



MCC LIBRARY FACT SHEET DAY 1 - DECEMBER 26, 2023

2023 BOXING DAY TEST AUSTRALIA V PAKISTAN

Test Cricket at the MCG

Beginning with the inaugural Test match in March 1877, 115 Tests have been staged at the MCG. Pakistan has been involved in 10 of the Tests played here. Australia has won 6 of these contests and Pakistan 2, with the other two drawn.

Other sides to play Tests at the MCG are England (57) the West Indies (15), India (14), South Africa (13), New Zealand (4), and Sri Lanka (2). One Test, scheduled against England in 1970/71, was abandoned without a ball bowled and is not counted in the records.

Boxing Day Tests at the MCG

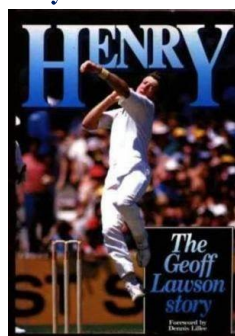
Traditionally, the Victoria versus New South Wales Sheffield Shield clash was played at the MCG over Christmas, and prior to the 1968/69 season, only two MCG Tests had included play on Boxing Day: the 2nd Test against England in 1950/51, which began on Friday December 22 (Boxing Day, a Tuesday, being the third day of the match), and the 2nd Test against South Africa in 1952/53, which commenced on Christmas Eve.

The first Test to **begin** on Boxing Day at the MCG was the 2nd Test against the West Indies in 1968/69, the 56th at the ground, when bleak conditions restricted the attendance to 18,786. During the following decade only two MCG Tests featured play on December 26: the 2nd Test against England in 1974/75, and the 2nd Test against the West Indies the following season, both of which commenced on that day.

Since 1980/81, only one season has not featured Test cricket at the MCG on Boxing Day. This was in 1989/90 when, owing to the late arrival of the Pakistan team, a One-Day International against Sri Lanka was played instead, the MCG Test involving Pakistan being put back to mid-January.

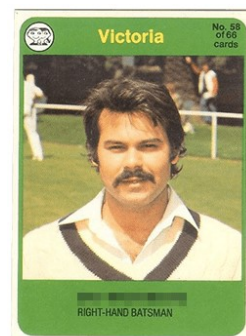
MCG Tests have begun on Boxing Day in each of the other seasons during this period, apart from 1984/85, when the 4th Test against the West Indies started on December 22 and in 1988/89 and 1994/95, when matches against the West Indies and England both commenced on Christmas Eve

Played for Australia – Coached Pakistan



An optometrist, fast bowler **Geoff “Henry” Lawson** played a total of 46 Test and 79 One Day International matches for Australia between 1980 and 1989, with a bowling average of 30.56. He made his Test debut against New Zealand at Brisbane, taking three wickets for the match. His final Test was against Sri Lanka, again at Brisbane, where he took only one wicket. He was dropped for the next Test and was not selected again, despite continuing to play State cricket for New South Wales until the end of the 1991/92 season. Lawson’s best Test match bowling performance was 11/134 in Brisbane in the 1983/84 Ashes series. In July 2007, Lawson was appointed coach of the Pakistan Test side. However, despite being contracted to July 2009 and leading the country to a T20 World Cup final, Lawson was summarily sacked by Pakistan Cricket Board head Ijaz Butt.

Sri Lankan born Test player **Davenell “Dav” Whatmore** played seven Tests and one One Day International match for Australia between 1979 and 1980, with a Test batting average of 22.53. He made his Test debut in March 1979 against Pakistan in Melbourne, making 43 in the first innings, batting at number six, and opening the second innings, scoring 15. His last Test was against India at Eden Gardens in India where he totalled only eight runs in his two innings. Having coached his native Sri Lanka from 1995 to 1996 and again from 1999 to 2003, and then Bangladesh from 2003 to 2007, Whatmore was appointed to the Pakistan coaching position in 2012, having missed out on the position in 2007 when Geoff Lawson was appointed. He was immediately successful, with his side defeating Bangladesh in the final of the Asia Cup. During his coaching time with Pakistan the side lost a series against Sri Lanka (one / nil) in 2012, lost again (three – nil) against South Africa in 2012/13, and drew a series with Zimbabwe, South Africa and Sri Lanka between 2013 and 2014. With his contract not being extended in February 2014, he was replaced by Pakistan wicketkeeper Moin Khan.



To mark the eleventh Australia v Pakistan Test at the MCG, the MCC Library Fact Sheets examine each of the ten previous Tests between the countries played on the ground between 1964/65 and 2016/17. Today's Fact Sheet looks at the first and second matches.

1964/65

Played on December 4, 5, 7 & 8, 1964 (Only Test) - Drawn

PAKISTAN 287 (Hanif Mohammad 104, Saeed Ahmed 80; G.D. McKenzie 3/66, D.J. Sincok 3/67, N.J.N. Hawke 3/69) **and 326** (Hanif Mohammad 93, Intikhab Alam 61, Javed Burki 47; N.J.N. Hawke 4/72, G.D. McKenzie 4/74); **drew with AUSTRALIA 448** (T.R. Veivers 88, R.M. Cowper 83, B.C. Booth 57, B.K. Shepherd 55, R.B. Simpson 47, W.M. Lawry 41; Arif Butt 6/89) **and 2/88** (B.K. Shepherd 43*).

Pakistan's first Test in Australia took place during a hastily arranged visit that was a prelude to its inaugural tour of New Zealand. Only four days were scheduled for the match, the only occasion that a Test in Australia has been arranged for fewer than five days.

Australian captain Bob Simpson won the toss and sent Pakistan in to bat on a greenish pitch. The tourists began poorly, losing Abdul Kadir for a duck in the opening over (he was caught off his glove by debutant Ian Chappell in the slips, suffering a badly bruised thumb which prevented him from keeping wickets throughout the match) and fellow opener Mohammad Ilyas (run out) with the score at 18. From this poor start Pakistan did well to reach 9/287 by stumps, due mainly to top-quality innings from Saeed Ahmed (160 minutes, 170 balls, 8 fours) and skipper Hanif Mohammad (193 minutes, 195 balls, 8 fours).

Despite solid contributions from Simpson, Bill Lawry, Barry Shepherd and Brian Booth, Australia struggled to gain the initiative, and was still 54 runs behind Pakistan's total when it lost its fifth wicket late on the second day. When play resumed on Monday, however, the home side gained the ascendancy through an aggressive sixth-wicket stand of 139 by Bob Cowper (174 minutes, 155 balls, 8 fours) and Tom Veivers (173 minutes, 130 balls, 8 fours). Medium-pacer Arif Butt, on his Test debut, took the bowling honours.

Notwithstanding another superb display by Hanif (190 minutes, 228 balls, 12 fours), Pakistan appeared headed for defeat on the final morning when it had slumped to 6/198, an overall lead of just 37. However dogged defence by Kadir, who batted down the order with his injured hand heavily strapped, together with powerful hitting by Intikhab Alam (92 minutes, 83 balls, 6 fours), unexpectedly prolonged the visitors' innings, so that Australia was eventually set 166 to win in 127 minutes.

The task was by no means easy as the light was poor and rain threatened. Nevertheless, despite time-wasting by the fielding side (they took an average of six minutes to bowl each 8-ball over), the aggressive Shepherd (57 minutes, 46 balls, 7 fours) had the home side well on target. However, with just under an hour remaining, the weather deteriorated to such an extent that the umpires had no choice but to call the game off.

The match was notable for Hanif's sole Test appearance in Australia in which he confirmed his reputation as one of the world's finest batsman with two superb exhibitions of stroke play, characterised by sweet timing and perfect placement. In addition, following Kadir's injury he was also required to keep wickets, a role he had not undertaken since his country's earliest Tests in 1952/53, and held five catches, one of which was a brilliant diving effort to dismiss Chappell. The total attendance over the four days was only 33,067, with 14,035 being present on the second day, a Saturday.

Scorecards for this Test are reproduced in an MCC Library display across the summer, thanks to Mike Ringham, the MCC Scorer, who also scored this match.

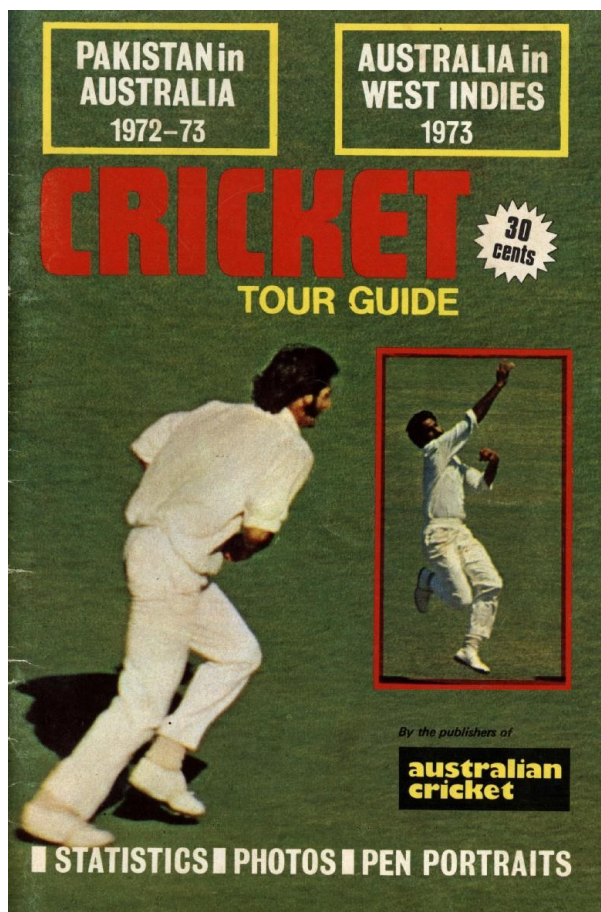
A Bit of History

In 1964 the Australians played a three Test series against India and then took off to Karachi for a single Test match against Pakistan. Prior to their series against India, the Australians had also toured England, winning the five Test series with just one win and five draws. With Pakistan's opening pair Billy Ibadulla and Abdul Kadir putting on a 249 partnership, the side totalled 414 for their first innings. Despite losing Bill Lawry for seven runs and Ian Redpath for 19, Bob Simpson made 153 enabling the side to put together a 352 run total. With Pakistan declaring their second innings closed at 8/279, Simpson again held the Australians together scoring 115 runs, and seeing the match drawn with Australia finishing on 2/227. At that time, Simpson's tally of 268 runs for the match was a record for a visiting batsman in Asia.

1972/73

Played on December 29, 30, 1972, January 1, 2 & 3, 1973 (Second Test)
Australia won by 92 runs.

AUSTRALIA 5/441 dec (I.R. Redpath 135, G.S. Chappell 116*, R.W. Marsh 74, I.M. Chappell 66) **and 425** (J. Benaud 142, A.P. Sheahan 127, G.S. Chappell 62); **defeated PAKISTAN 8/574 dec** (Majid Khan 158, Sadiq Mohammad 137, Intikhab Alam 68, Mushtaq Mohammad 60, Zaheer Abbas 51, Saeed Ahmed 50; A.A. Mallett 3/124) **and 200** (Intikhab Alam 48, Majid Khan 47; M.H.N. Walker 3/30).



Pakistan's second tour of Australia was much longer than its first, with three Tests, preceded by five first-class matches, scheduled within a 13-match programme that began in early November.

The Australians, for whom Max Walker and Jeff Thomson were making their Test debuts, entered the Second Test full of confidence, as they had won the opening Test at Adelaide by an innings and 114 runs. On winning the toss, Australian captain Ian Chappell gave his batsmen first use of an excellent pitch and Ian Redpath (277 minutes, 204 balls, 14 fours) and Greg Chappell (230 minutes, 204 balls, 12 fours) responded with elegant stroke-filled centuries. They received excellent support from Rod Marsh (125 minutes, 83 balls, 11 fours) and the skipper himself (130 minutes, 105 balls, 11 fours) who, in an attacking move, declared before lunch on the second day with only five wickets down.

With the pitch continuing to offer no assistance to bowlers, the Pakistan batsmen put their First Test woes behind to them to amass 8/574 in better than even time before declaring late on the third day. Majid Khan (303 minutes, 276 balls, 18 fours) and Sadiq Mohammad (313 minutes, 261 balls, 15 fours) both recorded their maiden Test hundreds, while skipper Intikhab Alam (141 minutes, 126 balls, 6 fours), Mushtaq Mohammad (133 minutes, 157 balls, 5 fours), Zaheer Abbas (72 minutes, 55 balls, 5 fours) and Saeed Ahmed (95 minutes, 73 balls, 8 fours) all plundered the Australian attack to compile half-centuries.

Trailing by 133, Australia lost Ian Redpath early in its second innings, but Paul Sheahan (275 minutes, 207 balls, 12 fours) and John Benaud (211 minutes, 207 balls, 2 sixes, 18 fours) regained the initiative with a sparkling second-wicket partnership of 233 in 211 minutes. The later batsmen maintained a brisk rate of scoring, although only Greg Chappell (108 minutes, 80 balls, 7 fours) exceeded 50.

Chasing 293 for victory in 330 minutes on the last day, the visitors lost both openers cheaply and the innings never gained momentum, especially after the departure of Majid Khan (87 minutes, 89 balls, 6 fours) at 4/83. The run outs of leading batsmen Zaheer and Mushtaq proved costly, and thereafter only Intikhab (107 minutes, 126 balls, 11 fours), who was last out, offered serious resistance.

It was an unexpected collapse, particularly in view of the fact that each of the first three innings exceeded 400, with more than 1400 runs being scored over the first four days. Debutant Walker took the bowling honours with 3/39, the best figures for the match. Pakistan's second innings failure led local journalist, Dallas Swinstead to report the last day's play under the headline "Panikstan". The aggregate match attendance was 115,721, with 36,127 being present on the second day.

Two-nil down in the series, Pakistan suffered a further defeat in the final Test at Sydney, despite having at one stage appeared assured of victory.

150 YEARS - 150 TREASURES

The 150th Anniversary of the Library collection is being celebrated across 12 months commencing with the launch of the MCC Library – 150th Treasures exhibition on September 6. These treasures will be posted on the @MelbCCLibrary Instagram account. This is not a countdown, instead over 150 posts, typically Mondays to Fridays, across the 12 months on dates appropriate to items, with some on public holidays such as Grand Final Eve, Melbourne Cup Day & Boxing Day.

Highlights of the exhibition are displayed in the MCC Library foyer, with three rotations across the 12 months, we started with predominantly football-themed items in September, and moved to cricket-themed and summer sports items from December, & finally Olympic & general sport-themed items will be installed at the end of April and conclude in August 2024. Tours of specific groups of Library treasures will take place across the year & will be advertised on the MCC Library's social media & the Club's website.

Search Instagram for the hashtag [#MelbCCLibrary150years150treasures](https://www.instagram.com/explore/tags/MelbCCLibrary150years150treasures)

Today's treasure is

65/150 DECEMBER 26 – 1866 GLASS NEGATIVE ABORIGINAL CRICKETERS. THE INDIGENOUS PLAYERS, PHOTOGRAPHED BY J.F.C. KRUGER, C. MARCH 1866.

(MCC Library Collection - Donated by the Hamilton Art Gallery/South Grampians Shire Council, 2014.)



Traditional names, if recorded, are bracketed.

1 – Billy Officer (Cungewarrimim). 2 – Peter (Arrahmunyarrimun or Arrahmunijarrimun). 3 – Bullocky (Bullechanach or Bullchanah). 4 – Johnny Mullagh (Unaarrimin or Muarrimin, Unarrimin). 5 – H. Jellico (Unamurrimin). 6 – Tarpot (Murrumgunerrimin). 7 – Sugar. 8 – Sundown (Ballrinjarrimin). 9 – Johnny Cuzens (Yellanach or Zellanach, Zellemach). 10 – Thomas Gibson Hamilton. 11 – Neddy. 12 – Tom Wills.

(The traditional names are from John Mulvaney & Rex Harcourt, Cricket Walkabout: The Australian Aborigines in England, Macmillan, South Melbourne 1988, p.190).

Portrait photographs commissioned by William Hayman and taken by Fred Kruger, while the team was in Hamilton around March 1866. This image was used in the following months to promote the team as well as the 1866 Boxing Day Cricket Match, between the Aborigines of western Victoria and the Melbourne Cricket Club (MCC). Arguably, with the first international match in 1862, and the first Test match in 1877, this is one of the most important matches to be played on the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG).

On Boxing Day the match was the premier outdoor attraction in the colony, aided by warm but stormy weather. The *Age* estimated 10,000 attended, compared to between three and four thousand on Boxing Day, 1865, for the Grand Match between NSW and Victoria. The majority of the crowd supported the indigenous players. Unfortunately they proved no match for an exceptionally strong MCC team, which won by nine wickets in a day-&-a-half.

A scratch match was arranged in the remaining time scheduled, between a combined team of black and white native-born Australians versus a team of Immigrants. This was entitled, "Natives versus the World" it filled the time until the end December 28 and resulted in a draw.

Aborigines & T.W. Wills vs Melbourne Cricket Club, MCG, December 26 & 27, 1866.

Aborigines & T.W. Wills, 39 (Mullagh 14. Handfield 7/5) & 84 (Mullagh 33. Handfield 4/31) were defeated by the MCC, 100 (Wardill 45. Cuzens 6/45) & 1/27 by 9 wickets.

Fact Sheet research by MCC Library Volunteers Ray Webster OAM, Ross Perry and Quentin Miller assisted and edited by David Studham and Trevor Ruddell.

Sources consulted: Ray Webster's First-Class Cricket in Australia. Vol. 2, Wisden Cricketers' Almanac – various issues.

Thanks to our friends at <https://www.tastats.com.au> and www.cricketarchive.co.uk

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