

Shrewsbury School Cricket Tour to U.A.E & South Africa, December 2014

1stXI Played 12 won 11 Lost 1 Drew 0

U15XI Played 12 won 6 Lost 6 Drew 0

The School's cricketers recently returned to the UK from a highly successful tour of both the United Arab Emirates and South Africa. It was the second time they have visited the UAE and the fifth time the school have visited South Africa. It was the longest tour (6th to 23rd Dec) undertaken to date and included some 24 matches in total. All matches were played in perfect conditions and none lost to the weather. In all 29 boys travelled and comprised of a 1st XI and a U 15 team who had been practising at least twice a week in the Neville Cardus Indoor Cricket Centre since October to prepare for the tour.

The 1st XI won 11 of their 12 games during their two and half weeks away. The U15s, on the other hand were less experienced and much more of a developmental squad but still managed to win half of their 12 games, with 3 of those losses going down to the last over.

Day 0

All 33 tourists made it to the meet at the cricket centre on time and we left for Birmingham Airport. An uneventful journey and an easy check in, followed by a chilled time waiting for the plane meant that the staff at least were stress-free.

The plane was actually on time and took off at exactly 8.30. The personal TV screens were a source of amusement to all of the boys and the staff – Pridge enjoyed Jersey Boys, Mr Barnard watched The Railway Man, Adam Shantry flicked between numerous films and Moz attempted to listen to the entire back catalogue of the Beatles.

Day 1

Little sleep was had by any of the party and at 3.07am UK time, we landed in Dubai. An hour or so later we were leaving the airport and joining the traffic jam that is Dubai. It took about 30 minutes to negotiate the 3 miles to the Chelsea Towers Hotel, situated on the Sheikh Zayed road – a 12 lane motorway through the middle of the downtown area.

After breakfast in the hotel where Shants enjoyed Channa Dhal (chick-pea curry) with his chicken sausages, we were allocated our apartments. The rooms are pretty impressive with a lounge, dining area, three bedrooms, two and half bathrooms and fully fitted kitchen. The views over the city are spectacular too, with some of the boys on the 35th floor. After a shower and quick nap for most, we headed off for our first game, some half an hour south of the city at the Sevens Ground.

The Dubai Sevens had finished the previous day and 40,000 people had attended for the 3 previous days. The Rugby ground was surrounded by a city of marquees and temporary stands, but there is also three cricket grounds there, two with first class standard floodlights.

Our opponents were G-Force Academy, who fielded an Under 17 and 15 side against us and consisted of mainly Indian and Pakistani youngsters coached by ex-first class players.

Both games finished under floodlights – an amazing experience for most of the squad who had never played under lights before. The 1st XI were unlucky to lose the toss and were made to field in the heat of the day – a shock to the system to most of them who played house football only 20 hours before in temperatures some 25 degrees cooler. The home side started briskly and lost their first wicket in the 10th over with 50 on the board. Runs continued to flow and at 122/2 in the 25th over out of 35, a large score looked possible.

The introduction of Charlie Adams saw G Force slump to 142/6 in the 30th before a late flurry of wickets in the final overs after the re-introduction of George Panayi led to the Emiratis being shot out for 167. Adams with 4/26 and Panayi with 3/28 were the star bowlers.

On a perfect track with pace, bounce and little turn for G-Force's many spinners, the batsmen quickly acclimatised to the conditions and even the floodlights coming on around 5pm did little to distract the batsmen. Despite losing Adair for 1, Oli Westbury and Charlie Home settled in for long knocks. Oli batted for 74 balls for his 51, while Charlie batted for his best score so far for the 1st XI with a finely crafted 75* scored off 107 balls. Even when Oli perished, skipper George Lewis scored 27* off only 23 balls to bring about victory with 4 balls to spare.

The Under 15s decided to bat and found the going relatively tough against some tight bowling and keen fielding. Jamie Crawley was going well before holing out at deep-square off a long hop when he was well set in his 20s. It was left to George Garratt to steady the ship and he grafted in the heat for a fine 59* as the Under 15s made 169/6 in their 35 overs.

With Garratt unable to bowl, due to his earlier exertions, the Under 15s found the going hard and having captured 2 early wickets, a 3rd wicket stand of nearly 100 was the straw that broke the camel's back. Though the 15s pushed their G-Force counterparts hard, they eventually edged home with an over to spare having lost just 3 wickets.

After presentations and farewells, the tour party headed back to town and dinner before an early night was had by all.

Scores:

G Force Academy U17 (35.0 overs) 167-9 Shrewsbury School 1st XI (34.2 overs)

168-2 Won by 8 wickets

Shrewsbury School U15 (35.0 overs) 169-6 G Force Academy U15 (34 overs)

173-5 Lost by 5 wickets

Day 2

Breakfast was followed by an early departure and a 90 minute drive to Abu Dhabi, where we were playing the MCC Zayed Academy. The games were to be played at the Sheikh Zayed Nursery grounds, in the shadow of the Zayed Cricket stadium, where the MCC play the County Champions every March. On our last visit to Dubai, we played there but with Pakistan due to play T20 internationals here, this wasn't the case this time.

The pitches lacked a bit of pace and bounce compared with Day 1, but they were friendlier for the spinners and would provide a different challenge for the batsmen. The 1st XI were luckier with the toss and decided to bat with George Hargrave making his 1st XI debut. George and Harry Adair profited against some wayward bowling with the Zayed bowlers struggling with the pink ball. George and Harry put on 85 in 16 overs before Harry was stumped off the leg spinner. The introduction of spin put a brake on the Shrewsbury scoring and many of the middle order struggled to get the ball away in the manner of many other recent English teams touring East of Suez!

George top scored with 39 and Dan Durman was not out on 28, before Shrewsbury finished on 170/7 from their 35 overs. The visitors were never really in the chase and struggled against both the accuracy of the slower bowlers and the pace of Panayi and Cooke. Zayed eventually managed 124 all out.

The Under 15's too, won the toss and batted in perfect conditions. After losing David Schofield for 4, Jamie Crawley tucked in to some wayward bowling as he scored his first 50 for Shrewsbury. At the other end, Daniel Humes wasn't to be out done and also recorded his first Shrewsbury half-ton. After Jamie went for 78 chasing a wide one and Daniel run out taking a chancy second for 55, Jordan Zaza came in and smashed a rapid fire 32. The Under 15s eventually finished on 220/3.

The home side started nervously against George Garratt and Ludo Litchfield. After Ludo picked up one of the openers, the second wicket partnership steadied the ship. When Tom Brunskill picked up the 2nd wicket, the home side looked more self-assured and eased themselves towards the total. The left handed opener Figy played beautifully and the U15 and 1st XI coaches doubted whether the boys will play against too many batsmen as good in Under 15 cricket. He looked odds on for a century until Marcus Cope bowled him for 89. It was by then a formality but Shrewsbury pushed Zayed all the way and the winning runs were scored with 3 balls to spare.

After we said our goodbyes, we headed to the Grand Mosque in Abu Dhabi, where we were given a guided tour of what was truly spectacular building, especially when it was lit up in the early evening. Another spectacular building was then taken in – the Dubai Mall – for dinner. The Mall, the largest in the world makes the Darwin Centre in Shrewsbury look like a corner shop! The boys ate in the food court, allowing them their own choice from over 40 different choices. After dinner, we headed back to the hotel for another early night ready for the challenges of Day 3.

Scores:

Shrewsbury School 1st XI (35.0 overs) 170-7 MCC Zayed Academy (34.4 overs) 124 Won by 46 runs

Shrewsbury School U15 (35.0 overs) 220-3 MCC Zayed Academy (34.3 overs) 222-3 Lost by 7 wickets

Day 3

After 2 matches on the two previous days, Tuesday provided the opportunity for some R & R. After a leisurely breakfast, the tour party headed off to the beach. Despite it being the

middle of winter, the beach, situated between the Old Port and the Burj Al Arab hotel, was reasonably crowded.

After 3 hours of tanning, playing beach volleyball and admiring the scenery, we moved on to Dubai Creek where we enjoyed a traditional Middle Eastern lunch in a creekside restaurant.

After lunch, we took an *Abra*, a traditional wooden-built water taxi across the creek to the Souks, where groups of the boys were hawked by shop keepers offering them all manner of goods including 'genuine fake' Rolex watches!

The last part of the day was spent at a hotel in the Marina district, where the Old Salopian community entertained us for a reception. A small number of Old Boys joined us for a pool party, food and drink before we headed back to the Chelsea Towers and an early night.

Day 4

An early start was in order for most of the party as we headed up the Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building. Even though we could only get to the 124th storey and with over 80 floors above us, it was still a spectacular view. The boys then spent a couple of hours wandering around the Dubai Mall that seemed to have every retailer on the planet. Even Waitrose was there and was surreal, as most of the customers were locals and had been decked out in Christmas decorations with Bruce Springsteen's 'Santa Claus is Coming to Town' booming out over the tannoy.

Lunch in Carluccio's followed before we headed back to the hotel to get our kit and then took the coach to the ICC Academy. The ICC has their HQ in Dubai and the academy has world-class facilities, included floodlit pitches with surfaces that resemble conditions in different parts of the world. We played on the 'Australian' pitch that was fast and bouncy that the bowlers enjoyed at least.

The Under 15's were first up and after being put in, made 153/5 from their 20 overs. Solid batting from Jamie Crawley (21), Harry Gregson (19), George Garrett (23) and Jordan Zaza with 42 were the mainstays of the batting.

The Academy side were unable to cope with the extra pace of Garrett and only two of their batters were able to get in to double figures though both managed to compile a hundred run partnership. Once we had removed the dangerous Rehman and Garrett returned to the attack the home side innings petered out and they finished on 128/6.

The senior match was a rather one-sided affair and the Academy were not able to cope with the accuracy of the Shrewsbury attack and some outstanding fielding. The home side limped to 44 all out scored in 19.3 overs. Pat Jacob with 3-1 and Dan Lloyd with 2-4 were the best bowlers.

In reply, the Shrewsbury batsmen mostly batted cautiously and reached their target in 10.3 overs for the loss of 3 wickets. Oli Westbury with 27 led the way to victory. The ICC side then agreed to stay on in the field to allow us some batting practice and revised target of 125 in our 20 overs was set. Once again Oli Westbury and George Panayi both with 47 ensured that the target was met with 7 balls to spare.

After the matches, we headed back to the Chelsea Towers to pack ready for a 6am departure.

Scores:

**ICC Academy Under 17 (19.3 overs) 44 Shrewsbury School 1st XI (10.3 overs)
47-3 Won by 7 wickets**

**Shrewsbury School U15(20 overs) 153-5 ICC Academy U15 (20 overs) 128-6
Won by 25 runs**

Day 5

An early departure from the hotel enabled us to get to the airport with plenty of time to spare. The flight was long at just over 9 hours but allowed many of the boys to catch up with sleep and most of them arrived with plenty of energy.

After checking in and unpacking at the Vera School, we headed out to a local shopping centre to eat. Many of the boys took the advantage of cheap South African prices and a favourable exchange rate to enjoy a large steak.

Day 6

Our first full day in Capetown dawned with a familiar sight- rain! The backdrop of Table Mountain was shrouded in cloud and it was rather cool. Our first matches were at a local state school in Pinelands, a suburb of Capetown, but first we had breakfast at a Wimpy Bar. These still exist in South Africa, along with Woolworths.

Our matches with Pinelands were 35 over games as we required an early finish in order to go to the 20/20 final at Newlands. The 1st XI won the toss and put the home side in to bat, who progressed sedately after losing an early wicket. At 83/2 in the 26th over, they looked like posting a challenging total but thereafter capitulated to the spinner of Charlie Adams, Dan Lloyd and Pat Jacob.

After being set a target of 110, Charlie Home and George Hargrave posted 51 for the first wicket before the firsts lost a flurry of wickets. The 5th wicket pair of Harry Adair and Charlie Adams then posted 30 to see the 1sts through with 6 overs to spare.

The Under 15s were invited to bat and the opening partnership of Jamie Crawley and Marcus Cope went off like a train, Jamie was especially severe on any wayward bowling before he was out for 42 in the 9th over with the score on 66. Marcus Cope held up one end and rotated the strike well for his 41. Despite losing regular wickets, useful contributions were made by David Schofield (24) and George Garrett (31*) as the Under 15s posted a challenging 214.

Pinelands were never in the hunt against an accurate Shrewsbury attack and all of the nine bowlers used bowled tidy spells. The home side eventually finished 42 runs short with George Garrett (1-7) the pick of the bowlers after a hostile spell.

After the games, we headed to Newlands, where we were able to watch the South African 20/20 final between the Cape Cobras and the Northern Knights from the Member's enclosure. A number of South Africa's test stars were on view including Hashim Amla and Dale Steyn even if the result was a little one-sided in the favour of the Cape franchise.

After the match, the boys headed to Bishops College where they were collected by their host families for two nights.

Scores:

**Pinelands HS 1st XI (33.3 overs) 110 Shrewsbury School 1st XI (29.0 overs) 113-4
Won by 6 wickets**

**Shrewsbury School U15 (29.0 overs) 214-8 Pinelands HS U15 (35 overs) 173-5
Won by 41 runs**

Day 7

Day 7 dawned fair and a beautiful day was in prospect at Bishop's Diocesan College, one of South Africa's premier schools. The party was not disappointed by the facilities at Bishops – lovely pitches and a backdrop to die for.

An early start at 9.30 was a shock to the system for many but it would mean an earlier finish to head off to their host families. The first team won the toss and decided to bat in a declaration game spread over 130 overs but after just 5 balls lost Oli Westbury run out for 0 after a calamitous mix-up with opening partner George Hargrave. This quickly became 21/3 and then 45/6 as the top order all contrived to get themselves out in bizarre ways.

An 81 run partnership between Jamie Humes (57) and Dan Durman (31) rescued the innings when an early finish looked likely. Shrewsbury were eventually bowled out for 149 in the 60th over.

Bishops were never able to score quickly against an accurate Shrewsbury attack and lost wickets at regular intervals in the face of some very high quality bowling from George Panayi (4/17) and Dan Lloyd (4/24). Despite being 98/5, they crumbled to 112 all out from 51 overs.

The Under 15s lost the toss and were invited to field by Bishops, a decision they quickly regretted as they slumped to 0/2. A remarkable spell of 5/10 from 6 overs by George Garrett, where he conceded just 2 runs from bat and cleaned bowled 4 batsmen, ensured that Bishops were on the back foot. A hundred run 7th wicket partnership rescued the Bishops innings before they were eventually all out for 185.

Shrewsbury started briskly with Daniel Humes and Jamie Crawley before Daniel lost his head and holed out at point. Jamie quickly followed, adjudged LBW before a flurry of wickets in the 80s saw them slump to 88/6. A recovery between Garrett and Gregson, playing his first game of the tour saw the score progress to 129 before the former chipped one in to the leg side to be caught. Gregson and Moore added another 26 for the 8th wicket and when Gregson was out LBW for 31, the ended quickly came and Shrewsbury were shot out for 163, leaving the hosts winners by 22 runs.

Two close games of cricket that ebbed and flowed were enjoyed by all playing and spectating and after speeches and presentations, the boys went back to their hosts and a traditional *Braai*. The staff on the other handed headed off to an Old Salopian gathering in the suburbs of Capetown

Scores:

Shrewsbury School 1st XI (60.2 overs) 149 Bishops (51 overs) 112 Won by 37 runs

Bishops U15 (41.1 overs) 185 Shrewsbury School U15 (42.2 overs) 163 Lost by 18 runs

Day 8

With the 1st XI not starting until 3pm in a day/night game, the Under 15s had an early morning start at nearby Bergvliet HS. The 1st XI meanwhile, hit the beach at Fishoek Bay, where they chilled in a very cold sea after the previous day's victory at Bishops.

Having been given a list of goals to aim for in their innings, George Garrett called correctly at the toss for the Under 15s and elected to bat. After Daniel Humes was run out for 14 with score on 19, George Garrett and Jamie Crawley set about the Bergvliet attack putting on 59 in just over 10 overs. Garrett went trying to work the ball on the leg side for 17 after which Crawley accelerated to scoring before he was out for 70 in the 20th over. Useful contributions from Jordan Zaza (38) and David Schofield (29) boosted the final score to 213 from 35 overs.

In reply, Bergvliet lost wickets at regular intervals and Shrewsbury managed to bowl out the home side in the 33rd over. This was a good effort given that George Garrett was having a rest day after his exertions the previous day. The wickets were shared amongst 7 bowlers with Daniel Humes, Toby Pegge and Ludo Litchfield all picking up 2 wickets.

After an early finish, the Under 15s also headed to Fishoek Bay for some R & R, while the 1st XI took on the Bergvliet 1st XI. Despite being a state school, Bergvliet are very fortunate to have floodlights on their main ground giving the 1st XI another opportunity to play a day/night game.

Bergvliet opted to bat after winning the toss in a 45 over game played with a white ball and coloured kits. Shrewsbury made a couple of early in-roads in to the Bergvliet batting order when Durman and a Lewis run out reduced them for 39/2 in the 10th over. Despite the loss of the two wickets, the Bergvliet were severe on any wayward bowling and 65/3 in the 14th over seemed well poised to post a challenging total.

A degree of control was exercised by Charlie Home (1/10), Harry Gregson (2/20) and George Lewis (3/13) as the Bergvliet lower middle order found it hard to score in the face of some accurate bowling. The last 5 wickets went for 24 and they were all out for 104 with 10 overs remaining.

Shrewsbury found batting easier than their opponents and reached their total with 17 overs remaining with Dan Durman (12) the only casualty. Oli Westbury made amends for his previous day's duck and he led the way with 53* while Harry Adair ably supported him. An early finish ensured an early night for most and the prospect of a rest day was something they all looked forward to.

Scores:

Bergvliet HS (34.2 overs) 104 Shrewsbury School 1st XI (28.1 overs) 105-1 Won by 9 wickets

Shrewsbury School U15 (35 overs) 213-6 Bergvliet HS U15 (32.4 overs) 140 Won by 73 runs

Day 9

The day dawned bright without a cloud in the sky, but with a keen south-easterly wind. Weather reports indicated gale-force winds meaning the cable car to the top of Table Mountain would not be running. Plan B was quickly hatched – an hour in Greenmarket Square, where the boys could use their bartering skills learnt last week in the Souks of Dubai. They steered clear of the traditional crafts and African clothing going instead for ‘genuine’ football or rugby shirts. Our next stop was at the crazy golf close to the Greenpoint Stadium.

We then moved on the trendy suburb of Camps Bay where we had lunch. The full force of the gale prevented us sitting on that beach so we walked over the adjacent headland for more shelter at Clifton. Although the temperature was warm, the wind tempered the heat of the sun though the sea was very rough and for the brave (or foolhardy) individuals who braved it was very, very cold.

After 3 hours, we headed back to the Vera School to remove sand from every nook and cranny, supper and to prepare for tomorrow’s tough fixture at Wynberg HS.

Day 10

Once again, the sun shone bright but the gale force South Easter was still blowing and we were off to nearby Wynberg Boys High School for two 50-over games. Wynberg are one of Capetown’s premier state schools and boast Jacques Kallis amongst their recent Old Boys. In fact the 1st XI ground is named in his honour. Allan Lamb was also a former pupil.

In the 1st XI match, Wynberg won the toss and decided to bat and were soon in trouble at 11/3 with Panayi and Cooke doing the damage. Wickets fell at regular intervals during the innings and Wynberg were all out for 92 in the 29th over after being 89/6 at drinks at the half-way point of the game. The wickets were shared around between George Panayi (3/11), Charlie Cooke (2/13), Charlie Adams (2/9), Dan Lloyd (1/13) and Charlie Home (1/11).

The 1st XI made short work of the total reaching the target the 93 runs needed in the 25th over. Captain George Lewis led the way with 31 from 59 balls, Oliver Westbury (21) and George Panayi (20) also made valuable contributions.

The Under 15s were always likely to be up against it with Wynberg’s Under 14 year group - their strongest in living memory. The home side won the toss and batted first and when George Sandy bowled their opener in his first over, there were signs of optimism. However their no.3 batsman Ibrahim Samaai, is a name to look out for as he stroked his way to a glorious hundred. With his opening partner, Palicker (who also scored a fine 146), he put on 219 in 32 overs. All those watching felt that they were watching a special batsman in action and it was a real shock when he was bowled by Toby Pegge. Shrewsbury were handicapped further by George Garrett sustaining a side strain that prevented him again on the tour after bowling 4 overs. The Under 15s came back well and took 8 wickets in all, 7 of them clean bowled, but were facing a daunting total of 354.

Any hope of overhauling the massive total needed one of the top batsmen to get a very big score. Their chances were dashed when Stapleton, Crawley and Zaza all went in quick succession with score still in the 20’s. When Humes departed and then Garrett retired hurt, an early finish and a heavy defeat looked in the offing. David Schofield then played his best innings of the tour so far, striking 59 valuable runs and nursing the lower middle order to enable the Under 15s to post a respectable total of 172 in reply.

The Wynberg parents entertained us royally, with the Shrewsbury parents and staff supplied with traditional South African foods including a magnificent Springbok stew and a very tasty Kudu curry, while at tea, cream cakes appeared that both coaches and boys appreciated.

In the evening, we headed off to the Victoria & Alfred Waterfront, an area of regenerated docks – Mr Morris was in his element. The boys then headed off to eat with most enjoying steaks at one of the many chains that exist in South Africa. The evening ended with the touring party enjoying street entertainers that abound in the V & A.

Scores:

Wynberg HS (28.4 overs) 92 Shrewsbury School 1st XI (24.5 overs) 94-3 Won by 7 wickets

Wynberg HS U15 (50 overs) 354-8 Shrewsbury School U15 (35.2overs) 172 Lost by 182 runs

Day 11

With no match scheduled for today, the tourists were able to ride the cable car to the top of Table Mountain. The strong winds over the last few days had dropped and the cable car was now running.

After an hours queueing, we finally were able to ride the car to the top of the mountain. The boys were not disappointed by the views from the top that was crystal clear without a cloud in the sky. The cable car itself was pretty spectacular as the floor revolves 360° during the 3 minute journey.

After the trip, we headed back to the V & A Waterfront for the boys to buy some Christmas bargains before going back to the Vera School for dinner and packing for the last leg of the tour. Three of the boys were lucky to bump into former South African test cricketer Herschelle Gibbs at the V & A. He was pleased to hear that we had beaten Wynberg yesterday but sad to hear we had beaten his old school, Bishops.

Day 12

As we prepared to leave Capetown for Hermanus, we returned to Bergvliet High School in the southern suburbs of Capetown to play the All Rounder Academy. The Academy teams were made up of boys from government schools from all over the Western Cape and many had been trialling in the provincial trials over the previous days.

The Under 15s lost the toss in a 30-over game and were made to field on another warm and sunny day. Without George Garrett available to bowl, the hosts made hay while the sun shone and quickly posted their first hundred in the 15th over. Wickets were at a premium and only Tom Brunskill with 2/32 gained any degree of success. The Academy side posted an impressive 222/6 from their 30 overs.

After lunch, Shrewsbury started slowly and lost Daniel Humes to a run out in the 7th over with 30 on the board. This bought Jordan Zaza to the crease and he and Jamie Crawley set about rebuilding the innings. Both batsmen were severe on anything short or over pitched and despite a run rate approaching 8 an over were able to score freely. Both batsmen reached their 50's and an improbable victory looked a possibility.

The return of the main bowlers in the last 6 overs slowed down the scoring rate but Jamie brought up his, and the first Salopian hundred of the tour off just 94 balls. The last over arrived with 16 needed, two singles were scored off the first two balls before Jamie launched the third ball over long-on for 6 and pushed the next ball for two. With two balls left, four runs were needed and tension was building. The unfortunate bowler then delivered another leg stump half-volley that once again disappeared over the long on boundary in the general direction of Capetown and victory was achieved by a margin of 9 wickets and one ball to spare.

The remarkable chase was a massive morale booster for the team who had been put to the sword at Wynberg on Tuesday. Jamie scored 119* off 102 balls with 16 fours and 4 sixes, while Jordan's 77* came off 66 balls with 11 fours.

The first XI on the other hand batted well below par and only Oli Westbury with 41 provided any real resistance to the Academy bowlers. They were eventually all out for 133 in the last of their 35 overs. The home side set about the total with relish and aided by some tired fielding, reached their target inside 30 overs. Charlie Home had the best figures with 3/37 from 6.3 overs but George Panayi's 1/9 from 7 overs put a brake on the All Rounder's scoring when he was bowling.

After speeches and presentations, we boarded the coach and headed across the Cape Flats past the squatter settlements of Langa and Khayelitsha and on to Hermanus, through the spectacular Sir Lowry's Pass with its staggering views of False Bay and the Cape of Good Hope. Our hotel in Hermanus was right on the ocean and once again with superlative views! An Italian meal in a nearby restaurant was enjoyed by all before an early night.

Scores:

Shrewsbury School 1st XI (34.5 overs) 133 All Rounder Academy (29.3 overs) 135-7 Lost by 3 wickets

All Rounder Academy U15 (30 overs) 222-6 Shrewsbury School U15 (29.5 overs) 225-1 Won by 9 wickets

Day 13

With both teams playing at 10.00 am this morning, an early start was in order. Breakfast was certainly a picturesque affair with a view of the wild Southern Ocean crashing against the cliffs below the hotel.

The 1st XI won the toss and decided to bat at Hermanus Cricket Club against a local school, Fairmont on a worn surface. The early batsmen once again failed to make much of a mark with only Harry Adair (16) and Jamie Humes (12) making it to double figures. When Oli Westbury departed stumped for just 7 with the score on 67/5 in the 10th, Shrewsbury were staring down the barrel.

A high class innings of 59 from George Panayi with 4 fours and 4 sixes held the innings together and with the support of the lower middle and tail managed to make 146/8 from their 20 overs.

Fairmont started confidently with a 6 from the first ball, making 24 before they lost their first wicket in the 4th over. The introduction of Charlie Home into the attack was a pivotal point in proceedings as they progressed from 34/1 to 45/5 in 3 overs. As Shrewsbury's part

time bowlers kept it tight in the middle overs, the result was never in doubt. Fairmont were eventually all out for 110 in the 20th over.

The Under 15s were playing at the adjacent Hermanus High School against last Friday's opponents, Pinelands High School. Winning the toss and batting, Shrewsbury lost Humes on 19 in the second over bringing together the previous day's heroes, Crawley and Zaza. Unfortunately neither could repeat yesterday's heroics and Crawley departed for 29, quickly followed by Zaza for 18. Brunskill battled for his 31 and was supported by Schofield (13) and Garrett (10*) as Shrewsbury finished on 143/6 from their 20 overs.

Pinelands were never in the hunt especially as Brunskill's first two overs were maidens. Cope came in to the attack and promptly had the Pinelands star player stumped smartly by Humes and then Stapleton trapped the opposition captain leg before wicket.

Pinelands never really threatened and eventually finished 53 runs short on 89/6. Brunskill with remarkable figures in 20/20 of 4-2-5-2 was the pick of the bowlers and Cope 2/22 supporting him well.

An early finish meant an afternoon at leisure. Some went to the beach, some wandered around town and others rested, watching the test match on TV.

Scores:

**Shrewsbury School 1st XI (20.0 overs) 146-8 Fairmont U18 (19.4 overs) 110
Won by 36 runs**

**Shrewsbury School U15 (20.0 overs) 143-6 Pinelands HS U15 (20 overs) 89-6
Won by 54 runs**

Day 14

The 1st XI were in action today at midday against Hermanus High School on their home pitch. Having won the toss, the home side batted and were bowled out for just 101 runs inside 19 overs. Dan Lloyd (2/3), Charlie Adams (2/24) and Charlie Cooke (2/19) led the way with the bowling. The firsts were in a bit of trouble at 19/3 but a 4th wicket partnership of 70 led by Tom Breese with 44* meant that the 1sts easily passed their target with 3 overs remaining.

The Under 15s played at 3pm on the Rugby ground against Western Province CC and had the misfortune of facing Ibrahim Samaai once again (see Day 9). Batting first after winning the toss, the Under 15s made 152/5 with Jamie Crawley top scoring with 52 and adding 92 for the first wicket with Daniel Humes (34). Tom Brunskill chipped in with useful 29* at the death as George Garrett was adjudged leg before wicket, qualifying as a member of the Primary Club for the first time in his cricketing career.

Western Province lost their first wicket after a smart piece of glove-work by Humes on 2. This brought Samaai to the crease, who proceeded to stroke all the Shrewsbury bowlers to all parts of the ground and in conjunction with his left handed partner Kyle (59*) added 140 runs at a rate of 10 an over. By the time, Samaai was out for 79 in the 15th over victory had almost been achieved. The end came with 4 overs to spare.

Scores:

Hermanus High School 1st XI (18.3 overs) 101 Shrewsbury School 1st XI (16.2 overs) 102-4 Won by 6 wickets

Shrewsbury School U15 (16.2 overs) 152-5 Western Province CC U15 (20.0 overs) 156-2 Lost by 8 wickets

Day 15

With the last day arriving and two 20/20 games each for both sides, there was to be no easy wind down to the tour.

The first opponents for the 1st XI was the Western Province CC Under 18s. George Lewis called correctly and chose to bat on a worn surface at Hermanus CC. They lost Rashid early for 2 when the score was 17 in the 4th over, but George Hargrave (17) and Oliver Westbury (61) then compiled a watchful 78 run partnership before both were out in quick succession in the 16th over.

Adair (27*) then joined Lewis (16) who added 48 runs in just 25 balls to take the score to 144/3, a challenging score for any side on that surface.

Western Province were never at the races and struggled against the accurate Shrewsbury attack. They managed just 84/8 in their 20 overs with George Panayi (2/3), Charlie Home and Charlie Adams each picking up 2 wickets.

In the afternoon, they faced Harrow School, who were also here on tour and an opponent we had not played since 2008. Harrow batted first losing their two wickets off the last two balls of the first over, both caught and bowled by George Panayi (2/15). The Harrow batsmen struggled against an accurate Shrewsbury attack and eventually reached 120/6 from their 20 overs.

Shrewsbury's batters found it equally hard going on a pitch where the spinners reigned supreme. Useful contributions from Westbury (29), Adair (25), Home (30), Durman (10) and extras who contributed 30 to the score enabled the Shrewsbury batsmen to reach their target with 8 balls to spare for the loss of 6 wickets.

Scores:

Shrewsbury School 1st XI (20.0 overs) 144-3 Western Province CC (20.0 overs) 84-8 Won by 60 runs

Harrow School 1st XI (20.0 overs) 120-6 Shrewsbury School 1st XI (18.4 overs) 122-6 Won by 4 wickets

The Under 15s played on an adjacent pitch at the Rugby club against Blue Bells CC, a club side from the Capetown suburbs. Winning the toss, George Garrett chose to bat and Jamie Crawley (25) and David Schofield (20) added 48 runs in fairly quick time for the opening partnership. When both departed in the 9th over, the scoring rate slowed and the Shrewsbury batsmen struggled on a pitch with much variable bounce. Losing wickets at regular intervals, they eventually pushed the ball into the gaps and made 103 for the loss of 8 wickets.

Blue Bells too, found runs at a premium when they batted and quickly fell below the run rate. From an encouraging position of 35/2 in the 10th over, they slumped to 53 all out

inside 16 overs as their middle order batters attempted to play big shots on a wicket suited to nudging and nurdling. Schofield (3/4), Cope (3/5) and Crawley (2/14) were the best of the bowlers.

After a picnic lunch, the opponents were Coronation CC, another club side from the Franschhoek area of the Western Cape. The South Africans won the toss and elected to bat and lost two quick wickets before their middle order restored some respectability with a 60 run partnership scored in good time against some wayward bowling. From 68/2, Coronation slumped to 106 all out as their batsmen all tried to attempt big shots on a wicket that was now increasingly worn. Superb bowling from Ed Stapleton (3-14) and Marcus Cope and Tom Brunskill with 2 wickets each enabled Shrewsbury to chase a target that was achievable on this surface.

To achieve the target of 107, it would require one of the Shrewsbury batsmen to make a significant score, Tiredness began to set in and Crawley, Garrett, Brunskill and Zaza all struggled to make a score. However, the lower middle order added useful runs aided by some wayward bowling as the Coronation bowlers struggled with their line in a strong South Westerly gale. With 13 balls to go, 14 were still needed but 5 wickets in hand, but reckless stroke play aided by some kamikaze running between the wickets saw Shrewsbury fall 5 runs short as they lost their last 5 wickets inside 11 balls.

After the matches, we returned to the Windsor Hotel to freshen up for the end of tour dinner at the Cattle Baron restaurant.

Scores:

**Shrewsbury School U15 (20.0 overs) 103-8 Blue Bells CC U15 (16.3 overs) 53
Won by 50 runs**

**Coronation CC U15 (20.0 overs) 106 Shrewsbury School U15 (19.5 overs) 101
Lost by 5 runs**

Stand-out performers for Shrewsbury's 1st XI side included George Panayi, who has just been called up for England's Under 17 side to play against Pakistan in the UAE in February. George was outstanding in the bowling department, picking up 18 wickets at less than 7 runs apiece along with only conceding just over 2 runs per over. Shrewsbury's spinners dominated as well with Charlie Home and Dan Lloyd taking 14 and 15 wickets respectively. On the batting front, Oliver Westbury led the way with nearly 300 runs, while Charlie Home and Harry Adair made useful runs. Shrewsbury's first choice wicket-keeper Jamie Humes also had an outstanding tour behind the stumps

In the Under 15 side, the outstanding performer was Jamie Crawley, who scored nearly 500 runs. He was supported by Jordan Zaza, George Garrett, Daniel Humes and David Schofield, who all made useful half centuries. On the bowling front, pace bowler George Garrett recorded the best figures with 5/10 v Bishops but a side strain prevented him bowling in the second half of the tour. Marcus Cope took 12 wickets with his medium pacers being particularly effective at the end of innings, while Tom Brunskill's left arm spin was indispensable in 20/20 matches. Daniel Humes performed well behind the stumps on the occasions he kept, but was also outstanding in the field when he didn't have the gloves, winning the fielding award as well.

After playing high quality cricket in testing conditions Shrewsbury's cricketers should approach the 2015 season with some confidence as they look to emulate the achievements of 2013 season, when the school were national champions at three different age groups.