



South Africa Cricket Tour 2017

Overview and Summary

The tour was a tremendous success on and off the field and the boys were without exception a real credit to their parents, themselves and the school both in a cricketing sense and in terms of their behaviour and manners. The boys played nine matches on tour, won eight and lost one. Caldicott had never beaten any of SACS, WPPS or Bishops before on tour and to beat all three of these schools was an outstanding achievement and testament to what a talented group of players they are.

There were some outstanding individual performances on the field and some of the more experienced cricketers really stood up and were counted but perhaps the most satisfying thing was the way that so many boys contributed in each game and different players took responsibility in different ways. The team spirit and comradery between the boys was brilliant throughout the tour and the 6th Form boys inspired the 5th Formers to raise their game and “step up”.

Away from the cricket the tour was packed full of memorable visits to a huge variety of places and experiences and the boys were able to see all that Cape Town and the surrounding areas had to offer. This included a trip to the top of Table Mountain, visiting Cape Point and the Cape of Good Hope, swimming with the African penguins at Boulders Beach, shopping in the craft markets at Hout Bay, experiencing an encounter with the Cheetahs in Somerset West, a boat trip to see where Nelson Mandela was imprisoned on Robben Island as well as travelling around in the Springboks official tour bus.

Match 1 vs WPPS (won by 6 wickets)

“Magical Dean seals historic first win at WPPS hours after landing in SA”

This was always going to be a huge test especially having landed in SA only hours before the start. WPPS batted first and posted a decent score of 168-8 off their 30 overs with their 1st XV Inside-Centre smashing a brutal 60 including several huge sixes on what was a very small ground. We always felt we had a good chance of chasing this and the dimensions of the pitch meant that it was going to be a difficult ground to defend a total. Our innings got off to the perfect start with Dean and Harris batting beautifully. Dean moved serenely to 50 before a mix-up meant he was run-out for a quite brilliant half-century. Harris's dismissal soon followed and the game was very much in the balance. Hope failed to fire for once and this left Ferreira and Gupte to complete the run chase. Ferreira (captain on the day) was calm and composed and displayed some brutal hitting to finish 48* off about 35 balls. Gupte supported him well showing his talent before falling just before the finish. A fantastic win and a brilliant way to start the tour.

Match 2 vs Bridge House (won by 10 wickets)

“Caldicott’s bowlers outclass Bridge House in soaring heat at the foot of the mountains”

Game two of the tour was in Franschoek against Bridge House on one of the most beautiful and picturesque grounds you will ever see. It was 35 degrees plus and the boys produced a dominant display in the most comfortable win of the tour. The bowling and wickets were shared around with a number of boys chipping in and getting one or two wickets each. Williams produced the outstanding moment of the match with an amazing one-handed catch at mid-on to finish the innings. Hope and Artis opened the batting and knocked the runs off with consummate ease both ending with 25* in a very comfortable but professional run chase.

Match 3 vs Somerset House (won by 62 runs)

“Captain Coomber delivers master class to brush Somerset House aside”

After a weekend of rest, relaxation and sight-seeing we moved out to Somerset West to play Somerset House. Another stunning ground but the challenge of an artificial wicket and an extremely talented girl amongst the opposition provided a fresh and different challenge. Caldicott batted first and George Coomber played one of the outstanding innings of the tour at the top of the order scoring 63 ably supported by the ever-reliable Dean (a second half-century) and some strong late order hitting. A score of 160 was always going to be “defendable” and despite the opposition getting off to a great start and putting us under some serious pressure at first, we won the game comfortably. The leg-spin trio of Saba, Symonds and Gupte bowled well in tandem and proved the difference.

Match 4 vs Western Province (Township) Development XI (won by 85 runs)

“Ferreira produces brutal hitting display to beat spirited township side”

One of the highlights of any tour to South Africa is playing against one of the “Township” teams who have nothing except talent, desire and love for the game and this was no different. We played against a team made up of the best players for townships around Cape Town and were inspired by their athleticism in the field, enthusiasm for the game and respect for us despite our lives being worlds apart. Our opposition bowled and fielded brilliantly and restricted Caldicott to 130 off our 20 overs, it would have been a lot less if it wasn’t for some explosive hitting from Ferreira and Hope batting 10 and 11 in the order. Our bowling proved to be too strong and their inexperience against spin was the difference. It was a real treat to see these boys perform the way they did and it made our boys realise how lucky they were. Pym managed to get a series of outstanding stumpings and Dean took one of the best catches you will ever see at extra cover.

Match 5 vs SACS (won by 9 runs)

“The ‘Iceman’ Hope delivers with bat and ball to produce historic win against ‘powerhouses’ SACS”

Perhaps the highlight of the tour was a thrilling and brilliant match against SACS. SACS are renowned as the “powerhouse” of Prep school cricket in the Western Cape and this was the game we all wanted to win. Batting first Caldicott posted a score of 130 which was about par of this level and the size of the ground. Hope batted brilliantly at the top of the order scoring an excellent 30 and some explosive hitting from Weldon and Ferreira provided Caldicott with late impetus. We would have to be at our

best in the field and with the ball to win this game and luckily we were. SACS were 60 for 0 and cruising to victory before Weldon turned the game on its head with a truly amazing triple wicket maiden in the 11th over of the game. With SACS needing to score at nearly 9 an over for the last 4 overs Hope and Harris bowled brilliantly under immense pressure to seal victory and spark wild celebrations. A truly brilliant game of cricket of the highest standard.

Match 6 vs Sun Valley Primary School (lost by 123 runs)

“Jacques emulates his namesake with world class innings to teach Caldicott boys a tough lesson”

Sometimes in sport you have to just put your hands up and accept you have been beaten by something truly special and this was one of those occasions. Caldicott witnessed one of the best innings you will ever see from Jacques Jooste scoring 135 off less than 100 balls. A combination of powerful hitting, excellent stroke play and cricketing nous was on show in the best innings at this level I have seen. It also taught our boys that “catches win matches” dropping him on 18 and 56. Sun Valley posted a huge score which was always going to be out of reach for our less experienced batting line-up on the day. A late flourish from Dean and Artis restored some pride and creditability to the score but a younger side was outclassed by one man and taught some stiff cricketing lessons in the baking heat.

Match 7 vs Bishops Prep (won by 6 wickets)

“Wonderful Weldon conjures up innings of his life to seal memorable win at Bishops”

The penultimate match of the tour was against our old nemesis Bishops which has historically produced close games but ones which the opposition have always won. This game was to be no different but the result was, thanks to a phenomenal partnership between Dean and Weldon. Having won the toss and bowled some erratic bowling and sloppy fielding allowed Bishops to get off to a strong start on a small pitch. Luckily the spinners again, Saba, Wilson and Symonds pulled it back with a late flurry of wickets from Gupte and Coomber. Chasing 160 looked like a big ask when our openers were kept in check early on and we lost wickets in clusters. Enter Weldon and Dean, Dean knurled the ball around and pierced the gaps whilst Weldon bludgeoned the ball to all parts in a scintillating knock of 59 off 35 balls to seal a comfortable victory in the end. His innings included 4 enormous maximums.

Match 8 vs Somerset College (won by 3 wickets)

“Spinners put South Africans in a web and cap off a truly memorable tour”

The final game of a long tour was always going to be a potential “banana skin” with the boys exhausted after all their efforts. Fortunately the boys managed to scrape themselves over the line but it wasn’t without a few scares along the way. The bowling performance was generally good Catherwood-Smith almost got us off to a dream start narrowly missing out on a hatrick with the first 3 balls of his opening spell. Too many extras and a number of extras meant Somerset College scraped to 109 all out. Our chase never really got off the ground with plenty of people chipping in until Ferreira came in and breezed to 28 before being calamitously run out. Fortunately when our innings was floundering the opposition gave us a huge number of extras and Williams calmly guided the team home alongside Coomber.

Match 9 vs Somerset College (won by 9 runs (10 over match))

“Caldicott cap historic tour with ‘smash and grab’ win in 10 over blast”

An early finish to the previous game allowed us time for a 10 Over “Blast” before we headed for Cape Town International Airport. Weldon got Caldicott off to a flyer smashing boundaries galore alongside Hope and Harris. Lots of boundaries but not enough singles meant Caldicott posted a competitive score off 85 from their 10 overs. In reply our hosts got off to a flyer and were looking like they were going to blaze their way to victory. However game changing overs from Symonds, Coomber and Weldon pinned them back and meant that Caldicott could claim their 8th victory of the tour and put the cherry on the top of a quite brilliant trip.

Patrick Foster
Joint Head of Cricket

Statistics

Name of Pupil	Innings	Runs	Highest Score	Overs	Wickets	Batting Average	Bowling Average	Strike Rate	Catches	Stumpings
J Artis	5	52	23*	10	1	26.00	57.00	60.00	-	-
F Catherwood-Smith	3	3	3	19	6	1.00	12.50	19.00	1	-
G Coomber	6	79	63	12.5	8	26.33	6.62	9.62	-	-
A Dean	6	182	52	-	-	45.50		80.53	3	2
M Ferreira	6	141	46*	6.5	2	47.00	14.50	131.8	2	-
A Gupte	5	44	23	15.4	6	8.80	9.17	57.89	-	-
N Harris	5	99	34	22.2	5	24.75	15.60	86.84	1	-
W Hope	6	116	36	24	4	29.00	23.75	82.86	1	-
T Martineau	3	7	4	15.5	4	2.33	18.50	36.85	-	-
A Pym	4	15	10	-	-	3.75		37.50	2	7
E Saba	3	23	15	25	3	7.67	34.67	50.00	-	-
J Symonds	3	13	6	25	5	4.33	21.60	41.94	-	-
G Weldon	5	109	59*	21	6	27.25	21.00	131.3	1	-
J Williams	4	28	13	14	3	9.33	26.67	38.89	1	-
W Wilson	3	30	13	18	4	10.00	20.50	47.67	-	-