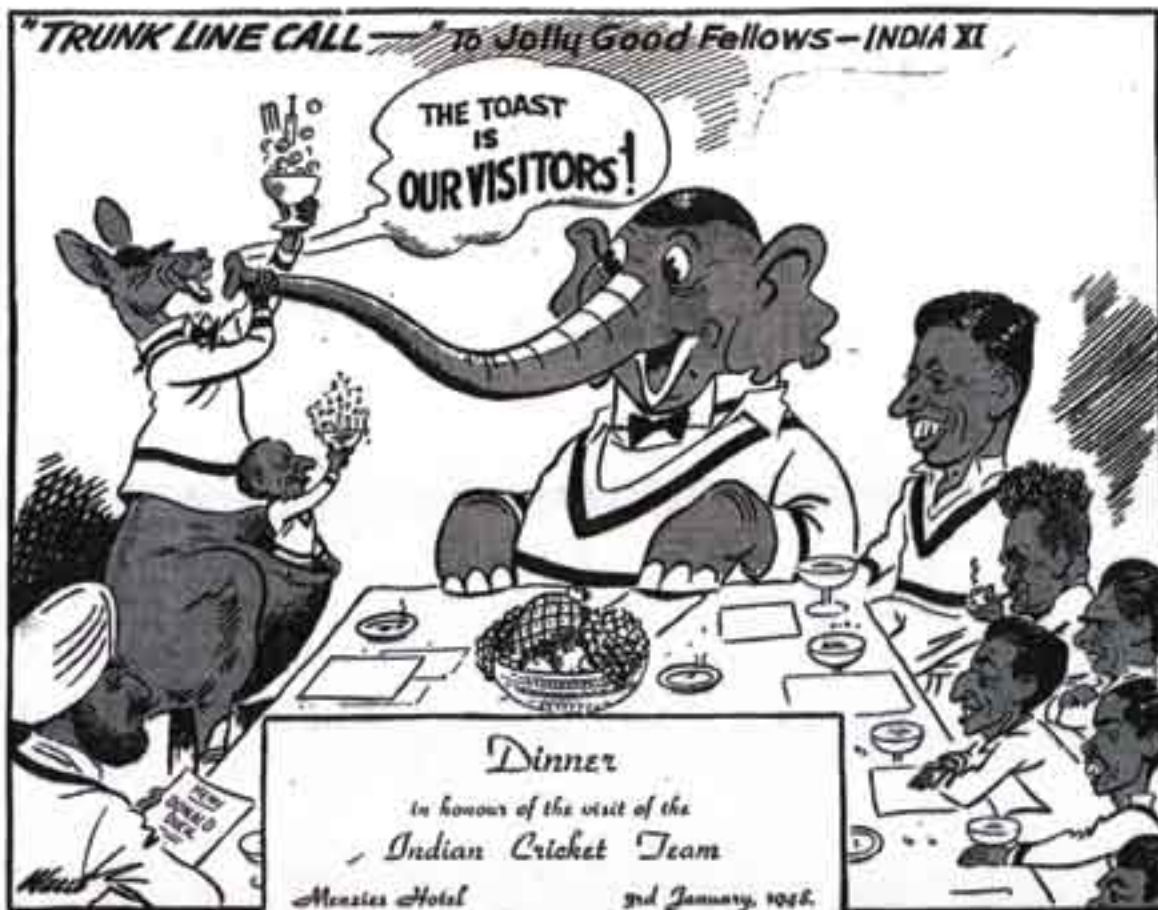
"declared at 9/29/1 intending to catch the Aussies on a tricky wicket - but the Indians found 'The Don' a fellow - he backed Kanger in tail first -"



Johnson should have bought enough ducks by now to start a lucrative business

It couldn't have been a very pleasant dinner party given by VCA to our Indian visitors, on Sat'day night, with Don sitting at the top of the table

A dinner for the Indian team was held at the Menzies Hotel in Melbourne on Saturday, 3rd January 1948, after the third day's play in the third Test. At the close of play Bradman was 127 not out in Australia's second innings, having made 132 in the first.



HERALD CARTOONIST Sam Wells drew this sketch for the menu cover of the special dinner to the Indian Test team on Saturday.

was drawn. Both teams made changes for the third Test. Australia were without Brown, who was injured, and McCool, whose mother had died, and with Toshack still unfit, brought in Barnes and Bruce Dooland.

India recalled Rangnekar and brought in another batsman, Rai Singh, for his first Test, in place of leg-spinner Amir Elahi (who had not been required to bowl in Sydney) and Kishenchand, who was ill. They swapped keepers, with Sen, who had made 93 at Canberra, replacing Irani. The match is memorable for the fact that Bradman made a century in each innings of a Test for the only time in his career – 132 (197 minutes, 8 fours) in the first innings and an unbeaten 127 (178 minutes, 13 fours) in the second.

India trailed by 103 on the first innings despite a fine hundred from opener Mankad (182 minutes, 13 fours) and another half-century by Phadkar. Mankad and Sarwate put on 124 for the first wicket, remarkably the only opening stand over 20 by India in the entire series. Set 359 for victory, India managed only 125 in its second innings, to give Australia victory by 233 runs with two days to spare. Amarnath took seven wickets in the match, but continued his run of low scores in the Tests, being dismissed for 0 and 8. This was easily the best attended match of the tour, with 164,670 spectators being present over the four days.

Two-nil down in the series, the Indians now had the opportunity to regroup, with two three-day matches against Tasmania and a game against SA Country at Mount Gambier being scheduled before the fourth Test. The first game against Tasmania, at Hobart, saw the tourists record their second first-class win, overwhelming the locals by an innings and 139 runs. Amarnath (171) and Hazare (115) both made hundreds but the main star was fast bowler Rangachari. Little used to date, he took 6/45, including a hat trick, on the opening day and nine wickets in the match.

The second Tasmanian match, at Launceston, ended in a high-scoring draw. Sarwate (128) and Amarnath (135, his fifth hundred of the tour) put on 253 for the second wicket before a declaration at 7/457, but the locals managed to better that total by one run, with the home captain, Ron



The Indian and Tasmanian teams at the TCA Ground in Hobart. The match provided the tourists, who won by an innings and 139 runs, with one of their only two first-class wins of the tour.

Back: C.Thornbury (local official), H.D.G. Hickman (umpire), C.R. Rangachari, R.V. Thomas, K. Rai Singh, N.V. Diprose, M.S. Ranvirsinhji, J.F.L. Laver, K.M. Rangnekar, G. Kishenchand, A.J. Watkins (umpire), P. Gupta (Indian manager).
Middle: C.T. Sarwate, M.R. Thomas, V.S. Hazare, R.O.G. Morrisby (Tasmanian captain), L. Amarnath (Indian captain), W.T. Walmsley, V. Mankad, D. Jackman.
Front: A.E. Wilkes, H.R. Adhikari, C.G. Richardson, P.K. Sen, L.J. Alexander, J.I. Murfett.

Morrisby, a member of the 1935/36 Australian team to India, making 130 and Wal Walmsley, a former NSW player who was coaching in northern Tasmania, 180 not out. The tourists won the Mount Gambier match by an innings and 106 runs, with Adhikari and Hazare both making hundreds and Mankad taking 11 wickets.

Australia made three changes for the fourth Test at Adelaide, Neil Harvey making his Test debut in place of Hamence, McCool returning for Dooland, and Toshack, at last recovered from his knee injury, replacing Bill Johnston, who was unlucky to be named 12th man. For

India, Kishenchand replaced Rai Singh while Rangachari, following his success at Hobart, came in for his first Test in place of Nayudu, who had accomplished nothing in the first three Tests.

The home side dominated the first two days. Barnes (112 in 227 minutes, 16 fours) and Bradman 201 (272 minutes, one six and 21 fours) put on 236 for the second wicket after which Hassett (198 not out in 342 minutes, 16 fours) took complete charge of the Indian attack, although Rangachari persevered to finish with 4/141. Facing a massive 681, India fought hard in reply with Hazare (116 in 275 minutes, 14 fours) atoning for his disappointing scores in the earlier Tests and Phadkar (123 in 254 minutes, 15 fours) adding 188 for the sixth wicket.

Mankad also made 49 and Amarnath 46 which, disappointingly, would be the latter's highest score in the series. Despite their efforts, India was forced to follow on 293 in arrears. Honours in the second innings were shared by Hazare, who batted magnificently to make 145, his second hundred of the match (313 minutes, 17 fours) and Lindwall, who captured 7/38. India was dismissed for 277 to lose by an innings and 16 runs, with only Adhikari, who made a determined 51, providing Hazare with significant support in the second innings.

Following a match against a Victorian Country XI at Mildura, which coincided with the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi and which the tourists won by an innings and 24 runs, the Indians moved to Melbourne for the final Test which began on February 6. Australia made four changes,

resting Morris, Hassett and Toshack and making Ian Johnson 12th man, their replacements being Brown and three newcomers – Victoria's Sam Loxton and Doug Ring and Queensland left-arm pace bowler Len Johnson.

India's only change was to recall Nayudu in place of the equally out-of-form Rangnekar. The demoralised tourists proved no match for their opponents, losing by an innings and 177 runs. Australia amassed 8/575 before declaring late on the second day, with Harvey, playing in only his second Test, bringing up his maiden Test hundred with an all-run five and going on to top-score with 153 (249 minutes, one five and 11 fours). Brown contributed 99 and debutant Loxton 80, the latter again being run out by Mankad, but this time by a smart return to keeper Sen.

Most hoped to see Bradman make another hundred in his last Test innings in Australia, but it was not to be as he was forced to retire hurt with a torn muscle in his rib cage after making a fluent 57. This innings took his runs total in all matches against India on the tour to 1081 at 135.12 with six centuries.

When India batted, Mankad made 111 (300 minutes, 6 fours), his second hundred of the series. Hazare and Phadkar made half-centuries, but the Indians were forced to follow on 244 runs in arrears. After Mankad fell to the second ball of the second innings, the tourists crumbled for a miserable 67 in good batting conditions on the fourth afternoon. Debutants Johnson (in his only Test) and Ring each took six wickets in the match.



Gandhi, whose non-violent opposition to British rule provided the inspiration and leadership for India's independence movement, was assassinated by a Hindu fanatic on 30th January, a week before the start of the fifth Test.



Khokhan Sen loses his middle stump to Len Johnson during the fifth Test.



RUN OUT for 89 at the MCG yesterday, Brown, the Australian opener, was unlucky to miss the century. He is shown lifting a ball from Phadkar to fence for four.



Mankad edges a delivery from Ray Lindwall into the stumps during the first innings.

Bill Brown plays Dattu Phadkar to leg during his innings of 99 in the fifth Test at the MCG. Earlier in the tour Brown was twice controversially run out at the bowler's end by Vinoo Mankad, who ran him out yet again in this innings, but this time by conventional means.

ACTION SHOTS FROM THE FIFTH TEST AT THE MCG.



A large crowd queues for admission outside the Southern Stand at the MCG. Both MCG Tests, each completed inside four days, drew good crowds, with 164,670 attending the third Test and 97,365 the fifth.



C.S. Nayudu about to be caught at slip by Bradman from the bowling of Doug Ring.



Vinoo Mankad forces Len Johnson to the off during his fine 111 in India's first innings in the fifth Test. Don Tallon is the keeper.



Sam Loxton claims his first Test victim as Hemu Adkikari is caught behind by Tallon for 38 in the fifth Test.



Umpire Andy Barlow adjudges Vijay Hazare lbw for a fine 74 in the fifth Test. Lindwall is the bowler.



The scramble for stumps at the end of the fifth Test. Sid Barnes, at right, has managed to souvenir two.

By now the Indians must have desperately wanted the tour to end, but they still had to fulfill engagements against a Victorian Country XI at Geelong and Western Australia at Perth before sailing for home. Rangnekar made 120 in the former, but an innings of 84 by Vin Hassett, brother of Lindsay, enabled the country side to escape with a draw. The Indians narrowly lost their last first-class fixture by six runs against a WA side that had recently stunned the Australian cricket world by winning the Sheffield Shield at its first attempt.

In a low-scoring contest, the tourists needed to make only 191 to win but were dismissed for 184, the home side's star being their fine pace bowler Charlie Puckett, who took 11 wickets in the match. Five days later the Indians eventually departed, sailing from Fremantle on board the Stratheden and reaching Bombay on March 10. Twenty years would elapse before the next Indian team visited Australia.

TEST AVERAGES

INDIA

| Batting & Fielding | | At | I | NO | R | HS | Avg | 100 | 50 | OB |
|--------------------|---|----|---|-----|-----|-------|-----|-----|-----|----|
| D.G. Phadkar | 4 | 8 | 2 | 314 | 123 | 52.33 | 1 | 3 | 1 | |
| V.S. Hazare | 3 | 10 | 1 | 429 | 145 | 47.66 | 2 | 1 | 1 | |
| V. Mankad | 3 | 10 | 0 | 306 | 116 | 30.60 | 2 | - | 2 | |
| H.R. Adhikari | 3 | 10 | 1 | 156 | 51 | 17.33 | - | 1 | 2 | |
| L. Amarnath | 5 | 10 | 0 | 140 | 46 | 14.00 | - | - | 0 | |
| Gul Mohammad | 5 | 10 | 0 | 130 | 34 | 13.00 | - | - | 1 | |
| C.T. Sarwate | 5 | 10 | 0 | 100 | 36 | 10.00 | - | - | 0 | |
| G. Kishenchand | 4 | 8 | 0 | 69 | 44 | 8.62 | - | - | 1 | |
| P.K. Sen | 3 | 4 | 1 | 29 | 13 | 5.80 | - | - | 3/1 | |
| K.M. Rangnekar | 3 | 4 | 0 | 33 | 18 | 5.50 | - | - | 1 | |
| C.S. Nayudu | 4 | 7 | 2 | 18 | 6 | 4.50 | - | - | 0 | |
| J.R. Irani | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3.00 | - | - | 2/1 | |
| C.R. Rangachari | 2 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0.00 | - | - | 0 | |

Played in our Test: Amir Elahi 4, 13; K. Rai Singh 2, 34; S.W. Sohoni 2, 4 (ct 1)

Bowling

| | O | M | R | W | Avg | Best | 50 | 100 |
|-----------------|------|----|-----|----|--------|-------|----|-----|
| L. Amarnath | 126 | 21 | 366 | 13 | 28.15 | 4/78 | - | - |
| D.G. Phadkar | 59 | 4 | 254 | 8 | 31.75 | 3/14 | - | - |
| V. Mankad | 174 | 21 | 630 | 12 | 52.50 | 4/135 | - | - |
| V.S. Hazare | 86.4 | 7 | 282 | 7 | 54.57 | 4/29 | - | - |
| C.R. Rangachari | 58 | 6 | 238 | 4 | 59.50 | 4/141 | - | - |
| C.T. Sarwate | 53 | 3 | 276 | 2 | 138.00 | 1/16 | - | - |

Also bowled: H.R. Adhikari 1-0-4-0; Gul Mohammad 1-0-1-0; C.S. Nayudu 18-0-117-0; S.W. Sohoni 23-4-81-0.

FIRST-CLASS TOUR AVERAGES

| Batting & Fielding | | At | I | NO | R | HS | Avg | 100 | 50 | OB |
|--------------------|----|----|---|------|------|-------|-----|-----|------|----|
| L. Amarnath | 14 | 23 | 3 | 1162 | 228* | 58.10 | 5 | 1 | 3 | |
| V.S. Hazare | 13 | 23 | 1 | 1086 | 145 | 48.00 | 4 | 5 | 9 | |
| D.G. Phadkar | 8 | 13 | 3 | 417 | 123 | 41.70 | 1 | 4 | 2 | |
| V. Mankad | 13 | 24 | 1 | 889 | 116* | 36.65 | 3 | 5 | 11 | |
| G. Kishenchand | 12 | 20 | 3 | 418 | 75* | 24.58 | - | 2 | 4 | |
| H.R. Adhikari | 13 | 23 | 2 | 450 | 65 | 21.42 | - | 2 | 4 | |
| C.T. Sarwate | 12 | 21 | 0 | 444 | 128 | 21.14 | 1 | 1 | 5 | |
| Gul Mohammad | 11 | 21 | 1 | 387 | 85 | 19.35 | - | 2 | 2 | |
| C.S. Nayudu | 9 | 14 | 4 | 198 | 58 | 16.50 | - | 1 | 3 | |
| M.S. Ravvirsinhji | 2 | 3 | 0 | 37 | 27 | 12.35 | - | - | 1 | |
| S.W. Sohoni | 6 | 10 | 2 | 97 | 31 | 12.12 | - | - | 3 | |
| J.R. Irani | 7 | 11 | 3 | 94 | 43 | 11.75 | - | - | 15/3 | |
| Amir Elahi | 7 | 12 | 0 | 137 | 46 | 11.41 | - | - | 1 | |
| K.M. Rangnekar | 9 | 16 | 0 | 173 | 43 | 10.81 | - | - | 6 | |
| P.K. Sen | 7 | 11 | 2 | 81 | 38 | 9.00 | - | - | 12/3 | |
| K. Rai Singh | 4 | 7 | 0 | 52 | 24 | 7.42 | - | - | 0 | |
| C.R. Rangachari | 7 | 10 | 6 | 8 | 4* | 2.00 | - | - | 4 | |

Bowling

| | O | M | R | W | Avg | Best | 50 | 100 |
|-----------------|-------|----|------|----|--------|-------|----|-----|
| V. Mankad | 494.5 | 76 | 1595 | 41 | 36.14 | 8/84 | 4 | 1 |
| L. Amarnath | 276.3 | 38 | 883 | 20 | 28.43 | 4/78 | - | - |
| C.R. Rangachari | 152 | 19 | 582 | 19 | 30.63 | 6/45 | 1 | - |
| D.G. Phadkar | 128.2 | 11 | 524 | 17 | 30.82 | 4/39 | - | - |
| C.T. Sarwate | 189.2 | 11 | 782 | 18 | 43.44 | 4/35 | - | - |
| S.W. Sohoni | 93 | 9 | 380 | 8 | 47.50 | 4/89 | - | - |
| V.S. Hazare | 196.7 | 17 | 819 | 13 | 63.00 | 4/29 | - | - |
| Amir Elahi | 118.5 | 38 | 527 | 8 | 65.87 | 3/175 | - | - |
| C.S. Nayudu | 72 | 2 | 294 | 1 | 294.00 | 1/30 | - | - |

Also bowled: H.R. Adhikari 1-0-4-0; Gul Mohammad 13-0-57-1; G. Kishenchand 3-0-7-0.

Eight-ball overs

The tour averages clearly demonstrate the tourists' heavy reliance on Amarnath, Hazare and Mankad. Hazare's twin centuries at Adelaide is the best-remembered feat on the tour, but it was Mankad who made the biggest impact, taking twice as many wickets as anyone else and scoring not far short of 1000 runs. Whether batting or bowling, he never seemed to be out of the game, and although his bowling record in the Tests was modest, it was more a reflection of the strength of the Australian batting than the quality of his bowling.

TEST AVERAGES

AUSTRALIA

| Batting & Fielding | | At | I | NO | R | HS | Avg | 100 | 50 | OB |
|--------------------|---|----|---|-----|------|--------|-----|-----|------|----|
| D.G. Bradman | 5 | 8 | 2 | 715 | 311 | 178.75 | 4 | 1 | 4 | |
| A.L. Hassett | 4 | 4 | 1 | 330 | 198* | 111.66 | 1 | 1 | 4 | |
| R.N. Harvey | 2 | 2 | 0 | 166 | 153 | 83.00 | 1 | - | 0 | |
| A.R. Morris | 4 | 5 | 1 | 229 | 100* | 52.25 | 1 | - | 3 | |
| S.G. Barnes | 3 | 4 | 0 | 172 | 112 | 43.00 | 1 | - | 4 | |
| W.A. Brown | 3 | 3 | 0 | 128 | 99 | 42.66 | - | 1 | 4 | |
| K.K. Miller | 5 | 5 | 0 | 183 | 67 | 37.00 | - | 2 | 5 | |
| R.A. Hamerton | 2 | 2 | 0 | 95 | 28 | 23.00 | - | - | 1 | |
| W.A. Johnston | 4 | 4 | 2 | 31 | 27* | 15.50 | - | - | 1 | |
| C.L. McCool | 3 | 3 | 0 | 45 | 27 | 15.00 | - | - | 4 | |
| R.E. Lindwall | 3 | 3 | 0 | 70 | 35 | 14.00 | - | - | 2 | |
| D. Tallon | 1 | 2 | 1 | 49 | 37 | 12.25 | - | - | 11/3 | |
| I.W.G. Johnson | 4 | 5 | 0 | 87 | 25 | 9.00 | - | - | 2 | |
| E.R.H. Toiback | 2 | 1 | 1 | 8 | 8 | 4.00 | - | - | 0 | |

Played in our Test: B. Doole 21*, 8 (ct 13 1.); Johnson (1 wicket) 29* (ct 2); S.J.E. Lenton 80; D.T. Ring 11.

Bowling

| | O | M | R | W | Avg | Best | 50 | 100 |
|----------------|-------|----|-----|----|-------|------|----|-----|
| W.A. Johnston | 84 | 24 | 182 | 16 | 11.37 | 4/44 | - | - |
| E.R.H. Toiback | 62.3 | 17 | 170 | 13 | 13.07 | 4/29 | 2 | 1 |
| I.W.G. Johnson | 93 | 21 | 261 | 16 | 16.31 | 4/35 | - | - |
| R.E. Lindwall | 113.4 | 23 | 304 | 18 | 16.88 | 7/38 | 1 | - |
| K.K. Miller | 72 | 14 | 223 | 9 | 24.77 | 3/25 | - | - |
| C.L. McCool | 50 | 4 | 199 | 4 | 49.75 | 3/71 | - | - |

Also bowled: S.G. Barnes 35-6-100-3; D.G. Bradman 1-0-4-0; B. Doole 13-0-66-1; I.J. Johnson 35-3-13-4-6; S.J.E. Lenton 23-2-71-3; D.T. Ring 41-4-120-4.

Hazare had a splendid tour with the bat and after a quiet start in the Tests fully lived up to the big reputation he had earned in India. Amarnath was an enigma - in brilliant form outside the Tests, where he scored 1022 runs at the Bradmanesque average of 102.20, his inability to make runs in the Tests was a huge disappointment, and although he topped his side's bowling averages in these games, it scarcely compensated for his failures with the bat.

The big discovery was Phadkar. Overlooked for the opening Test, his batting proved a revelation in the remaining four, while his bowling showed much promise and it appeared that India had found an all-rounder who would give good service for many years to come. None of the other batsmen lived up to their reputations at home, although Adhikari battled hard and showed improvement as the tour progressed.

The absence of Merchant in the top order was keenly felt, as Sarwate was all at sea in the opening position against the new ball attack of Miller and Lindwall, while Gul Mohammad, although earning high praise for his brilliant fielding, fared little better at first wicket down. Kishenchand, batted well in the Australian XI game, but apart from an innings of 44 on a difficult pitch at Sydney fared very poorly in the Tests, making ducks in each of his four appearances.

Rangnekar was a complete failure and Rai Singh and Ranvirsinhji were virtual passengers, although the former played in the third Test when his breezy second innings knock of 24 accounted for almost half his first-class runs on the tour.

The attack revolved around Mankad and Amarnath, but apart from Phadkar they received little support. Of the other quicker bowlers, Sohoni was unable to adjust to Australian conditions and Rangachari received few opportunities until late in the tour. The two specialist leg spinners both had poor tours, Amir Elahi being unable to reproduce his form at home while Nayudu, despite appearing in four Tests, took just a single first-class wicket on the entire tour, that of Neil Harvey in the Victorian game.

Sarwate, with his mixture of wrist and finger spin, performed usefully at times but was punished in the Tests. The two previously untried keepers both had similar records, Sen being preferred to Irani after the second Test. The latter looked a good prospect, drawing praise for his work in the fifth Test when he held four catches and allowed only four byes in Australia's huge first innings.

Despite their lack of success in the Tests, the Indians played bright and attractive cricket throughout the tour and proved highly popular with the Australian public. Manager Pankaj Gupta received many compliments for his efficiency and the cordial relations he established with the Australian authorities and the press.

The five Tests drew a total of 388,480 spectators, of whom 262,035 attended the two games in Melbourne. Although this was well below the 846,942 who had attended the previous summer's Ashes series, it is worth noting that the attendances at the first two Tests were adversely affected by poor weather, with only 41,196 attending the rain-ruined match at Sydney.

THE AFTERMATH OF THE TOUR

On the day after the conclusion of the fifth Test, the Australian team for the 1948 Ashes tour of England was announced. It included 16 of the 18 players who appeared against India, the only two to miss out being Dooland and Len Johnson, the latter being placed on stand-by in the event of Toshack not passing a fitness test. The 1948 Australians are still the only side to go through an entire tour of England without defeat, trouncing England 4-0 in the series, a performance which highlights the magnitude of the task India had faced "down under".

Bradman, easily the highest run-scorer with 2428 runs at 89.92, comfortably headed the tour averages, while Hassett, Morris, Brown, Barnes, Harvey and Miller all exceeded 1000 runs and Loxton narrowly failed to do so. Among the bowlers, Johnston took 102 wickets, Lindwall 86 and Johnson 85, while Miller, McCool, Toshack and Ring all took 50 wickets or more and keeper Tallon earned the highest praise for his brilliant keeping.

Australia and India did not meet again on the Test arena until 1956/57, when the 1956 touring team to England, which had been beaten 2-1 in the Ashes series, broke its trip home to play four Tests on the sub-continent. Prior to their three Tests against India, the Australians unexpectedly lost a one-off Test against Pakistan at Karachi by nine wickets, with Fazal Mahmood taking 13 wickets.

They fared rather better in India, however, winning the first Test at Madras by an innings and five runs, and the third, at Calcutta, by 94 runs. The intervening Test, at Bombay, ended in a draw with Jim Burke and Harvey making big hundreds. The tourists' best player, however, was Richie Benaud, whose 23 wickets in the three games marked his coming of age as a Test bowler. By now, most of the players who had appeared in the 1947/48 series had dropped out, with only Mankad, Adhikari and Phadkar appearing for India and Ian Johnson (who retired at the end of the series), Lindwall and Harvey for Australia.

Australia's first full length tour of the sub-continent took place in 1959/60 when the tourists played three Tests against Pakistan followed by five in India. Although the visitors won the latter series 2-1, India had much joy by gaining its first Test victory over Australia, winning the Second Test at Kanpur by 119 runs. The home side's hero was a little-known 35-year-old off-spinner, Jasu Patel, who exploited a newly laid pitch to capture 9/69 and 5/55.

India's next victory over Australia came in October 1964 when, as in 1956, the Australian team to England broke its journey home to play four Tests on the sub-continent, including three against India. Australia won the opening Test at Madras by 139 runs, but India, with eight wickets from leg-spinner Bhagwat Chandrasekhar, squared the ledger by winning the second, at Bombay, by two wickets, the remaining Test being drawn.

India's second tour of Australia did not take place until 1967/68. Although three of the four Tests were reasonably well contested, the tourists, led by the younger Nawab of Pataudi, lost the series 4-0 and failed to record a single victory on the tour. Despite this, many of their players impressed, especially off-spinner Erapalli Prasanna, left-hand all-rounder Rusi Surti and keeper-batsman Farokh Engineer.

India eventually gained its first away victory over Australia on its next tour, in 1977/78. Captained by the popular Bishan Bedi and opposed by an Australian side weakened by the World Series rift, it narrowly lost the first two Tests before convincingly winning the next two, at Melbourne and Sydney, to square the series, only to lose the deciding Test at Adelaide by 47 runs.

Since then India has won only two Tests in Australia, the first at Melbourne in 1980/81 when the home side collapsed for 83, its lowest-ever score at the MCG, after being set just 143 to win, with Kapil Dev taking 5/28. The second was on India's most recent visit to Australia, in 2003/04, when it gained a remarkable victory by four wickets at Adelaide despite the home side having amassed 556 in its first innings.

EPILOGUE

Of the 16 Indian players who toured Australia in 1947/48, only three – Mankad (44), Phadkar (31) and Hazare (30) – went on to appear in 25 or more Tests. The last of the tourists to appear in Test cricket, however, was Adhikari, who played his last Test in February 1959. By contrast, eight of the 18 Australians who opposed them, admittedly from a slightly

fuller program, went on to play in 40 or more Tests – Harvey (79), Lindwall (61), Miller (55), Bradman (52), Morris (46), Johnson (45), Hassett (43) and Johnston (40). At the time of writing, 60 years on, six of the participants in the series are still alive – five of the Australians in Brown, Morris, Hamence, Loxton and Harvey, the latter being just 19 when he made his debut in the fourth Test, but only one of the Indians, Rai Singh, now aged 85.

Lala Amarnath retained the captaincy for India's inaugural series against the West Indies in 1948/49. Although he made 294 runs at 36.75, he failed to produce his best form and took only three very expensive wickets. Soon afterwards he became involved in a bitter dispute with the Indian Board. Always ready to voice his opinions, he had been critical of the travel and accommodation arrangements for his players and had also made requests for more money.

The former board secretary, De Mello, who was now president, responded by laying 23 charges against him and Amarnath was suspended "for continuous misbehaviour and breach of discipline". He dropped out of Indian cricket over the next two years, although India didn't play official Tests in this period (in 1949/50 and 1950/51 it played two series of unofficial "Test" series against visiting Commonwealth XIs).

Following De Mello's fall from power, however, he was recalled to the Test side in 1951/52, although not the captaincy, for three Tests against England, and was a member of the team that recorded India's first-ever official Test victory when it defeated the visitors by an innings and eight runs in the fifth Test at Madras. When he was overlooked for the 1952 tour of England it appeared his Test career was over, but he was unexpectedly recalled to lead his country in its inaugural series against Pakistan in 1952/53.

Astonishingly, the man responsible for his appointment was, of all people, Vizanagram, who 16 years earlier had sent him home early from the tour of England. Although he led India to its first series win and performed usefully at times, it was apparent that, at 41, his best days were now behind him and he did not represent his country again. In 24 Tests he made 878 at 24.38 and took 45 wickets at 32.91, a somewhat modest return for such an outstanding player.

He continued to play first-class cricket for many years, appearing in the Ranji Trophy, latterly with Railways, until 1960/61, and not making his final first-class appearance until 1963/64, when he was 52 years of age. In all first-class matches he made 10,426 runs at 41.37 with 31 hundreds and took 463 wickets at 22.98. In later years he became a much-loved father figure to Indian cricket, having made an enormous contribution as a player, coach, selector, touring team manager, critic and broadcaster.

He gained much pleasure from the cricketing success of his sons, two of whom represented India. Mohinder "Jimmy" made 4378 runs and took 32 wickets in 69 Tests from 1969/70 to 1987/88 and also appeared in 85 One-Day Internationals, while Surinder, the eldest, who made 124 on Test debut in 1975/76, appeared in 10 Tests. Both toured Australia in 1977/78 and Jimmy made a further visit in 1985/86. His youngest son, Rajinder, played in the Ranji Trophy with some success in the 1970s and 1980s. Amarnath died in August 2000, a month short of his 89th birthday.

Vijay Hazare was the mainstay of India's batting for several years to come and became the first player from his country to make 2000 Test runs. His most productive series was against the West Indies in 1948/49 when he made 543 runs at 67.87, and after scoring prolifically in both unofficial "Test" series against the Commonwealth XIs during the next two seasons, he led India against England in 1951/52.

In his first Test as captain he made his highest Test score of 164 not out at Delhi, adding 211 for the third wicket with Mankad, at the time an Indian record for any wicket against England, and made another hundred in the next Test. In the final Test at Madras he led India to its first-ever Test victory but this was a prelude to the disastrous tour of England in 1952, when newcomer Fred Trueman terrorised its batsmen and captured 29 wickets at 13.31.

Hazare was the only player to consistently withstand the onslaught and scored 333 runs at 55.50 in the four Tests, but was sorely tested as a leader. Shy and retiring, he was unable to inspire confidence in his players and was replaced as captain when the team returned home. He returned to the leadership for the tour of the West Indies in early 1953, however, but after a poor series he played in no more Tests, although he appeared in

three unofficial "Tests" against a Commonwealth XI in 1953/54. In 30 Test matches he made 2192 runs, including seven centuries, at 47.65 and took 20 wickets at 61.00 with medium-pacers.

He continued to represent Baroda in the Ranji Trophy until 1960/61 and did not make his last first-class appearance until 1966/67, aged 51. In an outstanding first-class career, he scored 18,740 runs at 58.38 with 60 hundreds and, somewhat surprisingly, captured 595 wickets at 24.61. He died in 2004 at the age of 89.

Hemu Adhikari represented India intermittently over the next 11 years and was the last of the tourists to appear in a Test. He recorded his only Test hundred when he made an unbeaten 114 in the opening Test against the West Indies in 1948/49 and went on to make 254 runs at 50.80 in what turned out to be his only full Test series. He was vice-captain of the ill-fated team to England in 1952 where he failed in the Tests despite batting well in county games.

On his return he made an unbeaten 81 in the inaugural Test against Pakistan at Delhi, putting on 109 for the 10th wicket with Ghulam Ahmed, which remained India's only century stand for that wicket for many years. He played once more in that series, but apart from two Tests against Australia in 1956/57 did not represent India again until 1958/59 when he was unexpectedly called up to lead his country in the fifth Test against the West Indies at Delhi.

Intimidated by the pace of Roy Gilchrist and Wes Hall, India had been overwhelmed in the previous three Tests but, leading from the front, Adhikari played two fine innings of 63 and 40 and captured 3/63, his only Test wickets, helping India to achieve a draw and end the visitors' winning run. He made himself unavailable for the forthcoming tour of England and played in no more Tests, retiring from first-class cricket at the end of the following season. In 21 Tests he scored 872 runs at 31.14.

An army officer, which sometimes restricted his availability to play, most of his Ranji Trophy cricket was played for the Services, whom he represented from 1949/50 to 1959/60. He showed his leadership qualities by taking the unheralded Services team into successive Ranji Trophy finals in 1956/57 and 1957/58, and after retiring from the army with the rank of lieutenant-colonel, became national coach and later managed the successful 1971 team to England. In all first-class cricket he made 8683 runs at 41.74 with 17 hundreds and took 49 wickets at 37.93. He died in 2003.

Amir Elahi played no further Tests for India but later represented Pakistan in its inaugural Test series, against India in 1952/53. After playing in Baroda's winning Ranji Trophy team in 1949/50, he emigrated to Pakistan and appeared in two unofficial "Tests" against England in 1951/52. Next season, at the age of 44, he was selected in the Pakistan team that toured India.

He appeared in all five Tests, capturing 4/134 in the first Test at Delhi, to be his country's most successful bowler in its inaugural Test. He was used sparingly thereafter, taking only three more wickets, but in the fourth Test at Madras he contributed 47 to a last wicket stand of 104 with Zulfiqar Ahmed. This marked the end of his Test career, his five appearances for Pakistan having yielded seven wickets at 35.42 and 65 runs at 10.83. His final first-class match was for Bahawalpur in the 1953/54 Quaid-e-Azam Trophy final. In a very successful first-class career he took 513 wickets at 25.77 and scored 2562 runs at 16.85. He died in 1980.

Gul Mohammad did not reappear in Test cricket until 1952/53, when he represented India in the first two Tests of the inaugural series against Pakistan. He scored 24 in the first at Delhi but was dropped after being dismissed for 0 and 2 in the following match at Lucknow. He did not play for India again, his eight Tests having yielded a disappointing 166 runs at 11.06. By now he was representing Hyderabad in the Ranji Trophy, but in 1955 he emigrated to Pakistan and in October 1956 took part in Pakistan's inaugural Test against Australia.

Batting at No. 3, he scored 12 and 27 not out, hitting the winning run in the second innings to give Pakistan a famous victory by nine wickets. This was his last Test appearance, but he continued to appear in first-class matches, latterly with Lahore in the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy, until 1958/59. In all first-class matches he scored 5614 runs at 33.81 and took 107 wickets at 27.20. He died in 1992.

Jemi Irani appeared in only one first-class match after the Australian tour, representing a Karachi-Sind XI at Karachi when the 1949/50

Commonwealth team that toured the sub-continent paid a pioneering visit to Pakistan. In a brief first-class career, he dismissed 29 batsmen and made 430 runs at 17.20. He pursued a banking career in Karachi where he died in 1982, although *Wisden* did not note his death until its 1987 edition.

Gogumal Kishenchand made only one further Test appearance, in the second Test against Pakistan at Lucknow in 1952/53. He was dismissed for 0 and 20, giving him the unenviable distinction of having made a duck in each of his five Test appearances which yielded a mere 89 runs at 8.90. He was a far better batsman than these figures indicate, for he enjoyed a long and otherwise successful career in first-class cricket, latterly with Baroda, which did not end until 1969/70, when he was 44. By this stage he had been playing continuously in the Ranji Trophy for 30 seasons. In all first-class cricket he made 7187 runs at 47.91 with 15 hundreds and took 37 wickets at 31.94. He died in 1997.

Vinoo Mankad was the most capped of the Indian tourists, appearing in 44 Tests prior to his retirement in 1958/59. He scored 2109 runs at 31.47 with five hundreds and took 162 wickets at 32.82, making him India's leading wicket-taker and fourth-highest run-scorer to that time. His best series with the ball was against England in 1951/52, when he captured 34 wickets at 16.79, and it was his bowling in the fifth Test at Madras, where he captured 8/55 and 4/53 on a pitch that provided little assistance, that was chiefly responsible for India's first-ever Test victory.

He was unavailable for the 1952 tour of England, having taken up an engagement in the Lancashire League where he played for many years, but was released to play in three of the four Tests. In the second at Lord's he opened the batting in both innings, scoring 72 and 184 and bowled 97 overs, taking 5/196 in England's first innings. However, his heroic efforts could not save his side from going down by eight wickets.

Back home, he took 25 wickets at 20.56 in India's inaugural series against Pakistan, capturing 13/141 in the first Test at Delhi, which included his best Test analysis of 8/52. His best series with the bat was against New Zealand in 1955/56, when he scored 526 runs at 105.20, which included scores of 223 at Bombay and 231 at Madras, where he took part in an opening stand of 413 with Pankaj Roy, still the highest opening stand in all Tests.

In his overall first-class career, which ended in 1963/64 at the age of 46, he scored 11,593 runs at 34.60 including 26 hundreds, and took 782 wickets at 24.53. During his long career he represented no fewer than eight Ranji Trophy teams – Western India, Nawanagar, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Bengal, Saurashtra, Bombay and, latterly, Rajasthan. One of his sons, Ashok, a steady opening batsman who was only one when his father toured Australia, played 22 Tests for India between 1969/70 and 1977/78, and two other sons also appeared in first-class cricket. Vinoo died in 1978 at the relatively early age of 61.

C.S. Nayudu played in only one more Test match, the fourth against England at Kanpur in 1951/52, in which he sent down only two overs and was dismissed for 21 and 0. In his 11 Test appearances, spread over 18 years, he managed just two wickets at 179.50 apiece and 147 runs at 9.18. His lack of success at Test level is inexplicable, for he enjoyed much success with both bat and ball during a long career when he represented eight Ranji Trophy teams. His first-class career did not end until 1960/61 when he was 46, by which stage he had made 5786 runs at 23.90 and taken 647 wickets at 26.54, which included 50 five-wicket hauls. He died in 2002 at the age of 88.

Dattu Phadkar never quite fulfilled the promise he showed in Australia although he remained a useful performer with both bat and ball for many years. He played in 31 Tests, the last in 1958/59, in which he scored 1229 runs at 32.34 and took 62 wickets at 36.85. He did well against the West Indies in 1948/49, scoring 240 runs at 40.00 and capturing 14 wickets at 29.35, which included his best Test figures of 7/159 at Madras.

In 1951/52 he made 115 against England at Madras but although he achieved five-wicket hauls against both Pakistan and the West Indies in 1952/53 his career thereafter was somewhat inconsistent. He played only two Tests after 1955/56, one against Australia in 1956/57 and a final appearance against the West Indies at Calcutta in 1958/59 in which he took 0/173.

He retired from first-class cricket at the end of the following season, having latterly played for Railways in the Ranji Trophy, by which stage he had made 5377 runs at 36.08 with eight centuries and taken 465 wickets at

22.09 in all first-class matches. His highest first-class score was 217 for Bombay against Maharashtra in 1950/51. In later years he served as a Test selector but was only 59 when he died, following heart surgery, in 1985.

The only surviving member of the team, Rai Singh, whose brightly coloured turbans made him a popular figure in Australia, did not represent India again. He appeared intermittently in first-class cricket until 1960/61, latterly for Services in the Ranji Trophy, by which stage he had scored 1778 at 30.13 and taken 21 wickets at 33.33.

Commandur Rangachari appeared in India's first two Tests against the West Indies, taking 5/107 in the opening match at Delhi, but did not represent his country again, having taken 9 wickets at 54.77 in his four Tests. He represented Madras for another five seasons, and by the time he retired in 1953/54 to concentrate on his career in the police force, had captured 199 wickets at 26.11 and scored 480 runs at 7.74 in first-class matches. He died in 1993.

Khanderao Rangnekar did not represent India again after his disappointing tour of Australia. In the years that followed, however, he batted with much success in the Ranji Trophy, making his highest first-class score of 217 for Holkar against Hyderabad in 1950/51. By the time of his last first-class appearance in 1963/64 at age 46, he had scored 4602 runs at 41.83 including 15 centuries and taken 21 wickets at 40.95. He later became president of the Bombay Cricket Association and died in 1984.

Ranvirsinhji, the only tourist never to play in a Test match, played very little first-class cricket after returning home, his last appearances being for the Services in the North Zone of the Ranji Trophy in 1951/52. In a modest first-class career he scored 834 runs at 17.37 with only one half-century and took 27 wickets at 26.70. He died at the early age of 42 in 1962.

Chandu Sarwate went on to a very long career in Indian domestic cricket but appeared in only three more Tests. He batted usefully in the first Test against the West Indies at Delhi in 1948/49, making 37 and 35 not out to help India save the match, but was dismissed for a duck and bowled only three overs in his only other appearance in that series and played in only one more Test, the second against England at Bombay in 1951/52, where he made 18 and 16 and did not take a wicket.

He made a second tour of England in 1952, but did not play in a Test. Although his nine Test appearances yielded just 208 runs at 13.00 and three wickets at 124.66, he enjoyed a remarkable first-class career that lasted for 33 seasons, during which he represented seven Ranji Trophy teams. By the time of his retirement aged 48 in 1968/69, he had made 7430 runs at 32.73 with seven centuries and taken 494 wickets at 23.54 in all first-class matches. A handwriting and fingerprint expert by profession, he later served as a national selector. He died in 2003 aged 83.

Khokhan Sen went on to play 14 Tests in which he dismissed 31 batsmen, 20 caught and 11 stumped, but made only 165 runs at 11.76. He appeared in all five Tests against the West Indies in 1948/49, but his modest record with the bat meant that he was unable to secure a regular place thereafter, appearing in just two Tests against England at home in 1951/52, two in England in 1952 and two against Pakistan in 1952/53.

His best performance came in the fifth Test against England at Madras in 1951/52 when he stumped five batsmen from the bowling of Vinoo Mankad, thereby making a significant contribution to India's first-ever Test victory. He represented Bengal, latterly as captain, until he retired to pursue a business career in 1957/58, by which stage he had completed 144 dismissals (108 caught and 36 stumped) and made 2580 runs at 23.24 in first-class matches.

His highest score of 168 was made for Bengal against Bihar in 1950/51. He occasionally took off his pads to bowl and remarkably took a first-class hat trick, for Bengal against Orissa in 1954/55, but took only seven wickets in all. A fine all-round sportsman who also represented his state at hockey and soccer, he died suddenly from a heart attack in 1970 at the early age of 43, having taken part in a cricket match on the day before he died.

Ranga Sohoni played in just one more Test, the second against England at Bombay in 1951/52 in which he scored 6 and 28 and took 1/72 and 1/16, his only wickets in Test cricket. Although he made little impact in his four Test appearances, scoring just 83 runs at 16.60 and taking two wickets at 101 apiece, he was an effective all-rounder at domestic first-class level. He captained both Bombay and Maharashtra in the Ranji Trophy and by

the time of his last first-class appearance in 1963/64 he had made 4307 runs at 28.71 and captured 232 wickets at 32.96. He died in 1993.

The manager, **Pankaj Gupta**, fulfilled the same role when India toured England in 1952 and returned to Australia in 1956 to see his beloved Indian hockey team win its sixth successive gold medal at the Melbourne Olympics. He made a point of attending every Olympics and it is said that he broke down and wept when India was beaten by Pakistan in the final of the hockey tournament at the Rome Olympics in 1960, its first ever defeat in Olympic competition. In a remarkably wide-ranging career in sports administration, he served as president of the All-India Football Federation for many years and at the time of his death in 1971 was honorary secretary of the Indian Olympic Association.

The veteran baggageman and scorer, **Bill Ferguson**, finally called it a day after the Australian tour of England in 1953. However, he emerged from retirement to score for the West Indies when they toured England in 1957 but had to be hospitalised late in the tour after falling down a flight of stairs at the team's hotel. Sadly, he died a month later, soon after being released from hospital.

Despite a number of setbacks Indian cricket made steady progress over the following years, and by 1971, when they won a series in England for the first time, they were a strong combination. Led by Ajit Wadekar, the team included Sunil Gavaskar, who would become the first player to make 10,000 runs in Tests, a remarkable quartet of talented spin bowlers in Bishan Bedi, Erapalli Prasanna, Bhagwat Chandrasekhar and Sriniv Venkataraghavan and an accomplished wicketkeeper/batsman in Farokh Engineer.

In the decades since, India has produced an array of wonderful batsmen, headed by Sachin Tendulkar, Rahul Dravid, Dilip Vengsarkar, Mohammad Azharuddin and Gundappa Viswanath. There have also been a number of outstanding bowlers, who have included Anil Kumble, only the fifth bowler to take 500 Test wickets, and Kapil Dev, who fulfilled India's long need for a penetrative fast bowler by claiming 434 victims during his distinguished career.

The 2007/08 series promises to be keenly contested and should produce much attractive cricket, with the tourists anxious to wrest back the Border-Gavaskar Trophy which Australia regained in the last series between the countries, in India in 2004/05.

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WARNE/MCGRATH: A STATISTICAL RETROSPECTIVE

INTRODUCTION

They say that bowlers win Test matches. If this is true then the stellar careers of Shane Warne and Glenn McGrath must have contributed greatly to Australia's dominance of international cricket since the mid-1990s.

They appeared poles apart in approach – Warne, the showman, as fizzy as champagne; McGrath, the tradesman, like chilled, quiet water. They formed, however, a most successful bowling partnership within a richly talented group of players. They were both wicket-takers yet invariably bowled economically. This was particularly so with Warne who combined prodigious spin and variation with the economy of a quality finger spinner.

Warne and McGrath were supported by a number of fine bowlers. The careers of Gillespie (259 wickets), Lee (231) and MacGill (198) began during the Warne/McGrath era while others such as McDermott (291) and Hughes (212) were in the twilight of their bowling days when the Warne/McGrath partnership was developing.

I have in this work set out to show, using statistics, the value of the Warne/McGrath combination to the Australian team in Test cricket. I have also looked at how Australia performed during the times of some other great bowling combinations from the post-Second World War era and considered two overseas examples. Table 1 summarises the careers of the bowlers who are referred to in the article.

THE WARNE/MCGRATH PERIOD

Tables 2-5 contain a statistical summary of the period extending from Glenn McGrath's first Test in 1993 up to the final Test played by both in 2007. During that period Australia played 157 Tests against all competing countries (104 with Warne/McGrath both playing and 53 without either one or both of them).

When Warne/McGrath played together Australia won 10% more of the matches it played and lost 7% less compared to when either one or both was absent. In the four years leading up to the Warne/McGrath period the contrast is even greater – 20% fewer wins and double the number of drawn games. Other factors, however, such as changes in team membership and captaincy and a more positive approach overall may also have contributed to these marked differences.

Table 3 contains information on the individual performances of the two great bowlers when playing together compared to playing apart. When playing together they both had superior bowling averages, strike rates and wickets/match ratios.

Table 5 further illustrates their value to the champion teams in which they played. In the 104 Tests they played together for Australia (despite the efforts of a number of other quality bowlers around them) they took more than 50% of the wickets taken by the team.

In Tests they took 1001 wickets between them. Amazingly this figure reappears in the Warne personal record – he took 1001 wickets in Tests and ODIs.

OTHER GREAT AUSTRALIAN BOWLING PARTNERSHIPS

Tables 6-8 summarise Australia's performance during the other great bowling partnerships of Dennis Lillee/Jeff Thomson, Richie Benaud/Alan Davidson and Ray Lindwall/Keith Miller and where possible immediately before or after them.

THE LILLEE/THOMSON PERIOD

Lillee and Thomson played together regularly for only three series in the mid-1970s – the remainder of their partnership consisting of Tests played intermittently over a further 10 years. Notwithstanding, Australia's performance during that short period was superior to the years leading up to it (12% more wins and 7% more losses – see Table 6).

Comparison with Warne/McGrath, however, is difficult as Lillee and Thomson played only 14 Tests together at the peak of their partnership. A review of Australia's performance following this period would be meaningless as the team was severely disrupted by the breakaway World Series Cricket.

THE BENAUD/DAVIDSON PERIOD

I consider the Benaud/Davidson partnership to have commenced after Miller played his last Test in October 1956 (see notes to Table 7). They became a key focus of the Australian attack during the 1957/58 South African tour. They both also made valuable batting contributions in the lower middle order.

During their period Australia won 50% of the 36 Tests it played. In the years immediately following their retirements Australia won 20% fewer matches and lost and drew about 10% more. The loss of these two great bowlers affected the depth of quality in the attack but an additional factor may have been the absence of Benaud's more imaginative and aggressive captaincy. During these years Australia's mainstay in attack was Graham McKenzie (246 wickets).

THE LINDWALL/MILLER PERIOD

Lindwall and Miller debuted together in early 1946 and partnered each other for about 10 years, rising to become mainstays of the attack. Bill Johnston (160 wickets) and Ian Johnson (109) were also fine contributors with the ball in this period.

Their performance is even more meritorious taking into account that Miller, a genuine all-rounder, normally batted in the upper order. The other bowlers considered so far in this article batted in either the middle or lower order (notwithstanding that Benaud and Davidson also had all-rounder status and some others had batting capabilities).

During the Lindwall/Miller period Australia won over 50% of the 57 matches it played and lost less than 20% (see Table 8). No comparison has been made with Australia's performance post Lindwall/Miller as the end of their partnership coincided with increased prominence of Benaud and Davidson.

THE OVERSEAS CONNECTION – SIR RICHARD HADLEE AND MUTTIAH MURALITHARAN

There have been many examples of great pairings of bowlers. The great West Indian teams of the 1980s and early 1990s had up to four quality fast bowlers and the Indians of decades before fielded similar numbers of spinners. Hadlee, however, was a champion who spearheaded the attack supported by a series of steady performers including Lance Cairns (130 wickets) and Chatfield (123).

At the time Hadlee began his Test career New Zealand had won 8% of matches played. During the Hadlee period New Zealand won 22% and at one stage was not beaten in a series at home for 12 years. In the five-year period immediately after Hadlee retired, New Zealand won 10% fewer matches and lost 15% more (see Table 9). Other team membership changes may have contributed but the absence of Hadlee with both ball and bat would have been a significant factor.

Muttiah Muralitharan began his Test career some 10 years after Sri Lanka played its first Test and, as this is written, is poised to become the greatest wicket-taker in Test history. There is a marked contrast between Sri Lanka's performance prior to Muralitharan and with him (winning 5% of matches compared to 40% – see Table 10). Since Muralitharan began his Test career some 15 years ago, Sri Lanka has played 20 Tests without him at a success rate 40% less than that when he plays (see Table 10). Sri Lanka's proportion of drawn games is in excess of 40% when Muralitharan does not play but reduces to less than 30% when he plays. Also its losses increase considerably when he does not play.

While Muralitharan has been an outstanding Test cricketer and a significant contributor to the success that Sri Lanka has had, other factors may have contributed to the contrast in Sri Lanka's performance with and without him. The initial period pre-Muralitharan was a "settling in time" for Sri Lanka at international level and they did not play frequently. During Muralitharan's 15-year career the Sri Lankan team has moved to a full program of games, grown in stature and significant contributions have been made by a number of fine batsmen and Chaminda Vaas (319 wickets) with the ball.

SUMMARY

I have not attempted to compare the Warne/McGrath partnership with others. Comparison is difficult because over relatively long periods of time factors such as team leadership, on-field strategy and quality of teammates and opposition players can affect performance. Changes in playing conditions and rules can also be a factor. What I think we can say, however, is that these two great bowlers played together regularly for a long period in an era when the Test program is a busy one and more countries participate. Series after series they imposed themselves on opponents during a time when Australia played a dominant role in Test cricket.

In this work I have examined aspects of the Warne/McGrath partnership and the bowling careers of others from post-war Australian cricket and two outstanding bowlers from overseas. Our great game provides infinite scope for the student. There is adequate material for follow-up work to address the deeds of past champions with the ball and their teams including the Indian spinners of the '60s and '70s, the West Indian pace men of the '80s and early '90s and the best from England to name but a few.

Ross Perry

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TABLE 1

Bowlers referred to in this article: Test career bowling records

| | Career | Tests | Balls | Runs | Wkts | Ave | 5W/I | 10W/M | W/M | S/R | E/R |
|------------------|------------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|------|
| Australia | | | | | | | | | | | |
| S Warne | 1/91-1/07 | 145 | 40705 | 17995 | 708 | 25.41 | 37 | 10 | 4.88 | 57.49 | 2.65 |
| G McGrath | 12/93-1/07 | 124 | 29248 | 12186 | 563 | 21.64 | 29 | 3 | 4.54 | 51.95 | 2.50 |
| D Lillee | 1/70-1/84 | 70 | 18467 | 8493 | 355 | 23.92 | 23 | 7 | 5.07 | 52.02 | 2.76 |
| J Thomson | 12/72-8/85 | 51 | 10535 | 5601 | 200 | 28.00 | 8 | 0 | 3.92 | 52.67 | 3.19 |
| R Benaud | 1/52-2/64 | 63 | 19108 | 6704 | 248 | 27.03 | 16 | 1 | 3.94 | 77.05 | 2.11 |
| A Davidson | 6/53-2/63 | 44 | 11587 | 3819 | 186 | 20.53 | 14 | 2 | 4.22 | 62.30 | 1.98 |
| R Lindwall | 3/46-1/60 | 61 | 13650 | 5251 | 228 | 23.03 | 12 | - | 3.74 | 59.87 | 2.31 |
| K Miller | 3/46-10/56 | 55 | 10461 | 3906 | 170 | 22.97 | 7 | 1 | 3.09 | 61.54 | 2.24 |
| Other | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sir R Hadlee | 2/73-7/90 | 86 | 21918 | 9611 | 431 | 22.29 | 36 | 9 | 5.01 | 50.85 | 2.63 |
| M Muralitharan | 9/92- | 112 | 37058 | 14774 | 695 | 21.26 | 60 | 20 | 6.21 | 53.32 | 2.39 |

Notes:

1. Strike Rate (S/R) is the frequency of taking wickets – balls/wicket taken.
2. Economy Rate (E/R) is the runs conceded per over bowled based on 6 ball overs.

TABLE 2

Shane Warne/Glenn McGrath: Test bowling records when playing together

| | Tests | Balls | Runs | Wkts | Ave | 5W/I | 10W/M | W/M | Str Rte | Eco Rte |
|---------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|------|---------|---------|
| Warne | 104 | 28658 | 12763 | 513 | 24.88 | 25 | 7 | 4.93 | 55.86 | 2.67 |
| McGrath | 104 | 24630 | 10435 | 488 | 21.38 | 25 | 2 | 4.69 | 50.47 | 2.54 |

Notes:

Warne and McGrath played together from November 1993 to 5 January 2007 (referred to as the Warne/McGrath period). At various times during this period either one or both of them was absent from the team due to injury or other reasons.

TABLE 3

Shane Warne/Glenn McGrath: Test bowling records - playing together compared to career

| | Tests % | Balls % | Runs % | Wkts % | Ave % | 5W/I % | 10W/M % | W/M % | Str Rte % | Eco Rte % |
|---------|------------------|---------|--------|--------|--------------|--------|---------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| Warne | 104/145 71.72 | 70.40 | 70.93 | 72.46 | 97.91 (2) | 67.57 | 70.00 | 101.02 (3) | 97.16 (2) | 100.75 (3) |
| McGrath | 104/124 83.87 | 84.21 | 85.63 | 86.68 | 98.80 (2) | 86.21 | 66.67 | 103.30 (3) | 97.15 (2) | 101.60 (3) |

Notes:

1. Table 3 is a comparison of the figures shown in Tables 1 and 2.
2. Both had lower (superior) bowling averages and strike rates when they played together than for their careers.
3. Both had higher (superior) wickets/match ratios and higher (inferior) economy rates when they played together than that for their careers.

TABLE 4**Team performance of Australia in Tests: pre and during Warne/McGrath period**

| | P | W | L | D | % | | |
|--|-----|----|----|----|------|------|------|
| | | | | | W/P | L/P | D/P |
| Pre Warne/McGrath period (1) | 44 | 21 | 7 | 16 | 47.7 | 15.9 | 36.4 |
| During Warne/McGrath period – matches where they both played together (2) | 104 | 71 | 16 | 17 | 68.3 | 15.4 | 16.3 |
| During Warne/McGrath period – matches where either one or both were absent (2) | 53 | 31 | 12 | 10 | 58.5 | 22.6 | 18.9 |

Notes:

1. Period chosen was from start of Australian tour of England 1989 up to end of Australian tour of England 1993.
2. Warne/McGrath period – see notes on Table 2 above.

TABLE 5**Australia's performance in the field in Tests in which Warne/McGrath played together**

| Tests | Total Wickets taken | Wickets taken by Warne/McGrath | | | Wkts taken by Others | Percentage | |
|-------|---------------------|--------------------------------|---------|-------|----------------------|------------|--------|
| | | Warne | McGrath | Total | | W/McG | Others |
| 104 | 1857 | 513 | 488 | 1001 | 856 | 53.9 | 46.1 |

Notes:

Total wickets taken and wickets taken by others include run outs.

TABLE 6**Team performance of Australia in Tests: pre and during Lillee/Thomson period**

| | P | W | L | D | % | | |
|----------------------------------|----|----|---|---|------|------|------|
| | | | | | W/P | L/P | D/P |
| Pre Lillee/Thomson period (1) | 20 | 10 | 4 | 6 | 50.0 | 20.0 | 30.0 |
| During Lillee Thomson period (2) | 16 | 10 | 2 | 4 | 62.5 | 12.5 | 25.0 |

Notes:

1. Period chosen was from the start of I Chappell's captaincy of Australia in February 1971 to end of New Zealand/Australia series in March 1974.
2. Period chosen included the following series: 1974/75 Australia/England, 1975 England/Australia and 1975/76 Australia/West Indies. During this period Australia played 16 Tests and Lillee/Thomson played 14 together. Outside this period they played another 10 Tests together over about 10 years.

TABLE 7**Team performance of Australia in Tests during and following Benaud/Davidson period**

| | P | W | L | T | D | % | | | |
|-----------------------------------|----|----|---|---|----|------|------|-----|------|
| | | | | | | W/P | L/P | T/P | D/P |
| During Benaud/Davidson period (1) | 36 | 18 | 4 | 1 | 13 | 50.0 | 11.1 | 2.8 | 36.1 |
| Post Benaud/Davidson period (2) | 34 | 10 | 8 | 0 | 16 | 29.4 | 23.5 | 0 | 47.1 |

Notes:

1. The period chosen was from the start of the India/Australia series in October 1956 (after K Miller's last Test) to the end of the Australia/England series in February 1963. During this period Benaud/Davidson played 32 Tests together.
2. The period chosen was from December 1963 (after Davidson's last Test) to the end of the Australia/India series in January 1968. During this period Australia played seven series (home and away).

TABLE 8**Team performance of Australia in Tests during Lindwall/Miller period**

| P | W | L | D | % | | |
|----|----|----|----|------|------|------|
| | | | | W/P | L/P | D/P |
| 57 | 31 | 11 | 15 | 54.4 | 19.3 | 26.3 |

Notes:

The period chosen began with the first Test played by both of them in March 1946 against New Zealand and ended when Miller played his last Test in October 1956 against Pakistan. During the period Lindwall/Miller played 51 Tests together.

TABLE 9**Team performance of New Zealand in Tests: pre, during and following Hadlee period**

| | P | W | L | D | % | | |
|--------------------------|-----|----|----|----|------|------|------|
| | | | | | W/P | L/P | D/P |
| Pre Hadlee period (1) | 26 | 4 | 8 | 14 | 15.4 | 30.8 | 53.8 |
| During Hadlee period (2) | 100 | 22 | 34 | 44 | 22.0 | 34.0 | 44.0 |
| Post Hadlee period (3) | 33 | 4 | 17 | 12 | 12.1 | 51.5 | 36.4 |

Notes:

1. Period chosen was between February 1966 and February 1973, during which New Zealand played eight series (home and away).
2. Hadlee's Test career began in 1973 and ended in 1990 – the Hadlee period. During this period New Zealand played 100 Tests. Hadlee played in 86.
3. Period chosen was between July 1990 and July 1995 during which New Zealand played 11 series (home and away).

TABLE 10**Team performance of Sri Lanka in Tests: pre and during Muralitharan period**

| | P | W | L | D | % | | |
|---|-----|----|----|----|------|------|------|
| | | | | | W/P | L/P | D/P |
| Pre Muralitharan period (1) | 38 | 2 | 20 | 16 | 5.3 | 52.6 | 42.1 |
| During Muralitharan period – matches where he has played (2) | 112 | 45 | 35 | 32 | 40.2 | 31.3 | 28.5 |
| During Muralitharan period – matches where he has been absent (3) | 20 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 15.0 | 40.0 | 45.0 |

Notes:

1. Sri Lanka played its first Test in February 1982 against England in Colombo.
2. Muttiah Muralitharan played his first Test in September 1992 against Australia in Colombo.
3. Absence has been due to injury or other reasons.
4. The Table covers all Test matches played by Sri Lanka up to 15 July 2007.

AUSTRALIA AT THE CRICKET WORLD CUP – A BRIEF STATISTICAL HISTORY

International one-day cricket began at our beloved MCG in 1971 amid the watery ruins of an Ashes Test match. The one-day romp resulted in a win for Australia over England by five wickets. Some 18 months later the first one-day international was played in England and during the next few years the shorter version of the game was introduced around the cricket world.

The World Cup of one-day cricket was first played in 1975 in England with eight nations competing. The event has now been held nine times in various countries. At the most recent World Cup 16 nations vied for the trophy. In the early years the West Indies was the dominant competitor – their performance in the new short game mirroring their feats in the Test arena. As the West Indies went into decline after the mid 1990s Australian teams became the benchmark for world cricket. Like the great men from the Caribbean before them, the Australians have been dominant in both forms of the game.

In the lead up to the 2007 World Cup Australia had lost six of its last seven one-day internationals. Three of those games were lost in New Zealand but some senior players were rested. As a result there was some conjecture before the start of the World Cup that Australia may have "come back to the field". It is now history that Australia galloped away with the 2007 World Cup. Such was its authority that it won every game it played and continued its unbeaten run in the World Cup since 1999.

From Tables 1 and 2 below it can be seen that Australian teams have been the most successful in World Cup competition with twice as many final appearances as their nearest competitors. They have also won twice as many finals as the next best – the West Indies. England has reached the final three times but has yet to win the major prize while two of the established powers of international cricket – South Africa and New Zealand – have yet to play in a final. Australia has played more World Cup matches than any other country and has won 72.9% of them – 10 per cent more than its nearest rival.

Some highlights of Australia's performances in recent World Cups are:

- A record-breaking three successive World Cup wins in 1999, 2003 and 2007.
- A run of 29 unbeaten matches going back to the 1999 World Cup in England – 28 wins and a tie.
- Glenn McGrath took 26 wickets in 2007 which is a record for an individual World Cup.
- McGrath is the highest wicket-taker (71) in the history of the competition.
- Adam Gilchrist's 149 in the 2007 final is the fifth and highest century scored in finals.
- Gilchrist also became the first wicketkeeper to reach 50 dismissals in World Cup matches.

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Ross Perry

TABLE 1

Summary of final placings at each World Cup

| Year | Location | No of Teams | Final Placings | |
|------|---|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| | | | First | Second |
| 1975 | England | 8 | West Indies | Australia |
| 1979 | England | 8 | West Indies | England |
| 1983 | England, Wales | 8 | India | West Indies |
| 1987 | India and Pakistan | 8 | Australia | England |
| 1992 | Australia and New Zealand | 9 | Pakistan | England |
| 1996 | India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka | 12 | Sri Lanka | Australia |
| 1999 | England, Netherlands, Wales, Ireland and Scotland | 12 | Australia | Pakistan |
| 2003 | South Africa, Kenya and Zimbabwe | 14 | Australia | India |
| 2007 | West Indies | 16 | Australia | Sri Lanka |

TABLE 2

Participants in World Cups and their records

| Country | First Played | Played | Won | Lost | Tied | NR | W/P % | Placing | |
|--------------|-------------------|--------|-----|------|------|----|-------|---------|--------|
| | | | | | | | | First | Second |
| Australia | England 1975 | 70 | 51 | 18 | 1 | - | 72.9 | 4 | 2 |
| Bangladesh | England 1999 | 20 | 5 | 14 | - | 1 | 25.0 | - | - |
| Bermuda | West Indies 2007 | 3 | - | 3 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Canada | England 1979 | 12 | 1 | 11 | - | - | 8.3 | - | - |
| East Africa | England 1975 | 3 | - | 3 | - | - | - | - | - |
| England | England 1975 | 60 | 36 | 23 | - | 1 | 60.0 | - | 3 |
| India | England 1975 | 58 | 32 | 25 | - | 1 | 55.2 | 1 | 1 |
| Ireland | West Indies 2007 | 9 | 2 | 6 | 1 | - | 22.2 | - | - |
| Kenya | India 1996 | 23 | 7 | 16 | - | - | 30.4 | - | - |
| Namibia | South Africa 2003 | 6 | - | 6 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Netherlands | India 1996 | 14 | 2 | 12 | - | - | 14.3 | - | - |
| New Zealand | England 1975 | 63 | 35 | 27 | - | 1 | 55.6 | - | - |
| Pakistan | England 1975 | 56 | 30 | 24 | - | 2 | 53.6 | 1 | 1 |
| Scotland | England 1999 | 8 | - | 8 | - | - | - | - | - |
| South Africa | Australia 1992 | 40 | 25 | 13 | 2 | - | 62.5 | - | - |
| Sri Lanka | England 1975 | 60 | 27 | 30 | 1 | 2 | 45.0 | 1 | 1 |
| UAE | Pakistan 1996 | 5 | 1 | 4 | - | - | 20.0 | - | - |
| West Indies | England 1975 | 59 | 35 | 22 | - | 2 | 59.3 | 2 | 1 |
| Zimbabwe | England 1983 | 45 | 9 | 33 | 1 | 2 | 20.0 | - | - |

TABLE 3

Highest individual scores by Australians in World Cup matches

| | | | | |
|------|-------------|-------------|----------------|------|
| 158 | M Hayden | West Indies | Antigua | 2007 |
| 149 | A Gilchrist | Sri Lanka | Barbados | 2007 |
| 143* | A Symonds | Pakistan | Johannesburg | 2003 |
| 140* | R Ponting | India | Johannesburg | 2003 |
| 130 | M Waugh | Kenya | Vishakhapatnam | 1996 |
| 126 | M Waugh | India | Bombay | 1996 |
| 126* | G Marsh | New Zealand | Chandigarh | 1987 |
| 123 | B Hodge | Netherlands | St Kitts | 2007 |

* Denotes not out

TABLE 4

Best bowling by Australians in World Cup matches

| | | | | |
|------|-------------|-------------|----------------|------|
| 7/15 | G McGrath | Namibia | Potchefstroom | 2003 |
| 7/20 | A Bichel | England | Port Elizabeth | 2003 |
| 6/14 | G Gilmour | England | Leeds | 1975 |
| 6/39 | K MacLeay | India | Nottingham | 1983 |
| 5/14 | G McGrath | West Indies | Manchester | 1999 |
| 5/34 | D Lillee | Pakistan | Leeds | 1975 |
| 5/36 | D Fleming | India | Bombay | 1996 |
| 5/44 | C McDermott | Pakistan | Lahore | 1987 |

THE DAMBUSTERS AND LEG SPIN



On the night of May 16, 1943, nineteen modified Lancaster bombers of 617 Squadron left their base at Scampton in Lincolnshire to attack dams in Germany's Ruhr Valley. The raid has become legendary. *Operation Chastise* possessed originality, surprise, remarkable heroism, a very dramatic outcome – and the weapon that erroneously became known as the bouncing “bomb”.

More than half a century ago, Paul Brickhill's best-seller *The Dam Busters* and the film of the same name, starring Richard Todd, heightened the mystique of *Chastise*. In the entire history of the Royal Air Force, no single operation has become as well known, and no squadron has acquired quite the same aura as 617.

The film in particular popularised the view that the ideas behind the dams raid and the specially designed weapon both sprang from the innovative mind of aviation engineer Barnes Wallis. However, the RAF was considering an attack on the Ruhr dams as early as July 1938, and Wallis did not produce his report, “A note on the method of attacking the Axis Powers”, until March 1941.

Wallis had concluded that, by destroying the dams that supplied water and electricity to the Ruhr, German war production could be seriously disrupted. Since dam walls present a very small target from above, the use of conventional bombs was out of the question. Protective nets prevented the use of torpedoes, which would have been ineffective in any case. Wallis therefore suggested setting off a large charge at the base of a dam, where the water's pressure would intensify the impact. Theoretically, it was a brilliant notion, but the problem of placing the charge in exactly the right position was complicated, to say the least.



Wallis recalled that, in Nelson's time, naval gunners had fired cannon balls at a depressed muzzle angle to make the round projectiles bounce off the water. The tactic increased range and accuracy, leading the film's script writers to mention that Lord Nelson once skittled a French warship with a “yorker”. For the dams, Wallis envisaged a bouncing mine that would skim across the water's surface and over the torpedo nets. Coming into contact with the dam, the weapon would sink, detonating when it reached the intended point of the explosion.

Wallis received permission to develop the mine, which was code-named *Upkeep*. Initial trials encountered two “critical and obdurate obstacles”. Apart from insufficient bounce when it was dropped, the mine (which was technically what the “bomb” was) proved difficult to control. For many years after the war, details of *Upkeep* were hidden behind the tightest security. Thus, neither the film nor the book attempted to explain how a heavy object dropped from an aircraft could perform with the high level of precision that Wallis required. The mine's innermost secret was the ingenious method by which it “was made to bounce accurately across a long stretch of water, over the dam's defences, and strike its target.” For this, the credit very much belongs, not to Barnes Wallis, but to George Edwards, whose solution “was honed on the cricket fields of England.” **Gardner, Robert: “The Spin Doctor”, *The Aeroplane*, September 2006, p.86.** As former prime minister John Major wrote in his foreword to the recently published biography *From Bouncing Bombs to Concorde*, “the dams of the Ruhr were destroyed by leg spin.” **Owen, Kenneth: *Book Review, The Aerospace Professional*, January 2007, p.24.**

George Robert Freeman Edwards had joined Vickers (Aviation) at Weybridge in 1935 as a design draftsman. “GRE”, as he was generally known, would spend his life working on several major British aviation projects, but the zenith of his career came with his leadership in the unique technological triumph that was the Concorde. **Owen, Kenneth: *Book Review, The Aerospace Professional*, January 2007, p.24.**



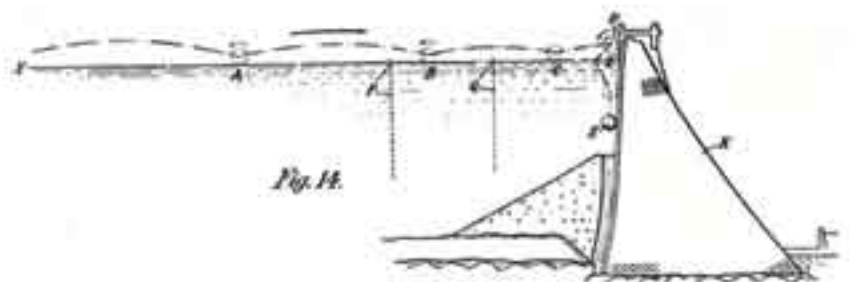
Edwards was also a keen cricketer, rising to become president of Surrey County Cricket Club in 1979.

Through his earlier involvement with the Woking club, he enjoyed the lifelong friendship of Alec and Eric Bedser. In 1935, GRE began playing with Guildford, where he earned a reputation as “a good club leg-spin bowler”. His greatest bowling triumph came against a British Empire Eleven at Guildford's Woodbridge Road ground in August 1943 when, with Alec Bedser at the other end, he bowled Learie Constantine for 11.

By then, Edwards had acquired a good knowledge of the properties of a spinning, bouncing cricket ball. According to his biographer Robert Gardner, GRE believed that “the application of back-spin by hand movement enabled the ball to skid and bounce higher than normal on contact with the surface in front of the wicket.” This was because a ball propelled in this manner “carries a bit of air around with it, which will lubricate the bottom of it.” Edwards surmised that, if Wallis's bomb could be “rotated backwards in the same manner in the aeroplane before release, it should retain the same desired bouncing properties as the cricket ball.” **Gardner, Robert: “The Spin Doctor”, *The Aeroplane*, September 2006, p.86.** (At the Memorial Service held in Guildford Cathedral in June 2003 for Sir George Edwards OM, the chairman of BAE Systems, Sir Richard Evans, told mourners about a business meeting at the Savoy which ended, “after rather more than a couple of ‘tomato juices’, and in the early hours of the morning,” with GRE using the hotel corridor to demonstrate “the art and science of spin bowling with his famous ‘flipper delivery’ to the baseball addicted Canadians”.)

To test his theory and apply it to *Upkeep*, Edwards and his staff produced in February 1943 a catapult that fired a large billiard-type ball. Barnes Wallis was sceptical: “There is no scientific reason that what you say will happen, will happen, but I will try it, but I don't expect to be bound by it.” GRE began the trial by firing a ball with no spin at all. This “waddled along for four or five bounces, but did nothing spectacular”. Top spin made the second ball travel faster, but “nothing else was achieved”. It was then time to try back spin:

*I can't remember exactly what Wallis said, but it was his usual performance about if I wished to waste my time he couldn't stop me. I then said 'Fire!' It was like a Vickers firing range. Out came the ... ball and hit the water and bounced about 15 times! **Gardner, Robert: “The Spin Doctor”, *The Aeroplane*, September 2006, pp.87-88.***





For a similar result with the actual mine, it was necessary to have the cylindrical weapon spinning anti-clockwise, at 500 revolutions per minute, for ten minutes before it was released from the aircraft. Weighing 9250 pounds in all, the *Upkeep* contained 6600 pounds of Torpex, a compound that was one of the most powerful military explosives then available. To perform as required, the mine had to be dropped from exactly 60 feet, at 220 miles per hour, at an appropriate set distance from each of the three prime targets.



The attacks by 617 Squadron in the early hours of May 17, 1943, breached the Moehne and Eder dams but the Sorpe and the Ennerpe did not suffer any significant damage. About 330 million tons of water poured into the western Ruhr, with the flooding stretching some 50 miles from the source. Eight aircraft were lost in the raid. Of the 133 aircrew involved, three became prisoners of war, and 53 were killed. Another 1294 people died in the deluge, including 749 Ukrainian prisoners of war in a camp near the Eder.

I once encountered a very old German lady at the RAAF Museum. She had lived near the dams, and as she looked at the display relating to the raid, it was clear that, even after sixty years, her memories were still very distressing. As she turned to leave, she muttered, with enormous sorrow and anger, "All those people dead - for water!"

*May they rest in peace.
Lest We Forget.*



Alf Batchelder

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BOOK REVIEWS



Michael Roberts.
**Essaying Cricket:
Sri Lanka and Beyond.**
VIJITHA YAPA Publishers,
Colombo 5, Sri Lanka, 2006.
ISBN 9789551266257

The literature on Sir Lankan cricket is rather sparse. Two histories have obtained currency outside the country itself. One, written in 1924, is by S.P. Foenander (with an introduction by Mr P.F. Warner) and deals with the period from 1863 to 1923. A more recent comprehensive work, *Janashakthi*

Book of Sri Lanka Cricket (1832-1996), published by an insurance company in 1999, was written by S.S. Perera. Thorough though this is, it contains some vital errors, and is stronger on detail than on comment.

This new book, by Michael Roberts, a native Sri Lankan but long-time resident of Adelaide where he taught Anthropology at the University of Adelaide, can unequivocally be heralded as the most substantial, literate and stimulating analysis of Sri Lankan cricket ever published.

Its format is distinctive. Of coffee-table size, it is spiced with more than 150 photographs and imprints of paintings, together with facsimiles of scoresheets, dinner menus and even stamps, and a miscellany of other memorabilia. The captions to these are themselves revelatory of the impact that cricket has had on this small island. Some of the reprints are of considerable beauty.

In particular the paintings and sketches of a remarkable Sri Lankan supporter, Joe Hoad, an ebullient West Indian who spends much time in Australia, are noteworthy. His pastel painting, the "The Winning Shot" of Arjuna Ranatunga completing Sri Lanka's winning run in the World Cup Final at Lahore in 1996, is masterly. The contrasting photographs of the Galle Cricket Ground before (No.157) and after (No.152) the 2004 Tsunami tell a poignant tale. Galle is Roberts' home town. And there is a wonderful, naturalistic photograph of Steve Waugh's broken nose, after he was floored by Jason Gillespie at Kandy in 1999.

The substance of this remarkable book consists of reproductions of articles published, for the most part, either in journals or on the internet. The first 178 pages contain writings of Michael Roberts himself. The remainder are guest essays from a wide variety of writers. Some are Sri Lankans themselves. Others are internationals. Roberts' writings reveal two aspects of his character.

First, there is the dispassionate historian/anthropologist. Secondly, there is the passionate patriot. But even those essays that purport to deal with facts (for example, the sections entitled "Sri Lanka and its Cricket Politics" and "Sri Lanka at Cricket") express the bias of an informed, but uncompromising, critic. Some of Roberts' prejudices will arouse surprise – for instance, an apparent animus against Romesh Kaluwitharana. And his informative insights into the shenanigans of the B.C.C.S.L. (pp.120, 123) and the caprices of selectors, amount to reasoned polemics.

This forthrightness leads to stimulating reading. Much of it is directed at Sri Lankans themselves. Arjuna's captaincy comes into strong question. Little love is bestowed on Australian combatism. Roberts constantly emphasises the cultural inequity of sledging, often directed at South Asians whose first language is not English, and who have been educated to revere politeness and respect their elders.

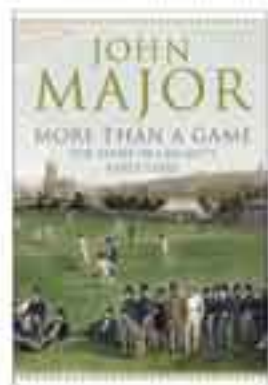
The Guest Essays are of varied quality and on varied topics. But Roberts has gathered together a galaxy of distinguished authorities. Naturally, a considerable number deal with the throwing allegations against Muttiah Muralitharan. For the most part, the tenor of these is in support of this great, and humble, bowler. Particularly perceptive essays in this mode are those of Bernard Whimpress, Sambit Bal and Glucka Wijesinghe.

But there are other, non-adversarial writings that excite attraction by their charm. Neville Jayaweera's account of Don Bradman's visit to Ceylon and Lucien de Zoysa's of the 1936 tour of Australia by the boys of Royal College (one of the two private schools that used to dominate Sri Lankan Cricket before it became democratised) are gems.

Most of these chosen essays take Sri Lankan cricket as their theme. But there are exceptions. Mike Marqusee trenchantly describes the furore caused by David Frith and Robert Henderson in their calumny against foreign-born cricketers selected to play for England. This led to defamation actions successfully brought by Devon Malcolm and Phil de Freitas. Marqusee's piece is a telling diatribe against racism.

Michael Roberts has presented a work of substantial scholarship, pungent writing and handsome production. Not merely does it illuminate the remarkable history and background of a troubled but beautiful, cricket-mad country. It also brings to the notice of a new audience vignettes of some talented players of the past. It also draws attention to topical issues that should concern serious cricket-lovers of whatever country or persuasion.

J. Neville Turner



Sir John Major.
**More Than a Game: The Story
of Cricket's Early Years.**
HarperPress 2007.
ISBN-13: 978-0007183647

Several political figures have been sports enthusiasts. Woodrow Wilson and Richard Nixon were passionate about baseball. Sir Robert Menzies was deeply devoted to cricket and the Carlton Football Club. Sir John Major began his love affair with cricket in the fifties, when he watched Surrey win seven consecutive county championships.

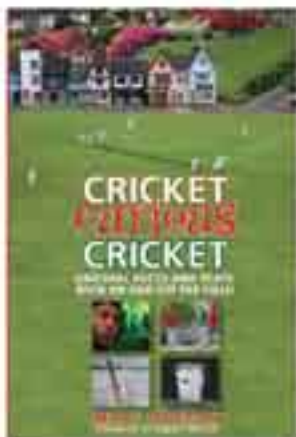
In later years, his political eminence brought contact with cricket's elite. The former Surrey president has repeated several times the story of his telephone call from the committee room to wish Sir Donald Bradman a happy birthday: "So what's the weather like in sunny Australia?" I asked. "Dunno," the Don said, "It's 4 o'clock in the morning down here!"

Sir John's references to contemporary political events and social mores ensure that his account of cricket's early years has more substance than one usually finds in a cricket book. Major is at his best when discussing the forces and characters that shaped cricket before 1800.

His portrait of the third Duke of Dorset is certainly interesting. The duke was English ambassador to France and allegedly a lover of Marie Antoinette, to whom he presented a cricket bat that, intriguingly, she "kept in her closet". Major lays to rest the old story that the first overseas tour, to France in 1789, was abandoned when news of the French Revolution reached Dorset and the English players at Dover.

However, *More Than a Game* occasionally requires a little caution. For example, in discussing the Melbourne Cricket Club's nineteenth century activities, Sir John unfortunately repeats points that have been refuted by recent research. Nevertheless, this is a handsome, well-produced volume that is certainly worth reading. One can only wonder how Richard Nixon might have handled a similar treatise on baseball.

Alf Batchelder

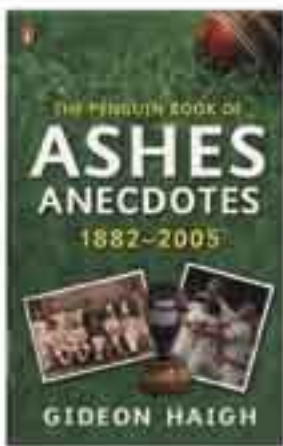


Marc Dawson
Cricket Curious Cricket.
ABC Books for the Australian
Broadcasting Corporation, Sydney
2007. ISBN 9780733320934

For the cricket enthusiast the options are endless for the expression of that enthusiasm. One may become immersed in the history of the game, team choice, player technique, match tactics, statistics and trivia to name but a few. This book deals, principally in anecdotal fashion, with (in the author's words) "unusual facts and feats both on and off the field".

For those who regularly attend quiz and trivia nights (as I do) and are fascinated by the unusual in cricket, Dawson's work would be a welcome addition to their libraries. I would, however, not recommend lending it to those twisted souls who formulate trivia questions!

The book is well set out with a series of chapters dealing with various aspects of the game. Each anecdote or statistical fact is well-marked with a red bullet point. Elements of the game covered include individual batting and bowling, team feats, famous families, politics, "spicy" happenings, controversies, players who left the game to achieve notoriety elsewhere and the role of the media. Many of the anecdotes are intriguing; some are quite bizarre and lend credence to the old saying that truth is stranger than fiction. However, a small number of errors were noted in the text.



Gideon Haigh,
**The Penguin Book of Ashes
Anecdotes 1982-2005,**
Penguin Books Ltd., London, 2006,
pp. xv. + 375.

This is the second anthology I have reviewed that was compiled by the prolific Australian writer Gideon Haigh. The first was a collection of sporting anecdotes of a general nature. This one, sparked no doubt by the incredible interest in the 2005/2006 Ashes series in Australia, is limited to cricket stories having connection with the great series that began in 1877.

The observations that I made about the previous book remain apt. It should be emphasised that the compilation of a worthy anthology is not a task to be undertaken by an amateur. In many ways, the selection of appropriate quotations poses more problems than the writing of an original work. Gideon Haigh possesses the desiderata in abundance.

In the first place, there should be a nexus between extracts. Here it is to be found in the imaginative chapter titles. Headings such as "Giants of the Game" (by far the longest chapter), and "Travellers' Tales", are admirable syntheses of the subject matter.

Secondly, there ought to be a (loose) chronology, so that developments and changes in the game itself and in the character of those who play it are encapsulated. Haigh has an outstanding appreciation of the history of cricket and an encyclopaedic knowledge of its records. These talents are testified to, not merely by the aptness of the extracts, but also by the pungent headnotes. Thus, to take a random example, an anecdote about Douglas Jardine's observation of a film of the 1930 Oval Test, containing shots of Don Bradman, is headed, "Jardine, too, felt that Bradman flinched from harm".

The writer has done much research and the text includes many unusual records and facts. Stuart MacGill, a batting bunny, once took part in a 219 run last wicket partnership. At least MacGill has played Test cricket. Consider the case of Alan Jones, who played first-class cricket in England, South Africa and Australia over 26 years (645 matches and 36,000 runs) and never played a Test.

Reference is also made in the book to those poor souls who played only one first-class game and recorded no runs, wickets or catches while others bowled one ball only in their careers and took a wicket! Stories abound of players with long gaps between Test appearances (22 years in one case), while the ubiquitous bowling of Bradman for 0 also arises. Tales are told of record run chases and the drama accompanying them. Scattered through the book are All Time Best Test XIs chosen by some of those featured in the stories told. Many are Australian politicians, actors and those prominent in other sporting fields.

In the chapter on Cricket and Politics, reference is made to a visit by American President George W. Bush to the sub-continent in 2006 and his involvement, while there, with cricket. The author may not be aware of an earlier American Presidential involvement with cricket on the sub-continent – Dwight D. Eisenhower attended the fourth day of the Third Test between Pakistan and Australia in Karachi in December 1959.

On that day only 104 runs were scored, making it the second slowest day's play in Test history. Groucho Marx was once taken to watch a day's play and observed that it was great "but when was it going to start?" Perhaps Groucho was inspired by the President's experience.

This is a most readable and entertaining book and contains a wealth of information. It will certainly entertain those who seek to find the unusual.

Ross Perry

A separate chapter on "Body Lines" explores, with great insight, the psychology and reaction of the principal parties to the most fractious series in the whole Ashes saga. It is noticeable that the copious references to Bradman throughout the book tend to demystify his immaculate image!

Above all, the anthologist must have a sense of wit. But that is not the same as creating a stand-up comedy act. There are, to be sure, humorous passages, not least those that rely on repartee. Some of the stories are apocryphal, none the worse for being reproduced. After all, there will be young readers who will be hearing them for the first time, but many will be unknown even to seasoned cricket lovers.

One such that I did not know is the story of the lament expressed to the umpire, Mel McInnes, at the end of the 1955 MCG match won by England. Thanks to Statham and Tyson, the match finished on the penultimate day. McInnes had adjudged the last batsman, Bill Johnston, caught behind the wicket. On his return to the pavilion, he was confronted angrily: "Well, I'm the caterer, and that decision of yours has cost me 10,000 bloody pies."

Other anecdotes, however, are moving and sometimes unbearably poignant. Cricket can be a cruel pursuit. The final Test of Jack Gregory bears the weight of tragedy, and is not alone in so doing. Haigh's final chapter is most original. Entitled "The Verbal Game", it contains no narrative, but a collection of bons mots, in direct speech, uncommented upon. Comment indeed would be superfluous, as the character of the speaker reveals itself in those few words. And we all know that cricket is a revealer of character!

A final merit of this book is a bibliography of no fewer than 14 pages, containing 233 books. It would form the genesis of a fine library for any would-be serious bibliophile of this, the richest of all sports.

J. Neville Turner



Keith Booth.

**George Lohmann:
Pioneer Professional.**

SportsBooks Limited, Cheltenham,
England. ISBN 978 1899807 50 5

George Lohmann is little more than a name in the record books to all but the most avid cricket aficionado, his feats almost completely obscured by the passage of time. Yet his bowling was so highly regarded that his contemporaries considered Lohmann a natural successor to legendary Australian fast bowler Fred Spofforth, despite his pace being little above medium.

In 1989, Bill Frindall contended in *England Test Cricketers* that, on statistics alone, Lohmann had legitimate claims to the title of the greatest Test match bowler of all time. His 112 wickets at 10.75 in 18 Tests represented not only the lowest average for any bowler taking 25 or more wickets, but also the best strike rate of a wicket every 34 balls. Two-thirds of those wickets were secured in nine overseas Tests, a graphic illustration that he was even more successful in harsher conditions than on home turf.

For a decade from the mid-1880s there was also no more successful bowler in English first-class cricket. Between 1886 and 1892 he took no fewer than 1273 wickets at 13.51, heading the English first-class

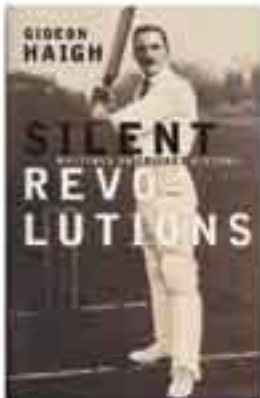
aggregates in each of those seven successive seasons. It therefore comes as no surprise that his team Surrey won the County Championship in six of those years.

It seems incredible that no full biography of Lohmann has appeared until more than 100 years after his death, only one or two relatively slim essays having been published previously. A private individual who never married, he appears to have been extremely protective of his life away from the game. With so little material available, apart from cricket commentaries, the author's depth of research is staggering.

He has exhaustively documented his subject's family background, beginnings, education and formative cricket years prior to entering professional ranks. A fascinating sidelight is an exploration of the divide between amateur and professional cricketers of the day and Lohmann's attitude to it, which ultimately led to a split with Surrey. The overall story is made even more interesting by the weaving of associated historical events into the narrative, particularly those during Lohmann's time in South Africa, when England cricket tours coincided with the ill-fated Jameson Raid and the lead-up to the Boer War.

The author's admiration for his subject is evident throughout but does not detract from his objectivity. He highlights Lohmann's complete dedication to cricket, even while suffering the debilitating effects of the pulmonary tuberculosis that eventually claimed his life at the age of 36. The work is very well written and highly recommended.

Ray Webster



Gideon Haigh.

**Silent revolutions: writings on
cricket history.**

Black Inc., Melbourne 2006.
ISBN: 9781863953108

In November 2006 a book passed my desk with a stunning shot of A.C. MacLaren on the cover. "What's this?" I wondered. The answer, of course, was the latest anthology of articles by [cricket journalist] Gideon Haigh. Who else would put Archie on the cover of a collection of pieces that they had written in the past dozen years?

Where else will you find a history of Australian cricket (told in 10-and-a-half

pages that are more insightful and informative than most of the weighty tomes on the subject) alongside vignettes on Armstrong, Bradman, Horan, Kimpton, McShane, Miller, Morris, Packer and Parish?

The articles, divided into five sections – Advance Australia, Kit and Kaboodle, Life Stories, Matters of History and Odd Men In – are drawn

from Haigh's writing for an eclectic range of publications: Cricinfo, Wisden Asia, Wisden Cricketer, Inside Edge, Inside Sport, the Guardian, the Australian and The Age

From the latter source, I am especially delighted to see included the series on the origins and history of cricket equipment that alternated with similar pieces by John Harms in the Age for the summer of 2004/05. At the time I felt that Fairfax missed a golden opportunity by not collecting these for an attractive little book. However at least we now have one volume on the shelves where we collected Haigh's entries on bats, boots, boxes, stumps, pads, the toss and scores and scorers.

I especially enjoyed the piece on proliferation of cricketers' diaries released in recent times. However, I had to chuckle as this was the third compilation and fourth book of Gideon's to be released for the summer of 2006/07.

If you missed this anthology last cricket season, track down a copy. It is one to pick up for both the cricket tragic and the summer reader. It's so easy to open, find the start of the nearest entry and lose yourself in another short, self-contained story.

David Studham



Gideon Haigh.

**Parachutist at Fine Leg, and other
unusual occurrences from Wisden.**

Aurum Press, London, 2007.
ISBN 9781845132569

Gideon Haigh is a literary master, serious or extremely humorous as the situation requires. Whether he's writing on cricket or an autobiography or editing this amazing cricket book, I know I will enjoy it and also know that the facts will have been thoroughly researched as it's a Gideon Haigh presentation.

of Paarl, South Africa, Border was playing Boland when Daryl Cullinan hit a six that flew straight into a frying pan cooking calamari. It took ten minutes to "cool" the ball and remove the grease. One of my favourite dishes, it will now bring a smile to my face each time I partake.

What about Namibia v Zimbabwe "A" having to endure an unscheduled interruption when a swarm of bees invaded the pitch, prompting players and umpires to hit the deck, face down.

And then Gloucestershire, after playing Australia and one assumes we won, found a far greater shock awaited them – someone had stolen the boundary rope!

It would make a wonderful present for the person who has everything.

Peta Phillips

Parachutist at Fine Leg, and other unusual occurrences from Wisden allows one to enjoy the unusual side of cricket worldwide, and there is plenty of material to work with. Instance: In the beautiful countryside



Mukul Kesavan.
Men in White: a book of cricket
 Penguin Books India: New Delhi, 2007
 ISBN-10: 0 67099 953 9
 ISBN-13: 978 0 67099-953-8

With the advent of the Australia-India Test series, our thoughts turn to India and its culture and perceptions of cricket. So it is timely that the book *Men in White – A Book of Cricket* has been released. *Men in White* is written from an Indian fan's perspective, in this case, the author's.

The book introduces the author's first experience of listening to and playing cricket ranging from broadcasts on the radio through to playing with friends, including the embarrassment experienced when being the last one picked in a team. The majority of the book has come from articles that the author has written for newspapers and magazines throughout his career.

From an Australian fan's perspective, it is interesting to gain an insight to the life and experiences of an Indian cricket fan, how their team is perceived and what similarities and differences there are between India and Australia.

However *Men In White* can at times be disjointed because it consists of previous essays and reports, though the author does try to give a brief synopsis at the beginning of each piece. At times this can be annoying as questions are asked but are not followed up.

Additionally, the attacks on cricket umpires would annoy many purists who would see it as another cricket writer taking a cheap shot at umpires, without offering any suggestions on how this area of the game could be improved.

Overall, *Men In White – A Book Of Cricket* is a good enough read where the main benefit is the insight on Indian cricket, a refreshing change to read rather than looking at Australian or English cricket.

However, its major shortcoming is the lack of follow up to questions that the author raises in the book.

David Laurence



Sandeep Patil and Clayton Murzello.
Caught & Told: Humorous Cricketing Anecdotes.
 New Delhi, Lotus, 2007.
 ISBN 817436496X

Having been to the Indian sub-continent, I am truly aware of their devotion to the noble game. It is a way of life, a religion, a dream for every Indian lad to make that team. The present (and past)

cricketers are icons – revered and loved. To other nations, India plays the game with an intensity that appears so stern, almost mechanical, even "pukka", in their desire for victory. Having said that, it is obviously very true that cricket brings out camaraderie unique in sporting circles.

So put down the book of stats, the biographies, the histories and enjoy a little light reading from our northern neighbours about the "genteel" game of cricket. Read this book and you will see a magical light-heartedness, like realising that Sachin Tendulkar is known to be a "sleep

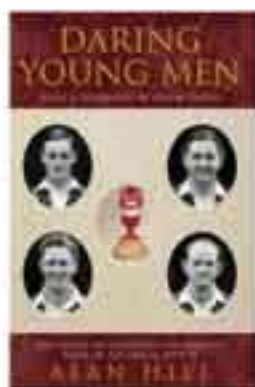
walker" and worse still talks in his sleep – interesting when you are on tour. How about Sunil Gavaskar playing in the Kanpur Test (1973) and his uncle being one of the umpires. Not likely to happen now!

Are you interested yet? Returning from his first trip to England, Sandeep Patil presented a really good cricket shirt to his coach. On visiting the nets, he was horrified to see the coach wearing the shirt dripping wet. Inquiring, Sandeep was told: "Don't tell me you don't know. The shirt says wash and wear."

Now for the finale. Anshuman Gaekwad was a replacement for the 1977/78 tour of Australia and upon arrival at the MCG Bishen Bedi took him to the Australian dressing rooms. The official asked: "Have you come here to die?" A prompt reply of "No" was overheard by Bedi who then proceeded to explain. "You are not understanding his question. He is asking if you have come here today." Think about it!

Had I been reading the book sitting in the stands of our great stadium, my laughter would certainly have echoed from the Great Southern to the northern stands. This is a wonderfully light-hearted look at the humorous side of Indian cricket.

Peta I. Phillips.



Alan Hill.
Daring Young Men: The Story of England's Victorious Tour of Australia and New Zealand, 1954-55.
 Methuen, 2005. ISBN: 041377435X

Daring Young Men is a tribute from the acclaimed author, Alan Hill, to mark the fiftieth anniversary of what proved to be a great English tour to Australia under the captaincy of Len Hutton in the summer of 1954/55.

As Frank Tyson wrote in a memorable foreword: "It was a time to be remembered and savoured by our captain, Len Hutton, the first occasion he had returned victorious from Down Under. As such it represented the high-watermark of Hutton's personal achievements."

Alan Hill describes in great detail the selection of Hutton to lead the team to Australia for the tour and the meticulous planning that went into his every move and decision for all the matches. He uses many quotes from Hutton's fellow cricketers, from friends, from sports writers and historians to paint a vivid picture of Hutton as captain, his strengths and

perceived weaknesses in the role. The results achieved illustrate the success of his tactics and that meticulous planning. He encouraged the talented young players in the team – May, Cowdrey, Tyson and Statham. Hutton was convinced a speed attack would bring success and with the two young fast bowlers his methods were vindicated.

The Tests are fully described, the first a debacle for England, the complete turnaround in the second at Sydney which was founded on the batting of May and Cowdrey followed by the bowling of Tyson and Statham, then the succeeding victories in Melbourne and Adelaide. There are chapters on Tom Graveney, the New Zealand matches, reflections on the young players and an appendix with the full contemporary Test scorecards reproduced adding to the reader's interest.

Daring Young Men is an extremely well-researched book enhanced by the many quotations from the printed sources listed in the Bibliography. These add to the interest and enjoyment of the reader.

This latest book is a worthy addition to the high literary standard of Alan Hill's previous writings. One can certainly agree with the final sentence on the flyleaf: "The result is a lively account of an extraordinary series and an indispensable book for any lover of cricket."

Ann Rusden



At lunch Australia was 138 with Bradman 22 not out and Brown 20 not out.

Bradman has come to the conclusion that he must give up cricket, after 21 years playing a game he has at once served and mastered. However reluctant cricket lovers may be to accept that decision, it must be respected as a matter in which the great batsman himself is sole umpire. Australia and every other country in which cricket is played will be sorry. Bradman has been something better than a genius at a game—he has been a good sportsman. All other good sportsmen will wish him well.

TEST CRICKETERS, Australians (left) and Indians (wearing black arm-bands) standing silently outside the members' enclosure at the MCG today before the opening of the fifth Test. The ceremony was in memory of Mahatma Gandhi.

CHEERS FOR BRADMAN

BACKSLAPS and hand-claps for Don Bradman at the MCG this afternoon. Interest in the champion was greater than ever since the announcement that this would be his last Test match in Australia.

End Of Great Innings

CRICKET'S superman, Don Bradman, is playing his last Test in Australia. Luck was not with him yesterday when he had to retire hurt more than half way along the road to yet another century. The thousands who came to see the great batsman in his valedictory match on Melbourne Cricket Ground were bitterly disappointed, but keenly sympathetic. The gods of leather and willow might have been a little more lenient with the man who had so long been their favorite.



BARNES snicks Rangachari just out of reach of Sen to score the first boundary of the match at the MCG this afternoon.



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