



Turn down collar, Punter



JA: I was told you were seen drinking with Kevin Pietersen during the third Test.

RFH: Met him in a sponsor's tent. Not a bad bloke.

That's interesting given a week ago you referred to him as an ego-maniac.

That was before I met him. He knew who I was so that lifted him from 2 out of 10 to 8 out of 10.

What did you talk about?

I asked him about himself so we got on well. I asked why he played that shocking sweep shot off Nathan Hauritz in the first Test. There was some Digger's Rest (pest) next to us who said "it was because of your achilles problem, wasn't it KP?" He said "no, it was because I didn't rate Hauritz as a bowler".

Fair response. Just how much

has Ricky Ponting been copping over there?

You have to be here to believe it. The Barmy Army doesn't stop on him and that clown with the trumpet was waiting for the team bus when it arrived in Headingley, blowing it in his face when he got off.

There is something about Ponting, a lack of humour, a lack of warmth, something that prevents you from really liking him apart from his greatness with a willow.

No, it's because he wears his collar up along with Michael Clarke. Keith Miller was allowed to do it, so were Richie Benaud and Ian Chappell, but that should be it.

Rate Clarke as a batsman?

Probably Kim Hughes with not quite as much excitement but the same courage and

better shot selection.

To tonight, please tell me we can win.

England will win the series 1-0. **Given your appalling tipping record, I now know we can win.** The track for the last Test at The Oval will be a road so this is our only chance.

Why wouldn't England just stack its side with batting and play for two draws?

Funny you should ask that because I texted their chairman of selectors Geoff Miller with that idea. He said "we would but we don't have 11 batsmen in the country".

To our team then. Who would you play?

Four quicks: Hilfenhaus, Siddler, Johnson and one of Clark or Lee, depending on Lee's fitness. If they win the toss and bat, then just blast

them out.

You aren't worried about the form of Siddler or Johnson? The latter's arm has been getting very low in England, to the point where it wouldn't shock me to see him do a Trevor Chappell.

He was OK at Edgbaston. We need Siddler aggressive and Lee has a new hair hat so will be feeling good about himself.

Advanced Hair has the cricket world covered given former England captain Michael Vaughan has signed up.

There will never be another bald Australian cricketer. If only Peter Burge was playing.

Not to mention Rodney Malcolm Hogg, once with the curly blond locks but now a shadow of those days.