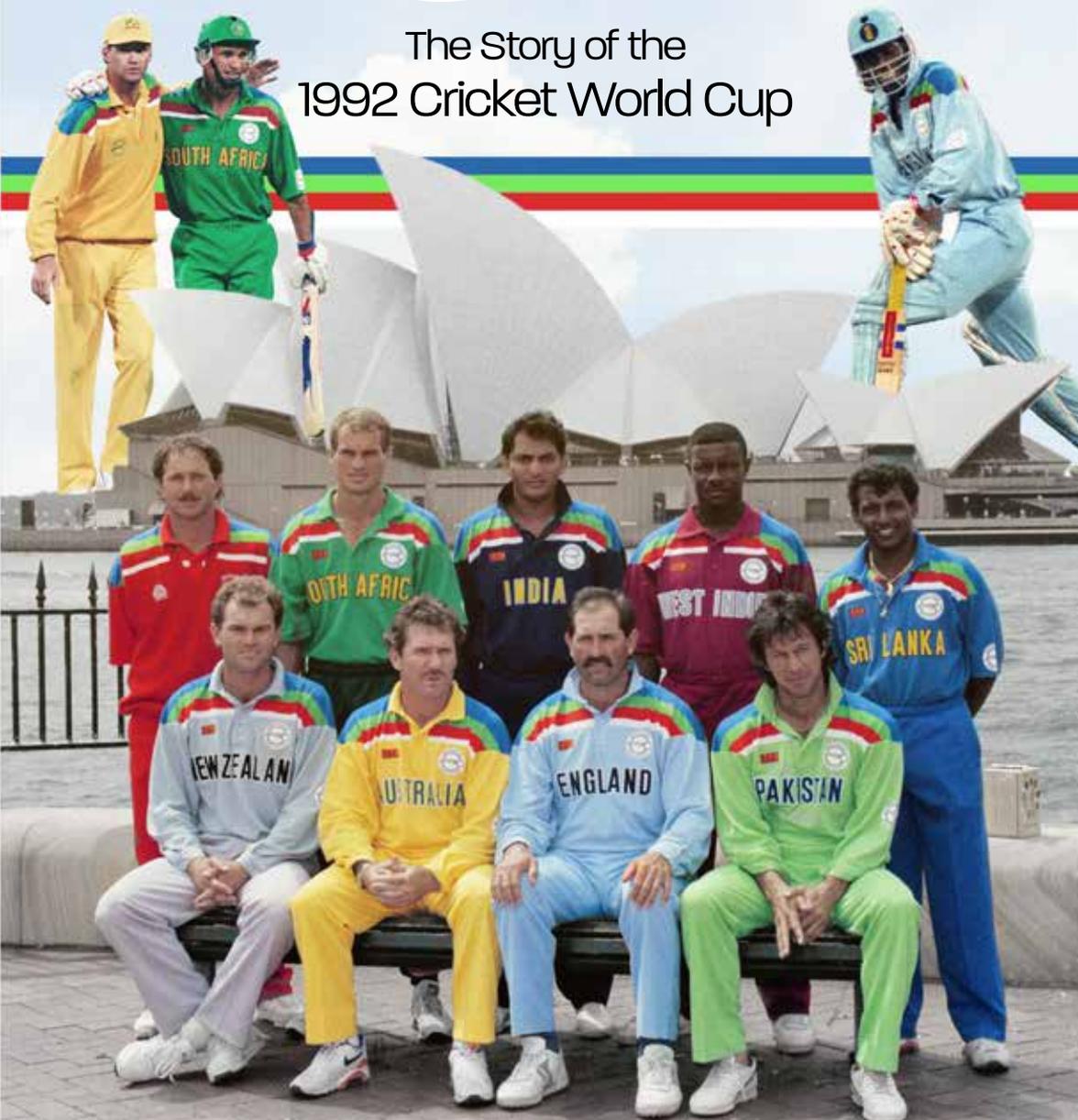


# RULING THE WORLD

The Story of the  
1992 Cricket World Cup



**JONATHAN NORTHALL**

Foreword by Kepler Wessels

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# Chapter One

## In the Beginning

The first Cricket World Cup was held in 1975 in England and was a 60-over tournament. Back in those days, each game was given extra days just in case the English summer was not amenable to the world's best cricketers tussling over cricket supremacy. It was sponsored by Prudential, with East Africa and Sri Lanka joining the six Test-playing nations in a format consisting of two groups. England, India and New Zealand were in Group A with East Africa, while Sri Lanka faced Australia, Pakistan and the West Indies in Group B. The top two teams in each group would face each other in the semi-finals.

The opening match was unforgettable in how it unfolded. England, fielding batters such as Dennis Amis, Keith Fletcher, Tony Greig and captain Mike Denness, posted a score of 334/4 from their 60 overs. An impressive score at over 5.5 runs per over gave India a tough ask. In response, India crawled to 132/3 from their 60 overs. Sunil Gavaskar batted through the innings for 36 runs from 174 balls – a phenomenally slow scoring rate in any format of cricket. There were conspiracy theories around why the scoring was so painstakingly slow. Both East Africa and

Sri Lanka played the part of whipping boys as the Test nations enjoyed the un-English sunshine. At the end of the round robin matches, England and New Zealand topped Group A while the West Indies and Australia topped Group B.

In the first semi-final at Headingley, England were fancied to beat Australia. The Australians had both Chappells, Doug Walters, Rod Marsh and Max Walker, plus Lillee and 'Thommo'. However, it was Gary Gilmour who took most liking to the greenish pitch and grey clouds. Moving the ball prodigiously, Gilmour removed six English batters for just 14 runs. With England slumping to 37/7, only a rearguard action from Denness and Geoff Arnold helped the hosts to 93 all out. Not enough runs, even in those conditions, meant that Australia had a gettable total. Despite the loss of six wickets, England lost to the old enemy.

The second semi-final, at The Oval, was more of a contest, but the unbeaten West Indies were not to be denied by a spirited New Zealand side. Andy Roberts softened up the resistance with a hostile spell before removing top scorer Geoff Howarth. Bernard Julian tore through the middle order, and New Zealand lost their last nine wickets for 66. Set 159 to win, Gordon Greenidge and Alvin Kallicharran added a second-wicket partnership of 125 to underpin a comfortable win by five wickets.

The final would be everything the ICC would have wanted. Lord's was full and swathed in glorious sunshine. Ian Chappell called correctly and asked Clive Lloyd to have a bat. At 50/3, Chappell's slightly curious decision looked vindicated. Lloyd, walking out to bat, had other ideas. Playing a mixture of pushes into gaps and expansive strokes, the West Indies skipper scored freely. Batting partner Rohan Kanhai could be considered to have anchored the partnership, but, in reality, he didn't score too many runs. Australian profligacy in the field and Lloyd's genius gave the West Indies 291/8 from their 60 overs.

In response, Australia recovered after the loss of Rick McCosker to reach 81/1. Ian Chappell was playing with steely determination. It was three pieces of excellent fielding from Viv Richards that led the run-outs, including both Chappells, which started to turn the tide of the match. As the pressure built, Keith Boyce picked up three wickets and Australia succumbed to another run-out. At 233/9, the game was as good as done. Lillee and Thomson were at the wicket, and thousands of West Indies fans were ready to rush the pitch to celebrate. The final pair were not done yet, though, as the summer evening wore on. After yet another run-out – this time Thomson was left stranded – the West Indies were winners by 17 runs.

The 1979 Prudential World Cup was also held in England. The number of competing countries remained the same. Apart from Canada replacing East Africa, the same Test-playing nations and Sri Lanka participated. In the weeks preceding the tournament, the two-year-long cricket schism ended as Kerry Packer and the ACB reconciled their differences. This released a wealth of players from World Series Cricket (WSC) to join up with their previous estranged nations. Only Australia decided to remain loyal to the players who had remained part of the ‘establishment’.

The defending champions, the West Indies, were heavy favourites while England were once again looking strong on home soil. The Australian team, captained by a young Kim Hughes, could have been considered to be a second XI to the WSC players apart from Allan Border. New Zealand’s main hope was Richard Hadlee, who was fast developing into a world-class all-rounder. Sunil Gavaskar’s batting at the top of the order was vital to Indian success. They also unleashed a young all-rounder in Kapil Dev.

England versus Australia was the first match of the 1979 tournament, and went the way of the home side. Australia opened

up with a fifty partnership and crept along to 111/2 before being restricted to 159/9 from their 60 overs. Mike Brearley's decision to throw the ball to 38-year-old Geoff Boycott was a masterstroke. In six overs, Boycott removed opener Hilditch and then tempted Kim Hughes into an expansive stroke to a diving Mike Hendrick. Not learning anything from the 1975 final, Australia suffered four run-outs, while the bowling of Willis and Edmonds strangled the scoring. In true English fashion, the batting response started off shakily as Boycott was trapped in front by Hogg before Randall's edge behind left the scoreboard showing 5/2. Mike Brearley's concentration and Graham Gooch's positive batting steadied the ship before David Gower and Ian Botham saw the game out with nearly 13 overs to spare.

Canada's bow was a short, sharp introduction to international cricket, as Pakistan easily won. Deciding to bat first, the Canadians made a decent start and reached 103/2 before being stifled and squeezed by Pakistan. Asif Iqbal and Sarfraz Nawaz took three wickets apiece, while Majid Khan's off spin conceded only 11 runs from his 11 overs. In response, Sadiq Mohammed anchored the innings as Zaheer Abbas and Haroon Rashid made light work of the total.

Both the West Indies' win at Edgbaston and New Zealand's at Trent Bridge were comprehensive nine-wicket victories. The West Indies had Gordon Greenidge's century and Michael Holding's hostile 4-33 to thank as India were no match. For New Zealand, Glenn Turner and Geoff Howarth's batting carried the Kiwis to 190/1 in less than 48 overs.

At Old Trafford, Canada's big mistake was winning the toss. Despite Manchester serving up grey and wet conditions, Canada captain Bryan Mauricette decided to have a bat. Canada were rolled over for 45 in 40.3 overs. Chris Old's 4-8 and Bob Willis's 4-11 did the damage, with Mike Hendrick

finishing with 8-4-5-1. England knocked off the meagre total in 13.5 overs, but did lose the wickets of Brearley and Randall. The rest of the group games went to form apart from Sri Lanka's matches against the West Indies and India. Rain at The Oval would spare Sri Lanka from facing the might of the champions. However, an even better result for Sri Lanka was achieved at Old Trafford when India were thwarted by 47 runs. Not only adding credence to a bid for Test status, this was also the first win by an associate member over a full one.

The semi-finals were contested at Old Trafford and The Oval. England and New Zealand met in Manchester and served up a tight affair. Once again, Brearley and Gooch rescued England as New Zealand's bowlers exerted pressure. With Brearley gone, Ian Botham played a typically bullish innings before Derek Randall finally found some form with the bat. His 42 not out helped England to 221/8 from their 60 overs. John Wright masterminded the Kiwis' response as England chipped away at his batting partners. Once he had gone, run out by the effervescent fielding of Randall, New Zealand's ambitions were ebbing away. Turner, Hadlee, Lees and Cairns played important innings to get New Zealand to within 14 runs of victory from the last over. McKechnie and Troup, the tailenders left with the unlikely task, found Ian Botham's bowling too difficult to get away, and England advanced to the final.

The second semi-final featured the West Indies and Pakistan and would prove to be a batting contest. Having been inserted by Pakistan, the West Indian opening partnership of Haynes and Greenidge punished wayward bowling by adding 132 for the first wicket. Viv Richards and Clive Lloyd joined the onslaught, with only Majid Khan proving challenging to score off, as the West Indies posted a formidable 293/6. Removing Sadiq Mohammed early did nothing more than bring Zaheer

Abbas to the crease. With Majid Khan, the Pakistan batters found the wicket as benign as when they had bowled. In 36 overs, 166 runs were added in thrilling fashion, and the West Indies were in the unusual position of being challenged. Colin Croft's aggressive bowling line reaped rewards with three quick wickets as the game's momentum shifted. Viv Richards, bowling his part-time off spin, snapped up the middle order. A sharp caught-and-bowled chance to remove Imran Khan would signal that time was almost nigh. Andy Roberts delivered the *coup de grâce* with the last two wickets, and the West Indies were in the final again.

The final was held at Lord's, as it had been in 1975. England lost Bob Willis before the game started as his injured knee was insufficiently healed to play. Mike Brearley won the toss and inserted the West Indies, as was de rigueur for the tournament. Early movement from Chris Old and another Derek Randall fielding masterpiece left the West Indies at 36/2. Viv Richards was at the crease and, having failed in the 1975 final, the 'Master Blaster' was in no mood for repeats. At 99/4, England would have felt confident despite Richards pulling and driving with intent. Collis King joined Richards at the crease at a critical time in the match. Needing to find some overs from his team, Mike Brearley turned to Gooch, Boycott and Larkins as the fifth bowler. In their 12 overs, 86 runs were scored, and so the match was slipping away. At the end of the innings, Richards was 138 not out in a formidable total of 286/9. The England innings started slowly as Brearley and Boycott opened conservatively. The partnership was worth 129 by the time it was broken, but too many overs had been consumed. Randall and Gooch were left with an enormous task. Such was the building pressure, England slumped from 183/2 to 194 all out. Five batters failed to score as the West Indies cruised to a 92-run victory and retained their title.

By 1983, one-day cricket had grown in stature. More one-day internationals (ODIs) had been played, so the ICC decided that the Cricket World Cup should increase in size, with each group member playing each other twice. Once again, the competition was held in England, but more county grounds were used to accommodate the extra games. Sri Lanka, now in the fold as a Test-playing nation, joined the other six Test nations as a matter of right. The eighth place was granted to Zimbabwe as a reward for winning the previous year's ICC Trophy. They beat Bermuda at Grace Road, Leicester, to qualify.

The West Indians, Sri Lankans and English were affected by rebel tours to South Africa and the subsequent bans placed on players. In March 1982, 15 English players embarked on a tour of South Africa. Eleven of those had been Test players, including Geoff Boycott and captain Graham Gooch. Each player received a three-year ban from Test cricket. The Sri Lankan Cricket Board were far more severe on their players and meted out lifetime bans. The West Indies Cricket Board also took a similar line with their rebel players.

The West Indies entered the tournament as favourites to make it a hat-trick of wins. England, despite wholesale changes to playing personnel, were seen as a good bet. Australia came to England with the tried-and-tested formula of Lillee and Thomson, with young gun Geoff Lawson to spearhead their pace attack. An injured Imran Khan hampered Pakistan's campaign. He made himself available but only as a batter. Having had poor tournaments in 1975 and 1979, India were considered to be rank outsiders once again.

The tournament opened with all eight sides playing on the same day. At The Oval it was England's 322/6, led by Allan Lamb's 102, that was far too good for New Zealand as the home side won by 106 runs. At Swansea, Pakistan comfortably beat

Sri Lanka. The other two games would shock the tournament. Trent Bridge was the venue for Australia's expected processional victory over Zimbabwe. However, no one told the Zimbabweans that. Playing like they wanted to win, unlike their opponents, who had assumed victory was a *fait accompli*, Zimbabwe won the match by 13 runs. A captain's performance from Duncan Fletcher, with 69 not out and 4–42, was too good for Australia.

At Old Trafford, India's innings was fired up by Yashpal Sharma's sublime 89. Aably assisted by Roger Binny, Sharma pulled and drove the ball with style. India's final total was 262/8, which would be a test for the West Indian batters. As rain brought the game to a premature close, to be resumed the following morning, the West Indies were 67/2 and sat in a good position. On the resumption, the rain had dampened the ground, and India's medium-pacers gave nothing for the West Indians to work with. With the score on 76, Viv Richards nicked a ball from Binny, and wicketkeeper Kirmani gratefully took the catch. This was a blow that the West Indies would not recover from. Losing another five wickets for 54 runs, the champions were languishing at 130/8. Andy Roberts and Joel Garner made an unlikely last-wicket stand of 71, but India would not be denied only their second win in the Cricket World Cup. More importantly, the seemingly unbeatable West Indies had been beaten.

In Group A, England's route to the semi-finals was a straightforward one. The only blemish on their record was a two-wicket defeat at Edgbaston by New Zealand. David Gower's fine form, including a century against Sri Lanka, helped England to plenty of runs. An inspired Sri Lankan display halted New Zealand's push for the semi-finals at the County Ground in Derby. A five-wicket haul for Ashantha de Mel, plus stifling bowling from Ramesh Ratnayake and Somachandra de Silva, left the Kiwis woefully short of a competitive total. With that defeat,

a final-game decider against Pakistan at Trent Bridge would follow. Needing to improve their run rate, Pakistan's batters scored 261/3, inspired by Zaheer Abbas's century and assisted by Imran Khan's aggressive 79 not out. The New Zealand innings was boosted by Geoff Howarth, Martin Crowe, Warren Lees and John Bracewell, but Jeremy Coney's run-out left the Kiwis short by 11 runs.

In Group B, the West Indies recovered from their opening defeat by winning the rest of their group games handsomely. Australia's tournament improved somewhat with a massive 162-run victory against India. Trevor Chappell's 110 and Ken MacLeay's swing bowling were the surprise highlights as India were thrashed. By the time the last round of matches came around, the same protagonists met to decide who would reach the semi-finals. The ground at Chelmsford was packed, and the Australians were confident that they could repeat the result of a week previous. India's total of 247 was achievable, but medium-pacers Madan Lal and Roger Binny took eight wickets between them as Australia slumped to a disappointing 129 all out.

In the first semi-final, outsiders India met England at Old Trafford. Winning the toss, Bob Willis chose to bat on a sunny day in Manchester. The pitch was suited to the medium-pacers of India, and England struggled. Roger Binny once again proved good value, while Kapil Dev cleaned up the tail to bowl out England for 213. Despite a good start from openers Graeme Fowler and Chris Tavaré, England lost wickets regularly. David Gower slashed and edged; Mike Gatting ran out Allan Lamb before leaving a gap for Amarnath to bowl him. India's run chase began comfortably before Paul Allott and Ian Botham combined to remove both openers. Yashpal Sharma, with Mohinder Amarnath and then Sandeep Patil, scored a vital 61 runs to make sure that India got home safely to ensure their place in the final.

The Oval hosted the second semi-final. Pakistan were at a disadvantage before the game began, with captain Javed Miandad ruled out with flu. Clive Lloyd called correctly and inserted Pakistan on a wicket where the West Indies could exploit the conditions. And so they did. At 139/3, Pakistan may have felt that they could post a decent total. Malcolm Marshall begged to differ, with a spell of fast bowling worthy of winning the tie. An outswinger accounted for Imran Khan before Wasim Raja was caught in front in the same over. Shahid Mahboob's short and not very sweet innings was ended a little time later, and Pakistan were struggling. As they crawled to 184/8, there could be only one winner. And so it proved to be, as Viv Richards and Larry Gomes added an unbeaten 132-run partnership to ease the West Indies into their third consecutive final.

The Lord's final played out to form until about 3.15pm. India were asked to bat, and the West Indies' fast bowling attack did its job. The only respite came via Larry Gomes and his spin bowling. India failed to get a score higher than 38 as they were bowled out for 183. As the response got underway midway through the afternoon, the West Indies once again exhibited hubris. India's medium-pacers were getting movement, and the batters were finding the fielders. Kapil Dev's running catch to dismiss Viv Richards would be a defining moment. Slumping to 76/6, the double world champions were in danger of being dethroned. Jeff Dujon's defiant innings was ended by Amarnath, who finished with 3-12 from seven overs, and the West Indies' last reasonable chance had gone. It was Amarnath who ended the innings by trapping Michael Holding in front, and the pitch invasion from joyous Indian fans began.

The 1987 tournament, with Reliance as the new sponsors, was held in India and Pakistan – the competition's first time outside England. It was now a 50-over-a-side competition, in line

with standards for limited-over cricket. Once again, the seven Test-playing nations each received an automatic place while the eighth team would be the ICC Trophy winners. Once again, Zimbabwe prevailed against the Netherlands. India's defence on home soil was based around good middle-order batting and spin. The outlawing of bouncers had negated the West Indies' armoury. Also, injuries to Joel Garner and Malcolm Marshall robbed them of genuine match-winners. England's squad was missing both Gower and Botham, who decided they would prefer some time at home. Also, Richard Hadlee gave the tournament a miss. Pakistan's challenge would be spearheaded by Imran Khan's guile, albeit at a slower pace than previously, and the raw talent of Wasim Akram. The Australian team, led by Allan Border, had plenty of promise, but their effectiveness remained to be seen.

India and Australia easily qualified from Group A. They shared a victory each against each other; both easily beat New Zealand and Zimbabwe twice to take the two semi-final spots. Geoff Marsh's 110 in Madras helped Australia to a tight one-run win, before India's batters set up a 56-run victory in New Delhi to return the favour. Marsh went on to score another century in the group stages against a disappointing New Zealand side. Sunil Gavaskar's century and two half-centuries were just as key for India as they cruised into the semi-finals.

Unsurprisingly, Pakistan topped Group B with five wins from their six matches. Despite losing twice to Pakistan, England secured second place. For the very first time, the West Indies had failed to get out of the group stages. Only a final-game win, against Pakistan in Karachi, would rescue a little pride from a failure. Richie Richardson's fine century was backed up by Patrick Patterson's 3–34 to inflict the first defeat on the co-hosts.

The Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore hosted the first semi-final, where the home side would face the unfancied Australians. Australia chose to bat first, and their openers added 73 for the first wicket before Marsh's zest for a quick single would leave him stranded by Salim Malik's smart throwdown of the stumps. On-field injuries to wicketkeeper Salim Yousuf and Tauseef Ahmed weakened Pakistan's team. The loss of David Boon and Dean Jones, in quick succession, did little to stem the Australian scoring. Mike Veletta and Steve Waugh carved out more runs as Australia finished on 267/8.

The Pakistan response started badly when Ramiz Raja was run out from just the third ball of the innings. By the time Javed Miandad and Imran Khan were at the crease, the home side were 38/3, and the final looked far from being a possibility. The two experienced players consolidated the innings before Imran attempted to accelerate. With the partnership at 112, Border decided that he would turn his arm over. As is the way at times, Imran misjudged a delivery, and Dyer's gloves received the ball. The Australians, sensing an opportunity, appealed for anything and everything and duly got their man. New batter Wasim Akram attempted to take up where his captain had left off, but perished via McDermott's yorker. Miandad remained, doggedly, as his country's last reasonable hope. However, a tired slog at Bruce Reid missed the ball, and the bowler hit the wickets. Pakistan's hopes were as good as over. McDermott removed Yousuf, Jaffer and Tauseef in quick succession and Australia were in the final.

With the dream final in tatters, defending champions India had to overcome England at the Wankhede Stadium in Bombay. Winning the toss, Kapil Dev asked England to bat, but his team could not make an early breakthrough. It was the introduction of spin that did the trick. Graham Gooch planned to sweep the danger away. When Gattling came to the crease, at

79/2, he adopted the same method. With 117 added in 19 overs, England's innings was building rapidly. The losses of Gattling for 56 and Gooch for 115 were compensated for by Allan Lamb. At the end of the 50 overs, England had scored 254/6, and India's final ambition hung in the balance.

Hope lay in the hands of Sunil Gavaskar as the Indian innings began. After the opener had scored a boundary in the first over, Phillip DeFreitas acquired revenge by bowling him. 7/1 was not what the capacity crowd had wanted. Consolidation from Srikanth and Navjot Sidhu soon turned to crisis when Neil Foster removed both batters. With the score on 121, Foster struck again. Mohammed Azharuddin and Kapil Dev added 47 runs in no time at all, milking the bowling of spinner Eddie Hemmings. The acceleration from Kapil Dev finally led to his downfall when he was looking for the midwicket boundary, off the same bowler, with Gattling taking the catch to reduce India to 168/5. With Azharuddin still at the crease, and Ravi Shastri successfully sweeping Hemmings and Emburey, the game was still on. As soon as he was given out, India struggled to put another partnership together. The England bowlers mopped up the tail, as India's innings disintegrated, to win handsomely by 35 runs.

The 1987 final was held at Eden Gardens in Calcutta. Despite India having lost in the semi-final, the stadium was packed. Gattling lost the toss and was asked to bowl by Border. The Australian innings started well as Boon and Marsh took control with some attacking strokeplay. Small and DeFreitas struggled to make their mark, but the introduction of Neil Foster slowed the run rate. The loss of Marsh, bowled by Foster, further slowed the scoring.

Incoming batter Dean Jones joined Boon, and took the score to 151 before losing his wicket. Border's worry was that only 15 overs were left and runs were required. The answer was

to promote fast bowler Craig McDermott to bat at four. Lusty hitting achieved boundaries but also accounted for his wicket. Boon lost his soon after, and Australia were 168/4. At the crease, Border and Mike Veletta reasserted themselves with excellent batting and sharp running between the wickets. At the end of the innings, Veletta had scored 45 from 31 balls, and Australia had a total to defend with 253/6.

Three balls were all it took for Australia to get their first wicket as McDermott trapped Tim Robinson in front. Bill Athey joined Graham Gooch at the crease. Although scoring slowly, the batters ticked over the scoreboard without keeping up with the required run rate. Simon O'Donnell trapped Gooch, for the second lbw decision of the innings, and captain Mike Gatting came to the wicket with the score on 66. Off-spinner Tim May was introduced into the attack but, after four overs, was withdrawn as Gatting took a liking to his bowling. Scoring at a reasonable rate, Athey and Gatting took England to 135/2. Border, as he had done in the semi-final, brought himself on to bowl. Immediately, Gatting looked to sweep; he top-edged the ball, and the damage was done.

With the loss of Athey for 58, England went into panic mode, like the Indians had done in the semi-final. Allan Lamb was the last hope. Pressure mounting, looking for scoring shots, Steve Waugh squeezed a ball through Lamb's guard to bowl him. John Emburey ran himself out just two runs later, and England were 220/7. The game was surely over. Phillip DeFreitas had other ideas, with a six and two fours in successive balls. By the time the last over came around, DeFreitas had perished, and 17 runs were needed from the final over. The task was too much, and Australia were world champions with a seven-run victory. Australia would get the chance to defend the title as co-hosts, with New Zealand, of the 1992 tournament.

The 1992 Cricket World Cup is considered to be a collection of 'firsts' for world cricket. White balls, black sightscreens, floodlights and those revered coloured kits were all used in the tournament. A closer look reveals that none of these facets of the game were actually new. What 1992 did do was to bring them on to the world stage together, giving them prominence and showing that the game of cricket had moved on. Revolution had come from Kerry Packer and World Series Cricket in 1977. WSC used floodlights regularly, motivated by Packer's need to generate interest, and the necessity to use white balls was born. 28 November 1978 is considered to be the eureka moment when floodlit cricket became a facet of the game. The match between WSC Australia and WSC West Indies packed 50,000 into the SCG.

Coloured kits were another innovation from Packer's WSC. Photographs and old footage cannot do justice to the sheer 1970s kitsch of the choice of colours. The powder blue of the World XI and pale lemon of WSC Australia look particularly sober in comparison to the West Indies and their salmon pink kit. Gideon Haigh, in his excellent history of WSC, *The Cricket War*, names the individual responsible. Barbara Loois, later to become Mrs Ian Chappell, was 'foraging in curtain shops and department stores for pastel fabrics'. It is quite a leap of fashion from these offerings to the iconic kits of 1992.

Coloured clothing survived the 1979 reconvergence of cricket factions, and was adopted for the annual Australian summer one-day tri-series, again named World Series Cricket. 1992 may have been the first Cricket World Cup that had dispensed with cricket whites and red balls, but it was not the first international tournament to do so. In 1985, the World Championship of Cricket was played in Australia, to help celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of the state of Victoria. Games were played at the MCG and SCG, and featured the seven Test-playing nations

of the time. The now-famous lighting towers at the MCG were constructed for the tournament, which caused much controversy at the time. The kits chosen were quite bland; New Zealand wore beige, which has now been adopted by New Zealand fans under the guise of the 'Beige Brigade'.

It was India who won, beating Pakistan in the final, to add to their 1983 Cricket World Cup victory. Several of the players from 1985 would play in 1992. Allan Border, Dean Jones and Craig McDermott would represent Australia in both. Kepler Wessels represented Australia in 1985 but would return in 1992 as captain of his native South Africa. Only Allan Lamb would be England's representative in both competitions. India's experience in 1992 was evident with the likes of Kapil Dev, Mohammed Azharuddin, Manoj Prabhakar, Ravi Shastri and Kris Srikkanth in their squad. New Zealand had Martin Crowe, John Wright and Ian Smith to rely on, while Pakistan boasted Imran Khan, Javed Miandad, Wasim Akram, Ramiz Raja and Salim Malik. Aravinda de Silva, Arjuna Ranatunga and Rumesh Ratnayake were the Sri Lankan stalwarts. For the West Indies, star players Richie Richardson, Roger Harper, Gus Logie and Malcolm Marshall were still around in 1992.

With the addition of South Africa, the number of games to be played increased to 39. The World Cup Committee decided that matches should be played in more regional areas as well as the traditional venues. The Gabba, the Adelaide Oval and WACA hosted three group matches each from Australia's share of 25. The SCG hosted a semi-final, so it had four games in all, while the MCG hosted the final, making a total of five matches allotted. Non-international venues were included in the schedule, with Lavington Sports Oval in Albury (New South Wales), Eastern Oval in Ballarat (Victoria), Berri Oval (South Australia), Manuka Oval in Canberra, Bellerive Oval (Tasmania)

and the Ray Mitchell Oval in Mackay (Queensland) each being awarded a group match.

New Zealand's 14 matches were allotted with a similar approach. Eden Park in Auckland was chosen for the opening match, three other group games plus a semi-final. Wellington's Basin Reserve hosted three, with Trust Bank Park in Hamilton and Lancaster Park in Christchurch receiving two matches each. The North Island's McLean Park in Napier and Pukekura Park in New Plymouth each received one game, as did Carisbrook in Dunedin, the most southerly venue.

Before the cricket commenced in earnest, most of the countries played warm-up games as part of the lead-up to the tournament. Pakistan's match against Tasmania opened up two weeks of matches. Tasmania proved to be stiff opposition, boosted by the inclusion of David Boon, and won by 42 runs. India also found Sheffield Shield opposition too strong as Victoria ran out 33-run victors. Shane Warne's 2-37 helped the home side bowl out India for 171. Zimbabwe's match against a Queensland Second XI was disastrous as the Queenslanders won by a massive 129 runs. In South Africa's opening match at the WACA, Western Australia won a low-scoring contest by three wickets.

India's next two matches did little to improve their morale. Rain cut short their run chase against an Australian Country XI, and an inferior run rate awarded the victory to their opponents. Two days later, rain washed out the match at Toorak Park, Melbourne, to leave India without a win in three games. Their final game, in Adelaide, changed their fortunes as they comfortably beat a Cricket Academy XI by 88 runs. Kris Srikkanth's 132 and 2-22 easily beat the emerging talent from Australia. Ricky Ponting scored 23 in a total of 217 in response to India's 305/5.

Victories against Pakistan, in Canberra, and against Tasmania gave South Africa valuable match practice. Matches at the Adelaide Oval, the Gabba and Bradman Oval in Bowral were lost to rain. Kepler Wessels scored 72, and Brian McMillan took 5–32, to beat Pakistan by 17 runs. The victory against Tasmania was more comfortable as McMillan, this time with the bat, led South Africa to a seven-wicket win.

Sri Lanka were unbeaten in their warm-up games. In Sydney, they comfortably beat an NSWCA President's XI by eight wickets. Limiting the home side to 130, Kapila Wijegunawardene took 3–39 and Rumesh Ratnayake took 2–5 before Mahanama and de Silva led Sri Lanka to victory with 21.5 overs remaining. Pakistan offered up far more resistance at North Sydney Oval, but 7–41 from Champaka Ramanayake led to a 14-run win. Sri Lanka were bowled out for 210, but Javed Miandad's 80 was not enough to win the match. The only negative was the news of a dislocated shoulder for bowler Ratnayake. Participation in the tournament was looking doubtful. In their final game at Pukekura Park, where their first tournament match was played, Sri Lanka defeated A.B. Jordan's XI by six wickets.

Australia's warm-up games were limited to a match against New South Wales and one at Auckland to acclimatise to conditions in New Zealand before the opening match of the tournament. All 14 of the Australian squad played in the match; Mark Taylor, Steve Waugh and Mike Whitney played for New South Wales. Having scored 277/4 in their 50 overs, boosted by a David Boon century and Tom Moody's 63 not out, the state side came incredibly close to pulling off the victory. Steve Small's 101 and Steve Waugh's 61 set up the win, but Greg Matthews was agonisingly run out off the last ball to leave the match tied. The game in Auckland proved to be anything but close, as half-centuries from Marsh, Border and Steve Waugh meant that

Australia's 250/7 was too much for Auckland to chase down. Two wickets apiece for Craig McDermott and Peter Taylor helped bowl out the home side for 188 and deliver a win by 62 runs.

England took a more insular approach to their preparation. Having played their series in New Zealand, they decided to have a warm-up game among themselves, with Graham Gooch and Alec Stewart captaining two teams. County players such as Mark Ramprakash, Peter Martin, Paul Prichard, David Capel, Steve O'Shaughnessy, Phil Newport and Nick Knight were used to fill out the teams. Unsurprisingly, the game proved to be tight. Stewart's side batted first, and he soon lost his wicket, but opening partner Graeme Hick scored 95 out of 244/8. In response, Gooch and Ian Botham's 105-run opening stand gave the Gooch XI a good platform. However, they slumped from 200/3 to 241/8 and fell short by three runs.

Playing conditions for the tournament were set out in a Teams Agreement that each participating country was required to sign. The contents of the document set out the rules and regulations for participation. Not only did it stipulate requirements for each team, but also obligations that the World Cup Committee were liable for.

Sponsorship of the tournament was by Benson & Hedges and, as all of these arrangements stipulate, nothing could be done to 'damage' or 'denigrate' the sponsors. A sum of £3,550,000 was paid for naming rights, prominent signage at each venue, posters, commemorative signed bats, logo on cricket clothing, a drinks trolley at each venue, awards, programmes, photographs and other literature. Also, the sponsorship extended to the Australian team for the duration of the tournament in an exclusive capacity.

By the early 1990s, tobacco advertising was coming under tremendous scrutiny globally. The problem that faced the World Cup Committee was that legislation in New Zealand had already

banned such advertising. The Smoke-free Environments Act had been passed in 1990, and such a sponsor was a flagrant breach. A dispensation was sought from the New Zealand government, and it was granted on the proviso that no endorsement of cigarettes could take place. The main stumbling block appeared to be the signed bats, rather than having a known cigarette brand emblazoned everywhere else.

Several functions had been planned, and attendance was a requirement. Before the tournament began, every team was required to attend a 'welcome dinner', which included umpires and 'guests invited by the committee'. It was during this gathering in Sydney that the photographs were taken of the teams on HMAS *Canberra*. In full coloured kit, all of the players were photographed sitting on temporary seating on the flight deck of the frigate. Part of the Royal Australian Navy's fleet, HMAS *Canberra* featured in many photographs, including a shot in front of the bridge with all of the team captains and the ship's captain, Commander R.W. Gates, RAN. A song called 'Who Will Rule the World?' was written as an advertising jingle. The catchy tune and lyrics were such a hit that a full song was requested.

The main controversy from 1992 was the rain rule. Wanting professional advice on the rule, I sought the assistance of Professor Steven Stern from Bond University in Queensland. Professor Stern is now the custodian of the calculations first devised by Duckworth and Lewis, who retired from their role in 2014. First, Stern provided a definition. 'The rain rule in force for the 1992 World Cup was called the Most Productive Overs (MPO) method. It was not that sophisticated (mostly because it wasn't really thought through completely, as the outcomes show). Basically, it works as follows: if the chasing team are given a total of X overs, their target is equal to the total of the team batting first's X most productive overs + 1.'

It was clearly weighted in favour of the team batting first. Professor Stern explained further. 'The fact that the MPO rain rule led mostly to victories for the team batting first is no surprise at all. The method is only really designed for the case that there is rain in the interval and the team batting second loses overs up front (admittedly this is probably the most common scenario). For other situations, the method is a major advantage to the team batting first (in particular, notice that the revised target depends only on the number of overs lost, not on when they are lost, so losing overs before the start of the second innings leads to the same target as losing them from the end of the innings, which is clearly not appropriate).'

The squads were to have no more than 14 nominated players, and teams were to be named a week before the tournament began. Replacing players, once squads were finalised, would require written permission. Two officials were allowed to accompany the squad, and the World Cup Committee would finance expenditure such as travel and accommodation for all 16 members of the party. Travel was detailed as being 'international economy travel' by the 'airline of the committee's choice'. Accommodation consisted of four single rooms and six double rooms for each country, breakfast included, plus meals and laundry costs in the form of a daily allowance.

The playing kit was provided and had to be worn for official occasions. No logos from other manufacturers were to be on show during the tournament. Each player was issued with two short-sleeved shirts, two long-sleeved shirts, two pairs of trousers, one sleeveless sweater, one long-sleeved sweater, one cap, one fielding hat, one batting helmet and one pair of pads. Any footwear, batting and wicketkeeping gloves were the player's responsibility.

## APPENDICES

### Final – March 25, 1992: England vs Pakistan (MCG, Melbourne) – D/N

Toss: Pakistan

Umpires: BL Aldridge & SU Bucknor

Crowd: 87,182

MOTM: Wasim Akram

Pakistan won by 22 runs

Pakistan			Runs	Mins	Balls	4s	6s	SR
Aamer Sohail	c Stewart	b Pringle	4	20	19	-	-	21.05
Ramiz Raja	lbw	b Pringle	8	36	26	1	-	30.77
Imran Khan*	c Illingworth	b Botham	72	159	110	5	1	65.45
Javed Miandad	c Botham	b Illingworth	58	125	98	4	-	59.18
Inzamam-ul-Haq		b Pringle	42	46	35	4	-	120.00
Wasim Akram		run out	33	21	19	4	-	173.68
Salim Malik		not out	0	2	1	-	-	0.00
Moin Khan†								
Ijaz Ahmed								
Aaqib Javed								
Mushtaq Ahmed								
Extras	(lb 19, w 6, nb 7)		32					
	50 overs (212 mins)		249 for 6					

Fall: 1-20 (Sohail) 2-24 (Ramiz) 3-163 (Miandad) 4-197 (Imran) 5-249 (Inzamam) 6-249 (Akram)

	O	M	R	W	Ave	SR	ER	Wide	NB
DR Pringle	10	2	22	3	7.33	20.00	2.20	3	5
CC Lewis	10	2	52	0	-	-	5.20	1	2
IT Botham	7	0	42	1	42.00	42.00	6.00	1	-
PAJ DeFreitas	10	1	42	0	-	-	4.20	-	-
RK Illingworth	10	0	50	1	50.00	60.00	5.00	-	-
DA Reeve	3	0	22	0	-	-	7.33	1	-

England			Runs	Mins	Balls	4s	6s	SR
GA Gooch*	c Aaqib	b Mushtaq	29	93	66	1	-	43.94
IT Botham	c Moin	b Wasim	0	12	6	-	-	0.00
AJ Stewart†	c Moin	b Aaqib	7	22	16	1	-	43.75
GA Hick	lbw	b Mushtaq	17	49	36	1	-	47.22
NH Fairbrother	c Moin	b Aaqib	62	97	70	3	-	88.57
AJ Lamb		b Wasim	31	54	41	2	-	75.61
CC Lewis		b Wasim	0	1	1	-	-	0.00
DA Reeve	c Ramiz	b Mushtaq	15	38	32	-	-	46.88
DR Pringle		not out	18	29	16	1	-	112.50
PAJ DeFreitas		run out	10	13	8	-	-	125.00
RK Illingworth	c Ramiz	b Imran	14	9	11	2	-	127.27
Extras	(lb 5, w 13, nb 6)		24					
	49.2 overs (213 mins)		227					

Fall: 1-6 (Botham) 2-21 (Stewart) 3-59 (Hick) 4-69 (Gooch) 5-141 (Lamb) 6-141 (Lewis) 7-180 (Fairbrother) 8-183 (Reeve) 9-208 (DeFreitas) 10-227 (Illingworth)

	O	M	R	W	Ave	SR	ER	Wide	NB
Wasim Akram	10	0	49	3	16.33	20.00	4.90	6	4
Aaqib Javed	10	2	27	2	13.50	30.00	2.70	3	1
Mushtaq Ahmed	10	1	41	3	13.67	20.00	4.10	1	-
Ijaz Ahmed	3	0	13	0	-	-	4.33	2	-
Imran Khan	6.2	0	43	1	43.00	38.00	6.79	-	1
Aamer Sohail	10	0	49	0	-	-	4.90	1	-