

AP TOURIST

The official organ of the A.P.C.C. Kent
Tour - Published annually - 2000 issue

Free to club members - £49.99
where charged - Editor: Bryan King

IN THIS ISSUE! What really happened on
The Tour of the Eclipse!...
plus how you can get on

TOUR 2000!

SPRINGFIELD ALARM OVER SLEEPING COSH

AP mugged on field by Westcliff Superstars *TABLES TURNED IN THE PUB*

New opponents Westcliff wait for us at their well-appointed ground in a rural part of Ramsgate.

Alan and Barbara Langston, who were a great help during pre-tour week in locating the tree-lined venue, also appear in anticipation of seeing the tourists feasting themselves on these unknown opponents.

Suspicious that Westcliff might not be 'just a Sunday side' are aroused when a variety of Kent representative sweaters on the backs of young and fit cricketers emerge from the home team dressing room.

It transpires that half of the St. Lawrence first team are playing, plus one or two from other Kent ECB Premier teams, including a smattering of Kent Twos and Kent League rep players – hardly the opposition we had anticipated for the first Sunday of tour! While AP bowlers toil in the heat against the Westcliff batting (250- 5

dec in 33 overs!) a pleasant trip to local is had by TM, Dusty, Run Machine and LummoX – with Shepherd Neame of various vintages being drunk copiously. They return to see some wickets fall. Pick of our bowling is Yess!! with 2 for 37 off 5 overs, but this includes two Albert stumpings when the batsmen intentionally leave their ground. Albert's rather unwise sledging leads to a comeuppance of sorts when he is peppered by a series of short-pitched balls, despite the fact that opening bowler for Kent League and Kent Twos, Trigger, is coming off his

The pavement outside the Springfield is liberally sprinkled with the bitten ends of the Tour Management's fingernails. *Cosh is late!* 'No panic' is the official line. After all, this is Cosh's usual pre-match routine which, in combination with his muesli breakfast, is designed to get him onto the pitch in peak condition.

TM surveys the Bounds Green environs for the taxi which would bring the Gorer of Gore Court, the Basher of Broadstairs to the meet for the final AP Tour of the second

Millennium. Following the umpteenth phone call, a drowsy Cosh picks up the phone and apologises to TM profusely, saying that he would make his own way to Kent. TM makes note for record tizzer to be handed out for this monumental indiscretion.

"I thought I'd get away with being late, because I knew the Tizzmaster had no front teeth!"

- The Cosh, when asked to explain his eccentric timekeeping

On the coach, tourists of the eclipse settle down to read the Sunday papers, taking care to ignore the gutter press references to the mighty AP Tour. "We've read it all before," said one tourist, "It's a bit like Manchester United.

1999 Tourists and their nicknames

Amit Bose - **GOOGERS**
Bill Bryce - **UNCLE BILL**
Dave Cattell - **THE CAT**
Simon Clayton - **GOTTABE**
Steve Cox - **PIPPIN**
Dave Crank - **THE COSH**
Rohan Da Silva - **PRECIOUS**
John Freestone - **FLINTSTONE**
Phil Freestone - **FLINTSTONE, SNR**
Amlan Ghoshal - **YESS!!**
Erol Hasan - **FLYNN**
Jack Hyams - **RUN MACHINE**
Tom Kenyon - **ALBERT**
Adam Knight - **WUNSA**

Bryan King - **EYETISS (TM)**
Sheldon McNamara - **PEASY**
Michael Miller - **DUSTY**
Anthony Shaw - **TOINE**
Charles Tallamy - **BLIND PUGH**
Tony Wickeramasinghe - **YOUNG VIC**
Alistair Wilson - **LUMMOX**
Chris Wilson - **GRADDERS**

OFFICIAL TOUR POSTS

Tour Manager:
Bryan King

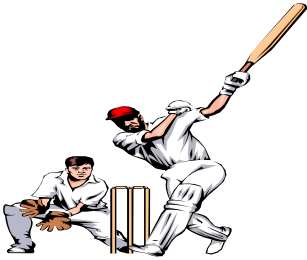
Joint Asst. Tour Managers: **John Freestone, Erol Hasan**
Tour Accountant: **John Freestone**
Hon Umpires: **Charles Tallamy, Chris Wilson**
Hon: Scorer: **Phil Freestone**

READ ALL ABOUT THE LAST KENT TOUR IN THIS EDITION OF 'AP TOURIST', CONTAINING NEWS, VIEWS AND TOUR STATISTICS BY 'STATISTO'

- P2 Who are Conehead, Costas, the Chemist and the Phantom Reverend? It's all here!
P3 What happened on 'The Day of the Eclipse'? Who were the mystery druids? AND... Mushy's secret deliveries? All is revealed *IN ADDITION...* your and everyone's favourite feature - 'Tizz of the Day!'
P4 The most experienced opening partnership ever? *ALSO...* Immerse yourself in the tour statistics, compiled by 'STATISTO'

RANDY REVEREND MISSES CONVERSION CHANCES

Skittles at the Chemist is winner
at damp Dover



Controversy hits the tour on Tuesday due to the phantom appearance (or was it?) of the Reverend.

With so many of the tourists seeking spiritual regeneration (some for whisky – others gin), there is much gnashing of teeth and wringing of hands when it is realised that the Reverend (a visitor for the day) has departed from the ground on being told by the locals that was no chance of play. So it came to pass that the devil claimed souls which could have gone either way.

Agnostics, atheists and the odd believer who is not in the selected side wander to the chemist to enjoy a pleasant communion and, at the same time, try out the new sport of underwater skittles. The rain delays cricket until 5.15pm and after a mere 8.4 overs the match is abandoned. This leads to an early bar appearance and a very damp Coronary Circle. Maiden tourists Gottabe, Run Machine, Wunsa, Young Vic and Peasy line up and the big money is on Peasy, whose antipodean origin is the persuasive factor. While Gottabe and the favourite make the early running, Run Machine settles to a sedate jog at the rear of the field with Young Vic soon joining him. Meanwhile Wunsa is making steady progress and times his finish to perfection as he passes the finish line in a very fast time, leaving

(Continued from P1)

Wunsa in double figures, topping the scoring with 19. In the context of the game, skipper Uncle Bill's decision to insert looks spot on.

Having stuffed us, Westcliff admirably try to drink the fixture back. It seems they are in awe of the 'tour of tours' and feel that its presence on their CV will add considerably to their standing in the garden of England. In the pub, Sunshine Mountain is curtailed by pub management, who clearly feel that they would get better custom from the five or six regular clients (many of whom join in) than the might of the AP Tourists. So their big night of the year – the one which could have extricated them from financial penury – never materialises.

Later, after an assembly in the hotel bar, many opt for the traditional Chinese meal tour curtain raiser. TM's new tour T-shirt receives an early baptism when it returns to the hotel splattered by a good percentage of its owners

Belnor pluckiness overcomes AP slackness

CONEHEAD AND COSTAS
CHRISTENED

Following the shock of meeting such strength on the first Sunday of tour, AP lips are drooling at the prospect of playing Belnor on Monday - not usually among our strongest fixtures. As we arrive at the sun-drenched Bowaters ground, the tourists split naturally into groups. Some inspect the pitch (not the belter of earlier years); others bag their pegs in the changing rooms; a further group opts for pitch perambulation, while a fourth heads for the nets. It is here that the first shock of the day is acted out as Albert smashes a car windscreen and then complains that Young Vic was to blame for bowling too short!

TM and Run Machine walk to the wicket and the statisticians quickly calculate that the openers average age is 66.5. When tour debutante Run Machine departs the scene early for 5, the same statisticians can be heard commenting that the appearance of Uncle Bill at the crease actually reduces the average age of the batsmen at the crease to 61! The age reduction makes little difference to AP's runmaking, and Uncle also goes quickly. With wickets falling, TM tries to steady the ship, but can find no one to build a partnership with. When he is out for 41, the score is just 86-6. A little bit of tail wagging from Cosh (17) and Yess! (15) helps us limp to 137-9, before

declaration is necessary. **With one or two stronger players in their side, Belnor begin batting with assuredness, putting on 33 for the first wicket – a good platform for chasing a low total. They win comfortably after 25 overs with their unbeaten fifth wicket putting on 63 against some uninspired AP bowling – the exception being Googers who takes 2 wickets for 22 in 6 overs. Flynn may have 'costas' the game with a dropped sitter.**

A very pleasant post-match session ensues, including TM being christened 'Conehead', during his skipper's speech as the floodlighting lends an ethereal glow to his ample forehead.

Later in the 'Golden Curry', everyone is impressed by Googers' knowledge in ordering a dish none had heard of, saying that he had had a great one in Calcutta last year. After a taste, the party agrees to return and clean them out of 'Rassallas' later in the week. Uncle Bill again lets himself down by messy eating – curry everywhere! During the night he adds to this chronicle of bad behaviour when suspected of letting off fire extinguishers after leaving several outside his hotel room – presumably over-

Moon casts shadow over batting

Eleventh hour appearance by Druids

On the Day of the Eclipse, batting is the loser with the sides amassing a mere 220 between them. Some blame the mystical light cast by the Eclipse. Others swear that the haunting pre-match dance on the square by the AP Druids has entranced the batsmen into surrendering their wickets cheaply. A minority feel that the dance has damaged the pitch in favour of the bowlers!

Play starts at 11.50 to allow the Ecliptic ceremonies to take place, with guests Jacko, Robert, Herbie and Brenda in attendance. After an unsuccessful appeal against the light, our hosts having won the toss from AP Skipper Flintstone, begin solidly with the bat, putting on 85 before the fall of the second wicket.

Just as the moon passes away from the sun, the batsmen, perversely, stop seeing the ball and the bowlers dominate from then on. Batsmen make regular trips to the middle and do the return soon after. Despite a late flourish from the tail Gore Court declare on 170-9, which the pundits see as a measly total on such a pitch. The Cat claws in 4 wickets for 52 in 20 accurate overs.

In reply, a solid-looking opening partnership of 35 is ended when Flintstone goes for 21. His partner, Run Machine, soldiers on before being run out for 17. From then on the AP

batsmen play themselves in, then get out with monotonous regularity. It is left to Gottabe (16no) to nurse us through to a draw with the side on just 150-8 at stumps.

With Googers on kitty (Shepherd Neame, Stella and Gordons) the night is heavily alcohol-flavoured and bar takings hit record heights (at least on an Eclipse evening in August in the 20th Century). Conversation eventually gives way to singing and the Tour Choir gives a good account of itself. The singing gives way ultimately to dancing of an almost druidical nature by the entire touring party, with Run Machine, according to one eyewitness 'dancing like a demented shire-horse' and thus following a trend set the previous year by LummoX.

AP DUMPED ON AT DUMPTON

Tail to the rescue

Feelings of déjà vu fill the air in the Pimms-free prelude to the Broadstairs game when skipper Flynn informs his side that he has failed with the toss and, consequently, they are to field first.

A hot day and a plumb Dumpton Park pitch usually means toil and trouble for the bowlers and hay-making for the batsmen. Guests, Herbie, Alan and Barbara Langston, Jim Brimble and Jean lick their lips in anticipation of festival cricket. When our hosts reach first 80-1, then 186-2, the AP fielders have that 'here we go again' feeling. Getting their No. 4 out for 0 proves to be a mere blip in Broadstairs' inexorable progress to a declaration of 281-6 after 60 overs. Pippin is pick of bowling with 3 overs for 52 off 15.5 overs. Young Vic gets 2 for 71 in

13. Peasy is re-re-christened 'Mushy' after a spell of leg spin.

Keeping wickets in hand is essential in such situations. Alas, Uncle Bill and Flintstone are soon in the hutch with the tourists on 23-2! Pippin then enters the arena for his maiden tour knock and hopes are raised that he and LummoX (despite a stain on his new cricket trousers) will hack it for a considerable time. LummoX, though, falls for 15 and is followed soon after by Wunsa (duck tie) and Yess!!, both failing to trouble the scorer. **59-5 is not a sound chase base for scores of nearly 300!** Flynn joins Pippin and the two take it on to 114 before Pipp falls for a fine 59, including two 6s. TM, to whom such situations are meat and drink, joins Flynn and is dismayed to see his skipper depart without a run being added. 167 in 27 overs is very achievable with several wickets in hand. But with just three left it is not a viable option. TM therefore sets his stall out to prevent our hosts from the win everybody assumes will be theirs. With new batsman Young Vic also at the crease it is 16 overs before a further wicket - that of Young Vic (19) - falls. The task is still a tough one, but with 11 overs and two wickets left hope remains. Toine is bowled, leaving the last pair to survive 6 overs. This is achieved by TM (22no) and Peasy (3no) and honour is just about preserved.

Gin, bitter and lager is consumed with alacrity (Al was a visitor) and LummoX fails to succumb to the temptation of breaking his Mars Bar consumption record.

Tizz of the Day!

Sunday:-

DUSTY: "Not bringing front teeth."

Monday:-

UNCLE BILL: "Being grumpy and pedantic in the Indian restaurant."

Tuesday:-

ALBERT: "Wearing sackcloth without ashes."

Wednesday:-

GOTTABE: "Having the impertinence to show up the higher-order batsmen with his master class at the crease."

Thursday:-

DUSTY: "Having an inbred, arthritic dog constantly stare at him."

Record opening partnership – Long and Gevity

AP plump for experience after maiden skipper, Albert wins a potentially valuable toss. Run Machine and Uncle Bill are asked to open the batting at Chatham House School and in doing so almost certainly set a tour old age opening record. They take to the crease a combined total of 147 years!

The fairy tale ends very quickly with both making early returns to the pavilion. Run Machine quickly gets on his mobile to book a Saga recuperation holiday and Uncle Bill is helped to the changing room by an auxiliary geriatric nurse who happens to be passing. The youngsters immediately following do no better and the score limps to 22-4. Mushy (Peasy) shows he is a whiz with the bat as well as the wrist by steadying the AP innings with some fine striking. He and Yess!! take the score on to 56 before Yess!! is bowled (noooo!!). Peasy finishes with a splendid 41, falling just before lunch. Yess! scores 13. An eighth wicket stand of 51 by Wunsa (28) and LummoX (23) continues the rescue act and the tail

contributes further when No. 11 Googers finds the boundary four times in a fighting 22, helped by Toine with a steady 9no. However, 178 does not seem anywhere near enough on the traditional Ruymians flat track.

With the AP revival beginning straight after lunch, the hosts continue the run feast when it is their turn. Reaching 108-2, the target is comfortable and despite the efforts of Pippin, who fails to take a wicket but bowls 16 overs, 4 maidens for just 36 runs, Old Ruymians coast home in 41 overs for the loss of only three wickets.

It is a reflective touring party which arrives at the 'Rose of England'. Not a strong outfit to start with, performances have nonetheless been less than was hoped for on the field. But, off the field as usual, enormous satisfaction is taken from the entire week. A vocal and friendly evening follows and the sight of Gradders twisting to a 1960s record, has most of the party doing double-takes.

1999 TOUR ANALYSIS BY Statisto

RESULTS:-

Sunday, August 8th

Westcliff 250-5 (Yess!! 2-37))

AP 75 (Wunsa 19) - **LOST**

Monday, August 9th

AP 137-9 (Eyetiss 41)

Belnor 139-4 (Googers 2-22) - **LOST**

Tuesday, August 10th

Dover 34-1 - **MATCH ABANDONED - RAIN**

Wednesday, August 11th

Gore Court 170-9 (The Cat 4-52, 'Toine 2-30)

AP 150-8 (Flintstone 21) - **DREW**

Thursday, August 12th

Broadstairs 281-6 (Pippin 3-52, Young Vic 2-71)

AP 171-9 (Pippin 59, Eyetiss 22no, Young Vic 19) - **DREW**

Friday, August 13th

AP 178 (Peasy 41, Wunsa 28, LummoX 23, Googers 22)

Old Ruymians 181-3 (Pippin 0-36 in 16 overs) - **LOST**

INDIVIDUAL PERFORMANCES:-

Batting (averages over 20)

	Ins	NO*	HS	Runs	Ave
Eyetiss	3	1	41	80	40
Pippin	2	0	59	61	30.5
Googers	3	2	22	29	29
Peasy	4	2	41	48	24

Bowling (averages below 40)

	Ovs	Mdns	Runs	Wks	Ave
The Cat	23	6	67	5	13.4
Yess!!	23	2	114	4	28.5
Pippin	31.5	8	88	3	29.33
'Toine	20	3	68	2	34
Young Vic	37.1	5	174	5	34.8
Googers	19.4	4	77	2	38.5

Catching (2 or more): 'Toine 4, Eyetiss 2

Stumping (all): Albert 3, Eyetiss 1

THERE IS STILL TIME TO GET ON BOARD

TOUR 2000!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE A MEMBER OF THE 2000 KENT TOUR, PLEASE CONTACT BRYAN KING..... IMMEDIATELY!

TEL: 01992 622595 MOBILE: 07958 700 317

Be there or be a four sided polygon with RIGHT angles and equal sides

