

= Port Phillip v Van Diemen 's Land , 1851 =

On 11 and 12 February 1851 , teams from Port Phillip , Victoria and Van Diemen 's Land ( now Tasmania ) played a timeless cricket match at the Launceston Racecourse , known now as the NTCA Ground , in Tasmania . The match was held under the aegis of the Launceston Cricket Club , which represented the Van Diemen 's Land cricket team as the home team , and the Melbourne Cricket Club , which represented the Port Phillip team as the visiting team . The match was organised in celebration of the separation of Victoria from New South Wales .

William Philpott was the captain of the Port Phillip team , while John Marshall led the Van Diemen 's Land team . All overs bowled in the first first @-@ class cricket match had only four deliveries each . The first ball bowled during the match was an underarm delivery by William Henty of Van Diemen 's Land . Port Phillip 's Thomas Ferrier Hamilton scored the most runs during the match , while Thomas Antill , again from Port Phillip , took the most wickets . There were a significant number of additional distinctions earned and records set during the match . The match ended in two days after both teams had played two innings each . Van Diemen 's Land won the match by three wickets .

The match , which took close to a year in organising , became the first first @-@ class cricket match in Australia and the first intercolonial cricket match in Australia . The match is considered to be amongst the most significant events in the cricketing history of Australia .

= = Background = =

In the 1800s , cricket was not a widely popular sport in Australia , and interregional cricket matches in places like Tasmania were quite rare . The first recorded reference to cricket being played in Australia was on 8 January 1804 , when the Sydney Gazette reported the playing conditions for a domestic cricket match involving amateurs . The first cricketing match under the aegis of the Melbourne Cricket Club was held on 15 November 1838 on the Royal Mint grounds . The earliest images capturing a cricketing game in progress in Australia are artist John Rae 's three watercolour sketches of Hyde Park , painted in 1842 .

After the Launceston Cricket Club was founded in 1841 , there was an unsuccessful attempt that year to organise a match between the North and South of Tasmania . The match subsequently took place in 1850 , when Launceston played Hobart at Oatlands ; this match is considered to be the first North @-@ South cricket match . After this match , Launceston cricketers become more interested in playing opponents from across the Bass Strait .

At around this time , William Philpott ? an English immigrant who played cricket for the Melbourne Cricket Club and who would later captain the Victorian team in the match against Tasmania ? proposed at a special Melbourne Cricket Club meeting on 12 January 1850 that a cricketing challenge be sent to Tasmania for an intercolonial match . The match was also proposed in celebration of the impending separation of Victoria from New South Wales in 1851 .

Subsequently , in March 1850 , the Launceston Cricket Club received an invitation challenge from Melbourne Cricket Club to organise a cricket match between Van Diemen 's Land and Port Phillip 's cricket teams . In reply , Launceston Cricket Club proposed that the match take place in Launceston in the month of April 1850 . This communication from Launceston Cricket Club was delayed , resulting in the match being postponed .

The Cornwall Chronicle noted : " The match arose from a challenge having been sent in February last year by Victoria to the club newly formed in this town , which was then accepted to come off in the March following , and was only then prevented by the gentleman deputed to forward the acceptance forgetting to post his letter in time for the steamer . The Victorians with great courtesy repeating their challenge this spring . It was at once accepted and arranged to come off on the day it did . " A few months later , Melbourne Cricket Club again proposed the match . This subsequently led to the match getting scheduled for the month of February 1851 in Launceston , Tasmania . The fixture came to be considered as the first first @-@ class cricket match in Australia and also became the first intercolonial cricket match in Australia .

= = Match proceedings = =

The Melbourne Cricket Club decided that their players should have a uniform while playing the match . They chose the colours red , white and blue for the Victorian team 's match jerseys . These remain the official colours of the Melbourne Cricket Club till date . The Victorian team , wearing the multi @-@ coloured jerseys , and with friends and ladies in tow , reached Launceston on the SS Shamrock . The team was met with much fanfare on its arrival and the players were put up at the Cornwall Hotel , now known as the Batman Fawkner Inn . This was followed by considerable banqueting , which led to the team not having enough time to practice for the match .

The match started on 11 February 1851 at Launceston Cricket Club Ground , previously known as the Launceston Racecourse , currently known as the North Tasmania Cricket Association Ground . The match was scheduled as a timeless cricket match , in other words , a match that would be played without any limit on the number of days , till the match ended .

Expecting a sizeable audience , a number of spectator booths had been set up around the ground . The match was watched by around 2 @, @ 500 spectators in all , including a thousand from across the Bass Strait ? with 1 @, @ 000 spectators on the first day and 1 @, @ 500 spectators on the second day .

The two captains leading the respective teams were John Marshall , who captained the Tasmanian team , and William Philpott , who captained the Victorian team . The Tasmanian team comprised five players from Launceston and three from Hobart , while the Longford , Perth and Westbury clubs contributed one player each . All cricketers playing in the match had their first @-@ class debuts in the match , with there being no twelfth man for either team . There were no boundaries at the Launceston Cricket Club Ground , and all overs bowled in the match had only four deliveries each ? which was the norm in those days . By the very nature of this match , there were a significant number of distinctions earned and records set during the match .

= = = Day one = = =

The Victorian players , after a ground inspection , criticised the quality of the playing ground ; the Tasmanian government apologised for the same , mentioning that they had had possession of the ground since only the past twelve months . As the cricket ground was rough , Charles Lyon and C. J. Weedon , the two umpires for the match , took some time to decide where the playing pitch would be . The toss was won by Marshall , who sent in Victoria to bat . The match started at 11 a.m.

= = = First innings = = =

While the predominant bowling style of the Victorians was roundarm fast , the Tasmanians preferred underarm bowling . Thus , with Tasmania bowling first , leading the series of many firsts was the very first ball bowled in the history of Australian first @-@ class cricket , which was an underarm delivery . The first bowler in Australian first @-@ class cricket was William Henty of Tasmania , an underarm bowler , who opened the Tasmanian attack . Victoria 's Duncan Cooper , who opened the innings with William Philpott at the non @-@ striker 's end , became the first opening batsman in Australian first @-@ class cricket . Tasmania 's captain Marshal also kept the wicket for his team , and thus became the first wicket @-@ keeper in Australia 's first @-@ class cricket history .

After Henty 's first over , Tasmania 's Robert McDowall bowled from the other end . The opening batting pair of Cooper and William Philpott took 22 minutes to make 14 runs , when , at his personal score of 4 runs , Cooper became the first batsman in Australian first @-@ class cricket history to be dismissed and to be clean bowled . Tasmania 's Robert McDowall , who dismissed Cooper , consequently became the first wicket @-@ taking bowler and the first to effect a dismissal in this manner in Australian first @-@ class cricket . Thomas Hamilton took Cooper 's place at the wicket as the no . 3 batsman and soon ran the first four runs of Australian first @-@ class cricket .

The next dismissal was of Victorian captain Philpott , who scored 17 before getting caught . Philpott

became the first batsman in Australian first @-@ class cricket history to reach double @-@ figures , and jointly scored the highest runs with James Brodie . Philpott also became the first batsman in Australian first @-@ class cricket to be dismissed by being caught , with Tasmania 's George Maddox becoming the first cricketer to have taken a catch during a dismissal . Tasmania 's McDowall earned the distinction of becoming the first bowler to effect a dismissal in this manner . Thomas Hamilton followed Philpott back to the stands soon after , getting bowled off McDowall 's bowling after having scored 10 runs . When Hamilton 's wicket fell at the turn of the first hour 's play , the score was 31 runs for 3 wickets .

As the match proceeded , Victoria 's Charles Lister , who replaced William Philpott at the crease and scored 10 runs , became the first cricketer in Australian first @-@ class cricket to be run out . Alfred Thomson quickly fell after that , making one run before getting clean bowled by McDowall , with the score standing at 42 runs for 5 wickets . Richard Philpott , the elder brother of Victorian captain William Philpott , made 12 runs to bring the score up to 54 , before getting bowled out by Henty and becoming the sixth Victorian player to get out . The seventh dismissal , Thomas Antill , became the first cricketer in Australian first @-@ class cricket history to have been dismissed after having scored a duck . Antill also became the first batsman in this genre of cricket to be dismissed by stumping . Tasmania 's Henty and Marshall became the first bowler ? wicket @-@ keeper pair to effect a dismissal in this manner .

At the other end , Victoria 's James Brodie ran four runs thrice for his 17 runs , eventually getting caught at slip by Henty off McDowall 's bowling . The last two wickets fell cheaply , with Frederick Marsden and Matthew Hervey getting bowled by Henty at their individual scores of 2 and 0 respectively . Victoria 's Melmoth Hall remained not out . Victoria was bowled out in the first innings after playing 26 overs in 2 hours and 5 minutes , scoring 82 runs . While Henty took four wickets , McDowall became the first bowler in this genre of cricket to reach a five @-@ wicket haul .

For Tasmania , Gervase Du Croz opened the batting innings with captain Marshall at the non @-@ striker 's end . Charles Lister and Thomas Hamilton opened the Victorian bowling attack . Croz and Marshall batted resolutely for an hour , making 25 runs without losing any wicket , when a lunch break was announced by the umpires . When play resumed after lunch , Marshall and Croz maintained their pace to ensure that Tasmania reached 45 without loss . Croz made 27 runs , the highest in Tasmania 's first innings , and became the first Tasmanian batsman to score four runs , which he did twice in his innings .

Victoria 's Thomas Antill , who replaced Hamilton in the bowling attack , managed to break this partnership , sending Croz back to the pavilion with a delivery that took the bails off . William Field , who came out to bat after Croz , was bowled clean by Antill off the first ball he faced . George Maddox took Field 's place at the crease and scored one run to hand over the strike to Marshall . Tasmanian captain Marshall lost his wicket off the very next ball , giving a catch to Lister at point off Antill 's bowling . With Marshall 's wicket , Antill had taken three wickets in four balls . Marshall made the second @-@ highest score in the Tasmanian first innings , scoring 13 runs .

George Maddox departed next after scoring one run , with Antill taking his wicket . Tasmania 's 5th wicket fell when George Gibson , who replaced Maddox , was sent back to the pavilion by Hamilton , getting clean bowled after scoring 8 runs . Walter Westbrook who came in after Gibson 's wicket , became the first batsman in Australian first @-@ class cricket history to score five runs in a single ball . He was clean bowled by Antill after having scored 10 runs in 40 minutes . While the next player in , Charles Arthur , departed to Antill 's bowling after having scored one run , John Tabart made 2 runs before getting bowled out by Hamilton . Henty walked out to bat with eight wickets down for Tasmania , and was sent back to the pavilion almost immediately by Antill , after having scored a duck . Vincent Giblin and Robert McDowall , the last two Tasmanian players , brought up some rearguard action with a last wicket stand that pushed the team score above 100 . McDowall was the last player out , when , after having scored 11 , he was caught at wide on by Antill off Hamilton . Giblin remained not out on 7 .

At the conclusion of their first innings , Tasmania had played 32 overs in 2 hours and 40 minutes , scoring 104 runs and gaining a lead of 22 runs over Victoria 's first innings score . Before the match , the Tasmanians had been expected to struggle against the overarm attack of the Victorians , and

Antill had indeed performed effectively ; yet , the Tasmanians were helped by a large total of 24 extras ( which included 11 byes and eight no @-@ balls ) . For Victoria , Antill was the highest wicket @-@ taker in the first innings with a seven @-@ wicket haul .

= = = = Second innings = = = =

Victoria 's second innings featured James Brodie and Melmoth Hall opening the innings . Brodie made 5 and was the first out , caught at long off by Tabart . Thomas Hamilton came first down the batting and was soon joined by Lister , when Hall was adjudged out leg before wicket to McDowall after scoring 6 . Lister could not score much , losing his wicket after scoring 3 , getting caught by Maddox off Field . Thomson , who came in after Lister 's wicket fell , could not better his first innings score of a single run ; he fell for a duck to Henty . William Philpott , the highest scorer of Victoria 's first innings , came in next . After taking three singles in 15 minutes of batting , Philpott was run out by a Tabart throw to Marshall when the team score stood at 28 runs . Next man in Cooper departed immediately for a duck , bowled Henty ; this was the fifth wicket down for Victoria .

At the other end , Hamilton batted on resolutely . Despite his vanguard action , Victoria kept losing wickets regularly . Cooper 's successor Roger Philpott , who made 12 runs in the first innings , could make only a single before getting caught by Westbrook off Henty . Marsden came in next , and lasted five minutes before getting dismissed by McDowall for 2 . The next batsman Hervey lasted less than that , scoring a single in three minutes before Henty took the bails off .

After having carried his bat through the hour , Hamilton was the last man out , falling leg before wicket to McDowall . His 35 runs scored in 60 minutes included three fours . This was the highest individual score of both innings for both teams . While Antill remained not out without scoring any run , none of the other Victorian batsmen reached double @-@ figures in the second innings . In the bowling department , Henty , McDowall and Field took 5 , 3 and 1 wickets respectively for Tasmania in the second innings . With the Victorian team getting dismissed in 1 hour and 20 minutes after playing 17 overs and scoring 57 runs , Tasmania was left to score 36 runs for an outright win .

Despite it being late in the evening , the two teams were enthusiastic to carry on and decided to attempt a result that day itself . Thus , it was nearly half past five when Vincent Giblin opened the second innings for Tasmania with Croz at the non @-@ striker 's end . Brodie and Antill opened the bowling attack for Victoria . Giblin was the first one to go , getting dismissed by Antill after having scored just one run . Croz 's wicket was the second ; his score of six runs , before getting bowled out by Antill , ensured that he ended the match as the highest scorer for Tasmania with an aggregate score of 33 runs for both innings . Antill took the third wicket too , sending Westbrook back to the stands with Cooper taking the catch . Victoria 's Brodie , who had not bowled during the first innings , got the wicket of the next man in ; Field was caught by Thomson after making a single . Gibson and Marshall , who succeeded Westbrook and Field , were also sent back in quick succession by Antill .

While Gibson could only manage a single before getting bowled , Marshall was caught and bowled by Antill for a duck , making this the first caught and bowled instance in Australian first @-@ class cricket . Tabart took Gibson 's place at the crease , while Arthur replaced Marshall . Around this time , the umpires called off play due to bad light . At the end of the first day 's play , Tasmania had lost six wickets scoring 15 runs . The Launceston Examiner wrote in its 19 February 1851 report : " The excitement was now very great , and neither side confident of victory . "

= = = Day two = = =

The second day 's proceedings started at 11 a.m. , with Tabart and Arthur resuming batting for Tasmania . While Arthur was caught by Hervey off Antill 's bowling without any addition to his overnight score , Tabart was dropped off the very second ball he faced . After getting this life , Tabart 's subsequent big hitting swung the game in the Tasmanians ' favour . McDowall , who replaced Arthur , and Tabart ensured that no further wickets fell while Tasmania successfully chased down the Victorian target .

= = = = Result = = = =

Needing to score 36 runs in the second innings to win the match , Tasmania scored the required runs taking an hour and 45 minutes in all , losing 7 wickets in 13 overs . Tasmania 's Marshall became the first ever winning captain and Victoria 's Philpott became the first ever losing captain in first @-@ class cricket in Australia . At close of play , Tabart had made 15 runs including one four , while McDowall had scored four runs . Victoria 's Antill had taken six wickets in all , becoming the first bowler in Australian first @-@ class cricket history to take a five @-@ wicket haul twice in the same match . Antill also became the highest wicket @-@ taking bowler for the match amongst both the teams , with an aggregate haul of 13 wickets , both innings combined . For Tasmania , the highest wicket taker was Henty , having taken nine wickets in both innings . On account of having scored 10 runs in the first innings , Victoria 's Hamilton became the highest scorer in the match amongst both the teams , with an aggregate score of 45 runs .

While the general level of fielding was considered very high throughout the match , Tasmanian players Marshall , Westbrook and Tabart were specifically praised for their admirable fielding attempts , which drew the crowd 's appreciation . The spectators were also noted to have displayed high levels of sportsmanship throughout the match , noticeably refraining from cheering the fall of the opponent team 's wickets or celebrating scoring shots from their own team .

= = Aftermath = =

There was high camaraderie witnessed between the two teams and the organising clubs throughout the Victorian 's stay . After the first day 's proceedings , around a hundred people from Tasmania and Victoria , including the cricketers , had dinner together , and post that attended a ball . Similarly , after the match , a public ball organised by the Tasmanian hosts was held on the Thursday night at the Cornwall Hotel , where the visiting cricketers were staying . The event ? which was attended by more the 350 people , including the Victorians and many of the supporters that had accompanied them ? continued into the very early morning before the visitors were instructed to leave . On the day of leaving , the Tasmanian and Victorian players proceeded arm @-@ in @-@ arm to the departure wharf , walking from the Cornwall Hotel with the Launceston Brass Band playing along .

Noted Australian journalist Edmund Finn wrote in the book The Chronicles of Early Melbourne : " Everybody invited everybody , and the difficulty was how to contrive so as to partake of all that was offered . From the time of landing to the time of embarking the same spirit continued ? dinners , balls , musical parties , picnics and every description of entertainment was got up to give a hearty welcome to the strangers from Port Phillip . "

Post their return , the Victorians praised the Tasmanian cricketers and invited their opponents to play a return match in Victoria in the subsequent season . The match , which was held on 29 ? 30 March 1852 at the Melbourne Cricket Club ground situated on the south bank of Yarra River , was lost by Tasmania by 61 runs . This became the first intercolonial match played in Victoria . Two years later , Tasmania beat Victoria in a dead rubber match played at Launceston on 3 ? 4 March 1854 .

Two more years later , Victoria played New South Wales on 26 ? 27 March 1856 at Melbourne Cricket Club 's new ground based at Richmond Paddock , now known as Yarra Park . This match , which was won by New South Wales , became the first first @-@ class match between two Australian mainland colonies , and the first first @-@ class match at the current site of Melbourne Cricket Ground .

The Victorians , with nine English migrants as a part of their team , returned to tour Tasmania in the 1857 ? 58 season and played a two @-@ match fixture , both of which they won . In the first match , held at Launceston Racecourse in February 1858 , Gideon Elliott of Victoria played a significant part in their victory , taking 9 wickets for 2 runs in the first innings . Elliott 's figures put him in the record books with the most economical 9 @-@ wicket haul , a record which is yet to be surpassed .

Tasmania ? represented primarily by amateurs ? scored 33 runs in the first innings and were defeated by an innings . The second match , which was played at Battery Ground , Hobart on 4 ? 5 March 1858 , again was won comfortably by the Victorian team . The Tasmanian team , through the series of matches , found it difficult to comprehend the roundarm bowling of the professional and skilled Victorian bowlers . After these fixtures , Victoria and Tasmania played three additional matches between 1869 and 1873 , with Victoria winning all three .

The visit of the Victorian team is credited to have provided a significant encouragement to the sport of cricket in Tasmania , and to the formation of the Southern Tasmanian Cricket Club , which came into existence on 28 April 1858 with 136 members . The club was rechristened as the Southern Tasmanian Cricket Association on 1 February 1866 and became the vanguard of future intercolonial and interregional matches .

In February 2015 , the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery named its cricket memorabilia exposition " 164 @-@ Not Out " as a mark of remembrance of the number of years that had passed since the historic match . The match by itself is now considered to be one of the most significant events in the cricketing history of Australia , drawing rave mention during the 150th anniversary celebration of Cricket Tasmania in 2015 .