

AUSTRALIA V. NEW ZEALAND BOXING DAY TEST



DECEMBER 27, 2019
FACT SHEET - DAY 2

Australia and New Zealand have only met in Tests at the MCG on three previous occasions. The MCC library fact sheets for each of the first three days of this match will highlight one of those contests. Today's sheet reviews the Third Test of the 1980/81 series.



Standing: P.E. McEwan, J.G. Wright, J.G. Bracewell, E.J. Chatfield, G.B. Troup, S.L. Boock, M.C. Snedden, W.L. Lees, B.A. Edgar, I.D.S. Smith.

Seated: R.J. Hadlee, M.G. Burgess, I.N. Taylor (manager), G.P. Howarth (captain), J.M. Parker, B.L. Cairns, J.V. Coney.

The 1980/81 team

Unlike the inaugural Test tour in 1973/74, all leading New Zealand players, with the notable exception of Glenn Turner, were available and the selectors chose a squad of proven international players rather than a more even blend of experience and youthful promise. Lance Cairns, Jeremy Coney, Richard Hadlee and John Parker had toured Australia seven years earlier, while nine other members of the party had appeared in a total of 125 Tests between them. Only John Bracewell, Ian Smith and Martin Snedden could be seen as possible investments for the future. Bracewell's younger brother, Brendon, who was playing club cricket in Perth at the time, was added to the squad immediately before the first Test as a replacement for left-arm paceman Gary Troup, who had not recovered from a side injury sustained early in the tour.

Third Test Match, December 26-30, 1980

Australia had comfortably won both the earlier Tests in the series, by 10 wickets at the Gabba and eight wickets in Perth. There was only one change from the 22 players who had met a fortnight before at the WACA ground, Paul McEwan making way in the New Zealand XI for the return of skipper Geoff Howarth, who had recovered from a severe hand injury. The only alteration in the Australian XII from Perth was the substitution of Trevor Chappell for Shaun Graf as 12th man.

Howarth won the toss and sent Australia in to bat on a dubious pitch devoid of grass. In the event, at first it played reasonably well, although on the slow side, which inhibited stroke-making, and with some variation in bounce. Graeme Wood was caught behind the wicket from the second ball of the match, the dismissal marking Richard Hadlee's 500th in first-class cricket. John Dyson hung on for an hour and a quarter before being yorked by Gary Troup, as the Australians crept to 2/59 at lunch. Greg Chappell (128 minutes, 80 balls, three fours) left soon after the break, but a burst of scoring saw 60 runs added in even time as Kim Hughes (155 minutes, 120 balls, one six, three fours) endeavoured to wrest control from a tight and persevering Kiwi attack, a superb straight-driven six from off-spinner John Bracewell coming among a number of miscued pull shots. The rate of scoring dwindled after his dismissal, while the successive departures of Allan

Border (151 minutes, 118 balls, five fours) and Rod Marsh inside the final hour of the day saw the Australians finish at 6/222, with Doug Walters on 46 and Dennis Lillee 9.

Next day, the overnight pair extended the total to 261 before Lillee was bowled by Lance Cairns. Rodney Hogg was run out three balls later and Lenny Pascoe bowled first ball, all three wickets falling in the same over. Jim Higgs, who had the dubious distinction of failing to score a single run on the 1975 Australian tour of England, joined Walters and defied all expectations for 96 minutes by contributing 6 not out to a last-wicket stand of 60. His survival, however, was not without controversy. At 9/279, he edged Cairns to Warren Lees behind the stumps while attempting to avoid the short-pitched ball. Umpire Robin Bailhache belatedly no-balled the delivery, deeming it intimidatory and therefore in contravention of the law. The Kiwis were naturally incensed. The aftermath not only pushed the Australian total to a more respectable 321, but also enabled Walters (276 minutes, 206 balls, six fours) to complete an admirable fighting century. Leg-spinner Higgs was surprisingly introduced as first change when New Zealand batted and completed a memorable day personally by removing both openers within four overs at a cost of 6 runs. Skipper Howarth (197 minutes, 134 balls, four fours) and John Parker (157 minutes, 124 balls, three fours), however, doggedly saw out the final session to guide their side to 2/139.

Both were dismissed for the addition of only 24 runs next morning, as the pitch's progressively lower bounce became more evident, making life even more difficult for batsmen. Mark Burgess (149 minutes, 120 balls, four fours) and Jeremy Coney (219 minutes, 151 balls, two fours) displayed great determination and skill during their fifth wicket stand of 84. After Burgess and Bracewell had been dismissed within the space of three balls by Pascoe, rain drove players from the field at 3.00pm. A later thunderstorm and bad light caused the abandonment of play with NZ at 6/251, Coney 29 and Lees 2.

Next morning, heavy rain delayed the start by 80 minutes. Under the conditions, the visitors did well to finish only 4 runs adrift of the Australian first innings, Coney remaining not out, defiant to the end. Rod Hogg captured three of the last four wickets to take the bowling honours. By now, batting had become very much a battle for survival, every run the result of hard graft, as indicated by the fact that only 11 boundaries were struck during the 87.2 overs of the Australian second innings. Wood held out for an hour and a half, having lost opening partner Dyson at 1/25 and Hughes sparkled briefly. Drawing on all his skill and resolve, Chappell guided his side to 3/121 at stumps, partnered by Border (6), his own 43 the result of more than two and a quarter hours of intense effort.

The early loss of Border, Marsh (third ball) and Walters set the Australians back on their heels, but Lillee and Hogg survived for just under an hour each in support of Chappell (274 minutes, 221 balls, six fours). It took a virtual 'shooter' from Hadlee, who had bowled superbly throughout the match, to remove Chappell, the first of his three wickets in four balls to wind up the innings. His 6/57 and nine wickets for the game took his tally for the three-Test series to 19 at an average of 19.16 apiece. The visitors faced a target of 193 in 145 minutes, plus a minimum of 20 overs in the final hour, a formidable task under the searching conditions. John Wright and Bruce Edgar led off with 50 in 82 minutes for the first wicket, but the departure of Wright (135 minutes, 115 balls, three fours and an eight, comprising multiple overthrows) came in the midst of a virtual procession to and from the pavilion, removing the remote chance of a NZ victory.

After the match, both captains were scathing in their remarks on the quality of the pitch provided. Howarth reportedly nominated it as the worst he'd seen for a Test, while Chappell went so far as to declare: "We want future games this season moved away from the MCG. There were patches in the pitch which bubbled like a pudding left in the sun too long. It just died."

AUSTRALIA v. NEW ZEALAND (1980-81)

Third Test Match

Played at Melbourne Cricket Ground on December 26, 27, 28, 29 & 30, 1980.

Drawn. Toss: New Zealand.

Australia

G. M. Wood c Lees b Hadlee	0	- c Lees b Hadlee	21
J. Dyson b Troup	13	- lbw b Cairns	16
* G. S. Chappell c Coney b Hadlee	42	- b Hadlee	78
K. J. Hughes c Parker b Hadlee	51	- b Hadlee	30
A. R. Border c Cairns b Coney	45	- c Lees b Hadlee	9
K. D. Walters b Coney	107	- run out	2
† R. W. Marsh c Parker b Coney	1	- lbw b Cairns	0
D. K. Lillee b Cairns	27	- c Coney b Bracewell	8
R. M. Hogg run out	0	- b Hadlee	12
L. S. Pascoe b Cairns	0	- not out	0
J. D. Higgs not out	6	- b Hadlee	0
B 7, lb 13, w 3, nb 6	29	B 6, lb 4, nb 2	12
1/0 2/32 3/75 4/159 5/190 6/192	321	1/25 2/64 3/111 4/128 5/131	188
7/261 8/261 9/261 10/321		6/131 7/149 8/185 9/188 10/188	

Bowling: *First Innings* — Hadlee 39–8–89–3; Troup 26–5–54–1; Cairns 35–6–83–2; Bracewell 9–0–38–0; Coney 12–3–6–28–3. *Second Innings* — Hadlee 27.2–7–57–6; Troup 11–1–31–0; Cairns 33–13–65–2; Bracewell 15–5–22–1; Coney 1–0–1–0.

New Zealand

J. G. Wright c Chappell b Higgs	4	- c Wood b Hogg	44
B. A. Edgar lbw b Higgs	21	- run out	25
* G. P. Howarth b Hogg	65	- lbw b Chappell	20
J. M. Parker c Marsh b Pascoe	56	- lbw b Chappell	1
M. G. Burgess lbw b Pascoe	49	- (6) not out	10
J. V. Coney not out	55	- (5) lbw b Hogg	3
J. G. Bracewell c Chappell b Pascoe	0		
† W. K. Lees lbw b Hogg	4	- (7) b Lillee	7
R. J. Hadlee c Border b Hogg	9	- (8) not out	5
B. L. Cairns lbw b Higgs	18		
G. B. Troup c Hughes b Hogg	1		
B 13, lb 12, nb 10	35	B 2, lb 8, w 1, nb 2	13
1/27 2/32 3/157 4/163 5/247 6/247	317	1/50 2/95 3/97 4/101 (6 wkts)	128
7/264 8/280 9/316 10/317		5/101 6/121	

Bowling: *First Innings* — Lillee 21–4–49–0; Hogg 26.2–9–60–4; Higgs 29–6–87–3; Pascoe 26–6–75–3; Border 4–1–6–0; Chappell 2–0–5–0. *Second Innings* — Lillee 13–3–30–1; Hogg 8–1–14–2; Higgs 12–4–24–0; Pascoe 11–1–35–0; Border 2–1–5–0; Chappell 7–4–7–2; Hughes 1–1–0–0.

Close of play scores: *1st day* — Aust (1) 6/226 (Walters 46, Lillee 9); *2nd day* — NZ (1) 2/139 (Howarth 54, Parker 47); *3rd day* — NZ (1) 6/251 (Coney 29, Lees 2); *4th day* — Aust (2) 3/121 (Chappell 43, Border 6). Six-ball overs.

Umpires: R. C. Bailhache & A. R. Crafter.

RICHARD HADLEE IN TESTS AGAINST AUSTRALIA



In the intervening years since his first visit to Australia with the 1973/74 team, Richard Hadlee had risen during the ensuing seven years to become one of the most consistent and resourceful pace bowlers in international cricket. The 1980/81 pre-tour *ABC Cricket Book* was conservatively content to acknowledge his standing as the “outstanding New Zealand new-ball bowler over the last five years”, whereas cricket scribe Don Cameron was more explicit in his tour preview: “Hadlee is now a bowler of the highest class, quick and with good control.”

Hadlee entered his first Test against Australia in December 1973, having had the experience of only two domestic first-class seasons behind him, as well as two Tests, one each against Pakistan and England earlier in the year, in which he gathered only three wickets at 85 runs apiece. Nevertheless, he should have had a wicket in his first over against Australia, at the MCG, when Keith Stackpole miscued a square-cut from the sixth delivery and lobbed the ball to point, where two converging fieldsmen collided and the chance went begging.

To compound his misfortune, Hadlee later saw the opener missed again from his bowling and ended up wicketless, as well as being one of the three Kiwi bowlers in the only Australian innings to concede more than 100 runs. A week later at the SCG, the Kiwis bounced back from their innings defeat, with Hadlee (4/33 and 2/16) in the vanguard, to have Australia on the ropes, only to then have their victory push thwarted by the loss of both the third and last days through rain. He bowled well but without luck in the Third Test at Adelaide, in which the side home repeated their earlier success by an innings. Hadlee was overlooked for the first of the return three-Test series in New Zealand but, recalled for the second, then proved a key figure in his side's first-ever win against Australia with figures of 3/59 and 4/71. His first summer against Australia had produced 17 wickets at 28.23 over the twin-series, joining fellow paceman Dick Collinge at the head of the aggregates.

Having taken only six wickets at 59 in two Tests in New Zealand in 1976/77, Hadlee was in great form in the three in Australia four years later when, despite being a member of the losing side, he was named Player of the Series for his 19 wickets at 19.15. He began with match figures of 3/111 from 43 overs in the defeat in Brisbane, followed by 5/87 and 2/20 in the loss at the WACA ground in Perth, before contributing 3/89 and 6/57 to the drawn Test at the MCG. A little over 12 months later, at Auckland, NZ recorded its second-ever Test victory over Australia, with Hadlee (2/38 & 5/63) again well to the fore.

