



World Cupper Leonardo (R) blasts a left-footed drive through the Columbian defence to score the first of Brazil's three extraordinary goals in a Copa America match is Rivera, Uruguay on July 13.

**Copa America  
Brazil top  
Group B**

MONTEVIDEO, July 14: Brazil turned on a magical display to beat Colombia 3-0 at Rivera and top Group B in the Copa America Thursday, reports AFP.

Both Brazil and Colombia were already assured of their places in the quarter finals of the competition, but Ecuador also kept alive their chances of reaching the last eight when they chalked up a surprise 2-1 victory over Peru in the other Group B match, as did Mexico, who forced a 1-1 draw in Group A against sloppy Uruguay in Montevideo.

Brazil's goals came from Leonardo (30), Tulip (76) and Juninho (83) and the result, which stretches their unbeaten run in international matches to 24, means they complete their group matches unbeaten with a maximum nine points.

Ecuador, who had not scored since the start of the championships, were on target three times against Peru.

Energio Diaz (62) and Jose Mora (77) put the underdogs two clear before Ivan Hurtado (84) scored an own-goal for Peru's only score.

It was a remarkable performance by Ecuador, who were reduced to ten men for the last 25 minutes after Nixon Carcelen was shown the red card. They had never beaten Peru in ten previous encounters in the competition.

Luis Garcia rocked an over confident and over casual Uruguay with a goal midway through the second-half but Mexico had to settle for a 1-1 draw when Marcelo Saralegui equalised for the home side six minutes from time.

Uruguay and Paraguay were already assured of their places in the quarter finals before the match.

Mexico and Ecuador will have to wait until today's Group C matches to find out if they too are through to the last eight.

**An Indonesian feast!**

JAKARTA, July 14: World champion Heryanto Arbi thrashed compatriot Nunung Subandiono 15-8, 15-12 Thursday, leading a parade of seven Indonesians into the quarterfinals of the Indonesian Open badminton championships, reports AP.

The only foreigner joining the host shuttlers in the best-eight round is Park Sung-woo of South Korea, who disposed of another Indonesian, Indra Wijaya, 15-12, 15-11.

Thursday's results assured Indonesia of at least one person in the men's final, and three in the semi-final, as the six of them will face off in the quarter and semifinals.

And Wiranata disposed of Liu Ern Hong of Taiwan 15-13, 15-2, earning a game against Hermawan Susanto, who eliminated Eng Sok Kyan of South Korea 15-8, 15-6.

Heryanto will play countryman Marleye Mainaki, who defeated Malaysian Pang Ches 13-15, 15-9, 15-12.

The last three Indonesians advancing to the quarterfinals were former world champion Joko Suprianto, Alan Budi Kusuma and Tiong Ping Lioc. All by eliminating their compatriots.

Suprianto will take on Lioe while Budi Kusuma is to play Park in the Friday's quarterfinals.

In women's singles, top seeded Bang Soo-hyun of South Korea and second-seeded Susi Susanti of Indonesia both advanced to the quarterfinals. Bang thrashed Ika Heny of Indonesia 11-5, 11-5, while defending champion Susanti, coming off last week's title at the Malaysian Open, avenged her Asian Games loss with an 11-6, 11-1 victory over Japanese Hisako Mizui.

In other matches, Indonesian Yuliani Santoso defeated compatriot Clandina, 12-11, 11-9, while Lidia Jalawijaya beat Shwu Zen Jeng of Taiwan 11-6, 11-1.

Two other Koreans, Kim Ji-hyun and Kyung Min Ra following Bang into the quarterfinals, along with Yun Dai of China and Sweden's Lim Xiaoping.

More than 300 players and officials from 19 countries including China, Malaysia, South Korea, Britain, Sweden, Denmark, the United States and New Zealand are participating in the 170,000 dollars tournament that concludes Sunday.

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**African Nations' Cup  
Ten places up for grabs**

JOHANNESBURG, July 14: Egypt, one of Africa's long-standing football powers, and war-ravaged Liberia are likely to be the only two additions to next year's African Nations' Cup qualifiers after this weekend's penultimate round of matches, reports Reuters.

A draw in their match against Algeria in Cairo on Friday will be enough to see the Egyptians join hosts South Africa, holders Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Gabon, Ghana and Zambia in the 16-team tournament next January.

The clash is the first meeting in Cairo between the two teams since the decisive World Cup qualifier in November 1989, which was characterised by ugly scenes both on and off the pitch.

It is also one of 10 Nations Cup qualifiers scheduled around the continent at the weekend.

Friday's match at Cairo's national stadium will be played against a backdrop of a long-running footballing feud between the two Arab countries.

There has been little love lost between Egypt and Algeria since the 1-0 win for the home team in Cairo that ensured Egypt's place in the 1990 World Cup finals.

Shortly after that game, which saw scenes of fighting between the players, Egypt snubbed the Algerians by sending a second-string team to the 1990 African Nations' Cup finals in Algeria.

The Algerians also blame alleged Egyptian influence at the Cairo-based Confederation of African Football (CAF) for their disqualification from last year's Nations' Cup finals.

CAF expelled Algeria from the 1994 tournament after they were found guilty of using a suspended player in one of their qualifying games.

Algeria will be playing their first match on Friday under new coach Ali Fergani, who took over last month from his former international colleague Raban Madjer.

Liberia could qualify without kicking a ball if Tunisia and Senegal avoid a draw in their Group Two clash in Tunis on Saturday.

Liberia enjoy a three-point lead at the top of the standings with Senegal

**Premiership fees — a paradox**

LONDON, July 14: To most English footballers, inflation is just something that happens to a football when it has more air pumped into it, reports AFP.

But such has been the violent spiral of transfer fees in recent months that it is fast becoming an issue of far greater gravity.

England captain David Platt's 7.5 million pound move to Arsenal on Monday pushed the total spent by Premiership clubs to a staggering 60 million pounds (about 100 million dollars).

Six days earlier, Stan Collymore became an 8.5 million pound British record transfer when he moved from Nottingham Forest to Liverpool — the equivalent of 4,252 one-week holidays in Barbados flying by Concorde or 4,473,684 points of Lager at London prices.

When Dennis Bergkamp moved to Arsenal in a 7.5 million pound deal from Inter Milan last month, he signed a deal that will earn him a reported 25,000 pounds-a-week — exactly double the amount of the average annual wage of a British worker.

In short, the England football transfer market has gone mad.

Most markets go through boom-and-bust cycles, but this year's close-season scramble for new players has led many to believe that the rampant inflation it has caused will inflict irreparable damage on the game.

Gordon Taylor, chief executive of the Professional Footballers Association, believes many clubs could be heading for financial ruin should transfer fees and wages continue to spiral.

The danger is that if the market collapses then some clubs will face financial insolvency — as happened to Wolves, Charlton and Middlesbrough in the 1980s. Those clubs had to restructure," says Taylor.

A number of reasons lie behind a boom that has seen the financial power base in European football shift from Italy to England and, to a lesser extent, Germany.

The marketability of football in England increased dramatically when the game was forced to clean up its grounds and its image after the dark ages of the 1970s and earlier 1980s when hooliganism and crumbling stadiums were commonplace.

Charitable benefactors — such as Jack Walker at Blackburn and Matthew Harding at Chelsea — as well as those simply looking for financial rather than football success, have poured money into the game and disturbed its market.

A 300 million pound television contract with the Sky Sports channel has further boosted the coffers of Premiership clubs.

But three weeks ago English football chiefs emphatically rejected Tottenham chairman Alan Sugar's proposals for an overhaul of the transfer system.

Sugar, also chairman of computer

**Belgium, Holland to host 2000 Euro soccer tourney**

GENEVA, July 14: Belgium and the Netherlands were officially confirmed Friday as joint hosts of the 2000 European Championship, the first time two countries will jointly stage the quadrennial soccer event, reports AP.

The decision was ratified by UEFA's executive committee. Belgium and the Netherlands were the only candidates.

The event will run from June 7 to July 2, with the opening match to be played in Brussels on the site of the former Heysel Stadium and the final in either Rotterdam or Amsterdam.

Heysel Stadium, the site of the notorious riots at the 1985 European Champions Cup final between England's Liverpool and Italy's Juventus, has been torn down. A new stadium tentatively named King Baudouin Stadium will be opened later this year with its first event an Aug 23 game between Germany and Belgium.

"I'm very pleased," said UEFA president Lennart Johansson. "I was the one who proposed to change the regulations some eight years ago. Finally, we see the results. It is a very good concept. The two countries are quite experienced and both have a tradition of football.

Both countries qualify automatically for the 16-team finals.

"It's the biggest sporting event we've ever had in Holland," said Dutch federation president Jeu Sprengers. "We are two small countries that have a rich history in football. We are very glad we can now show Europe and the world what we are able to do and show how we can manage a tournament in a modern way."

Nine stadiums will be used for the tournament, four in Holland and five in Belgium.

The Dutch venues are Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Eindhoven and Arnhem. The Belgian stadiums will be at Anderlecht, Brussels, Brugge, Liege and Charleroi.

and Tunisia in joint second place with two matches left to play each.

Malawi, who host unpredictable Cameroon in Group One, and Mozambique are two other teams who could put themselves on the verge of a place in the finals.

A win for Malawi in Blantyre on Sunday will all but ensure qualification while if Mozambique beat Angola in the Lusophone Derby in Maputo, they will also be virtually through.

Other matches see Togo needing to keep their slender hopes alive with a win away at Mauritania on Friday in Group Two and Uganda seeking victory over Sudan in Kampala on Saturday to keep up the pressure in Group Five.

In Group Six, Mali must beat Botswana and Guinea must win in Namibia to have any chance of ensuring qualification at the end of the month.

The outcome of Tanzania's meeting with Ethiopia in Dar-Es-Salaam and Mauritius' trip to Zambia hold no meaning except for national pride.

The final set of 11 Nations' Cup qualifiers will be played on July 30.

**Teacher gives Windies a lesson**

READING, England, July 14: Schoolmaster Steve Dean won the man-of-the-match award as the Minor Counties celebrated a famous victory over the West Indies here on Thursday, reports AFP.

The 34-year-old followed his unbeaten 1-46 against Young Australia 10 days ago with an innings of 91, including 10 fours, from 134 balls.

The West Indies had batted in a carefree manner to reach 266 for nine, with opener Stuart Williams top-scoring with 61.

Former Derbyshire bowler Paul Newman did the early damage, claiming Sherwin Campbell, who trod on his own wicket, and Richie Richardson two balls later in the 11th over.

Newman was replaced in the attack by Marcus Sharup, who took an illustrious trio of wickets — Jimmy Adams, Brian Lara and Carl Hooper — all to catches off his bowling.

The total looked vulnerable and the Minor Counties were always up with the required run rate, thanks to openers Laurie Potter (21) and Dean.

They took command when Dean and Mark Fell (50) came together in a third-wicket partnership producing 107 off 21 overs.

Some quick wickets as the target was approached heightened the tension but calm batting and an inordinate number of 76 extras conceded by the tourists took the Minors to their victory with more than three overs to spare.

Major aims high

LONDON, July 14: Prime Minister John Major went for gold today, launching a government plan to rejuvenate British sport from the junior school to the Olympic squad, reports Reuters.

The initiative includes a new British academy of sport offering top class training facilities for budding sports superstars to be funded from profits from the national lottery.

But the government also wants more time devoted to sport at school, greater priority to saving playing fields from the developers, and extra cash for coaching and developing links between sports clubs and schools.

Major, himself a keen soccer and cricket fan, said he aimed to bring every child in every school within reach of adequate sporting facilities by the year 2000.

"I want us to bring about a seachange in the prospects for British sport — from the very first steps in primary school right through to the breaking of the tape in an Olympic final."

The sports plan is one of a series of policy initiatives which Major plans this year in an attempt to prove that his Conservatives, despite 16 continuous years in office, have not run out of steam.

Major believes Britons have become depressed by the failure of their sporting stars to compete successfully on the world stage.

No Briton has made it to a Centre Court final at Wimbledon for years. This year the tennis player the home crowd was rooting for during the tournament was Greg Rusedski, who, though technically a Briton, has lived most of his life in Canada.

Former England cricket star Ian Botham wrote in today's Daily Mirror newspaper: "It has been galling for me to see the way so many small nations have overtaken Britain on the sporting scene."

The government, true to its privatising philosophy, said it does not want to run the new British academy of sport itself, but believes sporting bodies should apply for funds from the new lottery to do the job.

British newspapers speculated that the new academy would cost 100 million pounds (160 million dollars), but a spokesman at the government's National Heritage department said it was premature to put a figure on the price tag.

High school junior 16-year-old Grace Park of the US tees off the 12th green during the US Women's Open golf in Colorado on July 13. The Korean-born amateur finished the round 1-under-par 69.

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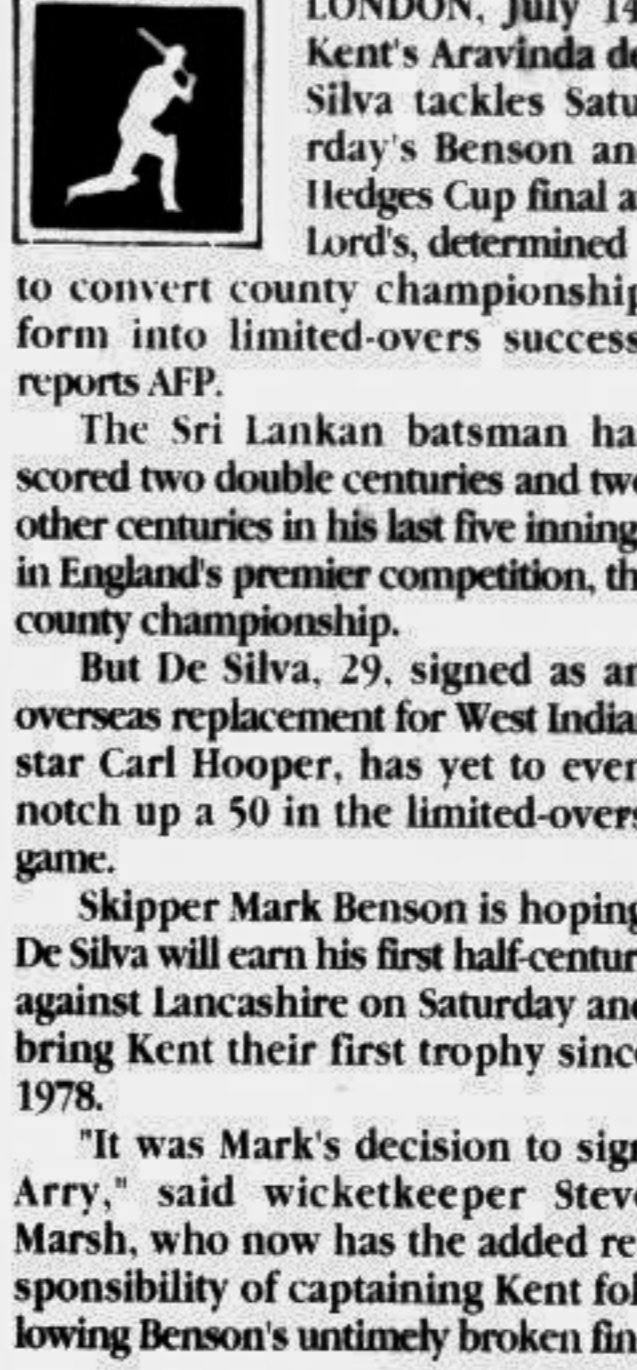
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**Benson & Hedges Cup final today  
Aravinda Kent's knight**



LONDON, July 14: Kent's Aravinda de Silva tackles Saturday's Benson and Hedges Cup final at Lord's, determined to convert county championship form into limited-overs success, reports AFP.

The Sri Lankan batsman has scored two double centuries and two other centuries in his last five innings in England's premier competition, the county championship.

But De Silva, 29, signed as an overseas replacement for West Indian star Carl Hooper, has yet to even notch up a 50 in the limited-overs game.

Skipper Mark Benson is hoping De Silva will earn his first half-century against Lancashire on Saturday and bring Kent their first trophy since 1978.

"It was Mark's decision to sign Aravinda," said wicketkeeper Steve Marsh, who now has the added responsibility of captaining Kent following Benson's untimely broken finger.

"He had a lot of letters saying it was a bad choice, that he'd picked the wrong guy, but I think they have been proved wrong and must now eat humble pie. Aravinda is a lovely, bubbly, bubbly man who has fitted in really well and his form in the championships over the last month has been sensational.

"He hasn't got a big score for us yet in limited-over matches (a best of 43 after 15 innings, to be precise) but this could be just the day for him," said Marsh.

Kent's chances of ending their 17-year wait for some silverware has not been helped by Benson's injury. He and fellow opener Trevor Ward put together a remarkable sequence of five consecutive centuries stands up to the quarterfinal stage of this competition.

"Mark has done so much to get us to Lord's and it's tragic he's going to miss the final," said Marsh. "We just hope we can win it him."

"I think the pressure of trying to end our run without a trophy might have weighed us down in the past. But this year we are playing so well in one-day cricket that there's a real belief we can pull it off."

The bookmakers don't think so. They make Lancashire warm favourites, even though England players Jason Gallian and Peter Martin are missing through injury and a third, Fairbrother, has been struggling all week with a strained hamstring.

That still leaves obvious match-winners like Mike Atherton, John Crawley, Mike Watkinson and Wasim Akram.

Lord's has usually been a happy hunting ground for Pakistani all-rounder Akram, but he had a shocking time there when Lancashire last reached the B & H final and will be keen to make amends.

It was 1993, Derbyshire claimed a surprise victory, Akram scored just 12 after being hit for 65 runs in 11 overs and he was involved in an ugly "beamer" row when his high full toss struck batsman Chris Adams.

"I don't know much about Kent's overseas player but I know about our fellow — he's flippin' brilliant," said Lancashire coach David Lloyd. "I'm sure Wasim is looking forward to getting back to Lord's and putting two years ago behind him."

ARAVINDA DE SILVA

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**ICC stern on slow over rate**

LONDON, July 14: Cricket chiefs announced the launch of a strict clampdown on slow play in Test matches at the end of the International Cricket Council's annual meeting at Lord's on Thursday, reports AFP.

Fines will be increased and the current system of recalculating how many overs remain after an innings ends is being scrapped.

Test teams have regularly failed to achieve the minimum Test requirement of 90 overs per day.

As of September, those falling short will lose five per cent of their match fee for every over up to five short and 10 per cent of each over above that figure.

The current penalty is a flat 5 per cent per over.

In addition, 90 overs will be bowled every day — a system which, if used at Edgbaston last week, would have seen the third Test between England and West Indies finish inside two days.

During that match the number of over remaining was recalculated downwards at the completion of an innings because the team bowling first, West Indies, were behind the clock.

"I think we are sending out a strong message that teams need to get on with the job. We are collecting too much money by the way of over-rate fines," said ICC chief executive David Richardson after the Lord's meeting.

It was also announced that the Australian system of allowing only two men outside the fielding circle for the first 15 overs of one-day internationals is to be adopted worldwide.

On the controversial subject of intimidatory bowling, umpires will be asked for a "common interpretation" of the law.

And, in the wake of the Pakistan Bribery allegations which surfaced after Australia's visit last year, an additional paragraph is being added to the ICC's code of conduct.

It will make it clear that betting on the outcome of cricket matches by players and officials is strictly forbidden.

Other decisions taken at the ICC meeting:

- New ball to be made available after 80 overs in Test matches from September (currently 85 in England).
- Red and green lights to indicate whether a batsman is in or out following TV replay incidents.
- To hold a meeting of all nine Test captains in India before next February's World Cup with the code-of-conduct and cricket's image worldwide on the agenda.
- Acceptance of an invitation for cricket to participate in the 1998 Commonwealth Games.

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**Atherton stays home**

LONDON, July 14: England star Darren Atherton killed off mounting speculation about a possible move to Manchester United when he signed a new four-year contract with Tottenham on Thursday, reports AFP.

The England winger can expect a 1.5 million pound (about 2.5 million dollars) reward for staying in London and manager Gerry Francis claimed that he was always confident of keeping his star player.

Reid acted and ultimately cleared Roberts under Section 8 of the International Cricket Council code-of-conduct which states that: "Players and team officials shall not make any public pronouncement or media comment which is detrimental to the game in general."

Richardson said on Thursday he had not yet seen Reid's report on the third Test. But he expressed surprise when told of Atherton's comments and said he would be interested to hear a tape recording of them.

If action is taken, it will be the fourth time in a year that Atherton could be in trouble with the ICC.

The England skipper was heavily criticised by match referee Peter Burge over the "dirt in the pocket" affair last summer, fined by the same man for showing dissent during a later Test against South Africa.

On the winter Ashes tour, he was reprimanded by Reid for failing to prevent a finger-pointing display by Chris Lewis after the fast bowler had dismissed an Australian batsman at Adelaide.

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**Atherton in trouble again?**

LONDON, July 14: Mike Atherton could be in trouble with the authorities again after ICC chief executive David Richardson said on Thursday he would like to hear a tape recording of the England captain's controversial comments about the third Test pitch, reports AFP.

Atherton responded to England's humiliating innings defeat against the West Indies that finished inside two and a half days at Edgbaston on Saturday by saying: "Obviously, if you are playing at home you want home advantage to count and, therefore, you might ask him to load the pitch conditions in favour of one or other of the type of bowlers you have."

"Every country wants to make home conditions count in their favour. I'm afraid we were hospitable to a fault here."

West Indian players and officials are understood to be upset that while their manager Andy Roberts was investigated by ICC referee John Reid



MIKE ATHERTON

**Wisden editor defends article**

LONDON, July 14: Two West Indian-born cricketers have started legal action over a magazine article which said foreign born players lacked commitment to the English team, reports AP.

Devon Malcolm and Phil DeFreitas said the article in Wisden Cricket Monthly was "grossly offensive" and racist. They said they will seek an apology in open court and substantial damages.

"Both cricketers have been defamed and their patriotism and their ability to play cricket for England at their best level impinged and questioned," Malcolm's solicitor, Naynesh Desai, said in Thursday's Daily Telegraph.

The article in the magazine's July issue said: "It is even possible that part of a coloured England-qualified player feels satisfaction (perhaps subconsciously) at seeing England humiliated, because of post-imperial myths of oppression and exploitation."

WCM editor David Frith said the intention of the article by freelance contributor Robert Henderson — entitled Is It In The Blood? — was to examine national identity, but had escalated into a racial issue.

"I'm surprised and disappointed they are taking action since they were told by the Cricketers' Association that there was no case," Frith said.

Frith said the magazine was considering taking legal action against some newspapers and television companies over their "distorted" coverage of the debate.

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raised over the southern Africans, Australasians and Asians as well, but it seems the Caribbean corner has seen the fiercest debate and reaction," Frith said.

"We wanted serious debate, but for over a week we got little but hysteria. Now we are getting some serious thought."

The next issue will satisfy everyone who disagreed with Robert Henderson's opinions.

"Hopefully a constructive debate will lead to some good, and create a little more understanding for the people who aren't allowed to feel part of this country, and it's their only country."

The England team which lost last week's third Test against the West Indies in Birmingham included three foreign-born players — South African Robin Smith, Zimbabwean Graeme Hick and Australian Jason Gallian.

Malcolm, born in Jamaica, and Dominican-born DeFreitas were in the first Test team last month, and there are a total of 12 overseas-born players currently playing county cricket who have represented England.

Two more players, Martin McCaughey and Craig White, migrated to Australia at an early age and represented it at youth level but played for England last summer.

Frith said the issue is a burning one among English cricket supporters.

"I've had plenty of people give me their opinion, they're telling me 'How can I support an English team full of foreigners?'"

These comments seem to be supported by the views of London's Evening Standard cricket writer John Thickett.

Thickett wrote that he was disgusted by England's selection of Gallian for the third Test.

"My objection to him is not on grounds of quality but that the selectors have chosen him ahead of a born-and-bred Englishman," he wrote.

"What encouragement can there be for true-blue Englishmen if the selectors choose a hybrid when a vacancy occurs?"

Despite earlier reports, England captain Mike Atherton has not resigned from the magazine's editorial board.

Frith said he had spoken to Atherton who understood the magazine was a forum for debate and that the editorial board had no role in choosing the article for publication. Former England captain David Gower also remained on the board for the same reason.