



Cricket Preview Pack

## Ashes 2010/11

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## Contents

Contents.....	1
Opta Overview .....	2
Australia's Selectors in a Spin? .....	3
Pietersen Under Pressure? .....	4
Batsmen head to head.....	5
A.    Ricky Ponting v Andrew Strauss .....	5
Bowler head to head.....	8
B.    Mitchell Johnson v Stuart Broad .....	8
England.....	10
Batsman scoring areas.....	10
Batsman dismissals.....	11
Bowling to left and right handed batsmen .....	13
Bowler dismissals v foot movement of opposition.....	14
Australia .....	17
Batsman scoring areas.....	17
Batsman dismissals.....	17
Bowling to left and right handed batsmen .....	19
Bowler dismissals v foot movement of opposition.....	21
Fortune Factor .....	23
Batsman Fortune .....	23
Bowler Fortune .....	25
Glossary.....	27
Batting Shot Types .....	27
Batting Foot Movement Types.....	28

## Opta Overview

Opta is Europe's leader in detailed sports data, collecting real time information on hundreds of sporting events each week.

Since 1996 we have been passionate about collecting, compiling, databasing and supplying sports data. We have the biggest and best database of sports information on the planet. We know who scored the goals, the tries and the runs. We know how they were scored and when.

And we know what this means in the context of the game, the league and history of the sport. We are obsessed with sport. And this obsession leads us to consistently innovate to provide the sports industry with the most compelling range of products available.

We are determined to make sense of statistics, bringing the data to life in a way that everyone can understand. It's our passion and the reason that sports fans recognise and value our brand. It is because of this that Opta data finds its way into every corner of the sports industry. We are equally comfortable helping our media clients power their coverage as we are assisting the world's best soccer clubs scout and recruit new talent. Our understanding of sport and the industry around it means that we can apply our knowledge to supply the information in the way it is required.

The company has grown and developed impressively over the last decade and we operate seven offices across Europe, in the UK, Italy, Germany, France and Spain. Our coverage is supplemented by correspondents across Europe, South America and the Far East.

## Cricket

Since November 2006, Opta has recorded data on every ball of international cricket. Not simply the batsman, bowler and runs scored but key performance data such as batsman foot movement, shot type and shot connection along with bowler type, line and length of delivery and information about who fielded the ball and in what position.

This database is now sufficient to analyze the strengths and weaknesses of international cricketers and to assess the situations where a player is likely to do well and when he might struggle.

The advent of the Indian Premier League has seen Opta extend its analysis to the most lucrative cricket competition in the world recording the outcome of every ball since its inception.

This Ashes preview is intended to give the reader an insight into the power of the Opta data by comparing the performances of players in both squads over the last two years of test cricket\*.

We hope that you enjoy reading this preview pack and that you find it interesting and informative. For more information about Opta or any enquiries regarding our cricket services please contact

[Customerservice-uk@optasports.com](mailto:Customerservice-uk@optasports.com) or call 0207 902 0621

\*Please note that the data in this document reflects the last two years of test cricket from 15<sup>th</sup> November 2008 until the start of the first Ashes test.

## Australia's Selectors in a Spin?

Much has been made of the omission of Nathan Hauritz from the Australian squad for the first test in Brisbane, however, the figures suggest that selectors may have got it wrong.

It is generally supposed that Kevin Pietersen is weak against left arm spin and to an extent this is true. His average from balls bowled by left-arm orthodox spin over the last two years is 39.5 runs per dismissal. By his standards, not outstanding, but hardly disastrous. By way of comparison his average against off spin is 56.3 so if the Ashes were decided solely by KP then the strategy may be valid.

"The panel believes the left-arm orthodox variety Xavier Doherty provides against a predominantly right-handed English middle-order is the better option in this game," - Australia's chairman of selectors Andrew Hilditch.

Unfortunately for them they have to dismiss the other ten batsmen. In the last two years England have been dismissed 55 times from balls bowled by right-arm off-spinners, scoring 2190 runs in the process, an average of 39.8 per dismissal. Against left-arm spinners their overall record is slightly superior with an average 45.3 (63 wickets, 2857 runs). Over the same period England have averaged 35.7 against all other bowling types combined. They have been especially weak against left arm pace, falling victim 56 times at an average of 23.6.

In all probability the facts suggest that Australia might be better off picking four pacemen and relying on part-time spin from Marcus North. To exclude Bollinger at the expense of a left arm spinner would appear to be statistical suicide.

As individuals many of the English batsmen have been much more successful against the left-arm spinners.

	RA Off Spin			LA Orthodox Spin		
	Runs	Dismissed	Av	Runs	Dismissed	Av
Alastair Cook	258	7	36.9	405	6	67.5
Andrew Strauss	344	8	43.0	249	2	124.5
Eoin Morgan	49	1	49.0	32	0	-
Ian Bell	148	1	148.0	311	5	62.2
Jonathan Trott	251	0	-	187	3	62.3
Kevin Pietersen	225	4	56.3	435	11	39.5
Matt Prior	228	5	45.6	253	5	50.6
Paul Collingwood	238	5	47.6	389	8	48.6

As the table shows the left handed batsmen in particular are much stronger against left-arm. Although Bell and Trott are weaker they are still averaging 60 runs plus – hardly a sign of impending collapse.

## Pietersen Under Pressure?

Opta have analysed Kevin Pietersen's dismissals over the two year period to determine any trends in his dismissals and unearth any weaknesses.

"I'm sure right-arm seamers have got me out most of my career," – Kevin Pietersen

Australia obviously think that Pietersen is the key wicket in the England side after his recent dip in form but are they right in their belief that he is weak against left arm spin?

The table shows his record against various bowling types of the last two years. The figures are further divided to show his effectiveness when the bowler comes over or round the wicket.

Bowler arm	Bowler type	Wicket side	Runs	Balls	Dismissals	Average	Strike rate	Av Duration (balls)
Left	Fast Seam	Over	64	150	4	16.0	42.7	37.5
Left	Medium Seam	Over	23	47	0	-	48.9	-
Left	Orthodox	Over	68	132	2	34.0	51.5	66.0
Left	Fast Seam	Round	30	56	0	-	53.6	-
Left	Orthodox	Round	367	553	9	40.8	66.4	61.4
Right	Fast Seam	Over	552	1016	14	39.4	54.3	72.6
Right	Leg Spin	Over	25	35	0	-	71.4	-
Right	Medium Seam	Over	34	53	0	-	64.2	-
Right	Off Spin	Over	153	212	1	153.0	72.2	212.0
Right	Fast Seam	Round	9	16	0	-	56.3	-
Right	Leg Spin	Round	19	34	0	-	55.9	-
Right	Off Spin	Round	72	90	3	24.0	80.0	30.0

- Over the last two years Pietersen averages a combined 36.8 against left arm bowlers compared with 48.0 against right arm bowlers.
- 33% of all his dismissals in that period were to left arm orthodox spinners. This is despite Pietersen only facing them for 29% of his total deliveries in that period.
- Australia would be wise to target Pietersen with Bollinger and Johnson as he averages a measly 23.5 against left arm fast bowlers and only lasts on average 51.5 deliveries.
- Pietersen's assertion that right arm pace bowlers get him out most often is correct with 14 dismissals in the last two years. In that period he averages 39.54 against left arm spin and 40.07 against right arm pace.

## Batsmen head to head

### A. Ricky Ponting v Andrew Strauss

Opta have identified the captain's battle as one of the most intriguing and important battles in the upcoming Ashes series.

#### Results

Ricky Ponting	v	Andrew Strauss
29	Tests	22
14 (48.3%)	Wins	10 (45.5%)
10 (34.5%)	Losses	4 (18.2%)
5 (17.2%)	Draws	8 (36.4%)

Ponting has won 48.3% of his matches as captain in 29 tests in the last two years compared with Strauss's 45.5% in 22 tests as captain. Despite being captain in seven more test matches over that period, it is interesting that Ponting has lost six more tests and has drawn three fewer matches than Strauss.

#### Batting

Ricky Ponting	v	Andrew Strauss
52	Innings	42
2151	Runs	1834
42.17	Average	48.26
9	Sixes Hit	3
268	Fours Hit	219
209	Highest Score	169
3	Centuries	6
15	Half Centuries	7
55	Percentage of attacking shots played	50
27	Percentage of defensive shots played	23
18	Percentage of deliveries left	27
7	Percentage of play and misses	7
7	Percentage of edges	6
3	Survived dropped catches	11

Ricky Ponting averages 54.68 in his test career so by his standards his average of 42.17 over the last two years falls well below expectations. In the last two years Ponting has only scored 3 centuries despite passing fifty on 15 occasions with a 16.7% conversion rate. Compare that with Strauss who has scored 6 hundreds and 7 fifties with a conversion rate of 46.2% and an average of 48.26.

In comparison their other statistics are similar however one key factor in Strauss's success may be the high proportion of survived dropped catches. Strauss has been dropped 8 times more than Ponting in the last two years.

## Fielding

Ricky Ponting	v	Andrew Strauss
40	Catches	20
9	Dropped Catches	3
17	Number of run saving stops	25
1	Run Outs responsible for	1
6	Overthrows	2
18	No of Misfields (Costing Runs)	10
17	Percentage of Direct Hits of the stumps	22

Despite holding more catches, Ponting's fielding statistics are inferior to Strauss's in every other category aside from run outs.

## Batsman shot breakdown

Here is a captain's breakdown of shots with attempts, runs scored and no dismissals for each type. For a full list of the definitions of each shot type see the glossary at the end of the document.

Andrew Strauss

Shot type	No. attempts	Runs	Dismissed	Attempts/ dismissed	Runs/ attempts	Runs/ dismissed
Backward Defensive	231	11	3	77	0.05	3.67
Cut	206	297	5	41.2	1.44	59.4
Drive	308	351	7	44	1.14	50.1
Dropped	28	30	0	-	1.07	-
Fended	7	1	0	-	0.14	-
Flick	95	121	1	95	1.27	121
Forward Defensive	531	24	10	53.1	0.05	2.4
Glance	177	159	1	177	0.90	159
Hook	8	7	0	-	0.88	-
Late Cut	16	30	0	-	1.88	-
No Shot	930	7	3	310	0.01	2.33
Pull	86	157	1	86	1.83	157
Pushed	384	169	3	128	0.44	56.3
Reverse Sweep	2	0	0	-	0	-
Slog	1	4	0	-	4	-
Slog-sweep	20	50	0	-	2.5	-
Steer	43	38	0	-	0.88	-
Sweep	102	130	1	102	1.27	130
Upper Cut	3	8	0	-	2.67	-
Worked	289	240	3	96.3	0.83	80

- 13 of Andrew Strauss's 38 dismissals have come from defensive shots
- The pull and glance are the most fruitful shots for Strauss in terms of runs per dismissal. In the last two years Strauss has scored 157 runs from 86 attempted pull shots and only been dismissed once. Similarly he has scored 159 runs from 177 attempted sweep shots and only been dismissed once.

- Strauss's two most successful shots in terms of the number of runs per attempt are the upper cut and slog sweep. For every attempted upper cut Strauss scores 2.67 runs from it and 2.5 per slog sweep attempt.
- Arguably Andrew Strauss's favourite shot is the cut. He averages 1.44 per every attempted cut shot. However what has often been his strength can also be his downfall. On average he is dismissed every 41.2 attempted cut shots, statistically the highest risk shot in his portfolio.

### Ricky Ponting

Shot type	No. attempts	Runs	Dismissed	Attempts/ dismissed	Runs/ attempts	Runs/ dismissed
Backward Defensive	145	8	0	-	0.06	-
Cut	112	151	3	37.3	1.35	50.33
Drive	328	520	8	41	1.59	65
Dropped	27	28	0	-	1.04	-
Fended	10	9	1	10	0.9	9
Flick	128	173	3	42.7	1.35	57.67
Forward Defensive	636	16	6	106	0.03	2.67
Glance	87	110	0	-	1.26	-
Hook	10	21	1	10	2.1	21
Late Cut	8	20	0	-	2.5	-
No Shot	545	4	2	272.5	0.01	2
Pull	155	321	8	19.38	2.07	40.13
Pushed	538	279	7	76.86	0.52	39.86
Reverse Sweep	1	1	0	-	1	-
Slog	1	0	0	-	0	-
Slog-sweep	7	20	0	-	2.86	-
Steer	43	39	0	-	0.91	-
Sweep	16	12	1	16	0.75	12
Upper Cut	1	1	0	-	1	-
Worked	190	152	1	190	0.8	152

- Ricky Ponting's most successful shot in terms of runs per attempt is the slog sweep although he plays it very rarely. He has attempted 7 over the last 2 years and scored 20 runs at an average of 2.86 runs per attempt.
- Ponting has scored more runs from drives (520) and pull shots (321) than any other over the last two years. However, he has been dismissed 8 times attempting the pull shot and 8 times attempting the drive. So despite their productivity in terms of runs scored, Ponting is dismissed every 19.38 attempts at the pull shot and every 41 attempts at a drive.
- Unlike Strauss, Ponting has not been dismissed attempting a backward defensive shot in 145 attempts.

## Bowler head to head

### B. Mitchell Johnson v Stuart Broad

#### Bowling

Mitchell Johnson	v	Stuart Broad
25	Matches	23
119	Wickets	73
6	5 Wickets in an Innings	3
2	10 Wickets in a Match	0
957.2	Overs Bowled	724.2
8/61	Best Bowling Figures	6/91
59	No of 1 to 5 Batsmen Dismissed	43
75	Percentage of dot balls bowled	77
48.2	Strike Rate	59.5
26.76	Average	31.31
3.32	Economy Rate	3.15
5	Percentage of Edges Induced	6
177	Number of Maidens Bowled	157
8	Percentage of Balls a Play and Miss is Induced	6
15	Dropped Catches off their Bowling	10

Both of these bowlers will be expected to play a key role for their respective sides throughout the series. The figures suggest that Johnson is a more attacking bowler claiming more five wicket hauls and having a better average. Broad is perhaps slightly more conservative with a better economy rate and a slightly higher percentage of dot balls bowled.

The ability to knock over the leading opposition batsmen is sure to be a key facet in the Ashes. In this respect Johnson has been more successful over the last two years with 59 scalps of players batting between 1 and 5 in the order compared to Broad's 43.

#### Batting

Mitchell Johnson	v	Stuart Broad
38	Innings	33
796	Runs	724
22.74	Average	24.96
17	Sixes Hit	5
99	Fours Hit	91
123	Highest Score	169
1	Centuries	1
3	Half Centuries	2
61	Percentage of attacking shots played	63
22	Percentage of Defensive shots played	27
17	Percentage of deliveries left	10
9	Percentage of play and misses	9
6	Percentage of edges	9
4	Survived dropped catches	12

Both players have made useful contributions down the order and a half-century here or there could make all the difference in a tight series. Johnson would appear to be the more belligerent in terms of the numbers of fours and sixes hit. However, he is much more likely to leave the ball alone, electing not to play at around one in six of balls faced as opposed to Broad's one in ten.

Broad has enjoyed an element of good fortune over the last two years having been dropped 12 times in 33 innings and edging around 9% of all deliveries faced.

## England

### Batsman scoring areas

Below is a run scoring breakdown of England's batsmen and where they score their runs on the outfield. The final position of every shot is recorded and the number of runs scored in the four sectors has been calculated.

Pos	Name	Off side Behind Sq	Off side In front Sq	Leg side In front Sq	Leg side Behind Sq	Total runs	% off side	% in front
1	Andrew Strauss	378 (21%)	427 (23%)	477 (26%)	552 (30%)	1834	44%	49%
2	Alastair Cook	302 (17%)	477 (27%)	551 (31%)	461 (26%)	1791	43%	57%
3	Jonathan Trott	222 (19%)	307 (27%)	348 (30%)	278 (24%)	1155	46%	57%
4	Kevin Pietersen	152 (11%)	415 (29%)	513 (36%)	336 (24%)	1416	40%	66%
5	Paul Collingwood	255 (17%)	391 (26%)	424 (29%)	417 (28%)	1487	43%	55%
6	Ian Bell	240 (26%)	203 (22%)	310 (33%)	187 (20%)	940	47%	55%
7	Matt Prior	394 (30%)	320 (24%)	355 (27%)	265 (20%)	1334	54%	51%
8	Eoin Morgan	41 (16%)	101 (39%)	48 (19%)	66 (26%)	256	55%	58%

- Andrew Strauss is the only England batsman to have scored more runs behind square than in front
- Kevin Pietersen has scored 60% of his runs on the leg side in the last 2 years. This is more than any of England's eight batsmen in the squad. 36% have been in front of square on the leg side
- Matt Prior and Eoin Morgan are the only English batsmen who score more runs on the off side than the leg side.
- Matt Prior has scored 30% of his runs behind square on the off side. By way of comparison Kevin Pietersen has scored just 11% of his runs in this zone.

## Batsman dismissals

Here is a breakdown of the top eight English batsmen, their dismissals and foot movement to the dismissal delivery. See the glossary at the end of the document for definitions of foot movement types

Andrew Strauss

Dismissal	Back foot	Backs away	Down the track	Ducked	Front foot	Moves in front	No movement
Bowled	3				4		1
Caught	9				13		2
Caught and bowled	1				2		
LBW	1				2		

Alistair Cook

Dismissal	Back foot	Backs away	Down the track	Ducked	Front foot	Moves in front	No movement
Bowled	1				1		
Caught	12				16		4
Caught and bowled	1						
LBW	3				3		1

Jonathan Trott

Dismissal	Back foot	Backs away	Down the track	Ducked	Front foot	Moves in front	No movement
Bowled	1		1		4		
Caught	6				5		
Caught and bowled							
LBW					2		

Kevin Pietersen

Dismissal	Back foot	Backs away	Down the track	Ducked	Front foot	Moves in front	No movement
Bowled	1	1			7		
Caught	2		1		9	1	1
Caught and Bowled	1				2		
L.B.W.	1				4	1	
Stumped			1				

Paul Collingwood

Dismissal	Back foot	Backs away	Down the track	Ducked	Front foot	Moves in front	No movement
Bowled	1				1	1	
Caught	4	1	4		10	1	2
Caught and bowled					1		
LBW	2				5	2	

Ian Bell

Dismissal	Back foot	Backs away	Down the track	Ducked	Front foot	Moves in front	No movement
Bowled	1				4		1
Caught	6	1			4	1	1
LBW					1		1

Matt Prior

Dismissal	Back foot	Backs away	Down the track	Ducked	Front foot	Moves in front	No movement
Bowled	3		1		3		
Caught	6	2			10		
Caught and bowled			1				
LBW					1		

Eoin Morgan

Dismissal	Back foot	Backs away	Down the track	Ducked	Front foot	Moves in front	No movement
Bowled					1		
Caught	2				3		
LBW					1		

- Andrew Strauss has been out on the front foot 21 times in the last two years compared with 14 on the back foot. 71.4% of those front foot dismissals were caught.
- 59.3% of Matt Prior's dismissals came about through playing off the front foot or coming down the track to the bowler.
- Kevin Pietersen has been dismissed when playing forward for 74% of his dismissals in the two year period. Of these, seven have been bowled, level with Michael Clarke for the most dismissed in this manner.

## Bowling to left and right handed batsmen

Here is a breakdown of England's pace attack against Australia and their effectiveness against left and right handers from both over and round the wicket.

James Anderson

Batsman hand	Over/round wicket	Number of dismissals	Deliveries	Runs	Average	Strike rate	Economy rate
Left	Over	29	1814	819	28.24	62.55	2.71
Left	Round	10	479	203	20.3	47.9	2.54
Right	Over	45	2542	1330	29.56	56.49	3.14
Right	Round	0	66	28	-	-	2.55

Stuart Broad

Batsman hand	Over/round wicket	Number of dismissals	Deliveries	Runs	Average	Strike rate	Economy rate
Left	Over	23	1301	737	32.04	56.57	3.40
Left	Round	10	660	358	35.8	66	3.25
Right	Over	39	2310	1139	29.21	59.23	2.96
Right	Round	1	100	48	48	100	2.88

Steven Finn

Batsman hand	Over/round wicket	Number of dismissals	Deliveries	Runs	Average	Strike rate	Economy rate
Left	Over	12	459	280	23.33	38.25	3.66
Left	Round	2	123	77	38.50	61.50	3.76
Right	Over	17	600	381	22.41	35.29	3.81
Right	Round	1	10	5	5.00	10.00	3.00

Graeme Swann

Batsman hand	Over/round wicket	Number of dismissals	Deliveries	Runs	Average	Strike rate	Economy rate
Left	Over	1	184	112	112.00	184.00	3.65
Left	Round	61	2741	1177	19.30	44.93	2.58
Right	Over	38	2501	1366	35.95	65.82	3.28
Right	Round	13	690	346	26.62	53.08	3.01

Tim Bresnan

Batsman hand	Over/round wicket	Number of dismissals	Deliveries	Runs	Average	Strike rate	Economy rate
Left	Over	0	374	243	-	-	3.90
Left	Round	2	144	79	39.50	72.00	3.29
Right	Over	12	476	169	14.08	39.67	2.13
Right	Round	0	1	1	-	-	6.00

Ajmal Shahzad

Batsman hand	Over/round wicket	Number of dismissals	Deliveries	Runs	Average	Strike rate	Economy rate
Left	Over	1	42	26	26.00	42.00	3.71
Left	Round	0	9	9	-	-	6.00
Right	Over	2	45	22	11.00	22.50	2.93
Right	Round	1	7	6	6.00	7.00	5.14

Monty Panesar

Batsman hand	Over/round wicket	Number of dismissals	Deliveries	Runs	Average	Strike rate	Economy rate
Left	Over	4	599	332	83.00	149.75	3.33
Left	Round	0	43	27	-	-	3.77
Right	Over	1	111	60	60.00	111.00	3.24
Right	Round	7	590	269	38.43	84.29	2.74

- James Anderson is more potent when bowling around the wicket to left handed batsmen. He averages 20.3 compared with 28.24 to left handers from over the wicket.
- Stuart Broad has been more effective when bowling over the wicket with a strike rate of 58.2 compared with 69 from around the wicket.
- Graeme Swann is a far more effective bowler when bowling around the wicket. Swann has a strike rate of 46.4 compared with 68.8 when bowling over the wicket.
- Steven Finn averages a very healthy 22.8 against all batsmen bowling over the wicket and 27.3 against all batsmen bowling round the wicket. However, this increases to 38.5 when bowling to left handers only from around the wicket.
- Finn averages 20.3 against right handers so far in his test career compared to 25.5 against left handers.

## Bowler dismissals v foot movement of opposition

The tables below reflect the type of dismissals gained by the England bowlers and the footwork they induced at dismissal.

James Anderson

Dismissal Type	Back foot	Backs away	Down the track	Ducked	Front foot	Moves in front	No movement
Bowled	4	1			11	1	3
Caught	15		2		25	1	9
LBW	2				10		

Stuart Broad

Dismissal Type	Back foot	Backs away	Down the track	Ducked	Front foot	Moves infront	No movement
Bowled	7				6	1	2
Caught	19	1			20	1	2
Caught and bowled	1						
LBW	4				7	1	1

Steven Finn

Dismissal Type	Back foot	Backs away	Down the track	Ducked	Front foot	Moves infront	No movement
Bowled	1				1		
Caught	15	1			7		2
LBW	2				1	2	

Graeme Swann

Dismissal Type	Back foot	Backs away	Down the track	Ducked	Front foot	Moves infront	No movement
Bowled	3		3		15		
Caught	3		6		35	1	2
Caught and bowled					4		
LBW	5				26	5	2
Stumped			1		2		

Tim Bresnan

Dismissal Type	Back foot	Backs away	Down the track	Ducked	Front foot	Moves infront	No movement
Bowled					1	1	1
Caught	2	1			6	1	1

Ajmal Shahzad

Dismissal Type	Back foot	Backs away	Down the track	Ducked	Front foot	Moves infront	No movement
Bowled					1	1	1
Caught					1		

## Monty Panesar

Dismissal Type	Back foot	Backs away	Down the track	Ducked	Front foot	Moves infront	No movement
Bowled	1				1		
Caught	1		2		2		1
Caught and bowled	1				1		
LBW					2		

- 55.7% of all England's bowler's wickets in the last 2 years have been from inducing batsmen to play off the front foot. This will be vital for England considering only 31% of all Australia's dismissals in that period have come off the back foot.
- Stuart Broad has dismissed 31 or 42.5% of batsmen off the back foot out of his 73 dismissals in the 2 year period.
- Similarly Steven Finn has claimed 56.3% of his wickets with the batsmen playing off the back foot. The battle between Broad and Finn and the Australian will be interesting considering these stats.

## Australia

### Batsman scoring areas

Below is a run scoring breakdown of Australia's batsmen and where they score their runs on the outfield.

Pos.	Name	Off side In front Sq	Off side Behind Sq	Leg side In front Sq	Leg side Behind Sq	Total runs	% off side	% in front
1	Simon Katich	480 (22%)	617 (29%)	521 (24%)	545 (25%)	2163	51%	53%
	Shane Watson	266 (21%)	298 (24%)	462 (36%)	241 (19%)			
3	Ricky Ponting	259 (14%)	633 (34%)	536 (28%)	457 (24%)	1885	47%	62%
	Michael Clarke	365 (17%)	853 (41%)	569 (27%)	299 (14%)			
5	Michael Hussey	277 (20%)	424 (31%)	398 (29%)	262 (19%)	1361	51%	60%
	Marcus North	256 (23%)	263 (23%)	326 (29%)	277 (25%)			
7	Brad Haddin	229 (19%)	342 (28%)	470 (38%)	190 (15%)	1231	46%	66%

- Michael Clarke has scored 68% of his runs in front of square in the last 2 years, more than any other specialist batsman on either side. He also scores the biggest proportion of runs on the offside (58%)
- Shane Watson and Brad Haddin scored more runs in front of square on the leg side (36% and 38%) than any of the other players in either squad.
- Three of Australia's top seven scored more runs on the off side over the last two years.

### Batsman dismissals

Here is a breakdown of the seven leading Australian batsmen in their Ashes squad over the past two years, their dismissals and foot movement to the dismissal delivery. (NB this figures exclude dismissal types not allocated to bowler e.g. run out).

Simon Katich

Dismissal	Back foot	Backs away	Down the track	Ducked	Front foot	Moves in front	No movement
Bowled					1	2	
Caught	6	1			17	3	3
LBW	2				2	4	1

Shane Watson

Dismissal	Back foot	Backs away	Down the track	Ducked	Front foot	Moves in front	No movement
Bowled	3				1		
Caught	7				5		1
LBW	1				7		1

Ricky Ponting

Dismissal	Back foot	Backs away	Down the track	Ducked	Front foot	Moves in front	No movement
Bowled	5				1		1
Caught	11	1			13	2	1
LBW					3	2	

Michael Clarke

Dismissal	Back foot	Backs away	Down the track	Ducked	Front foot	Moves in front	No movement
Bowled			1		7		1
Caught	2	1	4	1	12		
Caught and bowled					1		
Hit wicket						1	
LBW					2	2	
Stumped			1		1		

Michael Hussey

Dismissal	Back foot	Backs away	Down the track	Ducked	Front foot	Moves in front	No movement
Bowled	2				3		
Caught	11				13		2
Caught and bowled					1		
LBW					8		1

Marcus North

Dismissal	Back foot	Backs away	Down the track	Ducked	Front foot	Moves in front	No movement
Bowled	3				4		
Caught	1				14	1	1
Caught and bowled							1
LBW					2		1
Stumped			1		1		

Brad Haddin

Dismissal	Back foot	Backs away	Down the track	Ducked	Front foot	Moves in front	No movement
Bowled					3		1
Caught	8		2		8		2
Caught and bowled					1		
LBW	1				1		
Stumped			1				

- England should be encouraged to make the Australian batsmen play on the front foot. Only 31% of all their dismissals in the two year period have been off the back foot.
- Incredibly Michael Clarke has only been caught off the back foot on 2 occasions out of his 37 dismissals. On the other hand Ricky Ponting has been out on 16 occasions when playing off the back foot which represents 41% of his total dismissals.
- As perhaps expected, Michael Katich is the most likely Australian batsmen to struggle with his footwork. He has been dismissed on 4 occasions when failing to move his feet and a further 8 times when moving in front of his stumps.
- Consequently Katich has also been dismissed LBW 9 times which is perhaps indicative of his problems with footwork. England should be advised to bowl full and straight.

## Bowling to left and right handed batsmen

Here is a breakdown of Australia's pace attack and their effectiveness against left and right handers from over and round the wicket.

Ben Hilfenhaus

Batsman hand	Over/round wicket	Number of dismissals	Deliveries	Runs	Average	Strike rate	Econ. rate
Left	Over	20	984	535	26.75	49.20	3.26
Left	Round	3	124	44	14.67	41.33	2.13
Right	Over	25	1768	896	35.84	70.72	3.04
Right	Round	0	32	16	-	-	3.00

Mitchell Johnson

Batsman hand	Over/round wicket	Number of dismissals	Deliveries	Runs	Average	Strike rate	Econ. rate
Left	Over	36	1914	1215	33.75	53.17	3.81
Left	Round	2	100	51	25.50	50.00	3.06
Right	Over	65	3159	1558	23.97	48.60	2.96
Right	Round	16	649	361	22.56	40.56	3.34

Doug Bollinger

Batsman hand	Over/round wicket	Number of dismissals	Deliveries	Runs	Average	Strike rate	Econ. rate
Left	Over	13	974	477	36.69	74.92	2.94
Left	Round	0	4	1	-	-	1.50
Right	Over	34	1141	586	17.24	33.56	3.08
Right	Round	2	161	102	51.00	80.50	3.80

Nathan Hauritz

Batsman hand	Over/round wicket	Number of dismissals	Deliveries	Runs	Average	Strike rate	Econ. rate
Left	Over	1	274	125	125.00	274.00	2.74
Left	Round	20	1203	500	25.00	60.15	2.49
Right	Over	31	2183	1233	39.77	70.42	3.39
Right	Round	6	433	243	40.50	72.17	3.37

Peter Siddle

Batsman hand	Over/round wicket	Number of dismissals	Deliveries	Runs	Average	Strike rate	Econ. rate
Left	Over	12	1066	512	42.67	88.83	2.88
Left	Round	3	272	133	44.33	90.67	2.93
Right	Over	38	2129	1051	27.66	56.03	2.96
Right	Round	3	78	20	6.67	26.00	1.54

Shane Watson

Batsman hand	Over/round wicket	Number of dismissals	Deliveries	Runs	Average	Strike rate	Econ. rate
Left	Over	8	334	167	20.88	41.75	3.00
Left	Round	2	148	55	27.50	74.00	2.23
Right	Over	18	776	457	25.39	43.11	3.53
Right	Round	0	8	5	-	-	3.75

- Doug Bollinger has a better average (17.24) and strike rate (33.56) against right handed batsmen rather than left handed batsmen when bowling over the wicket. Bollinger averages 36.69 against left hand batsman when bowling over the wicket with a strike rate of 74.92
- Ben Hilfenhaus averages 25.2 against left handed batsmen compared with 36.48 against right handed batsmen. His vastly superior record against left handers suggests he should take the new ball against Cook and Strauss.
- Mitchell Johnson averages a combined 23.7 against right handed batsmen compared with 33.3 against left handers.

- Nathan Hauritz has been more potent against left handed batsmen bowling around the wicket. He averages 25 compared with 125 when bowling over the wicket and a combined 39.89 against right handed batsmen.
- Peter Siddle averages a remarkable 6.67 against right handed batsmen when bowling around the wicket compared with 27.66 when bowling over the wicket. He average significantly increases when bowling to left handers (43).

## Bowler dismissals v foot movement of opposition

The tables below reflect the type of dismissals gained by the Australian bowlers and the footwork they induced at dismissal. (NB this figures exclude obstruction and run outs).

Ben Hilfenhaus

Dismissal Type	Back foot	Backs away	Down the track	Ducked	Front foot	Moves infront	No movement
Bowled	2				4	1	
Caught	15			1	10		3
Caught and bowled	1						
LBW	2				8	1	

Mitchell Johnson

Dismissal Type	Back foot	Backs away	Down the track	Ducked	Front foot	Moves infront	No movement
Bowled	3	1			12	1	6
Caught	21	2	1	1	44	2	10
LBW	3				9	1	2

Doug Bollinger

Dismissal Type	Back foot	Backs away	Down the track	Ducked	Front foot	Moves infront	No movement
Bowled	1				6		1
Caught	12	2		1	17		4
LBW					3	1	1

Nathan Hauritz

Dismissal Type	Back foot	Backs away	Down the track	Ducked	Front foot	Moves infront	No movement
Bowled	1				4		
Caught	13	1	3		22	2	2
Caught and bowled			1				
LBW	2				4	1	1
Stumped			1				

Peter Siddle

Dismissal Type	Back foot	Backs away	Down the track	Ducked	Front foot	Moves infront	No movement
Bowled	1				8		2
Caught	14		1		15		4
Caught and bowled	2						1
LBW	1				4	2	1

Shane Watson

Dismissal Type	Back foot	Backs away	Down the track	Ducked	Front foot	Moves infront	No movement
Bowled					3		3
Caught	4	2			4	1	2
LBW	1				4	3	1

- Mitchell Johnson has claimed 15 LBW scalps in the two year period which is unsurprising given that 54.6% of his wickets taken in that period were inducing the batsmen to play off the front foot.
- 22.7% of his wickets also came off the back foot which highlights his ability to adapt to different surfaces but perhaps also hints at the inconsistency of Johnson.
- 26 or 53.1% of Bollinger's 49 test wickets in the two year period have been from deliveries that have forced the batsmen to play off the front foot.
- 28.5% of Shane Watson's wickets have induced batsmen into no foot movement or even backing away. This could suggest the deceptive nature and speed of Watson's bowling.

## Fortune Factor

Often in cricket the fortune factor or 'luck' is often underestimated but can be pivotal to the success or failure of a team or player. The performance of a team or player is heavily weighted on ability but the line between success and failure can often be minimal and on occasions outside the control of that entity.

### Batsman Fortune

An example of good fortune from a batsman's perspective would be reflected by a low ratio between dismissals and errors. A false shot is defined by Opta as an erroneous connection with the ball. This includes various types of edges such as inside, outside, bottom, leading and top edge and mistimed connections with the blade of the bat. An error is defined as either a play and miss or a false shot. Therefore, a batsman committing many errors but going unpunished would be defined as having a low % fortune level.

#### England

Pos.	Name	Balls faced	Runs	Dismissals	Number of times dropped	False shots	False shots per 100 balls	Errors per 100 balls	% errors leading to dismissals
1	Andrew Strauss	3467	1834	38	12	297	8.6	13.3	8%
2	Alastair Cook	3477	1791	43	7	419	12.1	15.8	8%
3	Jonathan Trott	2445	1155	21	2	377	15.4	19.8	4%
4	Kevin Pietersen	2394	1416	34	8	333	13.9	18.0	8%
5	Paul Collingwood	3090	1487	35	2	299	9.7	13.6	8%
6	Ian Bell	1938	940	21	4	293	15.1	18.4	6%
7	Matt Prior	2041	1334	31	7	277	13.6	20.4	7%
8	Eoin Morgan	489	256	7	1	62	12.7	20.2	7%

- Trott appears to be the most fortunate out of the England batsmen in that only 4% of his mistakes have led to his dismissal. However he has only been dropped twice.
- Incredibly Andrew Strauss has been dropped 12 times over the last 2 years but plays fewer false shots per 100 balls (8.6) and commits fewer errors per 100 balls (false shots + play and miss) than any of his colleagues.
- Perhaps unsurprisingly Alastair Cook has played more false shots than any of England's other batsmen (419), which is on average a false shot every 8.3 balls. He has also been dismissed more than any of his team mates (43).
- Despite many professing Ian Bell to be England's most technically gifted player, he plays more false shots per 100 balls (15.1) than 6 of his other 7 colleagues.

## Australia

Pos.	Name	Balls faced	Runs	Dismissals	Number of times dropped	False shots	False shots per 100 balls	Errors per 100 balls	% errors leading to dismissals
1	Simon Katich	4329	2163	45	11	404	9.3	12.6	8%
2	Shane Watson	2389	1267	28	6	204	8.5	12.3	10%
3	Ricky Ponting	2988	1885	42	3	362	12.1	15.2	9%
4	Michael Clarke	3999	2086	38	5	401	10.0	13.8	7%
5	Michael Hussey	3113	1361	43	7	261	8.4	12.2	11%
6	Marcus North	2297	1122	30	2	185	8.1	11.2	12%
7	Brad Haddin	1836	1231	29	4	173	9.4	13.4	12%

- Ricky Ponting's form over the last 2 years has been below his normal high standards which are demonstrated above. Ponting has played more false shots per 100 balls (12.1) than any of the Australian top 7 and has also committed more errors per 100 balls (false shots and play and misses) than his team mates (15.2).
- Michael Clarke is the most fortunate batsmen in the Australian top 7 in that only 7% of his errors have lead to him being dismissed. On the other hand Marcus North and Brad Haddin are the least fortunate Australian batsmen in that 12% of their errors have resulted in dismissals.
- Despite Katich's success over the last 2 years it is interesting that he is the second most fortunate batsmen in the Australian top 7 after Clarke. Only 8% of his errors get punished and he has been dropped times more times than any of his team-mates (11).

## Bowler Fortune

An example of good fortune from a bowler's perspective would be reflected by a high ratio between a dismissal and a false shot from a batsman. A bowler inducing many false shots resulting in a high number of wickets would be defined as having a high % fortune level. An error is defined as a false shot + a play and miss.

### England

Name	False shots	Dropped catches	Wickets	Balls bowled	Runs conceded	False shots induced per 100 balls	Errors induced per 100 balls	Dismissals per error
James Anderson	485	8	84	4901	2380	9.9	17.9	10%
Stuart Broad	581	10	73	4371	2282	13.3	19.6	9%
Steven Finn	222	1	32	1192	743	18.6	27.2	10%
Graeme Swann	826	12	113	6116	3001	13.5	17.5	11%
Tim Bresnan	175	0	14	995	492	17.6	28.0	5%
Ajmal Shahzad	20	0	4	103	63	19.4	26.2	15%
Monty Panesar	93	3	12	1343	688	6.9	10.8	8%

- Of England's first choice bowlers, Graeme Swann is the most fortunate in that 11% of the errors he induces lead to dismissals.
- On the other hand Stuart Broad is the least fortunate in that despite creating more errors per 100 balls (19.6) than Swann (17.5), only 9% of those errors lead to dismissals.
- Broad is also unfortunate in that 10 dropped catches have occurred of his bowling. Only Swann has more with 12.
- Steven Finn and Ajmal Shahzad induced the most false shots per 100 balls than the other 5 England bowlers. Shahzad induces 19.4 false shots per 100 balls and Finn 18.6 per 100 balls.

## Australia

Name	False shots	Dropped catches	Wickets	Balls bowled	Runs conceded	False shots induced per 100 balls	Errors induced per 100 balls	Dismissals per error
Ben Hilfenhaus	240	6	48	2908	1491	8.3	14.0	12%
Mitchell Johnson	602	15	119	5822	3185	10.3	18.0	11%
Doug Bollinger	285	5	49	2280	1166	12.5	19.0	11%
Nathan Hauritz	388	14	58	4093	2101	9.5	12.4	11%
Peter Siddle	377	12	56	3545	1716	10.6	16.7	9%
Shane Watson	164	0	28	1266	684	13.0	18.4	12%

- Ben Hilfenhaus and Shane Watson are Australia's most fortunate bowlers in that 12% of all errors induced lead to a dismissal. Siddle is the least fortunate (9%) despite inducing the third highest number of false shots behind Johnson and Hauritz.
- Doug Bollinger creates the most errors (false shots + play and misses) per 100 balls of all the Australian bowlers (19).
- Shane Watson induces the most false shots per 100 balls (13) out of all the Australian bowlers.
- Mitchell Johnson and Nathan Hauritz have suffered the most drop catches off their bowling. Johnson has suffered 15 drop catches and Hauritz 14. Astonishingly 52 catches have been dropped off these frontline Australian bowlers.

## Glossary

### Batting Shot Types

Name	Definition
No Shot	The striking batsman makes no attempt to play any shot
Drive	The striking batsman plays an aggressive shot with a vertical bat to a fullish length delivery between cover point on the off-side and mid wicket on the leg side
Sweep	The striking batsman goes down on one knee with a sweeping motion and plays the ball between fine leg and backward square leg
Cut	The striking batsman makes a cutting motion to a ball short and wide of off stump to play it square on the off-side
Slog-sweep	The striking batsman goes down on one knee with a sweeping motion and plays an aggressive shot in the air through deep square leg and mid wicket
Hook	The striking batsman on receiving a short ball above the shoulders plays with a horizontal bat looking to play the ball aggressively between fine leg and deep square leg
Upper Cut	The striking batsman makes a deliberate attempt to lift the ball over the wicketkeeper or slips area using an upward motion with a horizontal bat
Pull	The striking batsman on receiving a short ball between the waist and the shoulders plays with a horizontal bat looking to play the ball aggressively between deep square leg and mid wicket
Glance	The striking batsman attempts to deflect a leg side delivery down to the fine leg area
Forward Defensive	The striking batsman with his weight on the front foot plays a shot with a vertical bat attempting just to keep the ball away from the stumps
Reverse Sweep	The striking batsman goes down on one knee with a sweeping motion playing the ball like an opposite handed batsman would play a normal sweep
Backward Defensive	The striking batsman with his weight on his back foot plays a shot with the full face of the bat attempting just to keep the ball away from the stumps
Worked	The striking batsman on receiving a delivery on his hips deflects the ball in full control of the shot towards the square leg region
Pushed	The striking batsman pushes at the delivery looking for a run short on the off or leg side
Flick	The striking batsman uses the movement of his wrists to get the ball through the leg side area
Steer	The striking batsman deflects a delivery outside off stump down to the third man area
Late Cut	The striking batsman waits until the last moment to play a cut shot to a ball outside off stump, looking to play the ball past backward point and third man
Slog	The striking batsman plays an aggressive shot with limited technique often in the air looking for a six
Fended	The striking batsman receives a short delivery above his waist and with limited control over the shot succeeds only in keeping the ball from the stumps (this can mean he isn't looking at the ball when the shot is played)
Dropped	The striking batsman on receiving a delivery above his waist drops his hands and in full control of the shot the ball lands down by his feet

## Batting Foot Movement Types

Name	Definition
No Movement	The striking batsman when attempting a shot does not move either foot
Front Foot	The striking batsman when attempting a shot presses his weight forwards on to his front foot
Back Foot	The striking batsman when attempting a shot shifts his weight backwards on to his back foot
Down the Track	The striking batsman advances out of his crease towards the bowler
Backs Away	The striking batsman moves away towards square leg before attempting his shot
Moves Infront	The striking batsman moves across towards off stump before attempting his shot
Ducked	The striking batsman tries to evade the ball by crouching underneath it
Swayed Away	The striking batsman tries to evade the ball by arching his upper body away from the line of the delivery