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2nd Edition

Cricket

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Learn to:

- Understand the laws of cricket
- Talk tactics and strategy
- Get to grips with the history of the game
- Follow every format – from Twenty20 to Tests
- Get involved and participate

Julian Knight

Author, journalist and cricket enthusiast





by Julian Knight

FOR
DUMMIES
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Cricket For Dummies® , 2nd Edition

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*Visit www.dummies.com/cheatsheet/cricketuk
to view this book's cheat sheet.*

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Introduction

Welcome to the fascinating world of cricket, a sport loved around the globe by millions of die-hard fans.

To the casual observer cricket can appear complex and at times, well, just plain bizarre. What other sport is there which involves people dressing all in white and then throwing themselves around a muddy, grassy field? But those in the know treasure the game as simply the supreme test of brains and brawn.

I've written this book so that newcomers to cricket can get to know the game quickly, without feeling overwhelmed or intimidated. I also explain the history of the game and show you how to get out there and play . In double quick time you'll be appreciating fully the great game of cricket, whether as a player or a spectator.

About This book

This book provides you with everything you need to know about the sport of cricket. All the information you need to get started as a player or become an A1 fan is here between the pages of this book. But the good news is that you don't have to read this book from cover to cover. You can easily just dip into those chapters that catch your interest. Perhaps you'll be watching a game of cricket on television or listening to radio coverage and you'd like to know more about a particular aspect of the game and its history then just turn to the chapter which does the job.

If you're keen to get playing cricket there is lots in this book for you. It has chapters dedicated to developing batting, bowling and fielding techniques as well as

explaining the tactical nuances of cricket captaincy. In addition, there is a chapter on training which is essential reading for anyone looking to develop their playing technique and all round physical conditioning.

If playing the game isn't for you, - and you'd rather be a fan, this book has an enormous amount to offer. The domestic and international cricket scene is laid out in full for you and there is a whole chapter dedicated to showing you how to get to watch big match cricket.

Whatever draws you to the sport, *Cricket For Dummies* will have something for you.

How to Use This book

Don't be restricted by the order in which the contents of this book appear. Flip through it, maybe starting with [Chapter 1](#) where we explain the basics of the game. The book contains diagrams, drawings and tables to make it easy for you to immediately understand the most important aspects of the game.

You may find that in a discussion of a particular aspect of cricket in one chapter, we refer to another aspect of the game. Whenever this happens we tell you which chapter to turn to for more information about that other aspect. For example, when we talk about fielding positions we will tell you which chapter to turn to for more detailed information on positions.

Conventions Used in This Book

To help you navigate this book, I use the following conventions:

- ✓ *Italic* text is used for emphasis and to highlight new words and terms that we define in the text.
- ✓ **Bold** text is used to indicate key words and phrases in bulleted lists or the action parts of numbered steps.
- ✓ Sidebars are shaded grey boxes containing text that's interesting to know but not necessarily critical to your understanding of the chapter or topic.

Foolish Assumptions

While writing this book, I've made some assumptions about you. First of all, I've assumed you're human. Cricket is played by both men and women, though the men's game grabs the lion's share of the headlines. Throughout this book, for convenience, I have used terms such as 'batsman' and 'fieldsman', and the associated pronoun 'he', even though I know it won't cover everyone who reads this book.

Don't feel intimidated if you know nothing about cricket. This book will bring you up to speed, fast. Cricket can be a complex game and even some cricketers have difficulty grasping some aspects. But before long - after reading this book - you're going to be transformed into a cricket expert.

- ✓ Why are some cricket matches done with in a single day, while others last five whole days?
- ✓ How does spin bowling work?
- ✓ What does all the jargon mean? What on earth is *bowling a maiden over*, a *new cherry* and a *silly mid-off*?
- ✓ Why are Australia so good at cricket?

This book answers these questions, and many, many more. Our assumption is that you know nothing and we take it from there.

How This Book Is Organised

To make things easier for you, this book is divided into four parts. Each part focuses on an important aspect of the game of cricket.

Part I: Getting Started with Cricket

This part arms you with the basics. The basic rules are explained, as are the pitch, and the roles of individual players. Also I examine the different formats of the game from five-day test matches to quick-fire Twenty20 cricket. I also explain how you can get in on the action and start playing the game. This part ends with handy hints on what you need to kit yourself out with to play cricket.

Part II: Playing the Game

If you want to take up the game, this part is full of must-know tips and explanations. But even if you just want to appreciate the skills of professional players, then this part is a real eye-opener. The first chapter explores batting, from starting out through to how to play aggressive and defensive shots. Bowling is the subject of the next chapter. Read this chapter and you could soon become a batsman's worst nightmare. The art of fielding the ball - catching the ball or stopping the batsmen from scoring runs through athletic stops and accurate throws - used to be overlooked by many cricketers, even some professionals. But nowadays fielding is seen as a key skill and in this part there is a whole chapter dedicated to

showing you how to be a top class fielder. Next, captaining a cricket team and the tactical side of the sport are explored. This really is a must-read for would-be players and fans alike. The part ends with a chapter on how to train properly for cricket.

Part III: Welcome to Planet Cricket

This part tells you about all the competitions and tournaments played around the globe. In particular, what makes Test cricket so special – where the best players from around the world square off against each other – is honed in on. Cricket’s greatest contest – The Ashes – is also looked at in depth as are some of the past and present heroes of the game. A light is also shined on other great global rivalries – such as between Pakistan and India. If that wasn’t enough, this part also talks about the cricket scene in the UK, we look at the county championship and one day competitions. This part ends with an indispensable guide to be a cricket fan – where you can see top class cricket in the UK and abroad.

Part IV: The Part of Tens

The part without which no For Dummies book would be complete. This part is packed full of fascinating bits of information that you can store away and draw on whenever you feel like impressing everyone you know at the cricket club. It contains our unique take on the great cricketers and matches which have illuminated the history of cricket.

Icons Used in This Book

To help your navigation through this book keep an eye out for the icons, the little pictures that sit in the margin. They guide you to particular types of information. This list tells you what the icons in this book mean.



This Icon highlights tips and snippets of advice that can help you, whether you aim to become a better player or a better spectator.



Paragraphs with this icon attached contain information that is especially useful to remember.



You won't see this icon very often, but, when you do take heed, because it indicates areas which may cause concern.



This icon indicates a technical discussion is under way. You can skip this stuff if you want, because it isn't necessary for an understanding of the basics. If you read it, though, your cricket know-how will be boosted.



This icon highlights the laws of the game, the sort of lingo you'll hear other players, umpires and commentators using, and those intricate little facts that all sports fans love to know about their game.



Every so often I look in-depth at a great player from today or the past or just a quirky cricketing character; the idea is to give you an idea of the big names in the sport.

Where to Go from Here

What direction you take depends on your needs. Take a look at the table of contents because it's very detailed and gives you an excellent overview of the book and the way in which it's structured.

For the beginner, the best place to start is the beginning! But if you want to familiarise yourself with the basics of the game, go to Part I. If you're an aspiring player, Part II is the place for you, while if you want to know more about Test cricket - the ultimate contest in the sport - then go seek out Part III. In short, it's up to you, go enjoy the greatest sport of all!

Part I
**Getting Started with
Cricket**

getting started
with

cricket
cricket



Go to www.dummies.com/extras/cricket for online bonus content.

In this part . . .

- ✓ Getting to know the rules and regulations.
- ✓ Finding your way round the field of play.
- ✓ Understanding the different formats of the game.
- ✓ Kitting yourself out with the right gear.
- ✓ Go to www.dummies.com/extras/cricket for online bonus content, including an extra Part of Tens chapter: 'Ten Great Cricket Controversies'.

Chapter 1

Taking In the Joy of Cricket

In This Chapter

- ▶ Assessing the gulf between pros and amateurs
 - ▶ Looking at the battle between bowler and batsman
 - ▶ Exploring the strange, strange world of cricket speak
 - ▶ Discovering what you need to be a cricket fan
 - ▶ Understanding the role of the umpires
-

Millions of people around the globe follow cricket. For many, cricket is the number one sport, offering a unique blend of physical strength, lightning reflexes, huge skill and tactics galore. In fact, there is a strong case for the game which, first spread by the British empire in the eighteenth and nineteenth century is the world's second most popular sport behind football.

When the best cricketers in the world do battle you won't see anything like it for nail-biting tension and excitement.

Glancing at Cricket's Global Appeal

Cricket has spread around the globe on the back of the British Empire.

Despite the best efforts of cricket's global administrators – the International Cricket Council (ICC) – cricket has never managed the trick of breaking out of this