The Cricketers’ Club kicked off their UK tour with a sedate win against the Edinburgh University Staff XI. Peffermill Playing Fields offered a beautiful outfield with Arthur’s Seat looking down over us. However the wicket was a shocker. Very, very low and slow which meant that slow bowling back of a length was the order of the day and scoring quickly was challenging.

The Edinburgh University Staff XI was short several players which gave us the opportunity to give most in the squad a run out for either C.C.N.S.W. or our opponents.

John Fish (18) and Euan Robertson (14) opened the batting and played the new ball comfortably. It was only in trying to accelerate the run rate that John (run out) and Euan (bowled) were dismissed. Scott Wells then made compiled a tidy 20, Billy Blair played on for 5 and at the half way mark we had made 3-62.

While wickets fell in the second half, Tony Wood looked in good nick to make a rapid 18 and Rob Bevilaqua saw the innings through with 28*. With the help of a presidential drive from Greg Brooks for four back over the bowler’s head, we made 8-130 in our twenty overs.

Playing against us for the University Staff XI, Matt McCallum bowled tidily to take 3 for 12 (plus two catches), Will Blair (Jnr) looked good and took a wicket. So too did Mick Weaver and Scott McCallum.

The University Staff XI was rarely in the hunt. Mick Weaver retired for a well made 25*, so did University captain David Coad. However we bowled a good length and kept the scoring rate down.

Joe Scarcella (2 for 21) bowled well (enticing a cracking catch to Steve Kish standing up to the stumps) and there were wickets for slow bowlers Tony Wood (2 for 16) and Euan Robertson (1 for 15). Bruce Pendlebury opened the bowling and deserved a wicket (none for 12 off 3).

The match petered out with Bill Blair (Snr) bowling to son Will (Jnr) and engaging in the most hostile stare off since Curtly Ambrose and Steve Waugh.

Other miscellaneous matters of note:

- Mick Weaver bravely coming out to bat with an arm guard when a ball didn’t get above shin height all day.
- Will Blair (Jnr) appealing for lbw first ball against the President and then Matt McCallum dismissing him with a great caught and bowled. Kids these days.
- Joe Scarcella attracting more of the ball in the field in 20 overs than he usually does in 40.

A win by 29 runs to kick off the tour. There will be tougher days ahead, but we all are better off for the run out.
The Team was: - John Fish 18, Euan Robert 14, Scott Wells 20, Bill Blair (Snr) 5, Rob Bevilacqua 28*, Tony Wood 18, Greg Brooks (c) 5, Steve Kish (w) 0, Rob Pendlebury 0 and Joe Scarcella ) 0* (11th man absent)

The Result was: -

C.C.N.S.W.: -  8-130 (20 overs)

Defeated

Edinburgh University Staff XI: -  6-101 (20 overs)

By 29 runs

The Bowling was: - J Scarcella 4-1-21-2, R. Pendlebury 3-0-12-0, E. Robertson 4-0-15-1, A. Wood 4-0-16-2, R. Bevilacqua 3-0-24-0, W. Blair (Snr) 2-0-7-1

FoW: 1- 32 (J. Fish); 2-44 (E. Robertson); 3- 61 (W. Blair); 4-80 (S. Wells); 5-105 (A. Wood); 6-116 (G. Brooks); 7-117 (S. Kish);8-122 (R. Pendlebury)

The Fielding was: - 1 catch to S. Kish (w)

MATCH REPORT No 2: T20: C.C.N.S.W. v HERIOTS C.C. AT THE GOLDEN ACRE PLAYING FIELD, WARRISTON GARDENS, EDINBURGH ON TUESDAY JULY 18: REPORT BY SCOTT McCALLUM

For game 2, Heriots Cricket Club hosted C.C.N.S.W. for a T20 at their home ground at the Goldenacre playing field in central Edinburgh. Heriots are one of Scotland’s old cricket clubs, established in 1889 with teams in the Scottish Premiers League. The Scottish summer turned on a stunning evening at an absolutely beautiful cricket ground and the hosts treated us to our first experience playing with the new pink cricket balls they use for their T20 games. Heriots won the toss and decided to bat.

Will Blair Jnr opened up the bowling for C.C.N.S.W. with a great display of aggressive fast bowling, knocking over two of their top bats and along with some very tight bowling from Joe Scarcella we had Heriots on the back foot at 4-23 and the total well in check at the 10 over mark. Sarumugan and McIntyre put on 58 for the 5th wicket, both retiring and the tail added a few late runs to get the home team to 5-115 off their 20 overs. Mike Weaver and Tony Wood both bowled tightly as did Bruce Pendlebury and myself tight for our first two overs but letting the third go for a few. Overall the fielding was very good with Laughlin Neil aggressively attacking the ball and saving many runs and Matt McCallum tidy behind the stumps. At this point with talk of scores of 150-160 at the start we felt very in the game.

Tom Robertson and Ian Neil opened up to face Alex Knapman the new opening bowler for Heriots First XI back from studies who has been clocked at 130kms/hr. With Tom’s normal aggression with two early 6s including one over a long point boundary and Alex’s pace troubling the keeper and slips more than the batsmen (first slip was taken off to hospital in the 3rd over with a suspected broken finger), we were off a flying start. From there, the slower and steadier change bowlers did their job, slowing the runs and getting regular wickets with no batsman getting into double figures. With the game tilted their way but not out of reach the opening quick Alex came back on and cleaned up the tail with some accurate fast bowling at the stumps. In the end disappointingly all out 86. Despite the
result, the spirit of the game and hosting by Heriots was fantastic and great to get our first full game in on tour at such an outstanding facility and evening.

The Team was: - Tom Robertson 25; Ian Neil 3; Rob Bevilacqua 4; Lachlan Neil 2; Mike Weaver 4; Matt McCallum (w) 9, Antony Wood 7, William Blair (Jnr) 1*; Scott McCallum (c) 1; Joe Scarcella 0 and Bruce Pendlebury 0.

The Result was: -

Heriots C.C.: - 5-115 (20 overs) (McIntyre 40* ret, Sarumunga 23*, Morton 19*)

Defeated

C.C.N.S.W.: - 10-82 (19 overs) (T. Robertson 25)

By 33 runs

The Bowling was: - W. Blair (Jnr) 4-0-18-2, J. Scarcella 3-0-8-1, A. Wood 4-0-18-1, M. Weaver 3-0-19-1, B. Pendlebury 3-0-22-0, S. McCallum 3-0-21-0

FoW: 1- 36 (I. Neil); 2-48 (T. Robertson); 3-49 (R. Bevilacqua); 4-56 (L. Neil); 5-65 (M. Weaver); 6-75 (M. McCallum); 7-77; 8-78 (S. McCallum); 9-82 (J. Scarcella); 10-82 (B. Pendlebury)

The Fielding was: - Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - Nil

Run outs: - Nil

MATCH REPORT No 3: T20: C.C.N.S.W. v GRANGE C.C. AT PORTGOWER PLACE, STOCKBRIDGE ON WEDNESDAY JULY 19: REPORT BY MIKE WEAVER

BLUES WIN NAILBITER TO SECURE ROUSING T20 SCOTLAND WIN

There were two substantial risks facing the Blues entering this T20 fixture, fresh from a comprehensive loss to the Heriots club. One was the weather, which according to some forecasts the day prior, was expected to cause abandonment without a ball bowled. The second was that the eleven named contained only three Victorians, indicating an unbalanced line up, certainly in a political sense.

Captain for the occasion, Sir William (Bill) Blair (Snr), won the toss and immediately elected to bat. It was to prove a crucial and correct decision (The writer has informally knighted Mr Blair, on this tour, for his services to cricket and C.C.N.S.W. in general). Mr. Tom Robertson and Mr. Ian Neill, who were retained from the previous match on a learning curve for the T20 format, began positively.

The big left hander was at his belligerent best, smashing seven fours, predominantly through the third man to mid off range, in reaching the mandatory retirement score. He was complemented well by his opening partner, who retained his watchful style while intelligently feeding Tom the strike.
The very experienced Mr. John Fish replaced Tom and after taking a small time to settle in, continued the onslaught. Despite difficulties in transportation of his bat while running between wickets, which somehow resulted in a corked thigh injury to himself, he manipulated the bowling very professionally while unleashing several superb off and cover drives that raced to the boundary rope.

Mr Fish's innings also unfortunately had to cut short due to forced retirement. This along with a tactical replacement of Mr Neill, who had graced the crowd with a delightful square drive boundary, following his initial succession of quick singles, still left C.C.N.S.W. no wickets down at about the ten over mark.

A mini collapse then resulted in the pursuit of an above average total. Despite an excellent cameo innings by Sir William Blair (Snr), who thumped two fours and an enormous six which held up play for several minutes while the ball was located, the Cricketers' Club lost Mr. Euan Robertson, Sir William and Mr. David Byrnes in relatively quick succession. Euan cracked a nice six himself and was looking dangerous while never really getting going, while David was unfortunately run out in what appeared a genuine, mutual, early tour run/risk misjudgement. This in a period where the Grange slower bowlers lifted considerably and as such were difficult to get away, as expert tactical fields were also set by the home team.

It was left to William (Will) Blair Esq. (Jnr) to steady the ship. In tandem with Mr. Matthew McCallum, both ran between wickets enthusiastically to put the pressure back onto the opposition. Will compiled 17* including two very nice improvised boundaries. Matt did very well to stay with him until innings close at 20 overs, leaving C.C.N.S.W. at 3-149. A total which would prove very competitive in the very dark and overcast conditions.

The writer, as nominated 12th man, was able to join the buoyant C.C.N.S.W. side in the field upon resumption, due to Mr Fish being unable to take further part in the match due to his injury sustained prior.

What I witnessed was a relentless, determined team effort. Several times, the youthful and very talented Grange batsmen looked to be getting on top of the contest. Some astute captaincy and persistent bowling to adaptive plans, resulted in wickets falling continually. This meant that the Scottish first division club were never really able to gain the eventual required momentum. It must also be pointed out that they had to bat in deteriorating light until the end. The spirit they displayed in continuing to play on despite this, was highly commendable.

Off spinner Mr. David Byrnes never lost composure despite being under early pressure, to gain three crucial wickets. This was well demonstrated with his first scalp, the Grange batsman Mr. Chatt, who was caught low down at extra cover by Sir William Blair. The very fluent No. 3 had dispatched a four and six in the previous two deliveries. His dismissal was the result of a smart field change, agreed upon by both bowler and captain, in response to confident and stylish attacking batting. This was the theme throughout the whole Grange innings.

Seven bowlers in total were used and the opposition were never able to really settle due to the constant field and bowling switches. Mr Joe Scarcella started confidently although he was unable to take an early wicket. William Blair Esq. Junior was able to do so and kept the runs down in another very promising display, showing all his ability to learn quickly from game to game. Mr. Tom Robertson was expensive but got a required wicket with a superb initial delivery which knocked opponent Mr. Aslam's castle down.

Mr. Euan Robertson bowled subtly, gaining the important wicket of Mr. Seabright near the finish. Mr. Matthew McCallum bowled 2 sensible overs under pressure. Although not taking a wicket, it was a great experience for him. Victorian Mr. Steven Kish kept wicket extremely well under the difficult conditions.
However it was the Skipper, who delivered the final knockout blow, in a tense climax. Bowling with sustained pace and deadly accuracy, he had set the example to all with his determination. After earlier dismissing the Grange opener, Sir William led from the front to take the final over.

At this point, eleven runs were required for victory and 8 wickets down, with the Grange gun retiree bat, Mr Whait, to resume if required. The first ball of the over resulted in a four through square leg, from an over pitched attempted yorker. The next was the same delivery attempt, this time executed to perfection, comprehensively bowling the number 9. Three more runs were squeezed out, leaving the Scots with 4 to win off the last. With all persons on hand watching with anticipation, including the writer from his directed position at third man boundary, loving couples in parked cars, hecklers in the stands from as far away as behind the club bar, and with players mesmerised by the callouts from both sets of supporters, Sir William began his final run in from the nets practice end of the ground.

Straining for the final perfect moment, the ball was speared down to the batsman’s toes, deflecting from his bat to his pads, following an unsuccessful swish for a straight hit. A stupendous leg side save from wicketkeeper Mr Steve Kish, preventing a certain four runs, meant the home side were only able to scramble 2 runs from the final ball, leaving C.C.N.S.W. gracious victors by an incredible 1 run.

So ended a very entertaining match for all who watched and took part. The heavy rain that was predicted from the start, amazingly held off throughout.

Delicious sausage sandwiches, aptly coupled with exquisite strawberry jam and cream scones, were washed down heartily by all with the relevant and appropriate beverages. The history of the Grange Club is long, longer than many of the C.C.N.S.W. tourists had realised. Its clubhouse wall proudly displays a large photograph of the 1948 Australian ‘Invincibles’, who played in a fixture at this splendid venue.

Some excellent banter was a feature of the after match speeches, with President Greg Brooks grinning constantly like a ‘Cheshire Cat’.

The Team was: - Tom Robertson 32* ret not out, Ian Neil 14* ret not out, John Fish 32* ret not out, Bill Blair (Snr) (c) 20, Euan Robertson 8, David Byrnes 2, William Blair (Jnr) 17*, Matthew McCallum 2*, Steven Kish (w) dnb, Lachlan Neil dnb and Joe Scarcella dnb

The Result was: -

C.C.N.S.W.: - 3-149 (20 overs)

Defeated

Grange C.C.: - 8-148 (20 overs)

By 1 run

The Bowling was: - W. Blair (Jnr) 3-0-12-1, J. Scarcella 2-0-17-0, D. Byrnes 4-0-26-3, W. Blair (Snr) 4-1-23-2, T. Robertson 2-0-26-1, E. Robertson 3-0-16-1, and M. McCallum 2-0-20-0

FoW: 1-113 (W. Blair (Snr)); 2-121 (D. Byrnes); 3-136 (E. Robertson)

The Fielding was: - Stumpings: Nil

Catches: 2 to W. Blair (Snr)

Run outs: - Nil
Our intrepid travellers closed out the Edinburgh leg of the UK tour with a T20 win against Carlton C.C. by five wickets with two balls remaining. Captain for the day Euan Robertson (playing against his former club) lost the toss against a splendidly attired Carlton captain Alex Fedenczuk and C.C.N.S.W. were fielding.

Grange Loan is a beautiful, but characteristically eccentric British ground and we played on a wicket with a very short boundary on one side and a very long (very) uphill boundary on the other.
Will Blair (Jnr) (0 for 30) and Dave Byrnes (0 for 19) opened the bowling against an aggressive Carlton opening pair. Kiwi and second grade captain Andrew Meyer made a classy 52* retired off 39 balls including two sixes out of the ground.

Greg Brooks came on and imposed some discipline, going for just 17 off four overs. Euan Robertson (1 for 23) broke the opening pair, bringing to the wicket Scotland Wildcats (Women's international) player Olivia Rae.

With Meyer retiring, Brooks struck removing the Carlton number four first ball to a top catch by wicket keeper Matt McCallum. However Rae played very correctly to make 23* and South African Nick Thomson slashed in the style of a certain T. Robertson to make 37.

Carlton set us 142 to win, aided by some sloppy fielding. Rob Bevilaqua catching a ball at deep mid wicket and then sitting down on the boundary flag to give away six will live in the memory for some time (sorry Beva).

We set off with gusto, Tom Robertson (16) smashing the first legal delivery over long on for six. Tommy fell caught behind to leg spin, bringing president Greg Brooks in at three.

The Pres smashed two authoritative fours before falling for 9 to a potentially ropey lbw decision (the umpire possibly swayed by the fact it was bowled by a 12 year old - sorry Pres).

Scott Wells played crisply for 40 before falling to Wildcats player Ruth Willis (2 for 17) and at half way we were on track at 3-74.

Billy Blair (Snr) (40*) played coolly and calmly, picking up singles and hitting a loose delivery out of the ground for six. He and Mick Weaver (9) took us within 30 runs; then Rob Bevilaqua (13) played aggressively, including a big six over long on.

At the start of the last, we needed five to win. A two and a single took us close before ‘Beva’ fell to a great catch. Captain Euan Robertson came to the wicket needing two to win off three balls from Wildcats opening bowler Sam Haggo. His cover * drive off the first went for four to get us home with two balls to spare*.

Three wins out of four on the Scotland leg (failing to chase 115 against Heriots is irksome). Onto Stratford we go.

* Technically this is true, as the stroke played was a cover drive. It just happened to be edged through the vacant slips for four. History, as they say, is written by the victors.

The Team was: - Tom Robertson 16; Scott Wells 40; Greg Brooks 9, Bill Blair (Snr) 40*; Mike Weaver 9; Rob Bevilaqua 13; Euan Robertson (c) 4*; Antony Wood (dnb), David Byrnes (dnb), Matt McCallum (w) (dnb) and William Blair (Jnr) (dnb),

The Result was: -

Carlton C.C.: - 2-141 (20 overs)
Lost to
C.C.N.S.W.: - 5-144 (19.4 overs)

By 5 wickets

The Bowling was: - W. Blair (Jnr) 4-0-30-0; D. Byrnes 4-0-19-0; G. Brooks 4-0-17-1; A. Wood 2-0-23-0; Euan Robertson 2-0-23-1 and W. Blair (Snr) 4-0-26-0

FoW: 1- 42 (T. Robertson); 2-53 (G. Brooks); 3-74 (S. Wells); 4-110 (M. Weaver); 5-141 (R. Bevilaqua)
**The Fielding was:** - Stumpings: Nil  

Catches: One to M. McCallum (w)  

Run outs: - Nil

**STRATFORD-ON-AVON LEG**

**MATCH REPORT No 5: C.C.N.S.W. v STRATFORD-ON-AVON C.C.**

**AT SWANS NEST, STRATFORD-ON-AVON ON SUNDAY JULY 23, 2017 : REPORT BY IAN NEIL**

Stratford Cricket Club hosted the fifth fixture of the tour at their splendid ground, settled within the Stratford Recreation Grounds, full on a beautiful weekend day with picnickers and holiday makers, and looking across the Avon to the Royal Shakespeare Theatre. A wonderful setting for cricket, and a warm reception from the Stratford cricketers, welcoming Nathan Reay, our captain today, back to his old club.

Our innings was opened by Tom Robertson and Ian Neil, as ever a contrast in styles. Tom tried his luck early, smote several boundaries the audacity of which surprised Stratford, struck his batting partner (the author) with a blistering straight drive, and then was unluckily caught before his innings could develop, out for 12. Scott Wells settled, hit several crisp boundaries, and was then struck on the pads, whereupon the umpire seized his opportunity, and gave him out, for 15. Bill Blair (Snr) was smartly run out for 2, and we were in a bit of bother, at 4 for 56. That set the scene for the first of Damien Langley’s commanding innings on this tour: an immaculate and chanceless 80*, careful and sure in its early period, and brutal in its concluding stages, with four sixes, and eight fours. He was well supported by Dave Byrnes (14), Nathan Reay (6), Oliver Wood (8), Greg Brooks (3), Scott McCallum (1), and Matt McCallum (20), whose batting was particularly precise and effective, and set him up for success in the rest of the tour. We were all out after 44.5 overs at 10 for 183, helped by a generous contribution of 20 extras. One of Stratford’s better bowlers was Will Blair (Jnr), whom we had unselfishly – some thought, foolishly - lent to them in order to fill out their side. He dismissed Oliver Wood and – rather unwisely – the President, and finished with 2 for 24 from 7 overs.

A splendid afternoon tea, and we were in the field. Stratford started steadily, marching with the loss of two wickets to 76 by the twentieth over. Bill Blair (Snr) (0 for only 9 from 5 overs) was effective early; Nathan Reay (1 for 37 from 7) bowled with real pace and not much luck; Damien Langley followed up his batting with 2 for 20 from 5.5 overs (coming back to bowl the final over); and Scott McCallum contributed 1 for 19 from 4 overs. The heroics with the ball in this match came from Greg Brooks and Dave Byrnes. Their slower pace, and immaculate line and length, were what this pitch demanded, and they responded by each bowling unchanged for ten overs. The President in particular persisted through discomfort and pain, never losing accuracy or control. He finished with 2 for 34. Dave Byrnes matched him with 2 for 31. Unfortunately, our fielding was rather less than they deserved, and we leaked singles. That allowed Stratford to position themselves to accelerate their scoring in their last ten overs. We hung on, Brooks and Byrnes bowling in tandem to keep us in the game. In their last over, Stratford needed 9 to win. They made it, with only one wicket in hand, and only one ball to spare. Once again, Will Blair (Jnr) stood out: he made 29*, and nervelessly saw Stratford home.

**The Team was (in batting order):** - Tom Robertson 12, Ian Neil 2, Scott Wells 15, William Blair (Snr) 2; Damien Langley 80*, David Byrnes 14, Nathan Reay (c) 6; Oliver Wood 8, Greg Brooks 3, Matt McCallum (w) 20 and Scott McCallum 1
The Result was:

C.C.N.S.W.: - 10-183 (44.5 overs) (D. Langley 80*)

Lost to

Stratford-on-Avon C.C.: - 9-184 (44.5 overs)

By 1 wicket

The Bowling was: - W. Blair (Snr) 5-1-9-0; N, Reay 7-1-37-1; S. McCallum 4-0-19-1; D. Langley 5.5-1-20-2; D. Byrnes 10-2-31-2; G. Brooks 10-1-34-2; and O. Wood 3-0-19-1

FoW: 1- 15 (T. Robertson); 2-17 (I. Neil); 3- 33 (W. Blair (Snr)); 4-51 (S. Wells); 5- 84 (D. Byrnes); 6-102 (N. Reay); 7-117 (O. Wood); 8-121 (G. Brooks); 9-142 (S. McCallum); 10-183 (M. McCallum),

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings:- Nil

Catches: - 2 to M. McCallum (w); one each to W. Blair (Snr), T. Robertson, and S. Wells

Run outs: - Nil

MATCH_REPORT No 6: C.C.N.S.W. v BOURTON VALE C.C. AT RISSINGTON ROAD, BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER ON MONDAY JULY 24, 2017 : REPORT BY JOE SCARCELLA

After lots of rain in the lead up to the game, we arrived at the lovely village ground greeted with fair weather and lush green outfield.

The format was 40 overs a side. The home team arranged for C.C.N.S.W. to bat first, and our openers got us off to an excellent start with a partnership of 65. Mick Weaver was solid for his 45 off 71 balls while our touring Pom, Tony Wood was more aggressive with 36 off 41 balls faced. Thereafter there was a steady procession of wickets and we looked as if we might squander our early dominance. However, Will Blair (Jnr) and Joe Scarcella steadied the ship with an unbroken ninth wicket partnership of 41 to restore some respectability to the score (Blair 27*. off 27, Scarcella 14* off 12).

C.C.N.S.W. total 8-201 from 40 overs

Bourton Vale was never really in the hunt. This was due in large part to an outstanding spell of bowling from Tony Wood, who took a ‘Michelle’ with his left arm orthodox bowling: 5 for 11 from 5.2 overs. Other contributions came from Will Blair (Jnr) (2 for 20 from 4 overs) and Joe Scarcella (1 for 22 from 5 overs). Bourton Vale were all out for 154 from 39.2 overs giving C.C.N.S.W. a win by 47 runs.

Man of the match: Tony Wood.

The off-field highlight was after the post-match BBQ and drinks. Several of the C.C.N.S.W. players stayed behind to take part in a game of ‘Shoot the Dead Crow’ with the local lads. The ground had been under attack in recent days from a flock of crows so the groundsman concocted a plan to repel the pests. He had this theory that by mounting a dead crow on a stick in the middle of the ground, the
'scarecrow' would keep the other crows at bay. So he did what any sensible groundsman would do - the day before our fixture, to protect the wicket he duly shot a crow, and mounted it on a tall post about 50 metres from the clubhouse boundary.

With an ideal target at the ready, the Bourton lads (with quite a few beers under their belt, it must be said) took turns to shoot the air rifle at the dead crow. None were good enough to hit the target. The C.C.N.S.W. tourists of course took the opportunity to remind them that they had just lost the cricket game, and that they were just as bad at shooting as they were at cricket. The gauntlet was thrown down. Never one to refuse a challenge, the C.C.N.S.W. boys (as equally inebriated as their hosts) each took turns. Let the record show that Nathan Reay and Joe Scarcella were the only 2 to hit the target. With their egos and pride badly bruised, some of the guys decided to spice things up a bit by preparing an 'obstacle course' which they had to conquer before taking aim at the target from closer range. We were all in stitches as we witnessed Ian Neil, among others, dodging and weaving shoes before climbing over a chair, then hitting the ground, commando-like, to take aim at the target. Mike Weaver thought that was too easy, so he was seen trying to crawl through the legs of the chair. He got stuck.

Definitely an incident that will go into C.C.N.S.W. touring folklore...

The Team was (in batting order): - Mike Weaver 45, Tony Wood 36, John Fish 16, Damien Langley 17, Steve Kish (w) 5, Rob Bevilacqua 7, Nathan Reay (c) 9, Lachlan Neil 7, Will Blair (Jnr) 27*, Joe Scarcella 14*, and Bruce Pendlebury dnb

The Result was: -

C.C.N.S.W.: - 8-201 (40 overs) (M. Weaver 45; A. Wood 36)

Defeated

Bourton Vale C.C. (playing 12): - 10-154 (39.2 overs) (A. Wood 5-11)

By 47 runs

The Bowling was: - N. Reay 8-3-19-0; J. Scarcella 5-1-22-1; D. Langley 8-3-25-1; W. Blair (Jnr) 4-0-20-2; R. Bevilacqua 5-0-20-1; B. Pendlebury 4-0-24-0; A. Wood 5.2-1-11-5

FoW: 1-65 (A. Wood); 2-97 (M. Weaver); 3-119 (D. Langley); 4-121 (Fish); 5-127 (Kish); 6-135 (Bevilacqua); 7-149 (N. Reay); 8-160 (L. Neil).

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings:- 2 to S. Kish

Catches: - 2 to A. Wood

Run outs: - Nil

MATCH REPORT No 7: C.C.N.S.W. v WARWICKSHIRE IMPS C.C. AT KNOWLE & DORRIDGE C.C., STATION ROAD, KNOWLE ON WEDNESDAY 26 JULY 2017

The game was cancelled because of rain.
MATCH REPORT No 8: C.C.N.S.W. v KENILWORTH WARDENS C.C. AT GLASSHOUSE LANE, KENILWORTH ON THURSDAY 27 JULY 2017 : REPORT BY DAVID BYRNES

Our final match of the Stratford leg saw us take on the very powerful Kenilworth Wardens. We arrived to an overcast day but a magnificent setting. Our hosts were warm and gracious and offered us first use of an old deck. After hearing how good the "Victorians" in the squad are Captain Byrnes decided to open with two of them. One failed (Steve Kish) and one batted like a New South Welshman (Rob Bevilacqua) and we got off to a slow but somewhat solid start. Bevilacqua began to open up and hit a fine 74 and was ably supported by Bill Blair (Snr) 65, David Byrnes 33, Will Blair (Jnr) 18* and Oliver Wood 20. C.C.N.S.W. posted a respectable 8-267 off 60 overs before declaring.

Kenilworth began the run chase and had 49 overs to reach the target. We were informed prior to the toss that they were a mixture of players from 1sts 2nds 3rds and 4ths. They forget to mention 1st class and IPL players. That's where the story gets interesting. ..... an Indian by the name of Prekar Mankad came to the crease with Kenilworth 3-120 and proceeded to club 133* off 73 balls in 87 minutes. It was pretty impressive. Kenilworth passed us in the 47th over six down. Another great day considering it was a loss. Onto Bath we roll.

The Team was (in batting order): - Steve Kish (w) 3, Rob Bevilacqua 74, Scott Wells 8, Euan Robertson 11; Bill Blair (Snr) 65, Oliver Wood 20, David Byrnes (c) 33, Will Blair (Jnr) 18*, Mike Weaver 9, Lachlan Neil 1*; and Joe Scarcella dnb (Matthew McCallum 12th Man)

The Result was: -

C.C.N.S.W.: - 8-267 (60 overs) (R, Bevilacqua 74, W. Blair (Snr) 65)

Lost to

Kenilworth Wardens C.C.: 6-272 - (46 overs) (P. Mankad 133*)

By 4 wickets

The Bowling was: - W. Blair (Jnr) 8-0—54-1; O. Wood 8-0-58-0; W. Blair (Snr) 11-1—59-1; D. Byrnes 9-0-54-0; J. Scarcella 10-2—47-2.

FoW: 1–5 (S. Kish); 2-15 (S. Wells); 3-99 (E. Robertson); 4-125 (R. Bevilacqua); 5-173(O. Wood); 6-227 (W. Blair (Snr)); 7-243 (D. Byrnes); 8-259 (M. Weaver);

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings:- Nil

Catches: - Nil

Run outs: - Nil but two to 12th Man Matt McCallum
What an amazing tea. Compliments to the tea lady

A depressing result which took the edge off a magnificent venue and an even better afternoon tea against Cirencester CC at the Bathurst Estate in the Cotswolds. Skipper Greg Brooks won the toss against Cirencester captain and C.C.N.S.W. tourist Tony Wood (thanks Tony for your help organising this game). We batted.

Rain was expected throughout the day and while we were comprehensively outplayed, it tended to fall at the most unhelpful times for the Cricketers’ Club, breaking batsmen's concentration, and making
the pitchy muddy and hard to play. Tom Robertson and tour debutante Paul Nash opened. Nashy smashed a chunky six before being lbw for 9. Tom was cruising, even hitting a pull shot to the boundary (who knew !?) but was out to one of the ropier lbws you will ever see for 27.

John Fish (36) and Matt McCallum (39) gave us a solid platform from which to launch. Matt in particular went through the gears with aplomb. However rain and wickets fell at critical times. From 2-125 after 28 overs we just could not build partnerships or hit boundaries on a spongy, wet track.

Euan Robertson (5), Damien Langley (3), Ken Yardy (6) and Steve Kish (5) failed to get going. Then Nathan Reay fell to the team's first duck since the second game at Heriots, allowing a delighted Bruce Pendlebury to dispose of the duck vest at last (photo attached).

We finished on 162 off 40 overs. Defendable only if the rain continued to make life hell for batsmen. Murphy's law struck, the rain stopped, and five catches went to ground meaning we were (in technical terms) stuffed. Reay and Langley were smashed (0 for 28 and 0 for 26 respectively). We only achieved some control through tight bowling from Scott McCallum (0 for 32), Paul Nash (1 for 27) and Matt McCallum (0 for 15).

A fine bit of fielding from Matt McCallum ran out the dangerous Cirencester opener. Nash then took a wicket to a fine caught behind from Steve Kish who has been grabbing every catch behind the stumps. Except (ahem) an edge induced by the author.

But we did not have the runs to play with and were soundly beaten by 8 wickets. We will remember the venue and the hospitality for some time. Other events would be best forgotten.

The Team was (in batting order): - Tom Robertson 27, John Fish 36, Paul Nash 9, Matt McCallum 39, Euan Robertson (c) 4, Damien Langley 3, Ken Yardy 6, Steve Kish (w) 5, Nathan Reay 0, Scott McCallum 4*, and Greg Brooks 0*

The Result was: -

C.C.N.S.W.: - 9-162 (40 overs) (M. McCallum 39; P. Nash 36)

Lost to

Cirencester C.C.: 2-163 (25.5 overs)

By 8 wickets

The Bowling was: - D. Langley 3-0-26-0; N. Reay 4-0-28-0; S. McCallum 6-1-32-0, P, Nash 5-0-27-1: E. Robertson 4-0-31-0, M. McCallum 3.1-0-14-0

FoW: 1-41 (P. Nash); 2-47 (T. Robertson); 3-125 (J. Fish); 4-133 (M. McCallum); 5-137 (D. Langley); 6-149 (E. Robertson); 7-155 (K. Yardy), 8-256 (N. Reay); 9-162 (S. Kish).

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings:- Nil

Catches: - One to S. Kish (w)

Run outs: - one to M. McCallum
Olly Wood looked particularly accomplished with 48*

The Cricketers’ Club of N.S.W. (6 for 211) defeated Malmesbury (9 for 127) by 84 runs at the Worthys to get the English arm of the tour back on track. In a contest played in good spirits, captain Bill Blair (Snr) was invited to bat on (another) low and slow wicket. Ian and Lachlan Neil opened, the first of three father son partnerships for the day. Lachy played too early to be caught and bowled for a duck, while Ian was caught in the gully for 5.

Rob Bevilaqua accelerated the scoring with his familiar chunky drives before falling for 16, while David Byrnes struck some characteristic cut shots to make a polished 30.
Bill (Snr) and Will Blair (Jnr) combined to get the score to 100 for 4 after 25 overs - a good platform from which to launch. Both fell to catches while trying to raise our run rate - Will for 25 and Bill for 29.

This brought Tony and Oliver Wood to the crease. Olly smashed a six as his second scoring shot and the pair took us beyond 200 - a good score on a tough pitch.

At the start of the last over Olly needed six to bring up his half century. Father Tony (42*), clearly from the "tough love" school of fatherhood, smashed the first three balls of the over for 4, 6, 4 and left Olly with just two balls remaining. He ended up stranded on an aggressive and important 48*.

Will Blair (Jnr) took the new pill and immediately made inroads. Off his five overs he targeted the stumps and took 2 for 3. At the other end Joe Scarcella bowled without luck (0 for 44). Dave Byrnes was introduced and his relentless off spin tied Malmesbury down (3 for 14 off 7). Rob Bevilacqua came on at the other end and took two wickets - one to a terrific and nonchalant one handed catch by Tony Wood. Tony himself bowled 7 tight overs for 13, with Matthew McCallum coming on late to take a wicket. The highest partnership for Malmesbury was the last (40*) and we were unable to break them.

A terrific afternoon tea and barbecue was provided by our generous hosts. A win, a great day, and barely a drop of rain. Why can't all tour days be like this?

The Team was: - Ian Neil 5, Lachlan Neil 0, Robert Bevilacqua 16, David Byrnes (c) 30, Will Blair (Jnr) 25, Bill Blair (Snr) 29, Oliver Wood 48*, Antony Wood 42*, Bruce Pendlebury dnb, Matt McCallum (w) dnb and Joe Scarcella dnb

The Result was (40 over p side game): -
C.C.N.S.W.: - 6-211 (40 overs) (O. Wood 48*, A. Wood 42*)

Defeated
Malmesbury C.C.: - 9-127 (40 overs)

By 84 runs

The Bowling was: - W. Blair (Jnr) 5-2-3-2; J. Scarcella 8-0-40-0; D. Byrnes 7-2-14-3; O. Wood 4-1-18-0; R. Bevilacqua 5-1-16-2; A. Wood 7-3-13-0 and M. McCallum 4-0-18-1

FoW: 1-  5 (L. Neil ); 2-  7 (I. Neil ); 3-38 (R. Bevilacqua); 4-62 (D. Byrnes); 5-101 (W. Blair (Jnr)); 6-146 (W. Blair (Snr));

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings:- Nil

Catches: - one to A. Wood

Run outs: - One to W. Blair (Jnr)

MATCH REPORT No 11: C.C.N.S.W. v HINTON CHARTERHOUSE AT VARMONT BRIDGE ROAD, HINTON CHARTERHOUSE ON WEDNESDAY 2 AUGUST 2017

Game cancelled by rain
MATCH REPORT No 12: C.C.N.S.W. v WEST END ESHER AT Esher
ON THURSDAY 3 AUGUST 2017: REPORT BY DAVID BYRNES
Our second last game saw an early start for most as the group travelled from Bath to London and then onto Esher to play our good friends at West End Esher Cricket Club. The day produced fine weather and a deck that was fast and bouncy. We hadn't encountered a wicket like this on tour.

Our hosts did the honourable thing and let us have first use of the deck. We opened with Rob Bevilacqua (8) and John Fish (0) and were soon in trouble at 2 for 9. Damien Langley (58) and Paul Nash (43) steadied the ship and we began to build a decent total. David Byrnes (30) Bill Blair (Snr) (29) and Lachlan Neil (Jnr) (12) helped take the total to 8-198 after 40 overs and we retired to an incredible lunch supplied by our hosts.

After the break we set about defending our total and we didn't disappoint. Great bowling from Damien Langley 2-7; Nathan Reay 1-15; Will Blair (Jnr) 1-24 and Bill Blair (Snr) 1-17. With good support from Byrnes, Lachlan Neil, Bevilacqua and Nash, the match was done and dusted. All bowlers took wickets and were well supported by some superb fielding. We retired to the club house and enjoyed the remains of afternoon tea with plenty of pints before the train trip into central London. Another great day at West End...C.C.N.S.W. now lead 3-1 and a tie in fixtures between the two clubs. On to our last fixture at the Hurlingham Club.

The Team was: - Rob Bevilacqua 8, John Fish 0, Paul Nash 43, Damien Langley 58, Bruce Pendlebury 0, David Byrnes (c) 30, Bill Blair (Snr) 29 ,Lachlan Neil 12, Nathan Reay 3*, Mike Weaver (w) 4*, William Blair (Jnr) dnb

The Result was: -

C.C.N.S.W.: 8- 198 (40 overs) (D. Langley 58; P. Nash 43)

Defeated

West End Esher C.C.: - 10-127 (34 overs)

By 71 runs

The Bowling was: - W. Blair (Jnr) 6-2-24-1; N. Reay 5-1-15-1; D. Langley 5-2-7-2; W. Blair (Snr) 4-1-17-1; D. Byrnes 3-0-8-2, P. Nash 3-0-12-1, R. Bevilacqua 4-0-18-1; L. Neil 4-0-24-1

FoW: 1-9 (R. Bevilacqua); 2-9 (J. Fish); 3-95 (P. Nash); 4-102 (B. Pendlebury); 5-137 (D. Langley); 6-177 (D. Byrnes); 7-182 (W. Blair (Snr)); 8-194 (L. Neil).

The Fielding was: - Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - 2 to R. Bevilacqua; one to each of D. Byrnes, L. Neil and M. Weaver (+ one to sub E. Robertson)

Run outs: - Nil
The Cricketers’ Club concluded their tour of the UK with their strongest performance in the 11 games to soundly defeat Hurlingham by 152 runs. The Hurlingham Club is the global home of polo and croquet, with amazing playing fields and facilities just 6km from the centre of London. The pitch was slow but good and the outfield was (literally) a croquet lawn and very, very fast.

We won the toss and chose to bat in this declaration game (between 100 and 110 overs are usually expected in such games). Paul Nash started strongly, before falling for 13 to a questionable lbw decision. Steve Kish also fell early and we were facing something of a rebuild at 2-23 after six overs.

Ian Neil and Euan Robertson began the fight back. Ian in his final game of cricket before retirement patted the straight ones back and flicked efficiently through gully when the bowlers strayed. He fell for 14. Euan looked good before blasting to cover for 27. Dave Byrnes then added a fine 31 including a massive 6 over mid wicket.

In came Damien Langley and Will Blair (Jnr) for the seminal partnership of the innings and possibly the tour. In just over an hour they put on a class 141 run partnership. Will looked assured beyond his years and only fell for a fine 68 when trying to accelerate the scoring. It was Langley’s day however
as he moved past 50 and then brought up his hundred. It was a classy and chanceless knock, mainly hitting the ball along the perfect outfield.

With skipper Nathan Reay making a rapid 27*, Langley brought up his 100 with a quick single and ended 110* off 138 balls. We declared on 6 - 304 off 59 overs.

Hurlingham would likely have between 50 and 60 overs to get the runs. We deliberately pursued a strategy of mainly spin and slow bowling to get through as many overs as possible. Dave Byrnes was superb taking 3 for 24 off 10 overs. He was ably supported by Joe Scarcella (2 for 29) and by the first change of bowling they were 3 for 32 with some good batsmen gone.

On came Rob Bevilaqua (1 for 57) and Euan Robertson (2 for 26) who turned the screws. Both were aided by some quality fielding (especially from Will Blair (Jnr)) and a diving catch from Dave Byrnes to get Euan a wicket. As we neared the last hour of play, Hurlingham could no longer chase our score and instead set out to draw the game. Scarcella returned and took a wicket; then Nathan Reay closed the game out with two clean bowled dismissals of Nos. 9 and 10.

It was a quality team performance with everyone lifting in the surroundings of Hurlingham. All players enjoyed a few drinks in the beautiful grounds after the game and as the sun set on another tour, we reflected on what a privilege it is to play for such a great club at some of the best locations in the world.

**The Team was:** - Paul Nash 13; Ian Neil 14; Steve Kish (w) 1; Euan Robertson 27; Damien Langley 110*; David Byrnes 31; Will Blair (Jnr) 65; Nathan Reay (c) 27*; Greg Brooks dnb, Rob Bevilacqua dnb; Joe Scarcella dnb

**The Result was:** -

C.C.N.S.W.: - 6-304 (59 overs) (D. Langley 110*; Will Blair (Jnr) 65)

Defeated

The Hurlingham Club.: 10-152 (49.1 overs)

By 152 runs

**The Bowling was:** - J. Scarcella 9-1-29-2; D. Byrnes 10-3-24-3; R. Bevilacqua 13-3-57-1; E. Robertson 8-0-25-2; P. Nash 3-0-5-0; N. Reay 3.1-1-5-2; W. Blair (Jnr) 3-2-4-0

FoW: 1- 17 (P. Nash); 2- 18 (S. Kish); 3- 55 (I. Neil); 4-60 (E. Robertson); 5-113 (D. Byrnes); 6-254 (W. Blair (Jnr)).

**The Fielding was:** -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: one each to W. Blair (Jnr) and D. Byrnes.

Run outs: - Nil
C.C.N.S.W. UK TOUR PARTY
(outside the Hurlingham Club London)

Back row: David Byrnes; Nathan Reay; Euan Robertson; Greg Brooks; Mike Weaver; Ken Yardy; William Blair (Jnr) Joe Scarcella
Front row: Paul Nash; Rob Bevilacqua; Damien Langley; Steve Kish; Lachlan Neil; Bruce Pendlebury; Ian Neil; Bill Blair (Snr)

Absent: John Fish, Matt McCallum; Scott McCallum; Tom Robertson, Scott Wells, Antony Wood; Oliver Wood