

## **SUMMARY**

Cricket is a ball and bat game played between two teams of 11 players on an oval shaped field. In the centre of the field there is a rectangular 22 yard long pitch. By the 17<sup>th</sup> century the game was quite popular as a rough rural pastime, but in the 18<sup>th</sup> century the leisure classes took up the sport in Sussex, Kent, and London. In the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century cricket was played at every level of the society. The game of cricket is now played worldwide, and despite occasional successes, it is fair to say that the real power in the game has shifted from England to South Africa, Australia, India, Pakistan and the West Indies.