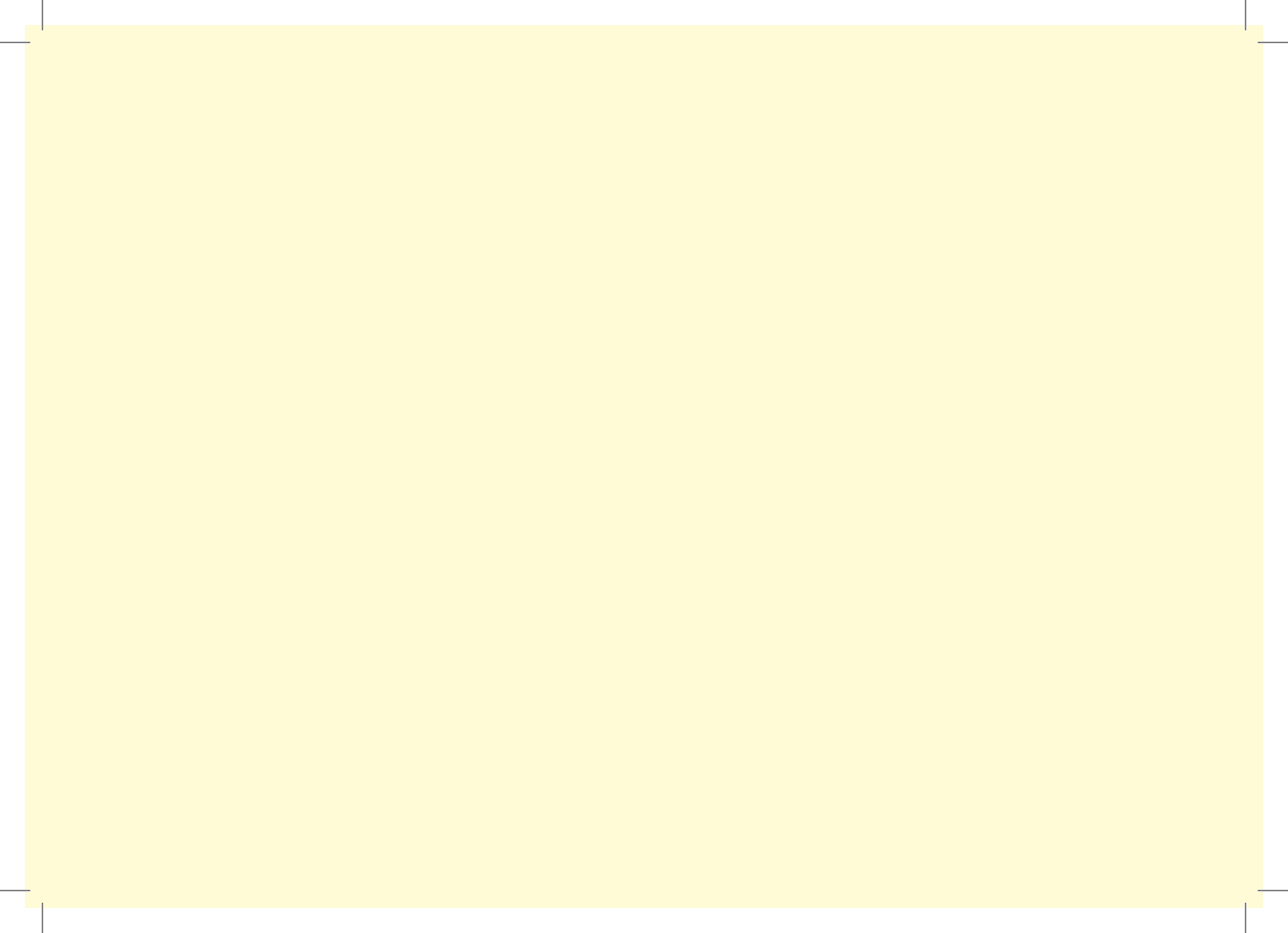


Jack Russell Gallery

World Cup Collection





WORLD CUP COLLECTION LIMITED EDITION PRINTS

The Jack Russell Gallery is delighted to present this outstanding and unique collection of World Cup paintings from the world's leading cricketing artist. Produced to the highest standard each edition is limited to 150 Giclée prints on museum quality acid free card and is available on a strictly first come first serve basis.

Each print is individually signed, numbered and titled by Jack by hand and comes backed by card and wrapped in clear cellophane for protection. Such is the quality that each print cannot be rolled in a tube, they require distribution flat packed in protective card and signed for on delivery.

Giclée: Seven colour printing process as opposed to the lithograph 4 colour process, producing outstanding quality of reproduction.

INTRODUCTION



In all my years involved with cricket I think I can say that I have never gone through such an extreme mixture of emotions either as a player or spectator as I did on that unbelievable day at Lord's for the World Cup Final between England and New Zealand. I was lucky enough to get a seat for the day last minute in the Upper Mound Stand. The seat cost me an arm and six legs (don't ask, it's a long story!) but it was worth it as I witnessed one of the greatest days in sporting history.

New Zealand batted first and after their 50 overs mustered a decent score but not a big score under the conditions and I was reasonably content that England would reach the total and become World Champions for the first time. Unfortunately I neglected to take into account the tenacity and determination of the New Zealanders who

are expert at "squeezing" the opposition batsman when defending a modest total. As England's batting progressed I remained confident for a while but as wickets fell and the scoring rate slowed England's batting stumbled and a reasonable target turned into a mountain to climb as the New Zealanders wrestled the upper hand. The tension around the ground grew as the battle continued and New Zealand took a stronger hold on proceedings. England were in big trouble and it was to take a mammoth effort from Jos Butler and Ben Stokes to keep England in the match. If their two wickets fell cheaply there's no doubt it would have been New Zealand's crown. Under the most intense pressure you can imagine they slowly lifted England back in with a chance of victory. For me it was a period of mixed emotions ranging from absolute agony to moments of renewed hope, followed by more despair and disappointment as the plot twisted and turned sending my emotions in completely opposite directions. It was gripping stuff. The atmosphere around the ground was so thick with tension you could have cut it with a chain saw. Every delivery seemed critical and more crucial than the ball before in fact there were too many crucial moments to mention. One that will always stick in my mind will be the overthrows late on that deflected off Ben Stokes' bat when he was diving for his ground while scrambling a second run. I was right behind the line

of the throw and at first there was confusion as we couldn't make things out through the cloud of dust caused by Stokes' dive for safety. All I could make out was the ball suddenly changing direction last minute sailing to the boundary at the pavilion end. Only when we saw the replay on the big screen we realised the Stokes had accidentally deflected the ball away from the wicketkeeper's grasp. Stokes put his hands up to apologise but because the ball had travelled over the rope and it was too late, the extra runs were added to England's total and there was nothing anyone could do about it. As it turned out later these runs were pivotal. I should have realised at that point that maybe it was written in the stars (not that I believe in the stars!) and that I should sit back, relax and enjoy it more after that stroke of fortune it was bound to be England's day but it didn't feel like that at the time and there was more drama ahead!

Even in the last of the normal 50 overs it could have gone either way and a massive 6 from Stokes, who seemed to be carrying the whole nation on his shoulders, kept England alive. When it came down to the last ball England needed two to win. We held our breaths as Stokes hit the final delivery towards deep long on and he, together with his batting partner Mark Wood ran for their lives. I had the perfect view as the ball was picked up by the fielder at long on and he returned it to the bowler at the non striker's end where the stumps were broken with Wood short of his ground. My heart was broken. Total devastation. Scores level, but England had lost more wickets so have lost, New Zealand win, they are World Champions for the first time. My heart sank. Total devastation. A subdued deflated atmosphere spread around the ground. Oh well I thought, it was a great game to watch and although totally gutted as an England supporter I was pleased to have witnessed the amazing events. I felt for the team, in particular Ben Stokes who had produced a gigantic individual performance to get England so close to victory, but they would have to settle for a runners up medal.

Then I noticed the New Zealanders weren't celebrating? After a short delay, the atmosphere slowly began to change and a low murmur became a noisy rumbling as word passed around the ground like a Mexican wave that the contest wasn't over! Then people around me started talking of a "Super Over!" My spirits lifted and I grew ten feet tall as the excited optimism returned. We didn't have such a thing as a "super over" when I was a player so the thought of it hadn't crossed my mind. Eventually it was confirmed on the big screen and by the ground announcer, the contest would continue and the World Champions would be decided by a super over. The ground was buzzing again. As the sun lowered in the west and the shadows lengthened across the ground the tension began to grow again.



Because England were batting at the end of “normal time” they would face the first super over. Ben Stokes kept his batting pads on and was joined by Jos Butler. England’s destiny were in their hands, or rather in their bats as they managed to score an excellent sixteen from the super over including Jos Butler hitting the last ball for a boundary four which would be yet another pivotal moment in terms of the minute margins between victory or defeat. New Zealand needed seventeen to win. Sixteen would be no good to them because it was announced before the start of their super over that another tie would see England victorious on account of scoring more boundaries in the match.



We were all a little surprised to see England Captain hand the ball to Joffra Archer to bowl England’s super over. Surely he should give the ball to a more experienced bowler such as Mark Wood who could bowl “yorkers” and had a variety of slower balls in his armoury which are useful when the batsman are trying to smash every ball out of the ground. Also he would have the nerve to deliver the goods. But as we have come to learn with Eoin he knows his men. Together with his calm, unflustered approach which exudes confidence in those around him he backed Joffra to come up trumps. Eoin believed he had the nerve and temperament for the job in hand, which was in fact the most important over ever bowled at that time by an England bowler in international one day cricket. We were panicking a little though when the first ball was a wide! Not the best start. But Joffra showed nerves of steel and despite one of his deliveries being hit for six towards us in the Upper Mound Stand he’d stifled the New Zealand batsman just enough to force them into needing two to win off the last ball of the day.

The tension at this point was indescribable and with millions around the world watching we all held our breaths again as Martin Guptill hit the final ball along the ground towards the Grandstand. Straining into the Sunday evening sunlight we watched as Guptill turned at the non strikers for the second run, he was still in with a good chance of making it a glorious day for his country. All eyes were now on Jason Roy the fielder at deep mid wicket who had to gather and throw to the

keeper's end. Any sort of fumble and the World Cup would be lost (he had in fact misfielded a ball down in front of us earlier in the day allowing New Zealand to score a two when it should have been a single!). Time seem to stand still as the whole crowd quickly got to its feet and roared, the noise was incredible as we all witnessed him make a clean pick up and whizz the ball one bounce into Jos Butler. It wasn't the perfect throw but was close enough to Jos that he only had to move a yard to his right and gather the throw. As Jos's gloves broke the stumps and the bails took off, lights flashing, Guptill was still mid flight desperately stretching for his ground and World Cup glory. He didn't make it. He was well short. There was a volcanic

eruption of noise which nearly took the canopy off the Upper Mound Stand and nearly broke the windows on the famous Lord's pavilion! All the England supporters in the ground went crazy. The England team went crazy. The England balcony on the pavilion went crazy. I've never experienced anything like it, not even as a player, it was an amazing release of pent up emotion I'd never felt or seen before. With my artist's eye quickly turning to observation mode I began scouring the ground for visual information. I briefly noticed the flags on the pavilion were acting very differently. Above their dressing room the New Zealand flag was limp and lifeless, but the flag above the England dressing room was fluttering vigorously, in fact nearly horizontal in the breeze. Strange I thought as the wind would be the same for both sides of the pavilion at that end of the ground? I quickly got my pocket sketch book out again and made a few notes of the situation and colours. I had in fact made a couple of small sketches earlier in the day for reference just in case England did find glory and become World Cup Winners for the first time ever. I'm so pleased I did!

What a day of drama. It was an honour and a privilege to have witnessed it first hand. If you were also there I'm sure you'll agree there's never been a game like it. Not only was it a contest tied after 50 overs but it was also a tie after the super over with the teams only being separated by the boundary count, the smallest and barest of all margins! If you weren't there to witness it in the flesh or if you watched it on television I hope this World Cup Collection will bring to you some of the atmosphere of that match winning moment we were all lucky to have been a part of. I know I'll never forget it. Priceless.





World Cup Winners

(overall size 21 inches x 32 inches including a 2 inch border)



World Cup Glory

(overall size 17 inches x 26 inches including a 2 inch border)

For further details on how to add Jack's World Cup Collection
to your own collection
please go to **www.jackrussell.co.uk**

email **jack@jackrussell.co.uk**
or call **01454 329583**

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