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SALES, STORM AND SUNSHINE

Sales! They can't resist them, bless 'em, so it was stand clear of the doors, please: here they come!

The great Winter Sales are on. In the old days granmie used to replenish stocks for the year; now it's a case of getting what you badly need at a price you can just manage, before somebody else grabs it.

If all this rush looks like "Much Ado About Nothing," outside it was "A Winter's Tale" as a sudden blizzard caught London shoppers blazing the trail down Oxford Street.

Don't feel sorry for them - think of all those poor people in Australia just sweltering in the sun. It's the last day of the Second Test at Melbourne. Victory is within England's grasp as Lindwall bowls to Washbrook. The Lancashireman hasn't struck form yet, but there's a nice couple while Morris fields.

Now batting to Lindwall is Simpson who's just run into form at the right moment. He made 23 here. At the other end Ian Johnson is trying to uproot Hutton. Outstanding success of the tour, Len had a near one there! Whilst he's in, England's chances are rosy.

Mystery bowler Jack Iversen is no mystery to him; but after a great fighting 40, in which he had the fielders on the run, Hutton is out and England is in trouble. A grim hard-earned 28 from Parkhouse (who's now nearing peak form) staves off the end for a while.

Captain Freddie Brown survives an Iversen appeal for lbw but Lindwall gets him and turns on speed for Alec Bedser. The Surrey bowler makes a gallant attempt to save the game, but left-hander Bill Johnston gets a crack at Doug Wright at the other end and it's all over. We lost, but we did enough to hope for something better in the Third Test.