

At Stumps: 101 Amazing Facts About Cricket

ENGLAND'S GLORY
Steve England



The 'good old days' were just brutal and barbaric

GOT talking to a lady over at Stoke Park about the "good old days". We got onto the topic of the Dower House constructed for Sir Richard Berkeley in 1563. The prominent hill on which it sits is in fact man-made, unlike the rest of the hills around Stoke Park and Purdown which were formed by geological events.

The house itself goes as deep underground as it is high above and has a network of cellars.

I explained to her that the present house is not the original one.

The first one was called Stoke House, an Elizabethan mansion which was partially destroyed in the Bristol riots in 1700.

As a result, the owner Norborne Berkeley had the house re-modelled to what you see today.

You may recall me writing about the dip in the hillside. There a "sport" took place that was very popular in the 16th century.

Cock fighting involved two cockarels who fought until one killed the other or until one could not carry on.

People would bet on which bird would win.

It was barbaric and is now illegal in this country and most other countries.

But it still goes on in some parts the world, especially in south America and Asia.



The birds often had metal spikes tied to their legs to inflict wounds on their opponents.

This so-called "gentleman's sport" was practised at Stoke Park back in the 1700s.

And the dip in the hillside that is still visible on the right hand side of the hill is called the "cock pit".

An arena of death, if you like, where these fights took place.



I cannot help but see in my mind's eye all the people sitting around there hundreds of years ago.

Many of them would have been blind drunk, probably on wine and ale served by his lordship's wenches.

And all of them cheering on their waged bird to win.

It sounds very odd to us nowadays but that's what would have taken place there.

Finally a quiz question. Why is the Dower House yellow? I'll explain that in next week's column.

Please visit www.steeengland.co.uk

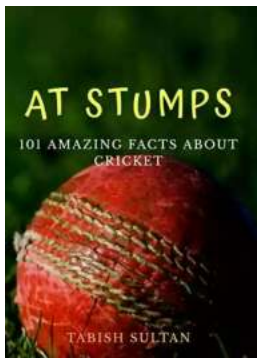
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Cricket, often regarded as the gentleman's sport, has been captivating fans around the world for centuries. Combining strategy, athleticism, and skill, this sport has become a symbol of national pride for various countries. From exhilarating matches to intriguing historical anecdotes, there is an abundance of fascinating facts to explore when it comes to cricket. In this article, we will dive deep into the realm of cricket and unravel 101 amazing facts that every cricket enthusiast should know.

1. The Origins of Cricket

Cricket dates back to the 13th century and was initially played by shepherds in Southeast England. The game evolved from a simple bat-and-ball activity to a sophisticated sport with defined rules over time.



At Stumps: 101 amazing facts about cricket

by Anna Carey (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Lending : Enabled

File size : 520 KB

Screen Reader : Supported

Print length : 30 pages



2. International Cricket Council (ICC)

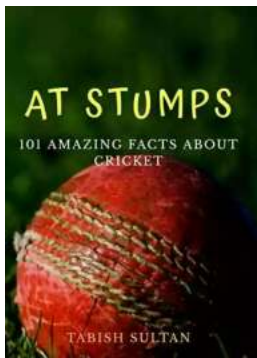
The International Cricket Council (ICC) is the global governing body for cricket. It was founded in 1909 and currently consists of 105 member countries. The ICC organizes major cricket tournaments, including the Cricket World Cup and the World Test Championship.

3. Cricket World Cup

The first Cricket World Cup was held in 1975 in England. The tournament is played once every four years, and teams from different nations compete to claim the prestigious title. As of 2019, England is the reigning champion.

4. Test Matches

A test match is the longest format of cricket and can last up to five days. The first official test match was played in 1877 between Australia and England. Since then, test cricket has become one of the most revered forms of the game.



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Do you know England has played most consecutive test matches with sides unchanged ?

Do you know who has scored more nineties in cricket ?

This book is the collection of amazing facts about Cricket.

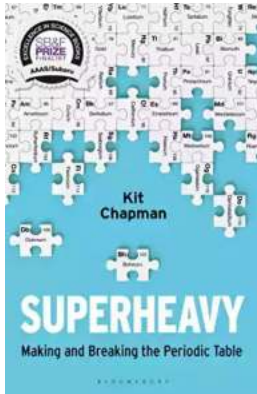
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Read the amazing facts and increase your knowledge about cricket.



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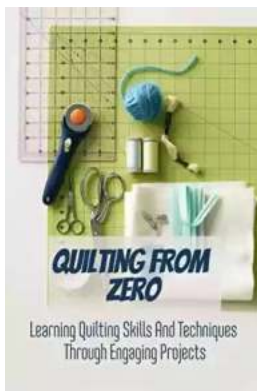
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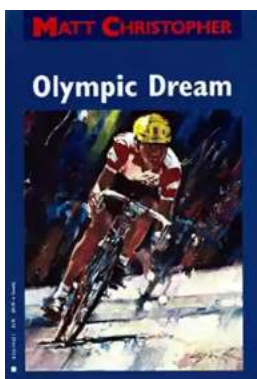
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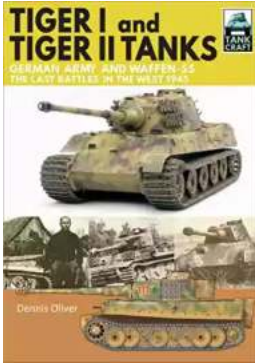
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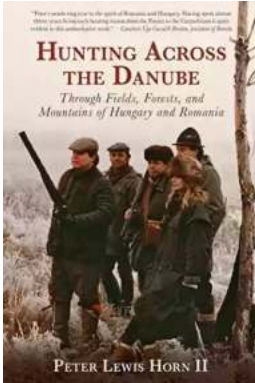
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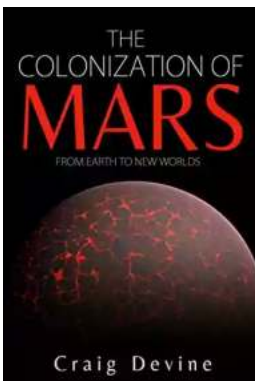
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