MATCH REPORTS AND TOUR SUMMARY

CCNSW BARBADOS AND ST LUCIA CRICKET TOUR EASTER 2024

Tour Party at Rockley Beach, Christchurch, Barbados

Back: Matthew Edge-Williams, Angus Brooks, Soren Hughes, Greg Brooks **(Mgr.),** Roman Hughes, Ross Dalgleish, Martin Speiser, Ken Yardy, Joe Scarcella

Middle: Craig Fletcher, Trevor Whittall, Sherville Hall, David Abreu, Frank Baliotis

Kneeling: Greg Ballarino, Tom Robertson, Ian Bradburn, Anthony Wood

Summary by Greg Brooks Tour Manager

The club returned to the Caribbean for its third visit to the region overall. We have now played cricket in Barbados (3 times), Trinidad & Tobago (twice), Grenada and now add St. Lucia. Not many clubs from Australia would have such a history dating back to our first tour in 1996.Indeed the islands have changed over the years as tourism and economic developments continue to evolve, and particularly since Covid, I noticed changes in Barbados. The island is now quite expensive even allowing for the USD/AUD divide. Speaking to locals across the cricket community, in hotels, restaurants and on the street a lot of people are doing it tough. The cost of living remains high and the much needed tourism dollars, a key economic contributor, are not yet back to pre-Covid levels. Nonetheless cricket remains a wonderful conversation starter in Barbados especially when they realise you are from Australia. They love our star players and all

hope, as do we, for a revival in Caribbean cricket fortunes. Let's hope the upcoming T20 World Cup is the beginning of a revival. In Barbados we played 5 games, winning two losing three, mostly against younger opponents. The hospitality was wonderful and the wickets were good. Our location at Rockley Beach in the south west corner of Barbados was a great spot to relax and unwind after the matches.

As I mentioned this was our first visit to St. Lucia.It is a small, green, mountainous island with beautiful scenery. Our cruise down the west coast showcased much of this beauty and our hotel was a great base to further explore the island. The cricket was challenging as the main ovals were all quarantined for refurbishment for the upcoming World Cup. The tour organiser was distracted due to running a tournament in the south of the island and so communication on the challenges we faced was minimal. In all we played 3 games, winning one and losing two. The first two games were an eye opener as the wicket was very poor and batting extremely difficult. In the end the opposition handled it better than we did; however we gave our all and were rewarded with a strong win in the final match at a different venue.

My thanks to Adrian Hawkes for his involvement in the correspondence with the organisers of the Barbados leg. I take responsibility for the St. Lucia organisation and in hindsight I would do some aspects of the tour differently. I would also like to say what a pleasure it was to manage, captain and play with the tour group. Everybody contributed to a great camaraderie on and off the field. The non players were all supportive and it was always fun to have a drink and a laugh not matter what the results were.

Match reports on the eight games follow below

MATCH REPORTS

GAME 1: CCNSW vs ISOLATION CAVALERS CC AT KMV OVAL, WALKERS RESERVE, ST. ANDREWS, BARBADOS ON SUNDAY 31 MARCH 2024: REPORT BY GREG BROOKS

Having assembled in Barbados on Wednesday March 27th the club was well "acclimatized" for the first game on the following Sunday. .By 'acclimatized 'I mean getting into the spirit of Barbados, sun, surf and rum! After an hour long drive by bus to the north east corner of Barbados we arrived at the appropriately named Isolation Cricket Club.

Our very young and friendly hosts won the toss and elected to bat on a rock hard and very flat wicket devoid of grass. Along with a very fast outfield this is typical of many Bajan cricket grounds.

Early inroads from Joe Scarcella (2-11) which included a fantastic diving catch by our keeper Ian Bradburn (Braddy) was soon followed by a flurry of partnerships, four retirements and general leather chasing by our enthusiastic team. Dave Abreu (0-46) also bowled well without any luck. At 2-222 ("Richie where are you?") from 26 overs a double breakthrough by Trevor Whittall finally slowed the scoring. One of the dismissals, Akeem Jordan, toured Australia with last summer's West Indies team. He was out to an amazing catch on the boundary by Angus Brooks much to the delight of Trevor. Overall our effort could not be faulted in the hot and humid conditions. The opposition were simply very good young cricketers and we gave it all we had.

A total of 5-248 (9 out if you count the retirements!) from 30 overs was a big chase but we started really well with Braddy (30) and Martin Speiser (14) hitting anything lose from the new ball bowlers. At 1-68 from 10 overs we were well placed. With the introduction of some quality spin bowling we got a little lost and started to chase the big shots and some very athletic fielding caught up with us. Tony Wood (318) and Matt Edge (16) pushed hard in the final overs as we finished all out for 150 in the 30th over. I can report

that Akeem Jordan did not bowl which was probably a good thing! *(Ed Note: Akeem Jordan has represented West Indies in ODIs and is classified as 'fast/medium")*

Our hosts fed and watered us very well as we socialised into the evening.

The traditional CCNSW presentations of a tour plaque and Man of the Match award were well received and while we were beaten, I can confirm that our friends at Isolation CC along with all of our tour group had a terrific day.

The Team was (playing 12): - Martin Speiser 14, Ian Bradburn (w) 30, Roman Hughes 12, Soren Hughes 4, Greg Brooks (c) 7, Trevor Whittall 1, Matt Edge 16, Tony Wood 31*, Joe Scarcella 1 , David Abreu 2, Ken Yardy 6 and Angus Brooks (dnb)

The Result was: -

Isolation Cavaliers CC: - 9-248 (30 Overs) (T. Whittall 3-42)

Defeated

C.C.N.S.W.: - 10-150 (29.2 Overs) (A. Wood 31*; I. Bradburn 30)

By 98 runs

FoWs: - 1-19 (M. Speiser), 2-68 (I. Bradburn), 3-72 (Soren Hughes), 4-84 (G. Brooks), 5-86 (Roman Hughes), 6-87 (T. Whittall) 7-118 (M. Edge), 8-121 (J. Scarcella) 9- 127(D. Abreu); 10- 150 (K. Yardy).

The Bowling was: - Soren Hughes 6-0-41-2; J. Scarcella 4-1-11-1; Roman Hughes 4-0-27-1; D. Abreu 6-0-46-1; A. Wood 2-0-36-1; M Edge 3-0-38-1; T. Whittall 5-0-42-3

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - One to each of D. Abreu, I. Bradburn (w), Roman Hughes and A. Wood

Run outs: - Nil

GAME 2: CCNSW vs PICKWICK CC AT FOUR ROADS ST PHILIP ON TUESDAY 2 APRIL 2024: REPORT BY JOE SCARCELLA

This match, the second on tour, was played against one of the oldest cricket clubs in Barbados. Pickwick's former home ground was none other than the famous Kensington Oval, until it was forced in 2009 to find a new home ground when Kensington Oval was upgraded for the 2007 Cricket World Cup. The owner of the Four Square rum distillery Sir David Seale came to the club's rescue, donating land adjacent to his rum distillery in Saint Philip. Foursquare Park was developed and became Pickwick CC's new home ground.

The originally scheduled 30-over-a-side match was reduced to 17-overs-a-side because of heavy overnight rain the evening before. When we had arrived at the ground, it looked highly unlikely that any play would be possible. The square was quite wet, the area on the edge of the pitch was very wet and slippery and the run-up at one end of the pitch was dangerous. However, the ground staff worked extremely hard to prepare a wicket under the difficult circumstances and, against all the odds, managed to prepare a respectable and playable pitch.

The shortened match proved to be a thriller, with CCNSW winning by a solitary run after our hosts staged a late surge to get back into serious contention after looking like ambling along to certain defeat.

The late start was a blessing in disguise, as the team was able to visit the rum distillery which was right next door to the ground. Unfortunately, the scorers must have over-imbibed because the scorebook was incomplete. So not all stats are available.

CCNSW won the toss and elected to bat. The batsmen really struggled to hit the ball off the square in the early overs against a reasonably strong bowling attack. Sherville 'Wes' Hall managed to hit a couple of nice boundaries. Batters came and went in a steady flow of wickets without much impact on the scoreboard. Then into the fray came father and son duo, Roman and Soren Hughes. Together, they managed to turn the tide and started to score more freely. After a slow start, Roman top-scored with 20 runs, while Soren blasted his way to second-top score of 16 in the space of a few balls - including a huge 6 and a couple of 4s. Their 5th wicket partnership of 32 runs was crucial in the context of the low-scoring match and gave CCNSW something of a total to defend. In what was to become an omen of things to come for future tour fixtures, the actual top score of the innings was sundries (22 out of a total of 86).

Then it was the hosts' turn to bat. The stand-out bowling performance for CCNSW was that of David Abreu. David opened the bowling, took a wicket with his second ball, generally caused the batsmen trouble with his nice outswingers, and eventually ended his 4-over spell with the excellent figures of 3 for 9. It was the perfect start needed. After that, the bowlers managed to bowl tightly enough to restrict the batters, until the final few overs when nerves became a little frayed as the hosts' captain, ably supported by one of his young charges, nearly managed the chase down the meager total.

The Team was (playing 12): - Frank Baliotis 0, Sherville Hall 8, Ross Dalgleish 3", David Abreu 1* Trevor Whittall 1, Greg Ballarino 1, Tony Wood 1* ret , Roman Hughes 20, Soren Hughes (c) 16, Matt Edge 4, Craig Fletcher 2, Ian Bradburn (w) 3

The Result was: -

CCNSW: - 9-87 (17 Overs) (Roman Hughes 20)

Defeated

Pickwick CC.: 6-86 (17 Overs) (D. Abreu 3-15)

By one run

FoWs: - 1- 6 (F. Baliotis), 2-17 (S. Hall), 3-25 (T. Whittall), 4-28 (G. Ballarino), 5-60 (Soren Hughes), 6-71 (M. Edge) 7-71 (C. Fletcher), 8-80 (Roman Hughes) 9-87 (I. Bradburn)

The Bowling was: - D. Abreu 3.2-0--15-3; S. Hall 4-0-15-1; M. Edge 4-0-11-0; Soren Hughes 1-0-10-0; Roman Hughes 3-0-24-1; G. Ballarino 1-0-8-0

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - One to each of I. Bradburn (w), F. Baliotis and T. Whittall

Run outs: - Nil

GAME 3: CCNSW vs MAXWELL CC AT BRIAR HALL, OISTINS ON THURSDAY 4 APRIL 2024: REPORT BY SOREN HUGHES

Back row: Greg Ballarino, Angus Brooks, Greg Brooks, Martin Speiser, Soren Hughes

Front row: Ian Bradburn (w), Craig Fletcher, Sherville Hall, Frank Baliotis, Tom Robertson, Roman Hughes, Joe Scarcella (c)

After a wet night (and this is no reference the usual after game and daytime activities of some of the team involving copious amounts of rum punch), there was some talk of a wet pitch and potential for a late start. Some morning Barbados sunshine and the hilltop location of Maxwell CC however allayed all concerns on arrival. The pitch was dry and hard and the ground had some reasonable sized boundaries although a distinctive slope from north east to south west, with some of the team calling this ground 'Lords at Barbados'.

CCNSW bowled and Sherville Hall to open the bowling for us, with captain Joe Scarcella at the other end. Both offered nothing and produced miserly spells, ensuring that neither of the openers got going - Scarcella picking up two wickets in his second and a third in his fourth. Hall went for 5 runs across 3 overs, replaced by Greg Brooks who continued the onslaught and picked up a wicket in his second before going for five wides in his third to ruin his figures. Craig Fletcher showed promise replacing Scarcella, striking in his first over but somehow ended up with 1 for 23 after 3, making a solid contribution to sundries. Greg Ballarino was next to roll the dice. Getting the ball above the eyeline, Greg tempted the Bajan batsmen to take him on, which was a little expensive at first but created opportunities for our

fielders who took almost every chance today, Roman Hughes took 3 catches. Soren Hughes operated from the other end and picked up a couple of scalps but was equally expensive, going for twos, fours and was hit for six – (the fortune teller mentioned that there was more of that on the way soon). Although we had them 5 for 27 at the eleventh over mark, they had scored 126 when Sherville Hall came back to take the tenth wicket in the 25th over, CCNSW were quietly confident we could knock off the 127 runs needed at the conclusion of their innings.

The vibe was that we would just have to bat out our 30 overs scoring just above 4 runs an over, which equated to about 11 runs per person for a second tour win. Martin Speiser (24), sporting a torn bicep, and Ian Bradburn (13), coming off a big bus tour the day prior, were sent in to do our bidding and made a solid but patient start in showing the potential to finish the game with a ten wicket win; however they missed out on the day due to lapses in concentration. Tom Robertson had just arrived in Barbados and wasted no time in getting on the scoreboard. A quick fire 45 from 42 balls introduced the opposition to his ability but he let one through when we were only 8 runs from victory, a rare sight as he isn't often bowled. Tom received some good support from Greg Brooks grabbing a golden duck (it was either six or out), and from Frank Baliotis (9) who was intent on winning the game in singles. With 25 to win on Frank's departure, Soren Hughes knocked it off with a quick visit after Robertson's departure, from Roman Hughes (2) and Sherville Hall 0* (who didn't face a ball). Unfortunate that Greg Ballarino, Joe Scarcella and Craig Fletcher did not get a bat today; however they celebrated the win with vigour and we retired to the bar for dinner and drinks with the opposition, who were extremely thankful for the game and most gracious hosts. Both a win for CCNSW and the spirit of touring cricket.

The Result was: -

Maxwell CC: - 10-126 (25.2 Overs) (J. Scarcella 3-17)

Lost to

C.C.N.S.W.: 6-128 (26.2 Overs) (T. Robertson 45)

By 4 wickets

The Team was (playing 12): - Martin Speiser 24, Ian Bradburn (w) 13, Tom Robertson 45, Greg Brooks 0 , Frank Baliotis 9, Soren Hughes 15*, Roman Hughes 2, Sherville Hall 0*, Greg Ballarino dnb, Craig Fletcher dnb Joe Scarcella (c) and Angus Brooks dnb.

FoWs: - 1-30 (I. Bradburn), 2-71 (M. Speiser), 3-71 (G. Brooks), 4-103 (F. Baliotis), 5- 118 (T. Robertson), 6-123 (Roman Hughes)

The Bowling was: - S. Hall 3.2-0-6-1; J. Scarcella 4-0-17-3; G. Brooks 3-0-11-1; C. Fletcher 3-0-23-1; G. Ballarino 6-0-40-2; Soren Hughes 4-0-28-2

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - 3 to Roman Hughes; 2 to S. Hall; one to each of F. Baliotis, I. Bradburn (w); Soren Hughes; and T. Robertson

Run outs: - Nil

GAME 4: CCNSW vs AMAAS BARBADOS MASTERS AT THE BNOC GROUND, ST PATRICKS, CHRISTCHURCH ON FRIDAY 5 APRIL 2024: REPORT BY GREG BROOKS

With some late changes to the schedule due to the local leagues beginning the next Sunday, the second of three games in three days (Thursday /Friday/Saturday) took us to the Barbados National Oil Company (BNOC) ground in the parish of St.Patricks, about a 30 minute bus ride from our Rockley Beach Hotel.

A largish ground with a hard flat wicket greeted us as we lost the toss and not surprisingly were sent in to field.

Dave Abreu bowled a beautiful opening spell to snag two early wickets and along with Joe Scarcella who grabbed one, we had the hosts reeling at 3-16.The next AMAAS pair consolidated with good placement and keen running to the deep corners of the ground. Hyland (47) and Man of the Match Johnson (88) dominated proceedings along with a couple of middle order cameos to see AMAAS finish at 8-243 from their 30 overs. Dave Abreu finished with the fine figures of 4-35 from his 6 overs and Matt Edge picked up 3 wickets along the way. Our fielding and commitment could not be faulted and sometimes you just have to acknowledge good batting when you see it.

Chasing 8 an over from the start was always going to be tough. Matt Edge batted purposely to compile an excellent 56 (ret) in the hot and humid conditions. With a keen eye for anything on his pads and some well placed cuts he showed real resolve. Tom Robertson (21) and Soren Hughes (21) made useful contributions but the total was too much for us and we ended our innings at 8-141 from 30 overs.

As was the case with every match in Barbados the hosts fed and watered us very well as we socialised into the evening. The club house at BNOC is a great spot and the staff who cooked dinner and served drinks were really appreciated.

Our traditional CCNSW presentations of a tour plaque and Man of the Match award were well received and we went home beaten by a better side on the day.

The Team was: - Ken Yardy 3, Matt Edge 56* ret not out, Tom Robertson 21, Roman Hughes 8, Trevor Whittall 0, Greg Ballarino 0, Soren Hughes 21, Ian Bradburn (w) 9, Ross Dalgleish 4, David Abreu 10*, Angus Brooks 1*

The Result was: -

AMAAS CC: - 8-243 (30 Overs) (D. Abreu 4-35; M. Edge 3-53)

Defeated

C.C.N.S.W.: - 8-141 (30 Overs) (M. Edge 56* ret not out)

By 102 runs

FoWs: - 1-4 (K. Yardy), 2-53 (T. Robertson), 3-78 (R. Hughes), 4-78 (T. Whittall), 5-78 (G. Ballarino), 6-106 (S. Hughes) 7- 130 (I. Bradburn), 8-130 (R. Dalgleish)

The Bowling was: - D. Abreu 6-1-35-4**;** J Scarcella 6-0-38-1 Roman Hughes 4-0-39-0; Matt Edge 6-0-53-3; Soren Hughes 2-0-18--0; T. Whittall 3-0-35-0; T. Robertson 3-0-23-0

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - One to each of D. Abreu, M. Edge and T. Robertson

Run outs: - Nil

GAME 5: CCNSW vs BARBADOS NATIONAL OIL COMPANY CC AT BNOC GROUND, ST PATRICKS, CHRISTCHURCH , ON SUNDAY 7 APRIL 2024: REPORT BY SOREN HUGHES

Back row: Tom Robertson, Roman Hughes, Anthony Wood **(c),** Matt Edge, Greg Brooks, Sherville Hughes

Front row: Craig Fletcher, Ian Bradburn **(w),** Sherville Hall, Frank Baliotis, David Abreu, Trevor Whittall

Our second game at BNOC and our final tour game in Barbados was pre-emptively billed as possibly the most competitive yet by our local contact. The pitch at BNOC was hard and even, probably one of the best in Barbados and on par with that of Isolation so we had expected many runs would be scored and required. Given the first game at Isolation involved Akeem Jordan, who recently toured as a fast bowler with the West Indies in their most recent test series in Australia, we were somewhat apprehensive of whom might arrive for the opposition although hopeful that we could take out Barbados given we were 2-2 after four matches. I half expected one of Joel Garner, Michael Holding, Jason Holder and Kemar Roach to appear for BNOC. Instead however, we got Antonio Morris who was a current member of the under 19s West Indies team. A talented all rounder and son of our local contact Anthony Morris who is himself also a handy cricketer. Tony Wood was our captain for the day.

It was hot out and something of a long tour with five games in quick succession. Dave Abreu and Roman Hughes opened the bowling, going for 36 off 5 overs and 44 off 6 overs respectively without any success despite bowling well. Sherville Hall and Trevor Whittall took over and were equally unsuccessful, going for

44 off 4 overs and 59 off 6 overs without creating a chance and at 0-196 after 20 overs, it was looking a tough day. The two openers just seemed to be able to turn the strike over, turn a good ball into a bad ball and dispatch anything loose with ease; however they appeared to be still settling in and often cleanly hitting the ball over cover for six at will. With 10 overs to go, almost everyone was on the boundary and both openers were approaching 100 each. Unfortunately Soren Hughes 's bowling must have resembled garlic bread to accompany their spaghetti and after a quiet over, the openers had decided it was time to deliver their centuries Although Ron Bates hit a catch off the back of his bat on 99, it awkwardly wrong footed Ian Bradburn behind the stumps and hit the grass and immediately brought up his century (mind you he was nearing 70 yrs old so this was an incredible innings). Not wanting to miss out, Antonio Morris took the blinkers off and decided the short mid-on boundary was achievable whatever was bowled and hit Soren for four sixes in a row to bring up his hundred - although on the authority of Reds Perera, the first two were top edges that would have been caught on any other ground (e.g. Camperdown) and the next two were a case of swinging hard enough and connecting (e.g.. genuine sixes at Camperdown). With both openers then retiring, it appeared that the resistance was at the top. Greg Brooks, and Roman Hughes each took a wicket and David Abreu, effected a run-out while Anthony Morris (father of Antonio) clobbered the ball around for 23* to set us a massive total of 3-284 after 30 overs.

Set over 9 runs an over for the win, Tom Robertson (57) and Soren Hughes (56) opened positively for CCNSW. Hitting regular boundaries and the odd six, by drinks we were only 20 runs or so behind the BNOC comparison, being 0-115 runs after 15 overs. Unfortunately BNOC were able to change gear at the break and sometimes in cricket one wicket brings many more. With 160 odd required, Soren chopped on trying to accelerate and then Tom went about hitting catches that no-one could take - dropped at least five times in the space of three overs. He must have thought he was unimpeachable; however was caught strolling though for a second and was removed by a direct hit from the boundary. Greg Brooks (13), Tony Wood (3), Craig Fletcher (0) and Frank Baliotis (11) must have been feeling the scoreboard pressure as they all fell trying to tick the board over and bring us to glory. While Sherville Hall (22*) and Ian Bradburn (11*) made starts, there wasn't enough time in the game left to bring it home despite Roman Hughes, Trevor, Whittall, Matt Edge and David Abreu sitting in the sheds patiently waiting for an opportunity.

Nonetheless dinner and drinks were served and we spent the evening discussing Barbados and our plans for future before making the journey across to St Lucia. BNOC were a great bunch of guys with a fantastic clubhouse and we were well received and grateful for their hospitality.

The Team was (playing 12): - Tom Robertson 57 , Soren Hughes 56, Greg Brooks 13, Tony Wood (c) 3, Frank Baliotis 11, Craig Fletcher 0, Sherville Hall 22*, Ian Bradburn (w) 11*, Roman Hughes dnb, Trevor Whittall dnb, Matt Edge dnb and David Abreu dnb

The Result was: -

Barbados National Oil Company CC: - 3-284 (30 Overs) (A. Morris 117* ret not out; R. Bates 104* ret not out)

Defeated

C.C.N.S.W.: - 6-193 (30 Overs) (T. Robertson 57; S. Hughes 56)

By 91 runs

FoWs: - 1- 121 (S. Hughes), 2-136 (T. Robertson), 3-146 (G. Brooks), 4-146 (A. Wood), 5-146 (C. Fletcher), 6-175 (F. Baliotis)

The Bowling was: - D. Abreu 6-0-36-0; R. Hughes 5-0-44-1; S. Hall 4-0-44-0; T. Whittall 6-0-59-0; M. Edge 2-0-32-0; S. Hughes 4-0-46-2; G. Brooks 3-0-23-1

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - One to A. Wood

Run outs: - One to D. Abreu

GAME 6: CCNSW vs ST LUCIA POLICE VETERANS CC AT PAC DES MANCHY, ST LUCIA ON WEDNESDAY 10 APRIL 2024: REPORT BY TOM ROBERTSON

Off to Monchy we go! I'm surprised that there are any grounds in St Lucia. Place is so lumpy. We arrived with plenty of time to check out our surroundings. It was rough and ready. Pitch looked like it had more of an idea of being rolled instead of rolled.

We sent them in looking to use a minefield. Soren Hughes started well with a wicket miraculously caught by Greg Ballarino at slip. That guy can move once he gets gravity on his side. Joe Scarcella also started well with a maiden to get things going.

After that things started to unravel. Sadly we bowled without accuracy and gave them a lot of freebies (34 wides!). They were brutal over there on the wides. Snicking your thigh pad and it's a wide! Their captain was clearly a class player and played shots all over the small ground (35m square).

Our turn to bat and Martin Speiser and Trevor Whittall went bravely out to bat. They were going well until the pitch decided that was enough batting for today. A series of mullygrubbers made sure that the game would not be close. Some rearguard action from Ian Bradburn (21*), Greg Brooks (12) and Joe Scarcella (12) gave us some respectability recovering from 8 for 60 to get to triple figures-all out 106.

We decided that we need to be prepared for this and need nets that hit your ankle when pitched at short of a length. Next tour ankle balls must be practiced.

Where is the pitch; where does the outfield start?

The Team was: - Martin Speiser 6, Trevor Whittall 22, Tom Robertson 0, Frank Baliotis 0, Greg Ballarino 10, Soren Hughes 1, Matt Edge 1, Sherville Hall 2, Ian Bradburn (w) 21*, Greg Brooks (c) 12, Joe Scarcella 12

The Result was: -

St. Lucia Police Veterans CC: - 8-242 (30 Overs) (S. Hughes 3-48)

Defeated

C.C.N.S.W.: - 10-106 (22 Overs)

By 136 runs

FoWs: - 1- 27 (M. Speiser), 2-27 (T. Robertson), 3-42 (F. Baliotis), 4-43 (T. Whittall), 5- 54 (Soren Hughes), 6-54 (G Ballarino) 7-56 (M. Edge), 8- 60 (S. Hall) 9- 78 (G. Brooks); 10-106 (J. Scarcella).

The Bowling was: - Soren Hughes 6-0-48-3; J. Scarcella 6-1-35-1; S. Hall 6-0-36-1; M. Edge 4-0-49-0; G. Brooks 5-0-35-2, T. Whittall 3-0-33-1

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: -One to I. Bradburn

Catches: - One each to G. Ballarino and S. Hughes

Run outs: - Nil

GAME 7: CCNSW vs ST LUCIA POLICE VETERANS CC AT MONCHY PLAYING FIELDS ST LUCIA , ON FRIDAY 12 APRIL 2024: REPORT BY TREVOR WHITTALL AND GREG BROOKS

The Police Masters won the toss and chose to bat on this very ordinary ground.

While they had been unable to prepare the wicket since our previous match on the ground two days before, to our surprise four light poles were now erected on the ground (for a forthcoming musical concert!) and connected.

The lack of definition between the wicket (??) and the surrounding grass meant several bowlers struggled to land the ball in the right areas. 26 wides for the innings highlighted this. The wicket to say the least was dreadful. Many deliveries either jumped at you or ran along the ground. The Police batters adapted as best they could. We got an early wicket through Soren Hughes, the most economical of our bowlers, with a solid catch taken by Frank Baliotis. This was first of two good catches by Frank and Greg Ballarino also pulled off two great catches at first slip giving us belief we could restrict them to a chase able total.

Greg Brooks took two wickets and his figures would have been even better had the umpires not been so harsh on the wide calls.

Roman Hughes took three wickets and was tight, but his extra pace came onto the bat and travelled on this small field. Well done Roman, adding to your solid fielding and catch. Tom Robertson bowled one of their danger men and to everyone's amazement, none more than himself, held a catch for another wicket!

Matthew Edge came on to tidy up the tail and managed to receive the only lbw of the day for us with his fifth ball which saw the Police Masters all out for 154. (only batting 9 as their final two players turned up late).

Our batting innings started and finished the same way with lbw decisions. The wicket was still very challenging and we certainly copped a couple of tough decisions but no doubt the biggest frustration was getting so close after being 8-90 with a forty run partnership for the ninth wicket between Soren Hughes and Tom Robertson.

With the difficult conditions only a couple of our batsmen managed to get going. Every ball bowled was a challenge and it was a matter of hitting out before getting one with your name on it.

Martin Speiser got a few bombs away on his way to 18 off 14.

Matt Edge swung lustily hitting three 6s and three 4s in his 31 from just 13 balls and was well on the way to helping us to a victory before falling lbw.

Tom Robertson was looking good for his 23 from 21balls before falling victim to a rolling ball that trapped him lbw along with Soren, who was eventually 15* off 14,.

The innings finished with yet another lbw seeing us all out for 146. We did well to get so close and showed plenty of fight in the narrow loss. Following discussions with the St.L ucia tour organiser it was

agreed our final game would be moved to another ground which was well received by all in the tour group.

The game was played in good spirit despite the difficult conditions and enjoyed as much as possible. The Police team stayed around and we shared drinks before it was time to head back to our hotel. I would love to tour again and play on the better grounds that were unavailable with the World T20 Cup approaching.

The Team was (playing 12): - Trevor Whittall (c) 0, Ross Dalgleish 2, Ian Bradburn (w) 9, Greg Ballarino 2, Frank Baliotis 5, Martin Speiser 18, Matt Edge 31, Roman Hughes 0, Soren Hughes 18*, Tom Robertson 19, Greg Brooks 4 and J. Scarcella dnb

The Result was: -

St. Lucia Police Veterans CC: - (all out) 8-158 (21.5 Overs) (Roman Hughes 3-46)

Defeated

C.C.N.S.W.: - 10-146 (23.3 Overs)

By 12 runs

FoWs: - 1- 15 (T. Whittall), 2-36 (I. Bradburn), 3-36 (G. Ballarino), 4-40 (R. Dalgleish), 5-43 (F. Baliotis), 6-43 (M. Edge) 7-98 (M. Speiser), 8- 99 (Roman Hughes) 9-139 (T. Robertson); 10-146 (G. Brooks).

The Bowling was: - Soren Hughes 5-1-31-1; J. Scarcella 2-0-15-0; G. Brooks 6-0-43-2; Roman Hughes 6-0-46-3; T. Robertson 2-0-17-1; M. Edge 0.5-0-5-1

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - Nil

Catches: - Two to each of G. Ballarino, F. Baliotis and T. Robertson; one to Roman Hughes

Run outs: - Nil

GAME 8: CCNSW vs CENTRAL CASTRIES CC AT LA RESSOURCE PLAYING FIELDS, DERNIERE RIVIERE, ST LUCIA, ON SUNDAY 14 APRIL 2024: REPORT BY GREG BROOKS

The final tour match was transferred to La Ressource Playing Field in Derniere Riviere in central St .Lucia following two difficult games at Monchy. The wicket and ground at Monchy had been ordinary and clearly had been rarely used and was thus completely under prepared. The new venue had a larger outfield but a similarly ordinary wicket. However we were determined to end the tour on a high note and we came to play. After being sent in on a moist uneven surface Tom Robertson was in no mood to defend. He smashed everything short or full and rocketed to 42* in quick time off 30 balls (eight fours and a six) before retiring to give the others a go.

Ross Dalgleish and Joe Scarcella found the going a little tougher while Ian Bradburn (24) ran hard and picked the gaps well. Soren Hughes (34) and Trevor Whittall (44) picked up where Tom left off. Trevor finally unleashing all his frustrations after a difficult tour with the bat smashing the bowling all over the place including a huge straight 6..Soren was equally brutal in dispatching the ball over the rope several times. Frank Baliotis (15) and Matt Edge (23) kept the score rate above 8 an over and despite the 'Two Gregs' (Ballarino and Brooks) and Martin Speiser not troubling the scorers, we amassed 234 in 26.3 overs. This was our best batting effort on tour and it was great to watch the determination to keep going.

The chase got off to a terrible start for the Castries Masters as wickets fell regularly to both Roman Hughes and your writer. *(Ed note: The tenth time Greg Brooks has taken 5 or more wickets in an innings for the Club.)* Some great catching and excellent fielding saw the opposition in all sorts of trouble at 7-55. The Castries captain. Thorpe hit some lusty blows to make 50 before being well caught on the boundary by Roman Hughes off a delighted Martin Speiser who was bowling with some discomfort from his bicep injury. All out for 100 and as comprehensive a victory as we could of asked for, by 134 runs.

Drinks and presentations with the Castries boys capped off a fine finish to the tour and saw the ledger improve to 3 wins from 8 matches.

My thanks to all who put in such a great effort in this final match and thanks as always to Gwen Hughes and Graham Gibson for scoring and our other wonderful supporters on tour.

The Team was (playing 12): - Tom Robertson 42* retired not out, Ross Dalgleish 4, Ian Bradburn (w) 24, Joe Scarcella 3, Soren Hughes 34, Martin Speiser 0, Trevor Whittall 44, Frank Baliotis 15. Matt Edge 23, Roman Hughes 4*, Greg Ballarino 0, Greg Brooks (c) 0

The Result was: -

CCNSW: - 10-234 (26.3 Overs) (T. Whittall 44; T. Robertson 42* ret not out)

Defeated

Central Castries C.C.: - All out 100 (18.2 Overs) (G. Brooks 5-20)

By 134 runs

FoWs: - 1-51 (R. Dalgleish), 2-106 (J. Scarcella), 3-107 (I. Bradburn), 4- 108 (M. Speiser), 5-165 (Soren Hughes), 6-195 (T. Whittall) 7- 199 (F. Baliotis), 8-199 (G. Ballarino) 9-228 (G. Brooks); 10-234 (M. Edge).

The Bowling was: - Roman Hughes 6-0-35-2; G, Brooks 6-1-20-5; G. Ballarino 3-0-37-0; M. Speiser 2-0-3-1; T. Robertson 1-0-2-0; M. Edge 0.2-0-0-1

The Fielding was: -

Stumpings: - One to I. Bradburn

Catches: - Two to Roman Hughes; one to each of M. Edge; T. Robertson and T. Whittall

Run outs: - Nil