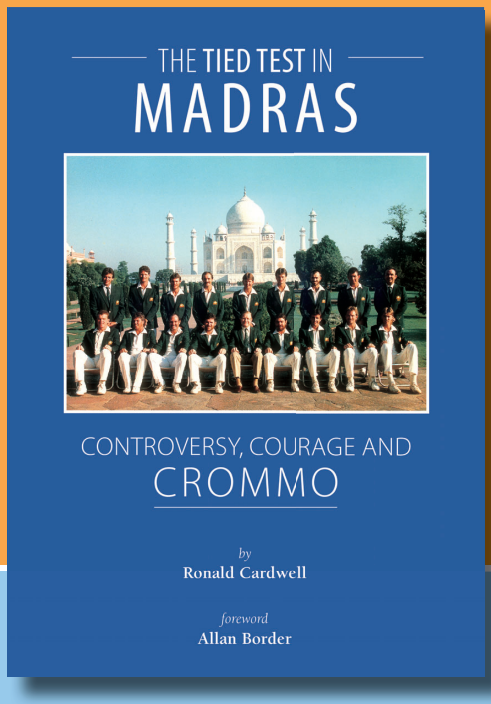
THE TIED TEST IN MADRAS

CONTROVERSY, COURAGE AND CROMMO



India is a fascinating and engaging place where cricket is a link between the social stratum of life. Alan Barons Crompton AO was the manager of the Australian team when they toured India in 1986. It was the early days of Australia's rebirth as a cricket nation under the leadership of the outstanding player Allan Border, a cricketer who took all before him. The First Test of the series was in Madras – it ended in only the second tie in Test cricket history. There was controversy and courage in abundance and Alan Crompton was there to observe it all. This book looks at the Tied Test, the players and events of the tour, and the life and times of 'Crommo', gentleman of Australian cricket.

To read more about the greatest cricket match I've seen was irresistible.
— MIKE COWARD

The crowd went crazy. For some strange reason I looked at my watch – it was 5.19pm. I, along with the Australian players, Errol and Bob Simpson ran onto the field. All of us knew it was a tie ...
— ALAN CROMPTON

TIED TEST SENSATION

AUSTRALIA and India sensationally tied their first Test last night — with NSW hero Greg Matthews taking the final wicket off the second-last ball to give him 10 wickets for the match.

It is only the second tie in Test history – with Australia featuring in both.

The first was against the West Indies in Brisbane in December, 1960, in the first match of the five-Test series between Richie Benaud's Australians and Frank Worrell's West Indians. Australia won the series 2-1.

Yesterday's heart-stopping drama was played out in the seething cauldron of the Chidambaram Stadium in Madras before more than 20,000 delirious fans.

Frenzy

The Australian players went wild, hugging each other as they danced around the oval. Matthews triggered the finish when he bopped Maninder Singh the for a duck. The crowd, already in a frenzy, went wild.

It was his fifth wicket for the innings, giving him 10 for the Test. Ray Bright took the other five wickets in the second innings.

Australia scored, seven (decs) for 574 and five (dec) for 170 to India's 397 and 347.

In Madras, captain Allan Border declared overnight and gave India a whole day to chase 348 for victory. His gamble looked to have failed when India, led by Sunil Gavaskar's record-only 70 runs off the last six overs of a compulsory 87 overs with four wickets in hand.

But then veterans Ray Bright took charge and mopped up the wickets of Chetan Sharma (3) Kiran More (0) and Shivlal Yadav (0).

In between, the super spinners combined to get rid of the potential match winner Kapil Dev when Bright caught the Indian skipper for one off Matthews' bowling.

The ninth wicket fell at 344 and Matthews came on to bowl the most breathtaking over of his career.

The Man of the Match award was shared by Dean Jones, who scored a record 210 in the first innings, and Dav. Matthews was given a special award for his efforts.

Full story— Back Page

Flashback to the first tied Test in Brisbane, 1960

congratulated by his mates after taking a wicket in yesterday's sensational Test

Crommo was a remarkable man, both on the CA board and in his time at Sydney University Cricket and managing the Australian team. His love for the game and the players was large and obvious and in turn he was loved. At the board table he was intelligent, positive, honest, extremely detailed but at times a little verbose! Many a time he softened debate which may have been becoming harsh or difficult.
— MALCOLM GRAY

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