

DEVON CRICKET

# SOUTH AFRICA U15 TOUR 2023



SATOUR



TOUR SPONSOR 2023



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# TEAMWEAR

SHREY HAS ALWAYS CREATED CLOTHES THAT ARE MORE ABOUT YOU THAN US. WE THINK OF IT AS STYLE WITH SUBSTANCE."



## WELCOME

# Devon Cricket Development Tour - South Africa 2023

Matt Theedom | Joint Tour Manager 2023

### Why tour South Africa?

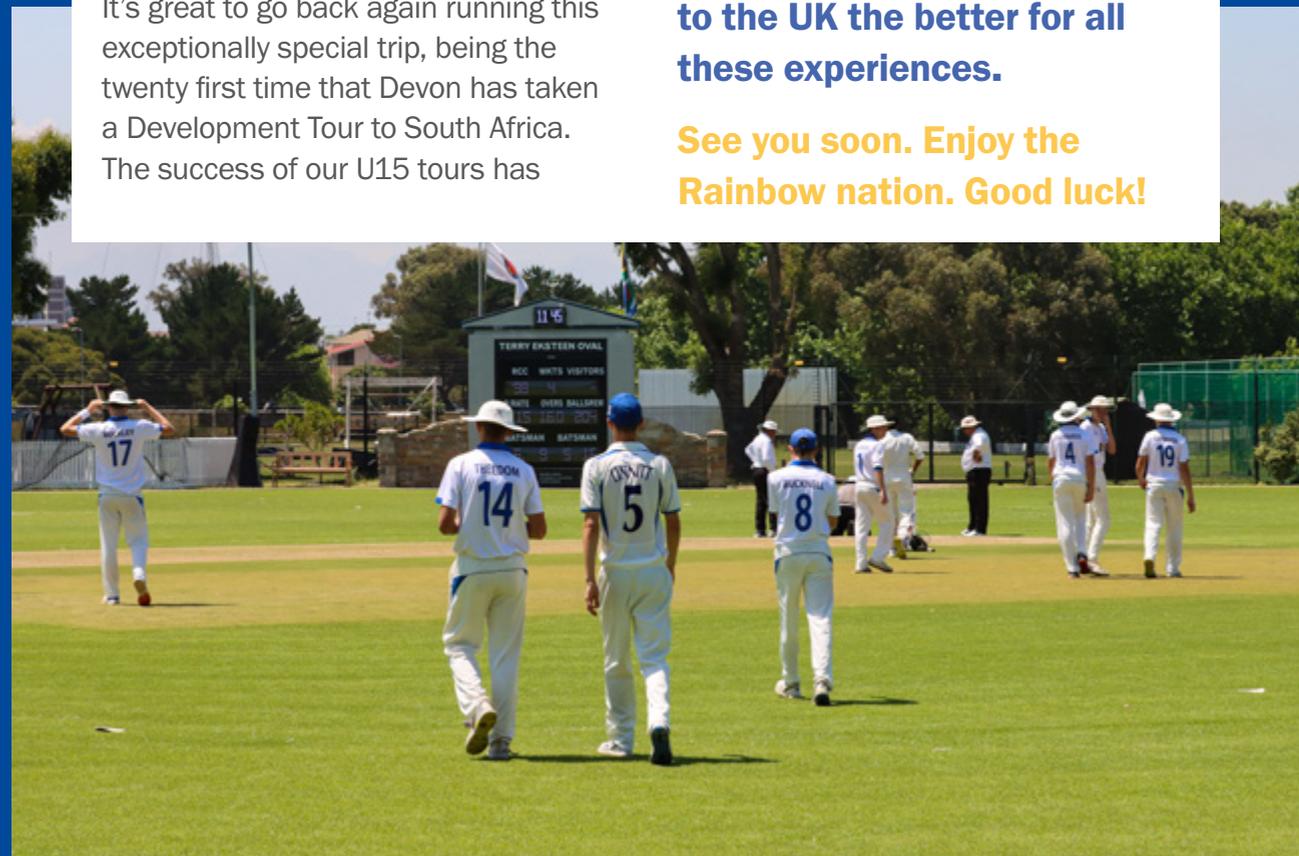
The answer is easy – it’s a country with amazing scenery, incredible wildlife, a world-famous culture, and an infectious passion for sport. As a nation, South Africans are fiercely competitive, and this provides our Tour party with a challenge they may not find elsewhere. It’s great to go back again running this exceptionally special trip, being the twenty first time that Devon has taken a Development Tour to South Africa. The success of our U15 tours has



come through the relationships initially built and developed by Alan Swift (Tour founder) and later nurtured by Mark Ansell. It is through their hard work that we have incredible support from our hosts in the Kruger National Park and Cape Town – a major reason why our Devon tour is such a successful and well-regarded event in our county Youth Cricket. Be assured – you will take away great memories and develop friendships that will endure for many years. And you will find, too, that Africa always throws up the unexpected, on the field or in everyday life.

**A message to our players: embrace these challenges, learn from them, come back to the UK the better for all these experiences.**

**See you soon. Enjoy the Rainbow nation. Good luck!**





  
**Blundell's**  
 FOUNDED 1691

Blundell's is proud to support the 2022  
Development Squad Tour.

Good luck to all the squad from everyone at Blundell's.

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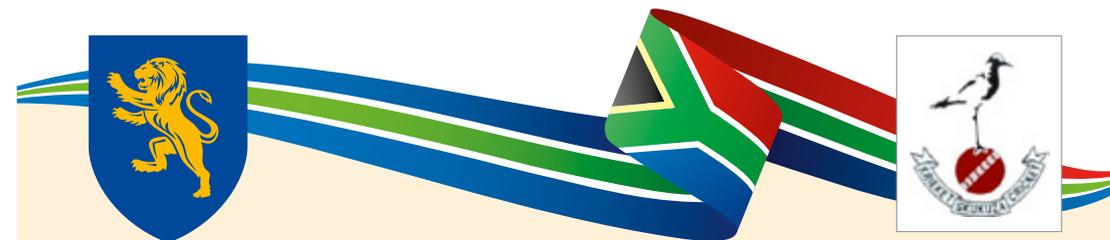
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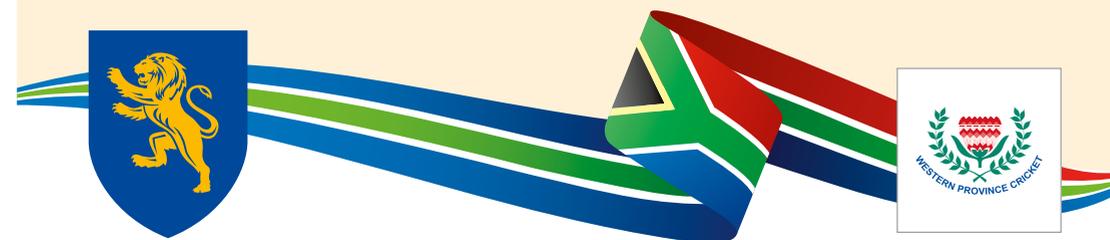
TOP  
100  
CRICKET  
SCHOOL

## TOUR ITINERARY



Day	Activity	Venue	
Thursday	9th February	TRAVEL DAY	Bristol / Frankfurt
Friday	10th February	TRAVEL DAY	Frankfurt / Jo'Burg / Skukuza
Saturday	11th February	Practice day	Skukuza CC
Sunday	12th February	Match v Johan Rudolph Academy	Skukuza CC
Monday	13th February	FREE DAY	
Tuesday	14th February	Match v Nelspruit Highschool - 2-day game	Skukuza CC
Wednesday	15th February	Match v Nelspruit Highschool - 2-day game	Skukuza CC
Thursday	16th February	TRAVEL DAY	Skukuza   Cape Town
Friday	17th February	Match v Western Province Under 14 Invitational XI	Milnerton High School*
Saturday	18th February	FREE DAY	
Sunday	19th February	Match v Western Province Under 14 Performance Hub XI	Green Point*
Monday	20th February	Match v Western Province U14's	Durbanville Cricket Club*
Tuesday	21st February	FREE DAY – Women's World Cup Eng v Pak   SA v Ban	
Wednesday	22nd February	FREE DAY	
Thursday	23rd February	Match v Western Province U15 - 2-day game	The Vineyard Oval*
Friday	24th February	Match v Western Province U15 - 2-day game	The Vineyard Oval*
Saturday	25th February	TRAVEL DAY	Cape Town   Frankfurt
Sunday	26th February	TRAVEL DAY	Frankfurt   Bristol

\*Venue subject to change



## A 20 YEAR LEGACY



I would like to start my introduction to the brochure for the 2023 tour to South Africa by recognising the enormous contribution to Devon Cricket of the tour's founder, Alan Swift as well as his successor, Mark Ansell.

Not only did Alan create the tour over 20 years ago, but he then ran it every year for fifteen years until 2016 as a volunteer, a quite extraordinary contribution to the development of young cricketers. Alan built up a superb network of supporters of the tour both in the Kruger and in Cape Town, to the extent that they consider it just as an important part of their cricket year as we do. As the 2023 touring party, we are some of the lucky beneficiaries of Alan's dedicated and tireless work.



# SATOUR

After being handed the baton from Alan, Mark Ansell took over the management of the tour in 2016, again as a volunteer. Mark was able to seamlessly continue in Alan's footsteps and continued to develop relationships in The Kruger National Park and in Cape town, until he in turn passed the reins over to Matt Cooke and I at the end of 2020.

This is the second tour that Matt and I will be managing. We have, though, been involved in previous tours — Matt was one of the players in 2003, and we have both been part of the management group in recent years. Through this experience we ourselves have seen the wonderful opportunity this tour gives to 14 Devon boys to develop both as cricketers and as people. Sadly, the Covid-19 pandemic disrupted all our lives for over 18 months. Cricket at all levels was a casualty of the pandemic and we were unable to take a tour party in 2021. It is an achievement that we can now take our current U15s on the 2023 tour this February.



## A 20 YEAR LEGACY



Since 2002, our Devon Development U15 tour has provided 290 young cricketers with an opportunity to thrive off the pitch and, most importantly for us, on it.

Watching Jamie Overton score 97 on debut for England this summer, seeing Craig Overton bowling against India in the recent ODI's and witnessing Lewis Gregory battling away against Dom Bess at Taunton brings back wonderful memories of when they toured with us.

Continued...





Continued...

Not every player has or will go on to play at such a high level. We have, however, been fortunate to have had cricketers who have later played at First-Class or International level:

- ▶▶ Tom Allin 2003 (Warwickshire)
- ▶▶ Adam Dibble 2005-6 (Somerset)
- ▶▶ James Burke 2005-6 (Somerset, Surrey & Leicestershire)
- ▶▶ Lewis Gregory 2006-7 (Somerset)
- ▶▶ Craig Overton 2009 (Somerset)
- ▶▶ Jamie Overton 2009 (Somerset & Surrey)
- ▶▶ Dom Bess 2011-12 (Somerset & Yorkshire)
- ▶▶ Ben Green 2012-13 (Somerset)
- ▶▶ Tom Lammonby 2015 (Somerset)
- ▶▶ Sonny Baker 2018 (Somerset).

Each could tell you that their South Africa tour was a significant part of their cricket development. Who knows which players might be added to this list in the future?

Perhaps, more importantly, the tour has helped to produce a tier of highly-talented players who have been successful at Club and National County level for Devon. This has helped to raise the profile of Devon Cricket. We also have some very talented English Premiership rugby players in our list of past tourists. We'll let you work out who they are...

Finally, a thank you to everyone who has contributed towards this Tour, either by sponsorship or volunteering, and to the rest of the Tour coaching and management party - Paul Heard, Annetta Parker, and Jim Parker.

**Matt Cooke | Joint Tour Manager 2023**



**Alan Swift - Tour Founder & Manager 2002-2016**

“The principal reason for travelling 6000 miles is to provide you with an opportunity to widen your cricket experience through playing against capable and competitive opponents in unfamiliar conditions. Nobody can demand that you must win every match you play - that has not happened on any of the previous tours! What we do ask is that you always strive to realise your potential to the benefit of yourself and the team.



The cricket will certainly add an extra layer of experience to your development as a young player. How much you benefit will depend on the extent that you want to learn and improve. Good coaches can help but ultimately the desire has to come from within. Nobody can learn for you!

**Don't be too insular, either as an individual or a group. Take the opportunity to talk to people you meet and gain some insight into their way of life and the contrasting cultures. If you do, South Africa and its people will repay you with interest.”**

**JT WEALTH MANAGEMENT**

**Jonathan Tipper  
07701 076 134**

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Exeter, Devon EX1 1PR  
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**We are delighted to support Zach and wish him and the squad the best of luck in South Africa.**

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# Roz Thomas

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Roz collaborates with.....

Angela Jackson

PHYSIOTHERAPY

Angela works specifically within cricket, and has produced resources for the England & Wales Cricket Board specifically for coaches, parents and young players on injury prevention and performance. She is passionate to share her knowledge through talks, workshops and online resources to ensure young cricketers excel and remain involved in the sport whilst managing their body's development.



AN EXERCISE & EDUCATION PROGRAMME TO REDUCE INJURY RISK IN YOUTH CRICKETERS

Both Roz & Angela wish the U15 Devon County Cricket team all the best in South Africa! Look after your bodies 😊

## KRUGER

The Skukuza Cricket Club is delighted to host the Devon U15 side once again. Your tour will provide you with the opportunity to foster friendships and experience the cultural diversity of our country.

For us, it is very significant that we are once more hosting the first leg of your tour and welcome you to the Kruger National Park, the largest of South Africa's twenty National Parks. Here, you will experience a taste of Africa and the African bush. Over the years, a traditional cricketing battle has developed between the Devon team and Nelspruit High School, competing for the "Battle for Kruger" trophy. This has become one of the highlights of our cricket calendar. For the last 21 years, we have got to know the different leaders and management parties that have brought to Skukuza the cream of Devon Youth Cricket.

**One thing we can all affirm is that, in the words of Alan Swift, the tour is an opportunity "for young players to encounter tough opposition in unfamiliar conditions". We sincerely hope that your experience in Kruger will be with you for ever and that your expectations will be met.**



## THE BATTLE FOR KRUGER



### Back again for the Battle for Kruger!

The Battle for Kruger will once again be played between the Devon U15 Cricket Team and Nelspruit Hoërskool. The Covid-19 pandemic affected all our lives in many ways, but the spirit of the game could not be dampened. Now, once more, Cricket is thriving in both our countries. Devon and



getting to know the new management team and new players. Your tour will once again take you to the two most-visited tourist destinations in South Africa – the Kruger National Park and Cape Town. We at Kruger will strive to help you experience the magic and hospitality of our National Park and fulfil all your expectations.

**Frik Rossouw**

**We at Kruger are looking forward to welcoming back our friends from the UK.**



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**SATOUR**

I have been very fortunate to have visited South Africa five times. There were a couple of 'firsts' when me and my wife travelled there 20 years ago. It was to follow and watch our son play for the county in what was the first under-15 development tour. We and another couple were the first parents to follow the tour, making sure we kept well away from the boys and coaching staff during game days!

My son returned as a tour coach a couple of years later. That was a good enough reason for us to do likewise. Two brilliant tours and playing with the Devon Over 50s and another with the 15s as manager/coach before the dreadful pandemic confined us all to barracks completed the trips.

**There are far too many memories and highlights to list them all but some will stay with us - and you - forever.**

A visit to, and playing, a game in the Langa township in Cape Town was one. To see the conditions in which these people live is both shocking and heart-breaking. Yet they are some of the most kind, happiest and most loving people you are ever likely to meet. The impromptu coaching session with dozens and dozens of children after they finished at the nearby primary school was delight and an absolute joy, their fascination for my wife's blonde hair hilarious yet jaw-dropping and the little girl who hid a five rand coin under her tongue because that was the only safe place for it sad and very humbling.

Then there is the contrast of the fabulous Continental Touch of Cape Town's Waterfront, golden sandy beaches, penguins, the culture of Robben Island where Nelson Mandela was held captive and the breathtaking trip and views up and from the glorious Table Mountain. And last but not least



we have the Kruger National Park where we are looked after so well by our hosts, Frik Rossouw and all those at Skukuza Cricket Club and where the 'Battle for Kruger' awaits us, where you have to clear the wart-hogs off the pitch in the morning before you can play, where you get a chance to see the Big Five on safari, where you get to eat out in the Bush and where the 'beware of crocodiles' sign on the golf course is for real.

**But we must never forget the most important reason for this tour - and that is cricket!**

Alan Swift, the man who devised the tour and managed it with huge success for many years, wanted to find another way of 'developing' young players - hence the 'development tour' title.

Our youngsters will have to cope with, and overcome, some playing conditions they have never experienced previously and against some of the toughest and most passionate opposition they are ever likely to encounter.

Congratulations to all of them for being selected - they are the lucky ones.

**Enjoy the magical tour and magical moments - and let's make sure we win the Battle for Kruger!**

**Jim Parker.**





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Since setting up AWP in 2012 we are over 40 strong now and we have worked on the feasibility, supported planning applications, or undertaken the detailed infrastructure design for over 75,000 new houses. That's more than a new city the size of Exeter!

Aside from the day job we are also avid sports fans and wish these next crop of very talented young cricketers a great tour of South Africa. Good luck fellas!

## REFLECTIONS OF THE 2022 TOUR



### Rio Koyikkara - Devon CC



The tour was on the whole a very memorable experience. It gave us some great memories about new cultures and people; they were extremely welcoming and very friendly to us as well which was great. The climate was a real eye opener and really gave a new test in foreign conditions against new teams on different wickets. The grounds we played on were very picturesque and almost distracted us from the cricket at times! However, we managed to win 4 out of our 6 games with our 2 day fixture versus Western province sadly rained off. It was fantastic to spend the time with my teammates at the accommodation and we really got to know each other a lot more; the nights out at the pool with my mates or in our rooms were very enjoyable. It was a real privilege to travel abroad to play cricket and a huge thanks to the Devon cricket board for organising the tour and I wish the next squad all the best for the tour.

### Gherdu van Eeden - Nelspruit School

This year, JR Academy, made it possible for me and my teammates to play against the Devon U15 touring side, at the wonderful Skukuza Cricket Club in the Kruger National Park, the worlds wildest cricket club. Not only was playing at this fantastic field a great moment, but competing against the Devon tourists was one of my cricketing career highlight thus far. The players from Devon showed what dedication, teamwork and hard work meant.

We learned so much from them and made some great friendships in the process. We discovered about what cricket is like in the UK, but also, life there as well. During the evening Braai we had a great chance to socialise with the lads from Devon and discover plenty about them. Our coaches and fellow team members all agree that this was an experience we will never forget and always treasure. I will be grateful to yet again be able to take on the Devon team on their February tour to South Africa. I am so proud to be part of the Nellie culture, the JR Academy and to be involved in this annual event as a whole.



**We wish all the Devon lads on the 2023 tour the very best of luck, and we are targeting getting our name back on the Battle of Kruger trophy this February.**

## JR CRICKET ACADEMY



The JR Cricket Academy was established by Johan Rudolph and Elmarie du Plessis in 2014. Over the previous eight years I had gained experience coaching the Namibia and Uganda national cricket teams.

However, it had long been in the back of my mind to establish a cricket academy back in RSA. Now, nine years on, the JR Academy is the biggest cricket academy in Mpumalanga province. We started with coaching primary and high school youngsters and then launched a junior coaching programme, JR Cubs, which caters for grades 1 to 3 children. Throughout the year, the academy also organises various tournaments, tours and matches for all the children. At the

JR Academy, I am assisted by Xander Pitchers and Roy Junior Chirwa. They are experienced and qualified coaches who add great value to the programme we can offer and also coach various teams at Nelspruit Hoërskool.

The Devon Development Cricket tour is the highlight of our cricket calendar. We have had some exciting and competitive matches at the Skukuza cricket oval – a great experience for our boys to play an U15 overseas touring team. Many thanks to both Matts, Frik and their support teams for organising the 2023 tour. We are all looking forward to hosting you guys again!

**Johan Rudolph**

## WELCOME TO CAPE TOWN



**Congratulations to all the boys who have been selected to represent Devon.**

Consider it an honour bestowed upon you to act as ambassadors for your region and country. We hope this provides you with a great opportunity to foster new friendships and to understand the wonderful characteristics this great game has to offer.

We at the Western Province Cricket Association look forward to hosting you during your tour and we hope we will assist in ensuring it is a particularly memorable one."

**“It’s an honour and privilege to welcome the players, management and officials of Devon to our Mother City.**



**Clinton Du Preez:**  
Cricket Services  
Manager



**Camillah Adams:**  
Youth Cricket  
Co-ordinator





As we, the Devon U15 cricket team, prepare for our tour to South Africa in February 2023, we can reflect on the journey that brought us here. For all of us, our place on the tour has been our aspiration and the goal of many years of hard work and commitment. We have heard of previous Devon U15 tourists, professional cricketers and role models such as Tom Lammonby, Ben Green and Lewis Gregory. Ten or so years ago, these professionals were very much where we are now, excited and nervous, preparing to go on their own Devon U15 South Africa tour.



As captain of the team, I know we, the players, have a responsibility to do our very best on every part of the tour. Although we have earned our places, whether batting, bowling or fielding, we need to be focused and committed as players and supportive of each other on and off the pitch. On behalf of all the players in the team I would like to thank our Devon coaches and managers, recent and past, who have helped to develop our skills and supported our development as Devon players.

We also all play at our local clubs and have benefited from Devon league cricketers who have coached and helped us improve all parts of our game. On behalf of all my teammates, I would like to thank all our parents

too; we might not be where we are now without their thousands of back-garden throw downs.

Spring 2023 will be a great opportunity for all the players. We will experience quick and bouncy South African pitches, highly competitive opposition, and even floodlit matches. Off the pitch, our schedule also includes cultural and once-in-a-lifetime experiences such as visiting Table Mountain, a safari and the seeing sights of Cape Town. We are very lucky to be part of the tour.

Our recent playing journey into this tour has been one of improvement. Our 2022 season started disappointingly: we did not play our best, losing our first four matches by sizable margins to teams we probably could have beaten. But our spirits stayed high. In our fifth match, we collected a strong win away against a determined Wiltshire side, brought home with a very dominant performance from our bowlers. Bowling strength and depth also led to our second win of the season, in which we bowled local rivals, Somerset, out for just 95 runs and needed only 27 overs to win that game. As our season progressed, in one way or another, all our players stepped up with the ball, with the bat or with great fielding. We have bonded more cohesively as a team and finished the season much more confidently with several convincing wins. I am very happy to say, too, that we continue always to be a friendly, supportive and happy team. We are looking forward to playing together into the future.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the many people who are making this tour possible; especially our hosts at the Kruger National Park, at Skukuza Cricket Club and at all our other in-tour destinations. Particular thanks, too, to our Devon coaches, managers and support staff who will be looking after us on the tour, and of course on behalf of the players I would like to acknowledge all our parents and everything they have done to enable each of our places on the tour and to pass on to us our love of cricket.

Our whole team is looking forward to playing cricket for Devon on tour in South Africa, to the experiences we will have on and off the pitch, and to playing competitively and to the best of our abilities. I know that the memories and friends we will make will last us our whole lives.

**Zach Vukusic**  
Devon U15 captain



## PLAYER PROFILES



### Alexander Shutt

Date of Birth 13/07/2008  
 Squad number 9  
 School Tavistock College  
 Cricket Club Yelverton Cricket Club  
 Represented Devon U12 - U15  
 Batting LH Lower Order  
 Bowling/Wicket RA Seam  
 Other interests Computer Games, Cycling



9



### Alfie Mason

Date of Birth 21/03/2008  
 Squad number 25  
 School St. Peter's High School  
 Cricket Club Exeter & Kenn Cricket Club  
 Represented Devon U10 - U15  
 Batting RH Middle Order  
 Bowling/Wicket RA Off Spin  
 Other interests Golf, Football



25

## PLAYER PROFILES



### Elijah Pyne

Date of Birth 09/10/2007  
 Squad number 40  
 School Exmouth Community College  
 Cricket Club Exmouth Cricket Club  
 Represented Devon U11 - U15  
 Batting RH Middle Order  
 Bowling/Wicket RA Seam  
 Other interests Rugby, Tennis, Football. Currently training for Ten Tors



40



### Harvey Cronkshaw

Date of Birth 14/12/2007  
 Squad number 15  
 School Blundell's School  
 Cricket Club Heathcoat Cricket Club  
 Represented Devon U15  
 Batting RH Middle Order  
 Bowling/Wicket Wicket Keeper  
 Other interests Rugby, Hockey, Skateboarding, Surfing



15



Ivybridge Cricket Club is delighted to support Joel Koppambil for the 2023 South Africa Tour. Good luck!



Is proud to sponsor the Devon U15s Cricket team on their tour of South Africa. We wish the squad including Uffculme students **Luke Thomas, Joe Gillett and Marco Bell** every success on the tour.



## PLAYER PROFILES

**Henry Squire**

Date of Birth 06/03/2008  
 Squad number 27  
 School Blundell's School  
 Cricket Club Thorverton Cricket Club  
 Represented Devon U10 - U15  
 Batting RH Top Order  
 Bowling/Wicket RA Seam  
 Other interests Ball Sports, Drama, Music, Wildlife, Sight Seeing



27

**Jack Martin**

Date of Birth 12/12/2007  
 Squad number 24  
 School Devonport High School for Boys  
 Cricket Club Plympton Cricket Club  
 Represented Devon U10 - U15  
 Batting RH Top Order  
 Bowling/Wicket RA Off Spin  
 Other interests Plymouth Argyle FC, Xbox



24

## PLAYER PROFILES

**Joe Gillett**

Date of Birth 02/03/2008  
 Squad number 37  
 School Uffculme School  
 Cricket Club Kentisbeare Cricket Club  
 Represented Devon U11 - U15  
 Batting LH Middle Order  
 Bowling/Wicket LA Seam  
 Other interests Football, Playing Guitar, Watersports



37

**Joel Koppambil**

Date of Birth 13/01/2008  
 Squad number 17  
 School Ivybridge Community College  
 Cricket Club Ivybridge Cricket Club  
 Represented Devon U11 - U15  
 Batting RH Lower Order  
 Bowling/Wicket RA Leg Spin  
 Other interests Music, TV



17

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Modalis logistics consultancy wishes Alfie Mason and all the rest of the Devon U15 squad good luck on their tour of South Africa



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### PLAYER PROFILES



#### Luke Thomas

Date of Birth 13/01/2008  
 Squad number 10  
 School Uffculme School  
 Cricket Club Sampford Peverell & Tiverton Cricket Club  
 Represented Devon U13 - U15  
 Batting RH Lower Order  
 Bowling/Wicket RA Leg Spin  
 Other interests Hockey, Badminton



10

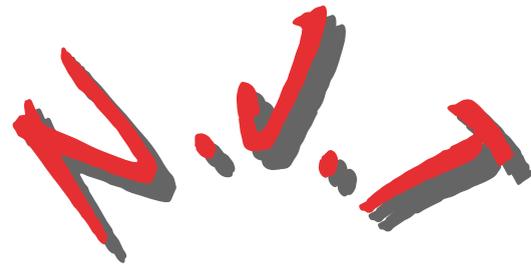


#### Marco Bell

Date of Birth 13/08/2008  
 Squad number 14  
 School Uffculme School  
 Cricket Club Culmstock Cricket Club  
 Represented Devon U12 - U15  
 Batting RH Lower Order  
 Bowling/Wicket RA Seam  
 Other interests Football



14



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## PLAYER PROFILES

**Matthew Matravers**

Date of Birth 06 July 2008  
 Squad number 3  
 School King's College, Taunton  
 Cricket Club Honiton Cricket Club  
 Represented Devon U12 - U15  
 Batting LH Top Order  
 Bowling/Wicket Wicket Keeper  
 Other interests Football, Gym



3

**Matthew Whalley**

Date of Birth 25/06/2008  
 Squad number 6  
 School Plymouth College  
 Cricket Club Plymstock Cricket Club  
 Represented Devon U10 - U15  
 Batting LH Middle Order  
 Bowling/Wicket LA Off Spin  
 Other interests Basketball, Football, Gaming



6

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## PLAYER PROFILES

**Thomas Rintoul**

Date of Birth 07/04/2008  
 Squad number 7  
 School Clyst Vale Community College  
 Cricket Club Exmouth Cricket Club  
 Represented Devon U13 - U15  
 Batting RH Top Order  
 Bowling/Wicket Wicket Keeper  
 Other interests Golf, Rugby, Table Tennis



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**Zach Vukusic**

Date of Birth 30/09/2007  
 Squad number 12  
 School King's College, Taunton  
 Cricket Club Exeter Cricket Club  
 Represented Devon U10 - U15  
 Batting RH Top Order  
 Bowling/Wicket RA Seam  
 Other interests Hockey, Squash, Rugby



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## OUR HOSTS



**Since the first Devon Cricket Development tour in 2002, over two hundred eighty young cricketers from Devon have visited South Africa and, judging by the very positive feedback, have derived great benefit from the experience.**

There is little doubt that the opportunity to play against capable and competitive opponents in unfamiliar circumstances has contributed to their cricket education.

**However, while cricket development is the principal reason for travelling 6000 miles, it would be wrong to measure all the benefits purely in terms of runs scored, wickets taken and matches won or lost.**

South Africa is a strikingly beautiful country with sharply contrasting landscapes. While Kruger provides the classic Africa with wonderful wildlife, Cape Town is a vibrant modern city but with the dramatic background of Table Mountain to remind you that you are visiting somewhere rather different and



special. While the contrasting beauty is obviously appealing, it is the human rather than the physical geography which many find more interesting. Those who have made several visits over the last twenty years will almost certainly bear witness to South Africa as a country now emerging, sometimes painfully, from a troubled history.

**How you might ask does this tour provide our young travellers with a more general educational experience to that provided through visiting as part of a packaged tour through travel companies?**

The answer to such a question requires recognition of the relationships built up over the years with capable and generous people in Kruger and the Western Cape, people who have become good friends of Devon cricket. It is through their generosity and help that our young visitors have the opportunity to meet people from contrasting backgrounds and cultural differences as well as gaining access to places of interest usually 'off limit' to tourists.

### THE KRUGER NATIONAL PARK

About the same size as Wales, the Kruger supports animals that are truly wild, living in a wild habitat. This is not a 'Game Reserve' maintained for the tourist industry. Two husband-and-wife teams have been wonderful hosts for all our tours, and the head of a local cricket academy has encouraged and supported our teams.

## OUR HOSTS



**Over the years of our Devon tour has become a 'family affair', with the involvement of Frik's wife, Petro, and son Jean. They have looked after us so well, providing wonderful food for hungry young cricketers.**

Jean has ably assisted in umpiring duties from year to year, but now is rather busy as he's the head green keeper at Skukuza Golf Club. He has also just become a father in October 2022 so he rather has his hands full!

Jean will however assist on our free day with the boys playing golf at "Africas Wildest Golf Course."

### Frik Rossouw

Frik is a senior investigator with the South Africa National Parks Special Projects.

As the Kruger National Park is home to the world's largest population of rhinoceros, Frik is in the front line of the challenge to curb the illegal poaching of rhino here. However, we have got to know him so well through his work as 'Mr Cricket' at Skukuza Cricket Club, a lovely ground uniquely situated within the wildlife park. Without his generous support, we would not have the rather special experience we enjoy in Kruger.



## OUR HOSTS



### Petro Rossouw

A police officer based at Skukuza who takes some of her annual leave to look after us.

Son Jean Rossouw played for Heathcoat CC for a season and plays cricket at a high level in South Africa, as well as being the Pro at Skukuza Golf Club. Daughter Anica, now a teacher, also helps with looking after us.



### Johan Rudolf

Johan has been a long-term supporter and friend of the Devon tour. Our connection started through Frik and has developed over 20 years. Johan now runs his own cricket academy at Nelspruit, producing teams that are fiercely competitive and very well coached. We always look forward to a battle on the field with one of Johan's teams and will endeavour to get one of his academy teams to the UK to play.



### Nabeal Dien

The introduction to Nabeal in 2001 turned out to be the crucial link for future tours to Cape Town and the subsequent establishment of a successful development exchange programme. Nabeal has now retired from his role as Chief Executive of Western Province Cricket Association, but we still benefit from his continuing support and oversight of the tour.



### Clinton Du Preez

In his role as Cricket Services Manager at the Western Province Cricket Association, Clinton has been responsible for connecting the tour with the cricket network in Cape Town. We are immensely grateful to Clinton for his dedication in supporting our tours and look forward to meeting again in February.



## OUR HOSTS



### Camillah Adams

A delightful and capable lady, Camillah is the Youth Cricket Co-ordinator at Newlands. She has a good working knowledge of the youth structure in Western Province and has been crucial in arranging the logistics for our 2023 tour.



### Shaheem

'Mr Fixit' - Shaheem has organised our transport in and around Cape Town for every tour. A lively and very likeable character, he spent some years teaching at secondary level in Cape Town and is fondly remembered by all boys who have been on the tour. To the tour management, he is much more than simply the transport man, as he is full of ideas and appears to know everyone and everything that is happening in Cape Town. A streetwise and caring individual, he helps ensure that the boys have an enjoyable and safe time.



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**Ben Green**

**Reflections on Devon's 2022 Tour to South Africa**



Touring as a coach was a very different experience from touring as a player in 2012. My perspective had changed from that of the player I was ten years ago, and it was my first experience of coaching in a competitive situation. I must admit that it was a personal challenge to manage frustration when adjusting my expectations from those of a professional cricketer to those of an Under 15 cricketer. That was a great lesson.

As a 15-year-old lad, I had not appreciated the monumental effort that is required by so many people to make the tour a success. Now well-

established, the Devon U15 tours have retained a similar structure over 20 years, a testament to the foresight of Alan Swift (who led the early tours).

The squad was an absolute pleasure to coach and look after and I thoroughly enjoyed many constructive conversations with the players. It was great to see how much they wanted to learn and improve. Overall, there is clearly a huge amount of talent in the group. I look forward to seeing them develop and helping wherever I can.

This year's squad experienced many of the venues, activities and opposition that I remember from my time as a young player. We spent about a fortnight in South Africa and, apart from cricket, we had many outstanding experiences - in the Kruger National Park (for instance, behind the scenes in Skukuza), and later in Cape Town.



In the Kruger, we went on game drives, enjoyed 'brais' [barbeques], and saw wild animals at a safe distance.

In Cape Town, there was Table Mountain and many other sightseeing and cultural experiences, along with glorious beaches and lots and lots of food Oh, yes, and highly competitive cricket, too.

What an experience it was for us all! I was 'buzzing' much of the time, especially as the team won most of their matches. Success on the field certainly contributed to the success of the tour.

**My sincere thanks to the Cooke and Theedom families, to Jon Sparkes and Paul Geard for their company, and to you all for giving me this fantastic opportunity. I will always have fond memories the 2022 Devon/South Africa U15 tour.**



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## COACH PROFILES

### Jim Parker

#### Manager & ECB Level 2 Coach

Jim is the manager of the U15 age group for the 2023 season having previously led this age group for their U14 campaign. Jim is a man of huge experience within county cricket having coached and managed age groups for the past 12 years.

Jim is also Director of Cricket and known as “Mr Barton Cricket Club” where him and his son Adam do vast amounts to keep the club thriving.

Away from cricket Jim is a newspaper editor working with all of the local county papers to ensure they are compulsive reading on a weekly basis. Jim will provide huge insight into the game for the lads and also be able to use the touring experience to develop the side for the summer programme of cricket.



### Paul Heard

#### ECB Level 3 Coach

Paul plays his cricket in the Devon Cricket Premier League for Hatherleigh, after stints at North Devon and Bideford. A tourist as a player back in 2010 and as a coach in 2019 and 2020, he is well placed to understand the benefits of the trip.

“The experience shaped both my playing and coaching styles and I look forward to returning with an exciting group of cricketers. The culture on and off the field is truly eye-opening and I have no doubt the players will thoroughly enjoy themselves”.



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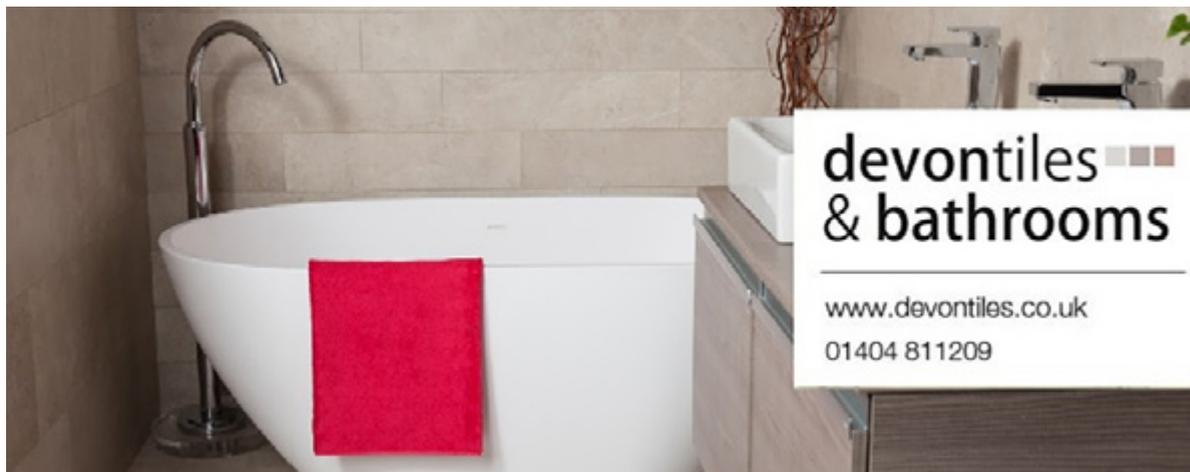
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