

BARRACKERS' CORNER

This section considers barracking in both the Australian supportive and the English critical senses. Essentially we invite comments on articles or reviews in *Sporting Traditions*, but these columns are also open for readers' views on issues in sports history or contemporary sport.

Our first contribution comes from Chris Harte in response to the review of his book by Ric Sissons.

"Ric Sissons has provided a most thoughtful review of my book and certainly the most unusual review of those which I have read.

I would however, suggest that his argument has a flaw in that he has read the book as an academic and proceeds to comment as to why names were not mentioned in parts of the text, nor certain sources identified. I would have liked to have named names, but as 'The Age' found to its cost, the legal system in Australia has ways of making you pay for telling the truth. Sissons points out that in his opinion, Scyld Berry's *Cricket Wallah* is the best tour book of recent years. Scyld is an academic who has turned to journalism. I would argue, however, that the general readers of cricket books do not want to be bombarded with a morass of information unconnected to the subject in question. Therefore, my total intention in writing about England's tour of Australia in 1982-83 was to capture a day-by-day account of how the Ashes were won and lost. The choice of title was deliberately aimed at a pro-establishment market, for the book made no bones about its views on the PBL circus that Australian cricket has become.

Incidentally, the book sold out within weeks of publication and an international publishing company has now agreed to publish a similar book for the 1986-87 England tour - with the same title. Maybe the traditional tour book is not extinct."

Chris Harte
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