



Mane man's cover drive makes him the big attraction again

By Ben Hoyle

THE opening battle in this summer's Ashes series was declared yesterday and it had nothing to do with the Twenty20 match in Southampton. The real challenge for English cricket fans is to find a heckle for Shane Warne's new hair before the first Test match starts on July 21.

The owner of the most famous barnet in the game has come out as the latest balding sportsman to embark on a hair regrowth programme. He is now three months into an eight-month hair restoration programme with the Advanced

Hair Studio, which also helped Graham Gooch, Greg Matthews and Martin Crowe, as well as Austin Healey, the Leicester and England rugby union player.

Warne, who has taken 583 Test wickets — more than any other bowler — said that he was "looking forward" to hearing how England's Barmy Army responded to his new, lush locks, which he unveiled yesterday.

"People kept giving me a hard time about the helicopter pad at the back of my head," he said, modelling a tousled mini-Mohican, reminiscent of David Beckham. "I am looking

forward to hearing what chants the Barmy Army will come up with now. I don't mind being ribbed. I am just so pleased to have my own hair back."

When Warne first played Test cricket in this country 12 years ago, his spiky, bleached blond hair and occasional earstud appalled stuffer spectators nearly as much as his inspired leg-spin bowling astonished them.

Bobby Simpson, the Australia coach at the time, said: "He's got blond hair and could have come off the beach. Kids relate to him and they will look at what he does and think this is the game to get into."

Over the next decade, Warne tried most of the hairstyles he could think of, from Mohicans, to long all over, to a short crop and a whole range of different colours. Time, however, waits for no man.

"I've always worn groovy hairstyles, but to keep on doing that, you have to have your own hair," Warne said. "I am looking younger and I think if that is because of the hair, then that's cool with me. My wife loves it."

Carl Howell, the Australian managing director of Advanced Hair Studio, said that Warne had approached him about treatment in India last year.

Getting one over on Warne

By Geoffrey Dean

ONE lucky and very rich man — at least the winning bidder is presumed to be male — will live out the dream of untold amateurs today when he faces an over from Shane Warne on the hallowed square of Lord's between the innings of the Tsunami Appeal match.

MCC has not disclosed the identity of the individual in question, or the exact amount he bid, but it is thought to be about £50,000. He will also receive in advance 15 minutes'

coaching from Sachin Tendulkar.

Some 3,000 tickets are still available for the 50-over match between MCC and an International XI, which starts at 10.45am. Admission is £30 for adults and £10 for under-16s. Tickets can be bought at the North Gate, off Wellington Place.

MCC: S P Fleming (capt), C H Gayle, S C Ganguly, V V S Laxman, J H Kallis, A Flower, K C Sangakkara, S M Pollock, A Kumble, Harbhajan Singh, Shoaib Akhtar
INTERNATIONAL XI: B C Lara (capt), S T Jayasuriya, V Sehwag, G C Smith, R Dravid, S Chanderpaul, C L Cairns, S K Warne, W P U C J Vaas, Mohammad Sami, M Ntini

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Glad hair day: Warne exhibits his reborn locks with the assistance of an admirer yesterday