

Barnards Green Cricket Club – Tour 2005 (an account of sum things n stuff).

A Bank Holiday weekend of cricket which saw First Class players such as Pakistan Paceman Zaheed Saheed and ex England test bowler Phil Newport both doing their up most to deny the green a chance of promotion, mixed in with an all day six a side which saw Paul Jones doing *his* up most to deny Tim Williams a sniff of the illustrious six a side trophy without mentioning Alfrick battling it out with village neighbours Holt & Grimley !!!.....It could be said most ends of the cricketing spectrum had been well and truly covered and Tour hadn't even started.....Much was to come!!

With 6 fresh faced tour virgins including Dave Creese on this years register everyone knew this had every chance of living up to the reputation our annual tour has earned it's self,

BUT many questions were being asked of these youngsters as Liam Paddock mounted the bus roof in true Tom Harvey Fashion...

Can Lewis Hooper really Fill Dave Tetleys Drinking boots???
Will PH get in to the over 25's night at the Rainbow club???????
Can Dave Creese really keep up with Max on an all dayer in Yates??????
Could Dave Knapper out spoof Engine ??????
Will John Lewis charm the locals just like his dad....CLARKIE ??????

A lot to ask we know but they did not disappoint!!!

On entering the English Riviera on a sunny Tuesday morning the 6pm start of the first game seemed like an ideal idea to some and a worrying idea to most as the bags were dumped and everyone made for the first watering hole to toast Mr Middleton on his 30th birthday.

A social "*few*" were enjoyed by many and the party made their way through the rush hour traffic to Kingskerswell CC. Purseys change of vehicle was not liked by some as the old post van was much more welcoming to the overspill from the bus.....Where's the mattress gone Rhino??

As always, cautious entry was made to the hosting club but with the barman boasting Strongbow and Stella at £1 per bottle the format of the game was decided!!
The Green batted first and didn't get enough and the home side won comfortably in the dark (maybe flynnny should have kept that Jack Daniels he boughtthen won in the raffle the day before to himself ????)Maybe not!)

Highlights included many first ball forfeits and Sammy Spencer's walk to the crease, which was enough to earn him the Man of the Match trophy.
The rest of the night was left to Ronald Macdonald and his chums!!!
Paignton was our destination for the Wednesday where a more standard sobering start time of 2:30pm was on the agenda although some of the more experienced tourists and smed visited the races.

The weather did not look as good as it did up north but nether the less a full game (minus lightning stops) was ~~enjoyed~~ played under the competent captaincy of 15 year old Lewis Hooper and this time the green came away on top of what turned into a close finish. Highlights of this game were Chris Hill forcing Lewis Hooper into a tour declaration as he was sending the not so happy scorer to sleep.

That night saw the green plummet the average age of the rainbow club down to at least 67.5 strangely enough my bowling average that day!! James Blunt Beautiful will never sound the same again!! Excellent.....

Highlight of the night goes to Sam Freeman Leaving the hotel for the night with 11p and returning with 16p only Sammy could pull that off, although I'm sure I saw him with a few excess pounds in his hands that night!!

A new venue was our destination for the final day, none of us had frequented the pub next door to the cider press before!!

While a competent side in the hands of Mark Hooper made their way to Barton, Devon league champions, the tour party was strengthened in town by another carload from Malvern including the 7th tour virgin!!! (Neil Bond you don't know how lucky you are!) And they were more than happy to spend some time and share some stories in the pub with the great George Best!! Although he took a dislike to Heaner he didn't have any trouble remembering the day he scored six at Northampton but it slipped his fuzzy memory who scored the other two even though he was there!! was he??....fuzzy does he??

The whole party was reunited in time to see the green slip towards another tour defeat as they struggled to reach the target set by Barton! Never mind!

After charming one barmaid to many this shortened tour proved to be too much for some of the veterans as birthday boy Robbie Middleton settled down to an early night, don't worry Rob not the last night you will have in the Bancourt!! And Dave Creese made his way home weaning his way into to tour life slowly!!

A busy Thursday night in Torquay was to end the 2005 BGCC tour and Valbons the venue although some of the youngsters settled for a night in front of the telly!!

This must go down on the long long list of successful tours, which was hopefully enjoyed by all. Planning for next year's eagerly awaited tour are already underway Rumours of two Clacks and at least two Scullions are in the air!

Any suggestions for locations etc or any help to organise would be greatly appreciated.

Many thanks to Timmy Wills for sharing the hassle of organising this last minute tour and to Robbie Longmore for yet again taking DES and chief treasurer duties superb!!

JEZ