

The legend behind the Ashes

The mock obituary after England's shock home defeat by Australia in 1882 proclaimed the death of English cricket – the 'body's' ashes to be taken to Australia. England 'regained the ashes' after a victory in Australia when one of the bails was burnt, the ashes placed in a small terracotta urn and presented to team captain Ivo Bligh

A mock obituary, written by Mr. Shirley Brooks – then editor of 'Punch' magazine – appeared in the Sporting Times the day after Australia's famous victory



The 'Ashes poem'

*When Ivo goes back with the urn, the urn;
Studds, Steel, Read, and Tylecote
return, return;
The Welkin will ring loud,
The great crowd will feel proud,
Seeing Barlow and Bates with
the urn, the urn;
And the rest coming
home with
the urn*

