

In the final innings, the unsung “Gubby” Allen, eschewing Bodyline, quietly accumulated the best bowling figures for the match. It was left to the injured Woodfull to salvage a moral victory for Australia: his 73 not out on a wearing pitch, the second time he had carried his bat in Tests, represented the epitome of sporting courage. And it was Woodfull who had underlined, in one sentence, the effect that Bodyline was having on the game, in a dressing room altercation with English manager Pelham Warner. “There are two teams out there, and only one of them is playing cricket”.

#### **Fourth Test Brisbane**

After all the talk, calling off the tour was unlikely, when gate takings were setting records in spite of a Depressed economy. On a lifeless pitch, Australia started well. At stumps, at 3/251 with Bradman well set, a turn of fortune was on the cards, but Bradman was soon out cutting at a ball outside leg stump, a shot familiar nowadays in one day cricket. When England faltered in reply, Jardine ordered Eddie Paynter, hospitalized with tonsillitis, to the crease to do his bit for King and country. Paynter responded with a crucial four-hour 83 before returning to hospital. Australia could not rise to the challenge in the second innings, even though little Bodyline was used. Once again, Allen returned respectable figures. Chasing just 162, Jardine made no concessions to entertainment, and his 24 in 132 minutes included a spell of 82 balls without scoring. It eventually fell to Eddie Paynter to score the winning runs with a six.

England had won back the Ashes, but even sadder news awaited Australian cricket that day. A few miles from the Gabba ground, Archie Jackson finally succumbed to tuberculosis: his 23 years remain the shortest span allotted to any Test cricketer. Jackson’s body was sent to Sydney for burial, carried aboard the same train as the Australian and English teams.

#### **Fifth Test Sydney**

The real effect of Bodyline on Bradman was shown in this match. Accustomed, after scoring 30 or 40, to achieving total psychological dominance, Bradman (48 and 71) found himself being worn down by the new bowling; the huge match-winning scores were not eventuating. Even so, Australia reached 435, featuring a career best by aggressive left-hander Len Darling. Oldfield, returning from his fearful injury, showed his mettle with a solid half-century.

On his favourite ground, Wally Hammond topped the score in both innings, with 101 and 75\*. He had an unlikely ally in Larwood, who amazed everyone on the third morning by blazing his way to 98, the highest score by a nightwatchman in Ashes history. He fell to an unlikely catch by Bert Ironmonger, 50 years 325 days old, two days from the end of the Test careers of both players. Larwood, who would settle in Australia after World War II, left the ground to a surprising ovation. With an England lead of 19, this Test followed the pattern of the Brisbane match, although it was Verity (5 for 33) who did the real damage this time, Larwood breaking a toe. On the last day, fast bowler Alexander, in his only Test, raised a cheer from the Hill by hitting Jardine a painful blow on the hip, but Hammond once again was untroubled, and emulated Paynter by hitting the last ball of the match for six.

The cricket world had not quite seen the last of Bodyline. When it cropped up in the English season of 1933, the MCC powers called a halt, but not before a final dramatic gesture by Jardine in scoring 127, his only Test century, against the Bodyline of Constantine and Martindale at Old Trafford. The practice was categorically outlawed in 1934, with careful avoidance of that term “unsportsmanlike”.