

1979
CRICKET WORLD CUP 2007

TONK!

It's 99-4 at Lord's before Collis King knocks 86 from 66 balls. Then Boycott and Brearley open for England...

Most people have one defining image of the 1979 World Cup Final between England and West Indies at Lord's. Mike Hendrick bowls the final ball of the Windies' innings, Viv Richards swaggers out beyond off stump and flicks it into the heaving Mound Stand for six.

Richards' performance became one of the most iconic in World Cup history, but it probably wasn't even the best innings that day. The knock that changed the game

came from the maverick Collis Lewellyn King, the all-rounder from Christ Church, Barbados. King joined Richards with the West Indies at 99-4. It was his eighth ODI - he'd only scored 68 runs in the first seven combined. None of this, or the occasion, bothered Collis. Helmetless, clad in a short-sleeved sweater, he batted for just 77 minutes, faced 66 balls and buried England with ten fours and three sixes in an innings of 86.

"People tend to forget Collis," says skipper Clive Lloyd, "but at one stage he dominated and Viv took a back seat."

The West Indies made a huge 286-9. In reply, the doughty opening pair of Boycott and Brearley added 129 in 29 overs before the latter was caught by (who else?) King.

The other ten West Indians who played that day enjoyed long and distinguished careers, but not Collis. By 1980, he was out of the side. He managed one Test hundred, against New Zealand in Christchurch.

Yet 'The King' attacked life like he did England's bowlers. He is still playing for Dunnington CC at the age of 55, and is one of the legends of the Bunbury's charity side.

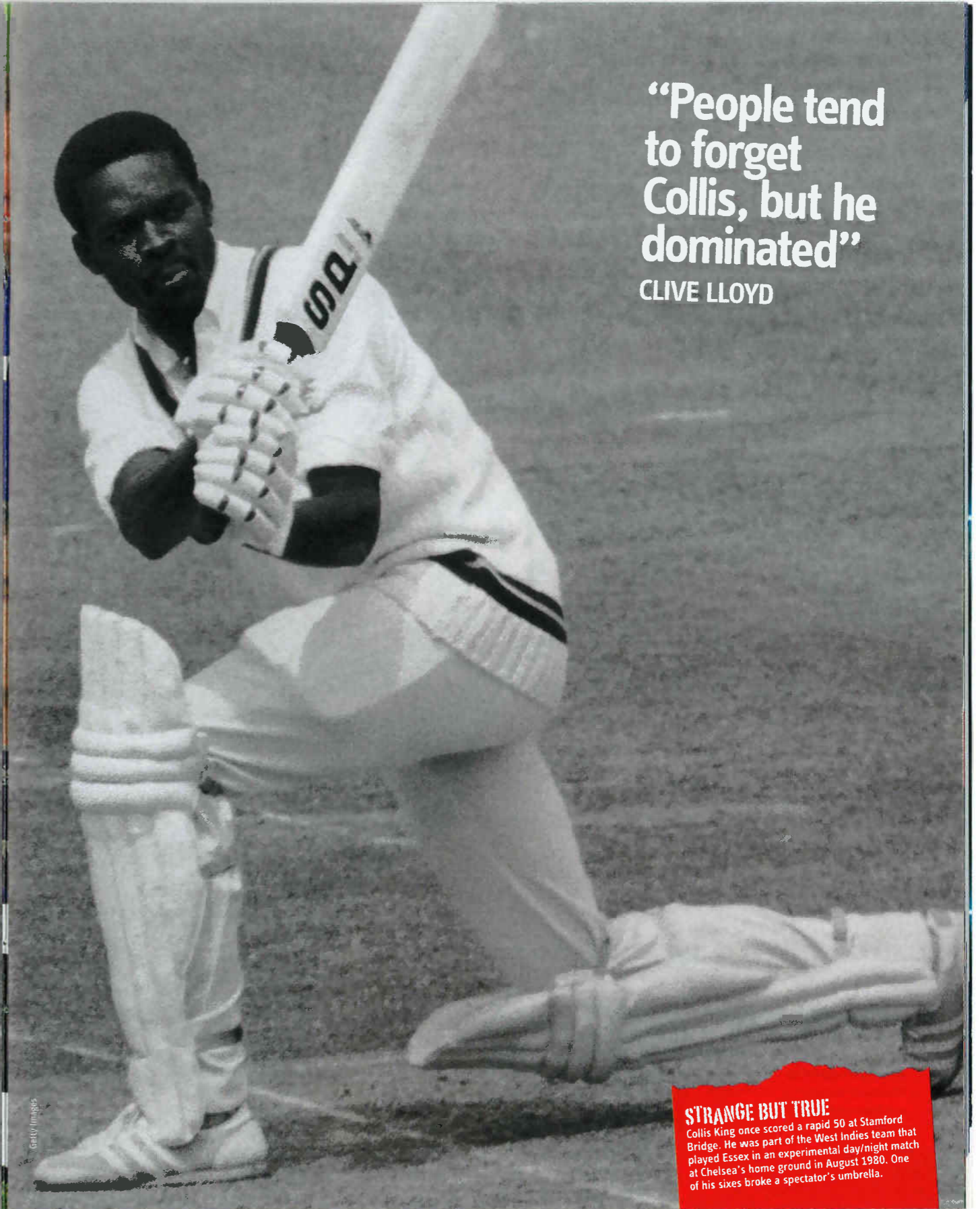
"The King had arrived with a couple of stunning blondes from a big party the night before," runs a Bunbury's match report. "The first ball wasn't a bad delivery and yet it was deposited into 17 Flamboyant Avenue. I swear, to this day, he had one eye constantly on his two blonde admirers as he reached his century. A one eyed 115 not out for Collis. Typical."

FOR LIVE WORLD CUP LISTINGS SEE WHAT'S ON FROM PAGE 32 →

Main: Collis King in full flow at Lord's, 1979

Far left top: Mike Brearley goes on the defensive

Far left bottom: Clive Lloyd collects the World Cup



"People tend to forget Collis, but he dominated"
 CLIVE LLOYD

STRANGE BUT TRUE
 Collis King once scored a rapid 50 at Stamford Bridge. He was part of the West Indies team that played Essex in an experimental day/night match at Chelsea's home ground in August 1980. One of his sixes broke a spectator's umbrella.