

levelled at some of the players by their critics contained most of the best players available. To give Fred Buckland credit he did select from the whole of the province.

The team embarked at Onehunga on November 10th on the SS Wellington and Robinson was elected as captain by the players on the first afternoon. The original plan was to play Nelson first, followed by Wellington, because Fred Buckland thought that it would give the players a chance to settle down before playing Otago and Canterbury which had stronger teams. This didn't happen because the steamer could not delay its journey for the extra days required to play Wellington and Nelson.

However the players disembarked and did manage some practice at both these towns before arriving in Lyttleton on November 15th. They were met by a number of the Canterbury players including Ollivier the captain, who showed them round and kept them entertained as well as helping find accommodation at the Royal Hotel which was only a short walk from Hagley Park.

Inclement weather prevented the team from practising on the Saturday morning but the players had the opportunity to watch two Canterbury club sides complete a match in the afternoon. They were unimpressed by the standard of play. Canterbury charged one shilling per head for spectators and as a result contributed to some of the Auckland team's costs.

The match was well promoted to the public and the response was very good. The public were entertained by a band during the lunch break and the Governor General Sir James Fergusson and his wife attended the match. The game commenced on November 18th and was played over three days at Hagley

Park. The betting odds were only slightly in favour of the home side. The team had a meeting on the evening before the match and chose Billy Robinson, Clayforth and Buckland to be the selectors. They omitted E. Dixon and King from the playing eleven much to their disgust. The omission of both was quite logical as they had only been called in as replacements.

The wicket was soft due to the recent rain and not conducive to batting. Auckland batted first and was in serious trouble with six wickets down and only 44 runs on the board. The express pace of Fuller proved too much for the top order. Robinson, Sweet, Fred Buckland and Cotton led the recovery with all four batsmen reaching double figures but Auckland was dismissed for 90. Alpe top scored with 17 made in difficult circumstances and Fuller took 5/38 off 152 balls.

Canterbury also made a poor start against Sweet and Billy Robinson. Sweet was the quicker of the two with Robinson providing the variety with his left armers. When rain stopped play for the day Canterbury had scored 57 runs but lost seven wickets in the process. The next day was also affected by the weather and if anything, that worked to advantage of Auckland. The Canterbury innings closed with the score at 72, giving Auckland a useful lead of 18 runs. Robinson and Sweet with 4/22 and 4/23 respectively took the wickets. Opening batsman A. J. Cotterill compiled a useful 20 which gave the Canterbury innings substance.

Auckland scored 133 in their second innings with sound contributions from Mumford 15, Dufaur 27, and Yates 29, providing a sound platform for the innings. Bob Yates and Robinson put a solid partnership together for the sixth wicket. Fuller again proved to

be the most effective bowler with his return of 7/47 giving him 12 wickets for the match.

Canterbury commenced their pursuit of the target of 152 runs to win very confidently with Ollivier and Barker batting steadily together in an opening partnership of 45. Cotterill completed a good match double with 37, and was well supported by the Fowler brothers who scored well with totals of 34 and 19 respectively. After having been 3/94 and looking as if they were cruising to victory, the home side lost four more wickets and finished the day at 139/7 with the result in balance. Robinson then took three quick wickets early on the third day which proved decisive. Canterbury was dismissed for 144 and Auckland had won narrowly by 7 runs.

The quality of the Auckland players and their fighting spirit victory had surprised the Canterbury public, who were very confident that Canterbury would win. This victory also went some way towards silencing the tour's detractors in Auckland. After all Auckland had just beaten the team rated as the strongest in New Zealand on their home wicket after travelling by sea on a small steamer for a week.

Although the match had been had been close it did appear as if the Auckland side did just have an edge over their opponents. It seems that there was a little more depth in the batting which in the end made the difference. There is no doubt that this match ignited a healthy rivalry between Auckland and Canterbury which has continued right up the present day.

Coverage of the first match by the three Auckland newspapers showed varying degrees of enthusiasm. The Evening Star provided the best coverage and used its

own correspondent who sent telegrams from Christchurch during the day so the paper could publish progress reports. The public could actually follow the first days play on the same day. The public knew that Auckland had a first innings lead at the end of the day. This engineered a feeling of real excitement among sports followers and did wonders for the Star's circulation. The headlines in the Evening Star on day two left the local public on tenterhooks. Its correspondent sent up four "stop press" reports on that day:

Splendid Play by Canterbury

Four Wickets Down for 94 Runs

Immense Excitement

The Latest

The Herald and the Daily Southern Cross couldn't match this as their publications came out on the following day although there were queues of people lined up for the paper in the morning. The match scores were also posted up on a telegraph board for the benefit of the public as well. It is quite interesting to note how quickly the detractors became supporters of this tour.

There was an element of the cricket fraternity who were still "miffed" that the tour had gone ahead against their opposition and as a result a series of circulars was sent to both Christchurch and Dunedin decrying the Auckland side and maintaining that it was not a true representative team. This attack was cowardly and the people concerned did not attach their names to the circulars. This action did cause embarrassment to both the host provinces and the Auckland side and received some newspaper coverage in both Canterbury and Otago. However it died a natural death as the tour progressed.

AUCKLAND		FIRST INNINGS		
J.B. Mumford	c. Fowler b. Dickenson			2
F.E. Dufaur	run out			3
S. Alpe	c. Dickenson b. Fuller			17
G. R. Bellars	c. Ollivier b. Dickenson			2
R.J. Yates	lbw b.Fuller			9
C. Clayforth	b. Fuller			7
W.W. Robinson	c. Maples b. Fuller			14
T.S. Sweet	b. Fuller			10
H.E. Cotton	not out			14
W.F. Buckland	run out			10
G. Lankham	b. Fuller			0
Byes				2
Leg byes				0
Wides				0
Total				90

AUCKLAND		SECOND INNINGS		
G.R. Bellars	c. E. Fowler b. Fuller			4
S. Alpe	b. Fuller			10
F.E. Dufaur	b. E. Fowler			27
J.B. Mumford	b. Fuller			15
R.J. Yates	c. and b. E. Fowler			29
C. Clayforth	b. Fuller			6
W.W. Robinson	b. Fuller			11
T.S. Sweet	c. D'kenson b. E. Fowler			8
H.E. Cotton	not out			6
W.F. Buckland	c. A.J. Cotterill b. Fuller			0
G. Lankham	c. E. Fowler b. Fuller			1
Byes				5
Leg byes				2
Wides				9
Total				133

Bowling	Balls	Mdns	Runs	Wkts
Fuller	152	17	38	5
Dickenson	112	11	42	2
E. Fowler	36	5	8	1

Bowling	Balls	Mdns	Runs	Wkts
Fuller	193	25	47	7
Corfe	104	13	16	0
J. Fowler	32	4	5	2
Dickenson	8	0	4	0
E. Fowler	88	2	42	3
Loughnan	8	1	3	0

CANTERBURY		FIRST INNINGS		
A.M. Ollivier	b. Sweet			7
A.J. Cotterill	c. Clayforth b. Robinson			20
H. Cotterill	b. Sweet			0
C.C. Corfe	b. Sweet			5
E. Fowler	b. Robinson			1
E. P. Maples	c. Sweet b. Robinson			3
C. Barker	run out			13
J. Fowler	c. Lankham b. Robinson			0
G. Dickenson	run out			7
H.H. Loughnan	c. Robinson b. Sweet			2
E.F.A. Fuller	not out			0
Byes				8
Leg byes				4
Wides				2
Total				72

CANTERBURY		SECOND INNINGS		
A. Ollivier	c. and b. Sweet			18
C. Barker	b. Lankham			30
A.J. Cotterill	c. Alpe b. Lankham			37
J. Fowler	c. Cotton b. Lankham			6
C.C. Corfe	c. and b. Sweet			17
E. Fowler	b. Robinson			19
E.F.A. Fuller	b. Robinson			2
G. Dickenson	b. Sweet			0
E.P. Maples	b. Robinson			3
H. Cotterill	run out			1
H.H. Loughnan	not out			0
Byes				3
Leg byes				6
Wides				2
Total				144

Bowling	Balls	Mdns	Runs	Wkts
Robinson	92	12	22	4
Buckland	24	1	15	0
Sweet	70	9	23	4

Bowling	Balls	Mdns	Runs	Wkts
Robinson	89	7	41	3
Buckland	84	5	27	0
Sweet	136	19	40	3
Lankham	28	1	18	3
Cotton	16	2	7	0

Played at Hagley Park November 18th – 20th 1873
Auckland won by 7 runs

The Canterbury side were fulsome in their praise of the Auckland players who had surprised them with their ability and fighting spirit. Both teams gave three cheers after the match but there was no after match function which was unusual. It appears that the main reason for this was the distribution of some circulars which bad mouthed the Auckland team amongst the community. These circulars came out of Auckland and was the work of those who had opposed the tour. The Auckland Evening Star published the following article showing the distress of the Canterbury team over this business:

We have received the following letter from the Christchurch cricket team which evidently refers to the scandals regarding their team, circulated we are sorry to say, by persons residing in Auckland. It is of course necessary to state that our correspondents have never been associated in the public mind here with the authorship of the scandal:

To the Editor of the EVENING STAR:

Sir – We have read with the greatest surprise the following telegram, published in the Christchurch newspapers this morning: - “Auckland November 25th – There is great indignation in Auckland regarding the slanders against the cricketers circulated in Christchurch and Dunedin.” We sincerely hope that there is no truth that any philanderous reports are being circulated here in connection with the Auckland cricketers. If there are any such we are sure that they have not originated in this province, and that they will be universally discredited and treated with the utmost contempt. We do not believe that any match was ever played with better feeling throughout on both sides than the late one between Auckland and Canterbury, and we can only express our regret that any persons should have endeavoured to create the slightest ill feeling in connection with the match. – E. Fowler (captain), H.H. Loughman, A.R. Ollivier, J. Fowler, C. Barker, H. Cotterill, G. Corfe, E.P. Maples, G. Dickenson, A. J. Cotterill

Auckland Evening Star 04/12/1873

The Auckland players left Christchurch on the SS Rangitira on the evening of November 23rd. They were well satisfied

with their performance which had to some extent silenced their critics at home as well as generating support. The voyage south was cramped and uncomfortable and the players had trouble finding a place to sleep. They arrived in Port Chalmers on the morning of the match and went straight to the ground after catching to 9-30 train so they could practice before the match.

Auckland made one change to their team due to Cotton and King missing the boat in Lyttleton because a port official had given them the incorrect departure time. The steamer had been in Wellington for repairs to the engines and its departure for Port Chalmers from Lyttleton was delayed. The two players who missed the boat were told by a port official that the ship would leave at 9-30pm. Instead it departed an hour earlier.

Dixon was brought into the playing eleven. The match was played at the new oval in Dunedin South. The ground was a picture and the weather was fine. The pitch proved to be a little soft because of the recent rain and the fact that it had not had time to settle. Meares, called correctly at the toss and decided to take first use of the wicket and play started on time at 11am.

Sweet and Robinson led the attack and soon had Otago reeling at three for nine. Runs did start to become more freely until the score had reached 24 when three wickets fell quickly leaving Otago in a precarious position six for twenty eight with Sweet and Robinson sharing the wickets with three a piece. Garwood came to the crease and proceeded to give the innings substance with a well compiled 31. Most of his scoring shots were to leg. He received solid support from J.C. Thompson with 10. However when Sweet bowled Garwood with the score at 70 the Otago resistance folded