



MELBOURNE CRICKET CLUB

2022/23 SHEFFIELD SHIELD VICTORIA V TASMANIA

LIBRARY FACT SHEET NOVEMBER 24-27, 2022

THE BEGINNING OF AUSTRALIAN FIRST-CLASS CRICKET

First-class cricket began in Australia in February, 1851, as a result of a challenge issued by the Melbourne Cricket Club (MCC) to the Launceston Cricket Club the previous year. The men from Port Phillip sailed to Launceston, and after two days of play, lost to their hosts by three wickets; the match being played on the local racecourse. This match was not *formally* recognised as a first-class match until the ICC determined that all intercolonial and interstate matches played in Australia before 1947 (when matches were first *formally* designated first-class in Australia) should retrospectively be considered first-class.

Port Phillip District (Victoria) in Van Diemen's Land (Tasmania)

Only Match: Launceston Racecourse, February 11-12, 1851. Toss won by VDL (elected to field)

Port Phillip 82 (W Phillpot 17, J Broadie 17; RM McDowell 5/27, W Henty 4/52) **and 57** (TF Hamilton 35; W Henty 5/26) **were defeated by Van Diemen's Land 104** (G Du Groz 27; TW Antill 7/33) **and 7/37** (JLB Tarbart 15*; TW Antill 6/19) **by three wickets.**

In a return match, played in 1852 at the MCC's ground at Southbank, Melbourne, the home side had its revenge; winning by 61 runs. Some two years later the Tasmanians won the third challenge at the Launceston Cricket Ground by eight wickets.

THE SHEFFIELD SHIELD

The first English touring team, led by HH Stephenson, the Surrey captain, arrived in Australia in late 1861. During the next three decades other teams from the old country followed including that led by J Lillywhite in the 1876/77 season. That team played a match against a team of players from the Australian colonies at the MCG in Melbourne which became the first Test match. It was, however, during a subsequent English tour of Australia some 15 years later, led by the legendary WG Grace and supported by a significant cricket benefactor Lord Sheffield, that the story of the Sheffield Shield began. Lord Sheffield's aim was to restore the game's standing in Australia and before the team's arrival he offered the cricket associations of Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia funds to create a perpetual trophy for intercolonial cricket. After lengthy consideration the offer was accepted and the Sheffield Shield competition was created.

Competition for the Shield began in the 1892/93 season with Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia taking part; each playing four matches. The Shield was won by the undefeated Victoria. The trophy was initially awarded on a challenge basis; being won by the most recent match-winner and held by that team until it was defeated. This proved to be an unsatisfactory arrangement and, prior to the end of the season, it was agreed that the awarding of the trophy would take place after all matches were completed. A considerable period would elapse before the ranks of the competitors for the Shield would increase; Queensland competing first in the 1926/'27 season and Western Australia in the 1947/48 season. Tasmania was the most recent state to join the elite group in the 1977/78 season.

SHEFFIELD SHIELD MATCH RESULTS: From 1892/93 to 2021/22

	Debut Season	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn*	Tied	% Won	Titles
New South Wales	1892/93	890	378	252	259	1	42.47	47
Victoria	1892/93	885	342	250	292	1	38.64	32
South Australia	1892/93	875	239	402	233	1	27.31	13
Queensland	1926/27	776	246	267	262	1	31.70	9
Western Australia	1947/48	654	230	203	221	-	35.17	16
Tasmania	1977/78	438	107	168	153	-	25.00	3

Abandoned matches are not included in the above figures. The table does not include Sheffield Shield matches played during the 2022/23 season (each state has already played a number of matches this summer). The competition was suspended from 1915/16 to 1918/19 (World War I) and from 1940/41 to 1945/46 (World War II).

* Includes those matches where both first innings were completed and points applied for a first innings lead.

MATCHES BETWEEN THE STATES

In all first-class matches Victoria and Tasmania have played 163 times. Victoria has won 72 matches, Tasmania 37, with 54 drawn. Today's venue, the MCG (Yarra Park), has hosted 58 first-class encounters between the states with the Vics winning 30, Tasmania 10, and they have drawn 18. Victoria, the inaugural Sheffield Shield winner in 1892/93, has won the competition 32 times, most recently in 2018/19. Tasmania was not admitted until 1977/78. It initially competed on a restricted basis, and met each state once per season, but Tasmania has played a full home-and-away program from 1982/83. The Tasmanians finished last in 10 of their first 18 Shield seasons but won in 2006/07, 2010/11 and 2012/13. The two states have played 83 Shield matches, the Vics winning 28, Tasmania 20, and 35 have been drawn.

FIRST-CLASS RECORDS BETWEEN VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

The two highest individual scores are Bill Ponsford's 429 for Victoria at the MCG in 1922/23 and Jack Badcock's 274 for Tasmania at Launceston in 1933/34. The MCC's own Dean Jones has made the most hundreds for Victoria against Tasmania with nine. The Vic's Matthew Elliott has made seven, while MCC player Brad Hodge has made six. David Boon, Jamie Cox and George Bailey with five each, head the list for Tasmania. Matthew Wade also made one century for Tassie against the Vics and four hundreds for Victoria against Tasmania. Dean Jones is the highest run scorer in matches between the states with 2395 at 70.44 followed by Elliott with 2196 at 57.79. Tasmania's leading run-scorer is Jamie Cox with 2105 at 37.59. The highest partnership is 424 for the 4th wicket by Victoria's Ian Lee (258) and Stan Quin (210) at the MCG in 1933/34. The best for Tasmania is 297 for the 1st wicket by Dene Hills (205) and Jamie Cox (95) at Bellerive Oval in 1997/98.

The most outstanding bowling performances were by Victoria's Gideon Elliott, 9/2 from 19 four-ball overs at Launceston in 1857/58, and "Chuck" Fleetwood-Smith, 9/30 at Richmond, Victoria in 1932/33. Tasmania's best bowling in an innings were by William Brown with 8/31 at the Lower Domain Ground, Hobart in 1857/58, and Charlie Eady with 8/34 at the MCG in 1895/96. The Vic's Stan Smith also took 8/44 at the TCA Ground, Hobart in 1933/34. The best match hauls are Brown's 15/73 at Hobart's Lower Domain Ground in 1857/58, and for Victoria, Fleetwood-Smith's 14/85 at Richmond in 1932/33. Two hat tricks have been taken, both by Victorians, Jimmy Matthews at Launceston in 1908/09 and Frank Morton at South Melbourne in 1931/32. Tasmania's Charlie Eady (84 at 18.10) and Ted Windsor (73 at 26.75) head the list of wicket-takers, while Merv Hughes (51 at 21.53) has taken the most for Victoria. The most dismissals in a match by a wicketkeeper is 10, recorded by Tasmania's Jake Doran at Bellerive Oval, Hobart, in October 2019. Victoria's best keeping performance is shared by Darren Berry, with nine at Bellerive Oval in 2002/03, and Matthew Wade, who took nine against Tasmania twice, at the Bellerive Oval in 2007/08, and also at the MCG in 2008/09. Mark Atkinson in 1997/98 and Tom Triffitt in 2011/12 have also taken nine wickets for Tasmania.

The highest innings total is Victoria's 1059 (Bill Ponsford 429, Hammy Love 156) at the MCG in 1922/23, while the highest for Tasmania is 8/566 declared (Ben Dunk 190, Alex Doolan 119, George Bailey 107) at Bellerive Oval in 2015/16. Victoria's lowest score is 50 (Robert McDowall 5/23) at Launceston in 1853/54, while Tasmania's lowest is 18 (Sam Cosstick 6/1) at the MCG in 1868/69.

VICTORIA v TASMANIA – THEIR FIRST SHEFFIELD SHIELD MATCH

Tasmania joined the Sheffield Shield competition in the 1977/78 season on a limited basis. After losing its first game decisively to Western Australia in Perth, the Taswegians played their second game against Victoria from November 18 to 21. This, of course, was the first season of the Packer Revolution or World Series Cricket as it was officially called. Batting first Victoria made 9 (dec.) for 377 with Paul Hibbert making 72, Jeff Moss 65, Paul Melville (who tragically died at the age of 21) 70. Baker, Cowmeadow, Benneworth and captain Jack Simmons all took two wickets. In reply Tasmania started badly, and at one stage were 4 for 23 but recovered somewhat to make 215. Top scorer was Baker, run out for 66 whilst Howard batted solidly for 48. Fast bowlers Hurst and Callen took six wickets between them for Victoria. Following on Tasmania reached 245 with three batsmen reaching the 40's – Neil 43, Docking 41 and Simmons 47. Two run-outs did not help the side's chances of compiling a bigger score. Hurst and Callen did the damage again with five wickets between them while part-time bowler Hibbert took 2 for 11. Requiring 83 runs to win openers Hibbert and Wiener compiled a partnership of 77 before Wiener was dismissed by Simmons for 37. Victoria won the game by nine wickets.

1977/78 Sheffield Shield Match 6: Victoria v Tasmania

Melbourne Cricket Ground, November 18-21, 1977. Toss won by Tasmania (elected to field)

Victoria 9/377 dec. (PA Hibbert 72, P Melville 70, JK Moss 65, TJ Laughlin 45, JM Weiner 44) **and 1/85** (JM Weiner 37, PA Hibbert 31*) **defeated Tasmania 215** (DJ Baker 66, SJ Howard 48; IW Callen 4/48) **and 245 following on** (J Simmons 47, BW Neill 43, TW Docking 41; IW Callen 3/78) **by nine wickets.**

Fact Sheet edited by David Studham and Trevor Ruddell with Library Volunteers Gaye Fitzpatrick and Edward Cohen.

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Sources Consulted: Ray Webster's *First-Class Cricket in Australia. Vol. 1 1850-51 to 1941-42*, 1991.

Ric Finlay's Tastats (Cricket Statistics Worldwide) database, and the website www.cricketchive.co.uk