

TEST BREAKS CRICKET LAW - AND ENGLAND

At cricket headquarters - hallowed Lord's - the night of England crumbles against eleven tough New Zealanders. Opener Len Hutton is never at ease against the determined attack of wiry Harry Cave and his team-mates. Runs come slowly and England are very much on the defensive. "Tabby" Tom Burtt gains the tourists' first success with the wicket of Yorkshire idol, Len Hutton, out for 23.

Bill Edrich shows what is needed with a fine boundary, but the Middlesex man doesn't stay long. A Cowie express flies off his glove and the catch is held. Exit - Edrich.

Harry Cave now turns the heat on Denis Compton - the man who so often has rescued England from peril. But Denis is strangely quiet while his partners are falling fast. With the score looking precarious indeed, there comes Trevor Bailey, the hero of the hour, to prove that English cricket still has players full of fighting spirit. Picked for his bowling, the young Essex amateur gives the batsmen a lesson in hard hitting and quick run-getting. Inspired by Bailey, Compton, too, gets down to business and together these two scissor-playing cricketers save England's face.

With the score steadily mounting, Bailey (playing in only his second test match) leads the way - reaching his half century in 60 minutes.

The firm of Compton and Bailey make the total soar and Denis - now at his majestic best - straight drives one to reach his 13th century in Test cricket. A brilliant achievement for one still at the prime of his career.

With the fighting Bailey (who just misses his 100) gone, the end is near. Geoffrey Evans is out, clean-bowled by Tom Burtt. The score is 313 for 9 and skipper Mann declares the innings closed, thereby breaking an obscure cricket law, but not gaining any advantage from it. For the tourists' openers - Bert Sutcliffe and Borden Scott treat the England bowlers - including Bailey - with ease and go all out on the attack. Left-hander Sutcliffe, hailed in New Zealand as one of the great, lives up to his reputation after weeks off-form and with a glorious hit off Derby's Cliff Gladwin, reaches his half-century in 65 minutes.

Skipper Hadlee, too, makes light of the bowling and hits up a useful 43. Only bowler to shine is Eric Hollies. The Warwickshire man here nabs Mervyn Wallace - caught by Evans for 2.

With three tourists out, England still stand a good chance. But another left-hander, Martin Donnelly, kills all hopes. The intense heat makes the fielding grow lax and as a match it's all over. The only man who stands out is old Oxford Blue Donnelly, who hooks and drives all round the wicket to set up the highest individual score in New Zealand versus England test matches. Last year he played for Warwickshire and this season his world-class batting has helped the New Zealanders to their all-time record of only one defeat in England.

All honours in this second test go to Martin Donnelly, whose dynamic double century buried the match - but showed the Lord's crowd batsmanship at its best.