

BOOK NOTES

Bernard Whimpress, *Understanding Cricket*. Rigby, Adelaide, 1985.
Glossary, illus., stats. pp.115.

There has long been a need for a book of this description in Australia for newcomers to cricket and for cricket lovers to reflect more on the game.

The book starts with a brief history of the game, the outlines how the game is played, the way the arena is organised and then deals with batting, bowling, methods of dismissal and so forth. It complements and parallels the approach and methods of television presentation.

While the book contains much useful information for the novice some of the explanations are misleading. The impression is given, in one section that if the bowler can discover a batting weakness, and set up, for instance, a leg trap, dismissal is virtually assured. The list of methods of dismissals is too complicated as accepted and archaic practices are jumbled together: the sequence is 'bowled; lapse of time in coming to the crease, caught, handling the ball; hitting the ball twice; hit wicket; lbw; obstructing the field; then finally run out and stumped'.

Some parts of the book are imaginative and well presented such as the four pictorial representations of an lbw dismissal. However, elsewhere there are some errors and disappointments. The evolution of the wicket (stumps) is wrongly depicted with the 'two-stump, wide-bail' version used until the late 18th century being shown as the same width as the later 'three-stump' version.