

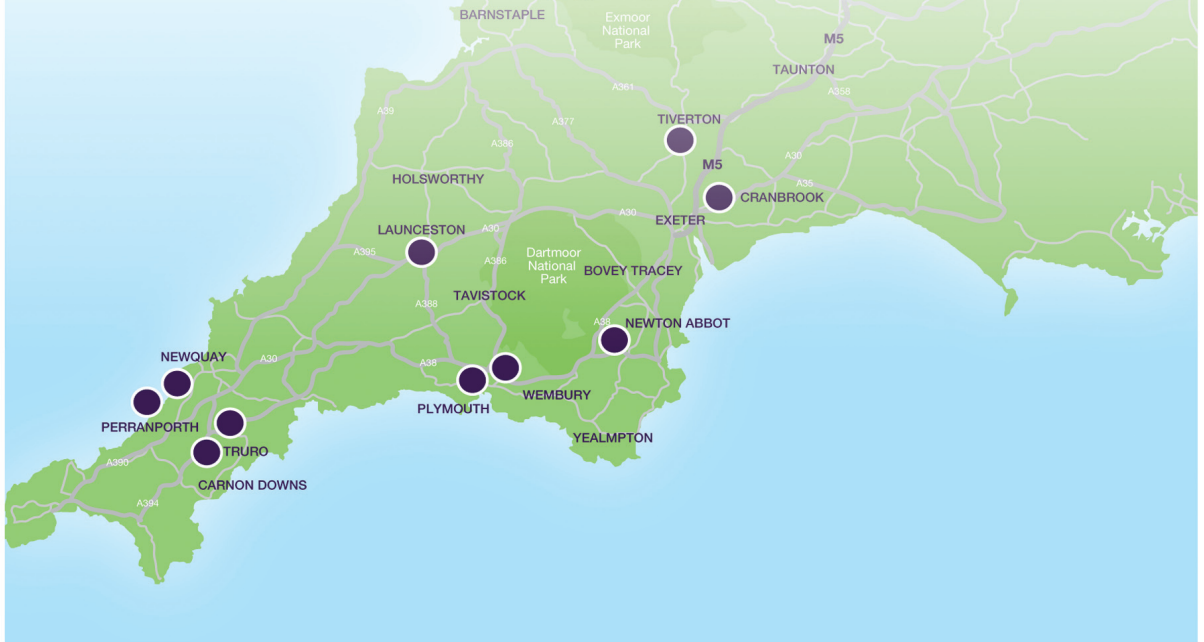


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## 2017 Devon Cricket Development Tour to South Africa

*Mark Ansell, Tour Manager 2017*



I would like to start my introduction to the brochure for the 2017 tour to South Africa by recognising the enormous contribution to Devon Cricket of the tour's founder, Alan Swift. Not only did Alan create the tour, but he has since run it every year for the last fifteen years as a volunteer, a quite extraordinary contribution to the development of young cricketers. Alan has built up a superb network of supporters of the tour both in the Kruger and Cape Town, to the extent that they consider it just as an important part of their cricket year as we do.

So with some trepidation, and with a lot of guidance from Alan, I have stepped into his shoes to take it on for a few years. I have done so because I have seen at first hand, both as a parent and as part of the tour management party for the last two

years, what a wonderful opportunity this tour is for 14 Devon boys to develop both as cricketers and as people. There are currently four players in the Somerset CCC first team squad who went on the tour - twins Jamie and Craig Overton, Dominic Bess and Lewis Gregory - and all will tell you what an important part of their cricket development the tour to South Africa was.

We are very lucky to have an excellent group of coaches again this year in Tim Ward, Dave Tall and former England international and Nottinghamshire CCC Captain, Chris Read.

*"I hope we can make it another great tour to remember."*



Thank you to all of you who have made a contribution towards the tour either by sponsorship or volunteering, and to the rest of the tour management team - John Smith and Kat Hampton.

I hope we can make it another great tour to remember.

### *A Message to the Players from Alan Swift, Founder of the Tour*



"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!

*"Always strive to realise your potential."*

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."

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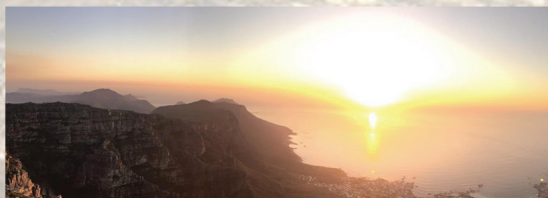
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## South Africa Tour Itinerary 2017

FEBRUARY		ACTIVITY	VENUE
Thursday	2nd	Depart Heathrow on VS601 @ 18:55	
Friday	3rd	Arrive Skukuza on SA8865 @ 14:10	
Saturday	4th	T20 v Nelspruit Hoërskool	Nelspruit
Sunday	5th	Middle Practice & Game Drive	Skukuza CC
Monday	6th	Day 1 - Two Day Game v Nelspruit Hoërskool	Skukuza CC
Tuesday	7th	Day 2 - Two Day Game v Nelspruit Hoërskool	Skukuza CC
Wednesday	8th	Free Day - Game Drive	
Thursday	9th	Travel to Cape Town	
Friday	10th	Day/ Night Game v Bergvliet High School	Bergvliet School
Saturday	11th	Free Day	
Sunday	12th	v Western Province Development XI	Greenpoint
Monday	13th	Free Day	
Tuesday	14th	Day 1 - Two Day Game v Western Province U14	Vineyard Oval
Wednesday	15th	Day 2 - Two Day Game v Western Province U14	Vineyard Oval
Thursday	16th	Free Day	
Friday	17th	v Western Province U15	WPC
Saturday	18th	Depart Cape Town on BA6418 @ 16:00	
Sunday	19th	Arrive Heathrow on VS602 @ 06:20	





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# KRUGER

*Frik Rossouw  
Skukuza Cricket Club*



The Skukuza Cricket Club and Nelspruit Hoërskool would once again like to welcome our friends from Devon. This annual tour is definitely one of the highlights on our cricket calendar and hasn't only become a permanent fixture but also a great tradition between the Devon U15 cricket team and Nelspruit Hoërskool, both of whom take pride in their respective cricket histories as they will again fight it out for the "Battle of Kruger" trophy.

The Devon tour has added huge value to local youth cricket not only by exposing our youth to "overseas" competition but also over the years with coaching clinics, equipment and sponsorship, for which we are very grateful. Your sponsorship has added value to our facilities in that we applied it to better the condition of the field and purchase numerous pieces of equipment such as our boundary wedges and new netting facilities.

*"This annual tour is definitely one of the highlights on our cricket calendar..."*

I trust you will enjoy what the Kruger National Park has to offer and hope your expectations will be met. The extent of your tour will take you to the two most visited tourist destinations in South Africa, namely Table Mountain National Park and the Kruger National Park, two world renowned icons.



*Presentation of the Battle of Kruger Trophy*



2002 NELSPRUIT 102-5 DEVON 103 NHS WON BY 5 WICKETS	2006 NELSPRUIT 203-5 DEVON 202 NHS WON BY 5 WICKETS	2011 NELSPRUIT 197 DEVON 152 NO PLAY AFTER RAIN ON DAY 2 MATCH DRAWN
2003 DEVON 214-4 NELSPRUIT 109 DEVON WON BY 111 RUNS	2007 NELSPRUIT 308 & 85-4 dec DEVON 378 & 277 NHS WON BY 38 RUNS	2012 DEVON 217-7 dec & 104 NELSPRUIT 96 & 123 DEVON WON BY 102 RUNS
2004 DEVON 113-3 NELSPRUIT 109 DEVON WON BY 7 WICKETS	2008 NELSPRUIT 246-9 & 228-7 DEVON 236-9 & 203-9 MATCH DRAWN	2013 DEVON 129 & 144 NELSPRUIT 199 & 64-4 MATCH DRAWN
2004 DEVON 153-2 NELSPRUIT 152 DEVON WON BY 8 WICKETS	2009 DEVON 206 & 182-9 NELSPRUIT 141 & 238 DEVON WON BY 9 RUNS	2014 DEVON 134 & 189-9 dec NELSPRUIT 192 & 98-3 MATCH DRAWN
2005 NELSPRUIT 223-9 DEVON 198-9 NHS WON BY 25 RUNS	2010 DEVON 229-5 dec & 134-2 NELSPRUIT 259 & 103 DEVON WON BY 8 WICKETS	2015 NELSPRUIT 186 & 167-8 DEVON 202 & 150 NHS WON BY 2 WICKETS

*Battle of Kruger Trophy*



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## CAPE TOWN

*Nabeal Dien*

*Chief Executive, Western Province Cricket Association*



I would like to put on record how much we value the unique links we have established with Devon cricket. It is always a great pleasure to welcome you, your management group and of course the U15 Devon cricketers to the 'Mother City'. Your annual visits are now an important feature in our calendar of special events, indeed they have become something of an institution.

Over the 15 years that your tour has graced our shores it has done so much to enrich the lives of many young cricketers. You must be delighted that several of the players who visited South Africa have graduated from the Devon youth development scheme to become successful first class players and indeed to represent England at international level. The tour may well have helped by providing an additional layer of experience.



*District 6 Guest House, Cape Town*

The exchange programme (through which young Western Province players come and play for clubs in Devon and visa versa), developed as a direct consequence of the tour, has been of great benefit to a number of our young players. It enabled them to gain knowledge of overseas conditions through playing for clubs in the Devon league and several have become established Franchise players while,

J. P. Duminy, Vernon Philander and Beuran Hendricks have gone on to represent South Africa at international level.

Long may the relationship between Devon Cricket and Western Province continue to enhance the lives of some of our best young cricketers.

We look forward to your sixteenth tour in 2017.



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## **“...we have the ability and attitude to be successful in South Africa.”**

*Jack Moore, Captain Devon U14s in 2016*



With the South Africa Tour approaching we can take time to acknowledge the hard work and effort put in by the players and coaches in the 2016 season.

In our first game of the Championship we took on Hampshire. We played poorly on the day and lost by 80 runs. It would have been a bigger margin of defeat if it wasn't for Ollie Hannam's maiden county 50.

In our next game we took on Gloucestershire and managed 200/3 with AB scoring his maiden county ton and myself 53. In reply, Gloucestershire could only manage 170/8 with Max Hancock taking 3 wickets.

Onto our next game, the long trip to Oxfordshire. We bowled them out for 65 with Cole Harford taking 3 wickets on his return to the county side and we won easily by 7 wickets.

Next was Dorset. A great bowling and fielding performance with Ollie Pugsley taking 7 wickets. We bowled Dorset out for 89 and chased down the total winning by 6 wickets.

Our next game against Cornwall was rained off.

We went to the Kings Festival and on the first day beat Derbyshire by 80 runs. Good aggressive batting from Medlock and Morison and spinner Read taking 3 wickets.

Next game was Middlesex. Bowling first we restricted them to 221. Even though Middlesex thought this was enough we got the runs in the 41st over with 2 wickets remaining. AB scoring 65 and Morison a quickfire 45.

Onto Yorkshire on pitch 1. After putting in a good bowling performance to restrict them to 220, we batted poorly and with 9 wickets down managed a losing draw.

Next day against Shropshire, we bowled them out for 100 with Tom Simmons taking 4 wickets. We won by 7 wickets with Medlock scoring 53.

Still with a chance of winning the Festival, we played Wales and once again bowled well to restrict them to 210 with AB taking 6 wickets. We struggled in reply on a turning wicket, getting bowled out for 160 with myself top scoring with 45. We managed to finish 2nd in a very strong group.

Back to the Championship, we played Somerset. They batted first and scored 230/2 on an excellent Torquay wicket. We won easily by 7 wickets with myself, 85 and AB scoring 72.

*"We managed to finish 2nd in a very strong group."*

*(Kings Festival 2016)*

Our next game away to Wiltshire, Waddell and Kidd made their county debuts. We bowled Wiltshire out for 140 in reply, Whitey and Hannam knocked the runs off for a 10 wicket win.

Our last game of the season was against Gwent. Batting first we scored 220 with Whitey scoring 100 and James Horler a maiden county 50. Gwent could only manage 150 with Pugsley taking 3 wickets.

After finishing 2nd in the Championship and the Festival, we are confident we have the ability and attitude to be successful in South Africa.



## PLAYER PROFILES



**Freddie  
FORD**

CLUB: Kingsbridge CC

SCHOOL: Kingsbridge School

BORN: 9th May 2002, Chelsea LONDON

BAT: Right Hand

BOWL: Right Arm Slow Offspin

Rep. DEVON: U10 to U14 & U16

BEST PERFORMANCES:

109\* v East Devon U11

79\* v East Devon U12

3-3 v Cumbria U13

OTHER INTERESTS:

Tennis

Hockey

Squash

Shooting

Fishing



**Max  
HANCOCK**

CLUB: Sidmouth CC

SCHOOL: Millfield School

BORN: 27th December 2001, Ascot BERKSHIRE

BAT: Right Hand

BOWL: Left Arm Orthodox

Rep. DEVON: U10 to U17

BEST PERFORMANCES:

5-29 v Hampshire U13

4-60 v Worcestershire U17

4-20 v Worcestershire U13

70 v Cumbria U13

Devon EPP

OTHER INTERESTS:

Squash

Drama

Hockey



**Oliver  
HANNAM**

CLUB: Bideford CC

SCHOOL: Bideford College

BORN: 27th December 2001, Barnstaple

BAT: Right Hand

BOWL: Right Arm Medium Wicket Keeper

Rep. DEVON: U10 to U14

BEST PERFORMANCES:

60\* v Wiltshire U14

53 v Hampshire U14

70 v West Devon

131 v Exeter

OTHER INTERESTS:

Football

Tennis

Rugby

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## PLAYER PROFILES



**Cole  
HARFORD**

CLUB: Barton CC

SCHOOL: Torquay Academy

BORN: 30th November 2001, Torquay

BAT: Left Hand

BOWL: Left Arm Fast Medium

Rep. DEVON: U10, U11 & U14

BEST PERFORMANCES:

4-22 v Cornwall

3-11 v Buckinghamshire

3-18 v Oxfordshire

50\* v West Devon

OTHER INTERESTS:

Exeter City Football Academy

Fishing



**James  
HORLER**

CLUB: Exmouth CC

SCHOOL: Exeter School

BORN: 23rd February 2002, Llantrisant WALES

BAT: Left Hand

BOWL: Right Arm Leg Spin

Rep. DEVON: U12 to U14

BEST PERFORMANCES:

102\* v Bristol

87 v Jersey

58 v Gwent

45 v Berkshire

OTHER INTERESTS:

Squash (Devon U15)

Football

Golf



**Cameron  
KIDD**

CLUB: Whimpe CC

SCHOOL: The King's School

BORN: 7th February 2002, Exeter

BAT: Left Hand

BOWL: Right Arm Offspin

Rep. DEVON: U14

BEST PERFORMANCES:

112\* v Bristol

72 v South Devon

Man of the Match v Sidmouth

OTHER INTERESTS:

Football

Rugby

Gym

Badminton



**Abraham  
KOPPARAMBIL**

CLUB: Ivybridge CC

SCHOOL: Mount Kelly, Tavistock

BORN: 6th October 2001, Ernakulam INDIA

BAT: Right Hand

BOWL: Legspin

Rep. DEVON: U12 to U14

BEST PERFORMANCES:

100\* v Gloucestershire U14

73\* v Somerset U14

64 v Middlesex U14

5 wkts v Essex U15

Devon EPP

OTHER INTERESTS:

Music

Football

Running

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## PLAYER PROFILES



**Luke  
MEDLOCK**

CLUB: Paignton CC

SCHOOL: Torquay Boys Grammar School

BORN: 10th September 2001, LONDON

BAT: Right Hand

BOWL: Right Arm Medium

Rep. DEVON: U10 to U14

BEST PERFORMANCES:

6-4 v Dorset U10

75 v Somerset U11

64 v Cornwall U13

62\* v Shropshire U14

OTHER INTERESTS:

Football

Rugby



**Jack  
MOORE**

CLUB: Barnstaple & Pilton CC

SCHOOL: Pilton Community College

BORN: 25th September 2001, Barnstaple

BAT: Right Hand

BOWL: Right Arm Medium

Rep. DEVON: U10 to U14

BEST PERFORMANCES:

96 v Cornwall

85 v Somerset

70 v Somerset

4-11 v Worcestershire

Devon EPP

OTHER INTERESTS:

Football



**Louis  
MORISON**

CLUB: Exmouth CC

SCHOOL: The King's School

BORN: 17th May 2002, Romsey HAMPSHIRE

BAT: Right Hand

BOWL: Wicketkeeper

Rep. DEVON: U12 to U14

BEST PERFORMANCES:

75 v Lancashire U13

56 v West Devon U13

46 v Middlesex U14

OTHER INTERESTS:

Exeter City Football Academy (U16)



**Ollie  
PUGSLEY**

CLUB: Exmouth CC

SCHOOL: The King's School

BORN: 18th February 2002, Exeter

BAT: Right Hand

BOWL: Right Arm Off Spin

Rep. DEVON: U11 to U14

BEST PERFORMANCES:

7-34 v Dorset

3-25 v Gwent

2-13 v Shropshire

5-7 v Hampshire

OTHER INTERESTS:

Football



## PLAYER PROFILES



**Sam  
READ**

CLUB: Clyst St George CC

SCHOOL: Exeter School

BORN: 22nd June 2002, Exeter

BAT: Right Hand

BOWL: Right Arm Off Spin

Rep. DEVON: U10 to U14

BEST PERFORMANCES:

101\* v Somerset

70 v Dorset

4-9 v Somerset

4-22 v Yorkshire

Devon EPP

OTHER INTERESTS:

Squash

Running

Hockey



**Tom  
SIMMONS**

CLUB: Sidmouth CC

SCHOOL: Colyton Grammar School

BORN: 15th September 2001, Exeter

BAT: Right Hand

BOWL: Right Arm Medium Fast

Rep. DEVON: U11 to U14

BEST PERFORMANCES:

100\* v West Devon U14

52 v Gwent U13

4-9 v Cornwall U13

3-10 v Shropshire U14

OTHER INTERESTS:

Football

Athletics

Drama



**James  
WHITE**

CLUB: Tavistock CC

SCHOOL: Kings College

BORN: 27th July 2002, Cheltenham

BAT: Right Hand

BOWL: Right Arm Fast

Rep. DEVON: U10 , U12 to U14

BEST PERFORMANCES:

118 v Cumbria

100\* v Gwent

72\* v Wiltshire

4-46 v Dorset

OTHER INTERESTS:

Rugby

Football

Table Tennis

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*Wishes the Devon U15 team  
the best of luck  
on their tour of South Africa.*

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## COACH PROFILES



**Chris  
READ**

This will be the fifth time that Chris has come on the tour as a coach. A graduate of the Devon youth programme, Chris still finds the time to support the development of young cricketers in Devon and is a patron of the David Shepherd Cricket Trust. A highly respected player at first class level, reckoned by many to be the finest English wicketkeeper of his generation. He played 15 tests and 36 ODI's for England as a wicketkeeper and right hand batsman, and led Nottinghamshire CCC (where he was captain from 2008-2016) to the county championship in 2010. He is in the process of completing his ECB level 4 Coaching Award and we are delighted to have him as part of the coaching staff again.



**Dave  
TALL**

Dave is looking forward to his 1st tour to South Africa where he hopes he can pass on some of his extensive experience to the younger generation. He played in the Devon Premier League for almost 25 years, much of it as captain, and for Devon CCC in the early 90's as a batting all-rounder. Dave then wanted to contribute to youth cricket in Devon, so started coaching about 10 years ago and has recently started coaching for West Devon District and the Devon U15's. He spent last winter coaching at a club in Perth, Western Australia, helping the club to a record season and will be coaching for the Devon Lions in 2017.



**Tim  
WARD**

Tim, who holds an ECB level 3 Coaching Award, coached the Devon U14's last year and will be coaching the Devon U15's next summer so knows this group of boys and their cricket well. He is head of coaching at Paignton Cricket Club and supports Keith Donohue with the Devon CCC one day side. 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.

Tim began his cricket career at Paignton Cricket Club and represented Devon at every age group to U19, whom he captained to win the National Hilda Ovary Trophy for the first time. Tim went on to represent the Devon CCC side as a medium pace seamer and middle order batsman making his debut in 1987. He represented Devon in over 50 games over a ten year period, including four matches against first class opposition in the NatWest Trophy. During his last county season in 1997, Devon won the Minor Counties Championship - a team which included a young Chris Read!

Good luck  
to the squad  
for the 2017 tour



James Onley-Gregson, Captain of the 2016 touring party,  
photographed at Newlands, Cape Town

## Our Hosts, *Those who make the tour a bit special*

Since the first Devon Cricket Development tour in 2002, over two hundred 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 would 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.

*"...over two hundred young cricketers from Devon have visited South Africa..."*



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# David Shepherd Cricket Trust

Supporting Young Cricketers in Devon

[www.DSCT111.org.uk](http://www.DSCT111.org.uk)

[info@DSCT111.org.uk](mailto:info@DSCT111.org.uk)



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## YOUR CHANCE TO HELP YOUNG CRICKETERS IN DEVON

### FROM CLUB TO COUNTRY

*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  
Patron DSCT

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## The Kruger National Park

About the same size as Wales and the animals are truly wild, no manicured reserves here. Two husband and wife teams have been wonderful hosts for all our tours.

Frik is a senior investigator with SAN Parks Special Projects who has been actively involved in trying to curb the illegal poaching of rhino in the Kruger National Park. However it is through his work as 'Mr Cricket' at Skukuza Cricket Club, a lovely ground uniquely situated within the wildlife park, that we have got to know him so well. Without his generous support the rather special experience we enjoy in Kruger would not happen.



*Frik Rossouw*



*Jannie Geldenhuys*

Head Teacher at Skukuza Primary School, Jannie has been a feature of our visits to Kruger since the first tour in 2002. Indeed on our second visit he acted as a guide on an evening game drive. He is very much involved in school sport in Mpumalanga Province, including athletics and of course cricket. Remembered by previous tourists for his delicious Potje, a traditional dish introduced by the Voortrekkers in the 1880's, he has never forgiven Alan Swift for referring to it as 'stew'.

Wives of Frik and Jannie, words cannot express our gratitude for the work these two ladies have done to feed the hungry cricketers on each of our visits. Petro is a police officer based in Skukuza and takes some of her annual leave to make sure we are all well catered for, while Isabel is a teacher at the local Skukuza Primary School.



*Isabel Geldenhuys*



*Petro Rossouw*



*(left) Game drive in Kruger*



*(left) Jannie's Potje - Well worth queuing for!*



*VUSWA have been generous sponsors for many tours*

## Cape Town

Referred to as the 'Mother City', a major world tourist destination, boasting spectacular Table Mountain as a backdrop and with more cricket grounds per square mile than you can believe.

The introduction to Nabeal through Roger Newman 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 is now Chief Executive of Western Province Cricket Association and we are incredibly grateful for his continuing support and involvement in the tour.



*Nabeal Dien*

A delightful and capable lady who is PA for Nabeal at Newlands. She has a good working knowledge of the youth structure in Western Province and has been a crucial and reliable link since the first tour in 2002.



*Michelle Ernntzen*

'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.



*Shaheem*



*At Newlands to see South Africa v England  
2016*



*Alan Swift negotiating possible  
schedule with Shaheem = Always one  
of the entertaining aspects of the tour!*

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## Mutual Benefit

A by-product of the annual tour has been the emergence of a Development Exchange Programme providing players (generally around the age of 19) from South Africa to play in Devon whilst players from Devon have spent part of the English winter playing cricket in the Western Province club league (such as Max Curtis and James Burke in recent years).

In 2016 Kyle Verreyne, fresh from representing South Africa U19's and having played for Western Province U15's against Devon a few years earlier, came to play for North Devon Cricket Club in the Devon Premier League, finishing third highest run scorer in the league and scoring three hundreds. Since his return to South Africa he has scored his maiden first class century for Western Province CC. Jason Smith, who also came over to play in the Devon League as an 18 year

old four years ago (and holds the record Devon Premier League opening partnership with Barney Huxtable), is currently a regular in the Cape Cobras team.

*"There is so much more to this experience than a cricket tour."*

J.P. Duminy, Vernon Philander and Beuran Hendricks have all gone onto represent South Africa after spending time playing in the Devon League as young adults.

In addition, young cricketers from Cape Town schools have been coming over to schools in Devon to further their cricket and academic development. Simon Weale, Headmaster of Shebbear College, adds "I first became aware of the Devon U15 tour to South Africa when my son was

fortunate enough to be picked in 2015. This was a wonderful experience for him and under Alan Swift's guidance he came back a more resilient character and a better cricketer. As a result of the tour I was able to foster a link with Rondebosch High School and the Newland Cricket Academy - two remarkable institutions that both help promote cricketing excellence in Cape Town. These exchanges can be arranged remarkably easily if people have the will to do so. As a result we have been able to welcome cricketers from both schools to Shebbear (and to both North Devon & Hatherleigh CC's) and in January two Shebbear students will be undertaking an eight week stint in Newlands. There is so much more to this experience than a cricket tour. The boys will be treated as guests rather than tourists and if their minds are open their lives will be changed forever".



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## The 2016 Development Tour

*James Onley-Gregson (Tour Captain)*



The tour began in a very hot Kruger National Park; getting off the plane was quite a shock, however a quick dip in the hotel pool helped us acclimatise quickly. Our first game against a local side saw us claim our first and only win of the tour as the following T20 and two-day game featured a Nelspruit batsman, Tristan Parnell hitting two 50 plus scores.

Being players from Devon we're used to seeing sheep wandering around a cricket pitch but in Skukuza we became used to warthogs on the boundary. Our evening meals at Skukuza Cricket Club were also disturbed by a hippo who decided to wander on to the outfield. Whilst staying in the Kruger we went on two game drives, seeing lions but actually saw more animals on the journeys to and from the cricket ground, elephants, giraffes, zebra,

rhino, hyena and lots of impala.

After a week we flew to Cape Town where we stayed in District 6, an area of importance to the history of apartheid. The cool breeze was welcome and the pitches now more lively with both the men's and women's England cricket teams in Cape Town engaged in a tight series with the hosts. There was quite a buzz in town.

*"...in Skukuza we became used to warthogs on the boundary."*

Our first game revealed an apparent weakness in our batting as we were bowled out cheaply, made more

frustrating as 20 more runs would have secured victory. Before our next game we enjoyed a day at Boulders Beach swimming with penguins and were guests of the Western Province Cricket Club watching South Africa beat England in a one day game. The two-day game against Western Province followed, which involved two good bowling displays but again a lack of runs resulted in our defeat despite being watched briefly by Nasser Hussain. After a day water skiing and a trip up Table Mountain came our worst defeat against Western Province Under 15's.

### Good luck to our pupils James and Sam and the rest of the development squad in South Africa



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On the last day we played our final game against a Township team. Once again we struggled against good bowling and couldn't defend a low score of 120. The tour finished with a frustrating England v South Africa T20 and a relaxing trip to Camps Bay.

I would like to say a big thank you to Alan Swift our Tour Manager, our coaches, Chris Read, Sandy, Matt and Joe and other support staff including Mark Ansell and John Smith.



*The 2016 Team*



## The Sidmouth Cricket Player Development

### Charitable Trust

Supporting young player development at Sidmouth Cricket Club. Community and a sense of belonging is at the heart of our Club. Today, that connection with the community remains strong, and The Trust is committed to making a positive difference through charitable activity.

For further information visit or email

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*We would like to acknowledge and thank everyone that has helped and support the players in any way to prepare for this tour*

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Barnstaple & Pilton Cricket Club

Bideford Cricket Club

The Bedford Hotel, Sidmouth

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