



England Test captain Joe Root practising wearing disposable gloves during a training session at Trent Bridge as part of England's return to training protocols. (Getty Images)

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England men's name behind closed doors training group ahead of first Test against West Indies

- *30-strong group named*
- *Red-ball management group confirmed for Test series with three coaches seconded from county cricket*

England National Cricket Selectors, with input from performance personnel and coaches, have named a 30-strong 'behind-closed-doors training group'

who will go into camp at the Ageas Bowl on Tuesday June 23 ahead of the first Test against the West Indies starting on Wednesday July 8.

The group, along with a separate red-ball management team, will live, prepare and train on-site at the Ageas Bowl. On Wednesday July 1 the players will participate in a three-day practice match. After this match, the squad for the first Test will be selected.

Behind-Closed-Doors Training Group:

Moeen Ali (Worcestershire), **James Anderson** (Lancashire), **Jofra Archer** (Sussex), **Jonathan Bairstow** (Yorkshire), **Dominic Bess** (Somerset), **James Bracey** (Gloucestershire), **Stuart Broad** (Nottinghamshire), **Rory Burns** (Surrey), **Jos Buttler** (Lancashire), **Zak Crawley** (Kent), **Sam Curran** (Surrey), **Joe Denly** (Kent), **Ben Foakes** (Surrey), **Lewis Gregory** (Somerset), **Keaton Jennings** (Lancashire), **Dan Lawrence** (Essex), **Jack Leach** (Somerset), **Saqib Mahmood** (Lancashire), **Craig Overton** (Somerset), **Jamie Overton** (Somerset), **Matthew Parkinson** (Lancashire), **Ollie Pope** (Surrey), **Ollie Robinson** (Sussex), **Joe Root** (Yorkshire), **Dom Sibley** (Warwickshire), **Ben Stokes** (Durham), **Olly Stone** (Warwickshire), **Amar Virdi** (Surrey), **Chris Woakes** (Warwickshire), **Mark Wood** (Durham).

Commenting on the selection of the group, National Selector Ed Smith, said:

“Everyone involved with England is delighted that cricket is returning soon, and that the players are reporting for group training in preparation for the Test series against the West Indies.

“We’d also like to thank all the county coaches who have supported these players over the past few weeks.

“A squad for the first Test will be announced in due course.”

The England and Wales Cricket Board have also confirmed the red-ball coaching team for the three-match Test series.

Graham Thorpe will support Head Coach Chris Silverwood in his role as Assistant Coach and specialise on batting. Three coaches from the county game have been seconded – Lancashire Head Coach Glen Chapple will work

closely with Silverwood as Bowling Coach. Gloucestershire's Head Coach Richard Dawson, who has had experience coaching the England Lions on their successful tour of Australia earlier this year, will take control of the spin bowlers. Working alongside Thorpe with the batsmen will be Kent's Head Coach Matthew Walker. Former Nottinghamshire and England wicketkeeper Chris Read will join the management team as wicketkeeping consultant. The ECB's National Lead Fielding Coach, Carl Hopkinson makes up the coaching group.

England Men's Assistant Coach Paul Collingwood will take charge of England's ODI team later in the summer, when it is hoped that Ireland will tour in a three-match Royal London ODI series, subject to those fixtures being confirmed.

ECB Performance Director, Mo Bobat, added:

"The support that we've received from counties during our return to training phase so far has been excellent, and it's great to be able to continue with this collaborative approach as we move into a 'Behind Closed Doors' training environment.

"As is the case in the current climate, things have progressed quickly, and we are very grateful to counties for allowing us to second their coaches to support our Test preparation. The larger group of players will certainly keep them busy.

"Involving Glen Chapple, Richard Dawson and Matt Walker adds significant leadership strength to our coaching team, as well as their obvious technical and tactical knowledge. Similarly, Chris Read's vast experience at the highest level will no doubt add value.

"Both Glen (Chapple) and Richard (Dawson) were involved in winter Lions activity, so it's nice for them and the players to build on effective coaching relationships and it's also a real positive for our domestic game that we can expose a greater number of our coaches to international cricket.

"A huge amount of work has taken place behind the scenes to get us to this point, and it's now over to Chris Silverwood and his management team to support the players with their final preparations for what will be a historical

series.”

Ends

Three-match Test Series:

1st Test: England v West Indies, July 8-12, Ageas Bowl, Southampton

2nd Test: England v West Indies, July 16-20, Emirates Old Trafford, Manchester

3rd Test: England v West Indies, July 24-28, Emirates Old Trafford, Manchester

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