



ICC Cricket World Cup
2011

GAME ON

The tenth ICC Cricket World Cup is now underway, with England - runners-up in 1979, 1987 and 1992 - aiming for a maiden World Cup victory at their tenth attempt.

A FIRST WORLD Cup triumph is long overdue for England, who come to the tournament with mixed form in the 50 over format of the game. England's One Day International form has improved over the last two years - winning nine of their last ten ODI series prior their recent series defeat to Australia - and their annihilation of Australia in the Ashes and their victory in last year's ICC T-20 World Cup have made them one of the favourites in this year's tournament.

A string of injuries - almost all the players have had a spell out with injury in recent months and Graeme Swann, Paul Collingwood, Stuart Broad, Ajmal Shahzad and Tim Bresnan all had to leave Australia early - have affected England's preparations but all (except for Eoin Morgan) are expected to be fit for the World Cup.

India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh are co-hosting the tournament that is being held between February 19th until April 2nd, with 49 matches being played over 43 days. The 14 participating teams are divided into two groups of seven for a round-robin tournament, with each team playing the other six in its group to determine who will progress to the knock-out stages.

Australia has won the last three events in 2007, 2003 and 1999 and also triumphed in 1987 and Sri Lanka (1996),

Pakistan (1992) India (1983) and the West Indies (1975, 1979) have won the other six competitions.

England go into the tournament as fifth favourites, but captain Andrew says, "We're here to win it, and we feel like we've got an excellent chance. The guys took a lot of confidence from the fact we won that ICC World Twenty20 and know they can do it on the big stage, under pressure."

Former Australian captain Ian Chappell doesn't fancy England's chances, recently commenting, "Their chances have slipped based on what I saw in Australia," he said. "That is mainly because I thought they played spin very poorly in Australia, and if you're going to play spin poorly in Australia, I don't like your chances much on the subcontinent."

But England supporters can take comfort from the fact that before the Ashes, Chappell identified England's top-order batsmen as their 'Achilles heel' and thought they were taking a "hell of a gamble" on the out-of-form Alastair Cook.

Squad: Andrew Strauss (Captain), James Anderson, Matt Prior (Wicket-Keeper), Ajmal Shahzad, Graeme Swann, Ian Bell, Ravi Bopara, James Tredwell, Tim Bresnan, Jonathan Trott, Luke Wright, Stuart Broad, Paul Collingwood, Michael Yardy, Kevin Pietersen. Chris Tremlett (travelling reserve)

WHAT THE PLAYERS SAY:

**ANDREW STRAUSS (CAPTAIN)**

“We’ve got some pretty firm ideas about how we want to go about our cricket here, and we hope we take some other sides by surprise by doing that.

“We have the raw materials, a lot of talent in our squad and guys who can play expansive cricket and aggressive cricket.

“I hope we’ve learned some lessons about what we didn’t do well in Australia. But these are very different conditions, and a lot of our personnel are going to be different in this World Cup.

“You’re allowed to experience defeat at times. In some ways, it can be a huge motivating factor for you — as long as it doesn’t erode your confidence too much, and I don’t think it has in our case.”

**PAUL COLLINGWOOD**

[on England’s recent ODI series defeat to Australia]
“We are disappointed, but hopefully it will not be a factor in our chances to win this World Cup. It’s a different set of conditions altogether.

“The guys have a lot of confidence that they have played some good cricket in the one-day format in the past two years. So we will focus on that rather than on the last two months in Australia.

“I have spent my time in Test cricket and totally enjoyed my career in that form of the game. But I still believe I have got a lot to give in the one-day format and in the Twenty20.”

**MATT PRIOR (WICKET KEEPER)**

“The minute anyone says the word finisher you panic a little bit and think: ‘That’s a lot of responsibility’. But I love being part of a team, and you want to be a cog in the wheel and one of those who wins games. Being a finisher gives you the responsibility, and I enjoy that.

“I hope I can embrace that, knowing it’s going to be an important part of this World Cup. I don’t think Eoin’s boots can be filled – he’s a phenomenal player – but I’ll certainly try my best.

“It’s going to be hard. But playing on the subcontinent is something I feel confident about, so I’m looking forward to it.”



KEVIN PIETERSEN

[on his new role as opener in the team's batting order for the ICC World Cup]

"It's really exciting - a nice positive move going into the World Cup. We spoke about it going into the end of the Australia tour. We feel at the top of the innings is a really nice time to bat. I'm excited by it; the team is excited by it - and I'm looking forward to it.

"It's not a pinch-hitting role. It was put to me, and I was very excited - and the team is right behind the decision. I'm fine. It could be nice, especially in the sub-continent."



STUART BROAD

"I feel 100 per cent. It's been a bit of a long road back, but I'm feeling strong, feeling good, and hoping to play a full part.

"The only World Cup I've been involved in on a full scale was the World Twenty20. That went fantastically well. The games are packed in and there seemed to be a great balance. The 50-over one does go on for a long time, but as players we just play the cards we're dealt.

"With the sort of cricket we know we can play, we've got a good chance."

February 22		England	v		Holland	(Nagpur)
February 27		India	v		England	(Bangalore)
March 2		England	v		Ireland	(Bangalore)
March 6		England	v		South Africa	(Chennai)
March 11		Bangladesh	v		England	(Chittagong)
March 17		England	v		West Indies	(Chennai)

KNOCKOUT STAGE

March 23	Quarter-final (A1 v B4) (Chennai)
March 24	Quarter-final (A2 v B3) (Ahmedabad)
March 25	Quarter-final (A3 v B2) (Chennai)
March 26	Quarter-final (A4 v B1) (Colombo)
March 29	Semi-final (Colombo)
March 30	Semi-final (Mohali)
April 2	FINAL (Mumbai)

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