

C.C.N.S.W. UK TOUR 2017 MATCH REPORTS

SCOTLAND LEG

MATCH REPORT No 1: T20: C.C.N.S.W. v EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY STAFF XI AT UNIVERSITY PLAYING FIELDS, PEFFERMILL ROAD ON MONDAY JULY 17: REPORT BY EUAN ROBERTSON

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 Robertson 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 HERRIOTS 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 Whit, 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

MATCH REPORT No 4: T20: C.C.N.S.W. v CARLTON C.C. AT GRANGE LOAN , EDINBURGH ON THURSDAY JULY 20: REPORT BY EUAN ROBERTSON



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 Haggio. 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 Bevilacqua 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. Bevilacqua)

The Fielding was: - Stumpings: Nil

Catches: One to M. McCallum (w)

Run outs: - Nil