

AUSTRALIA v. WEST INDIES BOXING DAY TEST



DECEMBER 28, 2015
FACT SHEET - DAY 3

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

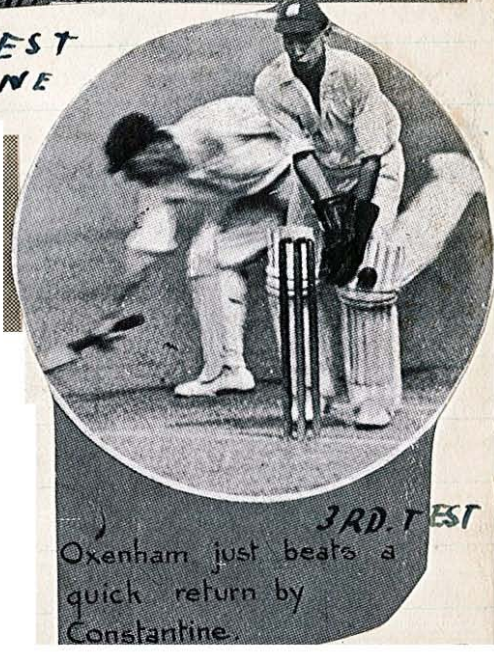
Only Lord's Cricket Ground (130) has hosted more Test matches than the MCG. As Lord's currently has two Test matches per summer (it hosted three in 2010), it will extend its lead as the MCG has not hosted two Test matches in the same season since 1981/82. Of the 114 Tests between Australia and West Indies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

The current Test is Australia's 785th and West Indies' 512th. Of its 784 Tests to date, Australia has won 369 (47.06 per cent), lost 208 (26.53 per cent) and tied two. The remaining 205 have been drawn.

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

1930/31: West Indies' Inaugural Tour of Australia

THIRD TEST at Exhibition Ground, Brisbane, January 16, 17, 19 & 20.



AUSTRALIA v. WEST INDIES (1930/31)

Third Test Match

Played at Exhibition Ground, Brisbane, on January 16, 17, 19 & 20, 1931.

Australia won by an innings & 217 runs. Toss: Australia.

Australia

W. H. Ponsford c Birkett b Francis	109	† W. A. S. Oldfield not out	38
A. A. Jackson lbw b Francis	0	C. V. Grimmett c Constantine b Francis	4
D. G. Bradman c Grant b Constantine ..	223	H. Ironmonger c Roach b Griffith	2
A. F. Kippax b Birkett	84	B 2, lb 7, nb 7	16
S. J. McCabe c Constantine b Griffith ..	8		
* W. M. Woodfull c Barrow b Griffith ..	17	1/1 2/230 3/423 4/431 5/441	558
A. G. Fairfax c Sealy b Scott	9	6/462 7/468 8/543 9/551 10/558	
R. K. Oxenham lbw b Griffith	48		

Bowling: Francis 26-4-76-3; Constantine 26-2-74-1; Griffith 33-4-133-4; Scott 24-1-125-1; Martin 27-3-85-0; Sealy 3-0-32-0; Birkett 7-0-16-1; Grant 1-0-1-0.

West Indies

(followed on)

C. A. Roach lbw b Oxenham	4	- b McCabe	1
F. R. Martin lbw b Grimmett	21	- lbw b Oxenham	11
G. A. Headley not out	102	- c Oldfield b Ironmonger	28
J. E. D. Sealy c McCabe b Ironmonger ..	3	-(9) not out	16
* G. C. Grant c McCabe b Grimmett ..	8	-(6) run out	10
L. N. Constantine c Fairfax b Ironmonger ..	9	-(4) lbw b Oxenham	7
L. S. Birkett lbw b Oxenham	8	-(5) b Grimmett	13
† I. Barrow st Oldfield b Grimmett ..	19	-(7) st Oldfield b Grimmett ..	17
O. C. Scott b Oxenham	0	-(8) lbw b Grimmett	15
G. N. Francis b Oxenham	8	- c Oldfield b Grimmett	7
H. C. Griffith lbw b Grimmett	8	- c Bradman b Grimmett	12
B 1, lb 2	3	B 5, lb 4, nb 2	11
1/5 2/36 3/41 4/60 5/94 6/116	193	1/13 2/29 3/47 4/58 5/72	148
7/159 8/162 9/182 10/193		6/82 7/94 8/112 9/128 10/148	

Bowling: *First Innings* — Fairfax 7-2-13-0; Oxenham 30-15-39-4; Ironmonger 26-15-43-2; Grimmett 41.3-9-95-4. *Second Innings* — Fairfax 6-2-6-0; McCabe 7-1-16-1; Oxenham 18-5-37-2; Ironmonger 15-8-29-1; Grimmett 14.3-4-49-5.

Close of play scores: *1st day* — Aust 3/428 (Bradman 223, McCabe 1); *2nd day* — WI (1) 3/51 (Headley 21, Grant 2); *3rd day* — WI (2) 8/115 (Sealy 2, Francis 2).

Umpires: J. P. Orr & A. E. Wyeth.

This was the second and last Test match to be played at the Exhibition Ground; the first being played against England in 1928/29. All Brisbane Tests since have been staged at the Gabba. Both sides were forced to change their line-ups from the previous Test, Australia bringing in Queensland all-rounder Ron Oxenham to replace Alec Hurwood (unable to arrange leave) and the West Indies substituting 18-year-old all-rounder Derek Sealy for Lawson Bartlett (broken finger).



Australian skipper Bill Woodfull again won the toss and elected to bat. The West Indies, however, struck immediately when George Francis trapped Archie Jackson in front for a first-ball duck with the third ball of the match. A second wicket should have fallen soon after, Don Bradman, who had joined Bill Ponsford, being dropped at second slip by Lionel Birkett off Learie Constantine when only four. It proved a costly miss, for Bradman batted without fault for the rest of the day, scoring almost at will to all parts of the field. He and Ponsford (165 minutes, 12 fours) added 229 for the second wicket in 162 minutes. Alan Kippax (118 minutes, seven fours), having narrowly avoided being run out first ball, then assisted Bradman to add a further 193 for the third wicket, before providing Birkett with his only Test wicket, in the shadow of stumps. The day had produced 428 runs in 294 minutes for the loss of three wickets, with Bradman not out on 223.

Bradman (297 minutes, 24 fours) was dismissed without adding to his overnight score in the opening over next day, disappointing a crowd of almost 20,000, most of whom had no doubt turned up to see him continue his domination. It began a slump that saw the last seven Australian wickets fall for 127 runs, an eighth-wicket stand of 75 between Oxenham (80 minutes, six fours) and Bert Oldfield being the only redeeming feature. Griffith (4/133) and Francis (3/76) were rewarded for their perseverance, but the highlight for the visitors was the magnificent fielding and athleticism of Constantine, who took two brilliant catches and saved countless runs with his athleticism and

anticipation. In reply, the West Indies batsmen were intent on survival during the 115 minutes remaining in the day. However, Clifford Roach, Freddie Martin and Sealy were all dismissed by stumps, to leave the visitors teetering at 3/51 with George Headley, having batted for 104 minutes, unbeaten on 21.

With the notable exception of Headley, the West Indies batsmen continued to struggle next day to be all out for 193 by mid-afternoon, with spinners Oxenham (4/39), Clarrie Grimmett (4/95) and Bert Ironmonger (2/43) sharing the spoils. Headley (247 minutes, 10 fours) dominated the innings. Having struggled the previous evening, he began to demonstrate the ability which led to his standing as one of the greatest batsmen to emerge from the Caribbean. Using his feet, he drove powerfully, contributing more than half his side's runs and he also became first batsman to score a Test century for West Indies against Australia. Despite his efforts, West Indies trailed by 365 runs and Woodfull enforced the follow-on for the second successive Test. With Headley unable to repeat his heroics of the first innings, the Australian bowlers met little resistance as the visitors limped to 8/115 at stumps.

Grimmett claimed the two remaining wickets within half an hour next day, to finish with 5/49 and nine wickets for the match, which increased his series tally to 25 after three games.

For more on the 1930/31 West Indies Test tour, see the MCC Library's journal, *The Yorker*, available from the library reference desk.

WEST INDIES TEAM



From left to right the names are:—
 Top Row.—Mr. R. H. Mallett (manager), E. St. Hill, F. I. de Caires, O. C. Scott, H. C. Griffith, G. Francis, L. N. Constantine, Mr. J. E. Scheult (assistant manager).
 Centre Row.—G. Headley, O. S. Wight, L. S. Birkett (vice-captain), G. C. Grant (captain), F. R. Martin, C. A. Roach.
 Front Row.—E. L. Bartlett, E. A. C. Hunte, J. E. Sealy, and I. Barrow.

The 1930/31 West Indies touring squad pose for a photograph outside of their dressing rooms in the Grey Smith Stand at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. Source: *Australian Cricketer*

THE CAPTAINS



W. M. Woodfull, Captain of the Australian XI.

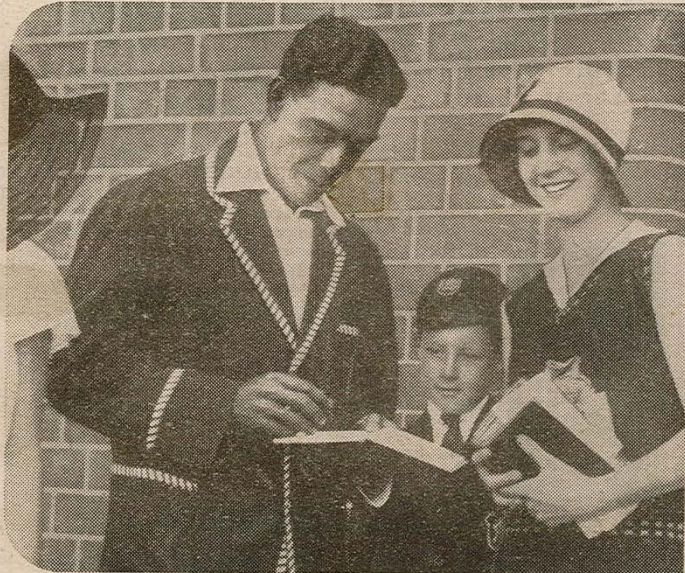
Although this series was only his second at the helm, **Bill Woodfull** had led Australia to a 2-1 series victory in England a few months earlier to regain the Ashes. He was already regarded as one of Australia's greatest opening batsmen, his seemingly impenetrable defensive technique leading critics to label him as "The Unbowlable". He entered the 1930/31 series with an impressive record of 1142 runs at an average of 54.38, with six centuries, from 15 Tests. His overall first-class record was even more imposing – 9263 runs at 70.17, with 37 hundreds, in 112 first-class appearances. Renowned for impeccable sportsmanship, Woodfull had immediately earned the admiration and respect of his players for his leadership.

Even after 85 years, the appointment of the 23-year-old **George Copeland ('Jackie') Grant** as captain still seems bizarre. A right-hand middle order batsman, he had never played first-class cricket in the Caribbean, although born in Trinidad, his only experience at that level being 26 fairly successful appearances for Cambridge University while completing his studies there. He had also had



G. C. Grant.

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

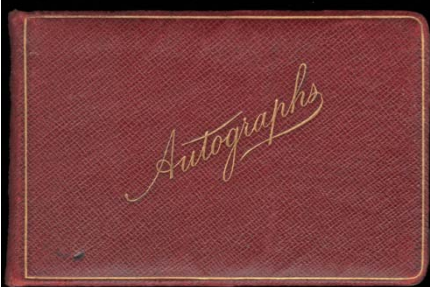


THE M.C.C. HAS BECOME A HAPPY HUNTING GROUND for autograph collectors, and members of the West Indies cricket team have their patience tested daily by a host of demands. It has been suggested that a charge be made for signatures, and the money collected for charity. Left: O. C. Scott, the slow bowler, signing on the dotted line. Right: G. Griffith humors an eager crowd of schoolboys.

Herman Clarence Griffith (1893-1980)

Herman Griffith from Barbados was a central figure in the establishment of a West Indies fast bowling tradition that was to produce some of the game's greatest pacemen down the years. He captured 44 wickets at 28.25 in a 13-Test career, missing only two of the first 15 matches played by West Indies following their admission as a full member of the Imperial (now International) Cricket Council in 1926. Short and sturdily built, he had a rhythmic delivery, generating his pace from a powerful shoulder action, after a relatively short approach to the wicket. Aged 37 at the time of the First Test against Australia, he may have lacked a yard from his earlier days, but he possessed great stamina and an indomitable spirit, while retaining enough pace to on occasion hurry a batsman's stroke. He headed the tourists' Test bowling averages and aggregates, with 14 wickets at an average of 29.07. Having inflicted the first Test duck on Don Bradman in the final match of the series, Griffith thereafter light-heartedly referred to the Don as his "rabbit".

COLLECTING



HOW WE RECORDED
CELEBRITY ENCOUNTERS
BEFORE THE "SELFIE"

Like all touring or Australian Test teams that play at the MCG, the 1930/31 West Indian team members were very popular with autograph collectors. This passion for collecting autographs and their role in the era of the "celebrity selfie" is the subject of the MCC Library's 2015/16 summer exhibition. Displays of autograph books, signed menus, team sheets, books and programs can be viewed in the MCC Library foyer. Posters of signed items from famous events are exhibited in the display case at the Western end of the Grey Smith bar.

The exhibition is primarily cricket focused, but there are a range of other sports covered including the Olympic Games, tennis, Australian football and Rugby. Look for an autograph sheet from Frank Worrell's 1960/61 West Indies team that played in the Tied Test, Monty Noble's 1907/08 Australian Test team, Warwick Armstrong's 1921 Australian team, the 1956 Olympic Games official report signed by medallists and international sporting legends, an All-Black's rugby touring team, and a rare "DG Bradman" signature that the Don only signed in the first season of his Test career.

**FREE
WIFI
AT THE**



HOW TO CONNECT

- 1 Turn on WiFi in settings and select 'MCG FREE WiFi'
- 2 Enter your details
- 3 You're connected!



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

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

**Facts sheet research by MCC Library Volunteers
Ross Perry and Ray Webster.**

Edited by David Studham and Trevor Ruddell.

