

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

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. Ian nurdled ineffectually for 2. 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