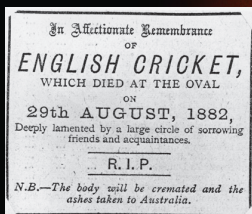


# Legend of the Ashes

The Ashes, one of cricket's fiercest rivalries, has been contested by England and Australia since 1882. The battle for the famous urn has sparked controversy, enthralled crowds and produced iconic sporting moments



■ **1882:** Mock obituary in *Sporting Times* after England's shock home defeat to Australia proclaims death of English cricket. Body will be cremated and "ashes" taken to Australia

■ **1883:** England win in Australia, regaining Ashes. Bail is burnt, placed in small urn and presented to team captain **Ivo Bligh**

Source: Reuters  
Pictures: Getty Images

■ **1933:** Controversial *Bodyline* series. England counter threat of top Australian batsman **Don Bradman** by bowling bouncers to prevent run-scoring



■ **1953:** Captained by **Len Hutton**, England win decisive final test to secure first Ashes series at home for 27 years

■ **1975:** **Dennis Lillee** and **Jeff Thomson** give Australia emphatic 4-1 series victory

■ **1981:** All-rounder **Ian Botham** galvanises England at Headingley with inspirational match-winning performance

■ **2005:** England regain Ashes for first time in 18 years

■ **2007-18:** Australia twice thrash England 5-0, but England score only series victory played away from home (2010-11)