England in Australia 1987-88 One Test. ***Match Drawn***

Sri Lanka in Australia 1987-88 One Test. ***Australia Won by an Innings and 108 runs.***

Balls per Over: 6 Playing Hours: 5 days x 6 hr (90 ov. minimum) Captains: AR Border (Aus), MW Gatting (Eng)
RS Madugalle (SL)

Coming barely a decade after the Centenary Test, the "Bicentennial" Test was not the product of a time warp, but was organised as part of festivities to mark 200 years of European settlement in Australia. Unfortunately, the weather and the teams' game plans conspired against a repeat of the Centenary success. England took most of the first two days to make 425, marked mainly by Broad's fourth century in Australia (he scored all six of his Test 100s a-broad, so to speak); when he was dismissed he created a minor sensation, and attracted a stiff fine, when he slapped down his stumps in disgust. Australia's response was weak, but Boon righted the ship in the follow on, matching, almost ball-for-ball, Jones' score of 184* a year earlier on the same ground.

Later in the season Sri Lanka made their first Test-level visit to Australia. With most first-class cricket in their nation suspended due to political violence, they were not well prepared, and the Test created only a ripple of interest. Once Australia cruised to 3/333 on the first day, an innings margin was always on the cards, and this was duly achieved, with only the feisty Arjuna Ranatunga putting up real resistance. Border broke Ian Chappell's record of 30 consecutive Tests as Australian captain: incredibly, he would go on to treble Chappell's mark.

In April, a One Day carnival match in Perth, featuring the players from the Centenary Test, attracted nearly double the aggregate crowd of the Sri Lanka Test.

Charles Davis 2001