

INTRODUCTION TO THE SECOND EDITION

Since the first edition of 'Major Feats' was posted here in May 2020, many contributors from all over the world have helped to improve our knowledge of these feats, both by suggesting improvements or additions to the scorecards already posted, and by identifying additional matches in which comparable feats were achieved, or sources that might point to such matches. This is truly a collaborative project, and I am very grateful to all who have contributed to it so far. There's more on this in the acknowledgements below.

This second edition now incorporates all the additions and improvements that have been unearthed since last May. Of the initial 268 scorecards, 143 – over a half - have benefited in this way. All the changes to these scorecards in the second edition are displayed in red, for ease of identification.

In addition, around 90 completely new matches have been identified for inclusion in this project, and their scorecards are also included in this second edition. To avoid disrupting the ordering of the initial 268, they are here presented as a separate file. As with the initial set of matches, they are presented in chronological order.

As before, the headers to these new scorecards are colour-coded to indicate the comprehensiveness and reliability of the information that they contain. I have found it necessary to introduce two new colour codes for some of these cards:

Class 6 (purple): Scorecards for feats – usually innings totals of 0 – that appear well-sourced but that were not included in Ernest Gross's original lists. Whether they were omitted simply because they never came to Gross's notice, or because he knew about them but had some reason for doubting their veracity, I cannot tell. For my part, I have no evidence on which to base any such doubt – beyond the fact that they were not listed by Gross.

Class 7 (tan): As Class 6, but my suspicious mind is very sceptical of their veracity.

This second edition also updates, and where necessary corrects, the Index of major feats. Again, changes since the first edition are shown in red. The 90-odd new scorecards are indicated in the final column of the Index as 'New n' rather than 'Scores n'. 'New CA' means instances for which score details are now included in Cricket Archive; as a result, the scorecard details are not duplicated in this exercise. New instances that fall into Class 7 are italicised to draw attention to the considerable uncertainty as to whether they really happened.

I have, by the way, taken a decision to exclude instances of 'major feats' in matches where one or both teams fielded fewer than nine players. I have been made aware of a number of instances of '0 all out' by teams that were at least three men short, but I feel that to include these would devalue, to a degree, the 'quality' of the record achieved.

Since the first edition appeared, it has been largely impossible to visit libraries and archive offices to try to improve still further the record of particular matches. As I write, there is some hope that this may once again become possible in a few weeks', or a few months', time. Whenever current restrictions are lifted, the search for more, or better, details of 'Major Feats' will resume in earnest. Any details acquired as a result will be incorporated in a third edition in due course.

Sources of new matches

The 'new' matches included in this edition have been identified from the following sources which, for one reason or another, were not consulted in preparing the first edition:

Kersi Meher-Homji: *Cricket quirky cricket* (The Cricket Publishing Co, Australia, 2011)
Kersi Meher-Homji: *Hat Tricks* (Kangaroo Press, Australia, 1995)
Kersi Meher-Homji: *Out for a duck* (Kangaroo Press, Australia, 1993)
Ken Piesse: *The extraordinary book of Australian cricket* (Penguin Group, Australia, 2009)
Ken Piesse and Alf Wilson: *Bradman's of the Bush* (Penguin Group, Australia, 2002)
Jo Rice: *Curiosities of cricket* (Pavilion Books, UK, 1993)
Cricket Quarterly (ed. Rowland Bowen), passim
The records section of ESPNcricinfo

These sources are credited on relevant scorecards.

In addition, 'new' matches have been brought to attention by a number of individual researchers, to whom I offer my grateful thanks. Again, their contributions are credited on the relevant scorecards:

Gary Fisher	Alfred James	Michael Parkinson
Steve Flemming	Kersi Meher-Homji	William Rice
Peter Hartland	Allan Miller	Ger Siggins
Sreeram B Iyer		Harry Watton

I have also included matches recorded by Gross that fall into some categories of 'Major feat' that were not covered in the first edition. These can be identified in the Index, where the entire relevant list is printed in red.

Acknowledgements for improvements to the initial scorecards

The following have kindly contributed new, corrected, or alternative details for scorecards that were included in the first edition. They are credited by their initials in all relevant cases.

Alfred James (AJ)	Francis Payne (FP)	Ken Williams (Ken W)
Anselm Cramer (AC)	Harry Watton (HW)	Neil Leitch (NL)
Bill Reynolds (BR)	John Sadden (JS)	Stephen Musk (SM)
Brian Hunt (BH)		William Rice (WR)

Messrs Cramer and Sadden are the Archivists at, respectively, Ampleforth College and Portsmouth Grammar School, while William Rice is Premier Cricket & Competitions Officer of Cricket Victoria.

I have attached my own initials (KSW) in the few cases where I have been able to undertake productive new research since the posting of the first edition.

I am extremely grateful to all who have contributed to the progress of this project over the last few months.

In a case like this, it is normally invidious to single out one individual for particular thanks, but I'm going to break that rule this time. For a special word of appreciation must go to Harry Watton, who has provided enhancements to well over 100 of the original scorecards, largely through more diligent research than I was able to carry out myself of online newspaper archives. He has also visited the British Library, when open, to look at various school magazines and other sources not easily available, and has additionally brought to attention many of the project's 'new' scorecards. My gratitude to him for his continuing contributions to this project is immense. I hope it will be shared by all who have an interest in the accurate and, so far as possible, comprehensive recording of major feats in minor cricket.

Keith Walmsley - December 2020