

# Trott issues timely reminder of former glories

BY ROSS MCLEAN

IT may only have been a low-key warm-up clash for England's second string, but Jonathan Trott's half-century against Gauteng Invitation XI yesterday could prove an important step on course to international rehabilitation.

The 33-year-old England Lions skipper scored an unbeaten 79 from 127 balls during his side's second innings and his first international



Trott has played 49 Tests for England, averaging 48.26

match since departing last winter's disastrous Ashes tour with a stress-related illness.

The resumption of his 49-match Test career is far from assured and Trott will hope to continue firing on the tour of his homeland and the two four-day clashes against South Africa A, starting in Paarl on Sunday.

England have a packed schedule of Test cricket following its current hiatus due to the World Cup, with series against West Indies and

New Zealand acting as a prelude to the summer's Ashes showdown.

The carrot for Trott is Australia, a nation he has faced more than any other, scoring 917 runs and three centuries in 21 innings at 48.26, although the Warwickshire man is focusing more on the shorter-term.

"I'm feeling really good. It's nice obviously to get some runs today and go to Cape Town with a bit of confidence and hopefully continue that in Paarl," said Trott.

"I think we had a really good hit-out as a team, everyone got a go, and we got what we needed and we're looking forward to Cape Town.

"It's been an interesting challenge

for me captaining as well, I haven't done it for a while but I've always enjoyed it, so captaining for the first time has been nice and I'm looking forward to the next two games."

Trott's 79 was the standout contribution of England Lions' second innings total of 176-5 declared on the final day's play in Soweto, although Kent's Sam Billings struck 53 before retiring as the hosts were set 441 to win.

All 15 members of England's squad were able to take part, meaning eight bowlers were utilised, reducing Gauteng to 57-5 and then 120-8 before a draw was agreed with storm clouds gathering.

# Hamilton and Co snaps give race fans inside track

BY FRANK DALLERES

THEY are known for hurtling around tracks at breakneck speed but it looks like the superstar drivers of Formula One also know how to capture a good still life.

World champion Lewis Hamilton and rivals Jenson Button, Nico Rosberg and Kimi Raikkonen are among the big names of F1 to have taken candid photographs reflecting their lives on and off the track in aid of charity.

Patriotic Rosberg's snap shows his race helmet being adorned with four stars to mark his beloved Germany's 2014 World Cup win, after he revealed football chiefs Fifa banned him from using an image of the trophy itself, while Raikkonen took a portrait of his red Ferrari driving gloves and Button showed the seat of his McLaren car.

F1 racer-turned-broadcaster Martin Brundle pictured the wheel of a Toro Rosso vehicle held still by wooden chocks and Ferrari boss Maurizio Arrivabene documented the massed ranks of his team charging under the podium at the famous Italian outfit's home track, Monza.

Briton Hamilton, meanwhile, offered a contemplative shot of wintry scenery near his Colorado home for the Zoom auction, which takes place at the InterContinental Park Lane in London next week in support of Great Ormond Street children's hospital.



Formula One stars' own pictures up for charity auction next week (clockwise from top left): Rosberg's race helmet; Hamilton's Colorado scene; a Toro Rosso wheel by Brundle; Ferrari stampede, captured by boss Arrivabene; Button's car seat; and Raikkonen's gloves

# Murray lifts Aussie Open hopes as Britain slip to Hopman Cup loss

BY ROSS MCLEAN

FORMER Wimbledon champion Andy Murray's preparations for the Australian Open were boosted by a singles-match victory yesterday before Great Britain slipped to defeat against Poland at the Hopman Cup.

The 27-year-old beat Jerzy Janowicz 6-2, 6-4 in Perth to level the clash after partner Heather Watson was brushed aside 6-3, 6-1 by world No5 Agnieszka Radwanska.

The tie hinged on the mixed doubles which the British duo lost 6-4, 6-4 as Group B leaders Poland won 2-1 overall to maintain their unbeaten record and assume pole

position for Saturday's final.

Poland will confirm their place should they beat France on Friday, while Britain play hosts Australia in the knowledge only the group winners will make the finale.

Murray reeled off nine successive games in beating Janowicz and confirmed the shoulder problem picked up while defeating Rafael Nadal at the Mubadala World Tennis Championship last week is easing.

"I moved well and served good and got a lot of returns back in play so I was happy," he said. "My shoulder felt much better today. As I'm playing the matches, it's starting to feel a little bit better."

## IN BRIEF

### Smith strikes fourth successive ton

CRICKET: Australia's stand-in skipper Steve Smith equalled the record set by Sir Donald Bradman and Jacques Kallis by scoring a fourth hundred in a series against India at Sydney yesterday. It was Smith's fourth century in successive Tests and his knock of 117 helped the hosts to 572-7 before declaring, with India finishing day two on 71-1.

### Stokes on-song in Big Bash debut

CRICKET: England all-rounder Ben Stokes introduced himself to the Big Bash by scoring 77 from just 37 balls on his debut as Melbourne Renegades beat Hobart Hurricanes, featuring Alex Hales and Tim Bresnan, by 37 runs. The 26-year-old, who has been left out of

England's World Cup squad, struck eight fours and five sixes.

### England main factor in Cipriani fate

RUGBY UNION: Sale boss Steve Diamond has admitted the future of England hopeful Danny Cipriani depends on the fly-half's place in the international pecking order. Cipriani's contract expires at the end of the season and is said to be a transfer target for Top 14 side Toulon. The 27-year-old appears to be fourth in line for England's No10 jersey behind George Ford, Owen Farrell and Stephen Myler, while a move to France would signal an abandonment of his international ambitions. Diamond said: "Danny's going to make a decision in the next two weeks. I think England is the deciding factor."

## Results

### FOOTBALL

**JOHNSTONE'S PAINT TROPHY NORTHERN AREA FINAL FIRST LEG**

Preston.....(0) 0 Walsall.....(0) 2

Forde 84  
Bradshaw 88

**VANARAMA CONFERENCE**

Gateshead.....(0) 0 Woking.....(0) 0

Att: 772

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Barnet	30	19	5	6	65	30	35	62
Bristol Rvs	30	15	11	4	40	24	16	56
Macclesfld	29	14	9	6	38	27	11	51
Grimsb'y	28	13	8	7	44	25	19	47
Kiddermstr	29	13	7	9	41	34	7	46
Woking	30	12	9	9	46	34	12	45
Forest Green	29	12	11	6	45	34	11	44
Eastleigh	27	12	8	7	49	39	10	44
FC Halifax	27	12	6	9	40	30	10	42
Torquay	30	11	9	10	48	40	8	42
Lincoln City	27	12	6	9	49	43	6	42
Gateshead	27	10	11	6	43	37	6	41
Dover	28	11	7	10	43	38	5	40
Braintree Town	29	12	3	14	35	33	2	39
Altrincham	30	11	6	13	37	48	-11	39
Wrexham	26	10	7	9	31	30	1	37
Chester FC	29	11	3	15	37	52	-15	36
Aldershot	29	9	6	14	31	38	-7	33
Welling	30	8	9	13	33	44	-11	33
Southport	26	8	6	12	28	40	-12	30
Alfreton Town	28	7	3	18	28	56	-28	24
Dartford	28	5	8	15	27	46	-19	23
Nuneaton	30	6	5	19	26	57	-31	23
AFC Telford	28	4	7	17	37	62	-25	19

### CRICKET

**TOUR MATCH**

**Gauteng Invitation XI v England Lions (Day 3 of 3)**

**SOWETO: Gauteng Invitation XI drew with England Lions**

**ENGLAND LIONS: First Innings 443** (Robson 109, Lyth 106, Lees 85, Bairstow 62)

**GAUTENG INVITATION XI: First Innings 179** (Wood 4-29)

**ENGLAND LIONS: Second Innings (Overnight 43-3)**

I Trott not out.....79  
S Billings ret out.....53  
J Bairstow b Arnold.....0  
A Rashid not out.....6  
B4 lb1 w1.....6  
Total (5 wkts., dec 44 overs).....176  
Fall: 6, 36, 43, 158, 162.  
**Bowling:** Dudgeon 7-0-49-0, Arnold 12-2-24-2, le Roux 10-3-31-1, Mokoena 6-2-26-1, Pongolo 4-0-23-0, Saloojee 4-0-16-0, Valli 1-0-2-0.

**GAUTENG INVITATION XI: Second Inms**

Y Cook c Bairstow b Brooks.....7  
K Mogotsi b Rankin.....8  
Y Valli c Bairstow b Wood.....22  
W Landsdale b Dunn.....4  
B Dial c Lees b Riley.....35  
S Masondo b Plunkett.....0  
B Barnard c Rankin b Rashid.....18  
Z Pongolo lbw Rashid.....3  
M Arnold not out.....2  
K Dudgeon not out.....8  
B9 lb4.....13  
Total (8 wkts., 42 overs).....120  
Fall: 11, 38, 42, 56, 57, 94, 99, 110.  
**Bowling:** Plunkett 6-1-22-1, Brooks 6-2-16-1, Wood 5-1-11-1, Rankin 7-3-16-1, Dunn 4-2-11-1, Rashid 8-2-14-2, Overton 4-1-9-0, Riley 2-1-8-1.  
**Umpires:** B Jele & J Sadler.

**FOURTH TEST MATCH—Australia v India (Sydney, day 2 close):** Australia 572-7dec. (152.3 overs; S P D Smith 117, D A Warner 101, C J L Rogers 95, S R Watson 81, S E Marsh 73, J A Burns 58; Mohammed Shami 5-112). India 71-1 (25.0 overs).

**SECOND TEST MATCH—New Zealand v Sri Lanka (Wellington):** New Zealand 221 (55.1 overs; K S Williamson 69; N Pradeep 4-63) and 524-5dec. (172.0 overs; K S Williamson 242no, B J Watling 142no). Sri Lanka 356 (102.1 overs; K C Sangakkara 203, L D Chandimal 67) and 196 (72.4 overs; H D R L Thirimanne 62no, J K Silva 50; M D Craig 4-53). New Zealand beat Sri Lanka by 193 runs.

### DARTS

**BDO LAKESIDE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS** (Frimley Green, Surrey)—2nd rd: R Green (Eng) bt Peter Sajwani (Swe) 4-0, B Dawson (Eng) bt M Razmar (Lat) 4-3, D Fitton (Eng) bt A Norris (Eng) 4-3, S Mitchell (Eng) bt G de Vos (Bel) 4-2, M Adams (Eng) bt J Widmayer (USA) 4-0.

### ICE HOCKEY

**ELITE LEAGUE:** Nottingham Panthers 4 Fife Flyers 6.

### TENNIS

**HOPMAN CUP** (Perth, Australia)—Group B: Poland 2 GB 1 (A Murray (Gbr) bt J Janowicz (Pol) 6-2 6-3, A Radwanska (Pol) bt H Watson (Gbr) 6-3 6-1, A Radwanska (Pol) & J Janowicz (Pol) bt H Watson (Gbr) & A Murray (Gbr) 6-4 6-4). France 2 Australia 1.

### TODAY'S DIARY

**Sky Bet League Two**

Luton v Shrewsbury (745)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Vycombe	24	13	8	3	38	20	18	47
Burton Albion	24	14	4	6	33	23	10	46
Shrewsbury	24	13	5	6	33	16	17	44
Newport County	24	12	7	5	35	25	10	43
Luton	23	12	6	5	28	17	11	42

### CRICKET

**Fourth Test Match—day 4 of 5:** Australia v India (Sydney, 11.30pm). **Triangular Tournament:** Afghanistan v Scotland (Dubai, 5.30am).

### DARTS

**BDO Lakeside World Ch'ships** (Frimley Green, Surrey).

### GOLF

**South African Open Championship** (Johannesburg).

### ICE HOCKEY

**Elite League:** Dundee Stars v Sheffield Steelers.