

Ian Salisbury (England 1992 to 2001)

Ian Salisbury was a prolific wicket-taker in county cricket but struggled in his day job in Tests, taking only 20 wickets at large expense. *Wisden* claimed the leg-spinner's googly could be picked because of a higher arm action, which negated the threat he posed. Keith Medlycott, his Surrey coach, felt Salisbury was under-bowled and had his confidence diminished by frequent criticism from people who had little understanding of a leggie's travails. Yet Ian was a willing performer and an excellent tourist. Salisbury's Test career was a stop-start affair. Over more than eight years, he played in only 15 Tests. Despite these disappointments Salisbury's determination was never in doubt. Several times as well, he showed more backbone than his supposedly superior English spin colleagues; most notably in India in early 1993. Ian Salisbury also proved to be an excellent nightwatchman, invariably making useful contributions. His Test innings as nightwatchman are shown below.

Date	Opponents	Venue	In	Out	Minutes	Score
Jun 1992	Pakistan	Lord's	40-1	73-2	58	12
Jan 1993	India	Calcutta	87-5	163 AO	183	28
Mar 1994	West Indies	Georgetown	253-5	281-7	86	8
Mar 1994	West Indies	Trinidad	26-5	27-6	6	0
Jul 1994	South Africa	Lord's	136-6		59	6*
Aug 1996	Pakistan	Oval	273-6	283-7	27	5
Jul 1998	South Africa	Nottingham	199-4	244-5	102	23
Aug 1998	South Africa	Leeds	200-4	206-5	21	4
Nov 2000	Pakistan	Lahore	391-6	468-8	148	31
Nov 2000	Pakistan	Faisalabad	105-2	203-4	209	33

Ian Salisbury's NWM Appearances in Test matches

Salisbury had only one failure as a Test match nightwatchman; joining his fellow rabbits in Curtly Ambrose's headlights in the rout for 46 in Trinidad. In the middle of these Test nightwatchman appearances, Salisbury made his (then) highest first-class score in the job for England A against Pakistan A in the tour of 1995-96 when he was vice-captain to Nassar Hussain. In the Second "Test" at Rawalpindi, Salisbury was sent in as nightwatchman for his captain, joining Jason Gallian with the score on two for one in reply to Pakistan A's 214 all out. The next day "Gallian clearly set his stall out to bat all day and so, surprisingly did Salisbury. As Hussain said, he played like a proper batsman" (*Times*). Hussain had been hoping to get to the crease early, but he had to wait until ten minutes after tea. Salisbury reached his fifty with a reverse sweep, went on to exceed his previous best first-class score of 74 and succumbed only through tiredness, "slicing a weary drive to cover". Ian scored 86 out of a partnership of 197. Two years previously his participation in another England A team tour was ended when he was asked to stay with the senior team in India.

India v England, First Test, Calcutta, January 1993

England arrived in Calcutta to find the city laden in smog. A few days later they crashed to a comprehensive defeat. Ted Dexter, the chairman of the England committee, noticed that several of his side were in poor health. Decisively he announced he had commissioned a study into the effect of air pollution in Indian cities. In fact, England were befuddled long before they got to Calcutta and the dire state of some players had nothing to do with the weather.

There seemed to be little clear thinking over the selection of the squad in the first place. Graham Gooch was made captain, despite refusing to stay on for the Sri Lankan leg of the tour and while dealing with his broken marriage. The England selectors averted their gaze from Gooch's previous preference for South African gold to national colours. The same blind-spot put John Emburey, a fellow krugerrand-lover and Gooch's best mate, in the touring party. Jack Russell was left out, which alarmed Alec Stewart, who was also not alone in being concerned about David Gower's omission. The previous English summer, Gower had been brought into England's team for the last three Tests against Pakistan. He scored 73 on his return and made a match-winning unbeaten 31 on a dastardly Headingley pitch. Dexter, head in the clouds, offered no explanation for Gower being left at home. David Lemmon considered that under Gooch and new manager Keith Fletcher, "there was now simply a demand for track suits, fitness and the avoidance of defeat." That made the selection of Emburey even harder to understand. Mike Atherton remembered Emburey was so unfit he was unable to train in the first week of the tour.

Emburey was soon yearning for the benign climate of Pretoria. In the second tour match against the Board President's XI at Lucknow, Navjot Singh Sidhu, the Indian opening batsman, took an immediate liking to him. As David Hopps reported; "[Sidhu] emerged from strokeless beginnings to launch Emburey for four sixes over long on in as many overs." Kambli hit another six, so off his first 25 balls on tour Emburey was taken for 33 runs. Indeed, a red mist seemed to descend on Sidhu every time Emburey marked out his run, even though he treated the other English spinners ("even Hick" recalled Mike Atherton) with utmost respect. Four more huge sixes over long on were recorded in the second innings at Lucknow. In the next tour game at Delhi, Sidhu continued his fun, hammering Emburey around the park. Emburey, with figures of 7.4-0-59-0, left the field using a handkerchief to wipe his eye. Whether this was from prolonged exposure to the sun watching the extended flight of the fate of his deliveries, an infection or tearfulness over his figures is unclear. Atherton remembered: "The onslaught had a profound effect on Emburey who talked himself out of the First Test and endured a fruitless tour. Even now, a decade later, Emburey has a nervous twitch at the mention of Sidhu's name."

Emburey asked not to be considered for the First Test at Calcutta. Thus, the original tour strategy, which envisaged the Middlesex pair of Emburey and Phil Tufnell as key to success, was abandoned before a Test ball had been bowled. Tufnell had also been a victim of red mist; his own, as he struggled to take wickets on pitches offering turn. His aggression largely was directed against teammates he regarded as errant. Such clouds obscured the selectors' vision. Failing to see the evidence before them on the wicket at Calcutta, they chose four seamers. India played three spinners; England, one. The one England played was not in the original touring party. Ian Salisbury, who had been taken to India as a net bowler enroute to his tour of Australia with the England A team, was asked to put on his whites.

By the end of the second day India had a clear view of the winning post. The England seamers had toiled hard as the hosts, on the back of Mohammad Azharuddin's 182, reached 371 in their first innings. England's left arm medium pace bowler, Paul Taylor, had created a patch of rough outside the right-handed batsman's off stump. Anil Kumble and Venkatapathy Raju appreciated it. They were able to bowl flat and with pace yet get the ball to turn. They bamboozled the batsmen, who too often fell between playing forward or back (*Wisden*). Near the end of day two, England lost their fifth wicket on 87, and Salisbury was pressed into service as nightwatchman.

England needed another 83 to save the follow-on when play started on the third day. Neil Fairbrother was soon dismissed by Kumble, leaving England 89 for six. But an enthralling morning unfolded to the delight of the 80,000 spectators. Ian Salisbury remained a picture of composure (*Times*), playing on the front foot, pad thrust well down the line with his left elbow and handle well forward. Salisbury was content to wait for the loose ball and happy largely to use his pad against Chauhan. Salisbury, Chris Lewis and Taylor showed "what might have been achieved by greater application from their supposed betters" (*Wisden*). Lewis stayed for over an hour, hitting four boundaries, but he fell at 111 for seven. Taylor also stayed for an hour to add 30 with Salisbury. England were then on 149 for nine. With only Devon Malcolm left, Salisbury changed his tactics, and carried the fight to the bowlers. Salisbury was last out after more than three hours: a remarkable feat of concentration considering this was his first innings of the tour (*Guardian*).

India 1st Innings 371		
England 1st Innings (overnight 88-5: Fairbrother 17, Salisbury 0)		
GA Gooch	c Azharuddin b Raju	17
AJ Stewart	b Prabhakar	0
MW Gatting	b Chauhan	33
RA Smith	c Amre b Kumble	1
GA Hick	b Kumble	1
NH Fairbrother	c More b Kumble	17
IDK Salisbury	c More b Chauhan	28
CC Lewis	b Raju	21
PW Jarvis	c Prabhakar b Raju	4
JP Taylor	st More b Chauhan	17
DE Malcolm	not out	4
Extras		20

Total (100.1 overs)		163
FOW: 1-8, 2-37, 3-38, 4-40, 5-87, 6-89, 7-111, 8-119, 9-149		
England 2nd Innings (following on) 286 and India 2nd innings 82-2		

By batting so diligently, Ian Salisbury had given his team the chance of saving the follow-on, but the opportunity was spurned. *Wisden* considered that “falling nine runs short effectively surrendered the match”. The *Times*, carrying the headline “Gallant Salisbury leads fightback in Calcutta”, reported “how he nearly saved the follow-on against India in the First Test here will long be recalled”. Salisbury said, “I watched carefully, backed my own ability and just concentrated on survival. The ball wasn’t turning that much.” England sighted the ball a little more clearly in their second innings, but India ran out convincing winners. The fog never cleared for England. The next two Tests were each lost by an innings as India completed their first clean sweep of England. The tourists also lost the Test in Sri Lanka. These results rendered murky the futures of Dexter and Fletcher¹. Dexter resigned at the end of 1993 after Australia thrashed England 4-1 in the Ashes series. Fletcher lasted three years, albeit winning only one series.

Pakistan v England, Second Test, Faisalabad, November 2000

Seven years on, Ian Salisbury again gave England the chance to avoid defeat on the subcontinent. England had last played a Test in Pakistan in December 1987. They had not won a Test there since October 1961 when the aforementioned Dexter made his debut as England captain and led his team to victory with a fine combination of aggression and defence (*Wisden*). Chasing 208 to win in a little more than four hours, Dexter watched his team fall to 108 for five, but his unbeaten 66 took them home. Since then Pakistan had imposed five barren series on the tourists. Pakistan were expected to win the 2000 series comfortably. Indeed, England’s winter was anticipated to be bleak, as the subsequent Sri Lankan leg of the tour was also thought beyond them. Graham Thorpe remembered; “When we left home, most people had given us little chance of avoiding two heavy [series] defeats, and even we thought we’d do well to escape with a few draws.”

Accompanying Thorpe to Pakistan was his Surrey team-mate Ian Salisbury. Salisbury enjoyed the bouncy Oval wickets following his move to Surrey in 1997. His partnership with Saqlain Mushtaq did much to inspire Surrey to the County Championship title in 1999 and 2000. His championship wickets earned Salisbury a Test recall. The First Test was played at Lahore on a dry and cracked wicket prompting predictions of lavish turn and a game over in four days. Pakistan selected four spinners, but *Wisden* reported that local knowledge held the pitch would last well and any turn would be slow. So it proved, but England had to bat well. At the end of the second day, England had patiently amassed 391 for six when Salisbury was sent in as night watchman. Craig White was out early the next morning with the score on 398, but Salisbury and Ashley Giles put on “70 valuable runs” (*Wisden*). England declared at 480 for eight, Saqlain having taken all the wickets. Pakistan scored 401 and the Test was drawn. *Cricketer International* reported that the Pakistanis were “candid enough to admit their surprise at how well the tourists had performed.”

With England the happier team, the sides resumed at Faisalabad. Wasim Akram was hoping for a wicket conducive to a result, but was faced with what Craig White described as “a dead, horrible pitch.” Pakistan’s hopes of forcing a victory were dashed too by the conditions of play. Days were scheduled to last only five and a half hours, and the daily ration of 83 overs was always cut by bad light. Only 382 overs were bowled in the match, which was unaffected by rain; two sessions shy of the usual minimum of 450 overs for a Test. Despite these handicaps, Pakistan were buoyed by the loss of two England wickets late on the second day. Replying to 316, the tourists had moved to 105 for one when Atherton was dismissed. Nightwatchman Salisbury then witnessed another garish episode in Nasser Hussain’s long nightmare of umpiring decisions. After thick-edging a ball from Saqlain onto his pad, Hussain was surprised but showed “considerable restraint” (*Wisden*) when umpire Steve Bucknor gave him out lbw. Hussain’s stoicism was tested further after seeing on the replay in the dressing-room that Bucknor had missed Saqlain over-stepping the crease.

Rather forgetting the situation, the incoming Thorpe proceeded to shield the nightwatchman for the last two overs of the day. England were on 110 for three overnight, 206 runs behind. Christopher Martin-Jenkins reckoned the situation, “left Pakistan’s bowlers keenly awaiting what will probably be the pivotal day of the series.” After play Pakistan captain Moin Khan said “there will certainly be a result in this Test”. Moin felt it was realistic, with three differing spinners, to aim to dismiss England for around 175 runs.

¹ England’s inferiority recalled an alternative to Kitchener’s exhortation. The annual Royal Navy versus Army match was first played in June 1908 at Lord’s. Most years the Army won easily, usually by an innings. The sequence prompted someone to suggest a recruiting slogan: “Join the Navy and bat twice.”

Pakistan began the third day with Danish Kaneria and Saqlain. Spin was the main diet of the day, interrupted by short bursts of pace from Wasim Akram and Abdul Razzaq, both of whom “reverse-swung the tatty old ball alarmingly” (*Guardian*). Progress was slow as Salisbury and Thorpe concentrated on keeping their wickets intact. The first 15 overs brought 30 runs. Salisbury was stubborn and watchful. His first boundary, a glance off Saqlain to fine leg was described as a beautiful shot by Pakistan commentator Mahmood Ahmed who thought the shot noticeably improved Salisbury’s confidence. A few overs later Salisbury played a lovely drive for four to extra cover off his Surrey spinning partner. Ian seemed fortunate to survive a stumping chance when the score was 143 for three, when his foot appeared to be on the crease rather than behind it. The decision was, however, made on review by the third umpire, Shakeel Khan. In a further alarm, Salisbury attempted to cut a wide ball with the score on 171, and got a thick edge but Moin couldn’t catch the hard chance. England managed to reach lunch on 182 for three, after a morning session of 35 overs.

The *Karachi Dawn* considered Salisbury and Thorpe “had dashed any hopes Pakistan had of dismissing the visitors early”. After lunch Thorpe reached his half-century. Shortly after that, and 40 minutes into the afternoon session, Salisbury was caught at silly point off bat and pad from Arshad Khan’s off spin. *Wisden* claimed “he had done his job admirably with three and a half hours at the crease.” The *Karachi Dawn* thought he had “defied the three-man spin attack with confidence.” Salisbury’s 33 took England to a safe position of 203 for four, “going a long way towards repairing the damage inflicted the previous evening” (*Guardian*). Pakistan finally took the new ball, available to them since shortly after lunch, a little after 4 pm when England were 266 for five. Three overs later the new Kookaburra had accounted for as many wickets.

This second batch of wickets late in the day meant England were in danger of frittering away the work done by Thorpe and Salisbury. However, the following morning Craig White threw the bat effectively and England reached 342 all out. A second drawn Test was now on the cards. There were some worries when with 13 overs left on the final day the motionless Hick (who was condemned for a reckless dismissal in the first innings) was bowled to leave England on 110 for five. However, Atherton and White made sure earlier efforts were not in vain. Salisbury reported for *Cricketer International*, “The guys were in good spirits hanging on for the draw and happy with the prospect of going into the last game with everything to play for, especially after realising the tension and pressure were mounting on our opponents.” The *Karachi Dawn* observed: “those predicting a 3-0 whitewash would now be eating their words for under-estimating the strength, prowess and commitment of the tourists.”

The series ended in Karachi, where England faced very gloomy conditions at the end of the Third Test. This time, no study was commissioned by England’s management. Barely able to see the ball in the field, partly as a result of their own time-wasting, a compelling final few overs saw Pakistan suffer their first defeat at the National Stadium in 35 Tests. The series victory, as well as the stunning win over Sri Lanka which followed (in which Robert Croft’s nightwatchman innings was decisive), prompted praise for England’s Fletcher; Duncan not Keith.

Pakistan 1st Innings 316		
England 1st Innings (overnight 110-3: Salisbury 1, Thorpe 2)		
MA Atherton	c Yousuf Youhana b Saqlain Mushtaq	32
ME Trescothick	st Moin Khan b Danish Kaneria	30
N Hussain	lbw b Saqlain Mushtaq	23
IDK Salisbury	c Yousuf Youhana b Arshad Khan	33
GP Thorpe	lbw b Wasim Akram	79
AJ Stewart	c Abdul Razzaq b Danish Kaneria	13
GA Hick	c Yousuf Youhana b Abdul Razzaq	17
C White	b Saqlain Mushtaq	41
AF Giles	c Shahid Afridi b Abdul Razzaq	0
AR Caddick	c Moin Khan b Abdul Razzaq	5
D Gough	not out	19
Extras		50

Total (136.4 overs)		342
FOW: 1-49, 2-105, 3-106, 4-203, 5-235, 6-274, 7-274, 8-275, 9-295		
Pakistan 2nd Innings 269-3 declared and England 2nd Innings 125-5		

Ian Salisbury's Test career finished with the Pakistan series. Croft replaced him for the matches in Sri Lanka. Vic Marks, echoing Medlycott, rued; "Salisbury is a good man, a courageous batsman and a conscientious fielder, but his confidence is at an all-time low and this is now reflected by his arm dropping ever lower at the point of delivery."

Salisbury was a very successful nightwatchman for his counties, making 23 appearances for Sussex (12) and Surrey (11). He had only one failure, in the match against Yorkshire at Guildford in July 2002. In the first innings, he fell for a duck, and his captain had to bat out the evening. Yorkshire, 210 behind after the first innings, responded with 446. Ian was also sent in as nightwatchman in the second innings. Surrey, chasing 237 to win, had lost two late wickets to slip to 109 for three. Perhaps sparked by his failure, Salisbury responded with a wonderful 59, sharing a match-winning partnership with Ian Ward who told the *Sunday Telegraph* that "Solly made it easy for me". Salisbury took Surrey to 209 for four. Surrey went on to win the County Championship, while Yorkshire were relegated from Division One. The innings at Guildford was Ian's last as a nightwatchman, although his first-class career continued until the end of the English 2008 season.

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