

Letters

Wisden Cricket Monthly welcomes Readers' Letters on any cricket topic, contemporary, controversial, historical or humorous. Please keep letters as brief as possible; we reserve the right to edit them. Letters should be sent to: Letters Page, Wisden Cricket Monthly, 6 Beech Lane, Guildown, Guildford, Surrey GU2 5ES.

Red underpants

I WONDER just how many genuine lady cricket fans really do appreciate the current craze for cricket 'glamour pin-ups'?

I have long had a soft spot for dear old Imran Khan, but having seen him photographed every which way but his usual dignified self, and heard him pronouncing on various cricketing and non-cricketing subjects with a startling degree of pomposity, I now begin to doubt it.

Last summer's bombardment during the Test series left me reeling and afraid to open a newspaper. Imran would say it filled seats at Test matches, I suppose.

Well, I preferred a bit of Eastern promise and the rest left to the imagination.

Now I see David Gower's started it with red-striped underpants and details of his domestic arrangements. Come back cigarette cards, I say!

(Mrs) PERRIE DEIGHTON-LONSDALE
Reading, Berks

Cricket lists

IN RESPONSE to Jonathan Rice's excellent article on Cricket Lists, how about this for an XI?

J. T. Murray, E. R. Dexter, T. W. Cartwright, G. Pullar, K. Taylor, R. W. Barber, J. G. Binks, A. Brown, D. A. Allen, F. E. Rumsey and D. W. White.

A slightly unusual upper batting order, I grant, but Cartwright made one double-century, while Murray is obviously being played for his batting alone. It is, of course, a list of English Test cricketers, in order of birthdate, who were born in the year 1935!

While we are on the subject, here is the Least Explained Statistic in *Wisden*:

F. E. Woolley's 98 catches in the season 1970. (*Wisden* 1971, p 222.) Woolley, at this time 83 years old, found his career tally of catches making a startling increase from a time-honoured 913 to a remarkable 1011. Whence the extra 98? I think we should be told.

(Woolley took four more catches in 1974, and a posthumous three in 1979. These can be explained as the results of statisticians' diligence, but how can you lose 98 catches?)

IAN GREENWOOD

dgware, Middx

'Ordinary' teams

LISTENING to the Radio 3 commentary, I heard Trevor Bailey state that 'Of course, this is a very ordinary Test, between two very ordinary teams.'

I consider this remark to be offensive to players, sponsors and spectators alike. If we are indeed watching ordinary play in a Test match then what is the state of county cricket? We are continually being told on radio and television that 'there are plenty of spaces, so come along and watch' etc. Thanks to Mr Bailey, we now know why there are plenty of spaces.

CHRIS MOON

Birstall, Leics

Watsonian aces

I READ with interest the letter in WCM January concerning Mohsin Khan and Graeme Fowler being in the same Accrington side.

The Watsonian Cricket Club in Edinburgh cannot boast two Test players in the same side, but we certainly have something unique in Scottish club cricket.

In 1975 our professional was Kim Hughes, who scored 1711 runs at 74.39. In 1980 we employed Terry Alderman — 77 wickets at 11.65. In 1981, Robert Holland (NSW leg-spinner).

Just for the record, Ian Greig of Sussex and England is also a Watsonian, having attended our school in 1968.

I wonder if any other club can boast such a list of present-day top players once 'on their books'.

J. MARK EVERETT

Penicuik, Scotland

Edible words

LIVING in a country where cricket is almost unknown, I try to keep up with all the cricket news and scores by reading British journals and papers. I used to subscribe to another leading journal, but, since its writers were too biased, I decided to change to *Wisden*. I find now your journal is guilty of the same sin. I like to read about cricket from a writer who is fair in his reporting, and not one-sided.

I refer to David Frith's World Cup preview in the June WCM. He really berates the Indian team and suggests that they should withdraw from this tournament. I don't know how far back he goes, but I go back quite a way, and back in 1948, when Bradman's Australians, with Lindwall and Miller, were demolishing England, with scores as low as 52 in Tests, no-one suggested England should withdraw from Test cricket. Mr Frith does not seem to take into consideration that this one-day cricket, an English invention, took time to take root in India. I saw this year's semi-final against England, and what a demolishing England got from India, the same team he wants to withdraw from the tourney.

I will give him a sporting chance to eat his words now that the team he wrote off



Patrick Eagar

On behalf of thousands who nurtured similar views on India's World Cup chances, the Editor devours the offending paragraph

has won the World Cup, defeating *en route* West Indies, Australia and England. I am enclosing the cutting from my copy of WCM with the remarks that have so inflamed me. In all fairness to good journalism and sportsmanship Mr Frith should eat this. I will allow him to lace it with chocolate, and wash it down with ale or stout. I am looking for a picture of him with a tankard in one hand and the small cutting in the other before he 'eats his words'. That way I will continue to hold him in high esteem, and continue to read *Wisden*. After all, Mr Frith, even I, as one of India's strongest supporters, could not imagine they would win it; but I would not go so far as to ask them to leave the tournament. So be a good sport and swallow the lousy paragraph you wrote.

MAN SINGH

New Jersey, USA

Wildism

BY their dramatically narrow victory in the Benson & Hedges Cup final, Middlesex completed a week in which they obtained a victory in all four county competitions:

Sun July 17: beat Leics (JPL)
Tue July 19: beat Leics (Ch'ship)
Wed July 20: beat Derbys (NatWest)
Sat July 23: beat Essex (B&H)

This must be a rare achievement. Does anybody know if it has happened before? (In fact the sequence was improved by the JPL victory over Kent on Sunday, July 24 — thus making five competition wins in six days!)

I had very great sympathy for the Essex side in sustaining a second knockout defeat by four runs within four days.