

SPORTS AND RECREATION  
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INTERNATIONAL SPORTS HERITAGE ASSOCIATION'S MAGAZINE OF THE YEAR FOR 2011

MELBOURNE POST



**THIS ISSUE :**  
FROM H.H. STEPHENSON TO S.R. TENDULKAR: CELEBRATING 150  
YEARS OF INTERNATIONAL CRICKET TOURS TO AUSTRALIA.

# In this issue

This summer's International cricket at the MCG commences with the Boxing Day Test featuring the tenth Indian Test team to tour Australia. To commemorate the occasion our feature article celebrates the career of Sachin Tendulkar, who will be undertaking his fifth Test tour here. Ken Williams has examined all of the Test and One-Day International matches played in Australia by the "Modern Master" of Indian cricket.

The summer of 2011/12 is also the 150th anniversary of the first international cricket tour of Australia, when Bourke Street caterers and entrepreneurs Spiers and Pond sponsored the visit of a team of English cricketers under the captaincy of H.H. Stephenson.

The opening match of the tour, played at the MCG on New Year's Day 1862, was an enormous success and made Spiers and Pond a considerable fortune. Ever since, a steady stream of cricketing tourists has followed these trailblazers.

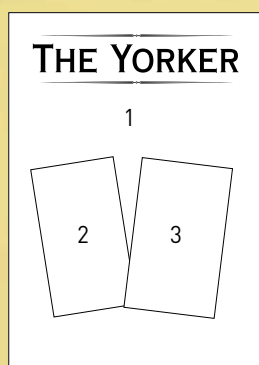
In this issue we mark the sesquicentenary of this landmark tour with two articles. Alf Batchelder has undertaken further research to revise his earlier works recording the background behind the inaugural tour, while Jim Blair examines the careers of Spiers and Pond after they took the opportunity to return to the UK to expand their business.

Our final feature is an entertaining piece by Ray Webster OAM on his quest to track down more details on A.A. Atkins, the elusive Queensland cricket captain of the 1890s, for the dictionary of Australian first-class cricketers. Ray records how persistence and ingenuity can have their rewards.

As this is the first issue of *The Yorker* available by subscription, we welcome our new readers, encourage existing ones to subscribe and look forward to your feedback.

**David Studham, MCC Librarian**

## COVER IMAGERY



1. The cover of the inaugural issue of *The Illustrated Melbourne Post* in January 1862 featured the First English team's arrival at the Cafe de Paris on Bourke Street, while page 5 featured a print of the opening match of the tour. MCC Library collection
2. H.H. Stephenson, the captain of the first English team to tour the Australian colonies in 1861/62. Coloured lithograph by John Corbert Anderson in 1858. MCC Museum, Baer collection
3. Robert Ingpen's original artwork of Sachin Tendulkar for the MCG 150th anniversary tapestry, which was unveiled in 2003. The tapestry currently hangs in the Anniversary Gallery at the Members' Dining Room end of the Long Room. MCC Museum collection

## An "ISHY" for The Yorker!

As reported in the stop press of our last issue, the International Sports Heritage Association (ISHA) presented *The Yorker* with their 2011 Communications Award for "Best Programs, Annual Reports or Magazines for an organisation with a budget over US\$250,000".

The award, known in the industry as "The ISHY", was presented in nine different categories at the ISHA's annual conference in Woodville, Ontario, Canada on October 13. The MCC Library also received an honourable mention certificate for our entry in the mixed media category for the design and material relating to our exhibition *The Crooked Staffe: celebrating four centuries of cricket in print*.

Of the 17 awards and certificates presented in 2011, the MCC Library's were the only ones awarded to an organisation outside North America.



It is such an honour to have our hard work on both *The Yorker* and *The Crooked Staffe* recognised by our peers in the sports heritage industry's leading body. It reinforces that the club's library and archives, like the other arms of the Heritage and Tourism Department, are at the global forefront of promoting sports heritage. The award and certificates arrived recently and are proudly on display on the library's reference desk.

ISHA is a non-profit membership organisation incorporated in 1971 to educate, promote and support organisations and individuals engaged in the celebration of sports heritage. ISHA includes more than 130 members from countries including China, New Zealand, Japan, Singapore, Australia, Canada, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States.

More information about the ISHA can be obtained at their website [www.sportsheritage.org](http://www.sportsheritage.org)

INTERNATIONAL  
SPORTS  
HERITAGE  
ASSOCIATION



# Sachin Tendulkar Down Under

## THE MODERN MASTER'S MATCH-BY-MATCH BATTING RECORD IN TEST AND ONE-DAY INTERNATIONALS IN AUSTRALIA.

By Ken Williams

By general consensus the greatest batsman of the modern era, idolised in his own country and revered around the world, Sachin Tendulkar is currently making his fifth and possibly his last Test tour of Australia. A master batsman with every shot at his disposal, he has thrilled and charmed cricket audiences around the world for more than two decades with his impeccable technique and dazzling strokeplay.

His statistical achievements at international level are staggering. Equally at home in Test matches and One-Day Internationals, he recently became the first player to pass 15,000 Test runs (no other player has yet reached 13,000), while his tally of 18,111 runs in ODIs is more than 4000 runs ahead of his nearest rival. In the two forms of the game he has scored more than 33,000 runs at an average only fractionally below 50, an extraordinary feat of endurance and skill in the high-pressure environment of modern international cricket. No-one has come remotely close to his current tally of 99 hundreds at international level.

Tendulkar has enjoyed considerable success on each of his four visits to this country, especially in Test matches, in which he has recorded six of his 51 Test hundreds and averaged nearly 60 runs per innings. The article which follows examines his Test and ODI performances in Australia within the context of his overall career.

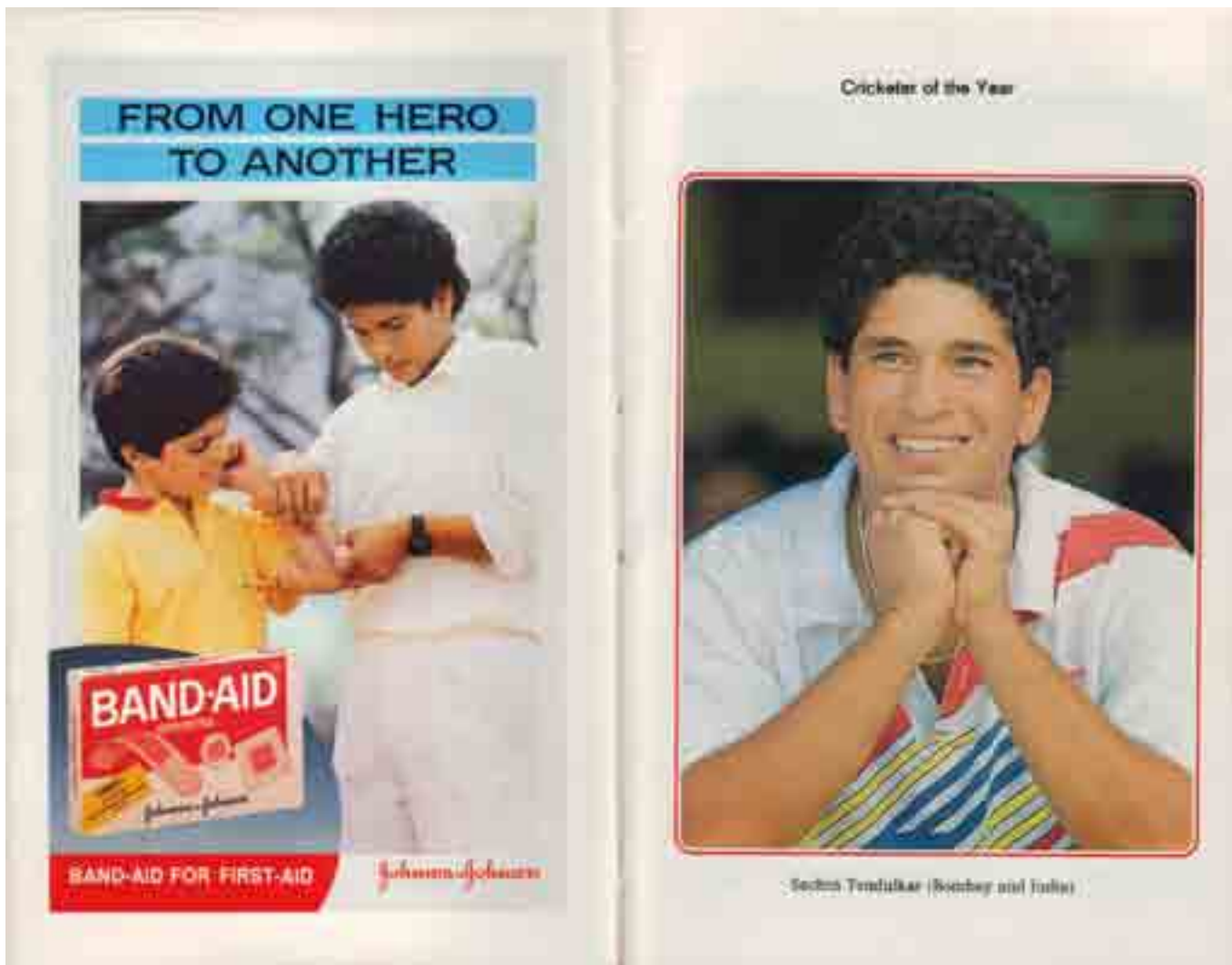
Note: In the match details below, the number in brackets refers to Tendulkar's position in the batting order. In order to readily distinguish between Tests and ODIs in the match details which follow, Tests are shown in red and ODIs in blue. Career records are up to the completion of the recently concluded three-Test series between India and the West Indies.

### Early career

Sachin Ramesh Tendulkar was born in Bombay (now Mumbai) on April 24, 1973. Brought up in a relatively well-to-do middle class household – his father was a university professor – he attended Sharadashram Vidyamandir school in Bombay where his exceptional prowess at cricket became apparent at the age of 12, when he made his first century for the school. He attracted worldwide notice two years later when, at the age of 14, he reeled off scores of 207, 329 not out and 346 not out in the Harris Memorial Challenge Shield, an Under-17 interschool competition. In the second of these innings, he and Vinod Kambli (who made 349 not out and later played 17 Tests and 104 ODIs for India) took part in an unbroken stand of 664 for the third wicket against St Xavier's High School, at the time the highest partnership in any form of cricket. (The previous record was 641 for the third wicket by Tom Patton and Norman Rippon in a minor match at Gapsted in north-eastern Victoria in 1913/14 while the record set by Tendulkar and Kambli was later broken in an Under-13 interschool match at Secunderabad in India in 2006/07.)

Right: Tendulkar hits out during his innings of 116 on the third day of the 1999 Boxing day Test at the MCG. Credit: Getty Images





Tendulkar was chosen as one of *Indian Cricket's Five Cricketers of the Year* for 1991. The photographic section of the annual displayed Tendulkar's strong commercial appeal so early in his career. MCC Library collection

Later in the same calendar year (1988), having now turned 15, Tendulkar made his first-class debut in a Ranji Trophy West Zone match for Bombay against Gujarat at Bombay's Wankhede Stadium. He made an unbeaten 100 (186 minutes, 14 fours), becoming the youngest player to make a hundred on his first-class debut in India. He followed with six half-centuries in as many matches to finish second in Bombay's 1988/89 batting averages with 583 runs at the excellent average of 64.77. There were suggestions that he might be included in the national team that toured the West Indies at the end of the season, but the selectors decided that at 15 he was not yet ready to take on Ambrose, Marshall, Walsh and Co. in the Caribbean.

He did have to wait much longer for his Test debut, however. After making an unbeaten century for the Rest of India in an Irani Trophy match against 1988/89 Ranji champions Delhi at the start of the 1989/90 season, he was chosen in the Indian team for a four-Test series in Pakistan in November and December. Just 16 years and 205 day old when he made his Test debut in Karachi, it was a tough initiation against a pace attack that included Wasim Akram, Imran Khan and Waqar Younis, but he acquitted himself creditably to record two fiftes. In the final Test at Sialkot he was struck a fearful blow on the bridge of the nose when attempting to pull a delivery from Waqar, but he courageously continued batting to compile a match-saving half-century. Soon after, he made his ODI debut, against Pakistan at Gujranwala, but in a match reduced to 20 overs a side he was dismissed for a duck by Waqar. For good measure, he made another duck in his second ODI, against New Zealand at Dunedin (he was caught and bowled by Shane Thomson) and it was not until his third ODI, against New Zealand at Wellington that he finally got off the mark. For a time his record at ODI level was undistinguished. Surprisingly

it was not until his 78th appearance, against Australia at Colombo in 1994/95, that he recorded the first of his 48 ODI hundreds to date.

Tendulkar made his first Test hundred in his ninth Test, against England at Manchester in 1990. In what *Wisden* described as a "disciplined display of immense maturity" he made an unbeaten 119, having batted for 224 minutes and hit 17 fours in a match-saving innings. At 17 years and 112 days he was only 30 days older than Mushtaq Mohammad when, against India at Delhi in 1960/61, he became the youngest player to make a Test hundred.

#### 1991/92 tour of Australia

Tendulkar was just 18 when he embarked on his first tour of Australia, having made 588 runs at 39.20 in 11 Tests and 495 runs at 27.50 in 21 ODIs to this point of his career. He was one of two teenagers in the team, the other being 19-year-old Saurav Ganguly who was overlooked for the Tests.

India's arrival in Australia was delayed by the decision of their board to stage three ODIs against South Africa to mark the end of the latter's 21-year isolation from official international cricket. In the first of these contests, at Calcutta on November 10, Tendulkar made 62, his highest ODI score to date. As a result of the team's late arrival, there was time for only one first-class match before the start of the Test series. A scheduled four-day fixture against Western Australia, programmed for a week earlier, had to be reduced to a one-day match.

Five Tests were played, this being the last occasion in which a full five-match series has been staged between the countries. India also took part, along with the West Indies, in the limited-overs triangular World

Series Cup tournament. With inadequate preparation before the Test series, India experienced a disappointing tour, losing the Test series four-nil, although it salvaged some pride by reaching the WSC finals.

Tendulkar's performances with the bat provided one of the few highlights. Easily his team's highest runscore in all matches, his brilliant centuries in the Third and Fifth Tests are still spoken about, while his consistent run-scoring in the one-day matches was a major factor in India qualifying for the finals.

The tourists were heavily beaten in their only first-class match prior to the First Test, against New South Wales at Lismore, losing by an innings and 8 runs. Tendulkar was the only visiting batsman to defy the NSW attack on a pitch that provided assistance to bowlers throughout, top-scoring in both innings with scores of 82 and 59.

**FIRST TEST:** at Brisbane Cricket Ground (Woolloongabba), November 29-December 2. **Australia won by 10 wickets.** INDIA 239 (M. Prabhakar 54\*; C.J. McDermott 5/54) and 156 (C.J. McDermott 4/47, M.G. Hughes 4/50); AUSTRALIA 340 (M.A. Taylor 94, D.C. Boon 66; Kapil Dev 4/80) and 0/58.

S.R. Tendulkar	(6) b M.R. Whitney	16
	(6) c I.A. Healy b C.J. McDermott	7

India's lack of preparation was highlighted in the opening Test, as its top order crumbled against the Australian pace attack of Craig McDermott, Mike Whitney and Merv Hughes. Its first six batsman aggregated just 134 runs in the two innings, Ravi Shastri (41 in the second innings) being the only player to reach 20. In an inauspicious Test debut against Australia, Tendulkar batted for 47 minutes in the first innings before being dismissed at 6/83. In the second innings he lasted half an hour and was fifth out with the score on 47.

The first half of the 50-overs World Series tournament was staged between the First and Second Tests. India played five of its eight preliminary matches in this period, recording wins against Australia and the West Indies, as well as tying against the latter in the opening match.

**WSC 1st match (v. WEST INDIES):** at WACA Ground, Perth, December 6 (d/n). **Match tied.** INDIA 126 (47.4 overs); WEST INDIES 126 (41 overs) (S.T. Banerjee 3/30).

S.R. Tendulkar	(4) c R.B. Richardson b A.C. Cummins	1
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Although he failed with the bat in his first ODI on Australian soil, Tendulkar was one of his team's heroes in an extraordinary match which ended in only the fourth tie in ODI history to that time. Asked to bowl the 41st over with the medium pacers after each of his side's recognised bowlers had completed their 10 overs, he had Anderson Cummins caught at second slip from the last ball of his over with the scores level.

**WSC 2nd match (v. AUSTRALIA):** at WACA Ground, Perth, December 8. **India won by 107 runs.** INDIA 7/208 (50 overs) (K. Srikkanth 60; S.R. Waugh 3/46); AUSTRALIA 101 (37.5 overs) (R.J. Shastri 5/15).

S.R. Tendulkar	(4) c M.A. Taylor b T.M. Moody	36
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After man-of-the-match Kris Srikkanth had got India off to a flying start, Tendulkar gave a subdued display in his first ODI against Australia, batting for 79 minutes, facing 65 balls and hitting three fours. The result provided a major upset, the hosts collapsing dramatically in reply to India's seemingly modest total.

**WSC 3rd match (v. AUSTRALIA):** at Bellerive Oval, Hobart, December 10. **Australia won by 8 wickets.** INDIA 8/175 (50 overs) (S. V. Manjrekar 57, S.R. Tendulkar 57; C.J. McDermott 3/19); AUSTRALIA 2/176 (48.3 overs) (D.C. Boon 102\*, D.M. Jones 48).

S.R. Tendulkar	(4) c S.R. Waugh b P.L. Taylor	57
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Tendulkar and Sanjay Manjrekar stabilised India's innings after the early loss of both openers, putting on 112 for the third wicket, but the innings fell away thereafter. In compiling his first ODI fifty against Australia, Tendulkar batted for 111 minutes, faced 107 balls and hit three fours.

**WSC 5th match (v. WEST INDIES):** at Adelaide Oval, December 14. **India won by 10 runs.** INDIA 4/262 (50 overs) (K. Srikkanth 82, S.V. Manjrekar 55, S.R. Tendulkar 48); WEST INDIES 252 (50 overs) (D.L. Haynes 89, P.A. Wallace 52; Kapil Dev 4/54).

S.R. Tendulkar	(4) c & b K.L.T. Arthurton	48
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Tendulkar (62 minutes, 58 balls, two fours) batted in most attractive fashion to help set up a match-winning total.

**WSC 6th match (v. AUSTRALIA):** at Adelaide Oval, December 15. **Australia won by 6 wickets.** INDIA 157 (48.4 overs); AUSTRALIA 4/158 (40.5 overs) (A.R. Border 76, D.M. Jones 63\*).

S.R. Tendulkar	(4) c D.M. Jones b S.R. Waugh	21
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On a slow pitch, India fared poorly against some high-class bowling and fielding by the home side. Tendulkar faced 35 balls and hit three fours before being third out with the score on 37.

**SECOND TEST:** at Melbourne Cricket Ground, December 26-29. **Australia won by 8 wickets.** INDIA 263 (K.S. More 67\*; B.A. Reid 6/66) and 213 (D.B. Vengsarkar 54; B.A. Reid 6/60); AUSTRALIA 349 (G.R. Marsh 86, I.A. Healy 60, D.M. Jones 59; Kapil Dev 5/97, M. Prabhakar 4/84) and 2/128 (M.A. Taylor 60).

S.R. Tendulkar	(7) c M.E. Waugh b B.A. Reid	15
	(7) c A.R. Border b P.L. Taylor	40

India's top-order batsmen again fared poorly, with Australia again winning with a day to spare to go 2-nil up in the series. Sent in at No 7 in this match, Tendulkar with seventh out at 128 in the first innings, after batting for just over half an hour. In the second innings, in partnership with the sedate Dilip Vengsarkar, he looked set for a big score, but in attempting a big hit off Peter Taylor he skied the ball deep behind the bowler, enabling Allan Border, running at full tilt back from mid-on, to take a brilliant diving catch. Tendulkar had batted for just over two hours and hit five fours in a confident display.

**THIRD TEST:** at Sydney Cricket Ground, January 2-6. **Drawn.** AUSTRALIA 313 (D.C. Boon 129\*, M.A. Taylor 56) and 8/173 (A.R. Border 53\*; R.J. Shastri 4/45); INDIA 483 (R.J. Shastri 206, S.R. Tendulkar 148\*, D.B. Vengsarkar 54; C.J. McDermott 4/147).

S.R. Tendulkar	(6) not out	148
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India showed greatly improved form in this match, and but for the loss of 94.1 overs through rain and bad light on the third and fourth days, would almost certainly have won the match. Having managed just 78 runs in his first four innings of the series, Tendulkar's magnificent unbeaten 148 marked his coming of age as a Test batsman. In what *Wisden* described as a "mature and fluent" innings, he batted for 298 minutes, faced 215 balls and hit 14 fours. At 18 years and 256 days, he became the youngest batsman to score a Test century in Australia. He and man-of-the-match Ravi Shastri put on 196, at the time the highest fifth-wicket partnership for India against Australia. Shane Warne, who took 1/150 from 45 overs, made his Test debut.

**WSC 9th match (v. WEST INDIES):** at Brisbane Cricket Ground (Woolloongabba), January 11. **West Indies won by 6 wickets.** INDIA 191 (48.3 overs) (S.R. Tendulkar 77; A.C. Cummins 5/31); WEST INDIES 4/192 (48.3 overs) (R.B. Richardson 72, D.L. Haynes 52).

S.R. Tendulkar	(4) c sub (H.A.G. Anthony) b A.C. Cummins	77
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Tendulkar's fine innings (he batted for 157 minutes, faced 130 balls and hit five fours) could not save his side from a decisive loss. India's other five top-order batsmen managed just 17 runs between them. The West Indies' win was their first of the tournament.

**WSC 11th match (v. AUSTRALIA):** at Sydney Cricket Ground, January 14 (d/n). **Australia won by 9 wickets.** INDIA 175 (49.4 overs) (K. Srikkanth 42); AUSTRALIA 1/177 (39.2 overs) (T.M. Moody 87\*, D.C. Boon 79\*).

S.R. Tendulkar	(5) run out	31
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Tendulkar appeared well set before being run out by a direct hit by Allan Border from mid-wicket.





MCC Secretary John Lill purchased the signed photo of Sir Donald Bradman and Sachin Tendulkar at a fundraising auction during the gala dinner held at the Adelaide Oval to celebrate "The Don's" ninetieth birthday in August 1998. Tendulkar and Shane Warne had visited Sir Donald earlier in the day. MCC Museum collection

**WSC 12th match (v. WEST INDIES):** at Melbourne Cricket Ground, January 16 (d/n). **India won by 5 wickets.** WEST INDIES 8/175 (50 overs) [C.L. Hooper 45]; INDIA 5/176 (46.4 overs) (K. Srikanth 60, **S.R. Tendulkar 57\***).

S.R. Tendulkar (4) not out 57

With both sides having won two matches (and tied one), this match determined who would meet Australia in the best-of-three WSC finals. After India's swing bowling had restricted the West Indies to a modest total, Tendulkar steered his side to victory with a composed innings that earned him his first man-of-the-match award (\$500 and a crystal decanter) on Australian soil. He batted for just under two hours, faced 88 balls and hit two fours.

**WSC 1st final (v. AUSTRALIA):** at Melbourne Cricket Ground, January 18 (d/n). **Australia won by 88 runs.** AUSTRALIA 5/233 (50 overs) (D.C. Boon 78); INDIA 145 (42 overs) (K. Srikanth 41).

S.R. Tendulkar (4) c M.R. Whitney b T.M. Moody 4

India began its run chase well on an easy-paced pitch, but the cheap dismissal of Tendulkar ensured they never mounted a serious challenge, the last five wickets falling for just 15 runs. Earlier, Tendulkar had claimed his second WSC wicket when he dismissed Geoff Marsh, the first wicket to fall in Australia's innings.

**WSC 2nd final (v. AUSTRALIA):** at Sydney Cricket Ground, January 20 (d/n). **Australia won by 6 runs.** AUSTRALIA 9/208 (50 overs) (G.R. Marsh 78; M. Prabhakar 3/31, S.L.V. Raju 3/32); INDIA 7/202 (50 overs) (**S.R. Tendulkar 69**, R.J. Shastri 61).

S.R. Tendulkar (4) c M.R. Whitney b S.R. Waugh 69

Australia gained a thrilling victory to claim the WSC title for the seventh time. Tendulkar's fine innings - he batted for 116 minutes, faced 100 balls and hit three fours, kept India in the game - but his dismissal with 19 runs needed proved the turning point. Shortly beforehand Tendulkar had passed 400 runs in the tournament. He finished with 401 runs at 44.55, making him the second-highest runscore overall behind Australia's David Boon (432 at 61.71).

**FOURTH TEST:** at Adelaide Oval, January 25-29. **Australia won by 38 runs.** AUSTRALIA 145 and 451 (D.C. Boon 135, M.A. Taylor 100, A.R. Border 91\*; Kapil Dev 5/130); INDIA 225 (Kapil Dev 56; C.J. McDermott 5/76) and 333 (M. Azharuddin 106, M. Prabhakar 64; C.J. McDermott 5/92).

S.R. Tendulkar (6) lbw b C.J. McDermott 6  
(4) lbw b M.E. Waugh 17

Tendulkar made a disappointing return to the Test arena, facing only 8 balls in the first innings (he was sixth out with the score at 70) and 29 in the second, when he was third out at 97. Set 372 to win, India nearly pulled off a remarkable win - had Tendulkar got going they may well have done so. In Australia's first innings he recorded his best Test bowling figures against Australia. Brought on as a change bowler in the first session of the match, he dismissed Mark Taylor for 11 and Allan Border for a fourth-ball duck to finish with 2/10 from four overs.

**FIFTH TEST:** at WACA Ground, Perth, February 1-5. **Australia won by 300 runs.** AUSTRALIA 346 (D.C. Boon 107, A.R. Border 59, T.M. Moody 50; M. Prabhakar 5/101) and 6/367 dec. (D.M. Jones 150\*, T.M. Moody 101); INDIA 272 (**S.R. Tendulkar 114**, M.R. Whitney 4/68, M.G. Hughes 4/82) and 141 (M.R. Whitney 7/27).

S.R. Tendulkar (4) c T.M. Moody b M.R. Whitney 114  
(4) c T.M. Moody b P.R. Reiffel 5

Tendulkar gave further convincing proof of his magnificent talent when he scored his third Test hundred and second of the series on the second and third days. On a lightning-fast WACA pitch, he almost single-handedly held India's first innings together. He took his score from 31 to 112 in the pre-lunch session on the third day, racing from 50 to 100 in 55 balls. In an innings featuring superb driving, he batted for 228 minutes, faced 161 balls and hit 16 fours. He and keeper Kiran More added 91 to establish a new Indian ninth-wicket partnership against Australia. Unfortunately, he could not repeat his batting heroics in the second innings, as the tourists lost all 10 wickets for just 59 after the openers had put on 82. With 368 runs at 46.00, Tendulkar was easily his side's highest runscore in the series, while only David Boon (556) and Mark Taylor (422) made more runs overall.

## 1992 World Cup

The 1992 World Cup, the fifth to be staged, was jointly hosted by Australia and New Zealand. Nine teams took part, South Africa being added almost at the last moment following its recent readmission to official international cricket. As each team met each other once, India played eight matches in the preliminary round, five in Australia and three in New Zealand. Jaded after their long tour of Australia, India managed just two wins and finished in seventh place, ahead of only Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe.

**WORLD CUP 2nd match (v. ENGLAND):** at WACA Ground, Perth, February 22 (d/n). **England won by 9 runs.** ENGLAND 9/236 (50 overs) (R.A. Smith 91, G.A. Gooch 51); INDIA 227 (49.2 overs) (R.J. Shastri 57; D.A. Reeve 3/38).

S.R. Tendulkar (4) c A.J. Stewart b I.T. Botham 35

In his first World Cup innings, Tendulkar batted stylishly to make his runs off 44 balls (he hit five fours).

**WORLD CUP 9nd match (v. SRI LANKA):** at Harrup Park, Mackay, February 28. **No result.** INDIA 0/1(0.2 overs); SRI LANKA did not bat.

S.R. Tendulkar did not bat

After rain delayed the start, reducing the match to a 20-over contest, a further downpour after only two balls had been bowled prevented any further play.

**WORLD CUP 12th match (v. AUSTRALIA):** at Brisbane Cricket Ground (Woolloongabba), March 1. **Australia won by 1 run (adjusted target).** AUSTRALIA 9/237 (50 overs) (D.M. Jones 90, D.C. Boon 43; Kapil Dev 3/41, M. Prabhakar 3/41); INDIA (target: 236 runs from 47 overs) 234 (47 overs) (M. Azharuddin 93, S.V. Manjrekar 47; T.M. Moody 3/56).

S.R. Tendulkar (4) c S.R. Waugh b T.M. Moody 11

India narrowly lost a thrilling contest, losing its last two wickets to run outs in the last possible over. Third out at 98, Tendulkar fell cheaply, having faced only 19 balls.

**WORLD CUP 16th match (v. PAKISTAN):** at Sydney Cricket Ground, March 4 (d/n). **India won by 43 runs.** INDIA 7/216 (49 overs) (S.R. Tendulkar 54\*, A.D. Jadeja 46; Mushtaq Ahmed 3/59); PAKISTAN 173 (48.1 overs) (Aamer Sohail 62, Javed Miandad 40).

S.R. Tendulkar (5) not out 54

In the first meeting between the countries in World Cup history, India gained its first win of the tournament. Tendulkar's attractive unbeaten half-century (62 balls, three fours) helped his side reach a competitive total and won him the man-of-the-match award. He and Vinod Kambli, who had taken part in the world-record stand four years earlier, batted together for the first time for their country, adding 46 for the fourth wicket. An estimated television audience of 250 million watched the match.

India's next three matches were played in New Zealand, against Zimbabwe at Hamilton (won by 55 runs), the West Indies at Wellington (lost by 5 wickets) and New Zealand at Dunedin (lost by four wickets). Tendulkar won another man-of-the-match award for his innings of 81 (77 balls, eight fours and a six) against Zimbabwe and top-scored with 84 (107 balls, six fours) in a losing cause in the match against New Zealand.

**WORLD CUP 32nd match (v. SOUTH AFRICA):** at Adelaide Oval, March 15. **South Africa won by 6 wickets.** INDIA 6/180 (30 overs) (M. Azharuddin 79, Kapil Dev 42); SOUTH AFRICA 4/181 (29.1 overs) (P.N. Kirsten 84, A.C. Hudson 53).

S.R. Tendulkar (4) c K.C. Wessels b A.P. Kuiper 14

With no chance of qualifying for the finals, India was comfortably defeated in a rain-affected contest, despite aggressive batting by skipper Mohammad Azharuddin and Kapil Dev. Tendulkar faced just 14 balls in his brief stay. In an unexpected result, Pakistan, one of only two teams India managed to beat in the tournament, went on to defeat England in the final to win the title.

In his first World Cup, Tendulkar scored 283 runs at 47.16, the second highest aggregate for his team, behind only Azharuddin's 332 at 47.42. In all international matches (Tests and ODIs combined) during India's four-month tour of Australia and New Zealand, Tendulkar compiled 1052 runs at 45.73 (Azharuddin was next highest with 660 at 27.50), an astonishing achievement for a player yet to turn 19. After the World Cup, Tendulkar broadened his experience by playing a season of English county cricket with Yorkshire. He became the first overseas player to represent the county, being signed at almost the last minute after the original choice, Australia's Craig McDermott, withdrew because of injury. Although not quite as successful as hoped, he came third in the county's batting averages with 1070 runs at 46.52.

### 1999/00 tour of Australia

Eight years elapsed before India undertook its next tour of Australia, its seventh overall. Tendulkar, 26 years of age and regarded as the finest strokemaker in the world, was by now a vastly experienced player at international level, having scored 5612 runs, including 21 hundreds, at 56.68 in 71 Tests, plus a further 8571 runs (24 hundreds) at 42.85 in 229 ODIs. At this point he had not missed a Test since his debut in 1989/90 – he would extend his unbroken sequence to 84 Tests before a heel injury forced him to miss India's tour of Sri Lanka in August/September 2001.

Shortly before coming to Australia, during New Zealand's tour of India in October and November 1999, Tendulkar had recorded his highest Test and ODI scores to date – 217 (495 minutes, 29 fours) in the third Test at Ahmedabad and an unbeaten 186 (150 balls, 15 fours and two sixes) in the second ODI at Hyderabad. He and Rahul Dravid (153) put on 331 for the second wicket in 46 overs, still the highest partnership for any wicket in ODIs. (To illustrate cricket's unpredictability, Tendulkar's scores in the three remaining ODIs were 1, 2 and 0!)

Since his first tour of Australia, Tendulkar had played four Tests against Australia at home, a one-off match at Delhi in 1996/97 and a three-Test series in the following season. Captaining his country for the first time in a Test match, Tendulkar failed with the bat at Delhi, falling to Peter McIntyre and Glenn McGrath for 10 and 0, but had the satisfaction of leading his side to a seven-wicket victory. As a result, India became the holders of the newly minted Border-Gavaskar Trophy. Having been relieved of the captaincy, he enjoyed vastly more success when



Tendulkar shared star billing with Shane Warne on the cover of the Test series program for the 1999/00 Indian tour of Australia, with these two drawcards ensuring large crowds across the Test series. MCC Library collection

the countries met again in 1997/98. In the opening Test at Chennai, his unbeaten 155 (286 minutes, 14 fours and four sixes) in the second innings set up a 179-run victory after his team had trailed by 81 on the first innings. In the following Test, at Calcutta, he made 79, being one of six batsmen to pass 50 as the home side ran up the huge score of 5/633 to win by an innings. In the final Test at Bangalore he top-scored with 177 (298 minutes, 29 fours and three sixes) in India's first innings of 424, but it was not enough to prevent Australia gaining a face-saving victory. With 446 runs at 111.50, he finished comfortably on top of the series batting averages. The Australians had not seen the last of him, for a few days later, in an ODI at Kanpur, he struck a blazing 100 (seven sixes and five fours), his 13th one-day hundred, off just 89 balls.

The 1999/00 tour of Australia was a disaster for India, which lost all three Tests by substantial margins and managed to win only one of its eight matches in the triangular one-day series that followed. Reluctantly restored to the captaincy which he had gladly relinquished two years earlier, Tendulkar had the least successful of his four tours of Australia, although he easily headed his country's Test batting averages despite being on the receiving end of some doubtful umpiring decisions.

Prior to the First Test, the tourists played two first-class matches, losing to Queensland by 10 wickets at the Gabba and defeating a depleted NSW by 93 runs at the SCG. Tendulkar made 83 and 27 in the former, but opted to rest from the second, handing the captaincy to Saurav Ganguly, who led India for the first time in a first-class match.

**FIRST TEST:** at Adelaide Oval, December 10-14. **Australia won by 285 runs.** AUSTRALIA 441 (S.R. Waugh 150, R.T. Ponting 125, S.K. Warne 86) and 8/239 dec. (G.S. Blewett 88); INDIA 285 (S.R. Tendulkar 61, S.C. Ganguly 60; S.K. Warne 4/92) and 110 (D.W. Fleming 5/30).

S.R. Tendulkar (5) c J.L. Langer b S.K. Warne 61  
(5) lbw b G.D. McGrath 0

Tendulkar top-scored in the first innings, batting for three hours and hitting eight fours in a 133-ball stay. Adjudged caught at short leg, TV replays showed that it was a bad decision. In the second innings he fell victim to a controversial lbw decision by umpire Daryl Harper. Ducking to evade a short-pitched delivery from Glenn McGrath, he was struck

on the shoulder when the delivery did not get up as expected. As with his first innings dismissal, TV replays showed that he was extremely unlucky to be given out.

**SECOND TEST:** at Melbourne Cricket Ground, December 26-30. **Australia won by 180 runs.** AUSTRALIA 405 (M.J. Slater 91, A.C. Gilchrist 78, R.T. Ponting 67; J. Srinath 4/130) and 5/208 dec. (A.C. Gilchrist 55, M.E. Waugh 51\*); INDIA 238 (**S.R. Tendulkar 116**; B. Lee 5/47) and 195 (**S.R. Tendulkar 52**).

S.R. Tendulkar	(4) c J.L. Langer b D.W. Fleming	116
	(4) lbw b S.K. Warne	52

Tendulkar batted superbly to top-score in both innings, being the only visiting batsman to reach 50 in either innings. In the first innings, he batted for 283 minutes, faced 191 balls and hit nine fours and a six in a chanceless display to record his fifth Test hundred against Australia. He again batted without error in the second, batting for 167 minutes and hitting four fours before padding up to a Warne delivery that hurried through. The match marked the Test debut of Brett Lee, who took seven wickets and troubled all the Indian batsmen apart from Tendulkar with his pace and aggression.

**THIRD TEST:** at Sydney Cricket Ground, January 2-4. **Australia won by an innings & 141 runs.** INDIA 150 (G.D. McGrath 5/48, B. Lee 4/39) and 261 (V.V.S. Laxman 167; G.D. McGrath 5/55); AUSTRALIA 5/552 dec. (J.L. Langer 223, R.T. Ponting 141\*, S.R. Waugh 57).

S.R. Tendulkar	(4) lbw b G.D. McGrath	45
	(4) c J.L. Langer b D.W. Fleming	4

After electing to bat first in conditions favourable to fast bowlers, Tendulkar batted brightly after the cheap dismissals of both openers, hitting eight fours from 53 balls during his 82-minute stay at the crease. In the second innings, with his side 402 in arrears, he lasted only four balls, being third out with the score on 33. The later part of the innings was notable for an astonishing cameo hand by V.V.S. Laxman (255 minutes, 198 balls, 27 fours and a five) who would give much grief to Australian bowlers in the years to come. With 278 runs at 46.33, Tendulkar was easily his team's highest run scorer in the series, Laxman being the only other tourist to exceed 200 runs. Winning the series three-nil, Australia gained possession of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy for the first time.

The Test series was followed by the triangular World Series tournament (Pakistan being the other country to take part) which was staged in a four-week block commencing on January 9. India fared poorly and did not qualify for the finals.

**WSC 2nd match (v. PAKISTAN):** at Brisbane Cricket Ground (Woolloongabba), January 10 (d/n). **Pakistan won by 2 wickets.** INDIA 195 (48.5 overs) (S.C. Ganguly 61, R.R. Singh 50; Shoaib Akhtar 3/19); PAKISTAN 8/196 (49 overs) (Yousuf Youhana 63; J. Srinath 4/49).

S.R. Tendulkar	(4) b Abdur Razzaq	13
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Third out with the score on 76, Tendulkar faced 26 balls and hit two fours.

**WSC 3rd match (v. AUSTRALIA):** at Melbourne Cricket Ground, January 12 (d/n). **Australia won by 28 runs.** AUSTRALIA 7/269 (50 overs) (R.T. Ponting 115, M.G. Bevan 41); INDIA 6/241 (50 overs) (S.C. Ganguly 100, R. Dravid 60).

S.R. Tendulkar	(4) run out	12
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Having faced just 11 balls, he narrowly failed to make his ground in attempting a second run after a superb return from Shane Lee at deep square leg.

**WSC 4th match (v. AUSTRALIA):** at Sydney Cricket Ground, January 14 (d/n). **Australia won by 5 wickets.** INDIA 100 (36.3 overs) (G.D. McGrath 4/8, A. Symonds 4/11); AUSTRALIA 5/101 (26.5 overs) (J. Srinath 4/30).

S.R. Tendulkar	(2) c A.C. Gilchrist b G.D. McGrath	1
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Promoting himself to open, Tendulkar failed for the third successive time in the ODI series, having faced just 11 balls. Extras (32) top-scored in India's innings.



Tendulkar donated one of his sleeveless pullovers to the MCC Museum collection during the 1999/00 tour of Australia. It is currently on display in the international cricket section of the National Sports Museum. MCC Museum collection

**WSC 7th match (v. PAKISTAN):** at Bellerive Oval, Hobart, January 21. **Pakistan won by 32 runs.** PAKISTAN 7/262 (50 overs) (Abdur Razzaq 70\*, Ijaz Ahmed 67, Yousuf Youhana 45, Saeed Anwar 43); INDIA 230 (46.5 overs) (**S.R. Tendulkar 93**, S.C. Ganguly 43; Abdur Razzaq 5/48, Wasim Akram 3/34).

S.R. Tendulkar	(1) b Abdur Razzaq	93
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Tendulkar made his only substantial score of the ODI series, facing 104 balls and hitting 10 fours, but despite his sparkling contribution at the top of the order, India crumbled to its fourth successive defeat. When he reached 52, he passed Desmond Haynes' aggregate of 8648 to become the second-highest run scorer in ODIs, behind only Azharuddin's 9111.

**WSC 9th match (v. PAKISTAN):** at Adelaide Oval, January 25. **India won by 48 runs.** INDIA 6/267 (50 overs) (S.C. Ganguly 141, **S.R. Tendulkar 41**); PAKISTAN 219 (44.4 overs) (Azhar Mahmood 67, Ijaz Ahmed 54; A. Kumble 4/40).

S.R. Tendulkar	(1) c Moin Khan b Abdur Raazzaq	41
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A brilliant innings from Ganguly was responsible for India's only ODI victory during the summer; Tendulkar (46 balls, five fours) helped him get the innings off to an excellent start by partnering him in a bright opening stand of 88.

**WSC 10th match (v. AUSTRALIA):** at Melbourne Cricket Ground, January 26. **Australia won by 152 runs.** AUSTRALIA 5/329 (50 overs) (M.E. Waugh 116, A.C. Gilchrist 92, R.T. Ponting 43); INDIA 177 (46.5 overs) (R. Dravid 63; B. Lee 5/27).

S.R. Tendulkar	(1) c S.C.G. MacGill b B. Lee	18
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Tendulkar was one of Brett Lee's five victims, having faced 28 balls and hitting two fours.





The cover of the program for the 1999/00 World Series Cup one-day tournament featured Tendulkar, Australia's Steve Waugh and Pakistan's Wasim Akram. MCC Library collection

**WSC 11th match (v. PAKISTAN):** at WACA Ground, Perth, January 28 (d/n). **Pakistan won by 104 runs.** PAKISTAN 8/261 (50 overs) (Saeed Anwar 44, Shahid Afridi 41; S.C. Ganguly 3/34); INDIA 157 (R.R. Singh 51; Wasim Akram 3/10, Shahid Afridi 3/42).

S.R. Tendulkar (1) c Moin Khan b Waqar Younis 17

Adjudged caught behind from an inside edge, TV replays showed that he had not made contact. He had begun in sparkling fashion, hitting four fours in his 14-ball stay. His dismissal triggered yet another batting collapse by the tourists.

**WSC 12th match (v. AUSTRALIA):** at WACA Ground, Perth, January 30. **Australia won by 4 wickets.** INDIA 6/226 (50 overs) (R. Dravid 65, R.R. Singh 45); AUSTRALIA 6/230 (49.3 overs) (M.G. Bevan 71, M.E. Waugh 40).

S.R. Tendulkar (2) b D.W. Fleming 3

The demoralised Indians suffered their seventh defeat in their eight-match program, Tendulkar being first out after facing 21 balls. Australia went on to easily beat Pakistan in the finals, thereby winning the WSC competition for the sixth time in seven years.

Having reached 20 only twice, Tendulkar made only 198 runs at 24.75 in the WSC tournament. His form throughout the tour was probably adversely affected by the added responsibility of captaincy and soon afterwards, following India's two-nil loss in a short series against South Africa at home, he gladly handed over the leadership to Saurav Ganguly. He has not led his country since.

Australia relinquished the Border-Gavaskar Trophy after having held it for little more than a year when it lost a remarkable three-Test series in India in February/March 2001. Australia won the opening Test at Mumbai to record its 16th consecutive Test victory and appeared certain to win the next at Kolkata after asking the home side to follow on 274 runs in arrears. However, an extraordinary fifth-wicket partnership of 376 by

V.V.S. Laxman (281) and Rahul Dravid (180) followed by an unexpected Australian batting collapse saw India gain an improbable victory to end the visitors' record winning sequence. India then won the remaining Test, at Chennai, in thrilling fashion after off-spinner Harbhajan Singh, who had taken 13 wickets at Kolkata, captured 15 wickets (7/133, including his country's first-ever hat trick, and 8/74). Although overshadowed by Laxman, Dravid and Harbhajan, Tendulkar enjoyed a successful series, compiling 304 runs at 50.66. In the Third Test at Chennai he brought up his 25th Test hundred, and sixth against Australia, when he compiled a patient 126 (346 minutes, 15 fours and two sixes, the latter of which brought up his hundred). Earlier, in the opening Test at Mumbai, he batted in masterly fashion to top-score in both innings - 65 in 138 minutes with 13 fours in the first and 65 in 153 minutes with 11 fours in the second. In the ODIs which followed the Tests, he hit 139 from 125 balls, including 19 fours, at Indore in the third match of the series.

### 2003/04 tour of Australia

By the time of his third tour of Australia, at the age of 30, Tendulkar was truly the master batsman. He had made more ODI runs than anyone else in the world, 12,685 at 45.14, including 36 hundreds, in 321 matches, while his Test aggregate of 8882 runs at 56.57, including 31 hundreds, in 107 matches was the second-highest by an Indian (behind only Sunil Gavaskar's 10,122) and the sixth-highest overall.

Following an ODI tournament at home, India did not arrive in Australia until a little more than a week prior to the start of the four-Test series. In the tourists' only first-class match prior to the First Test, against Victoria at the MCG, Tendulkar struck a sparkling 80 which included 14 fours.

**FIRST TEST:** at Brisbane Cricket Ground (Woolloongabba), December 4-8. **Drawn.** AUSTRALIA 323 (J.L. Langer 121, R.T. Ponting 54; Zaheer Khan 5/95) and 3/284 dec. (M.L. Hayden 99, D.R. Martyn 66\*, S.R. Waugh 56\*, R.T. Ponting 50); INDIA 409 (S.C. Ganguly 144, V.V.S. Laxman 75; J.N. Gillespie 4/65, S.C.G. MacGill 4/86) and 2/73.

S.R. Tendulkar (4) lbw b J.N. Gillespie 0  
did not bat

After an opening stand of 62 for Aakash Chopra and Virender Sehwag, India lost three wickets in the space of four balls from Jason Gillespie, Tendulkar falling for a third-ball duck.

**SECOND TEST:** at Adelaide Oval, December 12-16. **India won by 4 wickets.** AUSTRALIA 556 (R.T. Ponting 242, S.M. Katich 75, J.L. Langer 58; A. Kumble 5/154) and 196 (A.B. Agarkar 6/41); INDIA 523 (R. Dravid 233, V.V.S. Laxman 148; A.J. Bichel 4/118) and 6/233 (R. Dravid 72\*).

S.R. Tendulkar (4) c A.C. Gilchrist b A.J. Bichel 1  
(4) lbw b S.C.G. MacGill 37

Tendulkar contributed little to India's remarkable victory, its first Test win in Australia since 1980/81. In the first innings he fell to the sixth ball he faced; in the second he batted brightly for 59 minutes (five fours) before being third out at 149 after India had been set 230 to win.

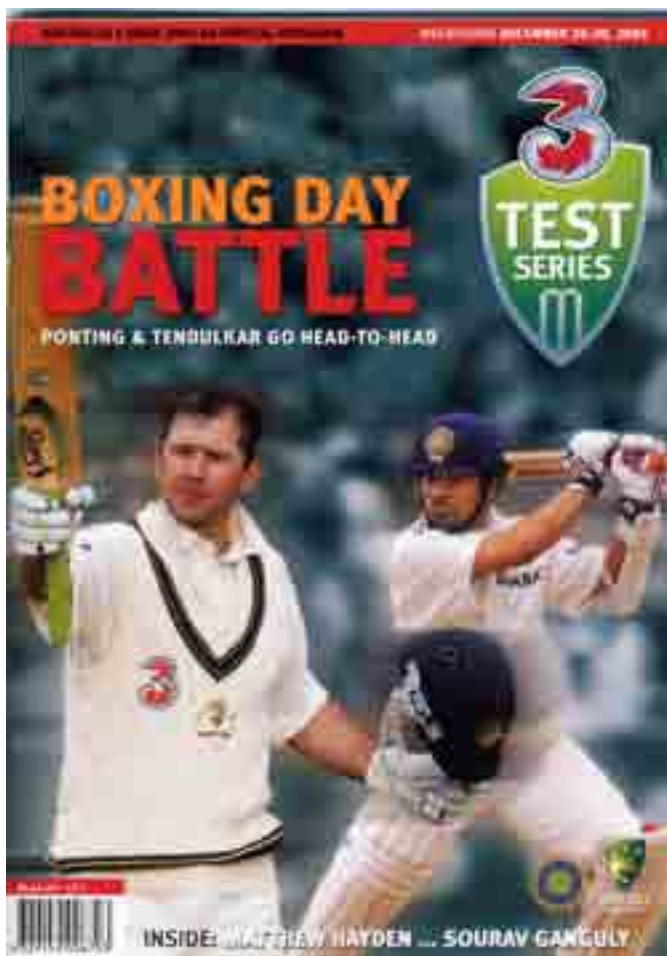
**THIRD TEST:** at Melbourne Cricket Ground, December 26-30. **Australia won by 9 wickets.** INDIA 366 (V. Sehwag 195) and 286 (R. Dravid 92, S.C. Ganguly 73, B.A. Williams 4/53); AUSTRALIA 558 (R.T. Ponting 257, M.L. Hayden 136; A. Kumble 6/176) and 1/97 (M.L. Hayden 53\*).

S.R. Tendulkar (4) c A.C. Gilchrist b B. Lee 0  
(5) c A.C. Gilchrist b B.A. Williams 44

Tendulkar's lean run continued, falling first ball to Brett Lee in the first innings for his second duck in the series. For a time it appeared that he might at last make a substantial score in the second, but after batting confidently for 107 minutes and hitting five fours, he was caught behind with the score at 3/126.

**FOURTH TEST:** at Sydney Cricket Ground, January 2-6. **Drawn.** INDIA 7/705 dec. (S.R. Tendulkar 241\*, V.V.S. Laxman 178, V. Sehwag 72, P.A. Patel 62; B. Lee 4/201) and 2/211 dec. (R. Dravid 91\*, S.R. Tendulkar 60\*); AUSTRALIA 474 (S.M. Katich 125, J.L. Langer 117, M.L. Hayden 67; A. Kumble 8/141) and 6/357 (S.R. Waugh 80, S.M. Katich 77\*; A. Kumble 4/138).

S.R. Tendulkar (4) not out 241  
(4) not out 60



"Boxing Day Battle: Ponting and Tendulkar go head-to-head" was the title for the 2003 Boxing Day Test match program. At the MCG these two players had contrasting fortunes with Tendulkar out for a duck in the first innings and Ponting scoring 257. MCC Library collection

Having managed just 82 runs at 16.40 in the first three Tests, Tendulkar's class eventually showed out in the final Test when he amassed 301 runs without being dismissed. Although below his best form – he eschewed his trademark cover drive which had got him into trouble in the earlier Tests – he batted with great discipline and skill to record his highest Test and first-class score to date, having batted for 613 minutes, faced 436 balls and struck 33 fours. It was his 32nd Test hundred, bringing him level with Steve Waugh (who was playing in his last Test) and behind only Gavaskar's 34. When he reached 36 he became the fourth man to reach 9000 Test runs. By the end of the match he had increased his aggregate to 9265. He and Laxman put on 353 for the fourth wicket, still the Indian record for that wicket, while India's massive score remains the highest total conceded by Australia at home and the second-highest in all Tests, behind only England's 7/903 declared at The Oval in 1938. In the second innings Tendulkar batted brightly for 108 minutes and hit five fours to help set up a declaration late on the fourth day.

**VB Series 1st match (v. AUSTRALIA):** at Melbourne Cricket Ground, January 9 (d/n). **Australia won by 18 runs.** AUSTRALIA 288 (A. Symonds 88, M.J. Clarke 63; A.B. Agarkar 6/42); INDIA 270 (49 overs) (S.C. Ganguly 82, **S.R. Tendulkar 63**; I.J. Harvey 3/52).

S.R. Tendulkar (1) c R.T. Ponting b A. Symonds 63

Just three days after the Sydney Test ended, Tendulkar was among the runs again, in the opening match of the triangular VB limited-over series. Opening the batting with Sehwag, the pair put on 103 for the first wicket in 18.2 overs, Tendulkar being second out at 134, having faced just 69 balls and hitting eight fours and a six. Despite the good start, India narrowly failed to overhaul Australia's large total.

**VB Series 3rd match (v. ZIMBABWE):** at Bellerive Oval, Hobart, January 14. **India won by 7 wickets.** ZIMBABWE 6/208 (50 overs) (H.H. Streak 59\*, S.M. Ervine 48\*); INDIA 3/211 (37.4 overs) (V. Sehwag 90, **S.R. Tendulkar 44**).

S.R. Tendulkar (2) b S.M. Ervine 44

Tendulkar took part in another century opening stand with Sehwag, this time worth 130 from 24.1 overs. He faced 59 balls and hit six fours to lay the foundation for an easy victory.

**VB Series 5th match (v. AUSTRALIA):** at Brisbane Cricket Ground (Woolloongabba), January 18 (d/n). **India won by 19 runs.** INDIA 4/303 (50 overs) (V.V.S. Laxman 103\*, **S.R. Tendulkar 86**, R. Dravid 74); AUSTRALIA 284 (49.4 overs) (M.L. Hayden 109, M.J. Clarke 42, M.G. Bevan 41\*; L. Balaji 4/48, I.K. Pathan 3/64).

S.R. Tendulkar (2) c & b A. Symonds 86

Although hampered by a painful ankle for which he refused a runner, Tendulkar batted superbly to help India record its first ODI win over Australia in Australia since 1991. He faced just 95 balls and hit eight fours, partnering man-of-the-match Laxman in a second-wicket stand of 110.

Tendulkar's injury kept him out of action for a fortnight. As a result he missed India's next three ODIs, against Zimbabwe at Brisbane and Adelaide and against Australia at Sydney. These are the only international matches he has missed on his four tours of Australia.

**VB Series 11th match (v. AUSTRALIA):** at WACA Ground, Perth, February 1 (d/n). **Australia won by 5 wickets.** INDIA 203 (49 overs) (Yuvraj Singh 47; B Lee 3/22); AUSTRALIA 5/204 (32 overs) (A.C. Gilchrist 75, A. Symonds 73).

S.R. Tendulkar (1) c M.L. Hayden b B. Lee 5

Returning to the side, Tendulkar was dismissed sixth ball as India crashed to a heavy defeat on a pacy WACA pitch.

**VB Series 12th match (v. ZIMBABWE):** at WACA Ground, Perth, February 3 (d/n). **India won by 4 wickets.** ZIMBABWE 135 (34.4 overs) (I.K. Pathan 4/24, A. Bhandari 3/31); INDIA 6/136 (30.3 overs).

S.R. Tendulkar (2) c T. Taibu b H.H. Streak 3

In the last match before the finals, Tendulkar faced just eight balls and was first out at 28. With five wins, India comfortably qualified for the finals, the third team, Zimbabwe, having failed to win a match.

**VB Series 1st final (v. AUSTRALIA):** at Melbourne Cricket Ground, February 6 (d/n). **Australia won by 7 wickets.** INDIA 222 (49 overs) (H. K. Badani 60\*, A.B. Agarkar 53); AUSTRALIA 3/224 (40.1 overs) (R.T. Ponting 88, M.L. Hayden 50; L. Balaji 3/52).

S.R. Tendulkar (2) b B. Lee 8

Tendulkar's lean run after his return from injury continued; he was second out at 14 after facing 22 balls.

**VB Series 2nd final (v. AUSTRALIA):** at Sydney Cricket Ground, February 8 (d/n). **Australia won by 208 runs.** AUSTRALIA 5/359 (50 overs) (M.L. Hayden 126, D.R. Martyn 67, A. Symonds 66); INDIA 151 (33.2 overs).

S.R. Tendulkar (2) c B. Lee b J. N. Gillespie 27

Australia clinched the VB series in emphatic fashion by inflicting on India its second-heaviest defeat on record in ODIs. Tendulkar faced 40 balls and hit four fours in making his side's second-highest score.

The next meeting between Australia and India took place in a four-Test series in India in October/November 2004. After missing the first two Tests while recovering from a painful elbow injury, Tendulkar was dismissed for 8 and 2 in the Third Test at Nagpur, which Australia won by 342 runs to regain the Border-Gavaskar Trophy, and 5 and 55 on a poor wicket in the Fourth Test at Mumbai which India won by 13 runs to record its only win of the series. Tendulkar's half century was the equal second-highest score of the match.



## 2007/08 tour of Australia

Since his previous tour of Australia four years earlier, Tendulkar had added a further five Test hundreds, including the highest score of his career, an unbeaten 248 against Bangladesh at Dhaka in December 2004. With 11,289 runs at 55.06 in 142 Tests he was now India's leading Test runscore, having passed Gavaskar's 10,122 not long after his previous tour of Australia, while only Brian Lara (11,953, including 41 for the Rest of the World XI) stood ahead of him on the all-time list. At ODI level, his 15,962 runs at 44.33 was nearly 4000 runs ahead of second-placed Sanath Jayasuriya.

Having taken part in a Test series against Pakistan at home that did not end until December 12, India had little time in which to acclimatise to Australian conditions. They were further disadvantaged by the fact that their only first-class match prior to the Tests, against Victoria at St Kilda, was so badly affected by rain that only two-and-a-half hours' play was possible. Tendulkar did at least get to bat, but was dismissed for 19.

**FIRST TEST:** at Melbourne Cricket Ground, December 26-29. **Australia won by 337 runs.** AUSTRALIA 343 (M.L. Hayden 124, P.A. Jaques 66; A. Kumble 5/84, Zaheer Khan 4/94) and 7/351 dec. (M.J. Clarke 73, P.A. Jaques 51); INDIA 196 (**S.R. Tendulkar 62**; S.R. Clark 4/28, B. Lee 4/46) and 161.

S.R. Tendulkar	(4) b S.R. Clark	62
	(4) c A.C. Gilchrist b B. Lee	15

India's lack of preparation was reflected in a crushing loss, Tendulkar being the only visiting batsman to reach 50. His sparkling 62 (113 minutes, 77 balls) included seven fours and a six.

**SECOND TEST:** at Sydney Cricket Ground, January 2-6. **Australia won by 122 runs.** AUSTRALIA 463 (A. Symonds 162\*, G.B. Hogg 79, B. Lee 59, R.T. Ponting 55; A. Kumble 4/106, R.P. Singh 4/124) and 7/401 dec. (M.E.K. Hussey 145\*, M.L. Hayden 123, A. Symonds 61; A. Kumble 4/148); INDIA 532 (**S.R. Tendulkar 154\***, V.V.S. Laxman 109, S.C. Ganguly 67, Harbhajan Singh 63, R. Dravid 53; B. Lee 5/119) and 210 (S.C. Ganguly 51).

S.R. Tendulkar	(4) not out	154
	(4) b S.R. Clark	12

In making his eighth Test hundred against Australia and his 38th overall, Tendulkar batted flawlessly for just over seven hours, during which he faced 243 balls and hit 14 fours and a six. In a match marred by controversial umpiring decisions, most of which went against the tourists, Australia snatched victory when part-time spinner Michael Clarke captured three wickets in five balls with only minutes remaining. As a result, Australia equalled its record of 16 consecutive Test victories which it had set previously in 2001.

**THIRD TEST:** at WACA Ground, Perth, January 16-19. **India won by 72 runs.** INDIA 330 (R. Dravid 93, **S.R. Tendulkar 71**; M.G. Johnson 4/86) and 294 (V.V.S. Laxman 79; S.R. Clark 4/61); AUSTRALIA 212 (A. Symonds 66, A.C. Gilchrist 55; R.P. Singh 4/68) and 340 (M.J. Clarke 81, M.G. Johnson 50\*).

S.R. Tendulkar	(4) lbw b B. Lee	71
	(5) lbw b B. Lee	13

India achieved a remarkable victory to inflict Australia's first defeat on home soil since its loss to India at Adelaide four years earlier. Tendulkar was in excellent touch, batting for 175 minutes and hitting nine fours in the first innings, before falling victim to a poor umpiring decision. By winning, India ended Australia's record-equalling streak of 16 wins, just as it had done at Kolkata in 2000/01.

**FOURTH TEST:** at Adelaide Oval, January 24-28. **Drawn.** INDIA 526 (**S.R. Tendulkar 153**, A. Kumble 87, Harbhajan Singh 63, V. Sehwag 63, V.V.S. Laxman 51; M.G. Johnson 4/126) and 7/269 (V. Sehwag 151); AUSTRALIA 563 (R.T. Ponting 140, M.J. Clarke 118, M.L. Hayden 103, P.A. Jaques 60).

S.R. Tendulkar	(4) c G.B. Hogg b B. Lee	153
	(5) run out	13

Tendulkar's masterly hundred in the first innings - he batted for 342 minutes, faced 205 balls and hit 13 fours and three sixes - laid the foundation for India's large total, but the tourists' hopes of squaring the series were dashed by an easy-paced pitch and some excellent Australian

batting. In the second innings he was run out attempting a non-existent single to Mitchell Johnson at mid-wicket. With 493 runs at 70.42 he was easily the highest-scoring batsman on either side in the series.

**CB Series 1st match (v. AUSTRALIA):** at Brisbane Cricket Ground (Woolloongabba), February 3 (d/n). **No result.** INDIA 194 (45 overs) (B. Lee 5/27); AUSTRALIA 3/51 (7.2 overs).

S.R. Tendulkar	(1) hit wkt b B. Lee	10
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On a greenish pitch, Tendulkar had faced 17 balls and hit one four before becoming the first of Brett Lee's five victims. A tropical downpour ended the first match of the tri-nation one-day series after the home side had faced just 44 balls.

**CB Series 2nd match (v. SRI LANKA):** at Brisbane Cricket Ground (Woolloongabba), February 5 (d/n). **No result.** INDIA 4/267 (50 overs) (G. Gambhir 102\*, M.S. Dhoni 88\*); SRI LANKA did not bat.

S.R. Tendulkar	(2) b S.L. Malinga	35
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Tendulkar (52 balls, two fours) became the first player to reach 16,000 runs in ODIs, before playing on to Lasith Malinga after he and Virender Sehwag put on 68 for the first wicket. Heavy drizzle prevented Sri Lanka from commencing its innings.

**CB Series 4th match (v. AUSTRALIA):** at Melbourne Cricket Ground, February 10 (d/n). **India won by 5 wickets.** AUSTRALIA 159 (43.1 overs) (M.E.K. Hussey 65\*; I. Sharma 4/38, S. Sreesanth 3/31); INDIA 5/160 (45.5 overs) (**S.R. Tendulkar 44**).

S.R. Tendulkar	(2) c B. Lee b M.G. Johnson	44
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On a slow and awkward pitch, Tendulkar faced 54 balls and hit three fours to top-score for his side in a low-scoring match.



Tendulkar in action during his unbeaten century at the SCG in January 2008. Adam Gilchrist is keeping wickets. Credit: *Cricket Today*

**CB Series 5th match (v. SRI LANKA):** at Manuka Oval, Canberra, February 12. **Sri Lanka won by 8 wickets (D/L method).** INDIA 5/195 (29 overs) (R.G. Sharma 70\*); SRI LANKA (target: 154 runs from 21 overs) 2/154 (19 overs) (T.M. Dilshan 62\*).

S.R. Tendulkar	(2) c K.M.D.N. Kulasekara b M.F. Maharoof	32
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Tendulkar faced just 30 balls and hit four fours to get India away to a bright start in a contest reduced to a maximum of 29 overs per side because of rain.

**CB Series 7th match (v. AUSTRALIA):** at Adelaide Oval, February 17 (d/n). **Australia won by 50 runs.** AUSTRALIA 9/203 (50 overs) (M.J. Clarke 79; I.K. Pathan 4/41); INDIA 153 (41.2 overs) (M.G. Johnson 3/42).

S.R. Tendulkar	(2) lbw b N.W. Bracken	5
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Tendulkar was first out at 20, having faced 15 balls and hit one four.

**CB SERIES 8th match (v. SRI LANKA):** at Adelaide Oval, February 19 (d/n). **India won by 2 wickets.** SRI LANKA 6/238 [50 overs] (K.C. Sangakkara 128, D.P.M.D. Jayawardene 71); INDIA 8/239 [49.1 overs] (Yuvraj Singh 76, M.S. Dhoni 50\*; M.K.D.I. Amerasinghe 3/49).

S.R. Tendulkar [2] b S.L. Malinga 0

Tendulkar was bowled for a second-ball duck by the first ball of the second over of the innings, a searing outswinger from Malinga.

**CB SERIES 10th match (v. AUSTRALIA):** at Sydney Cricket Ground, February 24 (d/n). **Australia won by 18 runs.** AUSTRALIA 7/317 [50 overs] (R.T. Ponting 124, A. Symonds 59, M.L. Hayden 54); INDIA 299 [49.1 overs] (G. Gambhir 113, R.V. Uthappa 51; B. Lee 5/58).

S.R. Tendulkar [2] lbw b B. Lee 2

Tendulkar's lean one-day trot continued, when Lee trapped him in front third-ball. To this point in the one-day series he had scored just 128 runs at 18.28.

**CB SERIES 11th match (v. SRI LANKA):** at Bellerive Oval, Hobart, February 26. **India won by 7 wickets.** SRI LANKA 179 [47.1 overs] (C.K. Kapugedara 57; P. Kumar 4/31, I. Sharma 4/41); INDIA 3/180 [32.2 overs] (G. Gambhir 63\*, **S.R. Tendulkar 63**).

S.R. Tendulkar [2] c L.P.C. Silva b M. Muralitharan 63

Putting his previous failures behind him, Tendulkar batted in most attractive fashion, facing just 54 balls and hitting 10 boundaries. He and Gautam Gambhir put on 102 for the second-wicket, setting up a comfortable Indian victory which assured it of a place in the finals.

**CB SERIES 1st final (v. AUSTRALIA):** at Sydney Cricket Ground, March 2 (d/n). **India won by 6 wickets.** AUSTRALIA 8/239 (M.L. Hayden 82, M.E.K. Hussey 45); INDIA 4/242 [45.5 overs] (**S.R. Tendulkar 117\***, R.G. Sharma 66).

S.R. Tendulkar [2] not out 117

India entered the best-of-three finals as underdogs, having won only three matches to Australia's five. A magnificent match-winning century by Tendulkar, however, ensured that it won the opening final in decisive fashion. In a masterly exhibition of controlled strokeplay, he faced 120 balls, struck 10 fours and shared a stand of 123 for the fourth wicket with Rohit Sharma. It was his 42 ODI hundred and his 81st in Tests and ODIs combined, and deservedly won him the man-of-the-match award. Remarkably, he had never scored a century in his previous 38 ODIs in Australia, his highest score to this point having been 93 against Pakistan at Hobart in 1999/00.

**CB SERIES 2nd final (v. AUSTRALIA):** at Brisbane Cricket Ground (Woolloongabba), March 4 (d/n). **India won by 9 runs.** INDIA 9/258 [50 overs] (**S.R. Tendulkar 91**; N.W. Bracken 3/31, M.J. Clarke 3/52); AUSTRALIA 249 [49.4 overs] (J.R. Hopes 63, M.L. Hayden 55, M.E.K. Hussey 44, A. Symonds 42; P. Kumar 4/46).

S.R. Tendulkar [2] c R.T. Ponting b M.J. Clarke 91

India clinched the second final by a narrow, although clear-cut, margin, enabling it to win the tournament for the first time since its inception in 1979/80. Another fine innings from Tendulkar was instrumental to his team's success. He faced 121 balls and hit seven fours and looked set to record his second successive hundred before chipping a catch to midwicket.

As a result of his two great innings in the finals, Tendulkar moved to the top of the world ODI batting rankings, displacing Ricky Ponting who had been dismissed for a single in each match. After a quiet start, he finished the one-day series with 399 runs at 44.33.

After 28 years it was announced that this would be the last one-day tri-series to be staged in Australia – from now on the hosts would play two five-match series against different opponents. However, after a break of three years, the tournament has been revived for the current season, with India and Sri Lanka as the two visiting countries to take part in a tournament scheduled for February/March 2012.

## Recent career

Since his most recent tour of Australia, Tendulkar has scored a further 18 hundreds for India, 12 in Tests and six in ODIs, to take his overall total to 99. Seven of his Test hundreds were recorded in 2010 when he amassed 1562 runs at 78.10 in 14 Tests, the fourth-highest tally of runs compiled in a calendar year. It was the sixth time he had scored 1000 or more runs in one year, the most by any player.

Since 2007/08, India and Australia have met in two Test series on Indian soil – in October/November 2008 and in October 2010. Tendulkar scored 396 runs at 56.57 in the four Tests of the 2008-09 series, with a best score of 109 in the final Test at Nagpur. In 2010/11, when only two Tests were played, he was in dazzling form, scoring 98 and 38 in the First Test at Mohali and 214 and 53 not out at Bangalore in the Second. His 214, his sixth Test double century and 49th overall, was a marathon affair – he batted for 547 minutes, faced 363 balls and hit two sixes and 22 fours. During the innings he passed 14000 Test runs.

Tendulkar made his 50th Test hundred against South Africa at Centurion in December 2010 and brought up his 51st and most recent Test century, 146 against South Africa at Cape Town early in the new year, bringing his tally of international hundreds to 97. His two most recent hundreds for his country were recorded in the 2011 World Cup, which was won by India. Both were brilliant: 120 (115 balls, 10 fours and five sixes) against England at Bangalore and 111 (101 balls, eight fours and three sixes) against South Africa at Nagpur. Later he struck a match-winning 85 against Pakistan in a semi-final; with 482 runs at 53.55, he was the second-highest runscore in the tournament. Since then he has twice fallen agonisingly short of making his 100th international hundred. He was dismissed for 91 at The Oval in his last innings of the 2011 Test series against England and in the final Test of India's recently concluded home series against the West Indies he again disappointed his legion of fans when he fell for 94 on his home ground at Mumbai's Wankhede Stadium. Earlier in the same series he had moved past 15,000 Test runs.

Tendulkar is the first man to have made an ODI double-century. This occurred against South Africa at Gwalior on 24 February 2010, when he made exactly 200 not out, having faced just 147 balls and hit three sixes and 25 fours – India made 3/401 from its 50 overs and won by 153 runs. Shortly beforehand, he had recorded his highest ODI score against Australia, 175 at Hyderabad in November 2009. He scored his runs from 141 balls, hitting four sixes and 19 fours, but despite his great innings India was dismissed three runs short of the visitors' total of 4/350.



The MCC Library holds a wide range of publications on Sachin Tendulkar, with 10 biographies classified at 915.2/TENDU. The latest addition to the collection is Suresh Menon's *Sachin: Genius Unplugged* published by Westland in 2011.



# Tendulkar's 99 International Hundreds

As at December 1, 2011

100 No.	Test No.	ODI No.	100 No.	Test No.	ODI No.
1/1	119*	v. England at Manchester (2nd Test)	1990	9	
2/2	148*	v. Australia at Sydney (3rd Test)	1991/92	14	
3/3	114	v. Australia at Perth (5th Test)	1991/92	16	
4/4	111	v. South Africa at Johannesburg (2nd Test)	1992/93	19	
5/5	165	v. England at Chennai (2nd Test)	1992/93	23	
6/6	104*	v. Sri Lanka at SSC Colombo (2nd Test)	1993	27	
7/7	142	v. Sri Lanka at Lucknow (1st Test)	1993/94	29	
8/1	110	v. Australia at RPS Colombo	1994	79	
9/2	115	v. New Zealand at Vadodara	1994/95	84	
10/3	105	v. West Indies at Jaipur	1994/95	90	
11/8	179	v. West Indies at Nagpur (2nd Test)	1994/95	34	
12/4	112*	v. Sri Lanka at Sharjah	1994/95	96	
13/5	127*	v. Kenya at Cuttack (World Cup)	1995/96	103	
14/6	137	v. Sri Lanka at Delhi (World Cup)	1995/96	106	
15/7	100	v. Pakistan at Singapore	1995/96	111	
16/8	118	v. Pakistan at Sharjah	1995/96	114	
17/9	122	v. England at Birmingham (1st Test)	1996	39	
18/10	177	v. England at Nottingham (3rd Test)	1996	41	
19/9	110	v. Sri Lanka at RPS Colombo	1996	120	
20/10	114	v. South Africa at Mumbai	1996/97	134	
21/11	169	v. South Africa at Cape Town (2nd Test)	1996/97	47	
22/11	104	v. Zimbabwe at Benoni	1996/97	140	
23/12	117	v. New Zealand at Bangalore	1996/97	148	
24/12	143	v. Sri Lanka at RPS Colombo (1st Test)	1997	54	
25/13	139	v. Sri Lanka at SSC Colombo (2nd Test)	1997	55	
26/14	148	v. Sri Lanka at Mumbai (3rd Test)	1997/98	58	
27/15	155*	v. Australia at Chennai (1st Test)	1997/98	59	
28/16	177	v. Australia at Bangalore (3rd Test)	1997/98	61	
29/13	100	v. Australia at Kanpur	1997/98	181	
30/14	143	v. Australia at Sharjah	1997/98	187	
31/15	134	v. Australia at Sharjah	1997/98	188	
32/16	100*	v. Kenya at Kolkata	1997/98	191	
33/17	128	v. Sri Lanka at RPS Colombo	1998	196	
34/18	127*	v. Zimbabwe at Bulawayo	1998/99	198	
35/19	141*	v. Australia at Dhaka	1998/99	201	
36/20	118*	v. Zimbabwe at Sharjah	1998/99	204	
37/21	124*	v. Zimbabwe at Sharjah	1998/99	207	
38/17	113	v. New Zealand at Wellington (2nd Test)	1998/99	63	
39/18	136	v. Pakistan at Chennai (1st Test)	1998/99	65	
40/19	124*	v. Sri Lanka at SSC Colombo	1998/99	68	
41/22	140*	v. Kenya at Bristol (World Cup)	1999	213	
42/23	120	v. Sri Lanka at SSC Colombo	1999	221	
43/20	126*	v. New Zealand at Mohali (1st Test)	1999/00	69	
44/21	217	v. New Zealand at Ahmedabad (3rd Test)	1999/00	71	
45/24	186*	v. New Zealand at Hyderabad	1999/00	226	
46/22	116	v. Australia at Melbourne (2nd Test)	1999/00	73	
47/25	122	v. South Africa at Vadodara	1999/00	241	
48/26	101	v. Sri Lanka at Sharjah	2000/01	254	
49/23	122	v. Zimbabwe at Delhi (1st Test)	2000/01	78	
50/24	201*	v. Zimbabwe at Nagpur (2nd Test)	2000/01	79	
51/27	146	v. Zimbabwe at Jodhpur	2000/01	82	
52/25	126	v. Australia at Chennai (3rd Test)	2000/01	82	
53/28	139	v. Australia at Indore	2000/01	266	
54/29	122*	v. West Indies at Harare	2001	272	
55/30	101	v. South Africa at Johannesburg	2001/02	274	
56/31	146	v. Kenya at Paarl	2001/02	279	
57/26	155	v. South Africa at Bloemfontein (1st Test)	2001/02	85	
58/27	103	v. England at Ahmedabad (2nd Test)	2001/02	88	
59/28	176	v. Zimbabwe at Nagpur (1st Test)	2001/02	90	
60/29	117	v. West Indies at Port of Spain (2nd Test)	2001/02	93	
61/32	105*	v. England at Chester-le-Street	2002	291	
62/33	113	v. Sri Lanka at Bristol	2002	294	
63/30	193	v. England at Leeds (3rd Test)	2002	99	
64/31	176	v. West Indies at Kolkata (3rd Test)	2002/03	103	
65/34	152	v. Namibia at Pietermaritzburg (World Cup)	2002/03	307	
66/35	100	v. Australia at Gwalior	2003/04	316	
67/36	102	v. New Zealand at Hyderabad	2003/04	320	
68/32	241*	v. Australia at Sydney (4th Test)	2003/04	111	
69/37	141	v. Pakistan at Rawalpindi	2003/04	330	
70/33	194*	v. Pakistan at Multan (1st Test)	2003/04	112	
71/34	248*	v. Bangladesh at Dhaka (1st Test)	2004/05	119	
72/38	125	v. Pakistan at Ahmedabad	2004/05	346	
73/35	109	v. Sri Lanka at Delhi (2nd Test)	2005/06	125	
74/39	100	v. Pakistan at Peshawar	2005/06	359	
75/40	141*	v. West Indies at Kuala Lumpur	2006/07	364	
76/41	100*	v. West Indies at Vadodara	2006/07	378	
77/36	101	v. Bangladesh at Chittagong (1st Test)	2007	136	
78/37	122*	v. Bangladesh at Mirpur (2nd Test)	2007	137	
79/38	154*	v. Australia at Sydney (2nd Test)	2007/08	144	
80/39	153	v. Australia at Adelaide (4th Test)	2007/08	146	
81/42	117*	v. Australia at Sydney	2007/08	416	
82/40	109	v. Australia at Nagpur (4th Test)	2008/09	154	
83/41	103*	v. England at Chennai (1st Test)	2008/09	155	
84/43	163†	v. New Zealand at Christchurch	2008/09	425	
85/42	160	v. New Zealand at Hamilton (1st Test)	2008/09	157	
86/44	138	v. Sri Lanka at RPS Colombo	2009	428	
87/45	175	v. Australia at Uppal	2009/10	435	
88/43	100*	v. Sri Lanka at Ahmedabad (1st Test)	2009/10	160	
89/44	105*	v. Bangladesh at Chittagong (1st Test)	2009/10	163	
90/45	143	v. Bangladesh at Mirpur (2nd Test)	2009/10	164	
91/46	100	v. South Africa at Nagpur (1st Test)	2009/10	165	
92/47	106	v. South Africa at Kolkata (2nd Test)	2009/10	166	
93/46	200*	v. South Africa at Gwalior	2009/10	442	
94/48	203	v. Sri Lanka at SSC Colombo (2nd Test)	2010	168	
95/49	214	v. Australia at Bangalore (2nd Test)	2010/11	171	
96/50	111*	v. South Africa at Centurion (1st Test)	2010/11	175	
97/51	146	v. South Africa at Durban (2nd Test)	2010/11	177	
98/47	120	v. England at Bangalore (World Cup)	2010/11	446	
99/48	111	v. South Africa at Nagpur (World Cup)	2010/11	449	

The rate at which Tendulkar has scored his Test hundreds is remarkably consistent: the highest number of consecutive Tests he has played without reaching three figures is just 10, between his 35th hundred against Sri Lanka in December 2005 and his 36th, against Bangladesh in May 2007.

At one day level, he did not make his first ODI hundred until his 79th match, to which point he had made 2126 runs at 32.21 with 17 fifties and a highest score of 84. Since then his longest 'droughts' have been 32 matches between his 12th and 13th hundreds (May 1997 to April 1998) and 37 between his 41st and 42nd (January 2007 to March 2008).

## Key:

Test hundreds shown in red;  
ODI hundreds in blue.

Colombo grounds: RPS – R. Premadasa Stadium; SSC – Sinhalese Sports Club.

\* not out

† retired hurt

### Series-by-series Test record against Australia

Season	M	I	NO	R	HS	Avg	100	50	R	W	Avg	BB	5i	10m	Ct
1991-92 (Aus)	5	9	1	368	148*	46.00	2	-	94	3	31.33	2/10	-	-	5
1996-97 (Ind)	1	2	0	10	10	5.00	-	-	did not bowl	-	-	-	-	-	0
1997-98 (Ind)	3	5	1	446	177	111.50	2	1	47	1	47.00	1/41	-	-	2
1999-00 (Aus)	3	6	0	278	116	46.33	1	2	46	1	46.00	1/34	-	-	0
2000-01 (Ind)	3	6	0	304	126	50.66	1	2	151	3	50.33	3/31	-	-	1
2003-04 (Aus)	4	7	2	383	241*	76.60	1	1	141	3	47.00	2/36	-	-	3
2004-05 (Ind)	2	4	0	70	55	17.50	-	1	41	0	-	-	-	-	1
2007-08 (Aus)	4	8	1	493	154*	70.42	2	2	30	0	-	-	-	-	5
2008-09 (Ind)	4	8	1	396	109	56.57	1	2	15	0	-	-	-	-	2
2010-11 (Ind)	2	4	1	403	214	134.33	1	2	did not bowl	-	-	-	-	-	0
In Australia	16	30	4	1522	241*	58.53	6	5	311	7	44.42	2/10	-	-	13
In India	15	29	3	1629	214	62.65	5	8	254	4	63.50	3/31	-	-	6
<b>Overall</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3151</b>	<b>241*</b>	<b>60.59</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>565</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>51.36</b>	<b>3/31</b>	-	-	<b>19</b>

### Overall Test career series-by-series

Season	Opp	M	I	NO	R	HS	Avg	100	50	R	W	Avg	BB	5i	10m	Ct
1989-90 (Pak)	Pak	4	6	0	215	59	35.83	-	2	25	0	-	-	-	-	1
1989-90 (NZ)	NZ	3	4	0	117	88	29.25	-	1	did not bowl	-	-	-	-	-	1
1990 (Eng)	Eng	3	5	1	245	119*	61.25	1	1	did not bowl	-	-	-	-	-	3
1990-91	SL	1	1	0	11	11.00	-	-	-	did not bowl	-	-	-	-	-	0
1991-92 (Aus)	Aus	5	9	1	368	148*	46.00	2	-	94	3	31.33	2/10	-	-	5
1992-93 (Zim)	Zim	1	1	0	0	0.00	-	-	-	8	0	-	-	-	-	0
1992-93 (SAf)	SAf	4	6	0	202	111	33.66	1	1	14	1	14.00	1/9	-	-	4
1992-93	Eng	3	4	1	302	165	100.66	1	2	9	0	-	-	-	-	4
1992-93	Zim	1	1	0	62	62	62.00	-	1	11	0	-	-	-	-	0
1993 (SL)	SL	3	3	1	203	104*	101.50	1	1	4	0	-	-	-	-	3
1993-94	SL	3	3	0	244	142	81.33	1	1	7	0	-	-	-	-	2
1993-94 (NZ)	NZ	1	2	1	54	43	54.00	-	-	did not bowl	-	-	-	-	-	0
1994-95	WI	3	6	0	402	179	67.00	1	2	19	0	-	-	-	-	5
1995-96	NZ	3	4	2	58	52*	29.00	-	1	did not bowl	-	-	-	-	-	3
1996 (Eng)	Eng	3	5	0	428	177	85.60	2	1	29	0	-	-	-	-	3
1996-97	Aus	1	2	0	10	10.00	-	-	-	did not bowl	-	-	-	-	-	0
1996-97	SAf	3	6	0	166	61	27.66	-	1	did not bowl	-	-	-	-	-	1
1996-97 (SAf)	SAf	3	6	0	241	169	40.16	-	1	18	0	-	-	-	-	3
1996-97 (WI)	WI	5	6	1	289	92	57.80	-	3	9	0	-	-	-	-	5
1997 (SL)	SL	2	3	0	290	143	96.66	2	-	2	0	-	-	-	-	1
1997-98	SL	3	4	0	199	148	49.75	1	1	0	0	-	-	-	-	2
1997-98	Aus	3	5	1	446	177	111.50	2	1	47	1	47.00	1/41	-	-	2
1998-99 (Zim)	Zim	1	2	0	41	34	20.50	-	-	did not bowl	-	-	-	-	-	0
1998-99 (NZ)	NZ	2	3	0	227	113	75.66	1	1	68	4	17.00	2/7	-	-	1
1998-99	Pak	3	6	0	180	136	30.00	1	-	63	4	15.75	2/35	-	-	0
1998-99 (SL)	SL	1	2	1	177	124*	177.00	1	1	16	0	-	-	-	-	0
1999-00	NZ	3	6	2	435	217	108.75	2	-	30	0	-	-	-	-	2
1999-00 (Aus)	Aus	3	6	0	278	116	46.33	1	2	46	1	46.00	1/34	-	-	0
1999-00	SAf	2	4	0	146	97	36.50	-	1	47	3	15.66	3/10	-	-	2
2000-01 (Ban)	Ban	1	1	0	18	18.00	-	-	34	1	34.00	1/34	-	-	-	0
2000-01	Zim	2	3	1	362	201*	181.00	2	-	87	1	87.00	1/51	-	-	3
2000-01	Aus	3	6	0	304	126	50.66	1	2	151	3	50.33	3/31	-	-	1
2001 (Zim)	Zim	2	4	1	199	74	66.33	-	2	49	1	49.00	1/19	-	-	0
2001-02 (SAf)	SAf	2	4	1	193	155	64.33	1	-	59	1	59.00	1/22	-	-	0
2001-02	Eng	3	4	0	307	103	76.75	1	2	50	1	50.00	1/27	-	-	4
2001-02	Zim	2	3	0	254	176	84.66	1	-	17	0	-	-	-	-	2
2001-02 (WI)	WI	5	8	0	331	117	41.37	1	2	139	2	69.50	2/107	-	-	2
2002 (Eng)	Eng	4	6	0	401	193	66.83	1	2	33	0	-	-	-	-	1
2002-03	WI	3	5	1	306	176	76.50	1	-	35	0	-	-	-	-	2
2002-03 (NZ)	NZ	2	4	0	100	51	25.00	-	1	did not bowl	-	-	-	-	-	1
2003-04	NZ	2	4	0	71	55	17.75	-	1	100	1	100.00	1/55	-	-	0
2003-04 (Aus)	Aus	4	7	2	383	241*	76.60	1	1	141	3	47.00	2/36	-	-	3
2003-04 (Pak)	Pak	3	4	1	205	194*	68.33	1	-	98	4	24.50	2/36	-	-	1
2004-05	Aus	2	4	0	70	55	17.50	-	1	41	0	-	-	-	-	1
2004-05	SAf	2	3	1	55	32*	27.50	-	-	62	0	-	-	-	-	0
2004-05 (Ban)	Ban	2	2	1	284	248*	284.00	1	-	39	1	39.00	1/27	-	-	2
2004-05	Pak	3	5	0	255	94	51.00	-	3	106	1	106.00	1/62	-	-	2
2005-06	SL	3	5	0	189	109	37.80	1	-	19	0	-	-	-	-	4
2005-06 (Pak)	Pak	3	3	0	63	26	21.00	-	-	56	0	-	-	-	-	4
2005-06	Eng	3	5	1	83	34	20.75	-	-	11	0	-	-	-	-	1
2006-07 (SAf)	SAf	3	6	0	199	64	33.16	-	2	33	1	33.00	1/30	-	-	3
2007 (Ban)	Ban	2	3	1	254	122*	127.00	2	-	57	3	19.00	2/35	-	-	4
2007 (Eng)	Eng	3	6	0	228	91	38.00	-	2	152	1	152.00	1/26	-	-	4
2007-08	Pak	2	3	1	139	82	69.50	-	2	47	0	-	-	-	-	0
2007-08 (Aus)	Aus	4	8	1	493	154*	70.42	2	2	30	0	-	-	-	-	5
2007-08	SAf	1	1	0	0	0.00	-	-	-	did not bowl	-	-	-	-	-	0
2008 (SL)	SL	3	6	0	95	31	15.83	-	-	did not bowl	-	-	-	-	-	0
2008-09	Aus	4	8	1	396	109	56.57	1	2	15	0	-	-	-	-	2
2008-09	Eng	2	4	1	156	103*	52.00	1	-	did not bowl	-	-	-	-	-	0
2008-09 (NZ)	NZ	3	5	0	344	160	68.80	1	2	45	2	22.50	2/45	-	-	2
2009-10	SL	3	4	1	197	100*	65.66	1	1	26	0	-	-	-	-	2
2009-10 (Ban)	Ban	2	3	1	264	143	132.00	2	-	did not bowl	-	-	-	-	-	0
2009-10	SAf	2	3	0	213	106	71.00	2	-	1	0	-	-	-	-	0
2010 (SL)	SL	3	5	0	390	203	78.00	1	2	did not bowl	-	-	-	-	-	2
2010-11	Aus	2	4	1	403	214	134.33	1	2	did not bowl	-	-	-	-	-	0
2010-11	NZ	3	4	0	126	61	31.50	-	1	23	0	-	-	-	-	0
2010-11 (SAf)	SAf	3	6	2	326	146	81.50	2	-	66	1	66.00	1/9	-	-	0
2011 (Eng)	Eng	4	8	0	273	91	34.12	-	2	28	0	-	-	-	-	2
2011-12	WI	3	5	0	218	94	43.60	-	2	29	0	-	-	-	-	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>184</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>15183</b>	<b>248*</b>	<b>56.02</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>2445</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>54.33</b>	<b>3/10</b>	-	-	<b>110</b>

Unless indicated otherwise series were played in India.

### Test record against each opponent

Opponent	M	I	NO	R	HS	Avg	100	50	R	W	Avg	BB	5i	10m	Ct
Australia	31														





A REVISED LOOK AT THE

# Spiers and Pond Tour of 1861/62



H.H. Stephenson's team with the tour promoters Spiers and Pond, from the VCA's *England v Australia: official souvenir* 1911. MCC Library collection

By Alf Batchelder

One of the enduring legends of Australian cricket history is that the first visit of an English team came about almost by accident. The mythical tale usually states that

*... it was a catering firm that brought out the first English team, Messrs. Spiers and Pond, the proprietors of the Café de Paris in Bourke Street. Originally they planned to bring out Charles Dickens. The great man refused to respond, so as second best they gambled on an English eleven ...*<sup>1</sup>

The story behind the tour is somewhat more complex, spreading over three years, with no suggestion that Charles Dickens was "originally" the target of the promoters. At no stage were the English cricketers seen as a "second best" choice. Far from being a makeshift "gamble", the 1861/62 venture resulted from much discussion and negotiation. While that process was not always smooth, it set the pattern followed by Australian tour organisers for several decades.

Until the middle of the 19th century, the thought of English cricketers travelling to distant outposts during the winter was a practical impossibility. Most of the leading players in England were professionals whose livelihood very much depended upon their summers on the field. Since long voyages under sail were a highly unreliable means of travel, players venturing abroad could not confidently expect to return in time for the following season.

While the construction of ships large enough to cross the Atlantic with the aid of steam power brought greater certainty to schedules, the prospect of sailing on such vessels was initially met with scepticism and even fear.

By 1859, though, many of the doubts had gone. When the steamer *Nova Scotian* left Liverpool for North America on September 7, it carried six of the All England Eleven and six of the United England Eleven under the overall leadership of Notts professional George Parr.

Once at sea, the pioneers who were making cricket's first overseas tour did not have an easy time. As the ship battled raging Atlantic storms and passed through "large numbers" of icebergs, Billy Caffyn, "The Surrey Pet", vowed that he "would not venture to leave England again, under any circumstances".<sup>2</sup>

Apart from the depression of the forties, the colony of Victoria had always possessed a vigorous and confident outlook. After 1851, the enormous wealth coming from the goldfields strengthened this attitude, producing a belief that there was little, if anything, that Victorian enterprise could not achieve.

At the same time, the colony's riches sparked considerable interest in Britain. In short, a climate existed in which it was likely that the notion of a tour by a team of English cricketers would eventually arise, particularly after 1852, when the P&O mail steamer *Chusan* demonstrated that such a project was indeed feasible.

On December 16, 1859, the *Argus* reported that "A letter has been received from an old Victorian Cricketer now resident in the mother country, to the effect that ... the All England Eleven are prepared to peril the transit of the tropics, and the rolling forties, with a view of showing this young country how cricket ought to be played."





A day later, the paper reported that "private letters" had in fact been received from "two Victorian gentlemen now resident in England, stating that upon certain terms (by no means extravagant ones as far as we can judge,) 'The Eleven' will take ship ... on the understanding that they are to play a series of matches against the best strength our large but thinly populated continent can produce." <sup>3</sup>

At least one of these "private letters" was probably addressed to Melbourne Cricket Club honorary secretary Thomas Wray. On Christmas Eve, *Bell's Life in Victoria* revealed that Wray had received "a communication from England to the effect that the All England Eleven would pay a visit to Australia, for the purpose of taking the measure of the Australian cricketers, if the latter would guarantee to the eleven a certain pecuniary consideration." Unfortunately, the source of this letter was not identified in the report.

However, the "communication" probably came from MCC committeeman Arthur Devlin, a retired sea captain who reputedly lost all of his hair overnight while being pursued by cannibals off Fiji. Devlin was in Britain when the All England Eleven travelled to North America and, according to David Frith, "began to wonder why a tour of Australia should not be undertaken". <sup>4</sup>

Curiously, the Melbourne Cricket Club's committee minutes contain no reference to the letter received by Wray. That it was directed to him was possibly recognition of the club's eminence in colonial cricket, but there was no question of the MCC organising such a visit, for the annual meeting had been told in September that "the affairs of the Club are not in so flourishing a condition as might be wished."



George Coppin (in tall hat) in the Marble Bar in the Theatre Royal, Melbourne, 1861. National Library of Australia photographic collection

Instead, it was businessmen Felix Spiers and Christopher Pond who informed George Parr that they would "guarantee all expenses of the journey ... and remunerate the players ..." <sup>5</sup>

The Spiers and Pond partnership centred around George Coppin's Theatre Royal, located on the north side of Bourke Street, between Swanston and Russell Streets. When it opened in 1855, the Royal eclipsed every other venue in Melbourne.

Its interior, with three magnificent tiers that could hold 3300 patrons, was brilliantly lit by 600 burners that were fuelled by the theatre's own 7000 cubic feet gasworks. On the eastern side of the Royal, Spiers and Pond operated their Café de Paris, a lavish upstairs restaurant boasting facilities for billiards, coffee drinking and reading newspapers.

The Royal Dining Hall was described as "a large and elegant apartment, with an elegant dome roof fitted with stained glass." At one end, diners were able to watch their meat being cooked on an enormous gridiron. Doors from the western side of the theatre's vestibule led into the Royal Hotel, which boasted a bar that was 150 feet long. <sup>6</sup>

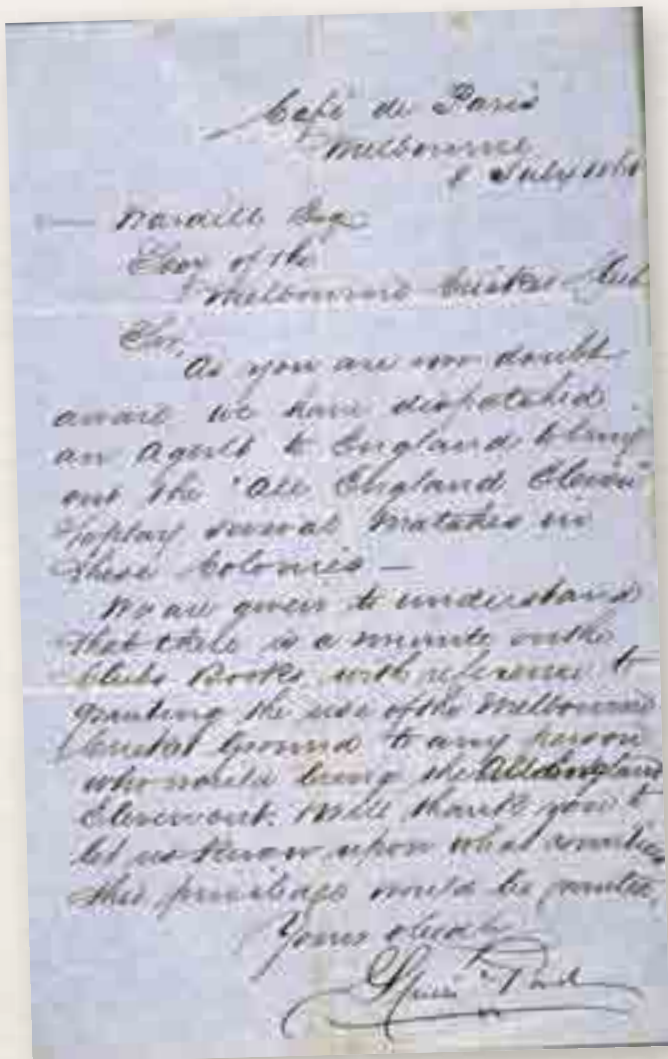
For Spiers and Pond, interest in the proposed cricket tour was not unusual. Like many hoteliers and caterers in those times, they were open to opportunities away from their main place of business. Shortly after writing to Parr, they offered their wares at the MCG during Victoria's 1860 match against New South Wales.

Later, the entrepreneurs were general caterers at the Caledonian Games, where they operated what was described as a "mammoth" refreshment booth. In addition, "with a feeling also that no adequate prize had been offered for the numerous pedestrian stars known to be in town," they "announced their intention of giving a valuable silver cup to be run for."

When Archer won the first Melbourne Cup in 1861, Spiers and Pond conducted business from a tent on the hill behind the Flemington grandstand. <sup>7</sup>

However, their offer to Parr of £2500 was not accepted, though it "caused some little excitement among the cricketing circles at home." For the time being, Parr had no appetite for sea voyages. On February 6, 1860, he advised John Farrell, the London agent of Spiers and Pond, that "I do not intend going abroad again on account of the risk, and I do not think many of the Eleven would be induced to go."

As Farrell reminded Spiers and Pond, about 450 people had perished on October 26, 1859 when the steam-driven *Royal Charter*, returning to Liverpool from Melbourne, went down off the Welsh coast. The disaster remained "fresh on the minds of every one, and has no doubt influenced Mr. Parr in his reply." <sup>8</sup>



After sending their agent 'to bring out the "All England Eleven", Felix Spiers and Christopher Pond requested 'the use of the Melbourne Cricket Ground'. MCC Archives collection



Talk of a tour remained quiet until September 1860, when news came that John Wisden had offered to select a team. A meeting at the Melbourne Mechanics Institute, chaired by William Levey, proprietor of *Bell's Life in Victoria*, set up a provisional committee to consider the question further. This eight-man body included a strong MCC element – honorary secretary Thomas Wray, William Fairfax and William Hammersley, for example – and Mr Spiers.<sup>9</sup>

Over the following days, donations and promises of support came from the Governor, Sir Henry Barkly, and the Premier, William Nicholson. When deliberations were resumed on September 19, MCC members were again very much in evidence. Club president Thomas Hamilton successfully moved “that the All England Eleven should be invited to visit the Australian colonies in the season of 1861 and ‘62”.

When the club’s anticipated role in the proposed tour was defined – it was “requested to place the use of their ground at the disposal of the committee, for the purpose of playing three matches with the All England Eleven” – the members present were loud in their cries of approval.

The meeting well appreciated the size of the task ahead. The leading country centres were to be invited to participate in the tour, as was the colony of New South Wales. MCC member Melmoth Hall was in no doubt that the whole venture would require at least £5000.

A large majority endorsed the motion of another member, John Goodman MLA, that the amount be raised “by the issue of 1000 shares at £5 each [and] that the whole of the profits be divided *pro rata* between the holders of such shares”.

However, another meeting some weeks later decided to reduce the share price to £1, as “it had been deemed impracticable to dispose of them at the higher price.” At the end of October, the MCC committee made the ground available for two matches “for the consideration of £200 ... reserving to themselves the use of the Pavilion and the Public Bar now standing upon the Ground.”<sup>10</sup>

Despite this, the project was apparently losing momentum. In mid-December, “Baxter” pointed out in *Bell's Life* that, after three months, “nothing appears to have been done to advance the main object.” Certainly, the committee’s deliberations lacked the harmony and edge of the project’s early days.

There was disagreement over how much money had to be raised immediately, the involvement of New South Wales remained unresolved and it was decided to refer the proposed share prospectus to another sub-committee, a body of 15 which again contained a strong presence of MCC members.

Yet another sub-committee, made up of members John Goodman, John Raleigh and Thomas Pavey, was set up early in 1861 to handle matters with the MCC committee.<sup>11</sup>

Though the club was not taking a direct role in organising the tour, there could be no doubt that several of its prominent members were closely involved. When the long-awaited prospectus finally appeared in mid-January 1861, seeking to raise £2500 in £1 shares, the overwhelming majority of names attached to it were MCC men.

In addition to Hamilton, Goodman and Raleigh, the list included W.C. Haines, Robert Bagot, James Blackwood, Henry Daughlish and Arthur Devlin. Melmoth Hall was secretary and MCC solicitor W.H. Gatty Jones was legal adviser. Optimistically, the All England and Australian Cricket Association intended to close the share list on Friday January 25, “and in that case the order for the Eleven will be sent home the next day.”

Such was the optimism that “bets were offered that a thousand shares would be subscribed for in one day.” Thus, it was not a good sign when *Bell's Life* assured readers in mid-February that “the committee ... has been quietly pursuing its theme” and that the closing date was now February 28.

Even more ominous was the proviso that “in the event of the shares not being taken up, we hear that certain members of the committee are prepared to carry out the scheme themselves.”<sup>12</sup>

As soon as the closing date passed, it was announced that “the proposal to bring out an Eleven from England by a company seems to have fallen through.”

The required number of shares had not been taken up, and the association was dissolved. The cricket column in *Bell's Life in Victoria*, the paper run by association member William Levey, expressed its feelings in no uncertain terms:

*£2500 was the sum; and we state, without fear of contradiction, that half 2500 pence was not subscribed.*

*Why was this? the members of committee alone we should have deemed good for five hundred shares at least; so far as appears they did not take one! We suppose that exhausted nature sank under the protracted mental effort of the prospectus, and the wearied hands had not the strength left wherewith to write a cheque; but what hindered the public from coming forward? ... is it, as has been whispered to us, a fact that all Melbourne is in a desperate state of impecuniomania?*

*Whatever the cause, it is an indisputable fact that the company was a failure – a miserable, lamentable failure ... The prospectus was to have done great things: it accomplished nothing.*<sup>13</sup>

Much later in the year, it was revealed that, “in addition to other difficulties”, the energies of the association committee had wilted with the discovery “that each individual member would, in the event of a failure, have been liable for all the loss.”<sup>14</sup> Not only were the association’s committeemen unwilling to face this financial burden, some were apparently not willing to meet their debts. According to John Goodman,

*... the preliminary expenses were divided equally between the committee, amounting to £2 14s. 3d. each; and I am sorry to say only one-half of the committee have paid their quota even of this small sum, leaving the secretary to be annoyed and dunned by the printers and newspaper agents who have claims against him as secretary of the undertaking.*<sup>15</sup>

Despite the collapse of the association, the idea of a tour was not abandoned. On March 4, 1861, politician and entrepreneur George Coppin wrote to the Melbourne Cricket Club announcing his “intention to undertake the responsibility.” He sought “the free use of the M. C. Ground with exclusive right to charge for admission.”

Five days later, the club received a letter from Messrs Daughlish, Goodman, Devlin “and others” who had it “in contemplation to make arrangements for bringing out the All England Eleven.” In return for “the Ground being placed unreservedly at our disposal”, except for the Pavilion and public bar, they offered £50 per match.

The existence of rivals made Coppin fear a costly bidding war, so he urged the MCC “to place [the] opposing parties upon the same footing with each other for the use of the Ground.” In accepting this argument, the club emphasised that it was primarily concerned with “promoting the game of Cricket in this Colony” and informed both parties of the specific conditions under which it would make the ground available.<sup>16</sup>

Neither side was able to boast of immediate or significant progress with its plans. In England, George Parr was unaware of the setbacks the proposed tour had received in Victoria and of the lack of action. In fact, in April, *The Field* had told its English readers that “the Eleven ... who have entered into engagements with their brethren at the antipodes, will leave the white-faced shores of Albion in the first week of September.”

In a letter received by Victorian professional George Marshall early in May, Parr left no doubt that he and his players were eager to come to the colonies, provided “that we leave England at the end of September ... [and] that each of the twelve shall receive £150.” In conclusion, he stressed that any reply should “be accompanied with a guarantee in England for the amount.”<sup>17</sup>

The “end of September” deadline left little time to finalise a scheme that was a year and a half old. After another five weeks of apparent inactivity, the prospects of a tour in the coming summer were very doubtful indeed. However, in mid-June, it was reported that “Messrs. Spiers and Pond are again in the field.”





Mr W. E. Mallam,  
 Matthews / Motte, Bennett, Lawrence, H. H. Stephenson, Coffin, Giffels, Hooper, Gillman, Sewell, E. Stephenson.

FIRST ENGLAND ELEVEN IN AUSTRALIA

When just previous to their departure for Australia, October 1862.

Carte d'viste, MCC Library collection

At the last possible moment, they were despatching immediately "to the old country their confidential man, Mr. W.B. Mallam, armed with a draft on the Oriental Bank Corporation for £3000, and entrusted with full power to make arrangements with an eleven of England's picked men, for a professional visit to these shores."<sup>18</sup>

Mallam left aboard the *Jeddo* on June 25. Once in England, he travelled to Birmingham, where the leading English players were engaged in a match between the North and the South. He offered prospective tourists first-class expenses for the trip and £150, the amount which Parr had sought in his last letter.

Oddly, Parr and his northern colleagues now rejected the offer, though it was later suggested in Melbourne that none of the players "would bind themselves to come unless the very best eleven came out; they would not jeopardise the cause."<sup>19</sup>

The loss of Parr, the best batsman in England, was a serious setback but, with the help of Surrey secretary William Burrup and Heathfield Harman Stephenson, the Surrey captain who was leading the South team, Mallam assembled a team of professionals from the southern counties.

Meanwhile, the cricket columns of *Bell's Life in Victoria* had been hosting a running battle between some seemingly anonymous letter writers. It began with "Stumps" making assertions about the various unsuccessful efforts to organise the tour. After outlining the break-up among Coppin's rivals, he hinted that Christopher Pond might have been a member of that group:

*The British lion, however, had been roused in the breast of Mr. Pond, and although deserted by his colleagues, he and his partner determined to take all the responsibility upon their shoulders.*

Correspondents lamented that the cricketing community had failed to organise the tour and that the venture had fallen into the hands of "a firm whose only inducement must be a pecuniary one." When

the lengthy letters became more sniping and argumentative, Stumps hoped that "this *pro* and *con* scribbling may lead to a good practical course being agreed upon, and prevent our visitors drawing a comparison between us and the celebrated Kilkenny cats."

Indeed, he accused MCC member William Hammersley, who wrote for *Bell's Life in Victoria* as "Longstop", of writing letters under a range of pen-names, "just to make people believe that his opinions are entertained by others than himself."<sup>20</sup> (Stumps was probably not far off the mark, since letters signed by Hammersley did occasionally appear offering support for the views of Longstop.)

While this fracas went on, Felix Spiers and Christopher Pond pressed ahead with basic arrangements for the tour. On August 2, they were granted free use of the Melbourne Cricket Ground, "on the understanding that the Ground Fence shall be restored to the Club in the same order and condition" in which it would be handed over.

In addition, the club would retain "the exclusive use of the Pavilion and Public Bar" and would insist on approving "all arrangements and alterations". Though matches at the MCG were pivotal in the planning by Spiers and Pond, an advertisement also invited "communications from the secretaries to the country cricket clubs desirous of playing a match with the Eleven." George Marshall reported that

*The Sandhurst cricketers are making a fine ground, which is now being fenced in; Ballarat is returfing theirs, and I have no doubt, from the liberal spirit displayed in that sporting district, they will be... in a position to vie with any of the up-country districts.*<sup>21</sup>

On Tuesday October 15, Marshall's Cricketers' Hotel hosted "the most influential, and certainly the most numerous meeting of cricketers ever held in the colony." MCC member Claud Farie presided over the election of a committee to make "the necessary arrangements for competing with the All England Eleven in the matches to be played in Melbourne, and also with the New South Wales Eleven in the ensuing Intercolonial Match."



The SS *Great Britain* revolutionised long distance transportation and made viable the tour by the English cricketers. State Library of Victoria

Of those chosen for the 24-man committee, more than half were Melbourne Cricket Club members, though some, like Professor M.H. Irving and W.C. Haines, owed their selection to the fact that they were presidents of other clubs. Efforts began almost immediately to confer with Spiers and Pond about "the number of players against whom the All England Eleven will be willing to play," but that was to remain a touchy question almost until the very last.

MCC president Thomas Hamilton and Thomas Pavey of the Collingwood Cricket Club sought a meeting with army officials to avoid a clash between the cricket matches and "the contemplated encampment of volunteers on the Werribee." At the same time, the Melbourne Cricket Club set up a sub-committee to confer with Spiers and Pond "about the alterations and arrangements for the All England match."<sup>22</sup>

By then, Stephenson and his team had been at sea for a week, aboard the revolutionary *SS Great Britain*. The first ship to combine an iron hull with screw propulsion, the vessel was on her ninth voyage to Melbourne, with 687 souls on board, as well as a cow, 36 sheep, 140 pigs, 96 goats and a total of 1114 chickens, ducks, geese and turkeys.

Like most steamships of her time, the *Great Britain* was provided with secondary sail power. Only 64 days after leaving Liverpool, the All England Eleven arrived in Port Phillip on December 24.

According to William Hammersley, "A perfect cricketing mania pervaded all classes. Nothing was heard of, or talked about but cricket, and the daily papers helped to foster the excitement." At Sandridge, the welcoming crowd was so great that "if a gold field had been suddenly proclaimed there, a larger rush could scarcely have set in."

It was the same in the city, where "the whole way was lined by an excited crowd, and the British champions were everywhere greeted with enthusiastic cheers and well-wishes."<sup>23</sup> In a community of predominantly British migrants, the arrival of the cricketers was a powerful and joyous reminder of the unifying links that existed between the exiles in the antipodes and the home that they had left.

Not that life in the new land did not contain attempts to reproduce the old ways. As the cricketers practised for their first match, a three-day Caledonian Gathering took place at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

It was an extraordinary piece of timing. At that stage, only four football matches had ever been played on the ground, but concerns had been expressed about their effect on the playing surface, which was far rougher than today's well-grassed arena.

The Caledonian Games touched off similar worries, making an *Argus* scribe hope "that the Melbourne Cricket Club have taken due precautions."<sup>24</sup> Such aspirations were quite reasonable, for the final day of the Caledonian Games was unlike anything the ground has ever witnessed.

Apart from the Cumberland and Westmoreland wrestling, cutlass and bayonet displays, the program included a cavalry sword exercise involving 10 mounted volunteers. The most curious event, though, was the Cœur de Lion Feat, which as *Bell's Life* explained, "consisted in cutting a sheep in half at a single blow, on horseback at a gallop". The efforts of the competitors "caused considerable amusement":

*Messrs. Butters, Matthews, Strong, Wills, and Close essayed this feat, and, with the exception of the first-named, whose horse swerved, they all succeeded. They afterwards performed the same feat with sundry legs of mutton, and ultimately, to test the competitors more completely, two sheep were attached and suspended from the branch of a tree. Neither of them succeeded in completely halving the pendant mutton, but as Mr. Wills made the best cut, to him was awarded the prize.*

[The identity of "Mr. Wills" is not known. Prominent sporting identity T.W. Wills had gone with his family to take up land in Queensland some months before.]

The day's activities concluded with a football match between Melbourne and University for a silver cup presented by the Caledonian Society. While this match was in progress, more cavalry exercises went on, involving exciting "mimic combats" between swords and lances which "seemed to be keenly relished by the spectators".<sup>25</sup>

Back in May 1860, honorary secretary Thomas Wray had feared that the Melbourne-Richmond football match would leave the ground "utterly spoiled" for the coming cricket season. It is reasonable to assume that, had he still been in office, his thoughts on these shenanigans, only three days before the MCG's first international match, would have been somewhat stronger.

Within hours of their arrival on Christmas Eve, the All England Eleven had visited the ground, where they found that "the turf was in splendid condition, fresh and green from the application of the Yan Yean, and as level and true as ... Kennington Oval."

Much more stunning was the "monster" temporary stand. It was indeed "a sight to behold, such as on no cricket ground in the world was ever seen before, stretching 800 feet in length – or about a third of the circumference of the ground – and capable of seating 6000 spectators, and so arranged that tier rose upon tier, affording every one a perfect uninterrupted view of the play."<sup>26</sup>

On New Year's Day 1862, the match between the All England Eleven and Eighteen of Melbourne and District "produced one of the most brilliant holidays, if not the most brilliant, which has yet taken place in these colonies ... An immense concourse of people ... thronged the ground, and stretched far and wide into the pleasant precincts of the Richmond Paddock."

H.H. Stephenson claimed that "the attendance was larger than he ever saw at any of the matches across the Atlantic." It was estimated that 15,000 spectators were actually inside the enclosure, while "some 10,000 more, at least, swarmed in dense black masses upon the rising ground outside the fences."

Those present sensed that it was a unique occasion, a match that "will be the theme of tradition from father to son." As the *Argus* put it,

*A game of cricket giving rise to such purely pleasurable and wavering sensations has probably never been played, for the simple reason that the special circumstances of it can never occur again.*

Despite its size, the crowd behaved splendidly. The *Argus* was gratified "to record that not one disturbance occurred in which the police were called upon to interfere, and no arrests of any sort were made." Sadly, the remarkable occasion was marred by the passing of William McKenzie, "a journeyman-baker, aged twenty-two years, who met his death in consequence of injuries sustained by falling from a tree near the Melbourne Cricket Ground".<sup>27</sup>

New Year's Day 1862 added a new dimension to the ground of the colony's leading cricket club. For the first time, a cricket match had generated in Melbourne a level of interest and excitement similar to the mood long associated with the annual Flemington racing carnival.





The Melbourne Cricket Ground, January 1, 1862. Charles Nettleton's photo showing the expanse of the temporary Grandstand built at the MCG for the English tour. MCC Museum collection

The *Illustrated Melbourne Post* told how "the suburbs were utterly abandoned, and Melbourne ... was indeed a 'deserted village'." The Melbourne Cricket Ground now stood as a venue capable of attracting and accommodating large crowds to watch international sport. In the years that followed, the home of the MCC would be the prime force behind spectator sport acquiring in Melbourne "an appeal unmatched in perhaps any city of that era."<sup>28</sup>

As the biggest event since the club moved to the Richmond Paddock in 1853, the contest against the All England Eleven gave birth to the rich aura of history and atmosphere that has come to envelop the place.

For Felix Spiers and Christopher Pond, the match – and the tour that followed – brought enormous profits, reputedly close to £11,000.<sup>29</sup> On the other side of the world, Charles Dickens was experiencing a level of popularity that was unprecedented in literary circles. While his books generated huge sales, the novelist's technique of publishing his works in serial form forged a very close bond between author and reader.

His novels displayed a great understanding of contemporary English society and its shortcomings, and their appeal embraced the simple and the sophisticated, the poor, the wealthy and even Queen Victoria herself.

After 1853, Dickens had strengthened the relationship with his public by occasionally giving public readings from his works for charity. Five years later, when he was 46, the readings became a source of income. The author could certainly use the money. He had 10 children to support, and was keen to buy Gadshill Place in Kent.

However, he was also seeking distraction from personal troubles. Around this time, he wrote that "The domestic unhappiness remains so strong upon me that I can't write, and (waking) can't rest, one minute" and that, for months, he had "never known a moment's peace or content." Just as the paid performances started, Dickens and his wife Catherine separated.<sup>30</sup>

Despite the break-up, his popularity remained high. Indeed, the readings allowed Dickens to enjoy more than ever his long relationship with his readers. His works offered ample scope for his histrionic talents, and on stage Dickens proved a magnificent and powerful entertainer, impressing audiences with "the range, force, and almost hypnotic power of his performances."<sup>31</sup>

His appearances became major events, arousing enormous interest wherever he went. Several performances were attended by crowds of well over 2000. Though the readings took up a significant amount of his time, Dickens remained busy with his writing, publishing *A Tale of Two Cities* in 1859, then *Great Expectations* in 1860-61.

The interest in Dickens was not confined to the British Isles. Even before Stephenson's cricketers completed their Australian tour, Spiers and Pond had set their sights on the famed author. Given his stature as the biggest name in contemporary literature and his unprecedented popular appeal, the notion of luring him to the other side of the world was very ambitious.

Nevertheless, it was quite in keeping with the highly enterprising outlook of goldrush Melbourne. Moreover, the Theatre Royal complex, with its enormous seating capacity, would certainly have seemed an ideal setting for the author's Melbourne performances.

In May 1862, the *Argus* revealed that, about five months previously, "Messrs. Spiers and Pond wrote to Mr. Dickens offering him a large sum of money to visit the Australian colonies, and give a series of readings in them, from his works, for a twelvemonth".<sup>32</sup>

The *Argus* also claimed that the author's reply, written in February 1862, was "sufficiently encouraging in its tone to justify a prosecution of the negotiation" and that Felix Spiers, who had already been planning a trip to England, was therefore "charged, on behalf of the firm, with the duty of arranging the matter with Mr. Dickens".

Spiers "was empowered to make such an advance upon the original offer as would convince that gentleman that the entrepreneurs were prepared to carry out the enterprise in a munificent spirit."<sup>33</sup>

In the author's surviving letters, the prospect of a colonial tour first surfaces on June 28, 1862, with Dickens telling his friend John Forster that "A man from Australia is in London ready to pay £10000 for eight months there". The man was, of course, Felix Spiers, whom Dickens claimed "opened the business with me by producing a letter of credit for £10000."

In addition, Dickens told Forster that Spiers brought "letters from members of the legislature, newspaper editors, and the like, exhorting me to come, saying how much the people talk of me, and dwelling on the kind of reception that would await me."<sup>34</sup>

Despite the earnest colonial exhortations, Dickens declined to undertake the tour. On July 19, he told Spiers that, "In bringing our business to an end, let me again assure you that it has inspired me with a great respect for the open and plain dealing of your House."<sup>35</sup> Later, the author told another old friend, Thomas Beard, that:

... I parted with the bidder thus: "I cannot go now, I don't know that I ever can go, and therefore terms are not in question. But if I can ever make up my mind to go, I will certainly communicate with your Melbourne House."<sup>36</sup>



The profits from the All England tour enabled Spiers and Pond to approach Charles Dickens regarding a tour of the colonies. Charles Dickens (circa 1862) used under Creative Commons license.

At some stage, Spiers probably made another approach – John Forster’s 1872-74 biography of Dickens recorded that “an increase was made upon the just-named offer”.

Before Spiers arrived in England, Dickens had sought advice from a friend in Melbourne about the proposed tour. Sometime early in 1862 he wrote to the poet Richard Henry Horne, who had worked with Dickens on the weekly publication *Household Words* before migrating to Australia, where he had lived since the early fifties.<sup>37</sup> Ten days after rejecting Spiers’ approach, Dickens wrote to Horne:

*My dear Horne,*

*I am sincerely obliged to you for your considerate letter, and should unquestionably have been guided by it if I had pursued the offer made to me by Messrs. Spiers and Pond. But I have declined it altogether. Into the many reasons which have influenced me, it is not necessary here to enter. It is enough that I feel quite as much indebted to you for your suggestions as if it were still in abeyance, and that I thank you cordially.*<sup>38</sup>

The author’s letters to Beard and Horne are intriguing. With the lines “I cannot go now, I don’t know that I ever can go” and “Into the many reasons which have influenced me, it is not necessary here to enter”, Dickens clearly drops a veil over further discussion of his decision to remain in England.



Actress Ellen Ternan, the prime reason for Dickens declining Spiers and Pond’s offer. Ellen Ternan (circa 1862) used under Creative Commons license.

In 1859, he had been equally reticent in refusing an offer to tour America “for a private reason, rendering a long voyage and absence particularly painful to me.” The “private reason” was what author J.B. Priestley labelled as “one of the best-kept secrets of the nineteenth century”.

Since 1858, Dickens had been having an affair with Ellen Ternan, an actress with “a pretty face and well-developed figure”. She was some 27 years younger than the author, who was not at all eager to be away from her for long.<sup>39</sup>

Nevertheless, the huge offer from Spiers and Pond provided a formidable challenge to the charms of Miss Ternan, setting Dickens off on a long bout of indecision. Even though he had rejected Spiers’ proposal, the notion of performing his readings in Australia continued to haunt him.

A lengthy letter to John Forster in October 1862 was perhaps an attempt to clarify his thoughts on paper, but he succeeded only in going around in indecisive circles, writing “How painfully unwilling I am to go, and yet how painfully sensible that perhaps I ought to go ...”<sup>40</sup> Less than a fortnight later, in a letter to Thomas Beard, he was still dithering:

*If I were to decide to go and read in Australia, how stand your inclination and spirits for going with me?*

*... Observe. I don’t in the least know that I shall go. But supposing I did re-open the question with the Australian people ... I am wavering between reading in Australia, and writing a book at home ...*<sup>41</sup>

In December, in a masterpiece of indecision and emphasis, Dickens told Mrs Henry Austin “I think [I cannot at present be quite sure] that I shall NOT GO to Australia.” Finally, a letter to Thomas Beard on Christmas Eve suggested that the notion of touring Australia had receded from his thoughts.<sup>42</sup> As John Forster’s biography noted, it was around this time that another story “had lately been in his mind, and he had just chosen the title for it (Our Mutual Friend) ...”

In 1865, while travelling back from Paris with Ellen Ternan, Charles Dickens was involved in a railway disaster at Staplehurst in Kent. After that, his health declined markedly. Still, he pressed on with readings throughout Britain, and even ventured to America in 1868.

A mild stroke in 1869 justified fears that he had been pushing himself too hard. A year later, a more severe apoplexy ended his life at the age of 58. Ellen Ternan later married a schoolmaster and died in April 1914.

The attempt by Spiers and Pond to entice Charles Dickens to Australia came in what proved to be the final stage of their time in Victoria. Perhaps it was well that the great man did not come, for George Coppin felt that the venture would certainly have brought “a very serious loss to them and disappointment to him.”

Coppin doubted that readings alone would appeal to Melburnians, whom he believed were “a very fast and go ahead people and require something to please the eye.”<sup>43</sup>

It has been suggested in *The Oxford Companion to Australian Cricket* that in 1863-64 Spiers and Pond succeeded in luring the noted actors Charles and Ellen Kean to Australia, but this was not quite the case.

While Charles Kean did, in the European summer of 1862, enter into a contract with Spiers for a colonial tour, he and his wife eventually performed in Australia under Coppin’s banner. As Kean explained, “I have since received a letter informing me of the severe accident to Mr. Pond obliging him to relinquish business and the consequent selling off of the Property.”<sup>44</sup>

On September 4, 1862, as Christopher Pond was stepping into his buggy at St Kilda, he “slipped and fell so maladroitly as to occasion a compound fracture of the thigh, just above the knee. He was taken to the Prince of Wales Hotel, and surgical assistance procured.”

Ten days later, while Pond was still recovering at the hotel, his wife “unaccountably disappeared” after leaving their house in “Gardiner’s Creek-road, ostensibly for the purpose of visiting her husband.” It was revealed next day that





Mrs. Pond ... had wandered away to some friends at Richmond ... it is stated that Mrs. Pond, who had only recently returned to the colony from England, met with a severe accident on shipboard, causing concussion of the brain; and this, taken in conjunction with the severe strain upon the mind occasioned by her having sat up with her husband for ten nights, had led to a temporary aberration of intellect ...<sup>45</sup>

By the time Dickens decided in December that he would not travel to Australia, Felix Spiers and Christopher Pond had announced that they were "about to retire from business." According to the *Argus*, "Mr. Pond's recent accident, from which he is but slowly recovering, has principally conducted to their determination." After a couple of farewell gatherings at the Café de Paris, Spiers and Pond sailed for England on March 26, 1863.<sup>46</sup>

When George Coppin arrived in London in 1865, he found his old friends and business rivals running an establishment at Blackfriars Bridge that had become known as a mecca for colonials returning to England. The pair remained as ambitious and enterprising as ever. In 1865, they tendered successfully for refreshment rooms along the earliest underground railway line, the Metropolitan.

It was a shrewd move, for the rooms of Spiers and Pond were "the first places in London where families up from the country could dine cleanly, substantially and cheaply." One of the lessons they had brought from goldrush Melbourne was that "there was profit to be made by an imaginative and egalitarian response to the needs of people with plain tastes and moderate incomes."<sup>47</sup>

In 1873, Spiers and Pond leased from the Crown Commissioners a site in Piccadilly where an old posting inn, the White Bear, had stood since at least 1685. In its place, they erected the Criterion Restaurant, a complex containing a restaurant, a refreshment buffet, a ballroom and private dining rooms.<sup>48</sup>

They also had plans for a small concert hall in the middle of the building. However, this finished up as an underground theatre, the work of leading theatre architect Thomas Verity. Even the upper circle of the Criterion Theatre had to be reached by descending stairs. Published costs for the project range from £80,000 to £100,000. Seating more than 600, the much refurbished theatre is still in use.

Though Christopher Pond died in 1882, the names of the partners appeared as an entity in relation to the site as late as 1903. In another venture, they directed their talents towards the lucrative trade of catering for private railway companies. After Felix Spiers retired in 1905, he lived in Paris, where he died in 1911.<sup>49</sup>

### Alf Batchelder

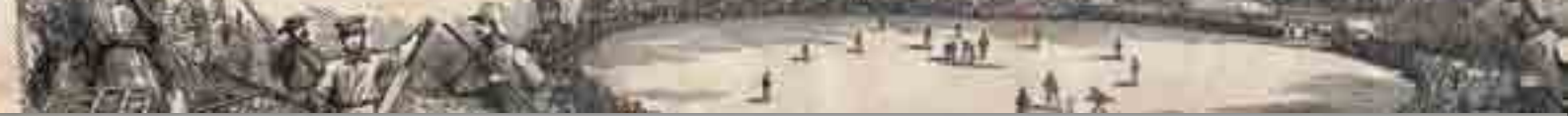
Alf Batchelder, a former MCC Library volunteer, is author of *Pavilions in the Park* and *Hugh Trumble: a cricketer's life* both winners of the Australian Cricket Society's book of the year award.

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This piece revises two earlier feature articles which appeared in Issues 21 (Autumn 1999) and 35 (Summer 2002/03) of *The Yorker*.

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Messrs Spiers and Pond.  
Samuel Calvert, picture 1863,  
State Library of Victoria

# Spiers and Pond in England

By Jim Blair

Felix Spiers and Christopher Pond were proprietors of the Cafe de Paris in the Theatre Royal on Bourke Street, Melbourne. They were enterprising young men who undertook with great risk to underwrite the first tour of English cricketers to Australia.

Sponsoring the 1861/62 English cricket tour to Australia was extremely successful financially for Spiers and Pond and it has been estimated that the profits were close to £11,000.<sup>1</sup> Charles Lawrence, who was in the English party, subsequently led the tour of aboriginal cricketers to England in 1868. There he met up with Felix Spiers who confided to him that the tour had actually had profits of £19,000.<sup>2</sup> In any case, it was a sum sufficient for Spiers and Pond to start a new enterprise on returning to England.

The timing of their return was fortuitous from a business point of view. The building of the first underground railway, the Metropolitan Railway, and the growing requirements of people to travel from their suburban homes provided an opportunity to cater for travellers.

The biggest growth areas in England in the second half of the nineteenth century were in the London suburbs. While London's population increased by slightly less than 50 per cent from 1875-95, the number of journeys by train, tram and bus increased by 300 per cent in the same period.<sup>3</sup>

Such an increase is not to be accounted for simply by commuting journeys by male heads of households. Some can be attributed to women workers, notably shop assistants and, towards the end of the century, clerks and typists. There were now more attractions for the younger middle class who indulged in "the habit of enjoyment".<sup>4</sup>

In 1865 Spiers and Pond successfully tendered for restaurants along the Metropolitan Underground. In *Routledge's Popular Guide to London*<sup>5</sup> the following entry describes the situation:

"Many excellent hotels and taverns have a luncheon-bar, at which during the day you may have a chop, or a snack for sixpence, or a plate of hot meat, with vegetables and bread for eightpence. ... and if you want to smoke, play chess, take coffee, and lounge at the same time, go to *Spiers and Pond's* at Mansion House Station." They then won contracts for the London, Chatham and Dover Railway, and the Midland Railway.

One of the keys to their success lay in the setting up of *The London and Westminster Supply Association*, at Blackfriars. This company was a central wholesale buying operation for the whole enterprise. It allowed them to keep tabs on quality, stock and price so that they could compete successfully against owner-managed taverns.

By 1867 they were sufficiently well established to present their style at the Paris Exhibition that year. The *Bentley Miscellany* describes a visit to the exhibition:<sup>6</sup>

*But incomparably the best restaurant is the English one of Spiers and Pond. It is spacious, most handsomely decorated, the things to eat and drink are transcendental, the waiters alert and civil, and at the counter preside a bevy of English girls, many exceedingly handsome, with hair most elaborately dressed in various fantastic fashions, before whom imbibing admirers crowd all day like flies swarming around a honey-pot.*

The exhibition led W.S. Gilbert (of Gilbert and Sullivan fame) to write the poem *Fanny and Jenny* (note that Bertram and Roberts were caterers at the Royal Aquarium and the Crystal Palace:<sup>7</sup>



I have only seen two magazines as yet. *Tinsley's* second number is a decided improvement on the first. "Dr. Brady" is admirable, and there is a pleasant article on "Taking the Air"—in a balloon. There is more verse this month than last, but hardly as neat and finished, though "St. Andrew" is clever enough. "The Rock Ahead" goes on well. "Aunt Anastasia" is rather a bore, and—strange to say—"The Fashions" is a smart and amusing article. In *Cassell's Magazine* the most interesting article is a paper on ALEXANDER SMITH, by HANNAH. There are also a chatty essay on "Food Suits," by DUTTON COOK, some sound articles on "Old Clothes," "Hair Markets," and topics of that sort, and some very pleasant verses by ARTHUR LOCKER, brother of the author of "London Poems." The illustrations, with the exception of Watson's frontispiece, might be better, I think; but it is hardly fair to pass judgment on them, they are, as a rule, so very badly printed. But you can't have everything for sixpence, I suppose?

The theatres are most of them closed, or closing, or about to re-open. The *Royalty* still fills every night. The *Strand* opened on last Monday with Mr. and Mrs. HOWARD PAUL. I went to the Princess's to see Miss VERRI in "Masks and Faces," and was pleased—as I always am—with her acting. Mr. MACLEAN and Mr. FAIRB supported her ably, but I cannot say very much for the rest of the cast.

FANNY AND JENNY.

FANNY and JENNY in Paris did dwell,  
Miss JENNY was a dowdy, Miss FANNY a swell—  
Each went for to dine at a quarter to four  
At her own little favourite Restaurant—  
FANNY of BERTRAM AND ROBERTS was fond  
While JENNY she worshipped her SPIERS AND POND.



FANNY was for Oy and pipin' and jett,  
Her manners were shortish and so was her lett,  
While JENNY the elder would make a man wince,  
In a firm of the mode of a century since,  
BERTRAM AND ROBERTS'S FANNY was blabby,  
And dink was the JENNY of SPIERS AND POND.



JENNY lived in a modest and lady-like way;  
To SPIERS AND POND she went every day.

She'd order up beef and potatoes as well,  
And eat off the joint until somehow she fell;  
(She fed herself daily all reason beyond  
To give all the longer at SPIERS AND POND.)

But FANNY, that tedious, frivolous maid  
(Whose tastes were more airy than JENNY's the staid),  
To BERTRAM AND ROBERTS would lie her away,  
And swallow plum-pudding the rest of the day.  
The best of her dresses MISS FANNY she donned  
(As JENNY did also for SPIERS AND POND).



The Restauranters didn't seem for to care  
For JENNY's soft ogle or FANNY's fond stare,  
Said JENNY, "Don't let us be taken aback,  
We're probably on an enormous track,  
And BERTRAM AND ROBERTS of our way be fond,  
While you are beloved by SPIERS AND POND!"

"Oh, BERTRAM AND R., are you dying for me,  
Or am I the chosen of SPIERS AND P.?  
Oh, which is the angel and fasting side  
Of SPIERS AND P., or of BERTRAM AND R.,  
Which firm have I collared in VENUS's bond?  
Say, BERTRAM AND ROBERTS—speak SPIERS AND POND!"

"Perhaps if you cannot completely agree  
Which of you shall have FANNY and which shall have me,  
And you wish for to go far to do what is right,  
You will go to the Bois de Boulogne for to fight—  
It's the meal that is popular in the best mode,  
Will BERTRAM AND ROBERTS fight SPIERS AND POND?"

But SPIERS AND POND are left perishing dry,  
So they gasped and they gurgled and fainted away—  
The banner of BERTRAM AND ROBERTS'S song  
Was "Goodness! how shocking! Oh, please go along!  
With neither for worlds would we ever second!"  
And "Ditto for us," exclaimed SPIERS AND POND.

Said FANNY, "How bold, and how dreadfully rude!"  
"Those men are too forward," said JENNY the staid,  
"Such youth and such beauty as both of us own  
Are safe in the walls of a convent alone,  
We shall there be the rarer perceptions beyond  
Of BERTRAM AND ROBERTS and SPIERS AND POND."







Innovation was always part of their ongoing success. On the Midland Railway passengers could buy one of their hampers at one station and drop it off at another after eating the contents on the train.<sup>8</sup> Their service became a social occasion, famous in Victorian England.

*Ten years ago no man in his senses would have dreamt of applying for food or drink at a railway buffet while he could go elsewhere; now Spiers & Pond daily serve thousands who desert the old familiar taverns and crowd the bars at the various city stations, ... the old regime of mouldy pork-pies and stale Bunbury cakes has made us feel very well disposed to a firm whose name has already passed into a proverb.*

An extract from *A Book about Travelling*<sup>9</sup> illustrates just how far they would go to provide innovative service. It quotes from the *Railway News*, 1876:

*At Normanton an important step has been taken in that important matter of refreshments at railway stations. There are few things probably in which practical questions interfere so largely with notions of theoretical perfection as in this matter of railway refreshments. In theory nothing can be more simple than that every traveller should have provided for him punctually and at the moment of his arrival everything that his fancy or appetite should suggest.*

*The demands of appetite and the demand for speed are, however, antagonistic, and the difficulty hitherto has been, and indeed always will exist to a greater or less extent, to reconcile the two conflicting demands. In the first place, the railway company guarantees the stoppage of the train for half-an hour. A good deal can be done in that time provided the traveller goes 'straight to business'.*

*Economy of time is sought to be obtained by a very simple process, and in which the travellers may do much to facilitate their own comfort. In the carriages will be found small handbills, in which the contractors, Messrs. Spiers and Pond, invite the co-operation of the passengers in their work of providing for their creature comforts.*

The handbill spouted:

*Messrs. Spiers and Pond invite attention to the table d'hote provided at Normanton station expressly for travellers by this train, served immediately on its arrival. The Midland Railway Company have made arrangements for the train to stop for half-an-hour, to allow time for dining. To assist the contractors in making the necessary provision, passengers will much oblige by stating, in the annexed space, the probable number of their party who will dine, and hand the notice to the attendant who will present himself at the carriage at Leicester station.*

At Leicester the total number for whom dinner is to be provided is telegraphed to Normanton. The menu was attractive:

*Spring Soup  
Salmon Cutlets, Sauce Tartare  
Lamb Cutlets, Green Peas  
Filletts of Beef Larded, Sauce Piquante  
Jellies Creams  
Cheese Salad*

*On arrival, seats are found placed in the dining-hall for the guests, the soup is smoking in the plates, ready for immediate action. While the soup is being disposed of, the waitresses, neat handed and neatly attired – how much better than the greasy black coat and white necktie of the male waiter? – place opposite each guest his plate of fish.*

*"This, in turn, gives place in the same manner to the entrée, or joint; and pastry or jelly, ale and wine, in bottles are placed within easy reach of the traveller, who can make his own selection. The great causes of delay, with its constant irritation and annoyance, are avoided, and something has been done, which deserves a word of commendation, to secure that 'good digestion' should wait upon appetite.*

The biggest venture that Spiers and Pond undertook in their early years was the building of the *Criterion Restaurant and Theatre*. In 1870 the building agreement for Nos. 219-221 Piccadilly and Nos. 8-9 Jermyn Street was purchased by the partners.<sup>10</sup> The site was that of an old posting inn, *The White Bear*, which had stood since at least 1685.

They then held a competition for designs for a large restaurant and tavern with ancillary public rooms. This was won by Thomas Verity, a leading architect of the day. He would later design the pavilion at Lord's Cricket Ground. The ground floor had a vestibule, dining room, buffet and smoking room. The first floor was entirely devoted to dining rooms and service-rooms and a room tentatively labelled "picture gallery or ball supper-room".

In the basement there was to be another hall, for concerts and the exhibition of pictures. The building was completed in 1873 at a cost of more than £80,000. In January 1873, while the building was still being constructed, they successfully applied to convert the basement into a theatre with entrances in both Piccadilly and Jermyn Street.

The venture proved to be so popular that within a short time plans were being made to extend the building. The sites of Nos. 222 and 223 were acquired and building started in 1878, again to the designs of Thomas Verity.

A good description of the restaurant was given by a correspondent to the *Boston Advertiser* c1881:<sup>11</sup>

*New York has her Delmonico's and Boston has her Young's; but the Criterion is not to London what these vast eating establishments are to their respective cities. Both Delmonico's and Young's cater to the ultra-fashionable class to a greater or less extent, while that class of people in the English metropolis, when they dine publicly at all, frequent the Metropole, The Langham or the Bristol.*

*Still at the Criterion one finds at different times almost all classes of people, from the countryman, the business man, the howling swell, up to that very class which just falls short of the 'very nobs' themselves.*

*Your attention is first attracted as you enter the Criterion by the stalwart retainer, with his silver chain around his neck, ready to answer all questions which the new-comer might put to him, and to direct you this way or that. On your left as you enter and at the further end of this apartment is what to the native American might be considered as the most peculiar feature of this most complete establishment.*

*To the man who is accustomed to order his champagne cocktail or his gin-fizz from a row of 'bar-keepers' clad in their spotless linen and duck, their whole make-up the very pink of perfection, the sight of eight or more fine, buxom, wholesome looking English girls behind the mahogany would probably be a novel, not to say a pleasing and interesting picture.*

*At any rate, pleasing or displeasing, this is in store for him who visits the Criterion, and the writer believes that hundreds of visiting Americans go in there just for the purpose of feasting the eye on this array of female talent.*

*These barmaids are all of them selected for their fine physique, their hair cut short, man fashion, their white collars turned over their black gowns. They are girls of good repute, attending strictly to their business, and allowing no familiarity or freedom of speech, although part of their stock in trade is to be possessed of pleasing and taking manners, easy flow of words, a certain knack of wholesome repartee, and other like characteristics which shall command a certain amount of custom.*

*At this bar you will find men, young and old, calling for their 'mug of bitters', their 'thr'penny' or 'fo'penny' glass of 'cold Irish' or 'cold Scotch', and these latter drinks are not served to the customer in the bottle, with the privilege of taking a 'bath' or anything of that sort. If you call for a 'fo'penny Irish' you get a 'fo'penny Irish' and no more. Your girl in black draws it from little wooden kegs, measuring it in a gauged measure, pouring it into the glass and setting it before you.*

*There is no elaborate display of glassware. Great shining 'beer pulls' show themselves at stated intervals, and heavy decanters of sherry, port and other wines are in sight everywhere. These, together with a good display of dainty bits just suited to a noon-day lunch, and not forgetting the girls behind it go to make up the furnishing of the noted*



The first day of the year...  
 Victoria than in England; and as the weather  
 the pretty suburbs of Melbourne are explored by  
 a more or less extensive scale. This year, howe  
 body went to see the Grand Anglo-Australian



Spiers & Pond's Store advertisement from July 6, 1907 issue of *The Graphic*. With Spiers retired and Pond having died in 1882, the firm diversified under its new management and ultimately over-expanded.

Christopher Pond died in Margate on July 30, 1881. He was buried in West Norwood Cemetery, Lambeth, London, where his elaborate mausoleum is a Grade II listed building. He left £215,000 in his will. Coincidentally, William Mortlock (1832-1884) is buried in the same cemetery. He was a member of the cricket team that toured Australia in 1861, sponsored by Spiers and Pond.<sup>15</sup> The partnership became Spiers and Pond (Limited) in 1882 after Pond's death.

Spiers continued to drive the company onwards. In early 1879 the London and Westminster Supply Association started to produce an 80-page subscription mail order catalogue. Items in the catalogue were many and varied, from cameras to vintage port and luggage.

The next major undertaking was to acquire hotels. There were 12 in all, among them the Grand Hotel at Brighton, Bailey's Hotel, Kensington, Queens Hotel at Eastbourne, the Palace Hotel, Hastings, The Bull's Head at Aylesbury, The Victoria Hotel, Manchester, the Royal Clarence Hotel at Exeter and The Grand Hotel, Scarborough.

Scarborough was famous for its cricket festival. First held in 1876, at one time or another almost every great player in the game has taken part in the Scarborough Festival. Generally most amateurs would stay at the Grand as did overseas professionals.

It was in Scarborough that Donald Bradman played his last first-class match in the British Isles. He scored 153 before being caught Hutton bowled Bedser. The team stayed at the Grand and the Cricket Room was crowded. When Bradman came down he received a prolonged standing ovation.<sup>16</sup>

Felix William Spiers died in Paris in 1911, aged 79. After he retired the firm went into decline. It went into liquidation in 1916 and was taken into administration by the court until 1918, when it was reorganised to continue as Spiers and Pond (Limited). Eventually it was taken over by The Grand Metropolitan Hotels Group. It merged with Guinness plc to form Diageo in 1997.

#### Jim Blair

Jim Blair, an MCC Library volunteer, is writing a biography of RE "Tip" Foster.

bar. Everything here is straight, no mixed drinks being served.

Directly opposite the bar are small tables placed in crescent-shaped alcoves, around which are luxuriously upholstered wall seats, the very place for a cozy tete-a-tete lunch with your best friend.

Nearly opposite the further end of the bar you pass through an embossed glass door and down the easy flight of steps which lead you to the famous 'Grill Room'. Placed around this room are little tables for two, covered with snow-white cloths. Here you can order a 'chump chop', a broiled pork sausage with broiled tomatoes, all of which dishes are specialities of the grill room.

Steaks or cuts from joints are served here in the most approved English style, and are kept nicely hot with little pewter covers for each individual plate, which fit over it to perfection. In this 100m the patrons are of a more solid character, with here and there the paterfamilias with his rosy-cheeked daughters in town for a day's shopping. There is a back entrance to the grill room

from Jermyn street, by means of which ladies can enter without being obliged to run the gauntlet of observing eyes in the front of the bar.

Such are a few of the many features of the Criterion. The whole establishment is over the Criterion Theatre, where Wyndham's famous company nightly delights London audiences.

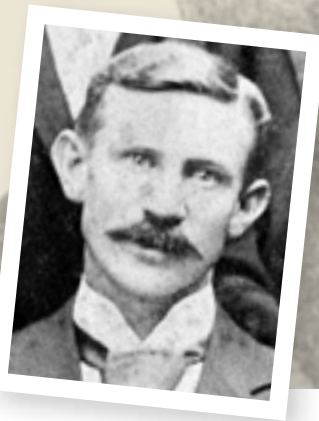
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle has Dr Watson meeting a friend in the bar of the Criterion who then introduces him to Sherlock Holmes.<sup>12</sup>

The Spiers and Pond formula was always to look to catering to the emerging mobility of the middle classes. They also catered at Wimbledon, at Regents Park Zoo and the Theatre Royal Drury Lane and they owned the Gaiety theatre in the Strand. The Spiers and Pond barmaids were famous. There were over 900 of them and Kaiser William II was said to have insisted on an incognito trip to a branch of Spiers and Pond on his first London visit.<sup>13</sup> By early 1886, Spiers and Pond were operating 219 refreshment rooms, dining rooms and smoking rooms.<sup>14</sup>

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# The search for “Rocco” Atkins



**The grand project spearheaded by MCC Library volunteers and cricket aficionados Ray Webster and Ken Williams – a dictionary of the biographies of every person to play first-class cricket in Australia – has been long in the making and remains an unfinished symphony. That’s not surprising if the time spent on getting a handle on a certain A.A. Atkins is any guide. Ray Webster reports.**

Atkins was a substantial presence in both Sydney and Brisbane cricket for more than a decade from the early 1890s, shuttling back and forth between the two capitals, and was a recurring figure during the formative years of the first-class game in Queensland, captaining the side in the last seven of his 11 first-class appearances for the northern state.

An attractive batsman, he was also a fieldsman regarded by Test batsman Frank Iredale as “one of the fastest and best fields at mid-off he has ever seen”. Nicknames were extremely popular throughout society at this time and Atkins was known to one and all as “Rocco”, to the extent that his given names were obliterated, only the initials A. or A.A. appearing in scorecards, periodicals and newspaper references of the day.

It was not until the 1970s that collective research into his origins and fate was undertaken, when a few local members of the England-based Association of Cricket Statisticians began the task of compiling biographical registers of Australian first-class cricketers.

Interest in Rocco was renewed and intensified during the late 1990s when four enthusiasts – Warwick Franks, Rick Smith, Ken Williams and myself – embarked upon a monumental project to compile biographies as part of a dictionary of Australian first-class representatives.

Atkins’ cricket career had been well-documented and relatively easy to track. Having come to notice in Sydney around 1890 as one of the Surry United club’s leading batsmen, he retained his association with the district when transferring to South Sydney on the introduction of electorate or grade cricket in 1894/95.

During that season he recorded 30 on his representative debut, for XVIII Sydney Juniors against Andrew Stoddart’s touring England XI. At the end of the season he moved to Brisbane, accepting an invitation to join the powerful Graziers club, two years after an initial attempt to do so had to be aborted, “owing to the severe illness of his wife”, according to the Sydney *Referee*.

It was the first of a number of subtle press references over the years suggesting an unsettled domestic situation. In the short term at least, those circumstances had no detrimental impact on his performances on the field.

After two years in Brisbane, which included an initial appearance for Queensland, Atkins moved back to Sydney for a similar period, during which he was in turn chosen for New South Wales before returning to the northern capital once again where, the Sydney *Referee* noted, he “will probably remain.”

This he did for the next 10 years, rarely missing Queensland selection in the limited first-class matches it contested prior to its much later entry to the Sheffield Shield competition and playing club cricket successively with the Nundah, Toombul and Fortitude Valley clubs.

After two early-season games in 1907/08 with the latter club, the *Referee* reported Atkins’ “intention of once more residing in Sydney.” A month later, he made a solitary first-grade club appearance with Redfern, in which he failed to score, before dropping off the cricket radar.

With only his cricket career to work on, plus a few tantalising clues gleaned from press reports, the search began. But where to start? Atkins was far from uncommon as a family name and his given names were a mystery.

For the majority of his club career, particularly in Brisbane, a residential qualification determined the player’s club, and a search of Queensland electoral rolls and post office directories for Atkins’ term at Valley revealed only one possibility – Alfred (a cellarman) and wife Margaret, at a succession of addresses in its district between 1902 and 1908. This was a promising beginning, reinforced by the cricketer’s known return to Sydney in November 1907.

A search of the R.H. Campbell collection held in the State Library of Victoria uncovered a birthdate. Reginald Harry Campbell (1868-1944) was a well-known sporting statistician whose hand-written records had passed to the SLV after his death.

In addition to his statistical work, Campbell kept a list of players’ dates of birth and initials, although no given names. That for Atkins was April 22, 1874, although what was known of his club career suggested that he must have been older. Campbell recorded only what was passed on to him, as the experience from checking other player details revealed.





Left: Queensland team that played New South Wales at the SCG, December 1895, in which Rocco (second from right in front) made his first-class debut. Captained by former Australian Test skipper Percy McDonnell (centre at back) and managed by Harry Boyle (seated second from right). QCA collection  
Above: Queensland team, captained by Rocco (seated third from right) in its initial first-class encounter with Victoria, which began at the Gabba January 31, 1903. QCA collection  
Right: "Mug shot" taken of Rocco upon his admission to prison for bigamy in 1908. NSW Prison Records

While the day and month were correct in most instances, the year was occasionally earlier. With this in mind, it seemed logical to search for an April 22 birth of an Alfred Atkins in an earlier year, beginning in the inner-Sydney area with which he was at first identified, Redfern.

An extensive search of the NSW birth indices, however, failed to find any Alfred Atkins of the right age. As Alfred remained unproven as his given name, others beginning with A were also searched and an Albert Atkins born on March 26, 1867 at the neighbouring suburb of Chippendale was noted as the only possible candidate.

However, the fact that the day and month differed from the Campbell data seemed to rule him out. Searching for a birth elsewhere appeared pointless, at least until some independent confirmation of his given name/names was discovered.

With the 1893 report of "the severe illness of his wife" in mind, the next step was a search of the NSW marriage indices for this and preceding years, but once again no possible instance was located. Atkins' cricket movements to that time made it most unlikely that he would have been married outside the colony. Had the 1893 *Referee* reporter assumed a marriage?

Later in the decade, however, another registration caught the eye: Alfred Atkins (aged 27 and born at Sydney) married Margaret Curran at Newtown on January 11, 1898. The given names matched those of the couple listed on electoral and postal directories during Atkins' time with the Valley club and the cricketer was known to be living in Sydney in 1897-1899.

The age recorded was more realistic than the Campbell date, but why no NSW birth registration despite his declaration to being born in Sydney?

A great deal of the previous research had been conducted pre-internet and since its advent the accessing of a vast amount of genealogical material has become much easier. Even so, without the magnificent search facility offered by *Trove*, the recent National Library of Australia's digitisation of Australian newspapers site, key details in the pursuit of 'Rocco' may well have continued to avoid detection.

Canberra-based researcher Tony McCarron, who is infinitely more skilled technologically than I, located the following report in the February 22, 1908 edition of the *Clarence & Richmond Examiner*:

"Arthur Alfred Atkins pleaded guilty to a charge of having committed bigamy at Tweed Heads on January 29th last by marrying Elizabeth Catherine O'Donnell, he being aware of the fact that his lawful wife, Margaret Curran, was still alive. Remanded for sentence."

Three days later, in the same paper: "Arthur Alfred Atkins, who pleaded guilty to a charge of having committed bigamy at Tweed Heads, was on Saturday sentenced to 12 months hard labour in the Grafton Gaol."

The timing of this event fitted in perfectly with the disappearance of the cricketer in mid-season and the names, other than the addition of Arthur, matched those of the couple married at Newtown in 1898.

Tony, however, was not yet finished with *Trove*. A further search revealed the following notice in the August 18, 1943 edition of the *Sydney Morning Herald*: "ATKINS (died) 17 August 1943 Alfred (Rocco) Atkins, beloved husband of Emily Atkins and loved father of Arthur, Kathleen (Mrs. Burns) and Ron, aged 77 years: At rest." There could surely only be one Rocco Atkins.

A transcription of the death registration revealed just why Rocco's biographical details had been so difficult to trace. His only given name was in fact Albert, despite the use of Alfred in the family newspaper notice. With this knowledge and his parents' names from the registration, a further search for his birth revealed that he was the same Albert Atkins whose birth at Chippendale in 1867 had been noted much earlier but discounted.

His mother's birthplace was given as Rockhampton in Queensland, which may explain the origin of his nickname. The death registration also listed two marriages, although neither to a Margaret Curran, which appeared to conflict with the evidence that her husband was the cricketer.

A recheck of the parents' names on that marriage registration, however, with the exception of his mother's given name, provided enough confirmation that it was Rocco who had married Margaret Curran in 1898. Of equal significance was Tony McCarron's discovery of a prison photograph, which matched a known image of the cricketer, despite an age gap of about 10 years between the two.

So the long and often frustrating journey to uncover Rocco's identity, origin and fate came to an end, with the basic biographical details being resolved. An evaluation of all the available evidence portrayed an at times secretive and restless individual, who finally found some stability in the last 22 years of life through his final marriage. Most of his life away from the cricket field, however, can only be the subject of conjecture.

#### Ray Webster OAM

Ray Webster OAM, an MCC Library volunteer, is the editor of *First-class Cricket in Australia* volumes one and two, both winners of the Australian Cricket Society's book of the year award.

# Book Reviews



P.G. Wodehouse

## **Wodehouse at the Wicket**

Edited by Murray Hedgcock  
Arrow Books, 2011  
ISBN 9780099551362

All readers of Wodehouse will know his fondness for cricket through his many references to the game in his writings. *Wodehouse at the Wicket*, edited by cricket historian Murray Hedgcock, is the first compendium of Wodehouse's writings on cricket. Hedgcock has thoroughly researched not only his writings on cricket but also Wodehouse's own cricketing career.

The book opens with *P.G. Wodehouse: A Cricketing Chronology* that commences with his birth in 1881, ends with his death in 1975 and lists all the significant dates pertaining to cricket throughout his 93 years.

Then follows a long, interesting introduction by Hedgcock detailing Wodehouse's cricket exploits while at Dulwich College and the matches he took part in during his early working life, firstly for bank teams when he worked for the Hongkong & Shanghai Bank for two years, after which he became a full-time writer playing for Authors teams at Lord's on six occasions.

The chronology also includes the years when the schoolboy cricketer "Mike" appears and also the introduction of his famous character "Jeeves" to his books. Jeeves was named after the Warwickshire all-rounder Percy Jeeves.

This compendium has 17 cricket stories written by Wodehouse in his own inimitable and distinctive style. The first is "The MCC Match" when Mike is in the school team to play MCC. All accounts are a delight for the reader.

An example is "Reginald's Record Knock". Wodehouse starts the tale in his typical style, "Reginald Humby was one of those men who go in just above the byes, and are to tired bowlers what the dew is to parched earth at the close of an August afternoon. When a boy at school he once made nine not out in a house match, but after that he went all to pieces. His adult cricket career was on the one-match one-ball principle". The reader cannot fail to want to read more and indeed learns how Reginald scores a century and greatly impresses his lady love and so the story ends most satisfactorily for both.

To end the book Hedgcock has included a final chapter from his research, headed "Extras", of other short references to Wodehouse and his love for cricket.

As a cricket fan who greatly enjoyed reading Wodehouse in earlier years, I took much pleasure from this compendium. I heartily endorse the statement on the back of the publication: "This is the perfect gift for Wodehouse readers and fans of all things cricket".

**Ann Rusden**



Wally Wright

## **It's your Wally Grout, A Grandson's Tale**

Mt Eliza : Ken Piesse Football & Cricket Books, 2011  
ISBN: 9780646563855

*It's your Wally Grout, A Grandson's Tale* showcases the short life of former Australian wicketkeeper Arthur Theodore Wallace (Wally) Grout. It is based heavily on Wally Grout's autobiography, *My Country's Keeper*, and draws upon many interviews conducted by the author with ex-teammates, friends and family members of Grout.

The author uses each chapter to explain the humanistic aspects of his grandfather's existence. Regular attention is paid to Wally Grout's lifestyle, personality and relationships with those who he met.

The book begins by explaining the path that leads Wally Grout into cricket and his relationship with Australian and Queensland

wicketkeeping predecessor and childhood idol, Don Tallon. It pays particular attention to Grout's wait before cementing himself as the Queensland and Australian number one wicketkeeper.

Chapters on Grout's rise to fame, his view of cricket and life, his enjoyment of touring with the Australian cricket team, his personal life, his gambling addiction and his health problems make up the remainder of this interesting tale.

Throughout the book, a very patriotic persona is portrayed by the author, obviously sourced from his loyalty to his grandfather. Grout is shown as somewhat of a larrikin who enjoyed a laugh and a bet, a drink, a cigarette and indulgence in the more pleasurable aspects of life. Also, he was a kind fellow who was selfless in many ways, and extremely loyal to his teammates.

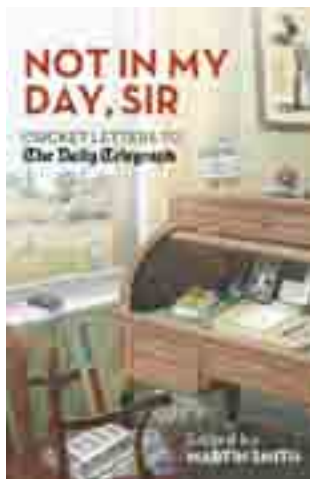
*It's your Wally Grout, A Grandson's Tale* provides a candid look at the life of Australia's premier wicketkeeper through the mid-1950s until the mid-1960s. It touches on his views on life generally and what life was like for cricketers of his era.

It is also valuable in understanding the less glamorous aspects of his life, and how his cricketing exploits contributed to this. This book would be of great interest to those wishing to gain a retrospective insight into the life of Wally Grout, as a person more so than a sportsman.

**Todd Orme**

(Charles Sturt University Masters of Information Studies student)





Martin Smith, Editor

**“Not in My Day, Sir”: Cricket Letters to The Daily Telegraph**

London: Aurum Press Limited, 2011  
ISBN 978 1 84513 6 26 0

This collection of letters is another enjoyable addition to the genre. Other notables are the “Cuckoo” pair of letters to *The Times*.

Martin Smith’s collection comprises the very best cricket letters to *The Daily Telegraph* where he was assistant sports editor and a sports writer. The letters have been arranged chronologically from 1928 through to 2010.

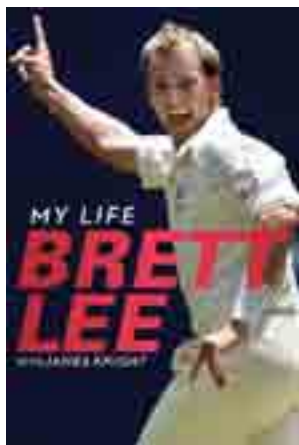
Hence, they cover more than 80 years with all the controversies in cricket from Bodyline in the thirties to the recent match-fixing allegations, the deplorable fashion of unshaven players wearing sunglasses or the debatable appeal of the Twenty20 format.

The letters in this selection appear dated under their original letter headings. Their authors include legendary Test cricketers like Percy Fender and C.B. Fry, fine cricket correspondents like E.W. Swanton and Neville Cardus, presidents of MCC and other well-known cricket identities.

Most, however, are from the cricket-watching public “letting off steam with great wit and good humour at the way their favourite sport is being run.”

The letters are “by turns acerbic, witty, opinionated and hilarious, they are always to the point, silly or otherwise.” As such they make this a most entertaining and enjoyable collection for all lovers of cricket.

**Ann Rusden**



Brett Lee with James Knight

**Brett Lee: My Life**

North Sydney: Ebury Press, 2011  
ISBN: 9781864712544

I first became interested in cricket in the mid 1990s, and remember when Brett Lee became a part of Australia’s record-breaking team. When I was offered a chance to write a review for this illustrious publication, I accepted with gratitude and was pleased to be able to make his autobiography my subject.

Brett Lee covers his time growing up with brothers Shane and Grant, making the team for Australia and outlines both the highlights and

As Lee has written the book with James Knight, there is a nice blend of personal and professional anecdotes, as well as his personal views on professional issues. Lee tells of the instances where he had to defend his bowling action against accusations of chucking, as well as the intrusion of the press into his private life.

Although Lee talks down his knowledge of statistics and memories of certain games, he captures the mental battles between bowlers and batsmen well, and the camaraderie they both feel in a game well played. His memories of battles with certain figures, such as Brian Lara, are wonderful to read, as well as the stories he shares about the Australian team.

It is fascinating to read Lee’s thought processes at certain points, such as his relationship with Australian coach John Buchanan. He has certainly taken the opportunity to put his side of the story forward, but does so in a respectful manner.

*Brett Lee: My Life* contains a foreword by Alan Jones, and one by Allan Donald. Both of their perspectives on Brett Lee are noteworthy, and good choices to preface the book, which is an excellent addition to the shelves of cricket biography.

**Jessica Broadbent**

(RMIT Information Management student)

then playing IPL cricket. The book outlines both the highlights and lowlights of his career and his life.



Michael Simkins

**“The Last Flannelled Fool”: My small part in English Cricket’s demise and its large part in mine.**

North Sydney: Ebury Press, 2011  
ISBN 9780091927547

In the eighties Michael Simkins had started a social cricket team, the Harry Baldwin Occasionals, who played matches each Sunday during the summer.

When through injury he was denied playing for the whole 2010 season, he “set off on an odyssey across the counties of England in search of that golden time in

his youth when his passion for the game was first kindled.” *The Last Flannelled Fool* is the lively account of his summer.

It starts with the first day of the first match at The Oval between Surrey and Derbyshire and ends with a charity game in which the author bowls an over to Freddie Flintoff.

This is a most entertaining, enjoyable read as Michael Simkins has a unique way of recalling anecdotes and reminiscences as he visits matches at grounds in different parts of the country. He describes most eloquently the characters he meets as they enjoy the cricket together.

His piece on the Eton versus Harrow match is a gem describing the two “camps” of spectators and others at Lord’s for the annual ritual. There are smiles and laughs on every page as he is a very funny writer so this book is great entertainment for cricket lovers.

**Ann Rusden**





Christian Ryan

**AUSTRALIA: Story of a Cricket Country**

Melbourne: Hardie Grant Books, 2011  
ISBN 9781740669375 (hbk)

The cricket world has changed considerably during my lifetime and the extent to which the game has benefitted is debatable. Reading Christian Ryan's delightful anthology, I am reminded of the profound nature of this change.

Ryan has experience as a journalist, writer and editor. In his book he has brought together the work of a diverse group of writers. The mix, however, works because of their backgrounds and views. Some write of youthful deeds in decades past on fields now forgotten. Others only ever watched and now have chronicled their thoughts on a game which some conclude has seen better and gentler days.

This is not a book which forensically examines results in matches or series. It paints a bigger picture and determines where cricket in Australia fits. Notwithstanding, the book does contain summary Test career records of 419 Australian players, 43 Australian captains and results of Australian Test series played.

Pleasingly, details of leading performers in the Sheffield Shield competition are also tabled. The text is complemented by good quality and imaginative photographs both in colour and black and white.

The highlight of the book is the essays. Inga Clendinnen writes about cricket in Geelong in the 1940s. The town was laced together with

sporting clubs often associated with churches. Today, some of the long-abandoned grounds and courts act as car parks. She tells how top players came back to play for local clubs when they could. Now our heroes are mostly seen on television.

Gideon Haigh takes the reader through some of cricket's history and ponders an interesting series of "what-ifs" relating to cricket board decisions, players' career choices, coin tosses in matches and other incidents. He looks at possible implications resulting from differing circumstances and changes of fortune.

In a beautifully worded essay Greg Baum remembers Sir Donald Bradman – an exceptional and in some respects unusual man. He describes Bradman as he sees him – a private person thrust into a public position as a result of his outstanding talent.

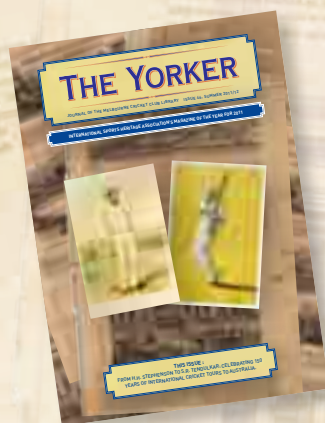
He also brings into the discussion the views of others who have written about him and had dealings with him. He expresses the view that the Bradman legend seems to be fading and wonders how he will be remembered in the future.

Other contributions include the story of Jack Cheetham's South African tourists (thought by some to be the trailblazers of modern athletic fielding), recollections of Sydney Deane, the first Australian to appear in Hollywood movies and also a New South Wales wicketkeeper, and an interesting account of Australians who have played for Oxford University.

Ray Webster tells the story of scorers and scoring methods through the years and Peter English writes about Australian ground curators. The short biographical notes on the authors and an index are welcome additions to the book.

I found my journey through this charming collection of essays most rewarding. For those with a concern for the game beyond today's results, the reading of this book should prove both interesting and informative.

**Ross Perry**



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