



MCC LIBRARY FACT SHEET DAY 1 - DECEMBER 26, 2024

2024 BOXING DAY TEST AUSTRALIA V INDIA

Test Cricket at the MCG

Beginning with the inaugural Test match in March 1877, 116 Tests have been staged at the MCG. India has been involved in 14 of the Tests played here. Australia has won 8 of these contests and India 4, with the other two drawn.

Other sides to play Tests at the MCG are England (57) the West Indies (15), South Africa (13), Pakistan (11), New Zealand (4), and Sri Lanka (2). One Test, scheduled against England in 1970/71, was abandoned without a ball bowled and is not counted in the records.

Two women's Tests have also been played at the MCG, between Australia and England in 1934/35 and 1948/49. Both were drawn.

Boxing Day Tests at the MCG

Traditionally, the Victoria versus New South Wales Sheffield Shield clash was played at the MCG over Christmas, and prior to the 1968/69 season, only two MCG Tests had included play on Boxing Day: the 2nd Test against England in 1950/51, which began on Friday December 22 (Boxing Day, a Tuesday, being the third day of the match), and the 2nd Test against South Africa in 1952/53, which commenced on Christmas Eve.

The first Test to begin on Boxing Day at the MCG was the 2nd Test against the West Indies in 1968/69, the 56th at the ground, when bleak conditions restricted the attendance to 18,786. During the following decade only two MCG Tests featured play on December 26: the 2nd Test against England in 1974/75, and the 2nd Test against the West Indies the following season, both of which commenced on that day.

Since 1980/81, only one season has not featured Test cricket at the MCG on Boxing Day. This was in 1989/90 when, owing to the late arrival of the Pakistan team, a One-Day International against Sri Lanka was played instead, the MCG Test involving Pakistan being put back to mid-January.

MCG Tests have begun on Boxing Day in each of the other seasons during this period, apart from 1984/85, when the 4th Test against the West Indies started on December 22 and in 1988/89 and 1994/95, when matches against the West Indies and England both commenced on Christmas Eve.

All Tests played between Australia and India at the MCG since 1985 have commenced on Boxing Day.



FIRST INDIAN TEAM IN AUSTRALIA 1947/48



Standing: [Left to Right] P Gupta (Manager) G Kishenchand, CR Rangachari, KM Rangnekar, K Rai Singh, JK Irani, MS Ranvirsinhji, DG Phadkar, W Ferguson (Scorer)
Seated: CT Sarwate, CS Nayudu, VS Hazare (Vice-Captain), L Amarnath (Captain), MH Mankad, Amir Elahi, SW Sohoni
Front: PK Sen, HR Adhikari
Absent: Gul Mohammad

The 1947/48 tour

India's inaugural tour of Australia comprised 20 matches, which included five Tests, nine other first-class matches and six two-day up-country fixtures. The tourist's 17 man party was captained by Lala Amarnath, an aggressive and accomplished all-rounder, while Vijay Hazare, a middle order batsman of the highest class, was vice-captain.

The tour represented a notable landmark for the visitors as it was the first series played by India since it achieved independence from Britain in August 1947, as well as the first time it took part in Tests against a country other than England and the first time it participated in a five-Test series. Two of the Tests, the Third and Fifth, were played at the MCG, the only occasion that an Indian tour of Australia has included more than one Test at the ground.

In 1947 India was the newest of the then six Test playing nations and was yet to record its first Test victory (this did not occur until February 1952). Following its admission to the ICC (then known as the Imperial Cricket Conference) in 1926, it had played its inaugural Test match at Lord's in 1932 and had taken part in only three (three-Test) series since, most recently in England in 1946.

The Indians faced a tough challenge, as during the previous summer Australia had crushed England four-nil in the 1946/47 Ashes series. Don Bradman had returned as captain and was as formidable a run-scorer as ever, while the team contained such talented players as Lindsay Hassett, Arthur Morris, Keith Miller, Ray Lindwall, Don Tallon, Sid Barnes, Ernie Toshack, Ian Johnson and Colin McCool.

Third Test Match

January 1-5, 1948: **AUSTRALIA 394** (D.G. Bradman 132, A.L. Hassett 80; L. Amarnath 4/78, V. Mankad 4/135) **and 4/255 dec** (D.G. Bradman 127*, A.R. Morris 100*) **defeated INDIA 9/291 dec** (V. Mankad 116, D.G. Phadkar 55*; I.W.G. Johnson 4/59) **and 125** (I.W.G. Johnson 4/35, W.A. Johnston 4/44) **by 233 runs.**

India went into this match having lost the opening Test at the Gabba by an innings and 226 runs (trapped on a dreadful sticky wicket it was bowled out for 58 and 98) and drawn the Second at the SCG after rain washed out the third and fourth days and badly interfered with the first.

The match is notable for the fact that Bradman made a century in each innings of a Test for the only time in his career. In the first innings he batted for 197 minutes and hit eight fours, his 169-run third-wicket partnership with Hassett (119 minutes, nine fours) laying the foundation for Australia's substantial total. Amarnath (right-arm medium) and Vinoo Mankad (slow left-arm orthodox) both bowled impressively for the tourists.

India began well in reply, as Mankad (182 minutes, 13 fours) and Chandu Sarwate put on 124 for the first wicket, but of the later batsmen, only the promising all-rounder Dattu Phadkar (120 minutes, seven fours), who was playing in only his second Test, made a substantial contribution.

Overnight rain softened the wicket on the third morning, and after India declared 103 runs behind, Bradman sent his tail-enders in first so as to protect the top-order batsmen while the wicket dried. Coming together with the score at 4/32, Morris (197 minutes, seven fours) and Bradman (178 minutes, 13 fours) then added an unfinished 233 for the fifth wicket to place the home side in an unassailable position.

Set 359 to win, India had the misfortune to be caught on a soft wicket after further overnight rain and were dismissed in just under two hours. Ian Johnson was Australia's most successful bowler, finishing with match figures of eight for 94. As each of the Tests in this series were scheduled for six days of five hours each, Australia won with well over two days to spare. The aggregate match attendance was 164,670, with well over 40,000 spectators being present on each of the first three days.

1947/48	
AUSTRALIA v. INDIA	
Third Test Match	
Played at Melbourne Cricket Ground on January 1, 2, 3 & 5, 1948.	
Australia won by 233 runs. Toss: Australia.	
Australia	
S. G. Barnes b Mankad	12 - (4) c Sen b Amarnath 15
A. R. Morris b Amarnath	45 - (5) not out 100
* D. G. Bradman lbw b Phadkar	132 - (6) not out 127
A. L. Hassett lbw b Mankad	80
K. R. Miller lbw b Mankad	29
R. A. Hamence st Sen b Amarnath	25
R. R. Lindwall b Amarnath	26
† D. Tallon c Mankad b Amarnath	2
B. Dooland not out	21 - (2) lbw b Phadkar 6
I. W. G. Johnson lbw b Mankad	16 - (1) c Hazare b Amarnath 0
W. A. Johnston run out	5 - (3) lbw b Amarnath 3
B 1	1 B 3, nb 1 4
1/29 2/99 3/268 4/280 5/302 6/339	394 1/1 2/11 3/13 (4 wkts, dec.) 255
7/341 8/352 9/387 10/393	4/32
Bowling: <i>First Innings</i> — Phadkar 15-1-80-1; Amarnath 21-3-78-4; Hazare 16.1-0-62-0; Mankad 37-4-135-4; Sarwate 3-0-16-0; Nayudu 2-0-22-0. <i>Second Innings</i> — Phadkar 10-1-28-1; Amarnath 20-3-52-3; Mankad 18-4-74-0; Hazare 11-1-55-0; Gul Mahomed 1-0-1-0; Sarwate 5-0-41-0.	
India	
V. Mankad c Tallon b Johnson	116 - b Johnson 13
C. T. Sarwate c Tallon b Johnson	36 - b Johnson 1
Gul Mahomed c & b Dooland	12 - c Morris b Johnson 28
V. S. Hazare c Tallon b Barnes	17 - c Barnes b Miller 10
* L. Amarnath lbw b Barnes	0 - b Lindwall 8
D. G. Phadkar not out	55 - c Barnes b Johnson 13
H. R. Adhikari st Tallon b Johnson	26 - c Lindwall b Johnson 1
K. Rai Singh c Barnes b Johnson	2 - c Tallon b Johnson 24
K. M. Rangnekar c & b Johnson	6 - c Hamence b Johnson 18
† P. K. Sen b Johnson	4 - c Hassett b Johnson 2
C. S. Nayudu not out	4 - not out 0
B 9, lb 3, nb 1	13 B 6, lb 1 7
1/124 2/145 3/188 4/188 (9 wkts, dec.) 291	1/10 2/27 3/44 4/60 5/60 125
5/198 6/260 7/264 8/280 9/284	6/69 7/100 8/107 9/125 10/125
Bowling: <i>First Innings</i> — Lindwall 12-0-47-0; Miller 13-2-46-0; Johnson 12-0-33-2; Johnston 14-1-59-4; Dooland 12-0-68-1; Barnes 6-1-25-2. <i>Second Innings</i> — Miller 7-0-29-1; Johnston 10-1-44-4; Lindwall 3-0-10-1; Johnson 5.7-0-35-4.	
Close of play scores: <i>1st day</i> — Aust (1) 8/335 (Dooland 2, Johnson 2); <i>2nd day</i> — Ind (1) 6/262 (Phadkar 42, Rai Singh 2); <i>3rd day</i> — Aust (2) 4/255 (Morris 100, Bradman 127). 8-ball overs.	
Umpires: A. N. Barlow & H. A. R. Elphinstone.	

1947/48

AUSTRALIA v. INDIA

Fifth Test Match

Played at Melbourne Cricket Ground on February 6, 7, 9 & 10, 1948.

Australia won by an innings & 177 runs. Toss: Australia.

Australia

S. G. Barnes run out	33	L. J. Johnson not out	25
W. A. Brown run out	99	D. T. Ring c Kishenchand b Hazare ..	11
* D. G. Bradman retired hurt	57	W. A. Johnston not out	23
K. R. Miller c Sen b Phadkar	14	B 4, lb 4	8
R. N. Harvey c Sen b Mankad	153		
S. J. E. Loxton c Sen b Amarnath	80	1/48 2/182 3/219 (8 wks, dec.)	575
R. R. Lindwall c Phadkar b Mankad	35	4/378 5/457 6/497 7/527 8/544	
+ D. Tallon c Sen b Sarwate	37		

Bowling: Phadkar 9-0-58-1; Amarnath 23-1-79-1; Rangachari 17-1-97-0; Hazare 14-1-63-1; Mankad 33-5-107-2; Sarwate 18-1-82-1; Nayudu 13-0-77-0; Adhikari 1-0-4-0.

India

(followed on)

V. Mankad c Tallon b Loxton	111	- c Tallon b Lindwall	0
C. T. Sarwate b Lindwall	0	- lbw b Johnston	10
H. R. Adhikari c Tallon b Loxton	38	- c Bradman b Loxton	17
V. S. Hazare lbw b Lindwall	74	- c & b Johnson	10
* L. Amarnath c Barnes b Ring	12	- (6) c Johnson b Ring	8
D. G. Phadkar not out	56	- (5) lbw b Johnston	0
Gul Mahomed c Lindwall b Johnson	1	- c Barnes b Ring	4
G. Kishenchand b Ring	14	- c Barnes b Johnson	0
C. S. Nayudu c Bradman b Ring	2	- c Brown b Ring	0
+ P. K. Sen b Johnson	13	- b Johnson	10
C. R. Rangachari b Johnson	0	- not out	0
B 6, nb 2, nb 2	10	B 6, lb 1, w 1	8
1/3 2/127 3/206 4/231 5/257 6/260	331	1/0 2/22 3/28 4/35 5/51	67
7/284 8/286 9/331 10/331		6/51 7/56 8/56 9/66 10/67	

Bowling: *First Innings* — Lindwall 25-5-66-2; Johnson 30-8-66-3; Loxton 19-1-61-2; Johnston 8-4-14-0; Ring 36-8-103-3; Miller 3-0-10-0; Barnes 2-1-1-0. *Second Innings* — Lindwall 3-0-9-1; Johnston 7-0-15-2; Loxton 4-1-10-1; Johnson 5.2-2-8-3; Ring 5-1-17-3.

Close of play scores: *1st day* — Aust (1) 3/336 (Harvey 78, Loxton 48); *2nd day* — Ind (1) 1/43 (Mankad 30, Adhikari 10); *3rd day* — Ind (1) 4/251 (Hazare 72, Phadkar 8). 8-ball overs.

Umpires: A. N. Barlow & G. S. Cooper.

Fifth Test Match

February 6-10, 1948: **AUSTRALIA 8/575 dec** (R.N. Harvey 153, W.A. Brown 99, S.J.E. Loxton 80, D.G. Bradman 57 ret hurt) **defeated INDIA 331** (V. Mankad 111, V.S. Hazare 74, D.G. Phadkar 56*) **and 67 by an innings & 177 runs.**

A fortnight before this match, India suffered its third heavy defeat of the rubber, losing the Fourth Test at Adelaide by an innings and 16 runs. Barnes (112), Bradman (201) and Hassett (198 not out), the first two adding 236 for the second wicket, laid the foundation for Australia's huge score of 674, still its highest total in all Tests against India. For India, Hazare emulated Bradman's feat in the previous Test when he scored 116 and 145, and Phadkar (123) made his maiden Test hundred in the first innings, but overall Australia was far too strong, Lindwall taking 7/38 in the second innings.

The Fifth Test began in solemn manner, with both teams observing a minute's silence before the start as a mark of respect for Mahatma Gandhi, who had been assassinated by a Hindu fanatic a week earlier. Gandhi's non-violent opposition to British rule had provided the inspiration and leadership for India's independence movement.

Sadly, the tourists were again outclassed. The highlight of Australia's innings was a superb maiden Test century by the

19-year-old Neil Harvey. Playing in only his second Test, he batted for 249 minutes and hit one five and 11 fours and he and Test debutant Sam Loxton (128 minutes, six fours) put on 159 for the fourth wicket. Earlier Bill Brown (206 minutes, eight fours) had unselfishly allowed himself to be run out on 99 in order to protect Harvey's wicket. There were high hopes that Bradman would score a hundred on what would certainly be his last Test in Australia, but he was forced to retire hurt on 57 with a torn muscle near the rib cage.

Although Mankad (300 minutes, six fours) made his second MCG Test hundred for the summer, and Hazare and Phadkar continued their excellent form from the previous Test, the tourists were forced to follow-on 244 runs in arrears. They offered little resistance in the second innings, being routed in just 110 minutes. The most successful bowler was Queensland fast-medium bowler Len Johnson, who finished with match figures of six for 74 in what turned out to be his only Test. The total match attendance was 97,365, with 45,662 being present on the second day, a Saturday.

India's leading run-scorer in the series was Hazare (429 at 47.66) while Phadkar headed the averages with 314 at 52.33. Mankad (306 at 30.60) was the only other batsman to make more than 200 runs. Amarnath (13 at 28.15) and Mankad (12 at 52.50) were the only tourists to take 10 or more Test wickets. A huge disappointment for India was the poor batting form of Amarnath (140 runs at 14.00) in the Tests, as in the other first-class matches on the tour he amassed 1022 runs at the Bradmanesque average of 102.20, including five hundreds. Bradman dominated Australia's batting averages with 715 runs at 178.75, while Victorian left-hander Bill Johnston, who began his fine Test career in this series, headed the bowling averages with 16 wickets at 11.37.

The Border-Gavaskar Trophy

This trophy, first awarded to India after they won a one-off Test against Australia in India in October 1996, is named in honour of distinguished former test captains, Australia's Allan Border and India's Sunil Gavaskar. The winners of all Australia-India test series since 1996 have been awarded the Border-Gavaskar trophy. In recent years, the only occasion when the Border-Gavaskar Trophy has not been contested during Australia-India matches was when the two sides met in the final of the ICC World Test Championship at The Oval, London, in 2023. Australia won this match, but the Border-Gavaskar Trophy remains in India's hands after their victory in 2022/23 Test series in India. In fact, the most recent time Australia secured the trophy was after their win in the 2014/15 home series. India won it back in the 2016/17 series in India.

Fact Sheet research by MCC Library Volunteers Rosie Bushnell, Quentin Miller, Ross Perry, Ann Rusden OAM, Ray Webster OAM, and Ian Wilkinson, 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.cricketarchive.co.uk

Vale Ian Redpath MBE, 1941-2024

Ian Ritchie Redpath

Australia (Test: 1963/64-1975/76); (ODI: 1970/71-1975/76);

Victoria (Main FC: 1961/62-1975/76); (Main ListA: 1970/71-1975/76);

Awarded MBE in 1975 Queen's Birthday Honours for services to cricket

Australian Test Career Batting and Fielding (1963/64-1975/76)

Matches	Inns	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50	Ct
66	120	11	4737	171	43.45	8	31	83

MCG Test Career Batting and Fielding (1963/64-1975/76)

	Matches	Inns	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50	Ct
Australia	9	16	0	833	135	52.06	3	5	13

Test matches played on the MCG

Test Start	Opponent	Series T#	Season	Winner	Result	Test #
01 Jan 1964	South Africa	2	1963/64	Australia	8 wickets	549
30 Dec 1967	India	2	1967/68	Australia	Inn & 4 runs	625
26 Dec 1968	West Indies	2	1968/69	Australia	Inn & 30 runs	643
21 Jan 1971	England	5	1970/71		Match drawn	677
29 Dec 1972	Pakistan	2	1972/73	Australia	92 runs	705
26 Dec 1974	England	3	1974/75		Match drawn	749
08 Feb 1975	England	6	1974/75	England	Inn & 4 runs	755
26 Dec 1975	West Indies	3	1975/76	Australia	8 wickets	766
31 Jan 1976	West Indies	6	1975/76	Australia	165 runs	770

Test averages on the MCG by Opponent

Opponent	Ave	M	Inn	NO	runs	HS	100s	50s	os	90s	50+	BF	ScRt	start	end
England	42.50	3	6	0	255	83	0	3	0	0	3	845	30.18	21/01/1971	13/02/1975
India	26.00	1	1	0	26	26	0	0	0	0	0	38	68.42	30/12/1967	03/01/1968
Pakistan	70.50	1	2	0	141	135	1	0	0	0	1	217	64.98	29/12/1972	03/01/1973
South Africa	61.00	1	2	0	122	97	0	1	0	1	1	325	37.54	01/01/1964	06/01/1964
West Indies	57.80	3	5	0	289	102	2	1	0	0	3	638	45.30	26/01/1968	05/02/1976

Ian Redpath played nine Tests matches for Australia on the MCG, with the home team winning six, losing one and two drawn.

Redpath appears three times on the MCG's Australian Centuries Honour Board, located in the home dressing room. His first Test century here was in his fifth Test at the MCG, against Pakistan in the 1st innings of the 1972/73 New Year Test, the second of the three-match series. He scored a chanceless 135 from 204 balls in 277 minutes and contained 14 fours, before he was caught by Saeed Ahmed, bowled Intikhab Alam. This was Redpath's highest Test score on the MCG.

Redpath's other two centuries on the ground were scored during the 1975/76 series against the West Indies for the Frank Worrell trophy. In Australia's 1st innings of the 3rd Test, Redpath scored 102 from 258 balls in 320 minutes, 10 fours, chance at 62, before being bowled by Andy Roberts. Redpath's innings straddled the 1st and 2nd days, with 85661 attending on Boxing Day 1975 and 50466 on December 27.

In the 6th Test which commenced on January 31, 1976, Redpath's 101 from 230 balls in 325 minutes, 11 fours, anchored the Australian 1st innings, before he was caught by Michael Holding off the bowling of Lance Gibbs. In the 2nd innings, his final Test bat on the MCG, Redpath scored 70 (in 152 minutes, 4 fours) before he was caught by Gordon Greenidge (sub) off the bowling of Vanburn Holder.

Ian Redpath played two Limited Overs International matches on the MCG, including the inaugural game against England, on 5th January 1971. Redpath also played 64 first-class matches on the MCG, and his career best score of 261 (in 497 minutes, 34 fours, chance at 208) was made for Victoria against Queensland in the 1st Innings of the Sheffield Shield match at the MCG that commenced on February 22, 1963.

