

Flintoff can be the man

BBC ONLINE, London

Darren Gough believes Andrew Flintoff is the man to lead England's fightback against South Africa.

The pair batted together as Flintoff made 142 before England lost the second Test at Lord's and went 1-0 down in this series.

After announcing his retirement from Test cricket last week, Gough paid tribute to the Lancashire all-rounder.

The Yorkshire bowler predicted Flintoff would become the driving force behind the new England team.

"I was delighted to spend my final moments in Test cricket partnering him at Lord's as he played one of the great Test knock, said Gough.

"He bowled really well, too, without any luck and I'm sure he's on the verge of making a serious impact on international cricket.

"There's a bit of Ian Botham in him and some of Darren Gough.

"Every team needs a show-off, an extrovert on the field and in the dressing-room, someone who can be bloody-minded and belligerent when necessary, and relishes taking the fight to the opposition.

"Flintoff is the man to take over that role now."

Cricket SAF

FROM PAGE 13 Pakistan will now request the SASF to fix new dates for the Games in its meeting likely to be held in October this year.

The SAF Games events include athletics, badminton, boxing, football, volleyball, weightlifting, taekwondo, karate, table tennis, wrestling, shooting and swimming.

Hockey was included on experimental basis in the Games held in India in 1995.

"Cricket can have more representation in the Games and even the fledgling nation like Afghanistan can also participate in it," Syed said.

Darren singles

FROM PAGE 13 Australia captain Steve Waugh made 100 not out and 156 not out to lift his average back over 50 and take his tally of centuries to 32, ahead of India's Sachin Tendulkar and behind only former India opener Sunil Gavaskar's 34.

Asked what Australia gained from the series, Lehmann said: "A few runs and a few wickets hopefully."

"You get lucky sometimes, yeah. Things have been going well so I can't complain," added Lehmann, who has captained English county side Yorkshire.

Boycott flays

FROM PAGE 13 Publicity it's 'shove the captain forward'.

"When the team plays well [Fletcher] takes a lot of the plaudits. I think you've got to take some of the pressure off Michael [Vaughan, the captain] and stand up a bit.

"[Fletcher] hasn't played county cricket and he doesn't understand the passion we have for it, and resting all the players all the time is killing county cricket.

"I just feel that it would be better if we had an Englishman who understands that we have a professional county game to support as well as Test matches to win."

Hussain quit as captain just 48 hours before the second Test at Lord's.

The timing of that decision, said Boycott, was "stupid not good for English cricket."

He went on: "I accept that maybe he was mentally shot but he should have known that before he went on the field.

"He did a lot of talking before that first Test match and I thought 'this guy's talking himself out of a job.'"

British managers have weak hearts!

Football

AFP, London

Such is the pressure of running a modern-day professional football team that almost a third of managers in England show signs of heart trouble, a report said on Sunday.

Of 47 Premiership and First Division bosses who volunteered for a check-up, 15 had cardiac problems, according to a survey organised by the League Managers Association (LMA), which represents the highly stressed occupation.

The figure was "staggering", said

LMA chief executive John Barnwell, a former manager of Wolverhampton Wanderers, adding that he hoped those in charge of all 92 Premiership and Football League teams would eventually sign up for an examination.

"Although some clubs may give them private healthcare, they would (only) be checked at the end of the year," Barnwell was quoted as telling the Independent on Sunday newspaper.

"This scheme allows us to monitor their whole year and can become more of a preventative measure."

A string of managers have over the years suffered heart trouble as the pressure of keeping a squad of generously ego-ed stars in check as

well as meeting the expectations of fans and club owners mounts up. Many of these ailments have, unsurprisingly, first manifested themselves as the managers shouted and gesticulated on the touch-line during a game.

Of current Premiership managers, both Liverpool's Gerard Houllier and Graeme Souness of Blackburn were forced to have life-saving heart surgery despite their physically active profession.

In a previous era Scotland national manager Jock Stein died of a heart attack while watching his side play a World Cup qualifier 18 years ago.

Bologan nears victory

AFP, Dortmund

Moldovan Grand Master Viorel Bologan on Saturday extended his narrow lead a day before the final of the international chess tournament here, drawing against Azerbaijan's Teimur Radzhabov.

Bologan, 31, is ranked a mere 42nd in the world and now holds a one-point lead over Russia's 28-year-old independent world champion Vladimir Kramnik, who on Saturday only managed a draw against 18-year-old German Grand Master Arkadi Naiditsch.

As a result, both Kramnik and Anand trail the up-and-coming Bologan by one point.

Sunday's final is due to be played between Bologan and Kramnik. Bologan will have the advantage, as he only needs a draw to take the tournament -- and Bologan won when the two clashed in their opening match.

Table with 2 columns: Player, Points. Rows include Viorel Bologan (6), Vladimir Kramnik (5), Viswanathan Anand (5), Teimur Radzhabov (4.5), Peter Leko (3.5), Arkadi Naiditsch (3).

Warne

FROM PAGE 13 n South Africa.

Cohen Alon accuses Warne of calling her up to 40 times after a models' party "saying he wanted me" and sending her text messages.

Warne's manager and brother, Jason, on Sunday issued a written response to the newspaper allegations through their joint management company, 23 Red.

"We regard the allegations of the South African woman, Helen Cohen Alon, as a personal issue between Shane, (Warne's wife) Simone and the relevant parties," the statement said.

"This appears to be a blatant attempt by a person attempting to set up someone for personal gain whether that be monetary or notoriety and we will consult our legal people in this regard.

"We feel to comment on the issue would only further assist her in gaining the result she is conspiring to create.

"Therefore, Shane and anyone connected to him will not be making any further comments on this topic."

Warne, serving a 12-month suspension from international cricket for failing a drugs test, lost the Australian vice-captaincy in August, 2000, after admitting he made lewd telephone calls to a British nurse.

Cohen Alon said she first met Warne on February 20 last year at a clothing store in a Johannesburg suburb where the Australian team was based in during its Test and one-day tour of South Africa.

Roddick halts Federer Express

Tennis

REUTERS, Montreal

Andy Roddick advanced to the final of the Montreal Masters after a nail-biting win over Roger Federer 6-4, 3-6, 7-6, depriving the Wimbledon champion of the opportunity to oust Andre Agassi from the world number one ranking.

Roddick will face world number 21 David Nalbandian in the final after the unseeded Argentine rallied from a set down to beat German eighth seed Rainer Schuettler 3-6, 6-2, 6-2.

The 20-year-old American, who had never beaten Federer before, was down a break and trailing 4-2 in the third, but rallied past Federer 7-3 in the tie-break when the 22-year-old double-faulted and made four unforced errors.

"It was nice, it was definitely not looking good for a while," Roddick said on Saturday.

Roddick felt the turning point came in the third set when he had to hit a half-volley from between his legs while rushing to the net. The ball landed in and the crowd erupted in awe.

"I guess it was just reaction. It was either that or get hit in the nuts (testicles)," said Roddick.

"But you know, that definitely took the edge off, it was kind of fun."

Fourth seeded Federer traded nine aces with Roddick during the match, but had 10 double faults, compared to only two for the sixth-seeded American.

"I made a few double faults, but it happened because I wanted to take some risks, I wanted to take control because I didn't wish to get into rallies against him," Federer said.

Federer, who will move ahead of French Open champion Juan Carlos Ferrero to second in the world when the new rankings are released, could have also displaced Agassi if he had beaten Roddick.

"I've never been number one, but I've never been number two either, and I'm number two now, so let's take the positive part of the story," Federer said.

Roddick will be seeking his fourth title this year on Sunday after victories at St. Polten, Queen's and Indianapolis.

He has a 23-2 record since he joined forces with coach Brad

Gilbert, who turned 42 on Saturday. "He's been great. We're very relaxed together all the time. It's not too intense, which is a change of pace and it seems to be working so far," Roddick said.

"I don't feel like I'm playing hot, I feel like I'm pretty solid. I come out knowing what I'm going to get from myself on a daily basis, and I haven't had that feeling before," Roddick said.

Roddick won the only match he played against Nalbandian, disposing of him 6-3, 6-2 in the quarterfinals of last year's hardcourt tournament in Toronto.

Nalbandian's win over Schuettler in their fourth meeting of the year ensured that this event would be his best performance of the season, surpassing a semifinal appearance at Hamburg in May.

With the victory Nalbandian moved 4-3 ahead of Schuettler in overall results between the two but it was his first triumph on a surface other than clay.

"The key to winning the match was my better serve and playing high on his backhand," Nalbandian said after reaching his first Masters Series final.

Schuettler felt that a lack of consistency as the match wore on was the main reason for his defeat.

"He served pretty well and I didn't return that well. My return is usually my strength and today I missed a lot," Schuettler said.

"There were long rallies in the second and third set and I was making mistakes while he didn't miss much. He was the better player today."

If he wins the title, the Argentine player will surge into the top-10 of the ATP Champions Race and into contention for a Masters Cup slot.



PHOTO: AFP Roger Federer of Switzerland walks off the court after losing to American Andy Roddick in Montreal Masters semifinals on August 9.

Clijsters versus Davenport

Tennis

AFP, Los Angeles

Top seed Kim Clijsters moved another step closer to the world No. 1 ranking by beating Italy's Francesca Schiavone 7-5, 6-4 on Saturday in the semi-finals of the 635,000 dollar WTA Los Angeles event.

The 20-year-old Belgian will be joined in Sunday's final by former world No. 1 Lindsay Davenport who beat Japan's Ai Sugiyama.

Clijsters must beat the second seed Davenport in order to pass injured Serena Williams for top spot in the rankings.

"If it happens that would be great," said Clijsters.

"That will motivate me more tomorrow.

"But I still have to focus on winning first and getting that good feeling.

"Then I can think about the other things."

If Clijsters beats Davenport she would end Williams' 57 weeks at the top spot and become the first woman to reach No. 1 without winning a Grand Slam tournament.

Davenport, who was ranked No. 1 in the world in October 1998, cruised past Sugiyama 6-2, 6-1 on Saturday's day match.

Clijsters has been bombarded all week with questions about her every move through the west coast swing of the US hardcourt season.

This will be the second meeting in as many weeks between Davenport and Clijsters. Clijsters beat Davenport 6-3, 6-3 in the semi-finals of the San Diego WTA event and has won five of the last six meetings.

"I will have to play better against Lindsay than I did today," said Clijsters.

"I will have to make her move. She is flitter than she has ever been but I think that is where she is beatable."

"I will fight until it is over and give everything I have."

Clijsters used solid groundstrokes and superb play at the net to beat a stubborn Schiavone in the 86-minute evening match in front of about 600 fans in the 8,000 seat stadium.



PHOTO: AFP Belgian Kim Clijsters hits a backhand to Francesca Schiavone of Italy during the semifinals of the JPMorgan Chase Open on August 9.

Schiavone broke Clijsters in the first game of both sets. But each time Clijsters was able to recover.

While it was not her best match of the tournament, Clijsters still found a way to win. She had 30 unforced errors to Schiavone's 31 and hit 14 winners compared to 15 for Schiavone.

"These types of matches mean more to me than when I win 6-1, 6-1 or 6-2, 6-2," said Clijsters.

Adams spins too much

Cricket

AFP, Canterbury

South Africa spinner Paul Adams achieved the rare feat of taking nine wickets in an innings as the Proteas warmed up for next week's third Test against England with a 101 run-win against Kent on the final day of three here Saturday.

Left-arm spinner Adams's career-best haul of nine for 79 was also the best innings analysis by a South African bowler in a first-class match in England.

The only other wicket to fall in Kent's second innings was taken by Adams's fellow left-arm spinner Robin Peterson, who caught and bowled Ed Smith for 27.

Earlier Saturday, middle-order batsman Smith had been called up into the England squad for the first time ahead of the third Test at Trent Bridge.

This gets underway Thursday with South Africa 1-0 ahead in the five match series after the drawn opener at Edgbaston and last week's crushing innings and 92-run win at Lord's.

Kent were left with 334 to win after South Africa declared their second innings on 243 for seven, Adams chipping in with a run-a-ball 22 not out.

Michael Carberry and discarded England batsman Robert Key put on 72 for the first wicket.

But Key, having made 49 was bowled by Adams. Smith fell to Peterson and then Adams, 26, whose unorthodox action was once likened to a "frog in a blender" took centre stage.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer. Includes clues for Across (1-11) and Down (1-11) and a solution grid.

CRYPTOQUIP puzzle grid and solution: U U J L Q U J Y N Z W Q W J B W H N P P Y , D W P U E N W K C H O W V J B K K L L V W I I . H O W X ' J W C E A A K C U Z H X D K L V N . Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN A GUM FACTORY EMPLOYEE FAILS TO PRODUCE, I WONDER IF HE GETS CHEWED OUT.

2004 Games on track?

AFP, Athens

As preparations for the 2004 Athens Olympics enter the final straight, construction delays are still giving the International Olympic Committee (IOC) some serious headaches.

"If anything unexpected beyond our control would happen, then some of the projects would be at risk," IOC inspector Denis Oswald said during one of his regular visits to Greece.

Despite the warnings, the days when international media heaped scorn upon Greeks for dragging their feet and IOC officials threatened organisers in couched terms with relocating the Games unless they got their act together, are over.

IOC president Jacques Rogge said early August that he expected the Athens Olympics to be "the greatest in history, in many areas."

In January, Rogge compared organisers' work with syrtaki, a Greek folk dance.

"One starts very slowly, then accelerates all the time and at the end one cannot keep the pace anymore," the IOC chief said.

But, with just a year to go the big event, there are still plenty of Olympic projects where progress resembles more of a waltz, in which dancers move around in circles.

A planned new tramway, scheduled to provide a key link between downtown Athens and the city's southern sea-sports venues, is running into delays even before its rails are laid. Local residents and MPs have filed a spate of court actions to derail the project.

"It will be very, very tight," said Oswald, asked if he believed the tramway will be ready in time for the Olympics.

Time-consuming appeals also forced organisers to take a shortcut in designing the future suburban train planned to link Athens with its new international airport, hitherto only available by road. The track's distance

was cut by a third to 32 kilometres (19 miles).

Plans to house the games' visitors are also slow in taking off. More than 100,000 visitors a day will be in Athens during the Games, tourist industry players estimate. With 80 per cent of the city's thin hotel capacity already taken up by Olympics officials, a programme to rent private homes out to visitors appeared as the only option to solve the looming accommodation crisis.

But the programme is still stalled, as real estate agents, government and Greece's meddling National Tourism Organisation still bicker over the amount of fees and charges due.

"We're already preparing, but no house has been officially rented yet. The longer it takes for the programme to take off, the more the black market is favoured," said an executive involved in the programme.

Worries are also aired over the construction of the Karaiskaki stadium, the key venue for the Games' football competition. Last-minute haggling between the government



LENNOX LEWIS

Lewis' lawyer Judd Burstein had earlier stated: "While Lennox has not made a final decision on his retirement, he has decided that he will not fight again this year."

"Having made that decision, he did not think it would be fair to HBO, potential sites, Vitali Klitschko and, most importantly, the sport of boxing to keep everyone in limbo."

The self-imposed exile from the ring means Lewis will have had just two victories in two years by the time he considers fighting again, his previous bout having been an eighth-round win over Mike Tyson in June 2002.

Britain's heavyweight world champion retained his WBC title in June with a sixth-round win over Vitali Klitschko after the Ukrainian suffered a horrific cut.

Lewis recently pulled out of negotiations for a proposed rematch in November and now says he will definitely be out of action for the rest of 2003-at least.

The 37-year-old told www.fightnews.com: "I haven't decided if I will retire yet. Nothing is final. But, I do know that I am not going to fight this year."

"Maybe next year. If I decide to fight, it won't be a problem for me to get in shape. It will take me less than three months to get ready."

"There's a lot of money involved in a rematch with Vitali (Klitschko) and a rematch with him is definitely something that I would consider."

"At least this time, I would have more than two weeks to prepare for him. The next time around, I would do even more damage than I did the first time."

the stadium after its completion led to a postponement of construction works.

An initially scheduled 45-day safety margin between the stadium's completion and the start of the games already seems certain to melt away. But the international football federation FIFA says they are still confident the works will be wrapped up in time.

A question mark also literally hangs over the Games' main Olympic stadium. The timely completion of an ambitious project to cover it with a glass-metal roof construction is still in doubt. The Greek government has insisted the roof will be ready in time.

But International Olympic Committee (IOC) sources have said the roof was expendable. The IOC apparently fears the prospect of the Games taking place in a half-built stadium.

Past construction delays have come back to haunt Olympic test events. IOC experts fear some of them, notably the ones for canoe-kayak and swimming, might have to be postponed as their respective venues will be completed later than

foreseen. Eventual test-event delays "limit the time to adjust to problems," Oswald warned.

Last but not least, a recent slash in the budget for fitting out the venues up to Olympic standards also creates fears of the Games taking place in sub-standard facilities in 2004.

The fit-out cost was initially estimated at 733 million euros (840 million dollars). The government and organisers fought for months about how to share the cost between themselves.

In July, the government practically confirmed reports the fit-out budget was cut by up to 70 per cent. The cost was "re-evaluated," the minister in charge said.

The government insisted the Games were still on track to come in within their overall budget of 4.6 billion euros.