



# CRUSADERS TEST MATCH III

## DONVALE CRICKET CLUB

### January 4th to 7th 2015

It was on Sunday morning 9am 4th January when Crusaders founder Swan Richards, his coaching staff, support team and players arrived at Donvale Cricket Club and were welcomed by club president Lionel Allemand. The stage had been set for the third Test Match between the Crusaders Junior Development Team and The Victorian Under 19 Academy. This four day Test Match was designed by the Crusaders to give young cricketers the unique experience of playing the long format of the game.

Donvale Cricket Club Curator Glen Hall had prepared a magnificent pitch and a playing surface that was first class which further enhanced the playing experience. For most young aspiring cricketers the opportunity to play in a test match is very rare, so those selected to play faced a wonderful challenge to test their cricket ability, endurance, performance and mental application over the four day encounter in warm and sunny conditions.

Both the Crusaders and Victorian Under 19 Academy teams were made up of talented and up and coming cricketers, so the level of game play and standard of cricket was very high which presented a great spectacle for all those who had gathered to watch. Parents, family and friends were treated to an exciting game that swung back and fourth over the course of the four days.

Former Australian test players Jim Higgs and Matthew Elliot who are a part of the Crusaders Foundation spent considerable time at the game imparting invaluable knowledge and advice to all that were involved. Coaching staff and representatives from Cricket Victoria were also present during the entire game.

Both teams displayed exceptional cricket skill and took on the challenge with tremendous vigor and the game was wholeheartedly contested. After four days of hard fought cricket the game was in the balance. The Victorian Academy needed to survive 12 over's to play out for a draw while the Crusaders were striving for the last wicket that would lead them to a victory. For 3 and  $\frac{3}{4}$  days the game was played under warm sunny conditions. Umpires were forced to lead players off the ground due to lightning after the tea break on the 4th day. Sadly play could not resume and the game was soon abandoned when strong winds and dark stormy clouds quickly converged and opened up.

The end result was a magnificent game of cricket and a fantastic experience for all players. A remarkable effort by the Crusaders Foundation and Cricket Victoria to promote test cricket. Special thanks to the Donvale Cricket Club for hosting the game and their kind hospitality. And special mention again to the curator Glen Hall for his superb work over the 4 days.



An eager group of talented players are ready to take field for the 3rd Annual Crusader 4 Day Test Match contested this year at the Donvale Cricket Ground. Flanked by Crusader coaches Michael Day, Stan Nell and Peter Marshall.



Crusaders Peter Marshall, Founder Swan Richards, Jim Higgs and DCC President Lionel Allemand.



Day 1 under way with the Crusaders opening the batting, who made 155 all out after 74 overs.



Day 2 Crusaders bowl out the Vic Academy for 146, and get ready to face 5 overs to begin the 2nd innings.



Day 4 Crusaders need 1 more wicket for victory with 12 overs left, a few balls later the game was abandoned.



Game abandoned due to wild stormy weather, 2 boys blown across the ground & trapped under the covers!



Vic Academy captain Ashley Armstrong and Crusaders captain James Rosewarne wrap up the Test Match.

#### Test Match Results:

Crusaders 1st Innings 155  
Victoria U/19 1st Innings 146

Crusaders 2nd Innings 225  
Victoria U/19 2nd Innings 9/167

Game abandoned at 2.10pm (lightning and heavy rain)

Umpires **Eric Kelly and John Mellett**  
Scorer **Ken Salmon**