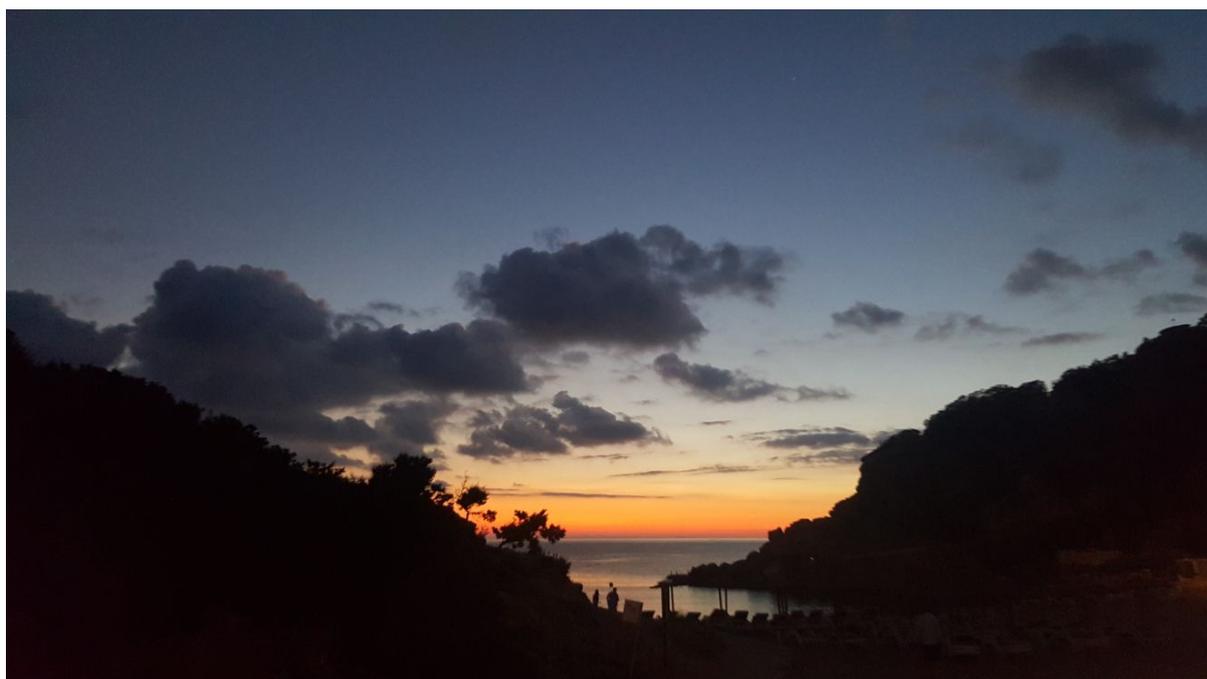


LNZCC vs Ibiza CC September 29th and 30th 2017.

Tour Party:

Adam Khanbai, Charlotte and the other villa; Justin Fredrickson; Chris Hamilton; Vance Thompson; Devon Nightingale; Josh Denize; Craig Robinson; Peter Bellamy (Game 1) Vaughan Robertson; Nic Kyle; Sam Martin; Reuben Cook; Catriona Sheehan; Gerard Walsh



Tour Report:

Travel Day:

Members of the LNZCC 2017 Touring Party began to gather at airports all across the EU from the very earliest hours of Thursday Sept 28th. Some had had sleepless nights already – tossing and turning as the psychology of a 3am taxi pick-up on the way to Gatwick weighed on them. Others were at Stansted, Dublin, Robin Hood Airport and even Germany. Others had already spent a few days in Ibiza, acclimatising. And by midnight Thursday, the whole squad was intact, in place and settled into the south-west of the island for team-building around the table tennis table. First item was a BBQ and team bonding session. There was much much bonding. Important bonding. And table tennis. That keeps people entertained for HOURS and HOURS.

A good moment to say thanks to a couple of people:

Sincere thanks to **George Burdon and the team at Dynamic Lives** for looking after us for accommodation, enabling the tour to one of the loveliest parts of the Med to be accessible to everyone in the club. We really appreciate your support and help on the island too.

Thanks too to the team and team management (Reuben Cook and Catriona Sheehan) who ensured a smooth running trip at all times. Specific thanks to Kitty Master Chris Hamilton who accounted for all disbursements and left no bills unpaid. And also In-House Chef Vaughan Robertson who fired up breakfasts and dinners. And to the Khanbai Kontingent, especially France's most knowledgeable cricket supporter, Charlotte.

Thanks too to the Ibiza CC. It's ALWAYS a pleasure, this time a very competitive pleasure. Particular thanks to skipper Sam Gooda and Steve Hadlow, who arranged a bed for Nic Kyle at late notice on Sunday. It may have wrecked him but at least he had a place to lay his head. Thanks to Robin Parmenter for umpiring in both matches, and to Lyn for arranging lunches, drinks and ensuring the smooth running of the fixtures.

And so...to the tour itself.

Game One

Friday at 12.30 saw us all at the San Augustin football pitch, ready as it was with white tape marking the wicket block and bar set for a busy hot day of cricket. At this point in the rubber, ICC had won 6 games and LNZCC 5 with only one game being played on the 2016 tour

LNZCC lined up with the one remaining Every Tour Veteran ("ETV") having played in every fixture between the two clubs; Chris Hamilton on 4 tours; several on 2 and 3 tours including the tour managers Cook and Sheehan, and first time rubber cricket pitch contestants Devon Nightingale, Adam Khanbai, Craig Robinson, Nic Kyle and Josh Denize.

Ibiza CC was a similar side to those we've met before – captained by Sam Gooda with old friends Paul Partridge, Paddy Slater, Paul Crutwell and Martin Makepeace, and new mates-to-be Steve Hadlow, Shaid, John Dudding, Dight Everton, and Max and Motty Mottram.

The pitch was looking spectacular. Verdant green, clipped to a regular length, about 100 metres long and about 60 metres wide. With football posts at both ends and markings to match. (It's a G3 synthetic pitch. Short at square and point. Long over the bowler's heads.)



As is island tradition, ICC won the toss by agreeing we'd bowl first today and bat first tomorrow in a T30 match. With two keepers, Justin Fredrickson took the gloves for this one. After a short chat to point out how far out of reach the batting trophy was but, how attainable the bowling trophy was for at least 3 of the bowlers on the trip, Vance Thompson opened the bowling to Sam Gooda and Shaid with Vaughan coming off the other end. Vance bowled 4 of his 6 before handing over to Sam Martin who took Sam Gooda's wicket in his first over when Adam Khanbai snared a beauty in the gully to see ICC 23-1 in the 9th

over. Vaughan finished his very tidy spell unluckily rewardless (20-0 off 6) and ETV (should I be writing this in the third person?) took over at the other end. Two wickets in one over from GW the ETV (Shaid bowled, Steve Hadlow caught at slip by Devon) saw ICC at 39-3 in the 16th. Nic Kyle's leggies were called in and GW's 3rd over was another wicket gainer when Craig R pounced on a short shot and flicked the ball to the bowler to whip off the bails. Paul Partridge gone for a couple. Only 2 runs later, G had a 3rd wicket (8-3 in his 4th over) bowling Paddy Slater. That bought John Dudding and Paul Crutwell together for an important 18 run partnership before Paul was out in what can only be described as comical circumstances.

Cruts flat-batted a shot over the bowler's head towards Josh 'ChattyMan' Denize who scuttled backwards, getting something to the ball but spilling it. In the ensuing loud scramble (Josh giving himself a right talking-to while trying to retrieve the ball), Dudds and Cruts ran two perfectly good runs before Dudds screamed run and Cruts stayed still. Gerard threw the ball to Justin behind the stumps and executed an effective if inelegant run out. In strode Dight Everton who had to stride straight back out again, bowled first ball. ICC 69-7 in the 22nd over. That bought Derby's Tallest Man Martin Makepeace to the crease. Nic finished his overs, as did G, sadly leaking 11 runs in his last (bowling far too short; standing at the top of the run up thinking 'don't bowl short' and sure enough. Short. Easy. Bang. Four twice.) to finish on 25-4 from 6. Vance came back on, taking John Dudding's wicket (top score 27 in an important partnership of 32) in his 5th. Sam was bemused to see a thrown 5 (come on down the big thespian) in his last over when a return throw evaded the keeper (would have needed to be a giraffe to catch it) and the roving Peter Bellamy (roving somewhere else on the field). Readers familiar with Sam's on-field 'I'm over the white line now' demeanour will be pleased to know he can still do a fine teapot with vocal accompaniment. Sam then took the wicket of ICC's Max before Vance finished the innings with a wicket from the first ball of the 29th over. ICC had put on 99 and LNZCC needed exactly 100 to win.

Beers and sandwiches for lunch. More beers. Jugs of Estrella for only 5 EUR.

Vaughan and Devon opened the batting for LNZ in the face of accurate bowling from Paul Crutwell and Dight Everton. Vaughan was out when the score was 22 for a five ball score of 12. Devon had seen much of the strike. What Vaughan saw he hit. Until Dight bowled him. Chris Hamilton then joined Devon for the best partnership of the day – 40 off 44 balls of which Devon put on 30. Paul C finished his spell for only 23 runs off 6. John Dudding and Steve Hadlow bowled tidily, with Steve picking up Devon's (43) wicket LBW which is how he got Adam Khanbai out for 10 a few overs late when the score was 78 in the 15th over. Craig Robinson and Chris then saw LNZ home with a partnership of 25. LNZ finished on 103-3 on the 21st, winning by 7 wickets.

The secret was tight bowling supported by good fielding, effecting two run outs and two catches. It was probably our best bowling performance on the island to date. Team management (Reuben and Catriona) was boosted by Adam Khanbai's delightful French girlfriend Charlotte, who joined the team in sitting through an entire game of cricket. Charlotte is also suspiciously knowledgeable about cricket for someone who grew up in France. ("Was that a dot ball?" "Did they just bowl a maiden?") The Friday game was notable for being the first time Reuben has ever watched an entire game of cricket.

Time would tell how Game Two would go – after all, we had a booking at Pacha. And the Tour Dinner at Cala Carbo (Thanks Paul Partridge.) See the gratuitous paella pic a little lower down.

Game Two:

7.30am is really quite late to get to bed for people playing cricket at 12.30pm. And we were a player down after Peter Bellamy had gone directly from Pacha to his bag to the airport to the land of nod to one of his children's birthdays. That's almost battle honours stuff Choc. Well done.

So no 12th man and nowhere to hide. As is tradition, we had to bat. As is also tradition, ICC had a slightly different team out to the Friday side. (Note to self – players could come in on Friday night on the London flights!! Why don't we do that next year? Imagine a team bolstered with arms and legs on the overnight flights?) Luckily we had two players feeling fresh as daisies because they hadn't gone out the night before. Two of the younger guys. Sensible fellows aren't they? Good cricketers too which is also helpful.

Devon and Vaughan (the two young sensible ones) opened the batting again facing the same opening bowlers as the day before. They got off to a flyer, putting on 35 runs in only 5 overs before Vaughan was out for 19, bowled Paul Crutwell. In walked Josh Denize, who got a juicy full toss from Cruts first up and pulled it straight to square leg for golden duck off the last ball of the over. Next in was Justin Fredrickson, who combined with Devon for the second good partnership of the day (31 runs – Dev 25, JF 6) before Dev was out bowled by Paul Crutwell. This was Dev's second score in the 40s in two games. Apparently, it was his 15th or 16th score in the 40's this season.

At this point, LNZZC were 66-3 in the 11th over. 19 overs to go and iPad predicting a score about 165. Nic 'The Big Thespian' Kyle joined JF in the middle for what was the beginning of an extremely tight challenging spell of bowling from Ibiza CC. JF was out with the score at 70, caught behind off Steve Hadlow. That bought previously-unseen Paddy Mills into the ICC attack. I think the adjective we're looking for is 'game-changing.' Vance Thompson was the first victim of a 'Mills Scooter' – a ball that pitches mid-wicket then flies at the stumps about an inch off the ground. 73-5 in the 15th. Adam Khanbai and Nic put on 6 further runs before another Mills Scooter castled Adam's sticks. 3 runs later, Sam Martin pulled a lovely flat shot behind square which was a certain 4. If Mills hadn't moved there a moment earlier. Unable to stay out of the game, he took a good low catch. Sam gone for 2; LNZZ 82-7. Gerard



(Ed's note: there we go – writing in the 3rd person again) joined Nic for what was to be an unwitting Personal Best for the Chairman. With the score, still on 82 and with Hadlow bowling straight and accurate. Nic was out at the other end. Bowled Mills (scooter). Paddy now had 3 wickets for 9 runs. The Chairman and Chris Hamilton came together but were unable to get any loose balls away, hitting them straight to fielders. ICC's field is designed to cut down singles and it works very effectively. In the 21st over, Chris was out for an 8-ball duck. Bowled Mills (scooter) The score was now 82 for 9 and there were still 9 overs for Craig Robinson and Gerard to at least put some runs on the board. Craig then scored a single, the first run off Mills in ages. The first run in about 4.5 overs. That meant Gerard was facing Mills. The innings closed at that point. Walsh bowled Mills (scooter) for a 16-ball duck and that's Gerard's PB. The most balls faced in a single innings without scoring. Ever. *(Ed's note: 16-ball duck; what a loser.)*

Paddy Mills astonishing bowling performance saw LNZ lose 5 wickets for 1 run, with Paddy being involved in all of the last 6 to fall. Game-changing stuff.

More sandwiches. More beer. Tactical discussions. Plans hatching. It was going to be up to the bowlers again which is no reflection on the batsmen.

Vaughan opened at the eastern end with pace and Nic at the other with his leggies. Nic got an edge through to Adam K with the second ball of his first over so ICC were 4-1. That bought Paddy Slater to the crease to join ICC's big-hitting captain Sam Gooda. Nic and Vaughan kept going rewardless – Nic finishing with 1-18 off 5 good overs and Vaughan unlucky not to get any reward in either game, finishing this one with 0-11 off 6 very good overs. Sam and Vance took over, in what was to be one of the better left-right bowling combinations of recent years. Sam's first over went for 1 run. Vance's first over saw a 6, a single, a wicket (Paddy out caught at point by JF; ending a very good partnership of 33 which had seen ICC through to 37-2 in the 13th) That bought John Dudding to the crease, he faced two dot balls then blazed a 4 off Vance's last ball meaning eleven runs had sneaked away but one very important wicket had been taken. Sam's next over was a maiden. Vance's 2nd over was a thing of beauty. – John Dudding was out first ball; then a dot; then Mills was out LBW for 0, then a single off the rest of the over. Vance now had 3-12 and ICC were 42-4. But Sam Gooda was still at the crease so the balance of overs and runs to get and a big hitting batsman sat with ICC. Sam bowled another maiden. Sam smashed the 3rd ball of Vance's 3rd over for a big four through cow. At that point, Vance (after almost 35 years of cricket) had the most unusual field he's ever set. Vaughan at right-cow-corner with Gerard at straight-cow corner, about 10 metres apart, both set to cut off runs or take a catch if Sam clocked one but without quite enough timber on it. Vance's next ball was a dot then Sam smashed one to cow. Right-cow-corner Robertson swooped in and took the catch. Vance now had 4-16, Sam G was gone and it was 46-5. Sam's next over was a wicket maiden as he bowled Jez Parmenter. 46-6. Steve Hadlow smacked a 4 off Vance then skied the next one and Craig swooped in behind the umpire and Vance to take a good catch. 47-7 and Vance's 5th wicket. Sam bowled another maiden. Vance's 6 overs finished in the 23rd and his figures were 5-22 off 6. Bear in mind, 11 of those were in the first over and it points to an excellent spell indeed. Game changing. Almost. Sam then bowled another super tight over and took the wicket of Mike Amos, bowled for 4 in the 22nd over.

At this point, the across-the-white-line competitive nature of both teams has sneaked its head above the parapet and there was vociferous appealing; much chat and various instructions and suggestions passing from batsmen to fielder, and from bowler to batsmen and there were more vociferous appeals too. LNZCC needed two wickets There were 7 overs left. 29 in 42 balls or two wickets.

Devon came on to bowl spin and took the wicket of Paul Crutwell with a lovely delivery that pitched well-outside the line then spun in to take the top of off. ICC needed 27 runs with the last pair (Martin Makepeace and Dight Everton) together. Devon's first over was 1-1. JF came on at the eastern end to bowl medium pace. In this very tight over, Everton skied a climbing ball which flew high to Adam with the gloves. It spun out of them and the catch went down. (*Ed's note: Adam made it up with jugs later*). Only 2 singles of JF's first. Devon's next was a maiden which included a very good appeal for LBW which accredited umpire Robin Parmenter adjudged was not out. Then explained why which was very good of him.

JF's next over had everything. Edges flew through the vacant slips and skied top-edges flew to the short wide fine leg boundary around a third-ball that flew high off the top of Shaggy's bat to the waiting hands of Devon at mid on. It was a high, high ball and came down whistling and fizzing and spinning. And rolled up out of Devon's hands and on to the green deck. The Cricket Gods were smiling on ICC's last pair. Justin finished with an extremely good LBW shout that was turned down and that was almost that.

There were 18 balls left to get about 6 runs. Devon's last over saw the game come to a very tight climax as both Dight and Shaggy picked up singles, then Dight hit a four to win the game for ICC. The two of them had put on a match-winning partnership of 28 in 30 balls and had seen off at least 4 wicket chances (2 catches and 2 LBWs) on the way to the win.

White line fever subsided immediately and both teams enjoyed a couple of hours in each other's company, along with many jugs of Estrella. The game changer for ICC was Paddy



Mills and we presented him with one of our LNZCC playing shirts as a memento. Our game changers were the two veteran bowlers – Vance with a 5 wicket haul and Sam with an amazing spell of 6 overs for 5 runs and 2 wickets. Special mention to Devon and Vaughan for their display with the bat on both days, and to Vaughan who bowled 12 overs

for 30 runs and no reward which was extremely unlucky.

The next 24 hours saw the team head for (variously) the airport (Gerard and Catriona were the first out, followed by Vaughan, then by the bulk of the party on the evening BA flights before Josh, Devon and Nic cleared up the tail through Sunday and Monday.) Before

that, there was a fining session at the villa and 5 of the tour party made a second pilgrimage to Pacha for the dawn break session. "Why have you turned the music off and the lights on?" "Because we're closing. Vamos!"

See you all next year.