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Flintoff and Harmison 'refuse to tour' India for Test series

by **Scyld Berry**

November 29, 2008:

Following the terrorist attacks on Bombay (Mumbai), Steve Harmison and Andrew Flintoff, and perhaps another bowler in the squad of 15, are expected to pull out in the next two days, citing their children and wives as their prime consideration.

A lot hinges on the attitude of the captain Kevin Pietersen towards returning to India, but assuming he is persuaded by the

England and Wales Cricket Board of the enormous compensation which would be demanded by the Indian board (running into millions of dollars) and falls into line, the rest of the England party will follow his

England will return to India for their two-Test series on the dates scheduled, but without several senior players, according to a source close to the team, thus devaluing the series.

lead.

Last night Pietersen said: "I'm still shaking from the terrorist atrocities in Bombay. Every time I see the TV footage of the carnage in the Indian city, I realise how close we were to death. I haven't slept thinking about the three-day rampage and siege. We were 800 miles from the attack, but suddenly we felt very vulnerable, especially as we had stayed at the targeted Taj Mahal Hotel just two weeks ago. It makes my blood run cold."

However he indicated he would return if security experts said it was safe.

It is expected that England will practise in the Gulf, either Dubai or more probably Abu Dhabi, then fly directly from there to Ahmedabad for the first Test. They had been

scheduled to play a three-day game in Baroda beginning on Friday, before the Bombay atrocities forced the cancellation of the last two one-day internationals and prompted them to fly home.

The England and Wales Cricket Board are due to meet in the next 48 hours to discuss the security issues, but it is a virtual certainty security experts will allow England to play the first Test in Ahmedabad starting on Dec 11 and the second in Madras (Chennai) from Dec 19.

They have already approved Chennai as a venue for the Champions League, the 20-over tournament for domestic champions which was to have been launched this week. The International Cricket Council confirmed that no request for an independent security assessment had been made by the ECB or the Indian board: procedure requires one if a tour is going to be cancelled for safety reasons.

England arrived back at Heathrow yesterday on two flights from Bangalore, with Harmison and Flintoff on the second. Harmison has pulled out of tours before, but Flintoff's absence would deprive England of their best bowler in Indian conditions.

Hugh Morris, managing director of England, said last night there would be no penalties for refusals: "Provided we have a safe and secure environment we'll be definitely going back for the Tests. If somebody felt strongly [about not going] I wouldn't force their arm. That's something they'll need to decide in the coming days."

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Steve Harmison and Andrew Flintoff could be out of the Test series. (Files)

Haddin ton drives Australia to big lead

Clarke notches ninth Test century

Australia were bowled out for 535 late on day three with Haddin's knock of 169 the highlight along with the 181-run sixth wicket partnership with Michael Clarke, who contributed 110 to Australia's total.

New Zealand trailed by 265 after the first innings but chipped off 35 runs after a positive nine-over stint before the end of play with Aaron Redmond (15) and Jamie How (13) unbeaten at the crease.

Brett Lee found the edge on several occasions but went for 16 runs off his first over as Australia failed to end a superb day on a high with a Kiwi scalp. Hussey and Haddin came

together when Michael Hussey and Andrew Symonds were dismissed in quick succession by Chris Martin in the morning.

Clarke, who was bowled for 98 in the First Test at the Gabba, gave his fans a scare as he closed in on triple figures.

He pushed the ball out onto the leg side, hesitated mid-pitch before completing the single that notched up his ninth Test century.

The right-hander was eventually dismissed when he slashed at a wide delivery from Ian O'Brien and was caught by

Jesse Ryder in the gully to end his 239-ball innings which featured 11 boundaries.

Haddin did not

Brad Haddin scored his maiden Test century against New Zealand on the 3rd day of the 2nd Test at Adelaide on November 30, 2008. (Files)



ease his ways into the nineties after smashing three boundaries off four Ryder deliveries to race to 97 before he completed his century with a mid-wicket four a couple of overs later.

Haddin had some luck with Daniel Flynn dropping the simplest of catches at mid-on when he was on 72 while an appeal for a bat-pad catch was turned down despite it appearing to catch an edge and glove on the way through.

He continued to dominate after tea and used the slog-sweep to bring up his 150 before he smashed 17 off one Redmond over before he was caught on the mid-wicket fence by Peter Fulton.

Brett Lee contributed 19 and

Mitchell Johnson added 23 as New Zealand struggled to sweep up the Kiwi tail.

O'Brien finished with figures of three for 111 while Redmond, captain Daniel Vettori and Chris Martin all collected two wickets each.

Vettori was the workhorse of the BlackCaps attack and bowled just under 60 overs for figures of two for 124.

Australia started day three on 241 for three, but were momentarily put on the back foot when Martin removed Hussey and an unlucky Symonds in the same over with the new ball.

Hussey miscued a pull shot and was caught by Redmond at square leg while Symonds was caught behind for a third-ball duck although it was unclear if it had knicked the outside edge.

(cricket365.com)

Sri Lanka secure 5-0 series whitewash

Sri Lanka won the fifth and final One-Day International against Zimbabwe at the Harare Sports Club grounds by 19 runs and completed a 5-0 series whitewash. This is Sri Lanka's second clean sweep against the Zimbabweans and their fourth overall. Chasing a modest target of 153, the Zimbabweans were bowled out for 133 with six overs to spare.

After losing the toss, in a strange move captain Mahela Jayawardene opened the innings for the tourists, but his bad form continued as he was



dismissed for a second successive duck. The tourists never recovered as only four batsmen managed to reach double figures.

Thilina Kandamby top scored for the Sri Lankans with 40 before he was run out by a smart piece of fielding by wicketkeeper Tatenda Taibu. Angelo Matthews hammered 31 runs off 30 balls. Edward Rainsford was the pick of the bowlers claiming three for 22. Tawanda Mupariwa picked up two for 17.

In reply, Muttiah Muralitharan claimed four early wickets as Sri Lanka reduced the opposition for six for 58, but a 72 run stand for the seventh wicket between captain Prosper Utseya and Keith Dabengwa kept them interested for a while.

But with 23 runs needed, Nuwan Kulasekara removed both batsmen in successive overs to bring the Sri Lankans back into the game. From 130 for six, Zimbabwe collapsed to 133 all out losing their last four wickets for the addition of just three runs.

Muralitharan finished with five for 29 and was named Man of the Match.

Ajantha Mendis, who came into the game requiring two wickets to become the fastest bowler in ODIs to claim 50 wickets, failed to pick up a wicket, but was named Man of the Match for his 15 wickets in the series.

SCOREBOARD

Sri Lanka	
U Tharanga b Rainsford	6
M Jayawardene c Utseya b Mupariwa	0
K Sangakkara c Taibu b M'kenyeri	28
C Kapugedera c M'kenyeri b Mupariwa	4
T Kandamby run out	40
J Mubarak c M'kenyeri b Dabengwa	16
A Mathews c Masakadza b Rainsford	31
N Kulasekara b Price	1
M Muralitharan run out	5
A Mendis not out	0
D Fernando b Rainsford	2
Extras: (b 6, lb 2, w 11)	19
Total: (All out)	152
Overs:	48.5

Fall of wickets: 1-6, 2-8, 3-23, 4-62, 5-97, 6-129, 7-132, 8-147, 9-150, 10-152
Bowling: Rainsford 8.5-3-22-3, Mupariwa 7-1-17-2, Chigumbura 2-0-18-0, Utseya 10-2-15-0, Matsikenyeri 10-0-29-1, Price 7-0-28-1, Dabengwa 4-0-15-1

Zimbabwe	
H Masakadza c Mendis b Fernando	7
V Sibanda lbw b Muralitharan	5
T Taibu lbw b Fernando	14
C Chibhabha lbw b Muralitharan	1
S Matsikenyeri lbw b Muralitharan	4
E Chigumbura b Muralitharan	5
K Dabengwa b Kulasekara	39
P Utseya lbw b Kulasekara	31
R Price lbw b Muralitharan	3
T Mupariwa c Mendis b Kulasekara	0
E Rainsford not out	0
Extras (lb 4, w 18, nb 2)	24
Total: (All out)	133

Fall of wickets: 1-23, 2-25, 3-27, 4-40, 5-49, 6-58, 7-130, 8-133, 9-133
Bowling: Fernando 9-0-33-2 (2nb, 3w), Kulasekara 9-2-14-3 (1w), Muralitharan 10-2-29-5 (3w), BAW Mendis 9-0-23-0 (2w), Mubarak 4-0-14-0, Mathews 2-0-13-0, Kandamby 1-0-3-0

Toss: Zimbabwe, who chose to field first
Result: Sri Lanka won by 19 runs
Series: Sri Lanka won 5-0
Man of the Match: M. Muralitharan (SL)
Man of the Series: A. Mendis (SL)
Umpires: KC Barbour and RB Tiffin
TV umpire: Aleem Dar (Pak)
Match referee: MJ Procter (SA)

SCOREBOARD

New Zealand 1st Innings 270	532, 10-535
Australia 1st Innings	Bowling: Martin 27-4-110-2, Southee 27-1-100-0, Vettori 59-4-20-124-2, O'Brien 31-6-111-3, Ryder 7-1-33-0, Redmond 6-0-47-2
M Hayden run out	24
S Katich c Ryder b Vettori	23
R Ponting c Fulton b O'Brien	79
M Hussey c Redmond b Martin	70
M Clarke c Ryder b O'Brien	110
A Symonds c McCullum b Martin	0
B Haddin c Fulton b Redmond	169
B Lee c Taylor b O'Brien	19
M Johnson c McCullum b Redmond	23
N Hauritz b Vettori	1
S Clark not out	1
Extras: (b 2, lb 8, w 1, nb 5)	16
Total: All Out	535
Overs:	157.4
Fall of wickets:	1-38, 2-49, 3-155, 4-244, 5-247, 6-428, 7-470, 8-526, 9-
New Zealand 2nd Innings	Bowling: Lee 3-1-25-0, Clark 2-1-6-0, Johnson 2-2-0-0, Hauritz 2-1-1-0
A J Redmond not out	15
J M How not out	13
Extras: (lb 3, nb 4)	7
Total: (0 wkts)	35
Overs:	9
Umpires:	Billy Doctrove and Rudi Koertzen
Third Umpire:	Bruce Oxenford
Match referee:	Chris Broad