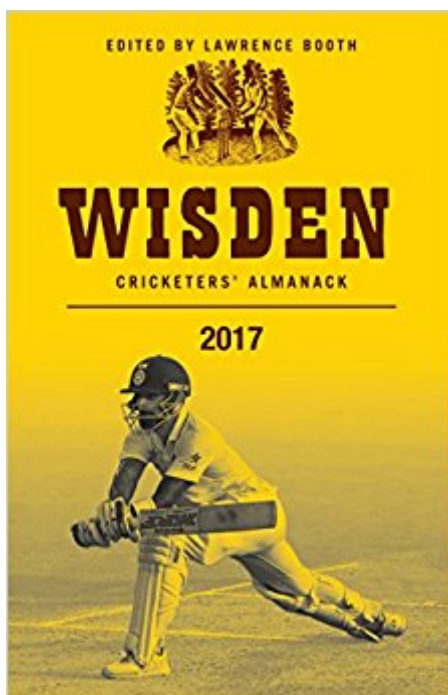


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# Wisden Cricketers' Almanack 2017



## Synopsis

The most famous sports book in the world, Wisden Cricketers' Almanack has been published every year since 1864. Home to some of the finest sports writing of the year--from the likes of Lawrence Booth, Gideon Haigh, Rob Smyth, Patrick Collins, Simon Wilde, Osman Samiuddin, Tony Cozier, Benj Moorehead, Raf Nicholson and Dileep Premachandran--it includes the eagerly awaited Notes by the Editor, the Cricketers of the Year awards, and the famous obituaries. As always, it contains coverage of every first-class game in every cricket nation, and reports and scorecards for all Tests and ODIs, together with trenchant opinion, compelling features and comprehensive records.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"There can't really be any doubt about the cricket book of the year, any year: it's obviously Wisden."

- Andrew Baker, The Daily Telegraph

This is Lawrence Booth's sixth year as Editor of Wisden, although he has contributed for many years. He is also cricket writer for the Daily Mail and author of several critically acclaimed cricket books. He is one of the most respected and well liked authorities in the modern game.

@the\_topspin

Excellent as always

Here's a nice coincidence; the opening fixtures of the County Championship starts

the day after the new Wisden hits the shelves (or your doormat). Yes some friendlies have been played, and Kent got off to a flying start by beating Leeds/Bradford University, but a win is a win as they say, and Wisden will give you something to peruse during the lunch break, or much longer if it's raining, and will certainly help me alleviate the forthcoming doom and gloom all no doubt suffer over the next six months. To business. It's best if you skip past pages 323 to 378, as that concentrates on England's capitulation/disgrace/surrender/shame in India and Bangladesh. Fortunately, what you can get your teeth into is the usual high quality writing and editorial comments. As a traditionalist, I liked the article on the return of the cable-knit sweater for this season and the feature on the kiss of death for some IPL players (those traded for big money but never heard of again). Unfortunately, cricket, like most other sports, has become too money orientated, witness the ridiculous sponsoring of IPL maximums - "That six was brought to you by..." • Yes cricket needs cash but it also needs television viewers, which isn't happening. With Sky's mind-boggling spending on football, it makes you wonder how long it can continue to invest in cricket (the company called one correspondent back from the West Indies to make him redundant). Terrestrial TV has to be involved but will the ECB, that only seem to see pound signs, listen? There are also fine pieces on two anniversaries; Test Match Special's 60th and 25 years of Durham being a first-class county, a celebration somewhat diminished by their forced demotion. It's good to see the women's cricket section expanded from 21 pages last year to 38. From a purely personal point of view, I'd like to see this part further enlarged. But something would have to be removed to accommodate this. Though the number of entrants was down, the winner of the annual writing competition focused on Lancashire's Gillette Cup semi final win in 1971; actually it focused on that one over. And that is the beauty of Wisden; it covers all aspects of the game and doesn't fixate on one particular area. One of my favourite features are the sound bite records within match reports. They tend to carry shoulder shrugging information such as Derbyshire's conceding of a double hundred in three successive Championship matches being only the fourth instance, but they're fun all the same. Distressingly, when you look at attendances it makes you wonder how some counties survive. Derbyshire averaged 330 spectators per day's play in the County Championship whilst Middlesex boasted 2,394, though much of that can be attributed to the final game of the season when more than 21,000 attended over four days. Sixteen pages of colour photos including an action

shot of pin-up Ellyse Perry and a rather scary one of ten boys playing on a rooftop in Mumbai as traffic below hurtles by. For the first time since its inception in 2003, Wisden's Book of the Year, *Following On*, is written by a woman; take a bow Emma John. Of course the saddest section in Wisden is the obituaries and last year was no different. Jack Bannister, Donald Carr, Tony Cozier, Martin Crowe, Hanif Mohammad, Rachael Heyhoe-Flint and Ken Higgs are just some that have left the crease for the final time and now fill their space in the pantheon. It's a sobering thought that time is catching up with all of us who remember cricket on a black and white television. What some who don't usually read Wisden realise is that it isn't just cricketers whose deaths are acknowledged; MP Jo Cox, Brian Rix, Terry Wogan and Muhammad Ali also get a mention for various reasons. Despite the 2017 issue having 16 fewer pages than its predecessor, you all know what to expect. Buy it; it'll make a sleep inducing passage of play more bearable

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