

Ealham, an alien no more

SHARJAH, Dec 14 (Reuters): Mark Ealham, England's match-winning all-rounder, wants the team which has won two successive matches in the Champions Trophy to be recognised as a specialist one-day international team.

Ealham and three other players in the 14-man squad — England A captain Nick Knight, slow left-arm spinner Ashley Giles and 20-year-old newcomer Ben Hollis — will be with the A team in Sri Lanka instead of going to the West Indies with the top England squad.

Ponting steers seniors

SYDNEY, Dec 14: Ricky Ponting rode an early slice of luck to lead Australia to a three-wicket victory over Australia A in the limited-overs cricket match at the Sydney Cricket Ground here today, reports AFP.

Ponting got the benefit of the doubt from a confident lbw appeal before he had scored and made the most of it, finishing with an unbeaten 79 and shepherding Australia to 206 for seven with six balls to spare. Chasing the A team's total of 203 for nine.

Ponting and Shane Warne (18) put on 56 for the seventh wicket to lead Australia within sight of victory after it had looked in trouble when Ian Harvey was run out for three with the score at 144 for six.

Even though the match was effectively an inter-squad affair, it was an important win for the senior side, which had twice failed to chase totals of 200 and 172 against South Africa this summer.

Australia A's total was built around a brilliant unbeaten innings of 84 from Darren Lehmann, who was the only A team batsman to take the chance to impress the national selectors as no-one else passed 25.

The A team's last chance of victory probably disappeared when Greg Blewett dropped a difficult outfield catch off Ponting when he was 71 and Australia still needed 20 runs to win.

Ponting looked out of sorts at the start of his 104-ball innings but improved as the match progressed.

As good as his innings was though, the individual highlight of the match took place earlier in bright sunshine.

The most memorable points of Lehmann's 99-ball innings were three successive lofted drives for four from the bowling of Warne and two boundaries and a six from the last over bowled by Harvey, which cost a total of 20 runs.

Windies-England scoreboard

Scoreboard in the Champions' Trophy match between England and West Indies at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium on Saturday:

WEST INDIES: 197 for seven (Hooper 100 n.o., Simmons 29; Brown 2/28)

ENGLAND:
A Brown c Lewis b Walsh 10
Stewart c Walsh b Rose 23
Knight c D Williams b Dillon 20
Hick run out (Chanderpaul) 26
Thorpe c D Williams b Hooper 57
A Hollis c Chanderpaul b Dillon 9
Ealham not out 28
D Brown not out 16
Extras: (lb-7, w-4, nb-6) 17
Total: (for six wickets in 45.5 overs) 198
Fall of wickets: 1-21; 2-45; 3-53; 4-100; 5-125; 6-173

Did not bat: M Fleming, R Croft, D Headly

Bowling: O M R W
Walsh 9.5 1 51 1
Rose 10 0 38 1
Dillon 10 0 38 2
Lewis 6 8 34 0
Simmons 2 0 8 0
Hooper 8 1 22 1

Result: England won by four wickets.
Man-of-the-match: Carl Hooper (Windies)
Toss won by West Indies.

Pakistan defeat India

Sports Reporter



Pakistan kept their hopes alive in the Akai-Singer Champions' Trophy when they defeated arch-rivals India by four wickets at the packed Sharjah Cricket Stadium yesterday.

Left-handed opener Saeed Anwar smashed a match-winning 104 off 128 balls as Pak-



ANWAR ... 14th ton

istan, chasing a fighting Indian total of 239 for seven in the stipulated 50 overs, raced on to collect 243 for the loss of six wickets and with 16 balls to spare.

It was Anwar's 14th ton in the abridged version of the game and his seventh at the desert venue. The southpaw, who was later adjudged man-of-the-match, played the sheet-anchor role in his side's chase after dashing partner Shahid Afridi was magnificently

caught and bowled by Indian off-spinner Rajesh Chauhan after scoring a run-a-ball 19.

Middle-order bat Inzamam-ul-Haq struggled to make 19, but it was wicketkeeper Moin Khan who shared a vital stand with Anwar to guide Pakistan home. Moin was unbeaten on 49.

Pakistan will take on England today.

Reuters adds: Four dramatic dismissals added to the theatrical atmosphere of the clash after India won the toss.

The first two wickets to fall were run outs which could not have been decided without slow-motion television cameras.

Saurav Ganguly and Saba Karim put on 31 for the opening wicket before Ganguly drove a ball back to fast bowler Wasim Akram who deflected it on to the wicket, leaving Karim stranded by a tiny margin.

Ganguly had reached 50 with his third six and added 112 with Navjot Sidhu when a quick throw from Inzamam-ul-Haq enabled wicketkeeper Moin Khan to run out Sidhu.

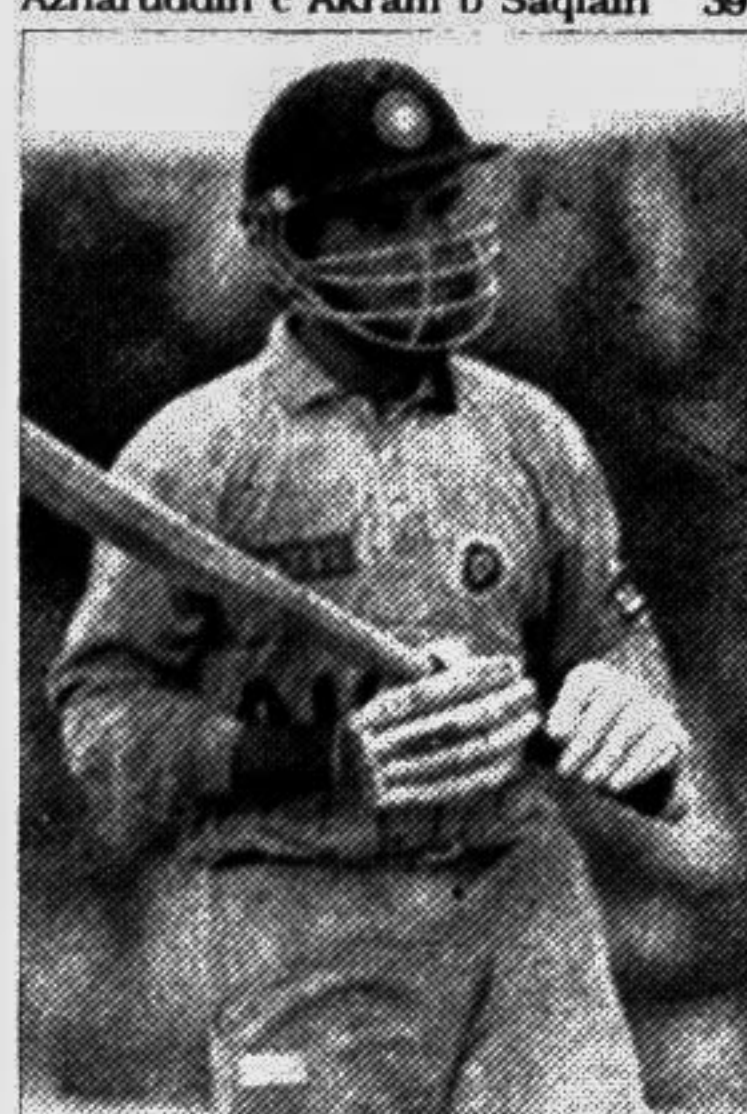
It was four minutes before, amid uproar among the 15,000 capacity crowd, Sidhu was given out even though replays showed the ball had fallen from Moin's hand as he broke the stumps.

In the next nine balls two more wickets fell, Robin Singh, sent in to boost the scoring rate, was caught by Moin but only after he had knocked over the square leg fielder Manzoor Akhtar.

At 147, Indian captain Sachin Tendulkar was caught at short mid-wicket by Inzamam, who tore a muscle in his side as he dived and had to leave the field.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard of the Champions' Trophy limited-overs match between India and Pakistan on Sunday:

INDIA
S Karim run out 18
Ganguly b Akram 90
Sidhu run out 54
R Singh c Moin b Mahmood 0
Tendulkar c Inzamam b Manzoor 3
Azharruddin c Akram b Saqlain 39



GANGULY... 90

Jadeja b Saqlain 6
Kumble not out 11
Extras: (lb-11, w-4, nb-3) 18
Total: (for 7 wickets in 50 overs) 239
Fall of wickets: 1-31; 2-143; 3-143; 4-147; 5-200; 6-224; 7-239.
Did not bat: R Chauhan, J Srinath, A Kuruvilla.

Bowling: O M R W
Akram 10 1 34 1
Aaqib 10 0 49 0
Mahmood 10 0 40 1
Saqlain 10 0 55 2
M Akhtar 10 0 50 1

(Incomplete)

Proteas under pressure

DEVONPORT, Australia, Dec 14: South Africa endured a second day of being second-best to Tasmania as the tourists

lurched into early trouble in their first innings at Devonport Oval here today, reports AFP.

In reply to Tasmania's 535 for five declared, the Proteas were stumbling at 132 for five at the close on the second day of the four-day match in their penultimate tour match before the first Boxing Day Test with Australia at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

At stumps, skipper Hansie Cronje was not out 21 and Lance Klusener was 14. Both needing sizable scores if South Africa are to avoid the follow-on during Monday's third day's play.

Tasmania hammered the South African bowling after re-taking at 278 for three and all-rounders, Shaun Yonke (145) and Daniel Marsh (129 not out) posted dominating centuries.

South Africa lost Adam Bacher to the first ball of their first innings and never fully recovered.

Daryll Cullinan hit 30 before he was caught by Dean Hills off Mark Ridgway.

Tasmania, currently at the

bottom of the Sheffield Shield, were spearheaded by pacemen, Ridgway (3 for 58) and Colin Miller (2 for 28).

Earlier, Marsh, son of former Australian Test wicketkeeper Rodney Marsh, smashed his maiden first-class century.

The aggressive Marsh slammed 17 fours and a six and faced only 135 balls.

Tasmania's other all-rounder Young was in sensational form clubbing 145.

SCOREBOARD
Scoreboard after the second day of the four-day tour match between Tasmania and South Africa at Devonport Oval Sunday:

TASMANIA: First innings (278 for three overnight)
Hills b Kallis 68
Cox c Donald b Kallis 73
McMillan b Adams 28
Young b Cronje 145
Boon c Cullinan b Donald 33

South Africa: First innings
Bacher c Hills b Ridgway 0
Kirsten c Hills b Miller 19
Kallis b Ridgway 11
Cullinan c Hills b Miller 30
Cronje not out 21
McMillan c Boon b Ridgway 27
Klusener not out 14
Extras: 10
Total: (for 5 wickets in 44 overs) 132
Fall of wickets: 1-0; 2-14; 3-60; 4-71; 5-110

Bowling: O M R W
Ridgway 14 2 58 3
Miller 15 5 28 2
Hutchinson 12 3 36 0
Marsh 3 0 6 0

BCCI may sue Prabhakar

CALCUTTA, Dec 14: The Board for Control of Cricket in India (BCCI) may take legal action against a former Indian cricket player whose accusations, that teammates took bribes to lose matches was rejected in a judge's probe, cricket officials said Sunday, reports AP.

Manoj Prabhakar had alleged that a teammate offered him 2.5 million rupees (70,000 dollars) to make sure India lost to rivals Pakistan in the Singer Cup one-day match in Sri Lanka in 1994. The match was washed out by rain.

Former Supreme Court Chief Justice YB Chandrachud, who was appointed by the board to probe the charges said Prabhakar's allegations were an outburst that came in reaction to being dropped from the team and losing a local political election.

Jayant Lele, the board's secretary said Manoj Prabhakar's allegations had brought the Indian cricket board to disrepute and they were contemplating legal action against him.

Lele also announced that former Australian cricket captain Bobby Simpson has been appointed as a consultant for India's cricket team.

Marsh not out 129
Atkinson not out 25
Extras: 34
Total: (for 5 wickets declared in 137 overs) 535
Fall of wickets: 1-134; 2-155; 3-195; 4-288; 5-440

Bowling: O M R W
Donald 24 4 89 1
Ntini 19 2 84 0
McMillan 8 0 51 0
Klusener 18 4 53 0
Adams 32 1 116 1
Kallis 16 3 52 2
Cronje 19 4 68 1
Cullinan 1 0 13 0

SOUTH AFRICA: First innings
Bacher c Hills b Ridgway 0
Kirsten c Hills b Miller 19
Kallis b Ridgway 11
Cullinan c Hills b Miller 30
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AFRICA (against South Africa from Dec 19-22): Stuart Law (captain), Michael Bevan, Adam Dale, Adam Gilchrist, Matthew Hayden, Justin Langer, Brett Lee, Darren Lehmann, Stuart Macgill, Michael Slater, Paul Wilson (12th man to be named).

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Pakistan (one-day against New Zealand on Dec 17): Inzamam-ul-Haq (captain), Saeed Anwar, Yousuf Younis, Shahid Afridi, Moin Khan, Saba Karim, Wasim Akram, Saqlain, Moin Khan, Saba Karim (12th man to be named).

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Sonali Bank emerge kabadi league champs

Sonali Bank Club emerged champions in the Metropolitan kabadi league beating Dilkusha Sporting Club by 25-9 points in the final at the Outer Stadium yesterday, reports UNB.

State Minister for Jute and Textiles A K Faezul Huq witnessed the match and distributed the trophies among the winners.

A total of 12 teams took part in the championship.

Taimur clinches BAGC crown

Pakistan's Taimur Hasan clinched the 13th Bangladesh Amateur Golf Championship (BAGC) crown on Saturday, says a press release.

Taimur, who last played on the Kurmitola golf course back in 1970, withstood a strong challenge from Sanjeev Mehra of India.

Bangladesh's young Saad Rahim bagged the Best Net over four rounds and Iqbal Bahar Chowdhury, hit a hole-in-one on the 8th hole.

Rookie replaces Moody

SYDNEY, Dec 14: South Australian paceman Paul Wilson was today promoted to the Australian squad for the one-day international against New Zealand in Melbourne on Wednesday, reports AFP.

Wilson, 25, replaces Tom Moody, who was unavailable because of a hamstring injury.

Moody had in turn replaced Victorian Paul Reiffel, who had gone down with a similar injury.

Wilson has played 12 first-class matches for South Australia, including four this season where he has claimed 11 wickets at 36.00.

But he has always been rated a better player in the abbreviated form of the game.

The Australian selectors also today named an Australia A team for the four-day match against South Africa in Brisbane which starts from Friday. It is South Africa's final lead-up match to the Boxing Day first Test against Australia at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

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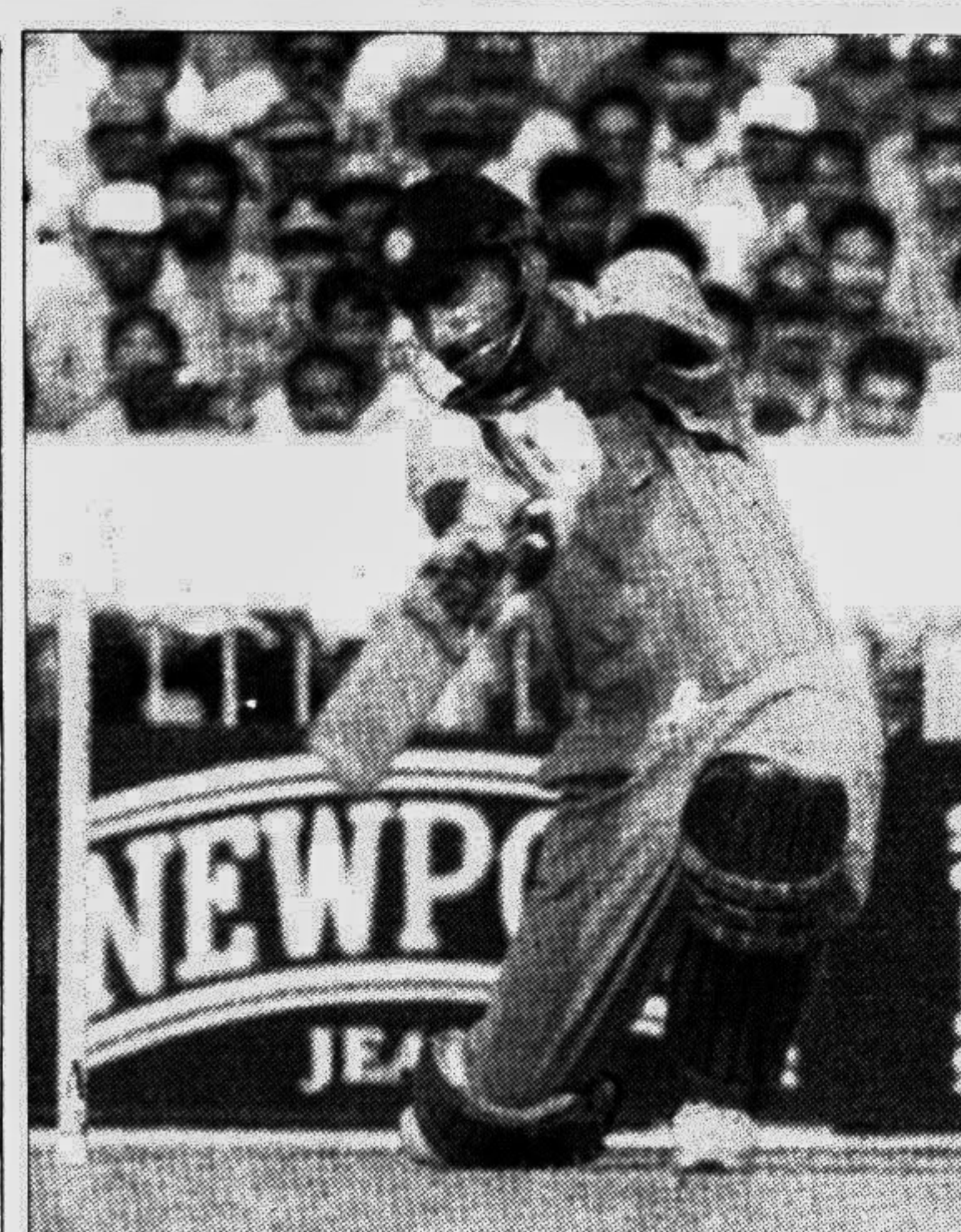
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Indian wicketkeeper Saba Karim plays a flashing cover drive during the Champions' Trophy match against arch-rivals Pakistan in Sharjah yesterday. — AP/UNB photo

Fleming takes dim view of TV snub

Christopher Martin-Jenkins