



SPORT



6s	357	4s	1883
MOST 6s: HIT BY A PLAYER		MORGAN	
ENGLAND		022	
MOST 4s: HIT BY A PLAYER		ROHIT/BAIRSTOW	
INDIA/ENGLAND		067	

WALTON
বিশ্বের সেরা ব্র্যান্ড

আজকার সত্য কে হবেন?
মিলিয়নিয়ার ও অসাধারণ লক্ষ্যপাতি। একেবারে বড়ো কোর্ট কোর্ট। টাকার বিস্তৃত সাল কাউন্টার হাজার হাজার পাও টা...

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Cricket's greatest celebration

SAKEB SUBHAN from London

The world's greatest cricket celebration' was the tagline for the 2019 World Cup in England and Wales. Yesterday, the catchy marketing slogan was proven true by two of the most deserving teams in champions England and runners-up New Zealand. The high drama that unfolded in the final at Lord's Cricket Ground, cricket's most revered venue showed cricket at its most exalted, containing a world of possibilities within its boundaries and seemingly endless scope for poetic justice, injustice and irony.

Ben Stokes was the last-over villain in England's 2016 World Twenty20 final defeat against West Indies, when he was hit for four successive sixes by Carlos Brathwaite as England lost a final they should have won. Yesterday, he became the last-over hero but not without inflicting injustice, albeit unintentional, on New Zealand when he dived to protect his wicket and the throw from Martin Guptill deflected off his bat and went for a boundary that was not earned. Stokes, on his knees, held up his arms towards New Zealand's fieldsmen to say that it was not intentional. Kane Williamson also had his arms stretched wide, as if to ask why that would happen when they were just about to win the match, and also knowing that it mattered not a hoot if it was intentional or not. Cricket allowed for it.

Guptill had been the hero when his direct hit ran out MS Dhoni at a crucial juncture of a hard-fought semifinal against India at Old Trafford just four days ago. His throw to run Stokes out, which would have left England needing eight

Arguably the best ODI match ever, the World Cup final between England and New Zealand at Lord's yesterday went right down the wire before being decided on boundary-count as the match and the Super Over ended in ties. For two of England's heroes -- Ben Stokes and Jofra Archer -- it was a moment to bask in glory. PHOTO: ICC

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I still can't believe it: Morgan

AFP, London

England captain Eoin Morgan admitted he believed his side's shot at World Cup glory had gone on Sunday before a thrilling twist saw the hosts lift the trophy for the first time after a Super Over.

Morgan's men needed 39 runs off the final 23 balls to win when Chris Woakes holed out.

But thanks to Ben Stokes's 84 not out and some fortune when a deflection off Stokes's bat went for four overthrows, England tied New Zealand's target of 241 off 50 overs.

Both sides could not be separated on runs either after hitting 15 off an extra six balls each, so England won by virtue of hitting more boundaries throughout the course of the match.

"Absolutely unbelievable, I still can't quite believe it," said Morgan.

"I thought it was over when Chris Woakes got out but then Liam Plunkett got us back into the game and we had the rub of the green, with Ben's overthrows -- I don't know how you described that on commentary.

"In the Super Over, Ben continued to have a great day out with Jos. A day to remember."

Victory completed a four-year path to

redemption for Morgan, who captained the side to a humiliating group-stage exit at the 2015 World Cup.

England have since recovered to become the number one ranked side in the world, but were on the verge of failing to make the semi-finals once more after losing to Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Australia in the group stage.

However, they steadied the ship by beating India and New Zealand to complete the round robin phase before

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thrashing Australia in the semi-finals.

And in front of a packed house at Lord's and a huge television audience with the final the only match of the tournament shown on free-to-air television in the UK, the World Cup got the buzz it craved with a thrilling finale.

"The support has been incredible from the very beginning of the tournament and we've managed to pull it off. It's such a good feeling," added Morgan.

I don't know how they won it: Williamson

REUTERS, London

New Zealand captain Kane Williamson was a little confused and understandably devastated after his team lost the World Cup final to England in bizarre circumstances at Lord's on Sunday.

"I don't know how they won it, was it boundaries or something?," Williamson said.

"Gutted, the guys put in a huge effort to get this opportunity, to pretty much do all you could and still not get across the line," he told a news conference.

England were struggling in their chase and benefited from a huge slice of luck in the final over when a New Zealand throw-in hit Ben Stokes's bat and went to the boundary.

"A couple of uncontrollables today that are pretty hard to swallow but we take nothing away from England today and through the tournament they are deserved winners," Williamson said.

New Zealand were happy with the total they posted after electing to bat on a pitch which was tricky to score quickly on.

"We knew 250-260 wasn't easy to get, you saw in the first 10 overs the movement, we were able to pick up some early wickets. Our bowlers were putting ball in great areas," Williamson said.

ROLL OF HONOUR

Year	Champions	Runners-up
1975	West Indies	Australia
1979	West Indies	England
1983	India	West Indies
1987	Australia	England
1992	Pakistan	England
1996	Sri Lanka	Australia
1999	Australia	Pakistan
2003	Australia	India
2007	Australia	Sri Lanka
2011	India	Sri Lanka
2015	Australia	New Zealand
2019	England	New Zealand

ENGLAND-NEW ZEALAND FINAL SCOREBOARD

NEW ZEALAND	R/B	4s/6s
Guptill lbw b Woakes	19/18	2/1
Nicholls b Plunkett	55/77	4/0
Williamson c Buttler b Plunkett	30/53	2/0
Taylor lbw b Wood	15/31	0/0
Latham c sub (Vince) b Woakes	47/56	2/1
Neesham c Root b Plunkett	19/25	3/0
Grandhomme c sub (Vince) b Woakes	16/28	0/0
Santner not out	5/9	0/0
Henry b Archer	4/2	1/0
Boult not out	1/2	0/0
Extras: (lb-12, nb-1, w-17)	30	
Total: (For 8 wickets in 50 overs)	241	
Fall of wickets: 1-29, 2-103, 3-118, 4-141, 5-173, 6-219, 7-232, 8-240.		

ENGLAND	R/B	4s/6s
Roy c Latham b Henry	17/20	3/0
Bairstow b Ferguson	36/55	7/0
Root c Latham b De Grandhomme	7/30	0/0
Morgan c Ferguson b Neesham	9/22	0/0
Stokes not out	84/98	5/2
Buttler c sub (Southey) b Ferguson	59/60	6/0
Woakes c Latham b Ferguson	2/4	0/0
Plunkett c Boult b Neesham	10/10	1/0
Archer b Neesham	0/1	0/0
Rashid run out	0/0	0/0
Wood run out	0/0	0/0
Extras: (b-2, lb-3, w-12)	17	
Total: (All out in 50 overs)	241	
Fall of wickets: 1-28, 2-59, 3-71, 4-86, 5-196, 6-203, 7-220, 8-227, 9-240, 10-241.		

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Boult	10	0	67	0
Henry	10	2	40	1
De Grandhomme	10	2	25	1
Ferguson	10	0	50	3
Neesham	7	0	43	3
Santner	3	0	11	0

Result: Match tied (England won the Super Over and clinched the 2019 ICC Cricket World Cup.)
Player-of-the-match: Ben Stokes.
Player-of-the-tournament: Kane Williamson.



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runs off the last two balls to win with Stokes back in the hut, was also homing in on the stumps but because of an accident of positioning, brought the equation down to three from two and ended up costing his team the World Cup.

Less than half an hour later, in front of a thoroughly entranced Lord's crowd, New Zealand were left needing three runs off two balls to win the Super Over and the World Cup. A fast ball from Archer only allowed Jimmy Neesham to get an inside edge for a single. It was Guptill again who would have to take two runs from one ball -- the same equation that Stokes dealt with a while ago and failed to convert to a win. An identical outcome played out, a run-out trying to complete a second run, but this time the despairing dive going against New Zealand. This time there was no uncertainty however, as England celebrated the run out, knowing that having hit more boundaries during the match they had won the tie-breaker to a tie-breaker. There was much that rhymed in that series of coincidences, but there was also a whiff of injustice in something as random as boundaries deciding the winner in a game of runs and wickets.

But there has to be a winner and there has to be a loser. Before that, those assembled at Lord's yesterday saw a true battle between bat and ball as both sides scampered to save every run, run every hairy two, and absorb every ounce of pressure in delivering the win.

"It's coming home, it's coming home," a spectator screamed as he walked by happily on his way home after seeing his country triumphant.

"What are you writing, just say England won the World Cup... England won the WORLD CUP!!!"

It is futile trying to explain the workings of cricket as seen yesterday, and better to focus on the obvious. Kane Williamson can say much about that.

RAHIM STEEL

নির্মাণের
অল কাঙ্ক্ষিত

In what can only be considered a fantastical ending to a fantastic tournament, England all-rounder Ben Stokes proved decisive in turning the tide against an almost unstoppable New Zealand in the ICC Cricket World Cup final at Lord's yesterday. Stokes brought England to the verge of victory with an unbeaten 98-ball 84 before returning in the Super Over, where he once again put in the hard yards to hand England their first-ever World Cup title.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WORLD CHAMPIONS!

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