

of LOCAL

Rain! At Manchester. A sentence almost as final as "close of play!" The patient - wait for the Third Test. ~~The~~ wicket, covered for twenty-four ~~hours~~ hours is ready for play - but....

The only cheering news - Len Hutton fit ^{again} ~~to play~~. With Lindsay Hassett he makes a second inspection of the ground.

And further cheers as the covers are removed. Play at 2-45 - if there's no more ~~chance~~ ^{chance}!!

Once again Australia win the toss. Already England are up against it. They take the field; but fast bowler Truman is left in the Pavilion - Twelfth Man... ~~x~~

Kipper Hassett and Arthur Morris open the Australian innings. ~~They~~ ~~are~~ ~~not~~ ~~out~~ ~~yet~~.

~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~

Heartened by his benefit match, Alec Bedser opens the Bowling - to Hassett. Fifteen runs without loss. Then Bedser bowls Morris for the sixteenth time in Test cricket.

With a close ring of fielders eagerly watching.
~~England on top. A hostile field. Three slips and a gully.~~

Bailey changes ends - then knocks Hassett's off-stump back. 48 for two. Miller (who came in to shield Harvey from the Bedser venom) is rapped on the thigh. Soon after, Bedser bowls him. Miller playing on - an unfortunate dismissal.

Australia 48 for three - and struggling. Until Harvey and Hole come to the rescue - their century-stand laying the foundation for a winning score.