

World Cup Cricket, England, 1983

With the elevation of Sri Lanka to Test status, only one place was available through qualification at the ICC Trophy, held in England in 1982. The newcomers, Zimbabwe, dominated the competition, defeating Bermuda in the final. There was a change of format, with again two groups of four, but this time they played each other twice each, thus doubling the number of matches played. The West Indies, still with Greenidge, Haynes, Richards and Lloyd at the top of the order, and Marshall, Roberts, Garner and Holding forming a strong pace attack, were hot favourites.

Group A

England, Pakistan, New Zealand, and Sri Lanka contested this group. England got off to a flying start, with a surprisingly easy win over New Zealand. Lamb made a fine century, and Snedden became the only bowler ever to concede over 100 runs in a World Cup match with figures of 12-1-105-2. England's 322/6 was too much for New Zealand despite 95 from Martin Crowe, with Willis taking 2/9 off 7 overs. Mohsin Khan, Zaheer Abbas, Javed Miandad and Imran Khan all had half centuries as Pakistan made hay against the Sri Lankan bowling in their first match. Despite 72 from Kuruppu and 59 from the number 9 bat, de Alwis, Sri Lanka were always behind the required run rate, and Pakistan won by 50 runs. When England took on Sri Lanka two days later the scoreline was almost identical. England made 333, with Gower contributing a superb 130, and Sri Lanka this time got to within 47 runs, Mendis with a 50 and de Alwis, promoted to 8, 58*. Graham Dilley was the main wicket-taker with 4/45. On the same day, the Pakistan - New Zealand match was marked by a great exhibition of leg-spin bowling, in a losing cause. Abdul Qadir took 4/21 from 12 overs as New Zealand struggled to 238, but the Pakistan innings got off to an appalling start as Hadlee and Cairns reduced them to 0/3, and later to 60/5, as Coney chipped in with 3 cheap wickets. Abdul Qadir top-scored with 41*, but New Zealand won by 52 runs. England took on Pakistan at Lords, and only a fine 83 by Zaheer Abbas allowed Pakistan to reach 193 from their 60 overs, the batting having difficulty on a wicket that assisted the England seam bowlers. England raced to an easy 8 wicket win in 40 overs, Fowler leading the way with an unbeaten 78. Sri Lanka came up against Hadlee (5/25) in top form as they lost to New Zealand. New Zealand required only 39.2 overs to pass Sri Lanka's 206, with a 50 from Turner and 76 from captain Geoff Howarth.

As the second round of matches started, England and New Zealand looked in to be in the best position for second places, and the Kiwis strengthened their position with an exciting 2 wicket win over England. Another elegant innings by Gower (92*) took England to 234, despite a late order collapse to Hadlee, and New Zealand were in dire straits at 2/3. A captain's innings by Howarth (60*) took New Zealand within range, and then a thrilling 66* by Coney gave New Zealand the win off the penultimate ball of the final over. The Pakistan - Sri Lanka match was close as well, with a valiant effort by the Sri Lankans just not enough to prevent an 11 run loss. Imran Khan made a belligerent century, and de Mel took 5/39 in the Pakistan innings, and a good all-round effort by Sri Lanka took them close, de Mel and John putting on 25 for the last wicket, before Safraz Nawaz dismissed de Mel with 11 runs needed off 9 balls. Sri Lanka did better in their next game beating New Zealand by 3 wickets. de Mel again led the way with 5/32, and only Snedden with 40 at number 10 allowed New Zealand to set any sort of target at all. Kuruppu with 62, and Dias with 64* took Sri Lanka to victory with 7 overs to spare. England got back on course in their next match against Pakistan, booking a place in the semi-finals with an emphatic 7 wicket win. Javed Miandad made 67, but a good all round performance in the field restricted Pakistan to 232. Fowler and Tavaré put on 115 for the first wicket, and England cruised home with 7 wickets and 2 overs to spare. This set up a crucial game between Pakistan and New Zealand with the winner qualifying for the next round. A superb unbroken partnership of 147 between Zaheer Abbas (103*) and Imran Khan (79*) set a daunting target, and with wickets steadily falling, New Zealand, despite a 59 run 9th wicket partnership, lost by 11 runs. With the fates of both teams already decided, the final England - Sri Lanka match was meaningless, and England completed the qualification round with a 9 wicket victory.

Group B

The West Indies, India, Australia, and the newcomers Zimbabwe contested this group, and it got off to a rousing start when India with only one World cup win to this point (and that against East Africa) beat the favourites, the West Indies, by 34 runs. Yashbal Sharma with 89 allowed India to set a reasonable target of 263, and the powerful West Indies batting never got going against steady bowling, and much improved Indian fielding. In their first World Cup appearance, Zimbabwe pulled off an even more astonishing upset, defeating the Australians by 13 runs. The match seemed to be following a predictable course as Lillee and Yallop reduced Zimbabwe to 94/5, but their captain Fletcher (69*), with admirable support from the tail (including a record partnership with Butchart) allowed them to reach 239. Kepler Wessels made 76, but Australia fell behind the run rate, and only a hard hitting fifty from Marsh got them close. Fletcher completed a magnificent match by taking four wickets. Zimbabwe were unable to sustain their form into the next match against India, where their batting failed against steady Indian bowling, and India won by 7 wickets inside 40 overs. The West Indies rebounded from their loss against India with a crushing 101 run defeat of Australia. Their 252 relied on the less-heralded talents of Gomes (79) and Bacchus (47), but in reply Australia were shot out for 151 in only 30 overs, destroyed by the pace of Winston Davis, who took 7/51. The less

well known players took the limelight again in Australia's next match with a century from Trevor Chappell and 6/39 from Macleay giving them a 162 run victory over India. Kapil Dev's 5 wickets and 40 runs were the only highlights for India. Zimbabwe did well to bat out their 60 overs against the West Indies, with a fifty for Houghton, and an unbeaten 71 for Fletcher taking them to 216, a total that never looked enough once Greenidge got going. Greenidge made a rapid 105*, and Gomes 75* as the West Indies recorded an 8 wicket win inside 50 overs. As the second half of the preliminary round got underway, West Indies and India with two wins each met again, and this time the West Indies came out on top, an imperious century from Richards, finally striking form, leading them to 282. India were unable to score quick runs against the strong West Indies attack, and they fell well short despite 81 from Amarnath. Zimbabwe as well were unable to repeat their upset, although losing by only 32 runs to Australia. Wood's 73 helped Australia to 272, and despite Houghton's fine 84, Zimbabwe could not keep up with the run rate, all out in the final over. West Indies and Australia had a high scoring game, with fifties for Hughes, Hokes and Yallop in Australia's 273. What looked like an imposing total turned out to be inadequate, and Greenidge (90) and Richards (95*) took West Indies to an easy win. The lovely little ground at Tunbridge Wells was chosen to host the India - Zimbabwe match, and few would have predicted the astonishing events of the Indian innings. Rawson and Curran ripped through the Indian top order, and at 17/5, Zimbabwe were odds-on for another upset, and India looked to be out of the World Cup. In a turnaround that beggared belief, the Indian captain, Kapil Dev, with support from the tail hit an astonishing 175* out of 266, with six sixes, and sixteen fours. He and Kirmani put on 126 in a record unbroken 9th wicket stand, Kirmani's contribution being only 24*. Zimbabwe, shell shocked, were all out 235, despite Curran's 73. India maintained their momentum, with an emphatic victory over Australia taking them to the semi-finals. Batsman 2 to 9 in the batting order all recorded double figures as India made 247, and Australia collapsed to the unlikely pairing of Binny (4/29) and Madan Lal (4/20). Zimbabwe's successful first World Cup came to an unceremonious end with a 10 wicket loss to the West Indies, Curran's 62 being the only highlight in their 171. Haynes and Bacchus knocked off the runs in 41 overs.

Semi finals

England were heavy favourites in the first semi-final, but the experienced England line-up was incapable of scoring quick runs against steady medium paced bowling, and inspired fielding. 33 was the top score of an innings of 216, with Amarnath bowling his 12 overs for 27 runs and two wickets, and Kapil Dev mopping up the tail. Amarnath was run out for 46, and fifties for Yashbal Sharma and Patil saw India to their first World Cup final. The other semi-final was also one-sided, with Pakistan, put into bat, struggling against Marshall (3/28) and the other West Indies quicks. 188 was far too few runs against Viv Richards, who blasted 80*, supported by Gomes, as West Indies won by 8 wickets.



Indian Team with World Cup

The final

Most anticipated a one sided game, with the Indian team having exceeded expectations to make the final, against a powerful and experienced West Indian team, looking for its third consecutive Cup. All seemed to be progressing predictably when India were all out for only 183, Srikanth top scoring (33), and Roberts (3/32) the best of the bowlers. When the West Indies batted, Greenidge fell early, and the unheralded Indian medium pacers bowled tight and accurately. Richards hit a composed 33, but when he was out to Madan Lal, India were in with a chance. Dujon and Marshall were both out to Amarnath when looking set, and when Amarnath trapped Holding lbw, India

