

Trumper's Legendary 335

On the 31st of January 1903, Victor Trumper scored 335 in three hours for Paddington v Redfern at Redfern Oval, an innings now fully established in Australian cricket folklore. The term 'folklore' may be appropriate here, given that most accounts of the innings date from decades after the event. It was a club match after all, and reporting at the time was rather limited, even though Paddington fielded four current or former Test players.

Some new information has now come to light. Ronald Cardwell and Jim Cattlin in Sydney, in preparing a booklet on the innings, found that the Trumper family had kept an original scorebook of the innings (the Paddington Club score). Cardwell kindly provided me with a copy. This article will focus on the statistical information found by re-scoring the innings into ball-by-ball form.

The score is quite small, and rather less neat than it could have been. It was not designed for an innings on this scale and the scoring shots spill over in various directions. Re-scoring it was something of a challenge but ultimately successful. A few features:

- The scorer evidently wrote down a batting order before the innings started, because the actual order turned out to be quite different.
- Opener Dan Gee's scoring shots add up to 168, even though the score column gives him 172. In fact, it is evident that the scorer initially wrote down 168, then overwrote it as 172, but the scoring shots still add up to 168.
- The scorer did not manage to record final bowling figures for four of the ten bowlers.
- The ends of bowling spells are not marked. Identifying changes of bowling required a certain amount of trial and error.
- Like all early scores, byes and leg byes are not marked in the bowling analyses. Their position has to be inferred from the occasions when the strike appears to rotate without runs off the bat. This creates some slight uncertainties in ball faced figures.
- There are no time indicators in the score.

The re-score was completed nevertheless. For the most part, everything fitted together very well. However, one over was anomalous (the 23rd of the innings, the eighth and last by W. Hume). As a result, the re-score initially produced a score of 336 for Trumper rather than 335, 169 for Gee, 421 not 423 for the 1st wicket partnership, and 616 not 618 for the whole innings. I found that if just two balls of the anomalous over were changed, from 241111 to 241401, then everything else clicked into place nicely; all the published scores were now reproduced, including Trumper's 335 and Gee 172. I have taken the liberty of incorporating this change into the analysis.

Paddington v Redfern 31 Jan 1903. Paddington 1st innings

Batsman		R	BF	4	5	mins
VT Trumper	st Prescott b Hanigan	335	205	39	22	180
D Gee	b Newton	172	147	24	2	140
WR Iredale	c Jesson b Hanigan	37	31	3	1	40
F Gow	st Prescott b Houghton	3	5	0	0	9
P Winning	b Hanigan	11	15	2	0	10
EG Noble	b Houghton	6	21	0	0	20
R Carty	b Houghton	24	28	1	1	30
AC Bannerman	not out	14	36	2	0	35
A Marshall	c Sone b Houghton	2	10	0	0	7
JJ Kelly	c Sone b Houghton	0	5	0	0	5
MA Noble	not out	0	7	0	0	6

Extras: 13 byes, 1 leg bye.

Total 618/9 (85 overs, 240 minutes)

Bowler	Ov.	M	R	W	4s,5s
E Hume	10	0	120	0	14, 9
E Prowse	15	0	114	0	18, 2
W Hume	8	0	45	0	5, 0
A Hanigan	11	0	70	3	9, 1
EA Creswick	6	0	57	0	9, 1
T Foster	2	0	21	0	1, 2
AT Sone	6	2	34	0	3, 2
G Houghton	15	5	40	5	2, 3
W Jesson	3	0	39	0	6, 2
E Newton	9	0	64	1	4, 4
F Prescott					

Wkt	FoW	Ovs.	Partn	Balls	OUT	not out
1	423	48.6	423	294	D Gee	Trumper 242
2	554	63.3	131	87	WR Iredale	Trumper 331
3	558	63.5	4	2	VT Trumper	Gow 0
4	572	66.4	14	17	F Gow	Winning 11
5	572	67.3	0	5	P Winning	EG noble 0
6	588	72.6	16	33	EG Noble	Carty 10
7	609	78.1	21	31	R Carty	Bannerman 7
8	617	80.5	8	16	A Marshall	Bannerman 13
9	617	82.4	0	11	J Kelly	Bannerman 13
10			1	14		

	Milestones						
	50	100	150	200	250	300	335
Trumper Balls Faced	42	73	104	127	170	190	205
Trumper mins	28	75	95	120	150	167	180
Trumper 4s	10	17	20	25	32	34	39
Trumper 5s	1	3	8	13	13	20	22

Note: unmarked byes and leg byes create slight uncertainties in balls faced. The likely range for Trumper is 335 off 200-210 balls; numbers in the middle of that range are more likely.

Some features of the play:

The first over was bowled from the South end (Phillip St) at 2:15 pm.

Hits over the boundary scored five, and the batsman had to cross each time. In those days, six runs could still be awarded for hits 'out of the ground', but Redfern Oval was very small (100 yards from point boundary to square leg) so perhaps this was not considered.

Trumper dominated the strike early on, reaching 50 off 42 balls while Gee faced 18 balls. Trumper lost the strike for a time after reaching 73. In six overs he faced only four balls, while Gee scored 44 runs.

'Crack' opening bowler Ernest Hume was reportedly unwell. Perhaps he should not have played (he might have regretted it afterwards!). Trumper scored 94 runs off 38 balls that Hume bowled to him.

A caught and bowled chance from Gee injured first-change bowler William Hume at the end of his eighth over. Hume, who had not conceded any fives, could not continue.

The tenth bowler tried, Ernie Newton, contained Trumper for a short time. Trumper scored only nine runs off Newton's first 4.5 overs, but found his range thereafter, and hammered Newton just as he had the others.

Trumper hit no threes. Other batsmen did, suggesting that Trumper was set a more dispersed field.

Once Trumper was out, 'normal' cricket resumed. In fact, the bowlers had much the better of the play.

Contemporary Reports

The match was not first-class – although Sydney First Grade was the next level down – so it is not surprising that reports are quite limited. It seems likely that most newspaper reports of the game, which are brief, came from a single source. A longer report, by Jack Davis, is found in the weekly *Referee*, but it tends toward generalities, and it appears that Davis was not an eyewitness.

By far the most detailed first-hand report is found in *The Sydney Sportsman* (no by-line). It describes the sequence of bowlers accurately and describes many of Trumper's shots. It is notable that although the report runs to almost 1500 words of text (with more in a secondary report), some of the folklore ascribed to the innings is not found.

It appears that two of the Redfern bowlers, Sone and Jesson, were Aboriginal. Some 'insensitive' remarks about them are to be found in the reports. Redfern is home to a substantial Aboriginal community to this day.

Trumper's Batting Time.

Most of the original reports give a time of 160 or 165 minutes (150 minutes is also found). However, most of these reports are probably not independent. On the other hand, the more detailed report in *The Sydney Sportsman* gives 180 minutes, and is quite insistent that this is "the correct time, carefully taken". Such emphasis is unusual and suggests that the reporter was aware that an incorrect time was being circulated. A time of 180 minutes is fully consistent with the known hours

of play: 2:15 to 6:15, with Trumper out at 5:15. A report in a Sunday newspaper that Trumper was out at 4:45 cannot be squared with other information of the innings.

Yabba's Account

Described as a "world famous barracker", 'Yabba' (Stephen Harold Gascoigne) had been fortunate enough to witness the innings; he wrote an article about it in 1937 in the newspaper *Truth*. It describes a number of incidents that have entered the folklore, but are hard to find in earlier accounts. The interval of more than 30 years may be telling. These include:

Yabba account	Check
Six fives in one over	Contradicted by scorebook. No over contained more than two fives.
Nine fielders (and square leg umpire!) on boundary	Not mentioned in original accounts, but possible.
One bowler bowled underarm	Not mentioned in original accounts. Seems unlikely.
Trumper reached 300 with a five that was a 'lost ball'.	Scorebook shows that Trumper reached 300 with a four.
Trumper tried to retire at 300 but M.A. Noble told him to continue.	Not mentioned in original accounts.
A bowls game next door was suspended after the green was peppered with fives.	Mentioned by others, including Herbie Collins.
Trumper was first out, at 517.	Gee was first out, at 423, then Iredale, and Trumper at 558.
The keeper took off the pads and bowled, dismissing Trumper.	Prescott, who stumped Trumper, was the starting keeper and did not bowl.
"I think there were six lost balls".	" <i>The 618 by Paddington against Redfern were all obtained without the ball being changed, a severe test for any ball</i> " (<i>Sydney Sportsman</i>) [However, under the circumstances, lost balls would seem to be much more likely.]

The Boot Factory Shot.

The most famous shot of the innings was said to break a window in the John Hunter and Sons boot factory on Chalmers Street (formerly Castlereagh Street), at least 120 metres from the crease. It is described in detail in an article in the *Sun Herald* in 1963; the shot created such a sensation that the window was preserved in its broken state for many years. However, the shot is not mentioned in most original reports. Yabba does mention in 1937 a shot 'on top of' the factory. Jack Pollard wrote an article on long six-hitting that was published in *Six and Out* in 1964. It includes three paragraphs on the Trumper 335, but does not mention the boot factory shot: a curious omission.

The Bulletin (7 Feb 1903) mentions broken windows but not the boot factory. There is possibly an element of hyperbole... "...nobody minded, they were proud to have their windows broken by Victor Trumper."

More to the point, *The Catholic Press* (5 Feb 1903) reported

“...the batsman lifted balls into the Assyrian quarter of Elizabeth-street, on to the tops of the terraces in Philip-street, against Hunter’s big boot factory in Castlereagh-street, and over the heads of spectators into the bowling green, greatly to the discomfiture of the old gents who were playing a match.”

Presuming that it happened, the shot must have been hit off bowling from the north end. Trumper hit ten fives from bowlers at that end. The *Sportsman* account describes five of these; none of them seem to fit the bill. However, the other five major shots (four of them off E. Hume, the other off Prowse) do not have a specific description.

Finally, some data on Trumper’s scoring off each bowler.

Trumper head-to-head

Bowler	Dot	4	5	Runs	Balls
E Hume	13	12	8	94	38
Prowse	29	10	1	61	52
W Hume	8	1	0	12	15
Hanigan	4	5	0	24	12
Creswick	4	2	1	21	13
Foster	2	1	2	16	7
Sone	4	1	2	20	11
Houghton	10	2	2	20	16
Jesson	1	3	2	23	7
Newton	16	2	4	44	34

Thanks to Colin Clowes at Cricket NSW for information on the players’ names (not reported in full in newspapers or the score) and match playing times.

Pastor. R. D. Jones at W. J. and 31/1/1903

Hanging

PLAYED AT		BOWLING		TOTAL
BATSMEN'S NAMES	RUNS AS SCORED	HOW OUT	BOWLER	
1	...	Lumber	Newton	33
2	...	Lumber	Newton	17
3	...			
4	...	c Jones	P. Hanson	37
5	...	Hanson	Houghton	3
6	...	Lumber	Hanson	11
7	...	Not	Out	10
8	...	Lumber	Houghton	6
9	...	c Jones	Houghton	0
10	...	Lumber	Houghton	24
11	...	c Jones	Houghton	2
BYES: IIIIIII LEG BYES: WIDE BALLS: NO BALLS:				TOTAL SCORE 618
RUNS AT THE FALL OF EACH WICKET: 1 for 1, 2 for 2, 3 for 3, 4 for 4, 5 for 5, 6 for 6, 7 for 7, 8 for 8, 9 for 9, 10 for 10				

BOWLERS' NAMES	ANALYSIS OF BOWLING SHEWING NUMBER OF BALLS BOWLED & RUNS MADE FROM EACH BOWLER																	WIDE BALLS	NO BALLS							
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17									
Newton	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Hanson	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Houghton	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

SUMMARY OF BOWLING															
BOWLERS' NAMES	TOTAL OVERTS	TOTAL MAIDEN OVERTS	TOTAL RUNS	TOTAL WICKETS	AVERAGE RUNS PER WICKET	WIDE BALLS	NO BALLS	BOWLERS' NAMES	TOTAL OVERTS	TOTAL MAIDEN OVERTS	TOTAL RUNS	TOTAL WICKETS	AVERAGE RUNS PER WICKET	WIDE BALLS	NO BALLS
Newton	1.4	1.1	Hanson	10	...	120	...	12
Jones	3	2	39	P. Hanson	11	...	114	...	10
Foster	2	2	S. Hanson	6	...	57	...	9
				W.P.U. 43											

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