AUSTRALIA V. WEST INDIES BOXING DAY TEST



DECEMBER 27, 2015 FACT SHEET - DAY 2

LIBRARY

Beginning with the inaugural Test match in March 1877, 107 Tests have been staged at the MCG. One Test, in 1970/71, was abandoned without a ball bowled and is not counted in the records. Fourteen of the matches have involved West Indies, Australia winning 10 of those contests, West Indies three, with the other drawn. The other sides to play Tests at the MCG are England (55), India (12), South Africa (12), Pakistan (9), New Zealand (3) and Sri Lanka (2).

Only Lord's Cricket Ground (130) has hosted more Test matches than the MCG. As Lord's currently has two Test matches per summer (it hosted three in 2010), it will extend its lead as the MCG has not hosted two Test matches in the same season since 1981/82. Of the 114 Tests between Australia and West Indies to date, Australia has won 57, West Indies 32, one has been tied and the remaining 24 drawn.

The current Test is Australia's 785th and West Indies' 512th. Of its 784 Tests to date, Australia has won 363 (46.30 per cent), lost 205 (26.14 per cent) and tied two. The remaining 202 have been drawn.

The fact sheets for today's game will review the inaugural five-Test series between the two countries, the first match beginning at Adelaide Oval on 18 December 1930, 85 years ago, almost to the day. A summary of each match will appear during the course of this game. Today's sheet features the Second Test, played at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

1930/31: West Indies' Inaugural Tour of Australia

SECOND TEST at the Sydney Cricket Ground, January 1, 2, 3 & 5, 1931

Australia made one change to its side from the First Test, omitting fast bowler Tim Wall in favour of left-arm spinner Bert Ironmonger, who had match figures of 13/118 for Victoria against the tourists a month earlier. The West Indies fielded the same 11.

Having won the toss, Australian captain Bill Woodfull had no hesitation in electing to bat in ideal conditions. Opening batsmen Bill Ponsford and Archie Jackson, however, were at once put under pressure by the visitors' pace trio of George Francis, Learie Constantine and Herman Griffith. Jackson was cleverly caught one-handed by Francis at first slip off Griffith in the eighth over, while just before lunch, Don Bradman, who had begun confidently, was adjudged to have been caught behind the wicket off the lively Francis.



Soon after the adjournment, an uppish Alan Kippax drive from Griffith was gathered in low down at mid-on by Lawson Bartlett, who immediately left the field. An x-ray revealed a broken finger on his right hand and he took no further part in the match. Stan McCabe and Ponsford added 71 in an hour before McCabe was trapped lbw by legspinner Tommy Scott, reducing Australia to 4/140. Ponsford, who had remained steadfast throughout, was joined by long-time opening partner Woodfull and the pair added 183 for the fifth wicket to reach 4/323 at stumps, Ponsford on 174 and Woodfull 58. (cont.back page)

THE CAPTAINS

Although this series was only his second at the helm, Bill Woodfull had led Australia to a 2-1 series victory in England a few months earlier to regain the Ashes. He was already regarded as one of Australia's greatest opening batsmen, his seemingly impenetrable defensive technique leading critics to label him as "The

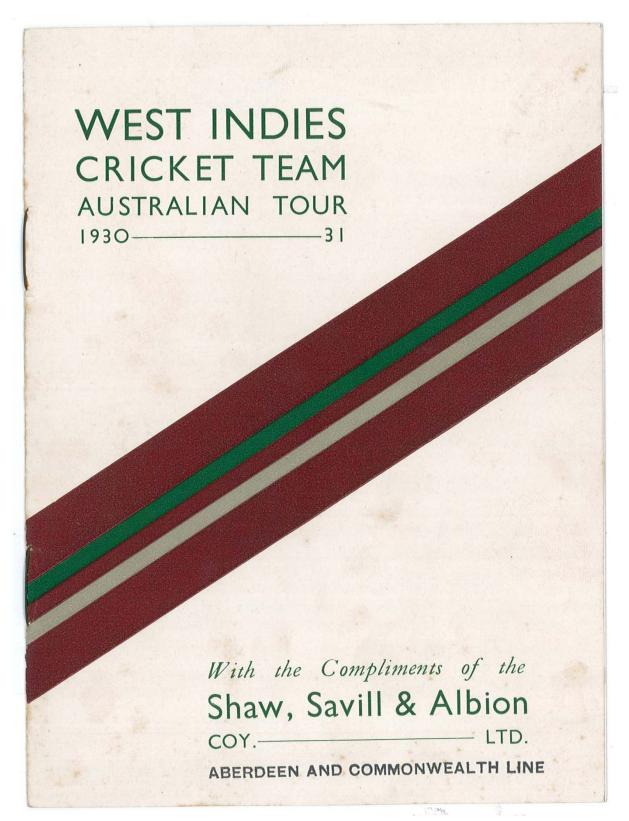


Unbowlable". He entered the 1930/31 series with an impressive record of 1142 runs at an average of 54.38, with six centuries, from 15 Tests. His overall first-class record was even more imposing – 9263 runs at 70.17, with 37 hundreds, in 112 first-class appearances. Renowned for impeccable sportsmanship, Woodfull had immediately earned the admiration and respect of his players for his leadership.



Even after 85 years, the appointment of the 23-year-old George Copeland ('Jackie') Grant as captain still seems bizarre. A right-hand middle order batsman, he had never played first-class cricket in the Caribbean, although born in Trinidad, his only experience at that level

being 26 fairly successful appearances for Cambridge University while completing his studies there. He had also had no leadership experience and only met the members of his side when joining their ship as it passed through the Panama Canal en route to Australia. It proved, however, to be an inspired choice, for Grant went on to head the Test batting averages, as well as earn widespread praise for his astute leadership and tactical expertise. He remains the youngest player to have captained West Indies in Tests.





Log in to the MCG Free WiFi to view the library's catalogue. The online database of the collection holdings was formally launched early 2015. The cloud hosted *Liberty Library Management System*, as implemented by Softlink, is available to search at tinyurl.com/ mcclcatalogue and through the MCC Library webpage at tinyurl.com/melbccl

Follow @MelbCCLibrary and on Instagram and Twitter for your posts include #MelbCCLibrary and #MCG1853

Facts sheet research by MCC Library Volunteers Ross Perry and Ray Webster. Edited by David Studham and Trevor Ruddell.



THE WI	EST	IND	ES	TEAM
		×		
G. C. GRANT (Ca)	ptain)		•••	Trinidad
L. S. BIRKETT (V	ice-Capi	ain)		Trinidad
I. BARROW				Jamaica
E. L. BARTLETT				. Barbados
L. N. CONSTANT	INE			Trinidad
F. I. DECAIRES				British Guiana
G. FRANCIS		***		Barbados
H. C. GRIFFITH			***	Barbados
G. HEADLEY				Jamaica
E. ST. HILL				Trinidad
E. R. HUNTE				Trinidad
F. R. MARTIN				Jamaica
C. A. ROACH	***			Trinidad
O. C. SCOTT		***		Jamaica
J. E. D. SEALEY		***	***	Barbados
O. S. WIGHT		***		British Guiana
R. H. MALLE J. E. SCHEUI	Contract of the contract of th		lanager	and Treasurer)

ITINERARY OUTWARD JOURNEY

Fri. 10th Oct. Depart Southampton, Messrs. Shaw Savill & Albion Co.'s S.S. "Tamaroa."

Thurs. 23rd Oct. Arrive Colon ... 4,597

Tues. 11th Nov. Arrive Wellington, New Zealand 6,595

Fri. 14th Nov. Depart Wellington, Messrs. Huddart Parker & Co.'s S.S. "Ulimaroa."

Tues. 18th Nov. Arrive Sydney ... 1,239

Ö

HOMEWARD JOURNEY

Fri. 6th March. Depart Sydney, Union S.S. Co. of New Zealand, "Maunganui."

Tues. 10th March. Arrive Wellington, New Zealand 1,239 Wed. 11th March. Depart Wellington,

Messrs. Shaw Savill & Albion Co.'s S.S. "Mataroa."

Mon, 30th March. Arrive Colon ... 6,

Mon. 30th March. Arrive Colon ... 6,595

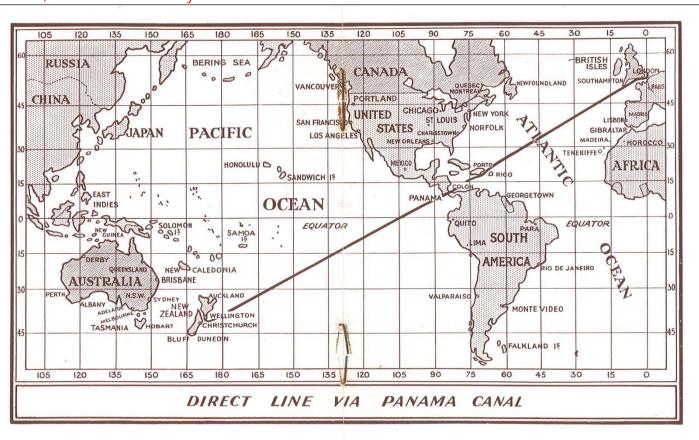
Mon. 13th April. Arrive Southampton ... 4,597

It is hoped that not more than one trunk, a travelling case and cricket bag will comprise the luggage of each player.

All luggage to be marked with the West Indies Colours, as per this cover.

Passports are required.

This page and opposite: *West Indies Cricket team Australian tour 1930-31.* Shaw, Savill & Albion Coy. Ltd. (1930). Shipping line's itinerary and tour fixture. For more on the 1930/31 West Indies Test tour, see the MCC Library's journal, *The Yorker*, available from the library reference desk.



SECOND TEST at the Sydney Cricket Ground, January 1, 2, 3 & 5, 1931



The West Indies began their reply 15 minutes before lunch and lost Lionel Birkett to the fifth ball of Fairfax's second over. Wickets continued to tumble throughout the afternoon, the visitors being mesmerised by the wrist-spin variations of Clarrie Grimmett (4/54). He received excellent support from the medium-fast Fairfax (3/19 from 13 overs) and the miserly Ironmonger (1/20 from 13 overs). Leading by 262 runs on the first innings, Woodfull enforced the follow-on and the visitors were again in trouble from the outset, losing 5/67 before stumps, on this occasion being unable to counter Alec Hurwood, who claimed four of the five wickets, swinging the new ball at medium pace instead of bowling his customary off-breaks. Overall, 20 wickets fell during the day for only 220 runs.

The Australians needed little more than half an hour on the fourth day to wind up the match, with Ironmonger (3/13) and Grimmett (1/9), neither of whom had bowled during the 55 minutes of the second innings on the previous evening, performing the last rites. Although the visitors had been forced to bat one man short in each innings because of Bartlett's injury, his presence may not have greatly reduced the home side's comprehensive winning margin of an innings and 172 runs, under the conditions that prevailed on the last two days.

Rain prevented any play next day and when the game was resumed on the third day, it soon became obvious that the pitch, which had only been partially covered overnight, in accordance with the rules applicable at that time, offered the bowlers greater assistance, with the ball kicking awkwardly from a good length. Woodfull (139 minutes, no fours) was out to the third ball of the day without addition to the score and Ponsford (348 minutes, 11 fours) left soon after at 6/341, having resolutely held the innings together with a characteristically disciplined display. Alan Fairfax was brilliantly caught at backward point by Constantine and Griffith threw the stumps down to run out Bert Oldfield before Scott, as in the First Test, wrapped up the innings to finish with 4/66, to take the bowling honours.

AUSTRALIA v. WEST INDIES (1930/31) Second Test Match

Played at Sydney Cricket Ground on January 1, 2 (no play), 3 & 5, 1931. **Australia won by an innings & 172 runs.** Toss: Australia.

Australia

Australia			
W. H. Ponsford b Scott	183	C. V. Grimmett b Scott	12
A. A. Jackson c Francis b Griffith	8	A. Hurwood c Martin b Scott	5
D. G. Bradman c Barrow b Francis	25	H. Ironmonger not out	3
A. F. Kippax c Bartlett b Griffith	10	B 6, lb 5, w 5, nb 3	19
S. J. McCabe lbw b Scott	31		_
* W. M. Woodfull c Barrow b Constantine	58	1/12 2/52 3/69 4/140 5/323	369
A. G. Fairfax c Constantine b Francis	15	7/344 8/361 9/364 10/369	
+ W. A. S. Oldfield run out	0		

Bowling: Griffith 28-4-57-2; Constantine 18-2-56-1; Francis 27-3-70-2; Scott 15.4-0-66-4; Martin 18-1-60-0; Birkett 10-1-41-0.

West Indies		(followed on)	
C. A. Roach run out	. 7	- c Kippax b McCabe	25
L. S. Birkett c Hurwood b Fairfax	. 3	- c McCabe b Hurwood	8
G. A. Headley b Fairfax	. 14	- c Jackson b Hurwood	2
F. R. Martin lbw b Grimmett		- c McCabe b Hurwood	0
* G. C. Grant c Hurwood b Ironmonger	. 6	- not out	15
L. N. Constantine c Bradman b Grimmett	. 12	- b Hurwood	8
† I. Barrow c Jackson b Fairfax	. 17	- c McCabe b Ironmonger	10
G. N. Francis b Grimmett		- c Oldfield b Ironmonger	0
O. C. Scott not out	. 15	- c Woodfull b Ironmonger	17
H. C. Griffith c Kippax b Grimmett	. 8	- lbw b Grimmett	0
E. L. Bartlett absent hurt		 absent hurt 	
B 6, nb 1	. 7	B 1, lb 2, w 1, nb 1	5
1/3 2/26 3/36 4/36 5/57 6/63	107	1/26 2/32 3/32 4/42 5/53	90
7/80 8/88 9/107		6/67 7/67 8/90 9/90	

Bowling: First Innings — Fairfax 13–4–19–3; Hurwood 5–1–7–0; Grimmett 19.1–3–54–4; Ironmonger 13–3–20–1. Second Innings — Fairfax 5–1–21–0; Hurwood 11–2–22–4; McCabe 7–0–20–1; Ironmonger 4–1–13–3; Grimmett 3.3–1–9–1.

Close of play scores: 1st day — Aust 4/323 (Ponsford 174, Woodfull 58); 2nd day — no play; 3rd day — WI (2) 5/67 (Grant 10, Barrow 10).

Umpires: E. G. Borwick & W. G. French.

More on the 1930/31 Test series is contained in an article in the MCC Library's journal, *The Yorker*



Alexander Hurwood (1902-1982)

Alec Hurwood toured England with the 1930 Australians, but had to wait until his return to play his only two Tests, both against the West Indies, in which he claimed 11 wickets at an average of 15.45. Tall and slim, he was a versatile bowler with a smooth economic action, delivering well-controlled slowmedium off-breaks after a six-step approach. If required, he was also capable of opening the bowling with medium-paced outswing. His first-class career was at first interrupted, and finally ended, by his employers General Motors, who refused to consistently grant him the necessary leave to play the game. As a consequence, he was unavailable for the remaining three Tests against the West Indies and one can only conjecture as to whether he may have added substantially to his international record. As a contemporary of Clarrie Grimmett and Bert Ironmonger, as well as the emerging Bill O'Reilly and Chuck Fleetwood-Smith, he would in future Test series have been faced with stiff competition for a place in the side.