



MCC LIBRARY FACT SHEET DAY 3 – FEBRUARY 1, 2025

2024/25 WOMEN'S ASHES TEST AUSTRALIA V ENGLAND

The Women's Ashes Trophy, Part 1– original wooden cricket balls 1998



On Monday July 20, 1998, women's cricket created their own Ashes trophy when the players of the England and Australian sides gathered at Harris Gardens, inside Lord's, to watch the burning of a miniature cricket bat signed by all the players. Some bricks were placed underneath a wok, while kindling including a Women's Cricket Association Constitution and Rulebook was used to get the fire going, and a small, blue-handled bat was placed on it by Australian captain Belinda Clark and her English counterpart Karen Smithies.

Minutes later, they were a pile of ash. The ashes were placed into one of two yew-wood mounted cricket balls, crafted by English woodcarver Brian Hodges.



The first one contained the ashes that were burned on July 20, 1998. The second one had a slight flaw in the wood and remained empty.

One was to always remain at Lord's and the other was to be the perpetual Ashes series trophy between the two traditional rivals, changing hands with each series victory.

Top left: One of two wooden balls and stands carved from yew wood by English woodcarver Brian Hodges for the Women's Ashes.

Top right: The miniature bat signed by both teams, and Women's Cricket Association Constitution and Rules set to be burnt in a wok at the Harris Gardens, Lord's Cricket Ground.

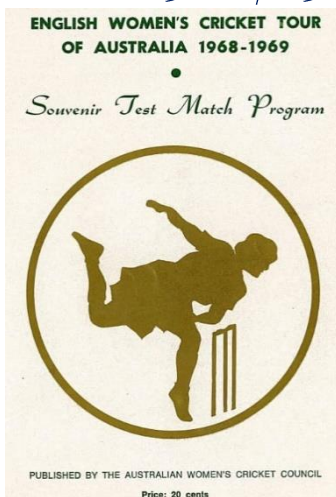


Right: Australian captain Belinda Clarke and England captain Karen Smithies place the bat on the fire watched by Women's Cricket Association's final President Norma Izzard, and Marylebone Cricket Club Secretary Roger Knight, July 20, 1998 – the day prior to the 5th Australia v England ODI of the 1998 Australian Tour of the British Isles, at Lord's Cricket Ground.



Left: One of the two wooden balls that was on display at the Marylebone Cricket Club Museum at Lord's, labelled "The Ashes" England v Australia Women's Test Series".

The 1968/69 England tour of Australia and New Zealand.



After the 1957/58 Women's Ashes series (See Fact Sheet for Day 2) the next England women's tour to Australia and New Zealand did not take place for 11 years, until the summer of 1968/69. In the interim the Australian women toured England in 1963, 12 years after their previous tour of 1951. The first two Tests at Edgbaston and the North Marine Road, Scarborough were drawn. However, England won the final Test at The Oval to regain the Women's Ashes for the first time since 1951.

England, captained by Rachel Heyhoe, arrived in Western Australia in early December 1968 to undertake the 14 matches of the Australian leg of the tour. Commencing with warm up matches against Western Australia at Rosalie Park, and a Combined Australian XI at the WACA, the tourists then moved East to South Australia for another two warm-up matches before the 1st Test. There were only three Tests in this Ashes series, played in Adelaide, Melbourne and Sydney, but for the first time on none of the main grounds. All were three-day Test matches.

The opening Test in Adelaide was held at Thebarton Oval. Both teams compiled good scores in their first innings on a pitch conducive to batting, with Enid Bakewell scoring a century for England (113 in 258 minutes, 4 fours) in their total of 270 and Lynn Denholm top-scoring with 93 (273 minutes, 6 fours) in Australia's 7/339 declared. As with most three day Test matches, time ran out too quickly for a result, with England still batting in their second innings.

Touring Team to Australia and New Zealand

1st Test, Thebarton Oval, Adelaide, December 27, 28, 30 1968 (Three-day match): **ENGLAND 270** (81 overs) (E Bakewell 113, R Heyhoe 76, J Moorhouse 22, AD Disbury 20; M Knee 5/49, P May 2/33) **and 7/192** (65 overs) (R Heyhoe 68, E Bakewell 37, AD Disbury 25, J Moorhouse 22; M Knee 3/19, JL Parker 2/13, DA Gordon 2/35) **drew with AUSTRALIA 7/339 dec** (134 overs) (L Denholm 93, D Newman 76, J Goldsmith 58, M Knee 55, DA Gordon 26; LJ Clifford 2/55).

The tour moved to Victoria where there were three more warm up-matches before the 2nd Test. These included the first-class match against Victoria at St Kilda Cricket Ground, which was to be the venue for the 2nd Test, which commenced on January 10, 1969. England won the toss and Rachel Heyhoe decided to bat first. In their first innings England amassed a score of 8/254 with Edna Barker top scoring with 100 (in 138 minutes including 7 fours). Australian Anne Gordon took 5/61 off 28 overs, including seven maidens. Gordon bowled Bakewell, had Barker caught by Picton, Thomas caught by Parker, trapped Saunder LBW, and then had Moorhouse caught by Goldsmith for a duck.



Back Row L-R: Shirley Hodges (Sussex), Carol Evans (Glamorgan), June Moorhouse (Yorks.), Lynne Thomas (Glamorgan), Val Hesmondhalgh (Middlesex-Manager), Jill Cruwys (Kent), Anne Sanders (Midx.), Leslie Clifford (Yorks.), Heather Dewdney (Kent), Sheila Plant (Surrey)
Front Row L-R: Christine Watmough (Kent), Jean Clark (Kent), Edna Barker (Surrey-V. Capt.), Rachael Heyhoe (Staffs.-Capt.), Audrey Disbury (Kent), Mary Pilling (Kent), Enid Bakewell (Notts.)



Australian team for 2nd Test at St Kilda Cricket Ground.

Back row left to right: J Wady, A Gordon, D Newman, L Denholm, J Need, P May.

Front row left to right: J Goldsmith, M Wilson, M Picton, G Owen, M Knee, O Smith and E Bray

2nd Test, St Kilda Cricket Ground, January 10, 11 & 13 1969 (Three-day match) **ENGLAND 8/254 dec** (85 overs) (ER Barker 100, R Heyhoe 54, SA Hodges 21*; DA Gordon 5/61, J Goldsmith 2/44) **and 7/143 dec** (71.5 overs) (J Moorhouse 39*, AD Disbury 33, DL Thomas 30; DA Gordon 5/57) **drew with AUSTRALIA 216** (134 overs) (M Knee 96, J Goldsmith 36, L Denholm 29; E Bakewell 4/49, J Moorhouse 3/40, LJ Clifford 2/43) **and 5/108** (37 overs) (JL Parker 35*, L Denholm 26, EJ Bray 22).

The final Test of the series was held at North Sydney Oval over the 1969 Australia Day weekend. Australian Captain Muriel Picton won the toss and decided to bat. Australia were dismissed for 213, but gained a first innings lead of 20. Having set England a score of 230 to win, Australia had England 6/155 at stumps on the third and final day and the match was drawn. As the series was tied with 0-0 result, England retained the Ashes.

3rd Test, North Sydney Oval, January 25, 27, 28, 1969 (Three-day match) **AUSTRALIA 213** (75.6 overs) (D Newman 54, L Kutcher 52, EJ Bray 27, L Denholm 25, J Goldsmith 24; LJ Clifford 5/51) **and 3/210 dec** (58 overs) (EJ Bray 69*, JL Parker 60, M Knee 32*, L Denholm 30) **drew with ENGLAND 193** (89 overs) (R Heyhoe 59, LJ Clifford 42, AD Disbury 22; L Kutcher 5/49, DA Gordon 4/57) **and 6/155** (52 overs) (J Moorhouse 59*, AD disbury 44, DL Thomas 34; M Knee 3/34).

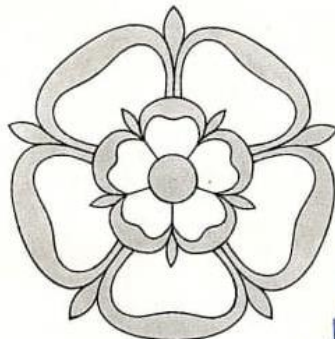
In reply the Australians scored 216 all out, with Miriam Knee topscoring with 96 (277 minutes 4 fours). England's second innings was declared at 7/143. Once again Ann Gordon took 5 wickets (5/57 off 28 overs, including 9 maidens) trapping Bakewell LBW, had Disbury caught by Gldsmith, Hayhoe caught by Smith, Cansers caught by Knee and Clifford LBW.

The English declaration left the Australians requiring 182 for victory in just over a session. Once again the short duration of the three-day Test hindered achieving a winning result, and the home team were 5/108 at stumps and the match finished in another draw.

Gordon became only the second Australian to take 10 wickets in a Women's Ashes Test, after Betty Wilson's 11 in 1958, also achieved at St Kilda Cricket Ground. (Ash Gardner became the third Australian to take 10+ wickets in an Ashes Test with her 12 wickets in the 2023 Test at Trent Bridge.)

In 1976 Australia undertook an Ashes tour of England, but all three Tests (the first two Three-Day matches, and the final one was a Four-Day) at Old Trafford, Edgbaston and The Oval were drawn, with England retaining the Ashes. On the same tour an ODI was played at Lord's, the first women's match to be played there. Rachel Heyhoe Flint was the England captain and Anne Gordon was the Australian captain for the match.

WOMEN'S CRICKET ASSOCIATION



Rachel Heyhoe Flint
Sarah Barker
Shilakant
Anderson
Chris Watmough
Glen Clark
Jan Hezwoodhalgh
Lynne Thomas
June Moorhouse
Carole Evans
Heather Dandrey
Eric Bakewell
Lesley J. Clifford
Jill E. Conway
Fay Bell
Shirley Hoopes
Alice Sanders

TOUR TO AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND 1968/69

England Women in Australia and New Zealand 1968/69

Date	Test	Match	Ground	Result	Match #
13 Dec 1968		Western Australia v England	Rosalie Park, Perth	England won by innings & 39 runs	wf546
16 Dec 1968		Australian Combined XI v England	WACA Ground, Perth	Draw	wf547
20 Dec 1968		South Australia v England	Angaston Oval, Angaston	England won by 114 runs	wf548
24 Dec 1968		South Australia v England	Adelaide Teachers College Oval	Draw	wmisc2008
27 Dec 1968	1st	Australia v England	Thebarton Oval, Adelaide	Draw	wt36
2 Jan 1969		Victoria Juniors v England	Carey Grammar Oval No 1, Melbourne	England won by 103 runs	wmisc2009
3 Jan 1969		Victoria v England	St Kilda Cricket Ground	England won by 139 runs	wf560
6 Jan 1969		Victoria Select XI v England	Carey Grammar Oval No 1, Melbourne	Draw	wmisc2011
10 Jan 1969	2nd	Australia v England	St Kilda Cricket Ground	Draw	wt37
16 Jan 1969		NSW Combined XI v England	Seiffert Oval, Goulburn	England won by 65 runs	wmisc2012
18 Jan 1969		New South Wales v England	WD & HO Wills Ground, Sydney	England won by 6 wickets	wf566
22 Jan 1969		NSW Metropolitan v England	Manly Oval, Sydney	England won by 7 wickets	wmisc2014
25 Jan 1969	3rd	Australia v England	North Sydney Oval	Draw	wt38
30 Jan 1969		NSW President's XI v England	University Oval, Sydney	England won by 6 wickets	wmisc2015
7 Feb 1969		Auckland v England	Melville Park, Auckland	England won by 10 wickets	wf568
11 Feb 1969		Wellington v England	Hutt Recreation Ground, Lower Hutt	England won by 9 wickets	wf569
15 Feb 1969	1st	New Zealand v England	Basin Reserve, Wellington	Draw	wt39
21 Feb 1969		Otago v England	Logan Park, Dunedin	England won by innings & 176 runs	wf571
26 Feb 1969		Canterbury v England	Hagley Oval, Christchurch	England won by 10 wickets	wf572
1 Mar 1969		New Zealand President's XI v England	Ashburton Domain, Ashburton	Draw	wf573
7 Mar 1969	2nd	New Zealand v England	Hagley Oval, Christchurch	England won by 7 wickets	wt40
12 Mar 1969		Southern Districts v England	Trafalgar Park, Nelson	Draw	wmisc2021
15 Mar 1969		North Shore v England	Devonport Domain, Auckland	England won by innings & 13 runs	wf575
19 Mar 1969		Northern Districts Invitation XI v England	Seddon Park, Hamilton	England won by 115 runs	wmisc2023
25 Mar 1969		Silver Fern v England	Stanley Bay, Auckland	Match tied	wmisc2024
28 Mar 1969	3rd	New Zealand v England	Cornwall Park, Auckland	England won by 37 runs	wt41

Anne Gordon

(Australian Women's Test Player #65)

Full name: Dorothy Anne Gordon
Born: 24th December 1941, Australia
Batting: Right-hand batter
Bowling: Left-arm medium-fast
Biography: née Lonsdale
First Test: Australia Women v England Women at Thebarton Oval, Adelaide, December 27, 28, & 30, 1968 (Three-Day Match)
Last Test: Australia Women v India Women at Craig Oval, Hale School, Perth January 15-17, 1977 (Three-Day Match)
Test matches: Nine



Batting & Fielding

M	I	NO	Runs	Ave	50	100	Ct	St
9	11	1	195	19.50	0	0	4	0

HS: 38 v England, 2nd Test 1976 at Edgbaston, Birmingham*

Bowling

B	M	W	Runs	Ave	SR	ER	5wi	10wm
1808	80	22	508	23.09	82.18	1.68	2	1

BBI: 5/57 v England, 2nd Test 1968/69 at St Kilda Cricket Ground

BBM: 10/118 v England, 2nd Test 1968/69 at St Kilda Cricket Ground

Anne Gordon - one of four Australian women to take 10 wickets in a Test: Betty Wilson did it twice, Karen Price and Ashley Gardner once. A forceful middle-order batter and useful bowler, Gordon was Australian captain for the first ever women's game at Lord's. Gordon represented Victoria from 1963 to 1977 – scoring 11 centuries for her club and state, and captaining her State.

She was selected to play for Australia in the 1968/69 series against England. In the 2nd Test at St Kilda Cricket Ground, she opened the bowling with Joyce Goldsmith and took 5/61 and 5/57. In the second innings of this Test Gordon joined Miriam Knee in an Australian eighth-wicket record partnership. In the three Test series she took a total of 16 wickets, mostly top-order batters.

Playing in a match to raise money for the 1973 tour of England, Gordon broke her arm and was unable to straighten it fully subsequently. Although she continued to bowl for Australia she was sometimes no-balled and less effective as a bowler.

Gordon was selected to captain the Australian team that toured the West Indies and England in 1976, when all five Tests were drawn (four were Three-Day Tests, while the final Test at The Oval, was four-day). On that tour Gordon captained the Australian team in the One-Day International against Rachel Heyhoe-Flint's England team at Lord's - the first women's match at the home of cricket.

Gordon made her final Test appearance for Australia as Vice-captain to Margaret Jennings in a Test against India in Perth in 1976/77. She was secretary of the Victorian Women's Cricket Association for a number of years from the late 1960s. After her playing career Anne lived in England and became an English selector in the 1990s. She is now involved with the Pioneers Victorian Women's Cricket Association.

Profile by Amanda Weaver, for Oxford Companion to Australian Cricket

Fact Sheet research by MCC Library Volunteers Rosie Bushnell, Quentin Miller, Ross Perry, Ann Rusden OAM, Ray Webster OAM, and Ian Wilkinson, assisted and edited by David Studham and Trevor Ruddell.

Sources consulted: The Oxford Companion to Australian Cricket, Wisden Cricketers' Almanac – various issues.
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