

GAME 15 MATCH REPORT ACT VETERANS UK TOUR 2019



Galaxies Vs Eastnor at Eastnor CC on Friday, 26 July

GALAXIES ARE BACK WITH THUMPING WIN OVER EASTNOR

The Area

Hereford is a cathedral city, civil parish and country town in Herefordshire about 26 km east of the border with Wales. A town charter granted by Richard I in 1189 describes Hereford in Wales and while recognised as an English city since time immemorial this status was not confirmed until 2000. The Hereford cathedral dates from the 12th century. The Bishop's Palace next to the cathedral was built in 1204 and has been used continually ever since. The Hereford Cathedral school is one of the oldest in England. The game was played at the Eastnor cricket ground nestled in the shadows of Eastnor castle.

Eastnor is an ancient parish village in Herefordshire with a population of around 400. It is situated on the borders of Worcestershire to the east and Gloucestershire to the south and is intersected by the road from Cheltenham to Hereford. Eastnor Castle, named after the village, is the major landmark in the area. The castle is a 19th century revival castle. It was founded by John Cocks, 1st Earl of Somers as his stately home and continues to be inhabited by his descendants.



The Castle has provided the backdrop to a number of films and TV series including *The Prince and the Pauper* (1976), the 1986 adaptation of Oscar Wilde's *The Canterville Ghost*. The grounds are also the location of the Land Rover test track. Eastnor also has a 12th

century church, St John the Baptist, which was redesigned and rebuilt in 1852 and provides the other major attraction in Eastnor.

Cricket probably reached Herefordshire in the 18th century, though possibly earlier. The earliest reference to cricket in the county is dated 1823. Herefordshire County Cricket Club is one of the county clubs which make up the Minor Counties Championship and the Minor Counties Championship Association (MCCA) Knockout Trophy in the English domestic cricket structure. Herefordshire has won the Championship once, sharing the title with Norfolk in 2002 and it won the (MCCA) Knockout Trophy in 2000.

The Weather

A welcome cooler day compared with the past few games. The game started under light cloud cover with sunny periods, with the first innings played out in pleasant but cloudy conditions. Grey sky prevailed into the second innings, however there was no hint or expectation of rain.

The Team

The team selected for the match against Eastnor was Bill Rowe (c), Gary Page, Steve Moore, Peter Gunning, Greg Mulvaney, Boris Teodorowych (wk), Miles Boak, Andy Turner, Ross Calvert, Mark Dennison, Pat Murray, and Martin Kennedy.

Match Report

Today's match was 40 overs a side with each bowler allotted 8 overs and batsman to retire at 40 runs and recycle. The pitch was hard and straw coloured with a fair cover of grass to provide some encouragement for the bowlers. It looked to be the best batting pitch of the tour to date. Plenty of runs were on offer with the outfield looking particularly slick. Denied the usual invitation to bat, the coin was tossed and came down in favour of Eastnor who elected to bat.



Opening the Galaxies attack, Miles Boak got quickly into stride producing his now expected controlled in-dippers. He removed one of the Eastnor openers with the second

ball of the innings having him easily caught by Steve Moore at short mid-off. Called into a non-batting bowling position at the last minute, Martin Kennedy bowled superbly finding his rhythm quickly and producing a fine spell of 0/22 off 8 overs. Meanwhile, at the other end, Miles controlled bowling was ironically rewarded when he pushed one down leg side inviting the late pull. Keeper Boris Teodorowych made a spectacular reflex grab down leg side to pull off a remarkable dismissal.

When Miles bowled a “jaffa” clipping the off bail from outside its supporting stump, the locals were suddenly 3/43 off 13 overs. With the first runs being scored off the last ball of the first over, Miles and Martin had set the scene to provide an opportunity for the Galaxies to restrict the local total to something the visitors could chase down. Our second-best dot ball run of the tour had been achieved at 23!

Greg Mulvaney was introduced early in an effort to create uncertainty among the locals and drive home the advantage. Mark “Denno” Dennison took up the attack at the other end with the job of creating pressure by bowling good line and length. The pair combined to claim the next wicket – a safe catch to Mark and Eastnor looked shaky at 61/4 at drinks after 20 overs.



Good spells followed from Ross Calvert and Pat Murray, with Gary Page taking a catch off Pat to have the locals at 5/113 in the 30th, however the Eastnor batsmen stepped up to accelerate the run rate. The Eastnor no 5 batsman (Andy “the Pope” Gregory) retired on 43, and runs continued to flow, as Eastnor’s “dancing” number 7, Kevin Smith, sought to upset the Galaxies fielding discipline. The visitors did not fall for such antics, maintaining their shape and their standard.

Ross Calvert picked up an LBW and then Pete Gunning was safely under a high ball to give Mark Dennison a well-earned wicket. Eastnor was 171-7 after 37 overs. In the closing overs, the Galaxies restricted the locals' run rate. Denno and Ross did not concede a boundary at the death with the support of the disciplined Galaxies fielding. The Eastnor innings closed at 185-7.



The innings break offered a cornucopia of bread, cheese, cake and various tempting slices accompanied by the now-mandatory cup of tea. The Galaxies were quietly confident that the quality of their batting line-up would rebound from the disappointment the day before and pin their true colours to the mast. The visitors' innings started brightly with Gary Page striking three crisp boundaries before being caught in the 4th over with the score on 20. Steve Moore and Pete Gunning consolidated the innings and then took full toll on the loose change bowling reaching the boundary regularly. Pete was controversially fired on 39 (in the woodiest of circumstances!) with the score on 88 in the 17th over. Steve Moore and Greg "Mully" Mulvaney saw the Galaxies to drinks at 99-2 after 20 overs.



Just after drinks, Steve Moore retired on 40 with the total on 101. With Miles and Greg at the crease, there were high hopes that the "bunkies" would bring it home. Unfortunately, Miles was removed without scoring, dragging the ball onto his stumps for the fourth time on tour. Having set a great platform to launch an attack, Mully was bowled by one that jagged back a foot. With the "bunkie buddies" both removed, the Galaxies were 4 down but within 50 of victory.

Confidence was growing in the Galaxy dressing rooms. Boris Teodorowych came to the crease with the match in the balance. The visitors had toiled hard to this point in the field and with the bat but runs were at a premium.



Using a new stick, he had purchased in Taunton more than a week before (and had not had much success with it to date) Boris played an innings he will cherish for a long time. Controlled defence punctuated by calm attack saw the Galaxies into a position where it was game on! Boris' innings concluded when he retired on 40 with the score at 172.



Having the time of his life, Mark Dennison and Andy Turner full of the "cricket-smarts" in such a situation, brought the Galaxies home with more than two overs to spare. Denno's straight on drive over the ring field set to restrict scoring, and Andy's running between wickets were a feature of our final partnership which closed out the win. A hard-fought victory by 6 wickets to the Galaxies the result.



After the match, the Galaxies “frocked up” and were treated to a wonderful meal in a marquee especially erected for the event. Bill Rowe and Eastnor character-extraordinaire, Kevin Smith, exchanged pleasantries and presented gifts in a convivial conclusion to a great day’s cricket. Local Eastnor Stalwart Malcolm Hughes (who 5 years ago had taken then tour leader Stirling Hamman to Herefordshire hospital for treatment to a broken finger) was again on hand to join in on the festivities.





Scorecard

| ACT Veteran's Cricket Tour 2019 | | | | | | | Game No. | 15 | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|--------|-------------|---------|------|
| ACT VETERANS | | | | | vs | Eastnor CC | | | | | |
| Date | 26-July-2019 | | Venue | Eastnor | | Start Time | 1:00 AM | | | | |
| Match Result | won by | | ACT Galaxies (by 6 wkts) | | Toss won by | Eastnor CC | | | | | |
| Umpires | Alan Roberts | | and | K Rosenbaum / G Gilbert | | Weather | cool, light cloud, pleasant | | | | |
| 1st Innings of | Eastnor CC | | | | | 1st Innings of | ACT Galaxies | | | | |
| Batsman | How out | Bowler | Runs | Balls Faced | Batsman | How out | Bowler | Runs | Balls Faced | | |
| J Pigott | Ct S Moore | M Boak | 0 | 2 | S Moore | Retired Not Out | | 40 | 69 | | |
| C Tulacz | Bowled | M Boak | 21 | 44 | G Page | Ct E Hill | A Gore | 12 | 11 | | |
| W Murray | Ct B Teodorowych | M Boak | 16 | 33 | P Gunning | LBW | D Tugwell | 39 | 33 | | |
| M Pearson * | Ct M Dennison | G Mulvaney | 12 | 21 | G Mulvaney | Bowled | E Hill | 22 | 30 | | |
| P Gregory | Retired Not Out | | 41 | 51 | M Boak | Bowled | D Tugwell | 0 | 3 | | |
| K Smith + | Ct G Page | P Murray | 31 | 32 | B Teodorowych + | Retired Not Out | | 40 | 48 | | |
| E Hill | not out | | 31 | 32 | M Dennison | not out | | 14 | 14 | | |
| C Page | LBW | R Calvert | 17 | 12 | A Turner | not out | | 3 | 8 | | |
| D Tugwell | Ct P Gunning | M Dennison | 4 | 6 | R Calvert | DNB | | | | | |
| A Gore | not out | | 3 | 5 | P Murray | DNB | | | | | |
| J Sanford | | | | | B Rowe * | DNB | | | | | |
| | | | | | M Kennedy | | | | | | |
| | | Extras | | 9 | | | Extras | | 16 | | |
| | | | Total | 7/185 | | | | Total | 4/186 | | |
| * Captain | + Wicket keeper | | Overs | 40 | * Captain | + Wicket keeper | | Overs | 37.5 | | |
| Fall of wickets | 1st 0 | 2nd 36 | 3rd 43 | 4th 58 | 5th 113 | Fall of wickets | 1st 14 | 2nd 89 | 3rd 110 | 4th 139 | 5th |
| | 6th 168 | 7th 175 | 8th | 9th | 10th | | 6th | 7th | 8th | 9th | 10th |

| Bowling | O | M | Nb | Wd | W | R | Bowling | O | M | Nb | Wd | W | R |
|------------|---|---|----|----|---|----|-----------|-----|---|----|----|---|----|
| M Boak | 8 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 22 | E Hill | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 45 |
| M Kennedy | 8 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 21 | A Gore | 8 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 26 |
| G Mulvaney | 5 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 33 | D Tugwell | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 29 |
| M Dennison | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 37 | P Gregory | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 43 |
| R Calvert | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 39 | M Pearson | 7.5 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 28 |
| P Murray | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 26 | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Fielding | c | ro | st |
|---------------|---|----|----|
| S Moore | 1 | | |
| B Teodorowych | 1 | | |
| M Dennison | 1 | | |
| G Page | 1 | | |

| Fielding | c | ro | st |
|----------|---|----|----|
| E Hill | 1 | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

MATCH REPORT ACT VETERANS UK TOUR 2019



Galaxies Vs Sussex O60s at Robertsbridge CC on Sunday 28 July

GALAXIES MAINTAIN SHAPE TO RECORD THEIR 8TH WIN ON TOUR

The Area

Robertsbridge is a village in the civil parish of Salehurst and Robertsbridge, and the Rother district of East Sussex, England. It is approximately 10 miles north of Hastings and 13 miles south-east of Royal Tunbridge Wells. The River Rother passes through the village.

The village is thought to date back to 1176 when a Cistercian abbey was founded there by the Abbot, Robert de St Martin. When a market charter was granted in 1198 by Richard I to Robertsbridge it was the first recorded use of the name. The abbey was dissolved in 1538; however, the town flourished, and many of the oldest existing houses in the village date from the 14th and 15th centuries, including the Seven Stars Inn on High Street. At Robertsbridge is the Robertsbridge Codex (1360), a music manuscript of the 14th century. It contains the earliest surviving music written specifically for keyboard.



Sports clubs include Robertsbridge Cricket Club and formally Robertsbridge Rugby Football Club, but it disbanded in the 2008-2009 season. Robertsbridge is also the home of the headquarters of Grays-Nicolls, a major brand in Cricket, and also the Headquarters of Gilbert, one of the largest brands in predominantly Rugby Union, but also Netball.

The Weather

The match started in overcast and cool conditions with a damp outfield and pitch showing the signs of Saturday's rain.

The Team

The team selected for the match against Sussex O60s was Steve Moore, Mark Viney, Peter Gunning, Gary Page (c), Joe Gunning, Ross Calvert, Geoff Gilbert, Martin Kennedy, Greg Mulvaney (wk), Miles Boak and Ron Bates. Boris remained in Crawley on the match day when incapacitated by illness; Greg Mulvaney assumed the wicket keeping duties.



Match Report

“Cricket is the winner” in any game decided in the last over and this was a match with enough twists and turns to retain the interest of even the most acute case of Attention Deficit Syndrome on a day on which few batsmen looked in command on a challenging pitch surface. If the result was determined by the toss, the route to get there went through some beguiling scenery! The pleasure of the day enjoyed by those who spent this day at Robertsbridge will probably endure long beyond our ability to recall the details of the result.

ACT Veterans' captain Gary Page won the toss and chose to field in the cool, damp conditions at the start of play, with the 'stopping and popping' pitch offering the expected variations in bounce. In such conditions the steady opening attack of Miles Boak and Mark Viney posed challenges for the Sussex openers, but a combination of watchful defence, well struck shots to the fence and occasional misfields on the damp outfield allowed them to progress to 46 in the twelfth over before the first wicket was taken by Mark, courtesy of a catch at mid-wicket by Peter Gunning.

A similar pattern continued to the drinks break after 20 overs, interrupted only by the retirement of Sussex opener and captain Russ Varney (who retired with a score of 40 in the fifteenth over), by which time the attack had been taken up by Geoff Gilbert and Joe Gunning and the score had reached 1/83.



The sun emerged through broken cloud soon after the break but the Sussex batsmen continued their apparently comfortable pattern of combining occasional singles and well struck boundaries before the world (and the innings) changed in over 29! The mysterious wiles – and accuracy - of Ross Calvert, the energetic enthusiasm of Martin Kennedy, and the consistent threat posed by Miles Boak led to Sussex losing 8 wickets for 22 runs in the final 12 overs of their innings which finished at 9/144 off 40 overs after being 1/122 off 28. Lofted shots went to hand to be held by the Gunning-Page conspiracy, some batsmen were caught running past the ball by an alert Greg Mulvaney, while others willingly invited Ross Calvert to hit their stumps.



Ross deservedly added his name to the honours board with a successful LBW appeal in over 39 to finish with the commendable figures of 5/10 off 7 overs and bringing Russ Varney back to the crease. Martin finished with 2/32 off his 8 overs, and Miles Boak and Mark Viney each finished with 1/28 off their respective 8 overs. Keeper Greg Mulvaney finished with two stumpings and each of Peter Gunning and Gary Page clung to two catches in one of the more marked turn- arounds within an innings of this tour, without any discernible change in the pitch or weather conditions: perhaps it was the distraction of the traditional Sussex game of stool ball being played on the adjoining field?

If the Galaxies were confident of victory in this match, their innings was characterised by a fierce commitment to maintaining the tension of a nerve-racking chase. Mark Viney, manfully shouldering the workload of opening both bowling and batting, and Steve Moore provided a steady start for the Galaxies, taking the score to 0/28 off the first 10 overs. Mark soon livened things up with what some might have described as a slog sweep that the Sussex fielder lost sight of before nudging the first six of the day in over 14. In the meantime, Steve Moore was dismissed from a top edge to short fine leg for 15 off 33 balls in over 12, but skipper Gary Page also found the fence early in his stay to take the Galaxies to 1/50 off 15 overs. Sadly, Gary fell in over 17 for 10 (from 17 balls) to a good catch from a well struck shot that flew hard to square leg, leaving the Galaxies 2/57.



Mark Viney and Peter Gunning steadily built the Galaxies to a competitive 2/76 at the 20 overs drinks break, before Mark's effective combination of subtlety and power had him retire in the 24th over for an undefeated 40 (2/86), even if it did involve a case of *justice delayed being justice denied* when Judge David Collins failed to prosecute a stumping opportunity.

The Gunning brothers had advanced the Galaxies to 2/92 in over 26, by when the pitch had 'flattened out' only a little, when Peter was bowled by England Over 70s' tweaker Howard Johnson, bringing Ross Calvert to the crease to challenge Mark Viney for Galaxy all-rounder honours. Unfortunately, Ross was adjudged LBW for 3 (from 19 balls) in over 31. The score was now 4/107. More disappointment quickly followed in Howard Johnson's over (the 34th) when Geoff Gilbert was bowled for 10 (from 11 balls), and Martin Kennedy, caught for a duck. This had the Galaxies at 6/118 and the tension was turned up a notch or two as the spectators began to appreciate the looming closeness of the contest.

Joe Gunning and Greg Mulvaney built the score steadily towards the target before Greg failed to resist the temptation to raise the tension yet again by being bowled for 9 (off 17 balls) in the final ball of the 38th over. Miles Boak strode to the crease to join Joe Gunning with 5 needed off two overs and calmly ended the game with a boundary off the second ball of the final over to take his score to an invaluable undefeated 5, much to the relief of the Galaxies supporters.

Gary Page and Sussex skipper spoke of the close contest that had preceded their exchanges of thanks to officials, caterers and each team before gifts and mementos were presented. The Galaxies had left their mark and a plaque with the Robertsbridge CC to commemorate an enjoyable day's cricket for all.



Scorecard

| ACT Veteran's Cricket Tour 2019 | | | | | | | | | | Game No. | | 16 | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|------------------|-----|-------|------------------------|------------------|-------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------|-------|--|------|--|
| ACT VETERANS | | | | | vs | Sussex O60s | | | | | | | | | |
| Date | | 28-July-2019 | | Venue | | Robertsbridge CC | | Start Time | | 1pm | | | | | |
| Match Result | | won by | | | ACT Veterans by 3 wkts | | Toss won by | | ACT Veterans | | | | | | |
| Umpires | | Trevor Warburton | | and | | Ernest Nighy | | Weather | | Overcast and cool | | | | | |
| 1st Innings of | | Sussex O60s | | | | | 1st Innings of | | ACT Veterans | | | | | | |
| Batsman | How out | Bowler | | Runs | Balls Faced | Batsman | How out | Bowler | | Runs | Balls Faced | | | | |
| R Varney* | Not Out | | | 44 | 50 | Mark Viney | Retired (Not Out) | | | 40 | 68 | | | | |
| D Collins+ | Ct P Gunning | M. Viney | | 14 | 34 | Steve Moore | Ct Smith | F Richardson | | 15 | 33 | | | | |
| G Williams | Ct P Gunning | M. Kennedy | | 27 | 41 | Gary Page | Ct Richardson | C Fox | | 10 | 17 | | | | |
| G Watts | Ct G Page | R Calvert | | 35 | 53 | Peter Gunning | Bowled | H Johnson | | 16 | 28 | | | | |
| N Stainton | Bowled | R Calvert | | 0 | 3 | Joe Gunning | Not Out | | | 33 | 36 | | | | |
| R Page | St G Mulvaney | R Calvert | | 1 | 10 | Ross Calvert | LBW | R Smith | | 3 | 19 | | | | |
| H Johnson | St G Mulvaney | R Calvert | | 0 | 9 | Geoff Gilbert | Bowled | H Johnson | | 10 | 11 | | | | |
| R Smith | Ct J Gunning | M Kennedy | | 9 | 14 | Martin Kennedy | Ct Page | H Johnson | | 0 | 3 | | | | |
| T Elsey | Ct G Page | M Boak | | 2 | 7 | Greg Mulvaney | Bowled | T Elsey | | 9 | 17 | | | | |
| F Richardson | Not Out | | | 3 | 7 | Miles Boak | Not Out | | | 5 | 4 | | | | |
| C Fox | LBW | Calvert | | 1 | 3 | Ron Bates | DNB | | | | | | | | |
| Extras | | | | 8 | | Extras | | | | 7 | | | | | |
| Total | | | | 9/144 | | Total | | | | 7/148 | | | | | |
| * Captain | | + Wicket keeper | | Overs | | 40 | | * Captain | | + Wicket keeper | | Overs | | 39.2 | |
| Fall of wickets | | 1st | 46 | 2nd | 123 | 3rd | 123 | 4th | 123 | 5th | 124 | | | | |
| | | 6th | 130 | 7th | 134 | 8th | 136 | 9th | 139 | 10th | | | | | |
| Fall of wickets | | 1st | 36 | 2nd | 57 | 3rd | 92 | 4th | 107 | 5th | 118 | | | | |
| | | 6th | 118 | 7th | 140 | 8th | | 9th | | 10th | | | | | |

| Bowling | | O | M | Nb | Wd | W | R | Bowling | | O | M | Nb | Wd | W | R |
|-----------|--|---|---|----|----|---|----|--------------|--|-----|---|----|----|---|----|
| M Boak | | 8 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 28 | R Smith | | 8 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 31 |
| M Viney | | 8 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 28 | F Richardson | | 8 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 22 |
| J Gunning | | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 33 | C Fox | | 8 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 15 |
| G Gilbert | | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 11 | T Elsey | | 5.2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 36 |
| M Kennedy | | 8 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 32 | H Johnson | | 8 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 27 |
| R Calvert | | 7 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 10 | N Stainton | | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12 |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Fielding | | c | ro | st |
|------------|--|---|----|----|
| G Mulvaney | | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| P Gunning | | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| G Page | | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| J Gunning | | 1 | 0 | 0 |

| Fielding | | c | ro | st |
|--------------|--|---|----|----|
| R Smith | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| F Richardson | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| R Page | | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| | | | | |

GAME 17 MATCH REPORT ACT VETERANS UK TOUR 2019



Galaxies Vs Sussex O70s at Turnbridge Wells CC on Monday, 29 July

LUCKLESS GALAXIES FINISH TOUR WITH LAST BALL LOSS

The Area

Royal Tunbridge Wells, previously just Tunbridge Wells, is a town in western Kent, England, 30 miles south-east of central London, close to the border with East Sussex upon the northern edge of the High Weald. The town came into being as a spa in the Restoration and enjoyed its heyday as a fashionable resort in the mid-1700s under Beau Nash when the Pantiles, and its chalybeate spring, attracted significant numbers of visitors who wished to take the waters. Penshurst Place & Gardens (photo below) and the surrounding estate have stood on the banks of the river Medway since the 14th century, when the awe-inspiring medieval Baron's Hall was built as a country retreat for the Lord Mayor of London, Sir John De Pulteney.



The town has a population of around 56,500 and is the administrative centre of Tunbridge Wells Borough and the parliamentary constituency of Tunbridge Wells. Evidence suggests that Iron Age people farmed the fields and mined the iron-rich rocks in the Tunbridge Wells area.

It is thought that the area was occupied into the era of Roman Britain, and the area continued to be part of the Wealden iron industry until its demise in the late eighteenth

century. An iron forge remains in the grounds of Bayham Abbey (photo below), in use until 1575 and documented until 1714.



By the early nineteenth century Tunbridge Wells experienced growth as a place for the well-to-do to visit and make their homes. It became a fashionable resort town again following visits by the Duchess of Kent, Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, and benefited from a new estate on Mount Pleasant and the building of the Trinity church in 1827. (photo above). In 1842 an omnibus service was set up that ran from Tonbridge to Tunbridge Wells, enabling visitors to arrive from London within two hours, and in 1845 the town was linked to the railway network via a branch from South Eastern Railways.

The Weather

A fine but windy day greeted the ACT Galaxies at the Tunbridge Wells Recreation Ground. The forecast temperature in this very green part of England is 23 degrees. The ground is thought to be unique in England as it straddles two counties of Sussex and Kent. The county boundary is just beyond the cricket nets in the photo below.



The Team

The team selected for the match against Sussex O70s was Kev Rosenbaum, Bill Rowe (c), Peter Gunning, Joe Gunning, Steve Moore, Geoff Gilbert, Mark Dennison, Ron Bates, Andy Turner, Pat Murray, Mark Viney, Greg Mulvaney (non-batting keeper) and Martin Kennedy and Ross Calvert coming off the bench.



Match Report

Both skippers were happy to accommodate their opponent's preference to bat or bowl. It was agreed that the match would start with a toss (a rare occurrence on this tour) with the winner batting. In another rare occurrence skipper Bill Rowe won the toss but it may have been a better toss to lose! The ACT Galaxies were putting the pads on to have first use of what felt like a softish flat, straw coloured wicket.

The Sussex Over 70s opening bowlers used the soft wicket to their advantage dropping the ball in good areas with the wicket producing all sorts of uneven bounce, and movement off the seam. Bill got one that bounced and seamed back at him taking the glove and popping up to first slip. Peter Gunning came to the wicket and started to play with authority through the off side before playing a loose shot to get out. Kev Rosenbaum had been keeping out some accurate bowling pushing ones and twos, before being caught out of his ground with some swift work from the keeper. This left the ACT Galaxies in a precarious position at 3 for 40 from fifteen overs.



Just before the drinks break Steve Moore was running a quick single when his bat stuck into the turf causing Steve to over stretch which his hamstring did not like one little bit. Steve had to be assisted from the field to start the ICE process. At the drinks break the ACT were 3 for 66 from twenty overs. Joe Gunning who had come to the wicket following the dismissal of his brother Peter, began to play his shots, punishing any loose ball. Geoff Gilbert joined Joe when Steve Moore retired hurt. Our farmer from near Bathurst began to wield the willow and the boundaries started to flow.

Following the demise of Geoff out bowled, Joe Gunning started to stroke the bowling around the park, pulling and driving with authority. Joe's first 40 not out of the tour came relatively quickly. When the 100 came up the mood in the dressing sheds changed and the ACT expectations of a competitive score were greatly increased.

As the overs started to tick down, Steve Moore courageously returned to the wicket with Bill Rowe as his runner. Steve on one leg began to flay the attack. He was ably supported by Mark Dennison taking the score to over 140. Steve liked the idea of not having to run as he leaned back, waited for the ball to come to him and punched the ball into the off and on sides. Bill took the opportunity to extract every run possible and together with Mark, took cheeky singles and turned ones into twos. After a 50-run partnership, Mark was bowled and the locals were into the tail.



Steve was eventually bowled off a good length delivery which saw Ron Bates, Andy Turner and Pat Murray push the score past the 160 mark. Mark Viney came in for the last ball of the innings, took two and the Galaxies' total had reached 169 – much better than expected at the half-way mark.



Thoughts of what was a competitive total filled the minds of the ACT as they took the field. It became all too obvious that 169 may not be enough as the Sussex O70s started to strike the ACT's full-length bowling to many parts of the field. An early wicket was highlight of the first 10 overs (courtesy of a diving catch by the skipper) from Geoff Gilbert's bowling. However, the locals continued to dominate the ACT's attack, particularly former England Over 70s player, Andy Barnes who struck the ball with authority as the score board ticked over at an alarming speed.

Pat Murray was the first change bowler who began a spell of tight just short of a length bowling. This type of bowling was perfect for this soft pitch and it bore fruit immediately as Pat got one to jag back and shatter the stumps of their opening batsman. Andy Barnes on the other hand continued to dominate the ACT attack, one could say like his famous name sake Australian player Sid Barnes, with some great stroke play. Andy retired at 40 but with a 100 on the board in the 20th over the ACT had a lot of work to do to stem the run flow.



The Sussex middle order pushed on and through overs 20 to 30 the score moved into 130s; it was looking ominous for the ACT. Our skipper Bill Rowe started to ring the field and introduce bowling changes to upset the Sussex rhythm. Joe Gunning with a lame knee started to bowl spin with great results as he picked up a wicket in his first over. A run out followed shortly after and the Galaxies were still in the hunt for an unlikely win.



The pressure was mounting and excitement was too much for a couple of ACT supporters who took the opportunity to "regain their composure" under the trees!

The last few overs proved to be the most exciting of the whole tour. Some persistent bowling from the ACT backed up by total commitment in the field placed a lot of pressure on the Sussex O70s and as wickets fell under this pressure, suddenly Sussex needed 6 runs to win from the final over. Ross Calvert was to bowl the last on tour and what an exciting over it was. A dot ball followed by a single and a boundary meant that the scores were tied with 3 balls to go. The field was tightened a few more notches to stop the single - two more dot balls and the first tie of the tour was a real possibility with one ball remaining. The large crowd of friends and families were on tender hooks as Rosco strode in. The final delivery hit the pad – a confident appeal ensued and the batsman scrambled to make it home for the winning run. What a match! The ACT were valiant in defeat in the closet game of the tour.

Miles Boak maintained his legendary calm under pressure, scoring in such a tight finish and after the game, the usual speeches and presentations took place with Joe Gunning and Ross Calvert picking up awards for their outstanding efforts with the bat and the ball. Bill was presented with a Sussex Seniors cricket shirt



The End

The tour culminated in a wonderful team dinner at our hotel in Crawley. Awards were announced for those who had topped the player statistics but more importantly it was an opportunity for all the tourists to reflect on a momentous 4 weeks and to talk to the whole group about the highlights of the tour and what it had meant to them. The photo below is the last taken of the playing group on the last night of the tour.



ACT Veterans Cricket



Touring Party UK July 2019

Ron Bates



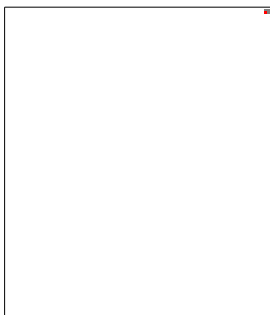
Ron grew up in the Sydney suburb of Panania. He was a late comer to competitive cricket only taking the game up in his late teens when some friends needed numbers for their cricket team. Suffice to say he has been involved with cricket as a player, coach, umpire and administrator ever since. After relocating to Canberra in 2000 he joined a club formed by workmates. In 2005 he then joined the Queanbeyan District Cricket Club. In 2008 he was elected as Honorary Secretary, a position he has served in ever since. He was awarded Life Membership in 2018. He has been involved with ACT Veterans Cricket since 2015 when he played in the National Championships in Melbourne and has participated in every championship since then. In the past two championships he has had the privilege to captain the ACT #3 team. In 45 plus years, he has played cricket in every state of Australia and the ACT. He officially retired in 2017 and spends his summers as one of his cricket club's ground staff. He is also heavily involved in the administration of Veterans' Cricket in Canberra.

Miles Boak



Miles plays for North Canberra Gungahlin Cricket Club (NCGCC) the Over 50s veterans' side. He is an accurate in-swing bowler and a punishing batsman capable of playing anywhere in the order. Miles is from a family that enjoys cricket with his sons and daughter playing. Originally from Moree in north western NSW he has lived in Canberra since 1987. Miles has played cricket since he was nine years old and he hasn't missed a season in that time. He has coached a lot at junior level including 10 years on the NCGCC junior committee. Miles has been an active advocate for his local community in Downer, one of Canberra oldest suburbs. His community work motivated him to co-author a book on the history of Downer. He is looking forward to playing cricket in England, the home of cricket.

Keith and Trysh Bridgen



Keith is a member of the ACT O60's Development Squad and will be celebrating his 59th birthday on this UK tour. Keith has played cricket since the age of 9 where he was first exposed to this fantastic sport at Caboolture Primary School, just north of Brisbane. He continued in Perth at High School, and then in England where he represented his Grammar School in the first XI, his County as a school boy and then U19's. Keith returned to Australia in 1993 and played a few seasons of second and first grade cricket in the Sydney Shires competition. After moving to the Central Coast, he continued to play for Gosford before semi-retiring to coach his sons. Keith is cricket mad and this has rubbed off on both sons, the youngest representing Australia in Indoor Cricket. Best score of 108 came when he opened the batting for a touring team in Kent, and bowling 7/17 during a Hampshire League match for Poole Town CC. Keith returned from retirement playing for the Queanbeyan District Cricket Club veteran's side known as the "Grey Baggers" and achieved the player award for season 2017/18. Keith also represented ACT in the Orange Over 50's competition in 2018. Newlywed and newly retired Trysh and Keith Bridgen are on an epic 2-year journey around the world and found time to squeeze in a couple of weeks cricket between hiking the Accursed Mountains in Albania and finding the best Pho in Vietnam. They met online in 2013 and married in November 2018.

Ross and Olga Calvert



Ross is a retired chemical engineer who spent most of his career in the energy industry, mostly in the gas industry, although his current focus is on renewables. He was an energy consultant for the last 13 years of his career. Ross is from the Norths Club where he first played as a junior in 1965. He started grade in 1966 and learned the craft of off spin from the legendary Fred Wilton. He lives with his wife Olga in Canberra and has played with the ACT Over 60s since 2010. They have a married son and daughter and five grandchildren, all of whom live nearby. Olga is a retired nurse. She trained at Sydney Hospital and worked at Canberra Hospital for a number of years before tutoring at the University of Canberra and later at The UC Health Centre. Ross and Olga met overseas while travelling and later married and settled in England for a few years before returning to Australia.

Greg Curtis



Greg was a childhood cricket fanatic. He played extensively into his 20s - through Camp Hill State School and Brisbane Grammar School. He has a Town Planning Degree from University of Queensland, 1974. He was elevated through the grades of Eastern Suburbs District Cricket Club in Brisbane to 1st Grade in the era of Tony Dell as captain and Jeff Thomson playing for the club. Greg simultaneously played for Mudgeeraba Cricket Club and was selected for the Gold Coast. In 1976 he went to England, playing for Folkestone in the Kent League, Kent 2nd XI, Gray-Nicolls, MCC and many other teams on invitation. He played in England again for the 1977 and 1979 seasons. Greg is a keen surfer and bought a long time Gold Coast company - Aleeda Wetsuits - in 1981. He sold Aleeda in 2018 and is currently

living on the Gold Coast, but more often on Moreton Island where he is involved in voluntary environmental work.

Mark and Henrietta Dennison



Mark Dennison was born and played cricket in Newcastle Australia until 1987 before heading to the Australia's capital to start his own business. A life member of the Canberra City and Suburban Cricket Association, Mark has served on the board as treasurer for a number of years. An opening left-hand batsman and on occasions a right-hand bowler, he has accumulated over 350 games in the association. Mark joins this tour with his wife Henrietta, a very keen cricketer follower and together they look forward to the experience of a

life time.

Geoff and Cheryl Gilbert



Geoff was born in Crookwell and Cheryl in Bathurst NSW. They now live at "The Grove" Trunkey Creek in the central west of NSW on a 600-acre farming property where they grow fat lambs and Hereford cattle. Geoff and his oldest son James also manage 2,500 acres for a family from Sydney. Geoff started playing cricket when he was at boarding school in Sydney in the early 1970s. He played grade and district cricket for Crookwell and Goulburn after leaving school. He is a left-handed batsman and known for his hard hitting, then and still today. He retired from cricket for about 20 years when

Cheryl said no more sitting in the sun with three young children! He took up playing again in the early 2000s. His proudest moment was when he won the Crookwell grand final playing with his two sons and one of his daughters. They have four children and 10 grandchildren. They now enjoy travelling and playing /watching cricket all over the world.



Joe Gunning



This will be Joe's second tour of the UK playing cricket, having toured in 1998 with the Canberra Cricketers. Joe was born in Canberra and is still playing grade cricket with the same senior club he first joined over 40 years ago in 1975, now called North Canberra Gunghalin Cricket Club. Joe is also very involved with the ACT Veterans Cricket Over 50s team as player and manager. He was also awarded the ACT Veterans Player of the Year trophy for the 2017 and 2018 seasons. He is a right-handed all-rounder and will be joining the Over 60s ranks next year. He is

retired from the public service and married to Helen. They have 3 boys, who have all played grade cricket with Joe.

Peter Gunning



Peter Gunning has played with the Norths Over 50 side for the past two seasons. In the history of the clubs he was part of the original Daramalan players that merged with City Cricket Club in the 1980s before the merger with North Canberra Gunghalin Cricket Club. Peter played 3rds, 4ths and lower until 1994. He is a top order batsman with mixed success over the years. He also bowled leg spin for many years, especially in his early days with the Daramalan and City clubs but his shoulder does not allow him to bowl any more. At 57 he is recently retired. Married to Suzie they have three children aged 24, 22 and 20. For Peter, retirement means a bit more golf, a return to veterans' cricket and refereeing touch football to keep him fit. He will be attending the British Open and thus will miss five games during the tour. He will stay on in the UK for the 1st Ashes test and some walking afterwards in the Peaks District.

Martin Kennedy



Martin was raised in Sydney and started playing cricket in the 1960s for North Sydney District CC from the under 10s. Martin bowls medium pace, off-spin and bats a bit. He played Army cricket (on and off) from 1978 to 1996 and was President of NSW Army Cricket for a couple of years in the mid-90s. He now lives in Canberra and plays for the Queanbeyan over-50s. He also currently plays for and is Vice President of his local City & Suburban cricket club and plays 'Last Man Stands' (8-a-side T20) in the winter, where he also runs a team. Martin retired from the public service in 2018 after 40 years with the Department of Defence, both in the Army and as a civilian. He has been married to Anne since 1985 and has two adult children.

Steve and Robyn Moore



Stephen Moore recently became a senior manager in the employment services industry after 32 years as a public servant. Stephen returned to cricket after a 20-year gap to play with his two sons who have now progressed beyond his skill level. He has captained Queanbeyan District Cricket Club Over 50s in the ACT competition for the last two seasons, filled in for 4th and 5th grade, is on the club Committee and is a right-hand opening bat. Stephen also enjoys cycling, touch football and watching all sports. Stephen and Robyn, who is also touring, have three children. Robyn teaches cooking at a primary school in Canberra and lovingly puts up with all the family sporting activities.

Greg Mulvaney “Mully”

Greg played a lot of cricket as a junior and was drawn back to the game by the Barton Cricket Club when his son started playing in the Canberra City and Suburban Competition. This team brought back the enjoyment of the game and the highlight was when the team comprised four father and son/daughter combinations. He currently plays for the North Canberra Gungahlin Cricket Club in their over 50 Veterans side. Greg is a versatile batsman and bowls when required. Greg is a keen golfer and thoroughly enjoying Veterans cricket. He is looking forward to playing on England’s famous “village greens”.



Pat Murray



Like most Aussies our age, Pat developed an early love for the game of cricket at school, and also watching the iconic 1960/61 Windies Test series in Australia. Alas he did not pick up the pace of Wes Hall or the batting prowess of Rohan Kanhai along with their autographs. Lower grade district and social grades of cricket followed intermittently for a number of years until the kit was put away in order to earn a living and raise a family. Now back enjoying veterans’ cricket, Pat has taken part in a number of national and state over 60s and 70s championships over the past few years as a medium pace seamer and lower order bat. After spending a couple of years in the UK in the early 1970s Pat is excited to return to England as part of the 2019 ACT Veterans UK Tour.

Gary Page



Gary Page, has been married to Robyn for 30 years. They have three children - Joshua 26, Tayla 23 and Corey 21. All the kids are keen sports people and Robyn is a keen netball umpire. Gary was born in Townsville North Queensland, and arrived in Canberra in 1971 when his father was transferred with his job. Gary is a retired public servant having worked for 37 years in various government departments. His interests are family, cricket, golf, cooking, watching AFL (Carlton FC). Gary started playing cricket at the age of 10 and went on to play over one hundred 1st grade games in the Canberra District Cricket competition for Norths CC in the 1980's as well as many lower grade games. Gary captained Norths CC 1st and 2nd grade teams during this time. He was a junior cricket coach for 10 years and president of the Ginninderra Junior Cricket Club for 3 years. In summer, he assists in the preparation of the three wickets that Norths CC play on. Gary continues to play cricket as a member of the Norths over 50 team playing in the Canberra over 50 competition.

Kevin Rosenbaum



Kevin Rosenbaum grew up in Gosford on the North Coast of New South Wales. As an engineer, Kev had a long career in project management and procurement. Kev and wife Robyn have three children, the first born in Oxford UK. Robyn and Kevin have lived in Canberra for near on thirty years. Kev commenced his playing career in Gosford but has played cricket in various parts of Australia including Sydney, Townsville and Melbourne across a number of grades. This summer lifestyle was balanced with a season playing cricket in the Swindon area of UK. Kev often opens the batting and rolls his arm over for some leg spin. He has played soccer for many years and is still an active dinghy sailor. Kev has recently joined the ranks of the over 60s.

Bill Rowe and Karen Curtis

Bill and Karen have been married for 35 years and have four children and three grandchildren. Although both born in Brisbane they met in Canberra. They had senior positions in the Australian government. This is Karen's first overseas cricket tour but travelling for sport is not a new thing for Karen, having been to over 50 national championships with the kids. Bill resumed cricket in 2013 after a 35-year break from grade and representative cricket. He has been involved in with ACT Veterans cricket for five years. Prior to this tour, he's been on four overseas cricket tours - to England twice, South Africa and Sri Lanka. Bill usually bats in the top order, bowls when required and wicket keeps when he must. He loves the camaraderie of cricket and enjoys the fact he can still run around the field. He also plays golf twice a week. He loves travel, good food and good wine and the company of family and friends.



Boris Teodorowych and Sharon Maiuto



Boris Teodorowych is a North Canberra Junior who played grade cricket with both Norths and ANU, playing all grades between 1982 and 1998. He made his first-grade debut in 1984 and hit the Norths Club record score of 186* in 1988. He has four grade centuries. He returned to cricket in 2017 with the Veterans and has represented the ACT over 50s in two National Championships, opening the batting. Boris also keeps wicket and occasionally gets a bowl if the captain is feeling generous. Boris is a former teacher turned real estate agent, who with accountant partner Sharon, run a boutique property agency in Canberra. Other than work, Boris and Sharon enjoy being active, dining out with family and friends, watching sport, Netflix, live music and travel. Boris has an 11-year-old son Alex, whilst Sharon's three children are in their 20s and all live in Canberra.

Andy Turner

A cricket tour of England: really? Left-handed batsman Andy Turner is almost returning to his roots, having been born and raised in Midsomer Norton, 10 miles south of Bath, with a family association with the local cricket and other sports clubs over at least three generations. He first arrived in Canberra in July 1973 on a three months student exchange trip; the rest is history. He's retired from a career as a public servant and occasional academic but maintains his other career as a cricket umpire with over 500 days of standing in Canberra and NSW club and school cricket, with the occasional reprise of his long but still unproductive playing career of distant memory. Barracking for the Brumbies Super Rugby team is an increasingly frustrating pastime that gets him out of the house in the off-season.



Mark Viney



Mark Viney was born, raised and educated in Tasmania and moved to Canberra in the mid 1980's to gain employment. He worked as a public servant for the Australian Bureau of Statistics in the field of Information Technology and has very recently left the workforce. He has played cricket at varying levels for the past 35 years. He currently plays for the North Canberra Gungahlin Cricket Club in their over 50 Veterans side. Mark is a right-handed top order batsman and handy swing bowler. Mark is enjoying his first trip to the UK and his first cricket tour of this nature - which has taken preference over all the jobs around the house that require doing. In his spare time, he enjoys walking, cycling, travelling - and of course, watching sport on the TV.

Messages