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**TRAVIS PERKINS ARE PLEASED
TO SUPPORT THE DEVON YOUTH SQUAD
ON THEIR ANNUAL TOUR TO SOUTH AFRICA**

2018

Devon Cricket Development Tour to South Africa

I would like to start my introduction to the brochure for the 2018 tour to South Africa by recognising the enormous contribution that the tour's founder, Alan Swift has made to Devon Cricket. Not only did Alan create the tour, but he ran it every year for fifteen years until 2016 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 Kruger and Cape Town, to the extent that they consider it just as important a part of their cricket year as we do.

This is the second year that I shall be managing the tour, having stepped into Alan's shoes last year to take it on for a few years. I have done so because I have seen it first hand, both as a parent and as part of the tour management, what a wonderful opportunity this tour is for 14 Devon boys to develop both as cricketers and as people. This year is especially exciting for the tour as we have our first graduate in the England Ashes Test squad currently in Australia - Craig Overton. All of us involved with the tour wish Craig the best of luck and hope he gets his chance to play in the Tests. Craig's first overseas



representative tour was this tour in 2009. In addition to Craig, there are currently three other players in the Somerset CCC first team squad who went on the tour - Craig's twin brother, Jamie 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.

Thank you to all of you who made a contribution towards the tour either by sponsorship or volunteering and to the rest of the tour coaching and management party - Tim Ward, Sam Wyatt-Haines, John Smith and Kat Hampton. I hope we can make it another great tour to remember.

Mark Ansell

Tour Manager 2018



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A message to the players from Alan Swift, Founder of the Tour



"The principal reason for travelling 6,000 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 as 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."

Alan Swift

*Tour Founder and Manager
2002-2016*

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For more information, please contact Julian on 07801510487 or
julianwyatt@hotmail.com or visit
julianwyattcricketacademy.wordpress.com

**Best of luck to everyone, have a great trip, learn from every game and love
the experience!**



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Tour Itinerary 2018

February		Activity				Venue
Thursday	1	Depart Heathrow	on EK002	@ 13:40		
Friday	2	Arrive Skukuza	on SA8865	@ 14:10		
Saturday	3	 Middle Practice & Game Drive				Skukuza CC
Sunday	4	 Devon v Mpumalanga Province Development XI				Skukuza CC
Monday	5	Rest Day - Game Drive 				
Tuesday	6	 Day 1 - Devon v Nelspruit Hoërskool (Two Day Game)				Skukuza CC
Wednesday	7	 Day 2 - Devon v Nelspruit Hoërskool (Two Day Game)				Skukuza CC
Thursday	8	Travel to Cape Town	on SA8652	@ 11:20		
Friday	9	 Devon v Bergvliet High School (Day/Night Game)				Bergvliet School
Saturday	10	Rest Day 				
Sunday	11	 Devon v Newlands Cricket School				Greenpoint
Monday	12	Rest Day 				
Tuesday	13	 Day 1 - Devon v Western Province U14 (Two Day Game)				Western Province CC
Wednesday	14	 Day 2 - Devon v Western Province U14 (Two Day Game)				Western Province CC
Thursday	15	Rest Day 				
Friday	16	 Devon v Western Province U15				Vineyard Oval
Saturday	17	Depart Cape Town	on EK771	@ 18:15		
Sunday	18	Arrive Heathrow	on EK029	@ 13:50		



Devon Cricket Development Squad 2017 on arrival in Skukuza

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Kruger

"The tour has added great value"

The Skukuza Cricket Club and Nelspruit Hoërskool would once again like to welcome our friends from Devon. This annual tour is definitely the highlight on our youth cricket calendar. It became a permanent fixture and also a great tradition between the Devon U15 cricket team and Nelspruit Hoërskool, who take great pride in their respective cricket histories as they will again fight it out for the "Battle of Kruger" trophy.



The Devon tour adds 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. The equipment you donated last year was put to good use and handed to children from neighbouring communities.

I trust you will once again enjoy what the Kruger National Park has to offer and hope your expectations will be met. As you will be touring



during the summer you will also experience real African summer temperatures. 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.



Skukuza Cricket Club

We are looking forward to meeting you again.



Frik Rossouw

Skukuza Cricket Club



PLEASED TO SUPPORT
CHARLIE WARD ON

THE DEVON DEVELOPMENT TOUR
TO SOUTH AFRICA
IN FEBRUARY 2018



Good luck to Cricket Scholars
Elliot Hamilton, Ben Beaumont
and all the tour players.

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Mouldtech employs optimum design techniques in the production of all its mould tools to ensure a robust and long lasting tool. All mould tool designs are stored on its own servers so if there is any need for modification during the life of the project, the company can easily access the drawings and assess what work is need.

In addition to tool design, Mouldtech Solutions is able to design components. Working from just a sketch, it can develop the idea into a solid 3D model. This area of product design and development is a

major part of its business, and it believes in building good relationships with its customers to enable it to understand their market needs for mutual - and long-term - benefits.

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Paul, Toni and Daisey
wish **Elliot Hamilton**
and the rest of the
Devon U15 Team the
very best of luck
in their tour to
South Africa 2018

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Cape Town



"Long may the relationship continue"

I would like to put on the 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 16 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 and especially at having Craig Overton in the

current Ashes squad. The tour I am sure will have helped by providing that additional layer of experience.

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 and has been a great benefit to a number of 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 seventeenth tour in 2018.

Nabeal Dien

Chief Executive, Western Province Cricket Association

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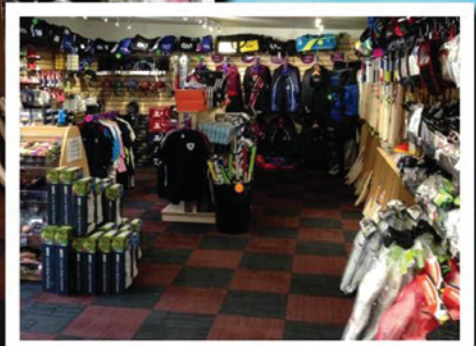
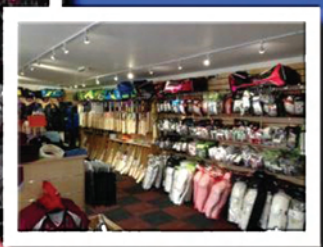
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Devon Under 14, 2017 The lead up to South Africa...



As the 2017 season now feels like a distant memory, it's good to remind ourselves how well we actually did last year. This is great for giving us confidence going forwards as we now start our intensive training and the excitement builds towards playing in South Africa in February 2018. The boys thank Sam and Nigel for supporting and preparing us throughout last season and into the next.



Our first game was a friendly against Gwent. Highlights were Baker and Ingham-Hill taking 3 wickets each, Tyson batting through, and we won, getting the opposition all out for 89. We won by 7 wickets. A great way to start the season.

We crashed quickly in our first serious game, being beaten by Berkshire in a disappointing defeat. We did well to restrict Berkshire to 157 for 9, but Devon gained only 114 all out. This was a good bowling and fielding performance as was often the case; however, let down by a poor batting performance on this occasion. Ward and Baker were the pick of the bowlers that day.

Picking ourselves up, we then went on to beat Wiltshire by 10 runs at Bovey Tracey. Highlights were Tyson scoring 55 runs, Taylor taking 3 wickets and Reynolds (Blondie) holding his nerve when bowling in the last over to a win a thriller. Important runs from Rudolph and Hurst seeing the score to 190 for 9, in the end, proved vital.

Up next was Hampshire, played at Blundell's, which sadly saw us all out for 169 with 5 overs left to play, versus their total of 209. Hamilton was returning from a collar bone break and Reynolds again played well, getting 43 runs.

The Gloucester match was played on a poor wicket at Colston's Grammar School. Hurst took 3 wickets and Fordy, 4 wickets, restricting Gloucestershire to 123 all out as a team and Hamilton seeing us home with 24 runs not out.



Next up in the Championship was Oxfordshire, who were flying high at the time having lost just once and they looked like a very good outfit cruising to nearly 100 for the loss of just one wicket. However, this game was to turn on its head with a season's best bowling figures from Farley's leg spin (6-34), good glove work from Small and Jefferson wrapping them up for 111 all out, were some of the highlights. We knocked off the runs winning with the score 112 for 2.

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Then came the King's festival.

The Derbyshire match was great, with us getting them all out for 84. Ren Dog did well with a score of 52 not out (his maiden county 50) bringing us an 8-wicket victory.



(Devon U14
photo credit:
Fiona Tyson)

Buckinghamshire scored 189 batting first with Tay chipping in with 4 wickets. Then we produced our best batting performance of the week, with Hurst scoring 30, myself 57, Hamilton scoring 59 and winning in 28 overs.

Gloucestershire was our third match and they scored 135 all out, versus our 62 reply, although Ingham-Hill took a great 3 wickets again. A disappointing result for us having beaten them earlier in the season.

However, we came together the next day to produce a thrilling game with Shropshire who won when scoring 117 for 9 - so just a one wicket loss for us. Baker took an amazing hat trick and got his name on the board with a five-for; kissing the ground in celebration! Had we won this game we would have actually won the tournament in what proved to be a tight table.

We had our last opportunity to win grabbed from us as the final game was abandoned versus Middlesex due to poor weather, only to finish King's mid-table therefore.

As well as Sam and Nigel, the boys thank Clemmo for helping them through the King's week.

Back to the Championship, versus Somerset, Devon struggled to 165 all out (Elliot scoring a gritty 58). It didn't look enough against a strong unbeaten Somerset side. However, not for the first time, the bowlers and sharp fielding saved us,



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bowling them out for 118, which was a great win with probably our best performance in the field out of the whole year.

The Cornwall game was our penultimate cup game. Devon beat Cornwall by 135 runs, which confirmed qualification to the top division for 2018. This was to be our finest batting performance of the season. Ford achieved a great score of 74 with a maiden county 50 and I scored 84 at a run a ball. Beaumont hit 2 big 6s in his 34 runs. The overall score went past 300 on a poor wicket. Farley took 4 wickets and Fordy, a further 3 to wrap up a comprehensive victory.

Dorset was our final game to finish the season and we won. It gave Baker a career best of 6-17 and an overall 7 wicket victory. We came 2nd in the table behind Berkshire by only a point.

Taking the season as a whole, we won 9 games, lost 4, with one abandoned.

Bowling performances were excellent throughout the season and we often bowled teams out for low scores. Occasionally our batting let us down,

however, we have shown we can post big scores and compete when we put it all together.

We feel we have the opportunity to emulate the previous U15 team by topping our group next season and competing successfully in South Africa.

We are so grateful to sponsors, friends and families for funding and sponsoring our tour to South Africa.

Joe du'Cay

Captain, Devon U14 (2017)



An advertisement for Mount Kelly Boarding and Day School. The top left features the school's crest and name: 'MOUNT KELLY Boarding and Day School Boys and Girls, Aged 3-18'. To the right, the text reads 'Mount Kelly wishes the Devon Team all the best for the tour'. The background is a large photograph of the school's main building, a grand stone structure with many windows, set on a green lawn. In the foreground, a cricket match is in progress with several players in white uniforms on the field. At the bottom left, contact information is provided: 'For more information or to arrange a visit contact: 01822 813193 admissions@mountkelly.com www.mountkelly.com Mount Kelly | Parkwood Road | Tavistock | Devon | PL19 0HZ'. A QR code is located in the bottom right corner.



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Player Profiles



SONNY BAKER

Date of Birth:
13th March 2003

Place of Birth:
Torquay

School:
Kings College, Taunton

Cricket Club:
Torquay

Bat: R H
Bowl: R A, Fast

Represented Devon:
U12 - U14

Best Performances:
6-7
4-32
5-24 including a hatrick

Other Interests:
Rugby
Athletics



**BEN
BEAUMONT**

Date of Birth:
16th February 2003

Place of Birth:
Torquay

School:
Plymouth College

Cricket Club:
Cornwood

Bat: R H
Bowl: R A, Medium Fast

Represented Devon:
U14

Best Performances:
42 v South Devon
38 v North Devon
36 v Cornwall
28 v Middlesex

Other Interests:
Football
Rugby



JOE DU'GAY

Date of Birth:
11th November 2002

Place of Birth:
Plymouth

School:
Blundell's School

Cricket Club:
Heathcoat (in transfer)

Bat: R H
Bowl: R A, Medium Fast

Represented Devon:
U10 - U14

Best Performances:
84 v Cornwall
75* v Worcestershire
67 v Wiltshire
57 v Bucks

Other Interests:
Rugby



JOSH FARLEY

Date of Birth:
14th December 2002

Place of Birth:
Exeter

School:
Uffculme School

Cricket Club:
Kentsbeare

Bat: R H
Bowl: R A, Leg Spin

Represented Devon:
U10 - U14

Best Performances:
78 v Somerset
6-34 v Oxfordshire
103 v East Devon
110* v Dorset

Other Interests:
Football
Basketball
Golf

Devon EPP

Player Profiles



JACK FORD

Date of Birth:
3rd July 2003

Place of Birth:
Barnstaple

School:
Park Community School

Cricket Club:
Bideford

Bat: R H
Bowl: RA, Off Spin

Represented Devon:
U10 - U14

Best Performances:
74 v Cornwall
68 v South Devon
4-24 v Gloucestershire
4-5 v South Devon

Other Interests:
Football
Rugby
Shooting



ELLIOT HAMILTON

Date of Birth:
22nd December 2002

Place of Birth:
Plymouth

School:
Plymouth College

Cricket Club:
Plympton

Bat: L H
Bowl: L A, Spin

Represented Devon:
U10 - U14 & U16

Best Performances:
110* v Herefordshire
100* v Cornwall
3-17 v Somerset
3-36 v Staffs

Other Interests:
Football
Rugby
Surfing



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Player Profiles



DYLAN HURST

Date of Birth:
30th April 2003

Place of Birth:
Hertfordshire

School:
Colyton Grammar

Cricket Club:
Axminster

Bat: R H
Bowl: R A, Fast Medium

Represented Devon:
U10 - U15

Best Performances:
113* v Dorset
86 v Cornwall
4-21 v Cornwall
3-16 v Gloucestershire

Other Interests:
Tennis
Hockey



**TAYLOR
INGHAM-HILL**

Date of Birth:
13th November 2002

Place of Birth:
Exeter

School:
Kings College, Taunton

Cricket Club:
Bovey Tracey

Bat: R H
Bowl: RA, Off Spin

Represented Devon:
U10 - U14

Best Performances:
5-7 v Gwent
4-18 v Bucks
3-16 v Wiltshire
67* v North Devon

Other Interests:
Skiing
Hockey
Rugby

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Player Profiles



**SAM
JEFFERSON**

Date of Birth:
17th April 2003

Place of Birth:
London

School:
Colyton Grammar

Cricket Club:
Whimble

Bat: R H
Bowl: R A, Medium

Represented Devon:
U10 - U14

Best Performances:

5-6 v Herefordshire
74* v West Devon
56* v Cornwall
58 v North Devon

Other Interests:
Hockey
Football



**TOM
REYNOLDS**

Date of Birth:
9th April 2003

Place of Birth:
Taunton

School:
Blundell's School

Cricket Club:
Heathcoat

Bat: R H
Bowl: R A, Medium Fast

Represented Devon:
U14

Best Performances:

128 v Cornwall
64 v Cornwall
52* v Derbyshire
2-8 v Somerset

Other Interests:
Rugby
Hockey
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Player Profiles



**EDDIE
RUDOLPH**

Date of Birth:
13th December 2002

Place of Birth:
Salisbury

School:
Colyton Grammar

Cricket Club:
Ottery St Mary

Bat: R H
Bowl: R A, Off Spin (WK)

Represented Devon:
U10 - U14

Best Performances:
47 v Cornwall
45 v Cornwall
2016 Ottery St Mary, Fielder of the Year

Other Interests:
Hockey (County)
Football



ADAM SMALL

Date of Birth:
14th May 2003

Place of Birth:
Exeter

School:
Taunton School

Cricket Club:
Exeter & Sandford

Bat: R H
Bowl: R A, Off Spin

Represented Devon:
U14

Best Performances:
4 dismissals in a game
48* (rep. East Devon)
4 dismissals in a game (rep. East Devon)

Other Interests:
Hockey (County)
Squash (County)



JAMES TYSON

Date of Birth:
16th July 2003

Place of Birth:
Barnstaple

School:
West Buckland School

Cricket Club:
Filleigh

Bat: R H
Bowl: L A, Orthodox

Represented Devon:
U10 - U14

Best Performances:
89* v Torquay
63* v Cornwall
55 v Wiltshire
53* v East Devon

Other Interests:
Hockey (County)
Tennis
Shooting



**CHARLIE
WARD**

Date of Birth:
4th December 2002

Place of Birth:
Torquay

School: Paignton Comm.
& Sports Academy

Cricket Club:
Paignton

Bat: R H
Bowl: R A, Medium

Represented Devon:
U10 - U14

Best Performances:
3-21 v Wales
56* v East Devon

Other Interests:
Rugby
Football

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Plympton Cricket Club are delighted to be sponsoring Elliot Hamilton on the forthcoming Devon U15 tour of South Africa. We wish Elliot & the whole tour party every success on this exciting venture.

Plympton Cricket Club currently runs 3 senior sides in the Devon league. It has a very professional colts organisation running 5 sides at U11, U13, & U15 age groups. In addition we have a ladies team playing in the Women's Devon League.

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Coach Profiles



- . Holds a Level 3 coaching qualification
- . Currently coaches the Devon U15 side
- . Head of coaching at Paignton CC
- . Supports Keith Donohue with the Devon CCC one-day side
- . Chairman of the South Devon Cricket Coaching Association
- . Works as a teacher at Furzeham Primary School in Brixham
- . Represented Devon CCC as a medium pace seamer, middle order batsman, debuting in 1987

Tim began his cricket career at Paignton CC and represented Devon at every age group to U19, whom he captained to win the National Hilda Ovary Trophy for the first time. He represented Devon in over 50 games over a 10 year period, including 4 matches against first class opposition in the NatWest Trophy. During his last county season in 1997, Devon won the Minor Counties Championship.



TIM WARD

"Being involved in cricket has always been an influential factor in my life. I was lucky enough to grow up through the ranks of Devon age group cricket, which was an incredible journey."

- . Chosen for Nottinghamshire CCC Academy where he spent 1 year
- . Joined Somerset CCC Academy where he became a squad scholar
- . Holds a Level 2 coaching qualification
- . Began coaching Devon U17's and then multiple age groups
- . Involved in running a coaching programme at Budleigh Salterton CC and alongside has been a Chance to Shine coach for 2 years
- . Currently coaches at Bovey Tracey CC
- . Works at Exeter University offering coaching sessions

"The incredible opportunity to be involved with a first class county meant that I learnt from some of the most experienced coaches in the game and I hope I can pass on some of their messages. I love technical aspects of batting in particular and have a huge focus on the importance of fitness in the game. I have been lucky enough to work with the boys travelling to South Africa for the past two years and I am looking forward to watching the boys develop in tough and challenging conditions."



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Our Hosts

Since the first Devon Cricket Development tour in 2002, over 200 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 circumstance has contributed to their cricket education.



However, while cricket development is the principal reason for travelling 6,000 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 the 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.



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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 Rossouw is a senior investigator with SAN Parks Special Projects; the Kruger National Park is home to the world's single largest population of rhinoceros and Frik is in the front line of the ongoing challenge to curb the illegal poaching of rhino there. 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.



Head Teacher at Skukuza Primary School, **Jannie Geldenhuys** 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 a 'stew'.



Wives of Frik and Jannie, words cannot express our gratitude for the work these two ladies, **Isabel Geldenhuys** and **Petro Rossouw**, 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.



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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 Dien** 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.

Michelle Ernntzen, 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.



'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.



Best wishes to James Tyson and the rest of the Devon squad

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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.

Of the current Cape Cobras contracted 22 man squad, 5 have had a season developing their cricket in the Devon League. 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 centuries. Since his return to South Africa he has scored his maiden first class century for Western Province CC and broken into the Cape Cobras team. Jason Smith, who also came over to play in the Devon League as an 18 year old five years ago (and holds the record Devon Premier League opening partnership with Barney Huxtable), is currently a regular in the Cape Cobras team. J P Duminy, Vernon Philander and Beuran Hendricks

have all gone on to 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 Devon's 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 Newlands 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



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schools to Shebbear (and to both North Devon and Hatherleigh CC's) and in January 2017 two Shebbear students undertook an eight week stint at 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."

In Cape Town this English winter, following in the footsteps of previous Devon players, James Burke and Max Curtis, Jack Dart and Tom Ansell are playing for clubs in Cape Town in the Western Province Cricket League. Both have represented Devon CCC in the Minor Counties Championship in 2017 and both are graduates of the tour.

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The South Africa Development Tour 2017

After only one medical emergency on the flight from Heathrow to Johannesburg, thankfully not one of our team, we caught a 39 seater airplane to Skukuza airport in the Kruger National Park. Despite warnings from previous tourists, all 14 of us were blown away by the heat and humidity on arrival. I certainly struggled to comprehend how I was going to function in the heat; let alone try and run. Baggage reclaim had to have been one of the most personal services ever, when the sole baggage handler passed the bags to us by hand through a small door. We boarded the safari bus and continued our journey to the beautiful Kruger Gate Hotel, where we caught our first glimpses of South African wildlife.

All settled and "unpacked", we went to Skukuza Cricket Club for our first of many delicious meals cooked by Isabel and Petro. We were certainly well fed for our first game the next day, which saw us face



an academy side from the Nelspruit area. We were to take them on in a 35 over "warm up game". The South Africans won the toss and decided to see how our batsmen would cope in the heat first up. A strong opening partnership between Horler and Koppaambil came to an end when they were both retired with the score on 61. Medlock began to accelerate the scoring with 2 sixes. Some characteristic



quick running saw him get to 38 before he too was retired. This platform allowed the middle order to play expansively and they scored on the whole at a run a ball or just over. Morison came to the crease in the 30th over and scored a very respectable 44 not out from 16 balls. Our innings finished on 207-3, meaning our opposition needed to score at a touch under 6 an over to win.

Simmons and Harford bowled the first overs of Devon's tour with Simmons removing both of the openers, who were caught by keeper, Hannam. Hancock replaced Simmons at the clubhouse end and took a further 4 wickets, getting a good amount of turn and bounce on the Skukuza wicket. Pugsley took 2 wickets and Nelspruit were bowled out for 108 after some tail-wagging from their lower order. Hancock finished with figures of 7-1-23-4 and

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Simmons, 5-4-3-2. A good marker was set as we looked forward to our next game, The Battle of Kruger.

On our first free day we had middle practice with our coaches: Tim Ward, Dave Tall and Chris Read at Skukuza, acclimatising us further to the heat and humidity.

Our second game of the tour was a two-day game against Nelspruit School U15's. Devon won the toss and elected to bat first. We posted a score of 167 all out, with White scoring 31 at number 3 and Hannam 36 not out. As a team we were disappointed with our total as we felt we had underperformed. However, tidy opening spells from Simmons and Medlock saw Medlock pick up 3 wickets from his first spell. Hancock then came on again and took 4 wickets for the second game in succession. Medlock finished with figures of 9-4-15-4 and Hancock, 8.3-4-16-4. Nelspruit were all out for 55 making our first innings total look far more respectable.

Ahead by 112, the opening partnership of Horler and Read set about building a big lead. Read batted with control and aggression, which saw him 60 not out when we declared on 105-3. This left Nelspruit 218

to win 'The Battle of Kruger'.

Mathee Joubert offered a good fight with his run a ball 42, before an unbelievable slip catch from Kopparambil saw the end of his innings. Hancock took another 4fer, Medlock and Read took 2 wickets a piece and then there was 1 each for Simmons and Harford. Nelspruit finished on 121 all out giving Devon the win by 96 runs.

An early morning game drive proved unsuccessful in the hunt for lions and the 5am start proved too

early for many of the golfers planning a round after breakfast. Only 4 made it to the first tee but they were rewarded with glimpses of crocodiles, warthogs and hippos around the course. After an entertaining round, the winner and proud owner of the Skukuza Golf Club hat was Sam Read. We celebrated our last



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night in Kruger with all of our hosts at the hotel, with the buffet being taken full advantage of by all and a fitting finale to a wonderful time in Kruger.

On arrival in Cape Town, we immediately saw the differences from Kruger. A cosmopolitan city with free use of all car horns!

District Six Guest House was our home for the stay in Cape Town with Brenda and our hosts making us most welcome. Our first evening in Cape Town was spent at the V&A Waterfront; a large shopping mall with lots of restaurants on the harbour front.

On the morning of our first full day in the city, we travelled to Newlands to see Western Province play Eastern Province. Two former Devon League players were on show, Hamza having played for Paignton and Verreyne for North Devon during their time in the UK.

We played at Bergvliet High School in a day/night

game that evening. Devon won the toss and elected to bat on a hard but green South African wicket.

Kopparambil opened the batting for the tourists, along with Hannam. At 26 for 2, Horler joined Kopparambil at the crease and together they forged our highest partnership of the tour, 97. Kopparambil fell for 58 and Horler made 43. Enter Morison, who timed the ball superbly, hitting 6 sixes and 6 fours in his score of 83. The highest individual score of the tour came at a cost to Morison's new bat, now only useful as fire wood. Kidd also impressed with a quick fire 23 off of 14 balls. We finished our innings on 260 all out, missing out on the last three balls.

Ford took 3 Bergvliet wickets and some quick work in the field led to 3 run outs by Read, White and Ford. One wicket each for Simmons, Harford, Read and Medlock saw Bergvliet bowled out for 136 under the floodlights.



On the Saturday, we toured the beaches around

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Cape Town and took a short boat ride out to the Seal colony at Hout Bay where we saw over 300 seals. After lunch, we travelled to Boulders Beach and saw the wild African Penguins up close. After some interaction and a demonstration from an elderly local, we were assured cliff jumping was safe and we enjoyed swimming in the warmer Indian Ocean.

Our next game saw us take on Newlands Cricket High School at Green Point Track in the shadows of the Football World Cup Stadium. Devon lost the toss and were to field first. Moore and Harford opened the bowling with economical spells and Harford claimed the first wicket in the third over. Another good performance from our spin attack restricted Newlands to 204 all out. Hancock picked up 3 wickets, 2 for Kopparambil and 1 each to Read, Ford and Pugsley.

The opening stand of 49 between White and Read was to be the highest partnership in this innings with White top scoring 30. Ford and Kopparambil started something of a fight back scoring 24 and 28 respectively. Unfortunately, the tourists were bowled out for 151; overall a disappointing performance put down to a lack of sleep and tiredness.

A well needed rest day was spent visiting the Langa Township. An impromptu drum lesson with one of the locals was probably the highlight of the day. We also got the chance to look around some of the houses, which was a real eye-opener. It was a privilege to experience the conditions some people are forced to live in today. We all felt very humble and it made us appreciate how lucky we are. In the afternoon we travelled up Signal Hill for some photo opportunities.


Our next match was a two-day game to be played at Western Province Cricket Club. With the backdrop of the iconic Table Mountain, this was an unbelievable place to play cricket.

Devon were to field first but had to wait until the 21st over for the first wicket to fall to Pugsley. After 60 overs, the compulsory declaration was enforced with our opponents only 4 down and the score on 231. The wickets were shared evenly between spinners Read and Pugsley.




Moore and Horler opened the first innings but we came up against a talented spinner who took 5 Devon wickets. Medlock, Read and Morison all made it into the twenties but only Kopparambil went further, falling 3 runs short of his half century. Hancock and Kopparambil shared a 10th wicket partnership of 49 to push our score to 195 all out, leaving us with a first innings deficit of 36 runs.


Western Province second innings saw their opening batsman/keeper hit an unbeaten score of 105. They




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declared on 177-3 with the wickets going again to spinners, Hancock and Pugsley. We were set a total of 214 to win.

With 40 overs left in the day, we needed to score at just above 5 an over. The message from the coaches was to "go for it" but not to throw our wickets away. Opener, Koppambil fell for an excellent 66 in the 28th over. This brought big hitter, Morison to the crease to join the already set,



Hannam. At this point, we needed 100 off 12 overs but with Morison mistiming one, the orders changed to "bat for the draw". Hannam made 36 before an excellent caught and bowled saw his departure. The South Africans brought out helmets and stationed 8 fielders around the bat. Horler and Hancock survived 6 hostile and intimidating overs and we finished 77 short of the target and therefore secured the draw. With the weather clear, we decided to go up Table Mountain after the game and spent three quarters of an hour watching the sunset and taking in the

breathhtaking views. Memories of which will stay with us forever.

For our final rest day, we went to Blue Rock Water Sports Centre.

Everyone enjoyed a hilarious morning of kneeboarding and cliff jumping. After lots of initial failures, almost everyone managed at least one lap of the course. Tour Manager and Scorer, Mark Ansell, top scored with his skis and outshone all the players with lap after lap of elegant waterskiing. Everyone finished with aching arms, a small price to pay for the amount of fun that was had.



Our last day saw an early start for a team photo at Newlands before our game at The Vineyard Oval. Western Province U15's won the toss and chose to bat. With the history of this fixture entirely in Western Province's favour, we felt we had the quality to end their 16 year unbeaten run. The home side had



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recruited big hitting Jono Bird, local prospect who has been working with South Africa U19's. Bird punished our bowling attack smashing 136 not out from 115 balls, some of his hits clearing the surrounding buildings. The wickets were shared between Hancock (3), Read (2) and Medlock (1) and



a sharp run out by Captain Moore. Western Province posted 327 from their 50 overs.

White and Read put on 20 for the first wicket, but at

75-5 our chances were looking slim. Enter Morison, who again batted with aggression scoring 62 off 49 balls and shared a partnership of 49 for the 9th wicket. We were eventually bowled out for 211 in the 44th over.

Our last evening was spent at Newlands Cricket Ground, where our hosts prepared a delicious BBQ. We were given free-reign of the ground and ate our dinner pitch side. The morning of our departure we got the chance to barter with locals at a market and



a final opportunity to catch some rays and go for a swim at the beach.

We would just like to thank all of our South African hosts who made us feel so

welcome. Also we would like to thank our coaches: Dave Tall, Tim Ward and Chris Read. Big thank you also to Mark Ansell, Kat Hampton, John Smith and Alan Swift for making the tour possible. The experience, knowledge and memories gained will stay with us all forever.

Tom Simmons, 2017



Devon U15 Development Squad at Newlands 2017



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Patron DSCT

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What Do We Do?

- We encourage you and your family to become members of the Trust and feel part of the community of youth cricket in Devon
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What Can You Do?

- Please join or donate, or participate in one of our events,
- or
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Anyone can join:
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