

1860-1870

The 1859-60 season was the busiest since cricket began with three clubs now actively involved. The first match was played in early November whereas previously the season seemed to have started in early December. Parnell played the Garrison Cricket Club twice as did the Auckland Cricket Club at the Albert Barracks Square and there was also a scratch match between the Civilians and the Garrison. The Civilians were made up of a combination of Parnell and Auckland players. These matches were reported fully in *The New Zealander*. Relations between the Parnell and Auckland clubs were quite cordial as the extract below shows:

Cricket is becoming a great fact in Auckland and Parnell and the entente cordiale between the City and Suburban Clubs and between both and the Military and is highly gratifying to have to notice. When the Parnell Eleven played Military the other day, the Auckland Club lent their tent and other appurtenances to their young friends with whom they were lately in controversy, and soon they will endeavour to serve the Parnell as the Parnell served the Military – these last being also resolved to redeem their lost laurels. The day of practice for the Auckland Club is Wednesday.

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Auckland became the first province to travel away to play a representative fixture. The idea was suggested in late 1859 when a Wellington businessman came back from Auckland with the challenge. The challenge was accepted by return ship but no firm date was set. A team was selected to play in Wellington in March 1860 and the side arrived in Wellington on the morning of the match without giving Wellington advance notice of the intention to make the journey. Understandably Auckland was met with a cool reception but the Wellington cricketers

rallied round to field a team. Although none of the four Hutt Valley clubs could provide any players in time because of the distance from Wellington, a scratch team was put together from two Wellington clubs. It still contained the majority of Wellington's better players. Two players were also unavailable due to hang overs after a day at the races.

The young team that was chosen was made up of six players from the Auckland club, four from Parnell and one from the military. Most of the better players of the time did actually make the trip. The two major omissions were Hargreaves who was still taking wickets and Beale who was a useful all rounder. John Varty, who was invariably behind anything that happened in cricket probably organised the trip. The team was captained by Harris of the Auckland club. According to the reports in the paper he was the leading bowler during the season as well as being a useful bat. Harris and Parnell's Dobie were regular wicket takers and Auckland born G.K Turton often scored runs at the top of the innings.

The team departed on the coaster SS White Swan (198 tons) on March 10 for Wellington via Napier and by all accounts the trip down the coast was fairly rough. The passenger list was published and included the team member's names plus John Varty their umpire. The ship was mainly used for cargo so was rather uncomfortable. There was no coverage of the team selection or any build up to the match that may have occurred. The team's departure did not rate a mention in *The New Zealander* and surprisingly there was very little interest in this fixture particularly after the amount of coverage cricket received that season. Fortunately the Wellington Independent did provide full match coverage in the report below.

INTERPROVINCIAL MATCH
AUCKLAND VS WELLINGTON

The match between Auckland and Wellington Clubs was played on Friday and resulted in the Auckland Cricketers coming off victorious with four wickets to go down. While we regret that Wellington has been beaten, we do not grudge our Auckland friends the victory. They have fairly won and are entitled to all the credit. Unfortunately however the suddenness of their arrival without previous notice caught our players unprepared; two or three of the best who are living some distance from town not being able to be apprised sufficiently early, while several others had been enjoying themselves at the races during the previous two days, not quite the best preparation that could have been desired. The result will no doubt be a wholesome stimulus to all the lovers of this national game and next when the return match is played we may hope for better things. The Auckland Eleven have been well received; although the uncertainty of their coming prevented the intended preparations for their reception from being carried out. They returned on Sunday morning taking with them all the good wishes of all here; who fully appreciate the enterprise which led them to set the example of searching for laurels beyond the confines of their own province. The match was played on the parade ground near Mount Cook Barracks and the day being fine, a large number of persons visited the spot during the day, but the after results showed how there is many a slip between the cup and the lip. The scores were as follows:

AUCKLAND	FIRST INNINGS	
G. Ireland.	b Brewer W.	0
Weir	b Buck	0
J. Russell	b Brewer W.	0
Harris (capt)	b Brewer W.	3
Dobie	run out	0
G. Turton	b Buck	4
J. Steadman	run out	14
T. Kissling	b Buck	10
L. Simpson	b Buck	0
White	b Brewer W.	0
Harris Jnr	not out	0
Byes		8
Wides		4
Total		43

WELLINGTON	SECOND INNINGS	
G. Brewer	not out	0
W. Brewer	run out	6
A. Ramsay	b Turton	3
T. Bould	c Russell b Turton	6
Bradfield	b Turton	2
E. Buck	b Turton	5
L. Buck	c White b Turton	1
F. Harvey	c and b Russell	2
N. Valentine	b Turton	3
Ingpen	b Russell	0
G. Phillips	c Weir b Russell	1
Byes		6
Leg Byes		0
Wide balls		4
Total		39

WELLINGTON	FIRST INNINGS	
G. Brewer	c Harris b Russell	1
W. Brewer	b Russell	6
A. Ramsay	run out	11
T. Bould	b Dobie	3
Bradfield	b Russell	0
E. Buck	b Russell	0
L. Buck	b Russell	15
F. Harvey	run out	4
N. Valentine	b Dobie	4
Ingpen	b Turton	6
G. Phillips	b Russell	1
Byes		17
Leg Byes		2
Wide Balls		1
Total		71

AUCKLAND	SECOND INNINGS	
G. Ireland.	b Brewer W.	2
Weir	b Ramsay	1
J. Russell	not out	10
Harris	not out	1
Dobie	b Brewer W.	0
G. Turton	b Brewer W.	16
J. Steadman	b Ramsay	31
T. Kissling	b Brewer W.	1
L. Simpson		
White		
Harris Jnr		
Byes		7
Total	For six wickets	69

Auckland thus having won with four wickets to go down. With regard to the play Auckland showed good fielding, with perhaps the exception of the shortstops, as by the score no less than 19 runs went to Wellington on account of byes. The bowling of Messrs Dobie and Russell, of Auckland was good, and the batting of Messrs L. Buck, A. Ramsay and Valentine of Wellington was also good.

The batting in Auckland's first innings was also indifferent, the only exceptions being Steadman, Kissling and Turton. As soon as the score of the first innings was announced; opinion which had favoured Auckland at first fluctuated considerably in favour of Wellington, and those gentlemen who had backed the former, (and some considerable sums were pending), began to think their prospect a rather gloomy one; but being aware of the antecedents of the previous two days; some of the knowing ones still offered to back Auckland at even, and these bets were eagerly accepted.

When the Wellington players went to the wickets for the second time, they were evidently tired; and perhaps somewhat too confident. The score in this innings amounted to only 39, including six byes and five wide balls, allowing only 28 runs for strikes. Auckland now went to the wickets, in capital spirits; although Wellington was still evenly backed, sixty nine runs to win being considered a heavy pull by some of our sanguine friends; but they were not long kept in suspense, the game being won by Auckland with four wickets to go down. Messrs Steadman, Turton and Russell scoring between them to the tune of 38 runs. The following synopsis of play may not be uninteresting:

AUCKLAND

The greatest number of runs made by Mr Steadman	51
The greatest number of runs made from a single hit Mr Steadman.	4
Mr Steadman	4
E. Buck 4, L. Buck 8, and Ramsay 5	34
The total number of runs scored	112
Being somewhat of an average of 3 runs per over	
Out of the total score of 112. There were Byes....15, No Balls....4 = 19 runs scored	93

Out of the Auckland Eleven in the first innings four were bowled by W. Brewer, two by L.Buck, two by E. Buck, 2 were run out and one carried his bat with him. In the second innings four were bowled out by Brewer, two by Ramsay,

one not out and four wickets to go down.	
The greatest number of runs made by L.Buck	10
The greatest number of runs from a single hit, made by Mr Brewer	5
The number of overs of six balls each, in both innings being 22 by Russell, 13 by Dobie and eight by Turton	42
Total number of runs obtained	110
Being an average of nearly 3 runs per over	
Out of the total score of 110....There were Byes 23....Wides....5 Leg Byes....2 = 30 leaving runs from hits	80
Of the Wellington Eleven in the first innings, two were bowled by Russell, three by Dobie, two were caught by Harris, one had his leg g before wicket and one carried his bat with him. In the second innings four were bowled out by Turton, one caught by Weir, one was caught by Harris and one caught by White, one was run out and one carried his bat	

This match was a close encounter, played on what was obviously an unprepared pitch given the number of byes conceded during the game and domination of the batsmen by the bowlers. Wellington led on the first innings by a reasonable margin in the context of the game mainly due to their success of their fast underhand bowlers Brewer and Buck. The home side probably thought that it would achieve an easy victory going into the second innings with a twenty eight run lead on the first innings.

However the Wellington team collapsed in its second innings to the bowling of Gibson Turton and James Russell and could only total 39 runs. Russell's bag of 6 wickets in the first innings was the first "6 for" in Auckland's history. Auckland lost the first four wickets cheaply, probably for five or six runs and Wellington appeared well placed for a comfortable victory but a fighting partnership between Turton and Steadman who top scored for the match with 31 steered Auckland to a four wicket victory. The match was followed by a formal dinner. This report below captures the mood well.

THE DINNER

On Saturday evening, the Match Dinner took place at Miller's Commercial Hotel. Sir Charles Clifford, president, His Honour Robert Hart esq, the District Judge acting as Vice. About fifty gentlemen sat down to a very excellent dinner, and on the cloth being removed and the usual loyal toasts being responded to, the toast of the evening – "The Auckland Eleven," was heartily given and received.

Mr HARRIS in reply complimented Wellington on its fielding and hoped that the present match would be but the commencement of a series. The ground had caused disappointment, and he trusted that some around him who had the power would also show the will to set apart a Cricket Ground worthy of the city. He proposed the "Wellington Eleven."

Mr GEORGE MOORE, as the father of the game in Wellington, expressed the pleasure with which he had watched the previous day's sport. The match had been played with spirit and the excellent batting of their to the wish that the next match should be played at Auckland and would render all aid in his power to enable a Wellington Eleven to proceed hither.

MR BORLASE proposed "The Province of Auckland," which was acknowledged by MR TURTON, an Auckland born colonist, and as such taking a more than ordinary interest in its welfare.

Mr Kissling gave "The Province of Wellington," which was responded to by Mr Wakefield.

After several other toasts, which were enlivened by songs, recitations; and appropriate airs from the band, the company separated between 11 and 12 o'clock. Thus ended the first inter-provincial cricket match. May they always end in exciting similar feelings of goodwill and generous rivalry-

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The players returned to Auckland on the same vessel that had taken them to Wellington. They had endured twelve days at sea in cramped conditions and at times the seas had been rough. A number of the players had been violently sea sick on the ship. They had been away seventeen days just to play a cricket match such was their passion for the game.

It is almost impossible to comprehend the difficulties that confronted the Auckland side making this trip. About the only things that had been organised were the selection and organisation of the team and the reservation of berths on the White Swan. Everything else after that was unplanned. Little did these young men know that this was the beginning of one of New Zealand's greatest inter-provincial rivalries. Their feats earned them a deserved place in Auckland cricket's history. This may have been an historic match in terms of cricket in New Zealand but surprisingly it hardly rated a mention in the Auckland newspapers This was the only report of the match!

RETURN OF THE "AUCKLAND ELEVEN" FROM WELLINGTON

Our Knights of the Bat and Ball have come back victorious with the good wishes of the vanquished, who promise to return the visit next year, and do their best against the Auckland Cricketers on their own ground. There is also some hope that a Canterbury Eleven may be induced to visit Auckland at about the same time and for the same purpose. From a Wellington contemporary we quote a very fair account of the match, the result which is very creditable to the mainly youthful band who took upon themselves the assertion of Auckland's pluck and prowess, and who played under the disadvantage of a very short rest after a long and rough sea voyage. We hope our Wellington friends will have better fortune in this respect next year.

The reception the Auckland Eleven met with from the people of Wellington was of the most hospitable and friendly character. A public entertainment was given to them after the match, by the leading inhabitants of the City and the Province, at which Sir Charles Clifford, Speaker of the House of Representatives, presided; and both by the Chairman and other Wellingtonians a hearty response was given to the wish expressed by the Auckland visitors, that this amicable passage-of-arms might pave the way for more frequent inter-change of courtesies between the two leading Provinces of the Northern Island.

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