

What's is this all about?

Having been stuck on 178 caches set for some time, I thought it might be worth a final(?) push to get to 200. That means setting 22 more caches in the coming weeks. The number still needed suggested an idea.

I mentioned on another cache page, that the day before my 7th birthday (27.8.1968) was pivotal in shaping my interests (http://www.geocaching.com/seek/cache_details.aspx?wp=GC2K65H). I recall this day being one of the most exciting of my young life and my love of sport in general, and one sport in particular, really began on that day. However, a recent sad event:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/sport1/hi/cricket/15803140.stm>

reminded me that this day was also one of the most shameful days that English sport has ever had, although the cowardly decision was not actually announced until my birthday the following day:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/sport/cricket/international/8901177/How-the-Basil-dOliveira-affair-unfolded.html>

These events ultimately had a massively positive effect over the next 20 years, with South Africa's sporting isolation hastening the downfall of apartheid. However, as a 9-year old in 1970 I was rather disappointed that I couldn't watch England play the world's best side: South Africa. Instead, I had to content myself with what turned out to be a brilliant series of matches against the Rest of the World, which was closer than the 4-1 scoreline indicated:

<http://www.espncricinfo.com/ci/content/story/152436.html>

So now you know why the series has the title it does. Of course, you can solve the puzzles without knowing all this, as the content of the puzzles will generally have very little to do with the series title. The person who finds each puzzle first will get the chance to nominate a player for a fictitious game of cricket between an England team vs. players from the rest of the world. The first rule is that the player has to have played Test cricket in 1968 (or any year since), up to the present day. If you are not interested in cricket then you will have to find someone who knows a bit about it to help you nominate your player. Once a geocacher has had this "honour" once, however, they will be disbarred from further nominations for the rest of the series. I will work out the rule for the "alternate nominator" in due course.

Then at the end of the caches I (and perhaps we will do this collectively) will simulate the result of our clash of the dream teams, over a 5-match series, using computers and statistical methods. The outcome of these simulated matches will determine the coordinates of a final, 23rd bonus cache. Got it? It will become clearer as we go on!

Tjapukai, November 27th 2011