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**TO THE
PLAYERS**

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.

**SOUTH AFRICA TOUR
2016**

ITINERARY

FEBRUARY	ACTIVITIES	VENUE
Thu 04th	Depart Heathrow on BA flight to Johannesburg	
Fri 05th	SA Airlink flight to Skukuza. Afternoon Practice	
Sat 06th	T20 v Academy XI (09:30)	Skukuza CC
Sun 07th	Leisure (Hotel) + Practice (Skukuza CC)	
Mon 08th	v Nelspruit Day 1 (09:00)	Skukuza CC
Tue 09th	v Nelspruit Day 2 (09:00)	Skukuza CC
Wed 10th	Leisure-Early morning game drive + Leisure time.	
Thu 11th	SA Airlink flight to Cape Town	
Fri 12th	v Northern Suburbs	Green Point CC
Sat 13th	Leisure	
Sun 14th	SA v England ODI (14:00)	Newlands
Mon 15th	v Western Province U14 Day 1 (10:00)	Vineyard Oval
Tue 16th	v Western Province U14 Day 2 (10:00)	Vineyard Oval
Wed 17th	Leisure	
Thu 18th	v Western Province U15 XI (10:00)	Western Province Cricket Club
Fri 19th	v WP Development: XI (09:00) SA v England T20 (17:00)	Bergvliet High Newlands
Sat 20th	Leisure/Depart Cape Town on BA flight to Heathrow	
Sun 21st	Arrive UK	



Skukuza Cricket Club



A MESSAGE FROM NABEAL DIEN

I feel honoured and privileged to welcome the players, administrators and friends from Devon on their fifteenth tour of Cape Town. It is special because whilst cricket has been the focus it has also been a period during which special relationships and friendships have developed between Western Province and Devon.

To the boys, you need to be very proud of these people who sacrifice tirelessly to ensure you not only experience different cultures, but also their commitment and dedication to one cause – that you should be given every opportunity and support to improve your game.

Congratulations to all the players who have been selected to represent Devon youth cricket – consider it an honour bestowed upon you to act as ambassadors for your club and your county– play hard and play to win but be careful never to compromise the spirit of the game and sportsmanship in the process.

We at Western Province Cricket look forward to hosting you in February 2016 and I do hope we will assist in ensuring it is a particularly memorable one.

Nabeal Dien
CEO
WPCA..

COACHING STAFF



SANDY ALLEN

This will be Sandy's second tour. Currently completing his L3 ECB Coaching Award.

A right hand bat and wicket keeper he has played for Warwickshire, Devon and Minor Counties Representative XI.

In 2014 he was a member of the Devon side that won the Minor Counties Knock Out cup.



MATT COOKE

(Kruger only)

Having toured South Africa as a player in 2003 this will be Matt's fourth visit to South Africa in a coaching capacity. A Level 3 coach and left hand bat he represented Devon at all county age group levels and plays for Sidmouth in the Devon Premier League.

CHRIS READ

A graduate of the Devon youth programme, Chris still finds the time to support the development of young cricketers in the county and is patron of the David Shepherd Cricket Trust.

A highly respected player at first-class level.
Captain of Nottinghamshire CCC.
England:- 15 Tests & 36 ODIs
Currently completing his Level 4 Coaching Award



15000+ First class runs
1000+ First class dismissals
(Achieved in 2015)

JOE SMITH

(Cape Town only)

Joe represented Devon at each of the County Age Group levels.

Toured South Africa as a member of the 2004 team and returned as a coach on the 2009 tour.

A useful right hand bat who also claims to bowl leg spin!

A qualified ECB coach, he plays for Heathcoat in the Devon Premier League.



DUE REWARD FOR A GOOD FRIEND OF DEVON CRICKET

When exploring the idea of an overseas tour I must confess to a strong personal preference for choosing Zimbabwe. I had been there on a number of occasions and had good cricket connections. As it turned out the political situation in Zimbabwe deteriorated to a point where organising an overseas visit for a group of young cricketers was not sensible option.

The obvious alternative was South Africa, a country with an established cricket structure including highly rated youth development programmes. I had some connections in Cape Town but the key element came from a chance discussion with Geoff Evans, DCCC, who put me in touch with Roger Newman who at that time was Academy Director at Warwickshire CCC.

Roger was extremely enthusiastic in his willingness to help and invited me to meet Nabeal Dien who was visiting Edgbaston in 2001. The rest, as they say, is history.



Nabeal has become a special friend of Devon youth cricket and has done much to ensure that our young cricketers gain maximum benefit from their visit. Without his help

the unique relationship which affords special opportunities to our young cricketers would not have happened.

Nabeal has been involved with Western Province cricket for many years and gained due recognition in 2015 when he was appointed as the Chief Executive of the WPCA and Western Cape Cricket.

The high regard with which he is held can be gauged by comments by well known individuals at the time of his appointment.



Nabeal has been a crucial part in my career, from my formative years as a junior player to where I am today. He always took a keen interest in me as a player and a person.

He has been a crucial part of the successful implementation of structures in Western Province and the franchise which has contributed to their winning of silverware. He is one of the reasons why Cobra-cricket is where it is today.

Nabeal is well-respected by the players and within the cricket community. His appointment of CEO is well deserved. I know he will do a fantastic job and take Cobras-cricket to the next level."

J P Duminy, Cape Cobras & South Africa.

Note:- JP was one of the early beneficiaries of the relationship between Devon & WPCA by spending most of a season with Exmouth CC.



Nabeal Dien was instrumental in setting up coaching and development structures in WP which produced many fine cricketers over the 15 years he was in charge of amateur cricket.

Many of the current Cobras and WP amateur players came through the system devised by him.

Norman Arendse, former president of Cricket South Africa (CSA),



Nabeal is an outstanding administrator, with a strong feel for development cricket particularly in the disadvantaged areas. "He is a man of impeccable integrity and honesty. I believe he will serve Western Province and South African cricket very well for years to come."

Dr Ali Bacher, former managing director of South African cricket



He has been an integral part of the success of Western Province and the Cobras franchise the past ten years,"

"He has driven our successful pipeline-strategies which have resulted in the production of junior South African stars, in multiple titles for Western Province in the CSA-competitions, and franchise-glory for the Cobras.

"I can think of no better man to take over and guide us the next few years."

**Beresford Williams
WPCA President.**

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IMPROVED PERFORMANCES GENERATE CONFIDENCE FOR TRIP TO SOUTH AFRICA

(JAMES ONLEY-GREGSON, CAPTAIN DEVON U14S IN 2015)



As we look forward to touring South Africa we can acknowledge the hard work that was put in by players and coaches in the 2015 season and the positives and negatives that we can take from it. Our winter training, with emphasis on all round fitness, mental attitude and cricketing skill left us all feeling well prepared and confident about the season ahead.

For our first match we travelled over the bridge to Gwent for a friendly game which we won. Byron Knowles announced his arrival in County Cricket by hitting the ball onto the pavilion roof. We had a shaky finish but achieved a comfortable victory in the end. The following week things did not go so well at Thorverton when we played Wales, despite being boosted by an excellent tea provided by the Devon parents. Lachlan Falcon and Kersley Sutton batted for a handy partnership of 36 to give us a respectable total to defend. After having Wales 15 for 3 they rebuilt their innings to be within touching distance of victory before we dragged it back to lose on the penultimate ball in a very tense last four overs. We played Cornwall next however the match was overshadowed by Jonathan, Nick, Wendy and Derek (our manager, coach and scorer) being involved in a collision on the M5.

Fortunately nobody was seriously hurt and we went on to win the game with Sam Taylor scoring the first 50 of the season. (Thank-you to Fi and Serena for leading our warm up in Nick's absence.) The team unanimously agreed that our performance against Dorset was our best team performance with solid batting backed up by a good bowling performance bringing us a convincing win. Congratulations to George who took his first county wicket.

Rain prevented play against Somerset and so it was off to King's for our fifth and final festival. The first game against Derbyshire was no easy start but we supplied a resilient bowling performance against aggressive and impressive batting on a small pitch. In hindsight a few more wickets might have seen us bowl them out. We were set a total of 384! Our innings did not start well, with early wickets but luckily the tail wagged and with handy innings from Kersley, Elliot and me we managed 256 runs and a draw. The next day against Wales saw our first 100 partnership between Ben Sapiecha and James Degg. Unfortunately the game went downhill from there and our collapse resulted in us being 177 all out. We bowled with pride but even though Sam Carpenter's first ball wicket gave us hope we could only reduce them to 178 for 5.

Our games against Yorkshire and Shropshire were in many ways very similar. Bowling and fielding were outstanding and we bowled both sides out with good spin performances from Sam Woodcock in particular, also playing his first season for Devon. Our batting struggled against some impressive bowling, spin doing most of the damage and both games were lost. Torrential rain on the last day, as predicted all week by the Met Office, meant that the game against Middlesex was rained off.

On return to the league matches with tough matches to come we brought in Luke Jefferson and Max Mejzner as more all-round options. The game against Gloucestershire we felt was a poor performance resulting in a bad loss, possibly a consequence of a tough festival. Determined to get back on form we travelled to Hungerford to play Berkshire. We were put in to bat and after being 70 for 7 Ben's 41 got us to 136 for 8 which together with some good boundary hitting from others put our total past 150. Our bowling got off to a good start but in the end Berkshire cruised to victory. With Torquay being the venue for our next match Nick was keen to tell everyone how good the pitch would be. Wiltshire chose to bat on a dry, flat deck, where wickets were hard to come by until Jonty's 'interesting' unorthodox spin got him a five for and reduced them to a very gettable total. We got off to a slow start but Byron's hard hitting and Sam Carpenter's boundaries on his home ground secured a one wicket victory.

Our game against Hampshire turned out to be our last game of the season due to the Barbados game being rained off. We knew that we were the underdogs going into the match; we elected to bat and James Doble got us off to a brilliant start with his confident 35 and an opening stand of 47 with James Degg. After losing some wickets we were 116 for 8 before a good finish from Kersley, Elliot and myself which got us up to 161 for 9. We applied great pressure with the ball and kept their scoring rate at 1 or 2 an over whilst taking wickets consistently. Jonty took 3 but they came back at us putting the game in the balance until Elliot finished them off with 3 wickets. This win was definitely the sweetest as Hampshire have beaten us heavily in the past. Overall we feel we have improved greatly over the summer and we are confident of success going into the South Africa tour.



James Onley-Gregson
Captain Devon U14s in 2015



Sam Taylor. Most runs – 215



Ben Sapiecha 211 Runs



Jonty Walliker- Most Wickets – 17



James Onley-Gregson – 14 wickets

PLYMPTON CRICKET CLUB



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Plympton Cricket Club is delighted to be sponsoring James Degg on the 2016 Devon Development Tour to South Africa.

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PLAYER PROFILES



Elliott Adams

Club: Abbotskerswell CC
School: Torquay Boys Grammar School
Born: 6th June 2001 in Torquay
Bat: Right hand
Bowl: Right Arm Medium
Re: Devon: U10 to U14
Best Performances:

- 99* v N Devon
- 93* v Plymouth College in T20SF
- 3-17 v Hampshire

Other Interests:

- Football
- Rugby
- Skiing
- Table Tennis



Sam Carpenter

Club: Torquay CC
School: Torquay Boys Grammar School
Born: 4th September 2000 in Exeter
Bat: Right hand
Bowl: Leg spin
Re: Devon: U10 to U14
Best Performances:

- 4 wkts v Somerset
- 5 wkts v Dorset
- 46 v Gwent
- 76 v N Devon

Other Interests:

- Football
- Rugby



James Degg

Club: Plympton CC
School: Plymouth College
Born: 18th August 2001 in Plymouth
Bat: Right hand
Bowl: Off & Leg Spin WK
Re: Devon: U10 to U14
Best Performances:

- 83 v Gloucestershire
- 71 v North Devon
- 70* v Buckinghamshire
- 69 v Gwent
- Devon EPP ECB Talent testing.

Other Interests:

- Golf (Boringdon Park GC)
- Badminton
- Table Tennis



James Doble

Club: Budleigh Salterton CC
School: Wellington School
Born: 25th September 2000
Bat: Right hand
Re: Devon: U14
Best Performances:

- 68 E Devon U13 v Wiltshire
- 65 E Devon U13 v Touring XI
- 65 U14 v Hampshire

Other Interests:

- Football Exeter City Academy U9 to U13
- Torquay Utd U13 & U14



Max Hancock

Club: Sidmouth CC
School: Millfield School
Born: 27th December 2001 in Ascot
Bat: Right hand
Bowl: Left Arm Spin
Re: Devon: U10 to U13
Best Performances:

- 5 – 29 v Hampshire U13
- 4 – 20 v Worcestershire U13
- 70 v Cumbria U13
- Devon EPP
- Bowler of the Year U11, U12 & U13
- Player of the Year U12 & U13

Other Interests:

- Squash
- Drama
- Hockey



Abraham Kopparambil

Club: Ivybridge CC
School: Ivybridge Community College
Born: 6th October 2001 in Ernakulam (India)
Bat: Right hand
Bowl: Leg Spin
Re: Devon: U12 & U13
Best Performances:

- 95* v Hampshire
- 52 v Lancashire
- 78 v Dorset
- Devon EPP

Other Interests:

- Football
- Rugby
- Music
- Running



Max Mejzner

Club: Budleigh Salterton CC
School: Kings College Taunton
Born: 23rd October 2000 in Exeter
Bat: Right hand
Bowl: Off Spin
Re: Devon: U10 to U14
Best Performances:

- 87 v Hampshire U13
- Second highest run scorer U13s

Other Interests:

- Golf
- Water Skiing
- Wake-Boarding
- Skiing



Jack Moore

Club: Barnstaple CC
School: Pilton Community College
Born: 25th September 2001 In Barnstaple
Bat: Right hand
Bowl: Right Arm Medium
Re: Devon: U10 to U13
Best Performances:

- 96 v Cornwall
- 87 v S Devon
- 70 v Somerset
- 4 – 11 v Worcestershire
- Devon EPP

Other Interests:

- Football

PLAYER PROFILES

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PLAYER PROFILES



James Onley-Gregson
Club: Heathcoat CC
School: Tiverton High School
Born: 21st March 2001 in Exeter
Bat: Right hand
Bowl: Right Arm Medium
Re: Devon: U10 to U14
Best Performances:
 63* v Derbyshire
 2-10 v Dorset
 3-36 v Yorkshire
 4-12 v Cumbria
 Devon EPP
Other Interests:
 Rugby
 Surfing
 Football (Supports Chelsea!)
 Hill walking
 Scrambling
 Rock climbing



Ben Sapiecha
Club: Exeter CC
School: Uffculme School
Born: 24th January 2001 in Exeter
Bat: Left hand
Bowl: Right Arm Medium
Re: Devon: U10 to U14
Best Performances:
 58* v Cornwall
 78 v Lancashire
 58 v Lancashire
Other Interests:
 Rugby -Devon 15 squad.
 Athletics -
 Devon at 800m



Kersley Sutton
Club: Seaton CC
School: Sidmouth College
Born: 19th September In Cape Town SA
Bat: Right hand
Bowl: Right Arm Medium
Re: Devon: U10 to U14
Best Performances:
 41 v Gwent
 35v Derbyshire U14
 4-26 v Middlesex U14
 3-29 v Wales U14
Other Interests:
 Football



Jonty Walliker
Club: Plympton CC
School: Sherborne School
Born: 25th January 2001 in Plymouth
Bat: Left hand
Bowl: Left Arm Medium
Re: Devon: U10 To U14
Best Performances:
 42 v Dorset U14
 5-34 v Wiltshire
 3-23 v Hampshire
 Devon EPP
Other Interests:
 Hockey
 Athletics



Sam Taylor
Club: Bovey Tracey CC
School: South Dartmoor Community College
Born: 12th July 2001 in Exeter
Bat: Right hand
Bowl: Wicket Keeper
Re: Devon: U10 to U14
Best Performances:
 60 v Cornwall U13
 60 v Cornwall U14
 44* v Yorkshire U14
 Devon EPP
 Youngest player to play in DCL Premier
Other Interests:
 Hockey (England HiP ac)
 Football
 Rugby
 Music



Sam Woodcock
Club: Paignton CC
School: Paignton Community & Sports Academy
Born: 31st August 2001 in Torquay
Bat: Right hand
Bowl: Leg spin
Re: Devon: U14
Best Performances:
 2-26 v Cornwall
 3-33 v Sandford CC
Other Interests:
 Football
 Rugby
 Pool

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REFLECTIONS ON THE 2015 TOUR

BY LEON HORN

Leon bowling at Newlands

It seems best to crop the photo so that it concentrates on the 3 people rather than the seats



SOUTH AFRICA

CRICKET, SUNSHINE AND ADVENTURE

I was one of 14 boys asked to represent Devon on the Under 15 Cricket Development Tour going for 19 days to South Africa. The tour was made up of 7 cricket matches in both Kruger National Park and Cape Town.

We started in Kruger where a taste of things to come was on show as we saw our first herd of zebras from the plane. We were taken everywhere in an open sided bus through the park where we saw elephants, wart hogs, leopard, hippos and wild dogs on the way to the cricket, which usually made us late. Kruger was 40 degrees, a bit warmer than February in Okehampton. In Kruger we played 3 matches, one being a two day game, we won 1 and lost 2. We visited a rhino park and had a talk on poaching. One match had to be stopped for a helicopter to land to collect a poacher who had been shot by a ranger.

Next stop Cape Town, a different world from Kruger, a cool 32 degrees and where the poverty and townships were everywhere. During our stay we visited a township where no houses have running water or bathrooms and are made of wood and galvanised metal sheets.

We played 4 matches; one was a two day match and we won 3 and lost one, we were lucky to be allowed to play on the international cricket ground rated 2nd in the world; Newlands Test Ground. My best match was the 2 day match at Vinelands where I took 8 wickets over 2 days. Overall I took 13 wickets.

The view of the mountain behind the pitch was spectacular.

We were also taken to a premiersip rugby match and cricket match, visited Boulder Beach to swim with the penguins, went to a water park to water ski and to the beach and an evening visit to Table Mountain. Overall I had an amazing adventure which I will remember forever.

Leon Horn

THE 2015 TOUR

KRUGER



Kruger provided the usual challenge of high temperatures and humidity as well as playing competitive fixtures just two days after leaving the pleasures of midwinter in the UK. Indoor nets are useful preparation but a heated indoor cricket centre simply can not replicate the conditions which lie ahead.

An addition to previous itineraries was two T20 games against teams from Uplands College and a Lowveldt Invitation XI, a programme which enabled everyone to be involved on the first day. The first game was won comfortably by 69 runs whilst the second, against a much more accomplished side ended in a 88 run defeat.

After a welcome rest day the annual two day game against Nelspruit College ended in a disappointing defeat in a game Devon looked certain winners until some lapses in the field and some determined late order batting enabled Nelspruit to gain a 2 wicket win.

Two rest days enabled the tourists to sample what this unique area has to offer, including of course the magnificent wildlife in Kruger.



CAPE TOWN



Cape Town with its magnificent backdrop of Table Mountain provides a sharp contrast to Kruger, a vibrant and modern city replacing the images of Africa we recognise from the wildlife programmes regularly featured in TV documentaries.

Our first game against a Western Province Development side featuring players from the townships provided another reminder of how much the quality of these players has improved since our first game at Langa township on our very first tour.



We looked to be heading for defeat before a really excellent knock by Jack Gibbs (61 not out) resulted in a 4 wicket victory.

The next game, against what turned out to be a very unrepresentative Boland side resulted in a 210 run win. Tom Lammonby demonstrated his undoubted potential with an unbeaten 123 and his partnership with Mike Cooper (63) put the opposition to the sword in a 50 over total of 293. The opposition continued to find life difficult in their innings being dismissed for just 83 runs.

The scheduled two day fixture against a WP U14 side was replaced by a game against the recently formed 'Newlands Cricket School'

While a number of players clearly had potential the school side were generally a year younger than the Devon players and Devon won the game by a substantial margin of 102 runs.

Tom Lammonby scored an impressive 169 and Mike Cooper 72 in a first innings total of 344 for 7 declared while Leon Horn proved to be the most successful bowler taking 8 wickets in the match.



The last game provided an experience most can only dream about, a match against Western

Province U15 on the magnificent Test match venue at Newlands.

This was by far the strongest opposition and Devon lost the 45 over game by 123 runs. Some very accomplished batting enabled WP to total 302 for 3. This was always going to be a demanding task and despite another outstanding innings by who were dismissed for 179 the feature of which was another excellent innings of 56 runs from 53 balls by Mike Cooper.



SUMMARY & RESULTS

Tom Lammonby confirmed his considerable potential with the bat while some spectacular, controlled hitting by Tom Cooper caught the eye. Kazi Szymanski was the most effective all rounder with 167 runs and 9 wickets. Joining an established team is never easy, but Jabez Weale and Ben Hayes acquitted themselves well, quickly becoming part of the group and making some valuable contributions on the field.



7th Feb at Skukuza CC. T20 games.

Devon 110-9 (M Cooper 54)
Uplands Coll 41
C Yabsley 3-9, J Gibbs 2-2)
Devon won by 69 runs.

Academy XI 175 -4

Devon 87 (T Lammonby 35)
Academy XI won by 88 runs

9th & 10th Feb at Skukuza CC. 2-Day Game

Devon 202a (A Causey 65 T Lammonby 48)
Nelspruit School 186 a0
(J Weale 2 – 24 C Yabsley 2- 22)
Devon 160a0 (K Szymanski 64)
Nelspruit 168 – 8
Nelspruit won by 2 wickets

13th Feb at Bergvilet High School 40 Over Game

Western Province Development X1 187 – 5
(T Williams 2 – 20)
Devon 188 – 6 (J Gibbs 61* M Cooper 31)
Devon won by 4 wickets

15th Feb at Vineyard Oval 50 Over Game

Devon 293 – 4 (T Lammonby 123* M Cooper 63 K Szymanski 41*)
Coronation CC 83a0
(L Horn 4 – 39 B Abrahams 3 – 10)
Devon won by 210 runs

17th & 18th Feb at Vineyard Oval 2-Day Game

Devon 344 – 7 (T Lammonby 169 M Cooper 72 K Szymanski 42)
Newlands School 155a0
(K Szymanski 3 – 10 L Horn 4 – 39)
Devon 76 – 2 (S Maunder 31)
Newlands School 160a0
(L Horn 4 – 24 B Abrahams 3 – 26)
Devon Won by 102 runs

20th Feb at Newlands Cricket Ground 45 Over Game

Western Province 302 – 3
(K Szymanski 2 – 65)
Devon 179a0 (M Cooper 56)
Devon Lost by 123 rns

Leading Run Scorers

Tom Lammonby 394 @ 66.00
Mike Cooper 324 @ 47.00
K Szymanski 167 @ 28.00

Leading Wicket Takers

K Szymanski 14 Wickets @ 12.00
Leon Horn 13 Wickets @ 21.00
Jabez Weale 8 Wickets @ 20.00

Catches

Most Catches, S Maunder (wk) – 7

PLAYER OF THE TOUR



MIKE COOPER

Refreshingly aggressive batting which contained some powerful hitting. A classic example of a natural sportsman willing to back his potential with a positive approach.



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KRUGER

A REALLY SPECIAL DESTINATION WITH SPECIAL PEOPLE

When I explored the possibility of taking a group of young cricketers from Devon to southern Africa I was often asked 'why Kruger?' Understandable questions given that there were more obvious and frequently used destinations in South Africa well equipped to host a cricket tour. Our visits to Cape Town would be a prime example of what is on offer.



FRIK ROSSOUW

Simple really. Once I had made contact with Nabeal Dien it was clear that Cape Town could, and would, provide a guarantee in terms of cricket - our prime motive for travelling 6000 miles!

Through conversations in Zimbabwe I became aware of a cricket ground actually located in Kruger National Park. Not something you would normally expect to find.

The opportunity to arrange a programme which included an additional cricket experience together with the opportunity to witness one of the world's great wildlife areas seemed seemed just too good to miss.

Weeks of telephone calls eventually put me in contact with Frik Rossouw and, as with Nabeal in Cape Town 'the rest is history'

Without Frik's cooperation and involvement many of the things we do would not be possible. It is doubtful whether the splendid cricket ground at Skukuza would actually exist?

We owe Frik a very special vote of thanks for his generosity of spirit which has provided in the region of 200 young cricketers, with special memories.

Thanks also to his wife Petro who seems to work non stop during our visit together with Jannie and Isabel Geldenhuys. All of them have given generously of their time to ensure that everyone leaves Skukuza with fond memories of a unique location.

So what has this to do with a Devon youth cricket tour?



PETRO ROSSOUW



JANNIE GELDENHUYS



ISABEL GELDENHUYS



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SOUTH AFRICA IN FEBRUARY 2014



TWO RHINOS ARE KILLED EACH DAY IN KRUGER
540+ KILLED BY POACHERS IN KRUGER IN 2015

Threatened with extinction by poaching



Each year Frik speaks to boys and parents about the anti poaching work

ROYAL SUPPORT

During our visit we see and meet Frik in his role at Skukuza Cricket Club. Workwise he is highly respected within Kruger for the work he does as a Senior Environmental Investigator.

On previous tours he has kindly agreed to talk to the players, and their parents, about the crucial and demanding role he plays in helping to protect wildlife, especially from poachers.

During one visit I saw at first-hand the result of this cruel and unforgivable crime. To witness a rhino and her young slaughtered the previous night by poachers was an appalling sight - something I have no desire to see again.

Just a few weeks ago I had a brief conversation with Frik (regarding the tour!) when he just happened to be having a coffee in his office with Prince Harry!

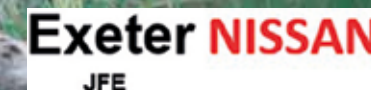
Harry's involvement and reaction was carried in recent newspaper headlines and photographs appeared showing Frik with him.

HARRY TOURS 'KILLING FIELDS' WHERE RHINO'S FUTURE IS UNDER THREAT'

Aislinn Laing wrote in the Daily Telegraph:-

"Prince Harry was visibly moved yesterday as he came face to face with the grim reality of poaching in South Africa's Kruger National Park, lamenting how 'one of the most beautiful places on Earth' has become a 'killing field'.

... The prince has previously lamented that 'seeing huge carcasses of rhinos and elephants scattered across Africa, with their horns and tusks missing is a pointless waste of beauty'."



WHERE WE STAY IN SOUTH AFRICA

KRUGER GATE HOTEL

On the bank of the Sabie River. Just 100m from the entrance to Kruger the hotel is in an ideal location to experience the wildlife at first hand. Add the fact that Francois and his staff always make our stay so enjoyable and it is easy to see why we return year after year. Oh, and it is only a twenty minute drive through the bush to the cricket ground in Skukuza!



Hotel Entrance



Lunch in the wild



Hotel pool provides a welcome relaxation



Wooden walkways lead from public areas to the rooms

DISTRICT SIX GUEST HOUSE

The guest house was recommended to us by the England U17 staff some years ago. We are grateful for their help because the guest house is ideally placed to enjoy the city of Cape Town and explore the Western Cape. Most of the cricket venues are no more than a thirty minute drive away. As in Kruger we are made to feel very welcome by Faizah, Brenda and the rest of the staff who create a 'home from home' atmosphere, in fact the boys are invariably 'spoilt' during their stay here.



Birthday boy - Jamie Telford in 2013



Table Mountain viewed from the Guest House

CAPE TOWN

MUCH TO SEE & DO



NEWLANDS CRICKET GROUND



CAPE TOWN



LIONS HEAD & ROBBEN ISLAND FROM TABLE MOUNTAIN CABLE WAY



V&A WATERFRONT



WATER SKIING



SHAHEEM- OUR TOUR GUIDE SINCE 2002 VERY POPULAR WITH THE BOYS EVEN IF NOT ALWAYS WITH THE TEAM MANAGER!!



SWIMMING WITH JACKASS PENGUINS AT BOULDERS BEACH

KRUGER

A SPECIAL PLACE



VUSWA - AN EXCELLENT TRANSPORT COMPANY IN KRUGER WHO HAVE DONE SO MUCH TO MAKE THE TOUR SO ENJOYABLE.



JOINING INTO THE SPIRIT OF THINGS AT KRUGER GATE HOTEL – EVEN IF MARK ANSELL WAS MORE INTERESTED IN HIS FOOD!



ARRIVING IN SKUKUZA

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to acknowledge and thank everyone who has helped the players in any way to prepare for this tour.

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ANOTHER JEWEL IN CATHEDRAL GREEN'S CROWN



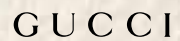
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