

Leicestershire decide against Yousuf

Mohammad Yousuf, the former Pakistan batsman, will not sign with Leicestershire after failing to agree to personal terms.

Yousuf, 37, wanted Leicestershire to allow him time off for the month of Ramadan, for him to fast, but the county were concerned about losing Yousuf for four of the 16 County Championship matches.

"We have been in talks for several weeks," Leicestershire chief executive, Mike Siddall, told the Leicester Mercury. "Unfortunately, a problem arose this week which, between us, we could not solve. We are disappointed and are now looking at other options."

Warwickshire also ran into problems when they signed Yousuf last season. They failed in their attempts to persuade him to stay for the second half of the season with Yousuf not wanting to play one-day cricket and also wanting to miss cricket for Ramazan.



Murray through to Australian Quarters

Andy Murray reached the Australian Open quarter-finals for a third year running after Mikhail Kukushkin retired through injury while trailing 6-1 6-1 1-0.

Two five-set matches in rounds two and three took their toll on Kazakhstan's world number 92 Kukushkin, who pulled out with a left hip flexor problem.

"It was hot on the court and it is good for me that I have conserved energy," said British number one

Murray. The fourth seed will play Kei Nishikori after he stunned Jo-Wilfried Tsonga.

Murray has a winning record against the 24th seed, the first Japanese man to reach the Australian quarter-finals for 80 years, and the Scot approaches that match on Wednesday feeling fresh.

He described the 49-minute win over Kukushkin, 24, as "boring" and stated his intention to return to Rod Laver Arena later on

Monday for an extra practice session.

"I played him [Kukushkin] a few weeks ago at Brisbane and it was three tough sets and I expected another tough one today," said the Scot.

"I hadn't seen him play before Brisbane and he hit some huge shots early and made me work.

"It is tough for him for that to happen in the fourth round of a Grand Slam for the first time."

Ajmal's 10 wicket haul spins England to defeat

FROM BACK PAGE Andrew Strauss' desperate batting form, the abject folly of Kevin Pietersen and Ian Bell's appointment as Ajmal's bunny as he succumbed to his doosra in no time for the second successive innings.

Only in the closing overs of their bowling triumph did Pakistan's players show the excitable tendencies more associated with their cricket and when they did, the seasoned captain who has restored discipline, Misbah-ul-Haq, restored order.

England's mediocre record in Asia is well documented and they face a formidable task to regroup for the final two Tests of the series.

Andrew Strauss was given out caught down the legside against Gul, a decision by umpire Billy Bowden that was upheld by the DRS.

There was definitely a woody sound as the ball curled past Strauss' bat and there was a brief

delay before he called for the third umpire.

Hot Spot revealed nothing - but then Hot Spot is not infallible.

The third umpire, Steve Davis, as the guidelines state, saw "no conclusive evidence" to allow him to overturn Bowden's decision and he had no option but to follow such a course.

Ajmal could not be kept out of the picture for long.

He bowled Bell first ball in the first innings and he was soon bamboozled a second time, so disorientated by his failure that he wasted a review in confirming the inevitable.

Trott stood firm for nearly two hours for 49 but even his dismissal was disappointing as he carved at a wide one to give Gul his fourth wicket. All that remained was for Pakistan's spinners to terrorise the lower order. Abdur Rehman was on a hat-trick after Stuart Broad holed out in the deep and Chris Tremlett's golden duck, caught at slip to

complete a poor game. Rehman almost got it too, as James Anderson allowed a ball to slip by, perilously close to off-stump

Fittingly, though, the final moment, in the field at least, rested with Ajmal, smiling broadly as he lured Swann into error. He left brandishing the match ball towards the smattering of spectators in what has felt like a made-for-TV Test. Dubai's newspapers had promised a bigger crowd on Saturday. There won't be one now.

England had conceded another 50 runs on the third morning in removing Pakistan's last three batsmen. Adnan Akmal, one of seven brothers, three of whom have played Test cricket, chanced his arm to carry the game out of reach, advancing his overnight 24 not out to 61 before he was last out, stumped by three yards against Graeme Swann as he sought a single to farm the strike. If Mrs Akmal had managed to provide a full team, the Akmals would have

constituted the most unpredictable side in the world, half cricket team, half circus troupe.

Saeed Ajmal, even more than Strauss, had reason to rue his misfortune as Hot Spot, as it tends to do from time to time, seemed to be taking a day off. "Nobody claims the DRS is perfect," Haroon Lorgat, the ICC's chief executive, had reminded everybody in Dubai on the previous day. DRS, according to Lorgat, had improved decision making to 99% accuracy. Ajmal got the 1% as the third umpire Steve Davis this time put small print ahead of commonsense.

Billy Bowden, on the field, adjudged Swann had dismissed Ajmal at short leg, the batsman called for a review, and TV replays showed no flick of the glove as the ball deflected off the pad to Alastair Cook at short leg. According to Sky TV, Davis then told Bowden that because Hot Spot was obscured he had "no conclusive evidence" to overrule his decision.

UEFA rejects reports Platini 'promised' turkey euro 2020

FROM BACK PAGE started yet and details of the process including dates have not been decided yet," Europe's football authority said in a statement.

Relations between Turkey and former France great Platini were briefly strained two years ago when UEFA last chose a host for its marquee international tournament.

Turkish officials were angered when UEFA executive committee members voted 7-6 for France to host Euro 2016, after outsider Italy was eliminated from the contest.

Platini didn't have a vote or take part in the final presentations, but Turkey believed he favoured his home country in what became a politicized election.

During campaigning, Turkey stressed its Muslim cultural heritage and invited UEFA to "build a new bridge between Europe and the broader geography in which Turkey is located."

The French bid team brought President Nicolas Sarkozy, who opposes Turkey joining the European Union, to the vote in Geneva.

Sarkozy sat beside Platini during the Turkish and Italian presentations then made a key speech stressing his government's support for renovating France's football infrastructure.

UEFA is likely to invite bids to host Euro 2020 early next year, and schedule a vote around May 2014.

Ilker Ugur, head of the TFF's international events department, said by telephone that "it is the TFF's main goal to host the Euros."

Ugur, however, said the federation has not received any invitation from UEFA to bid for 2020, and preferred to wait and see Istanbul's fate for the 2020 Olympics.

Turks believe bidding for both events might increase the financial burden and reduce their chances.

Istanbul is among six initial bidders for the 2020 Summer Games.

The International Olympic Committee will choose a shortlist of official candidates on May 23. The games host will be chosen on Sept. 7, 2013.