

12th Century Castle Besiegement in Sport

The Results of a Research Project

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For many years, like most astrologers, Brady and Lehman have utilised astrology to analyse sport. Over the last few years, however, rather than employing the modern concepts of analysing a particular planet via midpoints, harmonic and the like, Brady has taken the more algorithmic approach of medieval astrology. For example, modern astrological research style is to take a set of charts and examine them for, let us say, an angular Mars or Mars on a key midpoint to see if it fits a particular expression or characteristic. The medieval approach to research, however, is to use a series of steps to find the key planet and then to look at that planet's relationship to other planets and houses in that particular chart. Thus the signifying planet may well vary from one chart to the next.

This paper is a small part of this research and is the result of applying Guido Bonatti's methods for determining the outcome of castle besiegement to the arena of Test Cricket and specifically the contest between Australia and England known as *The Ashes*. To test the validity of these results Brady shared these techniques with Lehman who has not only helped to improve them but has been able to successfully apply the same astrological method to the American football series known as *The Superbowl*. Lehman has also taken charge of the statistical analysis of the results.

The type of sport for which Castle Besiegement is valid.

Castle Besiegement is valid for any sport where one team holds a trophy or a title and must be beaten in order to lose that title and where a draw means the title or trophy stays with the holder. An easy example in which to see this working is a title boxing match. One boxer holds the title and his opponent is the challenger. The challenger must defeat the holder in order to win the title. The winner is then the champion and he holds that title until he retires or loses it. Yatching's *America's Cup* is also a castle besiegement sport : one country holds the trophy; other countries compete for the right to challenge for the trophy. The challenger must then defeat the holder in order to become the holder of the America's Cup.

This is very different from most other sports where a group of teams compete over a season and the top teams play off for the trophy. In that type of contest, the winner of the trophy in any one year does not have any special claim or privileges to the trophy in the next year. This type of conflict is what the medieval astrologer called a "battle chart" and will be the subject of another article from Brady and Lehman later in the year.

The Ashes, therefore is clearly a castle besiegement type of conflict : the country who won the last series of Tests holds The Ashes. The teams meet in alternate countries regardless of who holds The Ashes and the country which challenges for The Ashes

has to win the series. A series consists of four, five, sometimes six Test matches, with each Test match, in the modern game, lasting five days. A drawn series means The Ashes are retained by the Holder. For Australian and English cricket it is the most sacred battle of all and is referred to as “the battle for The Ashes”.

The Ashes was born after the series of Tests in 1882 when Australia beat England on English soil. Prior to that, clashes between the two countries were not “castle besiegement” because there was no property over which the game was being fought. After the series of 1882, however, either England or Australia was deemed to be holding The Ashes, although the physical urn (the actual trophy) is always held at Lord’s regardless of which country holds The Ashes.

The Holder also has the right not to put The Ashes up for challenge. This right has been exercised a few times in the history of the game when, for various reasons, it was considered by the Holder that there were not sufficient Tests being played in the series. England did not offer The Ashes for challenge when the two countries played the single Test to celebrate the century of The Ashes in 1977. Nor did England offer The Ashes for challenge in the three Tests played in Australia in 1979/80. These Tests are therefore not “castle besiegement” Tests but rather normal battle charts.

Another point in working with Test Cricket is that, unlike most other sports, there are three possible outcomes: a win for the Holder of The Ashes; a win for the Challenger; or a Drawn Test. Thus any astrological model used to determine the outcome of the Test must allow for these three possible results.

Castle Besiegement according to Guido Bonatti¹

Cast a chart for the commencement of the siege. The Castle is the Fourth house of the chart and the attacker is the First house of the chart. Measure the respective rulers for strength and zodiacal condition and compare the condition of the First and the Fourth. In addition, consider the aspects made by the two signifiers. After taking all of these relationship points into account, deem the house ruler and/or house which is the stronger to be the victory in the siege.

Applying this to Sport

The beauty of medieval methods is that, although they may appear complex, the planets, houses and aspects can simply be reduced to a series of pluses or minuses. For example, Bonatti tells us that if a malefic or Cauda Draconis is in the Fourth house, it signifies “loss and evacuation” but if a benefic or Caput Draconis is in there, it “..signifies that the city or castle will not be taken...”²

The rules of planetary and/or house strength can therefore be allocated different point scores reflecting the positive or negative nature of a particular event and therefore

¹ Guido Bonatti’s “Tractatus Sextus” Chapter XXIX translated by Robert Zoller. Published in the Astrological Quarterly Vol 63 No 3 Summer 1993 page 16.

² Op cit page 17.

allow consistency in being able to judge the outcome of the conflict. The difficulty of course is once one has compiled the list of rules, one then has to determine how many points any particular rule adds or subtracts from the score, as well as clearly defining such grey areas as orb, and so on. However, once one has a clear set of scores and rules, then it is simply a matter of setting up a data base and “scoring” each Test and looking at the end results to determine the validity of the astrological model. This article is the result of such a process.

The Astrological Model based on Bonatti’s Castle Besiegement.

Definitions and background

The Trophy Holder is called the Holder and the challenger is called the Challenger.

The time used is the scheduled time for the start of the first day of the Test Match³. Test Cricket is a game where delays caused by rain are a part of the game. A five day Test may start a day late due to weather but it is still a five day Test, with the scores at the beginning of the second day being 0 runs for 0 wickets. The captains then have to change their tactics to allow for this shortened playing time, since another day is not added at the end. In other words, the Test starts when it is scheduled to start, not when the players take to the field.

The Data

The scheduled start times of the Tests were supplied from the following sources:

Australian Matches

From 1892 to 1994 inclusive: Ross Dundas of Ross Dundas Cricket Statistics Pty Ltd, Melbourne, who accessed the original scorebooks for the information. Data given directly to Brady.

English Matches

1921 to 1964 inclusive: Glennys Williams, assistant Curator of Marylebone Cricket Club, Lord’s Ground, London. 1968 to 1981 inclusive: Bill Frindall of Wiltshire UK, the Scorer of Tests in England since 1966. 1983 to 1993 inclusive: Ross Dundas. Data given directly to Brady. 1884 to 1905 inclusive: Peter Wynne-Thomas, Hon. Secretary Cricket Statisticians Association, UK. The actual start times as reported in the local papers of the day. Data given directly to Brady.

Missing data

For the Matches from 1909 to 1912 inclusive played in England, Brady has had no confirmation of scheduled start times. Lord’s does not have this information; nor does

³ In collecting the data for the individual Test matches, Brady was given both the scheduled start times as well as the actual start times, which varied considerably due to rain delay. Both times were examined and the scheduled times yielded far better results in the model than the actual start time.

the NSW Cricket Association, the library where all the scorebooks of home or overseas Tests played by the Australian team are kept. In addition these start times were not reported in the local papers of the day. By this time England had set the playing conditions for play to start at 11.30am. This began in the 1902 series and continued till the 1977 series. However, without confirmation these two series have not been used.

In the 1880's, Test Cricket started at 1 pm but by 1921, in England, the Test tended to start at 11.30 am. However, individual Tests varied in their start time depending on whether they were going to include a Sunday or not. For example, for a while in the late 1970's Tests in England that had Sunday play started earlier, so that on Sunday they could start late in order for the players and spectators to go to church. Thus one cannot assume that a particular Test has a certain start time just because that was the playing condition of the day. If a Test's scheduled start time was not confirmed, then it was not used.

The Number and type of Test

As stated, the astrological model is based on Bonatti's castle besiegement techniques and therefore the Test must involve the potential for the castle to fall. In Test Cricket scheduled Tests are played regardless of whether the series has been won. Thus with The Ashes there is usually one Test, sometimes two, at the end of a series which are played for "the game" and "the honour" but not for the "castle". These Tests no longer fall into the category of "castle besiegement" and therefore have not been used in the astrological model.

Given all of the above points, of the 270 Ashes Tests collected, 203 were castle besiegement and have been scored using the method described in "The Astrological Model" given later in this article.

A quick summary of the results:

The results can be summarised in the following table:

	Actual	Predicted
Holder Wins	81	46
Challenger Wins	65	47
Draw	58	36
Total Tests	204	129

This represents a success rate of 65% when a success rate by chance would have given only 33%. Lehman gives the statistical significance and further break down of these results later in this article.

The Astrological Model

Chart Erection

A chart is erected for the scheduled start of play using Placidus⁴ houses. Only the planets of Saturn inwards are used, as well as the Part of Fortune for a diurnal chart, as Test Cricket does not have nocturnal start times. Aspecting is Ptolemeic.

The first consideration of any Ashes chart is the potential for a draw. If, and only if, that potential is not present in the chart, then the rest of the astrological model can be used to find the victor of the Test.

A Drawn Match

A Drawn Match in Test cricket will occur for the following reasons:

- a) Both teams want to win but neither can bowl the other out or score enough runs to win. (This is generally caused by the state of the wicket. If it favours the batsman too strongly, a Test will tend to end in a draw);
- b) Rain causes loss of playing time, making it impossible for 40 wickets to fall;
- c) One team will often play for a draw when in reality it means a victory for them (ie if a team is one Test up in the series, a draw in the final Test will mean that they have won the series and hence The Ashes.)

This final point “c”, although a victory for a particular team, is still a draw and if the astrological model did not pick the draw, even if it correctly predicted the winning team as the team favoured by the draw, it was still considered an incorrect result.

The potential of a draw is dependent upon the condition of the Moon. If the Moon is in bad condition, then an outcome will not be achieved and the Test will tend to end as a draw. However, the condition of the Moon has little say over the traditional condition of a particular wicket. The wickets (the playing surfaces) in England are very different to those in Australia and as a result, the ratio of draws varies considerably depending on the country in which The Ashes are being played. In England about 45% of all Ashes Tests played result in a draw. However, in Australia only about 18% are draws.

Translating this information into astrological terms implies that the Moon has to be in reasonably bad condition for a draw to occur in Australian Tests. However, for an English Test, the Moon is far more sensitive to depletion.

⁴ Brady feels that the preferred house system would be Alcabitius, since it appears to be the system used by Bonatti. However, at the time of compiling the work, her software did not offer her that choice. Placidus was used as it is an extension of the concept of Alcabitius.

Drawn Match in Australia

If the dispositor⁵ of the Moon is a benefic or an inferior planet and it is in detriment or fall OR if it is a malefic planet in rulership or exaltation, then consider the following⁶:

- a) Is the Moon in detriment or fall?
- b) Is the Moon applying to a malefic?
- c) Is the Moon combust?
- d) Is the Moon applying to or separating from a conjunction of the South node?
- e) Is the dispositor combust?
- f) Is the dispositor applying to or separating from a conjunction of the South node?
- g) Is the dispositor retrograde?

If any of the above points of a) to g) are fulfilled, then the Test is judged to be a Draw.

Drawn Match in England

All of the points for Australia are used and regardless of the zodiacal condition of the Moon's dispositor the following, can also imply a draw in England :

- a) The Moon applying to or separating from a conjunction of the Nodal axis and NOT helped by a strong dispositor or an aspect from a benefic planet;
- b) A combust Moon, regardless of the condition of the dispositor;
- c) The Moon applying (6⁰ orb) to a square to the Nodal axis and the Moon in bad zodiacal condition or not receiving an aspect from a benefic;
- d) The Moon in the same sign as the South Node but an earlier degree.

If any of the above four points, in addition to the points listed for Australian Tests, were present in a chart for an English Test, then it was judged to be a draw.

The Series of 1926 - an example of drawn Tests

There was a 5 Test series played in England in 1926 where the first four Tests resulted in draws. These Tests were spaced a fortnight apart. The first on 12th June; the second 14 days later on the 26th June; the third on 10th July; the fourth on 24th July; and the last Test having a longer break of three weeks, not being played until 14th August.

The first Test, on 12th June, had the Moon in Cancer conjunct the North Node applying to a trine to Saturn, hence judged as a draw and resulting in a draw. The next

⁵ Planet that rules the sign of the Moon. Remember to use old planets and rulerships only.

⁶ This list is supported by Bonatti's writings on the ways that the Moon can be depleted as listed by him in *Anima Astrologiae - The Astrologers Guide* trans Henry Coley 4th edition 1986. Whitstable Litho ltd, Kent page3 consideration 5.

Test held 14 days later saw the Moon in Capricorn forming an applying conjunction to the South node, hence another drawn Test. The third Test, held 14 days later, once again saw the Moon in Cancer conjunct the North Node, but now involved in a solar eclipse, thus another drawn Test. The fourth Test, held 14 days later, once again saw the Moon in Capricorn conjunct the South Node, resulting in the fourth drawn Test. The fifth and last Test of the series was played 21 days later and had the Moon in good condition, However, having broken the pattern, a result was achieved.

When Tests are scheduled a fortnight apart in England, the Moon simply moves back and forth into opposite positions in the zodiac. If it is aligning with a conjunction or square to the nodal axis, then a series of draws will result.

If it was judged that the Test was not going to be a draw, then the following scoring method was applied to the chart to determine the winner of the Test.

Scoring the points for the Challenger and the Holder

Step 1 - The Houses to be use

Take the ruler of the Ascendant for the Challenger and the ruler of the Fourth house as the Holder.

Comments on House rulerships

Only use old rulerships, that is to say: Saturn ruling both Capricorn and Aquarius; Mars ruling both Scorpio and Aries; Jupiter ruling both Sagittarius and Pisces.

If the Ascendant is 3° 30" or less of a sign, then take the ruler of the previous sign as the First House ruler. This does not change the degree of the MC/IC axis.

Superior planets, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn are stronger in battle than the inferior planets of Venus and Mercury and the luminaries of the Sun and the Moon⁷.

For both 1st and 4th house rulers score the following:

♄	+1
♃	+1
♂	+1
♀	0
♃*	0
♂	0
☉	0

- Mercury scores points for its translation which is discussed later.

⁷ Bonatti Guido, *Tractatus Sextus*. Trans Robert Zoller. Chapter XXI. Astrological Quarterly Volume 63 No 1 December 1992. Page 16.

Step 2 - The House of a Planet

In the model Placidus houses were used and a planet was considered to be in a particular house if⁸:

Angular: A planet is said to be in an angular house if it is 7⁰ from its cusp in the same sign or 4⁰ from the cusp if in a different sign, ie. a planet in the 6th house 3⁰ below the Descendant is considered to be Angular.

Succeedant: A planet is said to be in an succeedant house if it is 4⁰ from its cusp in the same sign or 2⁰ from the cusp if in a different sign, ie. a planet in the 7th house 2⁰ from the 8th house cusp is considered succeedant.

Cadent: A planet is said to be in an cadent house if it is 2⁰ from its cusp in the same sign, ie. a planet in the 8th house 2⁰ from the 9th house cusp is considered cadent.

Step 3 - The House of the Ruler

For the Ruler of the Ascendant if in the:

1 st House	0
2 nd House	0
3 rd House	0
4 th House	+2 (In the Castle)
5 th House	0
6 th House	0
7 th House	-2 (In the hands of the enemy)
8 th House	0
9 th House	0
10 th House	0
11 th House	0
12 th House	0

House of the Holder, the ruler of the 4th House in the:

⁸ This is based on the many references in Greek and medieval astrological writings that a planet just before a house cusp can be considered in the next house. Bonatti in the *Anima Astrologiae* consideration 59 page 28, has a discussion on this point. The orbs given here have been found through trial and error.

1 st House	-1 (In the hands of the enemy)
2 nd House	0
3 rd House	0
4 th House	+2 (In the Castle)
5 th House	0
6 th House	0
7 th House	+2 (In their own place)
8 th House	0
9 th House	0
10 th House	0
11 th House	0
12 th House	0

Step 4 - The Zodiacal Condition of the Rulers of the 1st and the 4th

Planet	Rulership	Exaltation	Detriment	Fall
♄	-2	-2	+2	+2
♃	+2	+2	-2	-2
♂	-2	-2	+2	+2
♀	+1.5	+1.5	-1.5	-1.5
♆	+1.5	+1.5	-1.5	-1.5
♅	+1.5	+1.5	-1.5	-1.5
♁	+1.5	+1.5	-1.5	-1.5

Comments on Zodiacal Condition scoring

The malefics of Saturn and Mars are stronger in their action when their are in Rulership or Exaltation. The ability of Saturn or Mars to block or deny success is strengthened by it being in good zodiacal condition. However, when the planet’s ability to block or deny is weakened, then the chance of victory is increased. Thus Saturn in Detriment or Fall scores points for the team it signifies but in Rulership or Exaltation blocks the team from success.

This is not supported in the writings of Bonatti but is strongly support by the results of the Tests⁹.

Note: A zodiac sign is considered to be from 1⁰ to 30⁰. Thus a planet is not in a particular zodiac sign until it has reached 1⁰ 00’ 00” of that sign. Thus Jupiter at 0⁰ 15’ of Capricorn would be considered as 30⁰ 15’ Sagittarius and thereby still in rulership.

⁹ Robert Hand in his publication *Night & Day Planetary Sect in Astrology*. The Golden Hind Press 1995 page 4, also refers to this concept of a malefic being more malefic when in “good” condition.

Step 5 - Other forms of Depletion

For Both Rulers:

Combust: -2.5 points if within 8^0 applying to the Sun; 7^0 separating.

Note: Out-of-sign combustions are allowed, since the definition is based on a question of visibility which is sign independent.

Retrograde : -1.5 points - no consideration is given to what stage of its retrograde cycle the planet is currently at¹⁰.

Detriment: See Step 4

Fall: See Step 4

At this stage there are no examples of this type of contest where either ruler is besieged. However, there is strong evidence of the effect of besiegement in other forms of contest.

Step 6 - Scoring for Seeking an Aspect

What is Seeking and Aspect¹¹?

A planet is said to be seeking an aspect if it is applying, via a Ptolemeic aspect, to another planet. Such a planet may not be successful in making that aspect, as the second planet may change sign or a third, faster-moving planet may come in and form an aspect to the second planet before the first planet can complete the aspect.

A planet can only form ONE aspect at a time.

Hence in this method, a planet is only “seeking” another if:

- a) it is applying in a Ptolemeic aspect.
- b) it is within a 2^0 of being exact. (This closeness of orb tends to disallow any aspect “grabbing” by another planet and is an attempt to standardise the model being examined. Technically much wider orbs can be used, with each chart’s planetary configurations being considered in their own right.)
- c) A planet can only seek an aspect to a slower-moving planet.

Once a planet is found to be seeking an aspect the matter of reception must be considered before a score can be allocated.

¹⁰ Bonatti in op cit *Anima Astrologiae* consideration 26, page 18, does make a distinction between planets that are at different phases of their retrograde cycle but for the sake of simplicity of the astrological model these shadings of the quality of retrogradation have been ignored.

¹¹ Robert Hand in his introduction to Guido Bonatti’s *Liber Astronomiae Part III* . trans Robert Hand. Project Hindsight. The Golden Hind Press 1995, gives an excellent discussion on medieval aspect theory.

Reception

A planet is said to receive another planet if the applying planet is in a zodiac position that has dignity for the first planet. For example, if Mars in Libra is seeking an aspect to Saturn, Saturn is said to “receive” the Mars because Mars is in a place of Saturn’s honour. This is a guest at your door and you have to let them in. If at the same time the Saturn was in Aries, then we have the concept of Mutual Reception.

However, being received is not always a positive thing and if the planet which is receiving is cadent, then it is unable to receive. So in the above example, if Saturn was in a cadent house, then the reception of Mars does not help Mars or Saturn.

The Scoring for Seeking an aspect

Condition of Receiving Planet	Score
Benefic or Malefic: in rulership or exaltation with reception provided it is not cadent	+3
Benefic or Malefic: angular or succeedant in rulership, exaltation or no dignity	+2
Benefic: angular or succeedant in detriment or fall	+1
Benefic or Malefic: cadent regardless of any zodiacal dignity	0
Malefic: angular or succeedant in detriment or fall	-1
Benefic: angular or succeedant in detriment or fall and retrograde	-1
Malefic: angular or succeedant in detriment or fall and retrograde	-1

Step 7 - Ruler Aspecting the Angles

A ruler is considered to be aspecting either Angle if:

- a) It is applying or separating.
- b) The aspect is a Ptolemeic aspect.
- c) It is within normal orbs (8⁰ for squares, conjunctions, trines; 4⁰ for sextiles. Oppositions are, of course, conjunctions to the opposite angle).
- d) That the forming of the aspect does not involve a sign change. (For example, Mars at 27⁰ of Taurus does not form a conjunction to an Ascendant at 2⁰ Gemini because such a conjunction would involve a sign change).

Score for aspect to angle = +2

Note: Planets that aspect both angles still only score 2 points.

Step 8 - Additional Score for the Holder

If planets are in the 4th house, they aid the Holder of the Trophy in the following way¹²:

Planet and condition	Score
Moon, in any condition	+2
North Node	+1
South Node	-1
A Benefic superior or inferior	+2
A Benefic which is depleted by sign or retrogradation	-1
A Malefic	-1
A Malefic which is depleted by sign or retrogradation	+1

Note: Multiple planets in the 4th are evaluated separately and their results are summed.

Comments of Planets in the 4th house

Because Match start times are not around midnight, there are no examples of a benefic or a malefic in the fourth house and also being combust, thus this is not listed as one of the ways for the planet to be depleted.

Step 9 - Additional Scoring for the Challenger

If the ruler of the Ascendant has any dignity in the degree of the 4th house, that aids the challenger¹³.

Type of Dignity in the 4 th House cusp	Score
Peregrine - no dignity	0
Rules (It can happen at times that the 1 st and 4 th are ruled by the same planet. This has occurred in some Superbowl charts and two Ashes matches and in this case, LL has successfully used the triplicity lords).	
Exalted ruler	+2
Term ruler - Egyptian ¹⁴	+1
Triplicity ruler - any one of the three triplicity rulers (The triplicity table used is that of Dorotheus, Schoener and Dariot: the standard Medieval system of three triplicity rulers per sign. Sect has not been taken into account).	+0.5
Triplicity and Term ruler	+3
Face ruler	0
Triplicity and Face	0
Term and Face	0

¹² Op cit Bonatti *Tractatus Sextus* Chapter XXIX. Page 17

¹³ op cit Bonatti *Tractatus Sextus* Chapter XXIX. Page 17

Note: The empirical evidence is that Face is a form of dignity which does not aid the planet.

Step 10 - The translation of Mercury

It would have been noted that under Step 1, Mercury was allocated a score of zero. However, Mercury has the ability to translate and can gain an additional score by a good translation.

The planets involved in the translation by Mercury	Score
From an Inferior to an Inferior	0
From a Superior to an Inferior	+1
From an Inferior to a Superior	+1
From a Superior to a Superior	+2

Comments on the Translation of Mercury

The following is important when scoring a translation of Mercury :

- a) All translations must be via Ptolemeic aspects;
- b) All translations must be between old planets only;
- c) Mercury is able to carry a translation through a sign change. You may have to look into a previous sign to find what it is translating from and you may have to look into the next sign to find what it is translating to.

Step 11 - Home Country advantage

If the team which is the Holder is also playing in their own country, then they gain a +1 point advantage. This rule does not apply to the American football example, and its applicability to other sports will need to be examined in a case-by-case basis.

Step 12 - Add up the scores

Add up the scores for both rulers and the ruler that has the greatest score will be deemed the victor.

If the teams are level, then the Holder is selected as the winner of the Match.

Using the forthcoming 1997 Ashes Series as an example of the model

¹⁴ In the few cases where the use of Ptolemeic terms would have given a different result, it was found that the Egyptian terms yielded the correct outcome.

The model yields a success rate of 65%, so for any particular test with its three possible outcomes there is a 65% chance of correctly predicting the Test. In some series the model will correctly pick all the Test matches; in others it may get them all wrong. With the last Ashes series played in Australia in 1994, of the three Tests that were castle besiegement matches, the model predicted all three Tests incorrectly. So this model is not good for predicting the outcome of any particular Test. However, it can show us what the statistical biases are for any particular Test and with the last three Ashes Tests failing the model, there is a greater potential for the model to yield the correct results.

This year The Ashes will be contested again in England over six scheduled Test matches. Australia currently holds The Ashes. The Tests and their scheduled start times are:

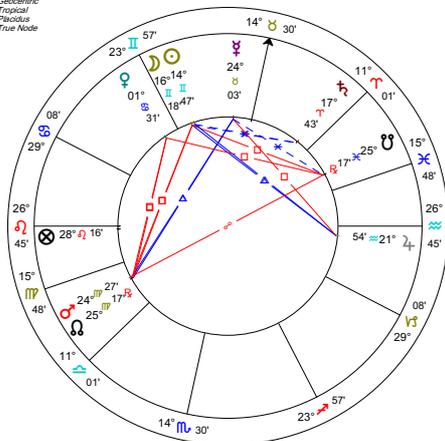
1997

- First Test 5th June at Edgbaston, Birmingham 11 am
- Second Test 19th June at Lord's, London 11 am
- Third Test 3rd July at Old Trafford, Manchester 11 am
- Fourth Test 24th July at Headingley, Leeds 11 am
- Fifth Test 7th August at Trent Bridge, Nottingham 11 am
- Sixth Test 21st August at The Oval, London 11 am

For Australia to lose The Ashes, they must lose the majority of these Test. Given that there are six Tests, if Australia wins the first three, they retain The Ashes and only the first three Tests are castle besiegement conflicts. Given the game of cricket, this is unlikely. Therefore there is a very good chance that the first four Tests should be castle besiegement charts. After the fourth Test The Ashes may be decided, in which case the 5th and 6th Tests may or may not be castle besiegement charts.

The First Test at Edgbaston

1997a First Test
 Natal Chart
 5 Jun 1997
 11:00 AM BST -1:00
 Birmingham, England
 52N30 001W00
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 True Node



England is the Challenger and therefore the Ascendant ruled by the Sun in Gemini in the 10th house. Australia is the Holder and thus the 4th house and is therefore ruled by Mars in Virgo in the 2nd house.

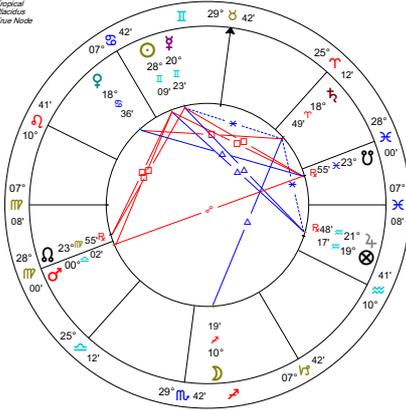
However, in examining the chart for a possible Draw, the Moon is combust and in the English Ashes Tests, there has never been a Test that has had a results when the Moon is combust. There have been seven other Test matches which commenced on a New Moon. These were; Third Test of the 1905 series on the 3rd July; First Test of the 1926 series on the 10th July; First Test of

the 1930 series on the 25th July; First Test of the 1953 series on the 11th June; First Test of the 1956 series, 7th June; Fourth Test of the 1968 series on the 25th July; First Test of the 1977 series on the 16th June. All of these Test matches ended in a draw.

Thus if this First Test of the 1997 series gives a result, it will be the first time in the long history of The Ashes.

The Second Test at Lord's

1997b Second Test
 Natal Chart
 19 Jun 1997
 11:00 AM BST -1:00
 London, England
 51N30 00W10
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 True Node



The Moon is in Sagittarius, too wide to form a square to the nodal axis and Jupiter, the dispositor, although not strong in the chart, is not in detriment or fall. The Test should have a result.

England is the challenger and therefore the Ascendant ruled by Mercury in Gemini in the 10th combust the Sun.

Score for Mercury: Inferior in rulership = +1.5. Combust -2.5. Translation of Mercury is from Saturn (a sextile) to Jupiter (a trine) thus +2. Mercury seeks Jupiter but Jupiter is cadent, so no score. Mercury does not aspect either the Ascendant or the IC and has no dignity in the degree of the IC. Total score for

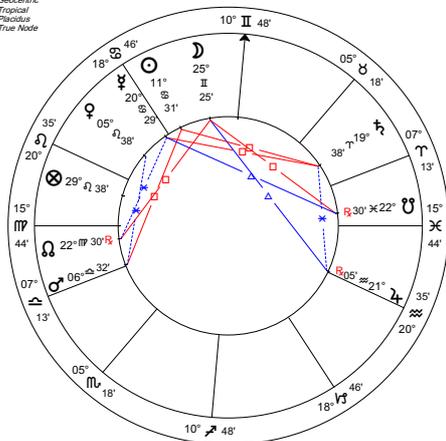
Mercury = 1.

Australia is the 4th house and its ruler Mars in Libra in the 2nd house.

Scores for Mars: Mars is a superior planet and scores +1. Mars is NOT in Libra but at 30° 02' Virgo, so it scores no points for its zodiac sign. Mars does not seek any aspects. However, Mars at 30° 02' Virgo sextiles the IC and thus scores +2. The Moon in the house of the Holder scores +2. Total score for Mars = 5

Australia should win the Second Test.

1997c Third Test
 Natal Chart
 3 Jul 1997
 11:00 AM BST -1:00
 Manchester, England
 53N10 02W15
 Geocentric
 Tropical
 Placidus
 True Node



The Third Test at Old Trafford

The Moon is in Gemini just past the square to the Nodal axis. Its dispositor is Mercury in Cancer, just wide of being combust. This chart is just "wide" of a draw.

England is the Challenger and thus the Ascendant ruled by Mercury in Cancer in the 11th house. Score for Mercury: no points for zodiac sign; its translation is from Saturn (a square) to Venus (a conjunction) thus it scores +1; it does not aspect the Ascendant (the sextile is too wide) or the IC;

it has no dignity in the degree of the IC. Total score for Mercury = 1.
Australia is the Holder and is the 4th house which is ruled by Jupiter in Aquarius retrograde in the 6th house.

Score for Jupiter: Jupiter is a superior planet so +1; it scores no points for its zodiacal position; it is seeking (retrograde) the sextile to a succeedant Saturn in Fall, thus it scores +2 ; it is retrograde so -1.5; It does not form an aspect to either the Ascendant or the IC; there are no planets in the 4th house. Total score for Jupiter = 1.5

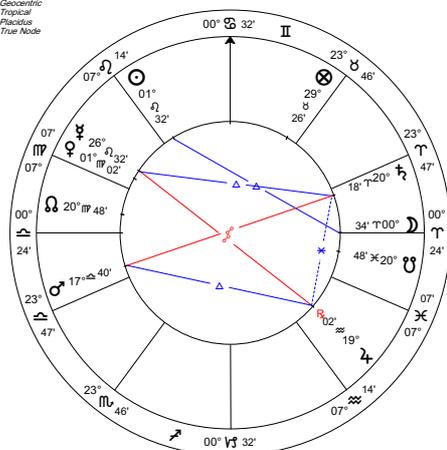
Australia should win the Third Test.

This is a doubtful Test as it is nearly a draw and the results hangs on the ability of the cadent Jupiter to receive the aspect from Saturn. A draw will also favour Australia, as they are not only the Holder but should, by this time, be one Test up in the series. Therefore if they are in that position, given this chart, they may well play for the Draw

Astrologically this is very similar to the Second Test of the 1985 series, 27th June at 11am London, when Jupiter was last in Aquarius. It was ruling the 4th, retrograde and in the 6th in Aquarius with Mercury and the Ascendant ruler was once again in Cancer. Neither planet was aspecting an angle but Jupiter was not receiving an aspect. In that case the Challenger won the Test. In the Second Test of the 1961 series 22nd June at 11.30 am, London, once again Jupiter, ruler of the IC was retrograde in Aquarius and Mercury, ruler of the Ascendant, was in Cancer. In this Test Jupiter formed a sextile to the IC, thus enabling the Holder to win the Test. The Second Test of the 1926 series 26th June, 11.30am, London, was also a similar chart but in this case, although the Jupiter was not forming an aspect to the angles, the Moon's position indicated a draw which indeed was the result. So this third Test of the 1997 series will be an interesting test case for the ability of the cadent Jupiter to seek the sextile from Saturn. This is an example of the style of research which has led to the formation of the model.

The Fourth Test at Headingley

1997d Fourth Test
Natal Chart
24 Jul 1997
11:30 AM BST -1:00
Leeds, England
SRSR0 001W05
Geocentric
Tropical
Placidus
True Node



The Moon is in reasonable condition so it should not be a draw. England is the Challenger and thus the Ascendant. The Ascendant is considered to be Virgo as any Ascendant which is less than 3⁰30' into a sign is considered to be in the previous sign. However, this does not alter the degree of the IC, thus England is Mercury in Leo in the 11th house.

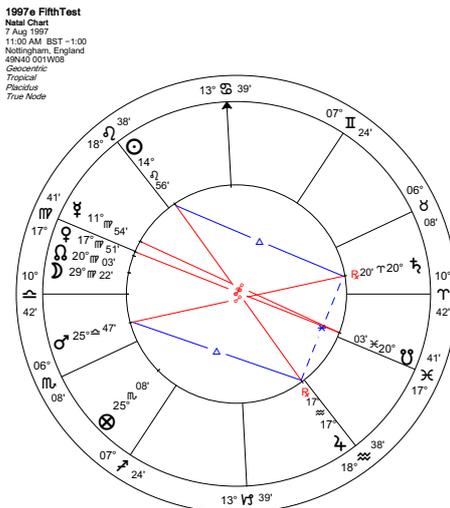
Score for Mercury: No points for zodiacal position; translation is from Saturn (trine) to Venus (conjunction) thus it scores +1; Mercury seeks no aspects; it makes no aspects to the ascendant or the IC; it is the term ruler of the degree of the IC scores +1. Total score for Mercury = +2.

Australia is Saturn in Aries in the 8th house (it is only 3^o from the 8th house cusp in the same sign and is therefore considered in the 8th house). Score for Saturn: Saturn is a superior planet and thus scores +1; Saturn is a malefic in Fall and thus scores +2; Saturn cannot seek an aspect as it is the slowest-moving planet; it forms no aspects to either the Ascendant or the IC; there are no planets in the 4th house. Total score for Saturn = +3.

Australia should win the Fourth Test

If this is the case and the Tests go as implied by the model, then Australia retains The Ashes. It should be noted that if Australia are two up in the series going into the Fourth Test, then a draw is as good as a win, as either way Australia retains The Ashes.

The Fifth Test at Trent Bridge

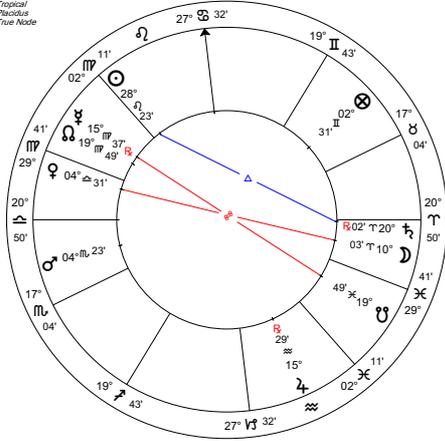


This may or may not be a castle besiegement Test but if The Ashes are still in the balance, then this Test just misses out on being classified as a draw (the Moon is just wide of a conjunction to the nodal axis) and with Saturn even stronger in the chart, in the 7th house and squaring the IC, the Holder of The Ashes should win the Test. Indeed this chart is so strongly in favour of the Holder that this may be the Test where they are decided, and thus the Holder will retain The Ashes.

Saturn scores 5.5 (+1 for superior; +2 for Fall; +2 for 7th house; +2 for square to IC; -1.5 for retrograde) and Venus the ruler of the Ascendant scores only 0.5, for being a triplicity ruler of the IC.

The Sixth Test at The Oval

1997's Sixth Test
Natal Chart
21 Aug 1997
11:00 AM BST -1:00
London, England
51°53' 00"N 0°10' 00"W
Geocentric
Tropical
Placidus
True Node



This Test is very unlikely to be a castle besiegement type of conflict. However, if that is the case, clearly the ruler of the 4th is stronger than the ruler of the Ascendant. Venus scores 3 points (1.5 for triplicity ruler and 1.5 for being in rulership) and Saturn scores 5.5 in the same manner as in the 5th Test.

So it would seem that in the 1997 series, the astrology favours the Holder of The Ashes in every Test.

It would be most unlikely for the model to be correct on all Tests, as this has only happened in 1890, 1892, 1898, 1908, 1920, 1926, 1930, 1938, 1948, 1956, 1959 and the 1983 series, 12 Series only out of a total of the 55 series examined. However, every Test this English summer will be an astrological lesson in Guido Bonatti's 12th century Castle Besiegement techniques.