

= Smokers v Non @-@ Smokers =

Two first @-@ class cricket matches billed as " Smokers v Non @-@ Smokers " were played during the 1880s . Featuring players from Australia and England , each match occurred during a tour of one of those countries by the other 's national team . The first match was won by the Non @-@ Smokers , while in the second , which was drawn , the Non @-@ Smokers scored a then @-@ record 803 runs in the first innings .

The first match was played at the end of the Australian tour of England in 1884 , and was held at Lord 's in aid of the Cricketers ' Fund Friendly Society . Eight of the tourists took part ; four on each side . The Non @-@ Smokers batted first , and then forced their opponents to follow on , aided by a strong batting performance from George Bonnor . The Smokers , batting twice , only finished thirteen runs ahead , a total which was chased down without the need for the scheduled third day of the contest .

In the second match , held in Australia two and a half years later , the contest once again featured a combination of Australian and English players . Aided by a Arthur Shrewsbury double century , the Non @-@ Smokers set a new record for the highest innings in first @-@ class cricket , accumulating 803 runs . As in the original match , the Smokers had to follow on , and when the match finished as a draw they were still almost 500 runs behind .

= = First match , 1884 = =

The Australia national cricket team toured England in 1884 , playing an itinerary of 32 matches , including three designated as Tests . At the end of the tour , an additional fixture was arranged by V. E. Walker , who went on to become president of both the Marylebone Cricket Club ( MCC ) and Middlesex County Cricket Club . The match , which was described in The South Australian Advertiser as being " novel and interesting " , combined Australian and English players into two teams ; those who smoked and those who did not . The match was played to raise money for the Cricketers ' Fund Friendly Society , in which it was considered very successful , raising in excess of £ 561 . Walker also wanted the British public to have an opportunity to see members of the Australian touring party play against each other , to which end Alick Bannerman , George Bonnor , Billy Murdoch and Tup Scott represented the Non @-@ Smokers , while George Giffen , Percy McDonnell , Eugene Palmer and Frederick Spofforth played for the Smokers . The reporter from The South Australian Advertiser judged that the Smokers had the stronger batsmen , while the Non @-@ Smokers had the better bowlers .

Lord Harris captained the Smokers , and called the toss wrong ; the captain of the Non @-@ Smokers , W. G. Grace , opted for his side to bat first . The Smokers team amused the crowd by walking out to field smoking cigarettes . The first three wickets fell for the addition of 38 runs ; Grace scored 10 , Murdoch got 4 and Bannerman had 22 , bringing together Bonnor and Dick Barlow . The pair added 152 runs together , with the Lancashire professional Barlow playing a supporting role to the Australian Bonnor . The latter scored 124 runs , and according to Wisden Cricketers ' Almanack , he batted against Spofforth " with such astonishing freedom . " Bonnor hit a six and 16 fours during his innings , which was the only score over 50 in the match . Barlow continued to bat carefully , but was eventually dismissed for 39 by the left @-@ arm spinner Edmund Peate , who claimed six of the final seven wickets to finish with figures of six for 30 , and end the Non @-@ Smokers innings on 250 .

The Smokers began their innings late on the first day . By that stage , the pitch had deteriorated and light was poor , making batting more difficult . By the end of the day 's play forty minutes later , they had lost four wickets and only scored 25 runs . They fared better the following morning , but only three batsmen reached double figures ? Billy Gunn , 18 , Monty Bowden , 29 , and Charles Clarke , 20 not out ? as they were bowled out for 111 just before the lunch break . W. G. Grace was the pick of the bowlers , taking five wickets for 29 runs . A first @-@ innings deficit of 139 runs meant that the Smokers were forced to follow on .

Beginning their second innings after lunch , there was a little improvement for the Smokers , though

six of the team were dismissed without reaching double figures . Gunn top @-@ scored for his side , remaining 43 not out at the end of the innings , while Charles Thornton and George Giffen both scored quickly , making 27 and 15 respectively . Despite these scores , the Smokers only reached 152 , leaving the Non @-@ Smokers needing 14 runs to win the match . Grace collected three further wickets in this second innings , but he was bettered by Barlow , who took five for 24 . Although the match was past half past five in the evening with poor light , the decision was made that the match should not continue into the following day , and so the Non @-@ Smokers came out to bat and hit the runs they required , reaching the total shortly after six o 'clock . The match was played at Lord 's in good weather on both days , and was well attended on the first day , with between six and seven thousand spectators at the ground .

= = Second match , 1887 = =

Two and a half years later , another first @-@ class contest with the same title was held at East Melbourne Cricket Ground in Australia . The game was played as the penultimate match of the English tour of Australia in 1886 ? 87 , led by Alfred Shaw . Once again the two teams contained a mix of Australian and English players , including three who had taken part in the previous match ; Barlow and Palmer each appeared for the same team as previously , but Gunn , who had played for the Smokers in 1884 , switched teams and was on the side of the Non @-@ Smokers in 1887 . The touring side had been due to face a " Combined Australia " team , but as such a team would be missing those players from New South Wales , it was decided to split the teams as in 1884 . The match was sponsored by four companies , with prizes of 500 cigars each for the best batsman and bowler for the Smokers , 250 cigars for the best aggregate batting score for the Smokers , another 250 cigars for the best individual score from either side , and 200 cigars for the best bowling for the Non @-@ Smokers .

The match began in similar fashion to the earlier contest ; the Non @-@ Smokers won the toss , and their captain Arthur Shrewsbury chose to bat first . The Smokers , led by the Australian Harry Boyle , walked onto the pitch smoking cigars . Despite the strong bowling attack boasted by the Smokers , which included Johnny Briggs and George Lohmann , the Non @-@ Smokers took advantage of a good batting wicket and accrued 196 runs before the first wicket fell , that of William Bruce for 131 . Billy Bates was dismissed shortly thereafter for four , bringing in Billy Gunn . Shrewsbury and Gunn batted together for the rest of the day , and the following morning , building a partnership of 310 runs ; Shrewsbury was eventually caught off the bowling of Briggs for 236 , while Gunn was bowled by Boyle for 150 . Fifties from Richard Houston , Harry Musgrove and Jack Worrall in the middle @-@ order boosted the score to 803 , a new record for the highest innings total in first @-@ class cricket . The previous record , 775 runs , had also been set in Australia , by New South Wales . The score fell some way short of the highest innings score in any cricket , which was believed to have been the 920 scored by Orleans Club against Rickling Green in 1882 . The score has since been surpassed over twenty times .

The Smokers began their response on the third morning of the match , and after losing Maurice Read for 30 , Eugene Palmer and Briggs put together a partnership of 160 , but both were dismissed before the close of play that day , Palmer for 113 and Briggs for 86 . Nevertheless , with the score at 302 for three , it was considered likely that the match would end in a draw . The following morning , wickets fell rapidly ; Bates finished the innings with figures of six for 73 , and the Smokers , who were all out for 356 , were asked to follow on . Briggs recorded a second fifty in the match , but otherwise no player made a significant impact , and the game pestered towards the expected draw . The last ball of the match resulted in a situation described by Gerald Brodribb as " most unusual " . William Scotton faced the final delivery of the contest . Eager to claim the ball as a souvenir of the high @-@ scoring match , he defended the delivery and picked the ball up . The fielders ? who also wanted the souvenir ? appealed , and Scotton was ruled out , having handled the ball . The match was drawn , with the Smokers still trailing by 491 runs .