



A long recovery time after the tour; a long match report to go with it

By Bruce Leech and Paul Belger,
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Every sports tour has its own motif or signature – a distinctive sign that marks that tour apart from the ones that preceded it or the ones that are inevitably to follow. Think of it as a calling card: *veni, vidi, v...* etc (in some cases, the *vici* is optional).

Sometimes there is more than one distinctive feature that marks the tour out as unique. As to its *raison d'être* - to each unto his own; I don't know why the hell anyone does it.

Thus far, Barristers XI have toured on four occasions. The first tour was noted for its Lowveld Snails, bottles of mampoer wrapped in barbed wire, and a muddy track that made Inanda look parched. There followed two tours to Durban, one successful, the other not: the revenge on Weinstock and Cottonfield's revenge respectively. And then comes the Eastern Cape. Grahamstown, the heritage of cricket in South Africa.

In 1889 South Africa played its first test match. The venue was St George's Park. In that first test, against England, South Africa were bowled out for 84 runs in the first innings and 129 in the second. The English, needing 66 to win in the second innings, achieved the target and won the test.

The second test, at Newlands, went the way of the English too. In fact, of games between South Africa and England, the latter have (since the end of the 19th century) won 56 to South Africa's 28.

Since readmission the tally reads 10:9 in favour of the South Africans, although South Africa is of course a nett exporter of talent to England rather than the other way around (rumour has it, though, that South Africa paid England to take King P; it's just a rumour, but it seems to have worked).

For those of you that missed it, England managed only 51 in their third innings against the Windies. They also tour here at the end of the year. We are also still optimistic about a strong Barristers contingent in the Lawyers World Cup in Cambridge (more to follow).

On this auspicious occasion of the first tour of the Johannesburg Bar (and, of course, the Barristers XI) to Grahamstown, the inaugural game, of what will hopefully be a longstanding tradition, was played at Kingswood College.

The College was founded in 1894, making it one of South Africa's oldest private schools still in existence. It is credited as being one of the progenitors of Rhodes University, which very kindly provided a full complement of delectable young female students to tantalise and tease the tourists' tastebuds. In fact, they were part of a clever ploy on the part of our Grahamstown colleagues, designed to keep the tourists trapped in pubs and odd establishments until the late hours, imbibing all sorts of exotic concoctions, in the vain hope that this would precipitate a similar batting collapse to that seen on the Durban Cottonfields tour.

It was not to be.

The batting collapse, that is. Everything else was true, including horrific hangovers, sore livers, bruised ego's, etc.

The Home team batted first and immediately sent in the big guns to stamp their authority on the game: Plasket J opened the batting and top-scored with 41. During his innings he injured his calf and called for a runner. The runner duly injured himself and called for a runner! Even with Grahamstown's long and illustrious cricket history, one doubts this has happened before. The next highest score was 23, by Froneman J - scores which probably say something about judicial deference on the part of Barristers. The rest of the Grahamstown team mustered only 37 between them and, with a helpful dose of extras, they scraped their way to 116 for eight in 35 overs.

All eleven Barristers bowled, with wickets coming from Amm, Belger, Gwanzura, Partington, Thomson, and Vivian. Amm kept a tidy spell

behind the stumps and, all told, there were four catches.

Chasing a modest target, Barristers got off to a solid start with 45 for the first wicket (Van der Berg 13 and Bunn, retired, 37). It needed only Gwanzura, Wesley, Amm, Vivian and Pretorius to get the target of 117, with Wesley (second highest score on 23) and Vivian both retiring not out. Only Van der Berg, Amm and Gwanzura lost their wickets, Van der Berg to a ferociously good catch by Prof Beard. Somewhat predictably, Amm went LBW and Gwanzura succumbed to a run-out of farcical proportions, 'Yes, no, yes, oh sh..t, Where's Kingswood!'

Barristers reached the required total in the 23rd over: Victory to Barristers by a considerable margin, although the inexorable march to victory was held up for a short while by an over bowled by Adv M Beard, who was treated with the greatest caution by the batsmen.

The thing about these tours is that, at the end of the day, camaraderie and cricket (and the Rat and Parrott) are the ultimate victors.


There were five new tourists amongst the Barristers – Gwanzura, Pretorius, Thompson, Vivian, and Wesley. Brenton Krain kindly helped out to ensure a full eleven took the field. Two members of Barristers have undertaken every tour to date, Captain Fantastic and Amm. There was also a welcome return of some familiar faces, notably Van der Berg whose return to touring was greeted by some of the more unsavoury members of the Grahamstown community, who asked him to make an involuntary contribution to economic redistribution. Bunn cooked up a storm of a midnight feast at our Bed and (early) Breakfast and Van der Berg only found his bed on the second night of

tour. Others got lost in Grahamstown – “look for a T junction!” - and Partington proved to be as good a freshwater angler as a deep sea fisherman, Oh Daniella!

But, for the rest, Grahamstown opened its arms to Barristers with the best of Eastern Cape hospitality. They have a long tradition of receiving touring cricket teams and they are well practised at doing so. A wonderful display of hospitality from Plasket and Froneman JJ, Quinn, Glover, Kincaid, Koekemoer, Beard/s, Schuring, Cloete, and McConnachie's J and C. We are most appreciative. And to Ashley Moorhouse, the sole representative from PE, shame... and well done on surviving your first fines meeting with the Barristers XI. Captain Kincaid, thanks for the bottle of Johnny Walker Black, we hope to return the gift (or its liquid equivalent) at the next game.

A very big thank you to all who played, partied, and who sacrificed their livers for the sake of a few poison dwarves. The ashes (legend has it the charred remnants of a potted history of the Albany club authored by a prominent advocate of the area and kept in an empty bottle of lager), are safely back in Johannesburg after a secure passage on 1Time (duly marked as fragile). So too another touring trophy, a shirt which belonged to the manager at the R & P, the barmaid's shirt being a bridge too far.

Thank you too to Partington, who organised it all.

Lamplough, when he is over his experiment in attempted drowning (48 minutes to cover his mile over the Midmar), will be organising the next tour. 

Grahamstown

Contributed by Richard Brooks,
Grahamstown Bar

Appointment as SCA judge

Judge Nonkosi Mhlantla

Judge Nonkosi Mhlantla has been appointed recently as a permanent judge in the SCA.

With the turn of the century came the appointment of Judge Mhlantla as an acting judge in Grahamstown in the Eastern Cape Division.

Gracing that Bench with competence then saw her one of the youngest judges of


that Bench upon her permanent appointment in 2002, and the first woman to be appointed to that Bench since its establishment as a local division of the Cape Supreme Court in 1864.

Judge Mhlantla grew up in Kwazakhele and New Brighton in Port Elizabeth. Upon matriculation from Kenneth Masekela High School in Springs in 1982 she studied law at the University of the North. Subsequent to her admission as an attorney she established her own law firm in Port Elizabeth in 1989. Her early practice consisted of some political trials and criminal work, but later expanded into labour and civil law.

She leaves the Bench of the Eastern Cape Division much the richer for her consistently

gracious, courteous and competent years of service there and with the unanimous congratulation of the Bar in that Division upon her new appointment.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights: 60th anniversary

On 10 December 2008 members of the Eastern Cape Bar and Bench in Grahamstown gathered at Equity House Chambers to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and were enriched by a fitting and challenging speech by Judge Plasket. 

HHA webtuiste

Die Hoogste Hof van Appèl se webtuiste is herontwerp. Dit bevat nie alleen toegang tot uitsprake, hofrolle, reëls edm nie, maar maak ook voorsiening vir intekening deur op die RSS knoppie te druk.

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