



Devon Cricket Board Development Tour

11th



South Africa  2012

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ANTICIPATION AND EXCITEMENT HEIGHTENED BY THE STORIES



The players will be as enthusiastic as ever to test their skills against competitive opponents in somewhat unfamiliar playing conditions, their sense of

anticipation and excitement heightened by the stories passed on by previous tourists. Marcus Hoddinott (p4) comments 'Past tourists regarded it as their best cricketing experience. . .

The annual visit to South Africa has become a significant motivating factor in the minds of the very young players making their way through the age group structure. As Jack Maunder (p16) recalls 'Ever since I started playing cricket for Devon I had dreamt about going on the Under 15 tour to South Africa.'

The key ingredients have changed little through the years, a carefully negotiated itinerary designed to provide opposition of variable strengths, pitches which contrast with those generally experienced back home, the opportunity to witness and explore two vastly different areas of a stunning country and the guarantee of a warm and genuine reception from our very close friends in Kruger and the Western Cape.

It will be particularly interesting to see how this group of players, who reached the under 14 national final in 2011, are able to cope with a demanding tour some six months into the English closed season.



Skukuza CC



Primrose CC



Boland Stadium



Northernns Goodwood*



Vineyard Oval

ITINERARY

DCB DEVELOPMENT TOUR TO SOUTH AFRICA 2012

February		Venue
Thursday 9th	Depart Heathrow	
Friday 10th	Arrive Kruger	
Saturday 11th	Practice	Skukuza CC
Sunday 12th	Day 1 v Mpumalanga	Skukuza CC
Monday 13th	Day 2 v Mpumalanga	Skukuza CC
Tuesday 14th	Free Day	
Wednesday 15th	Travel to Cape Town	
Thursday 16th	v Southern Suburbs	Primrose CC
Friday 17th	v Development XI	Bergvliet High (D/N)
Saturday 18th	Free	
Sunday 19th	v Boland U15	Paarl/Stellenbosch
Monday 20th	Free	
Tuesday 21st	v Western Province U14 Day1	Vineyard Oval
Wednesday 22nd	v Western Province U14 Day2	Vineyard Oval
Thursday 23rd	Free	
Friday 24th	v Western Province U15	Northernns Goodwood CC
Saturday 25th	Free/Depart Cape Town	

One thing we can be fairly certain about is that any disappointing performances will not be for the want of trying.

To everyone who has helped in any way to make this tour possible thank you. To the players, and at the risk of being even more boring than usual, I would repeat the message given to previous tourists:-

Make the journey as a determined competitor with a burning desire to make sure that you, and ALL your colleagues, enjoy the experience

You will certainly return to the UK richer for the experience, both as a cricketer and as an individual. Just how much will depend on what you make of a unique opportunity.

Alan Swift
Team Manager.



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AN ENRICHING SPORTING AND CULTURAL EXPERIENCE

Now that the final squad for 'The South Africa Tour' has been selected everyone is eagerly looking forward to next February. Past tourists regard it as their best cricketing experience and with that in mind the team are keen to make the most of the opportunity. The anticipation is running high and the thought that we will be playing on a different continent is a great motivating factor. As well as the cricket, the team is keen to experience the diverse and complex culture in South Africa. Playing cricket in 'The Kruger National Park', with warthogs and springbok spectating, will certainly be unique. Add to that the chance to socialise with our South African hosts and we will be on an educational and cultural learning curve. We are particularly looking forward to visiting the townships of Cape Town and speaking with, and playing against some of their cricketers. The playing conditions will be extremely testing and completely different to those at home. This will mean that the challenge, concentration and skill needed will be immense. However the players are already looking forward to testing themselves against some high class opposition and at the end of the tour I am sure we will come back having benefited enormously from an enriching, sporting and cultural experience.

Marcus Hoddinott
Captain

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Approved Member of N.I.C.E.C.

Wishing Dominic and the rest of the U15's Cricket Team a fantastic tour in South Africa – Good Luck Boys!

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FIRST CLASS SUPPORT

A feature of all our tours to South Africa has been the high quality coaching staff available to ensure that the players maximise their opportunities and extract maximum benefit from the experience. This year is certainly no exception.

TIM WARD

Tim began his cricket career at Paignton Cricket Club and represented Devon at every age group up to U19, he captained the U19s when they first won the National Hilda Ovary Trophy. He gained selection for South West of England at U13.

Tim went on to represent Devon Minor Counties side as a medium pace seamer and middle order batsman, making his debut in 1987. He represented Devon in 50+ games over a ten year period, including four matches against first-class opposition in the Nat West Trophy. During his last county season in 1997 Devon won the Minor Counties Championship – a team which also included a young Chris Read!

He was capped for Devon in 1991, the same year they reached the Holt Cup Final at Lords for the first time. In 1986 he played in New Zealand alongside Roger Twose (Warwickshire and New Zealand) and coached in numerous secondary schools.

Tim is an ECB Level III coach and is head of coaching at Paignton Cricket Club. He is proud to be associated with the highly successful youth structure in Devon and is chairman of the South Devon Cricket Coaching Association.

He is currently employed as a teacher at Furzeham Primary School in Brixham.



DEVON STATS

Matches 37

579 runs with a highest score of 91.

416 overs and 82 wickets with a best performance of 5 for 26.



CHRIS READ

We are delighted that Chris Read will be providing the players with some first-class support. Chris, who played for Paignton CC, is a graduate of the highly successful Devon youth programme, having played in all the age-groups before moving on to the Devon Minor Counties side where he played in a Nat West Trophy match at the age of just 16. He had a short spell at Gloucestershire before moving on to Nottinghamshire and of course into the England side. Chris has been captain of Notts for three years and in 2010 led them to the County championship via a dramatic last day of the season victory, over Lancashire.

He has never lost touch with his roots and is a frequent visitor to his parents home in Paignton. Despite the very busy schedule associated with being captain of a first-class county he seldom misses the opportunity to visit Queens Park, the home of Paignton CC. He is the patron of Devon Youth Cricket Foundation, a charity which supports youth cricket in the county.



FIRST CLASS STATS



Devon, Gloucestershire, Nottinghamshire (current captain) and England.

15 Test and 36 One Day Internationals.

First-class record to date:-257 Matches, 11693 runs, Average 36.42, 100s/20, 50s/62. HS 240 v Essex.

WK 759 catches, 44 stumpings.

A SEASON TO REMEMBER – THE TOURISTS IN 2012

Jon Mears and Adam Parker



“Thoughts and recollections”

As I write this, on an overcast late October Plymouth afternoon, the wind blowing and thick drizzle in the air, a typical Devon day at this time of the year, players have dreams of South Africa, sunshine, spectacular scenery, good food and cricket but perhaps they also feel a little apprehension of the unknown, new challenges, different challenges ahead. Don't! Go out there and grasp them; rise to the challenges, confront them together and play with the team spirit you exhibited all season. Have fun and enjoy the experience, the people, hospitality, amazing scenery, wildlife, history, food and make new friends and make new memories.

2011 was a season to remember for the Devon U14s; played 15, won 11, drew 1 and lost 3; runners up to Yorkshire at the Taunton Festival, ECB County Cup South West Group winners and ECB CC National runners up 2011, to Lancashire. Yes it was disappointing losing the National Final, but what an achievement to get there in the first place! Something to be proud of; a season full of fantastic memories, memories to cherish forever and you will have such memories of South Africa too!

When you look at the season, no one scored a hundred, no one took five wickets, no one was truly outstanding but we had one of the most successful U14 County seasons. Why? Because we played as a team; a team which involved all the players no matter how much they contributed; players generally understood their roles and how the team was trying to play and the team was brilliantly supported by their parents and families. Oh yes and we must not forget Rebecca Hoddinott's cookies and mars bar crispies- rocket fuel!

We won a number of our matches- just - and the team got into the knack of winning tight matches, a situation which they really should not have got into in the first place. In many of these cases if the upper or middle order batters did not perform, the middle or lower order did, and we crept over the line.

We also won a number of matches very convincingly and probably our best performance was against Wales at Torquay who in previous seasons had been the team's nemesis. We won by 7 wickets! Although we tried to muck it up, we won the National Semi relatively easily, but did not perform with the bat against a strong Lancashire side who bowled and fielded exceptionally well against us- the standard, with hard work and commitment the team and County should be aiming for.

Dom Bess, Jack Maunder and Captain Marcus Hoddinott return to South Africa for their second trip. They know the cricket will be challenging, not helped by the heat, wind, fatigue, unfamiliar pitches and the standard of



Note
Jon was coach on the first two South Africa tours in 2002 and 2003. Adam was a player in 2003 and coached on the 2004 tour.

Back Row- Left to Right.. Adam Parker (coach), Barnaby Meadowcroft, Matt Skeemer, Ollie Dawe, Seb Ansley, Jack Thomas, Ben Green, Jack Brazier, Jon Mears (Manager)

Front Row- Left to Right. Dom Bess, Dan Powell, Marcus Hoddinott (captain), Jack Maunder, Henry Gater, Todd Rossouw.

the opposition who will have read on the Internet and heard about the side's success and be out to beat you. Together as you did through out the 2011 season rise to these challenges and enjoy South Africa. I know you will. Learn from the life experience(s) and the cricket played. File away these lessons and don't forget to use them when you need to.

Please remember and say hello, from Adam and I, to our friends in the Kruger and Cape Town.

Jonathan Mears, Manager, Devon U14s

Exeter Orthodontic practice wishes Dominic Bess and the Devon U15 cricket team a successful tour to South Africa

Exmouth Cricket Club
Delighted to support Youth Cricket in Devon
Best wishes to Ollie Dawe and the rest of the Development Squad on their 2012 tour to South Africa

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ACTION FROM NATIONAL FINALS




PLAYER PROFILES


	Club	Bat	Bowl	Best Performances
	Stoke Gabriel CC	Right hand	Off Spin	70* v Hampshire 69* v East Devon 3-12 v Gloucestershire 2-15 v Derbyshire
Born		Represented Devon		Other Interests
25th January 1997 in Torquay		U10 to U15		Hockey (Devon & Wessex Leopards U15), Rugby, Squash
SEB ANSLEY				


	Club	Bat	Bowl	Best Performances
	Sidmouth CC	Right hand	Off Spin	4-17 v Berkshire 78 v Oxfordshire 6-12 v Seaton II
Born		Represented Devon		Other Interests
22nd July 1997 in Exeter		U10 to U15		Rugby Swimming
DOM BESS				

	Club	Bat	Bowl	Best Performances
	Filleigh CC	Right hand	Right Arm Medium	2-1 v Dorset 2-18 v Somerset 3-12 v Wales 2-15 v Isle of Wight
Born		Represented Devon		Other Interests
3rd February 1997 in London		U13 & U14		Hockey Rugby
JACK BRAZIER				

PLAYER PROFILES

	Club	Bat	Bowl	Best Performances
	Exmouth CC	Right hand	Right Arm Medium	3-25 v Staffordshire 2-10 v Dorset 2-19 v Gloucestershire. Scored first 100 for club in 2011
Born		Represented Devon		Other Interests
14th March 1997 in Stourbridge		U13 & U14		Football Rugby Eating!
OLLIE DAWE				

	Club	Bat	Bowl	Best Performances
	Sidmouth CC	Right hand	Right Arm Medium	68 v Gloucestershire 110 v Gwent 60 v Cornwall 151 v Clifton College
Born		Represented Devon		Other Interests
3rd May 1997 in Exeter		U10 to U15		Rugby Golf Hockey Skiing
HENRY GATER				

	Club	Bat	Bowl	Best Performances
	Exeter CC	Right hand	Right Arm Medium	4-21 v Staffordshire U14 Nat. SF 2-10 v IOW 40no v Gloucestershire 34 no v Wiltshire
Born		Represented Devon		Other Interests
28th September 1997 in Exeter		U9 to U14		County Squash and Water Polo Rugby Hockey Tennis
BEN GREEN				



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PLAYER PROFILES

TOUR CAPTAIN				
Club	Bat	Bowl	Best Performances	
Exeter CC	Right hand	Off Spin	103 v Cornwall 72 v Berkshire 70 v Cornwall 69 v Gwent	
Born	Represented Devon	Other Interests		
25th September 1996 in Plymouth	U10 to U15	Hockey Rugby Skiing		

MARCUS HODDINOTT

Club	Bat	Bowl	Best Performances	
Heathcoat CC	Right hand	Wicket Keeper	101 v Wiltshire 98 v Cornwall 191 v Marlborough Sch 6 catches v Wales	
Born	Represented Devon	Other Interests		
5th April 1997 in Exeter	U10 to U15	Rugby		

JACK MAUNDER

Club	Bat	Bowl	Best Performances	
Sidmouth CC	Right hand	Wicket Keeper	72 v Worcestershire 60 v Gwent 91 v New Forest	
Born	Represented Devon	Other Interests		
27th May 1997 in Exeter	U10 to U15	Rugby Football		

DAN POWELL

PLAYER PROFILES

Club	Bat	Bowl	Best Performances	
Bovey Tracey CC	Left hand	Left Arm Medium	3-13 v Wiltshire 2-15 v Berkshire 2-20 v Derbyshire	
Born	Represented Devon	Other Interests		
13th September 1996 in Exeter	U12 to U14	Hockey, Cycling Tennis Music		

BEN ROBERTS

Club	Bat	Bowl	Best Performances	
Plympton CC	Right hand	Right Arm Medium	4-6 v S Devon 2-6 v Cornwall 8 catches for Plympton U15s	
Born	Represented Devon	Other Interests		
15th October 1996 in Harare	U12 to U14	Rugby Science Languages		

TODD ROSSOUW

Club	Bat	Bowl	Best Performances	
Cornwood CC	Right hand	Right Arm Medium	106no v Worcestershire 73 v Wales, 4-15 v Gwent, 3-7 v Dorset	
Born	Represented Devon	Other Interests		
4th September 1996 in Plymouth	U10 to U15	Rugby		

MATTHEW SKEEMER

Club	Bat	Bowl	Best Performances	
Bovey Tracey CC	Right hand	Right Arm Medium	4-12 v Dorset, 3-17 v Wales, 7-10 v Dorset 47 v Hampshire, 83 v W Devon	
Born	Represented Devon	Other Interests		
25th November 1996 in Torbay	U12 to U14	Rugby Golf Music		

JACK THOMAS

Blundell's – supporting cricket



There are exciting plans concerning the development of cricket at Blundell's over the coming years, and I hope that in partnership with the Devon Cricket Board, we can work towards the aim of making Devon cricket an even greater force to be reckoned with in the future. Talented young cricketers may apply for a range of sports bursaries.

Rob Turner ex-Somerset and England A cricketer and now Master i/c Cricket at Blundell's
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Devon Youth Cricket Foundation

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Supporting Tomorrow's Cricketers in Devon

www.devoncricket.co.uk/dycf • dycf@devoncricket.co.uk

Devon Youth Cricket Foundation is a charity registered in England and Wales No 1136880



Who are we?

A charitable trust with the simple aims of:

- Helping more children to play and enjoy the great game of cricket
- Helping the talented to become future stars of the game

We support programmes and projects that help players up to the age of 17 in the county of Devon

What do we do?

We encourage people to become members of the Foundation and feel part of the community of youth cricket in Devon

We run events that raise our profile, raise money for the Foundation and increase our membership

We seek financial contributions, legacies and sponsorship from individuals and companies

We invest in projects and programmes that help us to achieve our goals



I was lucky enough to have several wonderful years playing youth cricket in Devon and urge you to support what is being done to nurture youth cricket at all levels in the county.

Chris Read, Nottinghamshire,
Devon & England,
Patron DYCF

How do I join?

To join, download the application form and send it with your cheque to one of the Devon Youth Cricket Foundation team, or post it to Tim Burke, Membership Secretary, Devon Youth Cricket Foundation, Devcor House, 91 North Hill, Plymouth, PL4 8JT
www.devoncricket.co.uk/dycf • dycf@devoncricket.co.uk

- A sense of belonging to and supporting youth cricket in the county
- Membership card
- Receipt of the Devon Youth Cricket Foundation Newsletters
- Advance notification of and access to tickets for DYCF events
- Receipt of the Devon Cricket Yearbook
- Recognition in the Devon Cricket Yearbook
- Two tickets for a day to a Somerset County Championship game
- 10% Discount at Somerset County Sports (County Ground, Taunton) and Devon County Sports (Paignton)

The cost is small:

- Under18 and full time students - £5 pa
- Adults - £10 pa
- Families - £20 pa

Anyone can join: e.g. current & past players, parents, grandparents, friends, coaches, umpires, supporters

OUR DESTINATIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA

Kruger National Park

Our tour begins in Kruger, one of the worlds most famous wildlife sanctuaries. A seemingly endless wilderness with an area about the same as Wales (2 million hectares) it is the flagship of the country's national parks.

There is an abundance of wildlife, and it is truly wild, including the Big 5. It also hosts a stunning bird population - on our very first tour Jon Mears and Eileen Southern quickly identified themselves as practiced twitchers. They continuously identified birds that Martin and myself never even saw. I m sure Martin remains sceptical even now as to whether they actually existed!

It is certainly not a place where you would expect to find a cricket field, never mind a very good one. But that is exactly what you would discover if you were allowed access to the staff village in Skukuza - out of bounds to those visiting the park.

The whole set up from the impressive thatched roof pavilion to the excellent pitches bears testament to the care and expertise of those who maintain it.

During our first two visits we stayed in accommodation at Skukuza rest camp but since then (and this will be our tenth stay) we have enjoyed the really excellent accommodation at Kruger Gate Hotel. Situated just 100m from Kruger on the banks of the Sabie river it is a superb 4* lodge style hotel. From the moment you arrive it is clear that you are about to experience something very different.

The hotel manager Francoise Meyer and his staff are the icing on the cake. They are unfailingly professional and generous of spirit. Nothing is too much trouble.



Kruger Gate Hotel



Wildlife in Kruger



Aerial view from Table Top Mountain



District Six guesthouse, Cape Town

Cape Town

One of the most multicultural cities in the world it is instantly recognisable due to the dramatic backdrop of Table Mountain. Add to that the close proximity of golden beaches and a lively cosmopolitan atmosphere and it is little wonder that it is a major destination for visitors to South Africa.

During our stay we often have an evening meal at the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront, one of the city's most visited attractions, it contains a great array of shops and restaurants as well as an amazing aquarium. The Cape Peninsula to the south, including the jackass penguins at Boulders Beach and the Cape of Good Hope, are other favourite tourist attractions.

Our itinerary also includes a visit to the spectacular wine region at Stellenbosch or Paarl for a game against Boland Province U15s.

Cricket is a major sport in South Africa and Western Province is widely recognised as one of the strongest provinces. We choose to visit Kruger for additional and valid reasons but you can get all the competition you need here whatever the level

Our accommodation is the District Six Guest House which was recommended to us by Nabeal Dien and the England U17 team who had stayed there during several tours. Situated in the heart of the historical District Six area it's location takes in views of Table Bay, Lions Head and Signal Hill. Faizah Hendricks and her staff make this very much a home from home for the players - to be truthful they are spoilt by the generous hospitality on offer.

V&A Waterfront, Cape Town



Lions Head and Robbens Island

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Adam Dibble



2011 - ANOTHER HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL SEASON FOR DEVON CRICKET.

The greatest reward for those involved in youth development is seeing their charges maximise their potential. There has been several excellent examples of this in Devon during 2011.

FIRST CLASS PERFORMANCES

Three players who graduated through the age-group system, Lewis Gregory, Adam Dibble for Somerset and Chris Metters with Warwickshire made their first class debuts. Chris did not tour South Africa but Lewis and Adam did so in 2005/6 and 2006/7 respectively.

Adam made his first-class debut for Somerset against Nottinghamshire, the current county champions, at Trent Bridge in July taking 1-69 in 16 overs and scoring an undefeated 39 in Somerset's second innings. He made a number of one day appearances including the Champions T20 finals in India. However his most eye-catching performance came in a 2nd XI game against Hampshire when he returned the remarkable figures of 9 for 26!

Lewis's outstanding potential as a batsman was recognised from a young age but it was his fast medium bowling (honed at Plympton CC under the guidance of Keith Donohue) which gained him his first-class debut against Worcestershire. He had previously taken 4 for 49 against Pakistan at Taunton in 2010. He became an important part of Somerset's one-day side, often being asked to bowl at the end of the innings. He certainly has the potential to become a genuine all-rounder when he gets the opportunity to express his undoubted batting skills. Lewis has represented England at various age groups and was captain of the 19 side which toured Sri Lanka in 2010.

Chris represented Devon at most of the age group levels as an all-rounder who bowled left-arm seam, but it was not through this conventional route that he attracted the interest of a first-class county. He is in fact an excellent example of how it is possible to make the grade via the club and Minor Counties route. Much credit is due to former England bowling coach Bob Cottam, now resident in Devon, who recognised the possibilities and encouraged the transition into left arm spin. The rest, as they say, is history. Chris became an important part of Warwickshire's attack in 2011 when they narrowly missed out on being county champions. He finished the season with 29 first class wickets, including 6 for 65 against Worcestershire on debut.

Devon's age-group sides have performed consistently well in national competitions for several years and 2011 was no exception.

GIRLS TAKE NATIONAL TITLE

Pride of place should go to the Devon Under 15 Girls team who were crowned national champions. Managed by Sue Steart and coached by Alex Carr, they travelled to Wolverhampton CC in August to claim victory in their National Semi-Final against Sussex, before celebrating a tremendous achievement the following day where they defeated Warwickshire in a nail-biting encounter to win the national title. Just reward too for those who have done so much to encourage and develop the growth of girls and women's cricket in the county.



UNDER 14s MAKE NATIONAL FINAL

The county under 14 side, under the guidance of Jon Mears and Adam Parker, won the South West group before reaching the national final where they lost to an accomplished Lancashire side. This group of players will tour South Africa in 2012 and more details about their achievements in 2011 can be seen on page 6.

SUCCESS AT SENIOR LEVEL

A principal focus for our developing players is surely to gain selection for the Devon County Cricket Club minor counties side. The move from age group to county senior cricket is a challenging experience, and rightly so, but nobody should gain selection just because they are young. They have to demonstrate their worth by performing well in an open playing field in direct competition with older, more experienced players. With that in mind it is satisfying to record that six of the players who appeared in Devon's championship winning side at some stage of the season are graduates of the South Africa tour. The year 2011 was significant, and not just because of the outstanding achievement of being Minor County champions. Roger Newman and the county selectors demonstrated an enlightened and welcome approach which gave ample opportunity to players who were playing their cricket in the county regardless of their age.

It is important to acknowledge the crucial role in the process played by the Devon Cricket League. Their well-run competitions provides a platform for all players to participate at an appropriate level and demonstrate their worth.



Chris Clayton with Minor Counties Championship Trophy

Craig in action for Devon against Oxfordshire

TWIN ACHIEVEMENT

Unique among these notable achievements however is the selection of the Overton twins, Jamie and Craig, for the England Under 19 squad. In fact Jamie made his international debut against South Africa U19 in 2011. Their inclusion is even more notable given that they are only aged 17. Members of the 2009 touring party they will return to South Africa in late 2011 as part of a 22 player group who will undergo a skill based programme based at Potchefstroom. At the moment we are unaware of any previous examples of twins in Devon gaining international recognition at the same time and John Abrahams the England U19 Operations Manager can find no record of any twins representing England cricket at any level. There will be justifiable pride in the Overton household if, or more likely when, this happens.

In 2011 they both played important roles in their club, North Devon, winning the Premier league title. played in the Devon minor county championship side and appeared regularly for Somerset 2nd XI. As cricketers theirs is not a rags to riches story, they have been recognised as able performers for some years. What caused their accelerated development in recent times is an intriguing question. Everyone in Devon cricket will wish them well and follow their progress with great interest.



Jamie batting for England



Lewis Gregory



Chris Metters



In February 2011 Andy Fairbairn and Matt Wood travelled to Kruger a few days ahead of the main party to run a two-day coaching course for teachers from primary schools located just outside the park. The teachers travelled to Skukuza Cricket Club on each of the days.

Matt Theedom and Alan Swift did something similar in 2007. Both ventures have been a welcome and rewarding opportunity to put something back into an area that has given so much to our younger players over the last 10 years.

SEND FOR THE ELECTRIC JUICE

I look back on the coaching course that Matt Wood and I ran at Skukuza CC with great fondness and a sense of achievement.

At the time however, with 40 degree plus temperatures, sun cream dripping in my eyes and vulture's circling overhead I wasn't quite so sure. It was one of those experiences that at the time you wish you had said no, but the sense of accomplishment felt afterwards makes you forever grateful that you said yes.

The two day course was set up by Alan and his contacts in Skukuza. Twenty four teachers from primary schools all around the national park had been invited to attend in an attempt to get children playing cricket in their primary schools. The traditional sport of the schools was soccer and the main language spoken by the teachers was a variety of local dialects but definitely not English. Matt and I were under no illusions that it was not going to be a walk in the park!

At 09:55 on the first morning however, with the course due to start at 10:00 we thought we may have a relaxing couple of days after all. Absolutely no-one was at the cricket club apart from a couple of pasty cricket coaches wondering if we were at the right venue. At 09:56 however, things changed rapidly when the first car arrived, shortly followed by the second, and the third and by 09:59 all the teachers were streaming towards the pavilion with beaming smiles on their faces and extremely friendly local handshakes to boot. I had just witnessed the ultimate show of efficient timekeeping on a mass scale.

So the course began and we delivered a predominantly practical day, learning about the main disciplines within the game and ways of teaching these skills to young players in an enjoyable way. Matt and I were instantly taken by the enthusiasm and ability of the teachers on the course. There was the tall and skinny Colin and the less tall, less skinny Hope, the very talented Pretty and the less able but equally happy Richard. Regardless of the physical make up of the teachers however, they were vastly more naturally gifted than any teachers I have worked with in the UK.

I remember very vividly lunchtime on day one for two reasons: It was my first realisation that South Africans love drinking bright coloured energy drinks (electric juice..) and one of the teachers, a local, telling me, an Englishman in February, it was too hot for training!

The start of day two mirrored day one, with all 24 teachers turning up within three minutes of each other, one minute before the scheduled start time. The South African soccer team were playing that evening and ALL the male teachers turned up in bright green and yellow shirts to show their allegiance to Baffana Baffana! The focus of day two was on small sided games and building up to being able to play a game of pairs cricket. Once again the teachers took to the tasks with smiles, noise and plenty of natural ability. After some more electric Juice at lunchtime the pairs cricket game went down a storm and the teachers left armed with the skills to deliver cricket to their pupils who hopefully will take to the game just as they had.

All that was left for Matt and I to do was complete an hour and a half's coaching with the most energetic schoolchildren on the planet from Skukuza primary school in the cooling afternoon sun (35 degrees) whilst Alan attempted to sabotage maths lessons at the same school.

When Matt and I had drunk two litres of water each, applied aftersun to calf muscles and mosquito repellent all over it was time to relax with a Castle lager and look forward to an Alan Swift game drive at 5am the following day...

Andy Fairbairn



Note
Matt and Andy were almost totally reliant on Alan to track down the wonderful wildlife that inhabits Kruger National Park.



SOUTH AFRICA 2011 A LIFE CHANGING EXPERIENCE



Ever since I started playing Devon cricket for Ted Ashman I had dreamed about going on the Under 15's South Africa tour and it certainly wasn't a

disappointment! We landed exhausted after a twelve hour flight but the excitement of being in South Africa kept us going during the final 45 minute flight to Mpumalanga which was home for the next five days. The Kruger hotel was awesome but we also enjoyed the night drives to see the incredible wild life. However we were actually there to play some cricket and it was a bit of a shock to be playing in the 35 degree heat and 90%+ humidity.

Cape Town was equally amazing and we had a great time visiting the penguins at Boulders Beach and seeing where Nelson Mandela had been imprisoned on Robben Island. We even managed to see a

Twenty20 match in the company of the team we had played against that day. South Africa is a great cricketing nation and we played against some high-class players at some spectacular grounds. My personal highlight was playing at Paarl Stadium against Boland where our names were up on a big electronic score board! Whilst we were playing our match on the watered and maintained pitches we noticed that there was a group of boys playing cricket just over the hedge on a piece of scrubland with no pads, helmets or even shoes in some cases but they were having just as good a time - a real eye opener for us!

In total we played six matches and won three which is a fairly good reflection of the tour and the standard of our opposition. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved with the organisation of the tour for providing us with such a life changing experience. I would also like to thank Heathcoat Cricket Club for their kind and generous sponsorship.

Jack Maunder
(Jack will tour South Africa again in 2012)



Pre tour preparation



Arriving at Kruger airport



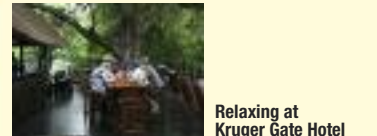
Practice at Skukuza



Action at Paarl v Boland.



With Nelspruit players after the game



Relaxing at Kruger Gate Hotel



Re-planting the Devon Tree (original destroyed by elephants!)



Last night dinner at Kruger Gate Hotel

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TEAM PHOTOGRAPH AT NEWLANDS

Back row, L to R. Andy Fairbairn (Coach), Ali Chilcott, Olli Higgs, Theo Thomson, Jack Williams, Gillam Crouch, Ben Holmes, Marcus Hoddinott, Matt Wood (Coach).

Front row L to R Luke Ansell, Jack Maunder, Samuel Wyatt-Haines (Captain), Billy Searle, Harry Choules, Dom Bess.



Sam Wyatt-Haines (right) tossing up before the game against Nelspruit



- 1 The two day game against Western Province in Linux and setting of the Vineyard Oval.
- 2 Action from the game against Boland at Paarl Stadium
- 3 Ollie Higgs being interviewed by Andy Fairbairn ready for publication on the DCB website
- 4 Development XI players pictured with Ezra Cagwe at Bergvliet High School
- 5 Relaxing on a free day
- 6 Returning from Robben Island with Shaheem (front left)
- 7 Ben Holmes with some perplexed Jacass penguins – not sure why he needs a helmet!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Barbican Kitchen, Plymouth
- Bicton Place Dental Surgery, Exmouth.
- Blundell's School
- Burwood Lighting, Exeter
- Cattedown Wharves Ltd, Plymouth
- Clark & Weeks Solicitors, The Ridgeway, Plympton
- Condy Mathias, Chartered Accountants, Plymouth.
- Cornwood Cricket Club
- Countess of Arran, Filleigh
- Darnells Chartered Accountants & Business Advisers, Newton Abbot
- Darts Farm, Exeter
- Exeter Orthodontic Practice
- Exmouth Cricket Club
- Friends Life, Exeter
- G.J.Bess & Sons Ltd, Sidmouth
- GKS Car Sales, Ivybridge
- Glen Park Primary School, Plympton
- Hunters Moon Hotel, Sidmouth
- J E Matthews. Plymouth
- Lloyds TSB, Plymouth
- Michael Spiers, Exclusive Jewellers
- Mr Bill Pinhey, Plymouth
- Mr G Acty, Cyprus
- Morgan Brokers Ltd, Clifton
- Plympton Cricket Club
- Professor B Clark, Lutton
- Richard Tidball Insurance Services Ltd, Hatherleigh
- Ridgeway School, Plympton
- Rotary Club of Ivybridge
- Sidmouth Hotels Ltd
- Tanners Restaurant, Plymouth
- Task Lighting
- The George Hotel, South Molton
- The Wool Packaging Company
- West Buckland School
- West Country Cheese, Barnstaple
- W H Vallance Ltd, Newton Abbot

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