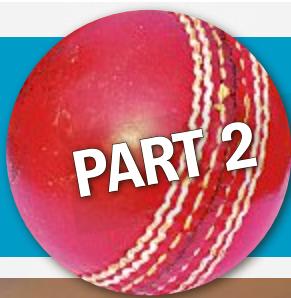


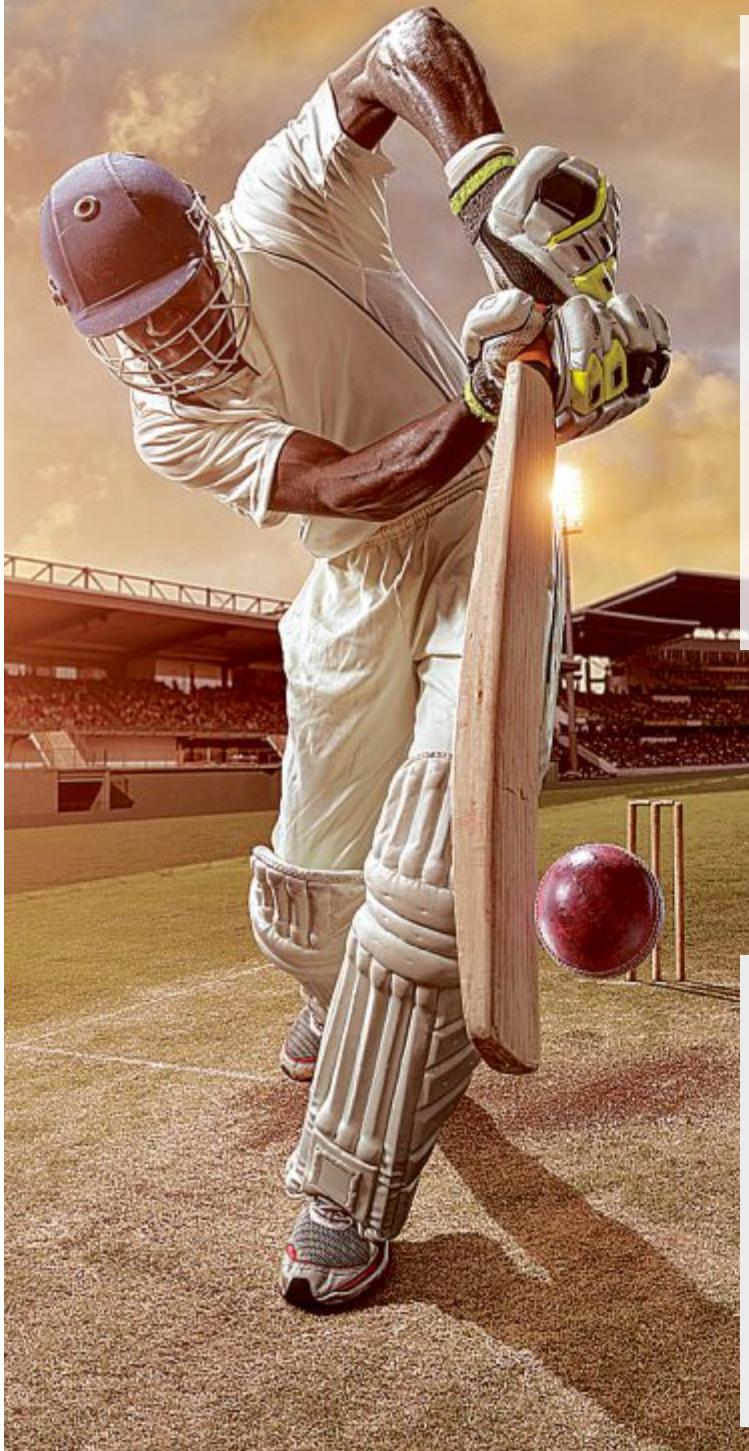
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**Catch this**

THE first officially recognised Test match began on March 15, 1877, and ended on March 19, 1877, and was played between England and Australia at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG), where Australia won by 45 runs.

# HOWZAT — THE GAME OF TEST CRICKET

THIS week the first ball will be bowled in the 2017/18 Test series between Australia and England — a rivalry that goes back 140 years. Get bowled over and catch some info about the great game of cricket and upcoming Ashes Test series.

**The Ashes**

ONE of international cricket's biggest rivalries dating back to 1882, is the Ashes Test cricket series played between Australia and England.

The Ashes was established as an ongoing competition after the Australian tour of England in 1882.

When the Australian cricket team defeated England by seven runs on August 29, a reporter published an obituary notice for English cricket. It was this response to England's loss which lead to what we now know as The Ashes and the ongoing cricketing showdown between the two teams.

The two nations meet roughly every two years, alternately in the United Kingdom and Australia, to compete for one of the most famous (and smallest) trophies in sport, the Ashes urn.

An Ashes series comprises five test

matches played under the regular rules for Test match cricket.

If a series is drawn then the country already holding the Ashes retains them.



The mock obituary written by London journalist, Reginald Shirley Brooks, as it appeared in the Sporting Times after Australia's first victory on English soil over the England team, on August 29, 1882.

**THE TROPHY**

DURING the 1882-83 tour, a small terracotta urn was presented to the English Captain Ivo Bligh by a group of Melbourne women.

The contents of the urn is believed to be the ashes of an item of cricket equipment, possibly a bail, ball or stump.

In 1927 the tiny, delicate and irreplaceable artefact was presented to the Marylebone Cricket Club where it has been held ever since in the museum at Lord's cricket ground in London.

The original urn is so delicate, it has only travelled to Australia twice. The first occasion was in 1988 for a museum tour as part of the Australian Bicentenary celebrations; the second was for the 2006/7 Ashes series.

An urn-shaped Waterford Crystal trophy was commissioned in the 1990s to be presented to the winning captain at the end of each Ashes Test series.

This was first presented to Mark Taylor after his Australian side emerged triumphant in the 1998-99 series.

**TERMS**

LIKE all sports, the game of cricket comes with its own set of rules.

Knowing these terms will help you understand the game better.

**bye** – a run scored from a ball that didn't hit the batsman's bat.

**dead ball** – when the ball is not in play, it is said to be 'dead'. The umpire calls the ball dead when the umpire considers it to have settled.

**dot ball** – the score-book notation for a ball from which no run is scored and no wicket falls.

**extras** – runs not scored off the bat - no-ball, wide, bye and leg-bye.

Extras count to the team's total, but not to a batsman.

**maiden** – an over in which no run is scored.

**no-ball** – a delivery ruled unfair by the umpire, usually to do with the position of the bowler's feet. A no-ball counts one run to the batting side's score.

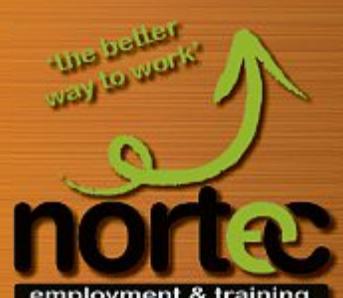
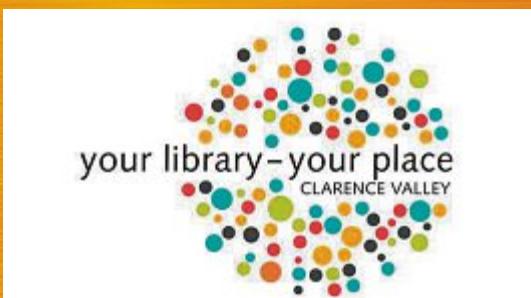
**CHECK IT OUT****The Ashes Urn**

The text on the original urn reads:

*When Ivo goes back with the urn, the urn;  
Studds, Steel, Read and Tylecote return, return;  
The welkin will ring loud,  
The great crowd will feel proud,  
Seeing Barlow and Bates  
with the urn, the urn;  
And the rest coming home with the urn.*



**TOMORROW: Howzat – the game of Test cricket Part 3**



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