# England cricketers turn to bikes and boots to beat traffic chaos before ODI against West Indies



In an unexpected twist reminiscent of a scene from a comedy film, England cricketers faced a considerable logistical challenge prior to the third One Day International (ODI) against the West Indies at The Oval. Both teams were caught in heavy traffic, which forced players and staff to resort to various modes of transport to reach the ground. The England and Wales Cricket Board attributed the chaos to "heavy traffic north of the river," citing a combination of broken down buses, malfunctioning traffic lights, and extensive roadworks that exacerbated the situation.

While England's squad ultimately opted to abandon their stationary bus, their journey turned into something of an urban adventure. Using Lime bikes, some players made their way on foot or took the underground; a sight that led to bemusement among fans who spotted Joe Root and Adil Rashid walking past shortly before the match. England captain Harry Brook remarked, “We were on the bus for a while, then we all decided to get off and get on some Lime bikes,” highlighting the unorthodox solution that helped ensure they arrived in time for warm-up activities.

In sharp contrast, the West Indies squad remained on their coach for an extended period as it crawled a mere 3.5 miles from their Chelsea hotel. Their delayed arrival not only interfered with their typical pre-match rituals but also caused the toss to be postponed by thirty minutes. This lack of preparation did not go unnoticed, with captain Shai Hope humorously admitting they "probably should have walked" given the traffic woes. Ultimately, despite the late start, Hope's side managed to post a competitive score of 251-9 after their innings was shortened to 40 overs due to rain delays.

This ODI saw England aiming to complete a 3-0 series sweep, following victories at Edgbaston and Cardiff. Following their late infrastructure-induced antics, England’s players settled into their game, with Jamie Smith delivering a standout performance. Scoring 64 off just 28 balls helped his team reach a revised target of 246, underscoring Smith's emergence as a key player in this series. The victory was also significant for Brook, marking a successful start to his captaincy in white-ball cricket and ending a previously dismal seven-match ODI losing streak for England.

In stark contrast to the day's earlier chaos, the spectators witnessed a display of cricketing skill that pointed towards promising developments in the England squad. As Harry Brook leads a rejuvenated team, the incident not only served as a humorous anecdote but also highlighted the resilience needed in the sport.

Beyond the immediate chaos of travel and logistics, the incident demonstrated the unpredictability of sporting events and the need for players to remain adaptable. As they continue their preparations for future challenges—including the upcoming ICC Women's World Cup—teams must stay nimble, balancing the chaos of modern-day logistics with the traditional demands of elite sport. With fresh leadership and emerging talent, England cricket appears poised at the dawn of an invigorating new era.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2025/jun/03/england-cricketers-forced-into-emergency-travel-plans-before-third-west-indies-odi), [[2]](https://www.reuters.com/sports/cricket/third-odi-delayed-after-west-indies-team-get-stuck-traffic-2025-06-03/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2025/jun/03/england-cricketers-forced-into-emergency-travel-plans-before-third-west-indies-odi), [[2]](https://www.reuters.com/sports/cricket/third-odi-delayed-after-west-indies-team-get-stuck-traffic-2025-06-03/), [[6]](https://www.reuters.com/sports/cricket/england-bowler-atkinson-ruled-out-west-indies-odis-2025-05-27/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.reuters.com/sports/cricket/smith-paves-way-england-crush-west-indies-complete-3-0-series-sweep-2025-06-03/), [[4]](https://www.reuters.com/sports/cricket/knight-out-englands-home-summer-with-hamstring-injury-2025-05-29/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2025/jun/03/england-cricketers-forced-into-emergency-travel-plans-before-third-west-indies-odi> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.reuters.com/sports/cricket/third-odi-delayed-after-west-indies-team-get-stuck-traffic-2025-06-03/> - The third One Day International (ODI) between England and the West Indies at The Oval was delayed by 30 minutes due to the West Indies team being stuck in traffic. While the West Indies remained on their bus due to traffic light failures and road closures near Vauxhall Bridge, England's players used electric Lime Bikes to reach the ground on time, amusing fans and ensuring an early warm-up. The delay was confirmed by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB), citing the late arrival of a playing team. Play eventually began at 13:30, with England captain Harry Brook, after winning the toss, choosing to bowl as England aimed for a 3-0 series sweep following wins in Edgbaston and Cardiff. The West Indies, staying just about three miles away at Chelsea Harbour, reportedly underestimated the traffic congestion, with their captain Shai Hope humorously admitting they 'probably should have walked.' ([reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com/sports/cricket/third-odi-delayed-after-west-indies-team-get-stuck-traffic-2025-06-03/?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.reuters.com/sports/cricket/smith-paves-way-england-crush-west-indies-complete-3-0-series-sweep-2025-06-03/> - England secured a 3-0 one-day international series sweep against West Indies with a commanding seven-wicket win at the Oval. Opener Jamie Smith starred with a blistering 64 off just 28 balls, helping England chase a revised target of 246 in 40 overs following a rain delay. Smith's half-century, reached in just 25 balls, included 10 boundaries and three sixes, earning him man of the match honours. Ben Duckett added 58, while Joe Root contributed 44, and Jos Buttler sealed the match with a six during his unbeaten 41. The match began with a traffic-related delay impacting the West Indies’ team and saw their innings reduced to 40 overs. Despite early setbacks, West Indies posted 251-9, thanks largely to Sherfane Rutherford’s 70 and Gudakesh Motie’s aggressive 63. England’s Adil Rashid played a critical role with three wickets. The series victory marks a strong debut for new white-ball captain Harry Brook, ending England's previous seven-match ODI losing streak and signalling a promising new era. ([reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com/sports/cricket/smith-paves-way-england-crush-west-indies-complete-3-0-series-sweep-2025-06-03/?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.reuters.com/sports/cricket/knight-out-englands-home-summer-with-hamstring-injury-2025-05-29/> - England batter and former captain Heather Knight has been ruled out of all home international cricket and The Hundred for the 2025 summer due to a significant hamstring tendon injury. The injury was confirmed by an MRI scan after she appeared in discomfort during England’s 3-0 T20 series sweep against the West Indies, in which she scored an unbeaten 66 in the final match. Knight did not field in the second innings of that match. The England and Wales Cricket Board announced that she will undergo further medical assessments to determine the course of her recovery. Although no specific timeline for her return has been set, the board remains optimistic that Knight will be fit for selection in time for the ICC Women's World Cup scheduled to take place in India in September 2025. In the meantime, Knight will miss upcoming fixtures, including the one-day series against the West Indies and the tour of India in June and July. ([reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com/sports/cricket/knight-out-englands-home-summer-with-hamstring-injury-2025-05-29/?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.reuters.com/sports/cricket/dawson-returns-englands-t20-squad-salt-dropped-odis-against-west-indies-2025-05-13/> - Liam Dawson has been recalled to England’s T20 cricket squad for the first time since 2022, while Phil Salt has been dropped from the ODI lineup for the upcoming home series against the West Indies. England will play three ODIs and three T20s between May 29 and June 10 under the new white-ball captain Harry Brook. Will Jacks, having recently played in the IPL, returns to both squads, while Luke Wood and Tom Hartley make comebacks to T20 and ODI squads respectively. The IPL season was suspended due to conflict between India and Pakistan but is set to resume on May 17, causing potential scheduling conflicts with the England-West Indies series. English IPL players are set to meet with the Professional Cricketers' Association regarding their safety if they return to India. Additionally, England will face Zimbabwe in a four-day Test at Trent Bridge beginning May 22. ([reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com/sports/cricket/dawson-returns-englands-t20-squad-salt-dropped-odis-against-west-indies-2025-05-13/?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.reuters.com/sports/cricket/england-bowler-atkinson-ruled-out-west-indies-odis-2025-05-27/> - England fast bowler Gus Atkinson has been ruled out of the upcoming three-match One Day International (ODI) series against the West Indies due to a hamstring strain sustained during England's recent Test victory over Zimbabwe at Trent Bridge. The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) confirmed on Tuesday that no replacement will be named for Atkinson in the ODI squad. The series against the West Indies, which includes three ODIs and three Twenty20 matches, is scheduled to take place between May 29 and June 10, 2025. ([reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com/sports/cricket/england-bowler-atkinson-ruled-out-west-indies-odis-2025-05-27/?utm_source=openai))