

The Ashes



Age: 141 years, 73 series and 325 Tests

Current Keeper: Australia

Venues: Australia/England

Total Tally: Aus:40(6 retained series)

Eng:33(1 retained series)

Ashes Facts and Stats

The Ashes is a test series between Australia and England, first played in 1882. The close of the most recent series means there have been 73 completed series, along with 325 completed matches played over 140 years. Over the 73 series, Australia has held the Ashes Urn on 40 occasions(6 through drawn series retention), and England 33 times(1 through a drawn series retention).

The Origin of the Ashes

The name of the series, 'The Ashes', was first used by British press the *Sporting Times* after a touring XI of colonial Australians defeated the professional XI of the English at the Oval. The press famously printed an extract that read: *In affectionate remembrance of English Cricket, which died at the oval on 29th August, 1882. Deeply lamented by a large circle of sorrowing friends and acquaintances. R.I.P*

N.B. - The body will be cremated and the ashes taken to Australia.

The name famously caught on. In 1883, when Ivo Bligh toured Australia to regain the Ashes, he was presented with *the* urn after winning the series at Melbourne. There was curiosity over the contents of the urn, however, the contest now had a symbol. Since the 1998-99 series in Australia, there has been a larger white replica, called the Ashes Trophy. The original trophy now rests at MCC Cricket Museum at Lords.

The Star-Cast of Ashes History

Many famous names have taken part in this contest.

Australian Retired Greats:

Bradman, Benaud, the Chappels, the Waughs, Lillee, Taylor, Border, Warne, McGrath, Ponting, Gilchrist, Hayden and Langer. These are just a handful of the great names.

Australian Present Stars:

Smith, Warner, Starc, Cummins, Hazlewood, Lyon, Labuschagne, Khwaja, Head, Marsh, Carey and Green.

England Retired Greats:

Grace, Compton, Hutton, Dexter, Laker, Boycott, Willis, Botham, Gatting, Gooch, Strauss, Vaughan, Flintoff, Harminson, Hoggard and Jones. Again, this is only a handful of the greats that have played.

England Present Stars:

Root, Broad, Anderson, Brook, Bairstow, Stokes, Woakes, Robinson, Wood, Ali, Crawley, Pope and Duckett.

All these names themselves show the class and competitiveness of this entrancing contest.

Did you Know?

Did you know that the first *Ashes* hat-trick was taken by English off-spinner Billy Bates in the second test of England's redemption series in 1883, during the second test at the MCG. He claimed Percy McDonnell (bowled), George Giffen (caught and bowled) and George Bonnor (caught).