

**BUMBLE AT THE TEST**by **DAVID LLOYD****CHEERS, YORKSHIRE**

IT WAS Yorkshire day yesterday, which apparently means all natives of the county have the right to go into pubs and say: 'How much?!' But did I ever tell you about the dyslexic Yorkshireman who went to work with a cat flap on his head? Thought not.

**KEEP CALM AND CURRY ON**

FOR those of you concerned about the shortfall in my quest to complete the Modern Pentathanaan, it has been decided — after a full and frank discussion — that we will reconvene in Birmingham, the designated host city for this newly formed Olympic discipline. Just waiting for ratification from a chap called Coe (left).

**BOTHAM BEEFS UP**

OUR curry quest continued at Cumin on Sunday evening, where Sir Ian (left) was in attendance. He decided to have a plateful of raw green chillies to sort the men out from the boys. Some good naans on offer, but the best on show was Tim Bresnaan: fiery number with a bit of bully beef.

# BRILLIANT AND

By **PAUL NEWMAN**

Cricket Correspondent



**T**HEY are on the brink now. Almost there. England are heading rapidly towards the top of the Test world and there seems nothing that India can do to stop them.

This was brilliant, ruthless, outstanding cricket from England. They bullied the *galacticos* of India into submission in the way the great Australia teams of Shane Warne and Glenn McGrath used to do. The outgoing champions of the world had no answer at Trent Bridge.

England need to win this series by two clear Tests to replace their opponents at No 1 and they are so far ahead at the halfway stage it is surprising match referee Ranjan Madugalle hasn't stepped in already to save India from further punishment. They look out on their feet.

Can India, who have squandered two important tosses, really come back from such a mauling after they were so well placed on both Friday and Saturday to level this series?

Remember that England crashed to 124 for eight on the first day and then India passed their eventual first-innings score of 221 with four wickets down, but on both occasions Stuart Broad, with bat and then ball, simply wrested the initiative back for England.

Certainly a series score of 4-0 looks far more probable than an Indian fightback, even if Zaheer Khan and Virender Sehwag are fit to play in the third Test at Edgbaston next week. How India's falling giants need any boost they can get.

Yesterday was brutal. England battered the sub-standard India bowling, racking up a huge second-innings total of 544 after hitting 97 runs in the first hour of play alone. Then they blew India away to complete an emphatic victory by 319 runs with more than a day to spare.

If Broad, in the all-round form of his life, was a worthy man of the match then yesterday belonged to Bresnan, the yeoman 'bits and pieces' cricketer turned genuine Test all-rounder. He is an underestimated performer no longer.

Bresnan has played eight Tests across five series for England now and each time he has been on the winning side, yesterday falling just 10 runs short of a maiden century before taking five wickets with a lethal combination of pace and movement. And all on 'Yorkshire Day' too.

It should have been a setback for England when Chris Tremlett was ruled out on the first morning here but all they had to do was whistle up Bresnan, who was so close to playing in the first Test at Lord's ahead of Broad as it was. It will be impossible to leave him out now.

If Sunday became the story of the

## England on brink of being world No1

**SCOREBOARD**

TRENT BRIDGE: England beat India by 319 runs.

ENGLAND — First Innings 221	
Second Innings (Overnight: 441-6)	
†M Prior c Dhoni b Kumar.....	73
T Bresnan c Dravid b Kumar.....	90
S Broad run out.....	44
G Swann c Sub b Sharma.....	3
J Anderson not out.....	1
Extras (b9, lb5, w2, nb2).....	18

Total (120.2 overs).....	544
Fall: 6, 57, 219, 323, 329, 339, 458, 540, 540.	
Bowling: Kumar 36-5-124-4, I Sharma 29.2-4-131-2, Sreesanth 27-5-135-2, Yuvraj Singh 11-0-51-1, Harbhajan Singh 9-1-47-0, Raina 8-0-42-0.	

INDIA — First Innings 288	
Second Innings	
A Mukund c Strauss b Bresnan.....	3
R Dravid c Prior b Broad.....	6
V Laxman b Anderson.....	4
S Tendulkar lbw b Anderson.....	56
S Raina c Sub b Bresnan.....	1
Yuvraj Singh c Cook b Bresnan.....	8
*†M Dhoni lbw b Bresnan.....	0
Harbhajan Singh c Sub b Bresnan.....	46
P Kumar b Anderson.....	25
I Sharma not out.....	8
S Sreesanth b Broad.....	0
Extras (b1).....	1

Total (47.4 overs).....	158
Fall: 6, 13, 31, 37, 55, 55, 107, 129, 153.	
Bowling: Anderson 17-3-51-3, Broad 14.4-5-30-2, Bresnan 12-2-48-5, Swann 3-0-21-0, Pietersen 1-0-7-0.	



run-out of Ian Bell that never was, yesterday was a day simply to admire just how good England have become. We can never call them the complete side until they have triumphed consistently on the sub-continent but such has been the gulf between these teams so far that England will back themselves to triumph in India the winter after next if they carry on like this.

India were the most woeful they have been so far in this series yesterday. If Duncan Fletcher thought he would have a cushy, well-paid job in the autumn of his coaching career when he headed to India then this has been a rude awakening for him.

The sight of Suresh Raina and Yuvraj Singh throwing up 'spin' bowling that would have been better suited to the village green than this magnificent Nottingham Test arena would have been a painful one

for Fletcher. The man who began the resurgence in England's cricket that has finally led them to this stage sets high standards of professionalism and India have fallen a long way short of them at Lord's and here.

Most worryingly for Fletcher is that India do not seem to have their hearts in this series. They are muddling through, half-fit and half-interested, and vice-captain Gautam Gambhir did not play in this match because of a bruise. It is not good enough from an Indian perspective.

England will not worry about that. Matt Prior, Broad and Bresnan all helped themselves to easy runs — have England ever had a stronger lower order? — before Broad made a huge hole in India's wall by dismissing Rahul Dravid with a beauty before lunch. After that it was simply a question of when England would win, not if. Only Sachin

Tendulkar displayed any degree of permanence but any hopes he had of this being the day when he would score his 100th international century were undermined by the lack of support around him.

Jimmy Anderson dismissed VVS Laxman with another beauty before Bresnan claimed Abhinav Mukund with an unplayable bouncer. Bresnan had dropped Mukund first ball, sparing him the indignity of becoming only the second man in Test history to register a king pair.

Raina and Yuvraj look far too vulnerable against the short ball for Test cricket, Raina becoming one of two catches for 21-year-old substitute Scott Elstone, a local lad yet to make his first-class debut for Nottinghamshire. What is it with Trent Bridge and England fielding substitutes? First there was Gary Pratt running out Ricky Ponting in the

2005 Ashes, now here was Elstone, Wollaton Cricket Club's finest, receiving standing ovations for the two swirling catches he pounced and sympathy for the one that he dropped. He will never forget this day whatever happens in the future.

Anderson dismissed Tendulkar for the seventh time in Test cricket, the Little Master unwisely playing no stroke to him, before Broad fittingly had the final word when he bowled Sreesanth. But there were no wild celebrations from England this time, just satisfaction at a job well done.

All they have to worry about now is Jonathan Trott's fitness and how they can possibly fit Tremlett back in the side. Dhoni's problems run much deeper and he only has a two-day practice match at Northants on Friday to sort them out. Advantage England by a long way.

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**STUMPING UP THE DAY'S STATS****8** England hit more than 500 in second innings of a Test for eighth time**199** Matt Prior has scored 199 more runs than his wicketkeeping counterpart MS Dhoni**61** Stuart Broad has scored 61 more runs than India's five main bowlers combined**1** In his 10 innings, Abhinav Mukund has only surpassed 50 runs once