



## MCC LIBRARY FACT SHEET DAY 2 - DECEMBER 27, 2023

### 2023 BOXING DAY TEST AUSTRALIA V PAKISTAN

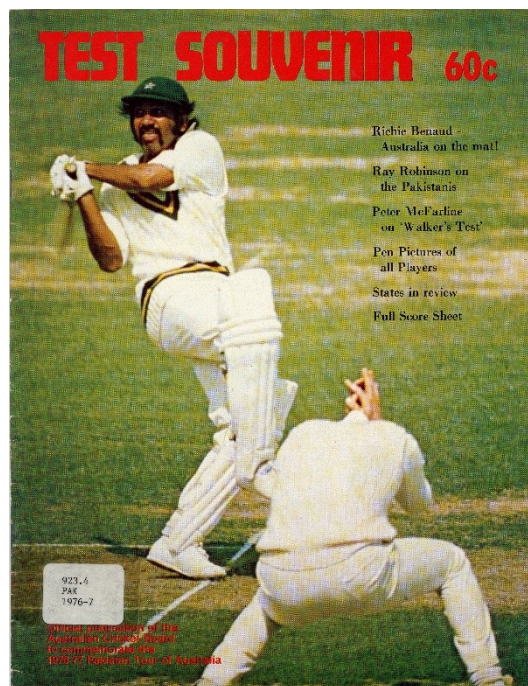
To mark the eleventh Australia v Pakistan Test at the MCG, the MCC Library Fact Sheets examine each of the ten previous Tests between the countries played on the ground between 1964/65 and 2016/17. Today's Fact Sheet looks at the third and fourth matches.

#### 1976/77

Played on January 1, 2, 3, 5 & 6, 1977 (Second Test)  
Australia won by 348 runs

**AUSTRALIA 8/517 dec** (G.J. Cosier 168, G.S. Chappell 121, A. Turner 82, I.C. Davis 56; Iqbal Qasim 4/111, Asif Iqbal 3/52) **and 8/315 dec** (R.B. McCosker 105, I.C. Davis 88, G.S. Chappell 67; Imran Kahn 5/122, Iqbal Qasim 3/119); **defeated PAKISTAN 333** (Sadiq Mohammad 105, Zaheer Abbas 90, Majid Khan 76; D.K. Lillee 6/82) **and 151** (Zaheer Abbas 58; K.J. O'Keeffe 4/38, D.K. Lillee 4/53).

Pakistan made its third tour of Australia in 1976/77, playing five first-class matches in December and January, including three Tests, while en route to play a five-Test series in the West Indies.



The opening Test at Adelaide, commencing on Christmas Eve, had ended in a draw. The Second Test, a Traditional MCG New Year Test, began at the MCG only two days later. Batting first after Greg Chappell won the toss, Australia scored heavily against an uninspired Pakistan attack. Ian Davis (134 minutes, 97 balls, 5 fours) and Alan Turner (165 minutes, 118 balls, 9 fours) put on 134 for the first wicket, and despite the first-ball dismissal of Rick McCosker, centuries from Chappell (246 minutes, 186 balls, 9 fours) and Gary Cosier (228 minutes, 206 balls, 20 fours) put the home side into a powerful position before a mid-afternoon declaration on the second day.

Pakistan began well with Majid Khan (133 minutes, 111 balls, 8 fours) and Sadiq Mohammad (296 minutes, 262 balls, 10 fours) putting on 113 for the first wicket. Sadiq and Zaheer Abbas (231 minutes, 144 balls, 8 fours) then added 128 for the second to take the score to 1/241 before the dismissal of Sadiq triggered a major collapse which saw nine wickets tumble for 92. This included a hostile spell by Dennis Lillee, who at one stage took 5/18 in 4.4 overs to rip out the visitors' middle order.

Leading by 184, Australia rapidly built on its lead, with Davis (184 minutes, 163 balls, 9 fours) and McCosker (202 minutes, 178 balls, 10 fours) putting on 176 for the second wicket at better than a run a minute. Another good hand from

Chappell (111 minutes, 78 balls, 6 fours) paved the way to a second innings declaration, leaving the visitors a day-and-a-half in which to make exactly 500. Although Zaheer (86 minutes, 74 balls, 7 fours) and Majid put on 82 for the second wicket, Pakistan had slumped by 7/128 at stumps on the fourth day, and only 33 minutes were needed on the final morning for Australia to complete an overwhelming victory. Lillee finished with match figures of 10 for 135. The match was much better attended than the two previous Tests involving Pakistan at the MCG, with well over 40,000 being present on the second and third days, and the overall total (including an estimated 4,000 let in free on the last day), reaching almost 170,000. The 169,492 is still the record aggregate crowd for an Australia v Pakistan Test match at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Despite its comprehensive defeat at the MCG, Pakistan managed to level the series when it won the final Test at Sydney by eight wickets. This was Pakistan's first Test victory in Australia, spearheaded by a superb exhibition of fast bowling by Imran Khan who returned match figures of 12/165.

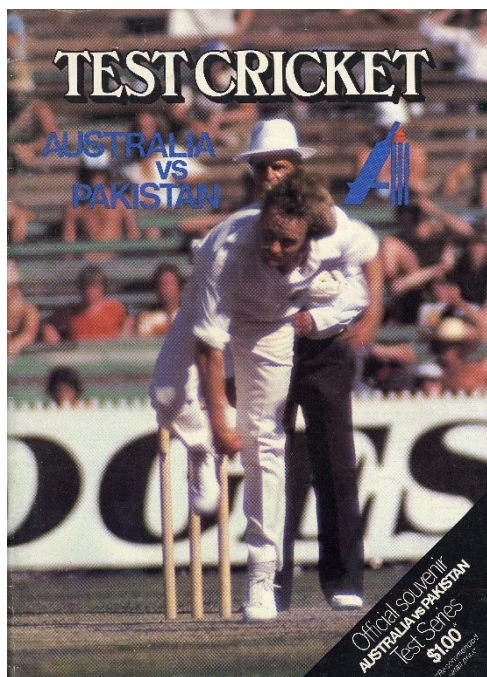
## 1978/79

Played on March 10, 11, 12, 14 & 15, 1979. (First Test).

Pakistan won by 71 runs

**PAKISTAN 196** (R.M. Hogg 4/49, A.G. Hurst 3/55) **and 9/353 dec** (Majid Khan 108, Zaheer Abbas 59, Asif Iqbal 44; R.M. Hogg 3/75, A.G. Hurst 3/115); **defeated AUSTRALIA 168** (D.F. Whatmore 43; Imran Khan 4/26) **and 310** (A.R. Border 105, K.J. Hughes 84, A.M.J. Hilditch 62; Sarfraz Nawaz 9/86).

Pakistan's fourth visit to Australia was a hurried affair, comprising just four matches late in the 1978/79 season, following a six-week tour of New Zealand. Two Tests were played, the first at the MCG followed by a second at the WACA two weeks later. Australian cricket was in a low ebb at the time, for having been weakened by the departure of its leading players to World Series Cricket, it had recently been thrashed 5-1 in a six-Test Ashes series.



Nevertheless, Australia did well on the opening day at the MCG, dismissing Pakistan shortly before stumps, after Graham Yallop had won the toss and sent the visitors in. Rodney Hogg, who ripped through the top order, and Alan Hurst did most of the damage. In reply on the second day, Australia suffered an early setback when Graeme Wood and Andrew Hilditch collided when running between wickets, the former having to retire with a sprained wrist and not being able to return until the fall of the ninth wicket. Thereafter wickets tumbled at regular intervals, the only bright spot coming from debutant Dav Whatmore who batted doggedly for three-and-a-half hours to top score with 43. Hogg was run out after he left the crease before the ball was dead, and although the Pakistan captain, Mushtaq Mohammad sportingly attempted to recall him, umpire "Mick" Harvey refused to reverse his decision, whereupon the batsman knocked down two of the stumps with his bat. Having gained an unexpected first innings lead of 28, Pakistan moved into a strong position on the third day, through an aggressive second wicket partnership of 135 by Majid Khan (219 minutes, 157 balls, 16 fours) and Zaheer Abbas (149 minutes, 105 balls, 8 fours). Both played beautiful strokes and were particularly severe on Australia's new leg spinner, Peter Sleep. With all its other batsmen making useful contributions, Pakistan was able to declare

during a rain-interrupted fourth day to set Australia an improbable 382 for victory.

At 3/128 on the final morning, the home side appeared headed for a heavy defeat, but a fourth-wicket stand of 177 by Allan Border (378 minutes, 275 balls, 7 fours), who made his maiden Test hundred, and Kim Hughes (267 minutes, 209 balls, 8 fours and a six) enabled it to reach 305 without further loss. At this point, with seven wickets still standing in good batting conditions and a minimum of 90 minutes left for play, Australia needed only 77 more runs for victory, but an astonishing spell by fast bowler Sarfraz Nawaz changed the course of the match. In one of the greatest bowling feats in Test history, he took seven wickets for a single run in the space of 33 deliveries, as Australia crashed from 3/305 to 310 all out, giving the visitors victory by 71 runs. In the course of 4.1 eight-ball overs Sarfraz bowled Border (4/305), had Wood caught behind by Wasim Bari (5/305), bowled Sleep (6/306), had Hughes caught (7/308), bowled Wayne Clark (8/309), trapped Hogg lbw (9/310) and dismissed Hurst caught behind on the same score to end the innings. Next morning Peter McFarlane's report in the Melbourne Age was headed "Aussies pack it in!". Sarfraz's figures of 9/86 from 35.4 overs are the best ever recorded in an MCG Test and he finished with match figures of 11/125. The total match attendance was a disappointing 37,495.

In the following Test at the WACA, Australia, led for the first time by Hughes (who replaced the injured Yallop), levelled the series by winning an eventful and ill-tempered Test by seven wickets.

### A Bit of History

Australia's first ever Test in Pakistan took place in Karachi in October 1956. Played on matting rather than turf, Australia started disastrously and were all out for 80 runs, with Keith Miller top-scoring with 23 runs. Pakistan only needed to use their two opening bowlers, with Fazal Mahmood taking 6/34 and his offsider Khan Mohammad taking 4/43. Pakistan managed 199 in their first innings, with spinner and Australian captain Ian Johnson taking 4/50. Australia's second innings was an improvement on the first, with their total of 187 helped by 56 runs from Richie Benaud. However, Pakistan had little trouble overtaking Australia's total, making 1/69 and winning the Test by nine wickets.

## Carried His Bat

The term “carries his bat” denotes a batsman who opens a side’s innings and is not out when the innings concludes. It was a Victorian who was the first Australian player to carry his bat in a Test innings. John Edward “Jack” Barrett was selected to play for Australia in the 1890 Ashes series, having played for Victoria from the age of 18. In the first Test at Lords he opened the tourists’ second innings and was 67 not out when the innings came to an end with Australia totalling 176 runs. England then made 137 runs for the loss of three wickets, which saw them win by seven wickets. Barrett was just the second player to carry his bat in a Test with South African Bernard Tancred having done so the year before. However, Barrett was the first player to do this on debut.

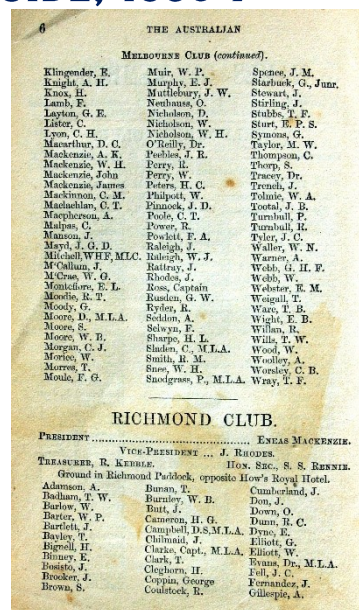
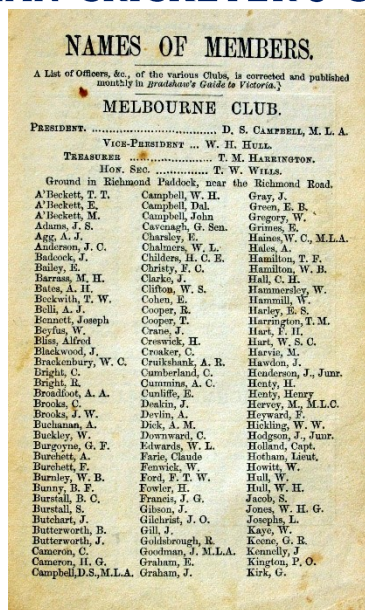
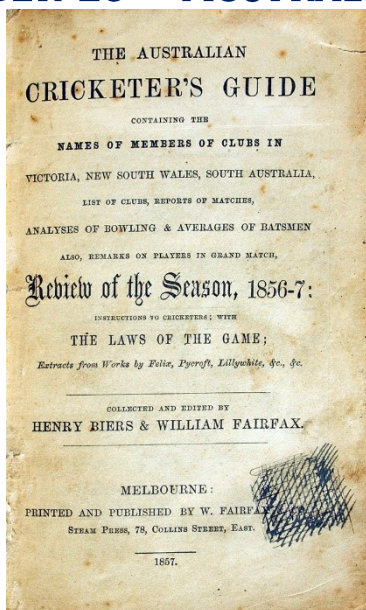
## One of the previous items in our 150 Years, 150 Treasures series published a list of MCC Members for 1857.

### 47/150 NOVEMBER 23 – AUSTRALIAN CRICKETER'S GUIDE, 1856-7

[edited by] H. Biers & William Fairfax.  
Melbourne: Fairfax, 1857

“These guides provide lists of members of Victorian-based clubs, plus some lists of South Australian & New South Wales clubs. They also give club averages.”

With a reproduction of the names of members of the Melbourne Cricket Club 1856/57



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In “The evolution of Australian cricket literature: with emphasis on the period up until 1900”, Ronald Cardwell notes that...

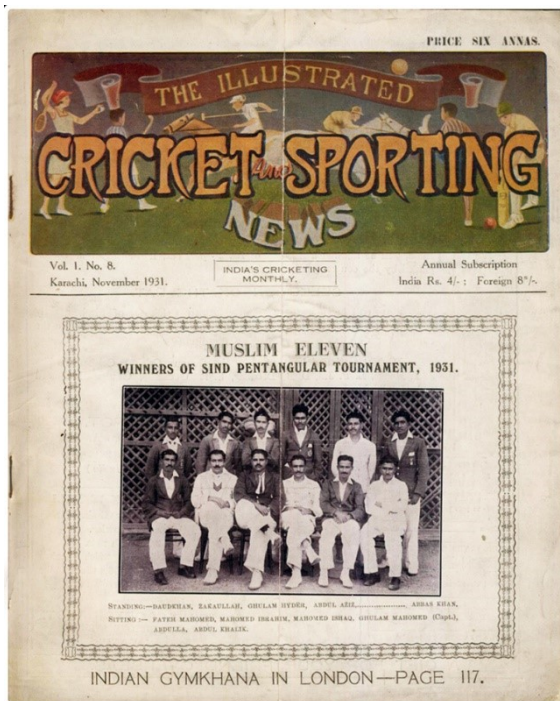
“The Australian Cricketer’s Guide for 1856-7 which was edited by H. Biers and W. Fairfax was published in Melbourne by W. Fairfax and Co. at a price of two shillings and sixpence and is the first publication exclusively devoted to cricket. These two Melbourne businessmen who were the founding fathers of Australian printed cricket literature were not to realise the impact they were to have on the game in Australia by the publication of that small 72 page booklet which had over 40 pages of advertisements in it to assist in defraying the costs. The editors in their preface said: ‘in this guide we have endeavoured to include all that is absolutely necessary to be acquired as regards the practice of the game of cricket, combined with such information which might necessarily be interesting to the colonial cricketer’. The Guide recorded ‘the Grand Match’ won by New South Wales by 65 runs.” [The inaugural First-Class match played on the current MCG between Victoria and New South Wales in 1856]

Fairfax had arrived in Melbourne from England in 1852 where he had attempted in the previous year to formulate a scheme for sending an English team to Australia. His enthusiasm for the game was reflected in his desire to see it well publicised but was seemingly not shared by the 70 odd clubs playing in Australia. In the edition only twelve provided batting averages and five provided bowling averages. His co-author, H. Biers, was a well known land and estate agent, auctioneer and land surveyor who occupied premises in Elizabeth Street, Melbourne.

The lack of support from cricket players and officials was reflected in what the editors had to say: We had intended to include remarks upon the most prominent players in many of the clubs: but the criticism sent in by the various secretaries did not include those of some of our principal clubs, and we thought it best to exclude this intended portion of our work altogether, rather than cause such an anomaly as would be created by the omission of the names of many who are among our best players”

# 150 YEARS - 150 TREASURES

66/150 DECEMBER 27 – THE ILLUSTRATED CRICKET & SPORTING NEWS, VOL. 1, No. 8.



Published in Karachi, *The Illustrated Cricket and Sporting News*, the first ever cricket periodical published in the sub-continent.' The full title was *The illustrated cricket and sporting news: India's cricketing monthly* it was edited by I. M. Mansukhani

This was a monthly cricket journal promoted as "An Independent Journal devoted chiefly to the interests of Indian Cricket". It only lasted for 8 issues (this being the last) before continuing briefly as the *Indian Cricketer*. Contributors include H. Harvey Day, P.N. Polishwalla & J Naomal.

The five-team Sind Tournament was played in Karachi from 1919–20 to 1946–47, similar to the famous Bombay Pentangular, however unlike Bombay the Sind matches were not accorded first-class status.

The five teams were the Europeans, the Hindus, the Muslims, the Parsees, and "the Rest". (The latter included players who did not fit into any of the teams that took part in the Pentangular, including Buddhists, Indian Christians, Jews and mixed-race Anglo-Indians.)

In 1931 the Muslim XI beat the Hindus in the quarter-final, the Parsees in the semi-final and the Europeans in the final which they won by 273 runs.

Classification - 911 ILL [MCC Library Rec # 1252]

## Last time Australia and Pakistan met in a Test in Pakistan

Having drawn the first two Tests of the three Test series in March 2022, the Australians travelled to Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore for the series decider.

Batting first, a number of strong contributions from Usman Khawaja (91), Brad Green (79), Alex Carey (67) and Steven Smith (59) saw the Australians total 391. Pakistan started strongly, but with Pat Cummins taking five wickets and Mitchell Starc four, they were all out for 268, not helped by the final four batsmen all making ducks.

Australia continued their strong batting, and declared at 3/227, with Khawaja making an unbeaten 104. Pakistan again started well with Imam-ul-Haq making 70 and Babar Azam 55, but with their last seven batsmen making only 70 runs, their total of 235 left them 115 runs behind and Australia won the Benaud-Qadir Trophy with this one victory.

Controversy ensued during the Pakistan innings when Azhar Ali was given out caught by Smith off the bowling of Nathan Lyon. The umpire had ruled him not out, but the Ultra Edge replay showed the slightest of edges. Ali made his displeasure known as he left the field.

Lyon took 5 for 83 off 37 overs and Cummins 3 for 23 off 15.1 overs. Cummins was named as the Man of the Match and Khawaja the Man of the Series.

Fact Sheet research by MCC Library Volunteers Ray Webster OAM, Ross Perry and Quentin Miller assisted and edited by David Studham and Trevor Ruddell.

Sources consulted: Ray Webster's *First-Class Cricket in Australia*. Vol. 2, *Wisden Cricketers' Almanac* – various issues. Thanks to our friends at <https://www.tastats.com.au> and [www.cricketarhive.co.uk](http://www.cricketarhive.co.uk)

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