

= 1889 ? 90 Currie Cup =

The 1889 ? 90 Currie Cup was the inaugural edition of the Currie Cup , the premier first @-@ class cricket tournament in South Africa . The 1889 ? 90 competition involved just two teams , Transvaal and Kimberley . The two sides played a single , three @-@ day match , which was won by Transvaal by six wickets .

Both sides made low scores in their first innings ; Kimberley , who had opted to bat first , were dismissed for 98 runs , and in their reply Transvaal reached 117 , a lead of just 19 runs . In the second innings , they both fared better ; a century from Bernard Tancred helped Kimberley to a total of 235 , but Transvaal reached their total in 38 five @-@ ball overs , helped by a century from Monty Bowden .

= = Background = =

First @-@ class cricket was first played in South Africa in the previous 1888 ? 89 season , when Robert Warton managed a side which toured the country , playing against representative teams from each of the provinces , and two matches against South Africa , which were later adjudged to have Test cricket status . During that tour , Donald Currie donated the Currie Cup to be awarded to the team which performed best against the touring side ; which was judged to be Kimberley . In other first @-@ class matches during the 1889 ? 90 season , Kimberley faced Natal twice , winning both matches . Transvaal did not play any first @-@ class cricket prior to their Currie Cup contest with Kimberley .

Transvaal challenged Kimberley for the Currie Cup in 1890 , the first such challenge for the trophy . A number of the team selections were controversial : the selection committee for Transvaal chose Aubrey Smith and Monty Bowden , both of whom had remained in South Africa after touring as part of the England cricket team the previous year , and Charlie Finlason , who played the majority of his cricket for the opposition Kimberley team . Finlason , a newspaper journalist , had fallen out with Smith after writing a number of articles criticising him and the English side . When Finlason was selected for Transvaal , Smith ? who was captaining the side ? made him bat at number eleven .

= = Match = =

= = = Summary = = =

The match began on Saturday 5 April 1890 at the Eclectics Cricket Club Ground in Kimberley . The toss was won by the Kimberley captain , Walter Woodthorpe , who opted to bat first . Bernard Tancred and Robert Snedden opened the batting , and scored 25 runs together before the first wicket fell . The Transvaal bowlers took three more wickets for the addition of just 27 runs , leaving Kimberley on 52 for 4 . The batsmen then shared a partnership of 40 runs , but upon the loss of the next wicket , Kimberley suffered a collapse , and were eventually bowled out for 98 runs . Tancred top @-@ scored for the side , accruing 42 runs , but only two other batsmen reached double figures ; Snedden and John Coghlan , both of whom scored 13 . Transvaal only used three bowlers during the innings ; Aubrey Smith and Bentley Wimble each took four wickets , while Charles Vintcent took the remaining two .

Transvaal began their reply strongly ; their openers , Monty Bowden and John Hickson put on 69 runs for the first wicket , the majority being scored by Bowden . Once they lost their first wicket , the team continued to lose wickets at regular intervals ; the second @-@ highest partnership of the innings was the 17 runs made for the tenth , or last , wicket . George Glover was the best of the bowlers , collecting six wickets . Glover and Albert Rose @-@ Innes bowled the majority of the overs , and took nine of the wickets between them . Bowden 's score of 63 was substantially the best by any batsman in the innings , only John Piton , Spranger Harrison and Hickson scored more than 10 runs , and none managed as many as 20 .

The third innings of the match gave Kimberley a second attempt at batting on the first day ; they lost wickets regularly through the afternoon , but opener Tancred remained at the crease throughout , finishing the day unbeaten on 55 , with the team on 100 for six . The match resumed on Monday 7 April 1890 , with no play scheduled for the Sunday . After the early loss of Rose @-@ Innes for 20 runs , Charles Rutherford joined Tancred . The pair scored 97 runs together , taking the score up to 226 . Three quick wickets then ended the Kimberley innings ; they scored 235 runs from 83 overs , in which Tancred scored a century , hitting 106 runs before being leg before wicket to Bowden . Vintcent took the most wickets for Transvaal , claiming four for 70 . Smith claimed two wickets , and Bowden , who was designed on the scorecard as the team 's wicket @-@ keeper also claimed two wickets from the three overs that he bowled .

Transvaal batted rapidly in their second innings , reaching the required total to win the match inside the second day of the match , which had been scheduled for three days in total . Opening batsman Bowden batted throughout the whole innings , remaining not out on 126 when his side won the match . He was joined at the end by Vintcent , who scored 60 runs in a partnership of 126 runs between the two players . Kimberley tried six different bowlers in an effort to bowl Transvaal out , but only Rose @-@ Innes and Irvine Grimmer took wickets , claiming two apiece .

= = = Scorecard = = =

Key

* ? Captain

? ? Wicket @-@ keeper

c Fielder ? Indicates that the batsman was dismissed by a catch by the named fielder

b Bowler ? Indicates which bowler gains credit for the dismissal

lbw ? Indicates the batsman was dismissed leg before wicket

ht wkt ? Indicates the batsman was dismissed hit wicket

st ? Indicates the batsman was stumped

= = Aftermath = =

Transvaal and Kimberley remained the only sides to contest the Currie Cup in the following season , and in their 1891 match , Kimberley won by 58 runs in a timeless match . The tournament was not played in 1891 ? 92 , but when it restarted the following year , a third team , Western Province joined , while Kimberley were renamed Griqualand West .