



2009 Ibiza tour

By Tony Grant

Match 1

Campo de Futbol, San Jose, Ibiza, Friday 2nd October 2009.

Toss: Allstars.

Weather: warm and very sunny.

Debuts: J.C. Nichols, V.M. Jethwa.

Format: 30 overs a side, maximum 6 per bowler. 12 a side (and batting as 12).

REPORT

To call the resort town of Sant Antoni de Portmany either Sodom or Gomorrah would clearly be unfair. But staying in the place known as Europe's nightclub capital just might have contributed to our downfall; certainly many of the team stayed up very late inspecting a variety of establishments and there are key-ring photographs to prove it. But perhaps it was just the strangeness of playing cricket in the middle of an astroturf football pitch on a blazing day in early October alongside the pine-covered hills of Ibiza. Whatever the reason, we didn't do very well.

There were champagne moments. Joe Nichol's very first scoring shot for the Allstars was a six. His distinctive cap fell from his head as he ran one; he picked it up again as he ran a second. But wickets tumbled on the unfamiliar slow and low surface: Tristan Haddow-Allen went cheaply, Venay Jethwa followed soon after. But James Hindle prospered, hitting some fine boundaries before being caught with his score on 36.

An undistinguished collapse of the sort not completely unknown to the Allstars followed as Jon Hautot was run out on 5, Paul Bowman was caught after scoring 9, Rob Jackson was bowled for 2, Garreth Duncan and I both departed without troubling the scorers and Vivek Seth was out for 2. Only Nick Chadwick, batting at number 9 (of 12) seemed undisturbed by the rout, displaying an array of shots in a lusty innings of 29. Jon Ryan was left high and dry, not out 4.

So could we defend a total of 123 all out? The answer was no, we never looked like doing so. There were wickets for Duncan, Bowman and Grant but a swashbuckling fifty from the opener Jordan van Byleveldt extinguished all hope and when their number 3, a vicar we were led to believe, showed us little compassion in a heavenly cameo of 36, the end was nigh. Still, we thought, we now know the pitch and the opposition a little better. Surely, we could do better in the Sunday match?

Man of the match: James Hindle, for providing stern resistance while wickets tumbled at the other end.

Champagne moment: Joe Nichols's first ever scoring shot for the Allstars – a six. An unprecedented feat.

SCORECARD

St Anne's Allstars

TAR Haddow-Allen	c Feasey	b Harvey	7
JM Hindle	c Cooper	b R Parmenter	36
VM Jethwa		b Way	0
JC Nichols	c v. Byleveldt	b Way	21
†J Hautot	run out		5
*PM Bowman	c Cooper	b van Byleveldt	11
RP Jackson		b R Parmenter	2
AH Grant	c Feasey	b R Parmenter	0
N Chadwick	c R P'menter	b Way	29
JP Ryan	not out		4
GA Duncan		b Harvey	0
V Seth		b Harvey	2
Extras (8w)			8
Total (29 overs)			123

Fall: 1-20 (1), 2-20 (3), 3-47 (4), 4-54 (5), 5-70 (6), 6-80 (7), 7-80 (8), 8-89 (2), 9-120 (9), 10-121 (11)

Bowling	O	M	R	W
Harvey	5	0	35	3
Way	5	0	33	3
van Byleveldt	6	2	11	1
Feasey	3	0	15	0
Ryan	2	0	17	0
R Parmenter	6	2	11	3
J Parmenter	4	0	18	0

Ibiza CC

J. van Byleveldt	c Chadwick	b Duncan	55
A Johnston		b Bowman	8
R Short	retired out		36
P Smith		b Grant	9
*M Makepeace	not out		0
S Browne	not out		0
Extras (12w, 3b, 1lb)			16
Total (16 overs)			124-4

DNB: J. Parmenter, R. Parmenter, S. Feasey, R. Way. J. Harvey, †M. Cooper.

Fall: 1-36 (2), 2-94 (1), 3-119 (3), 4-123 (4)

Bowling	O	M	R	W
Bowman	5	1	14	1
Chadwick	3	0	19	0
Seth	2	0	28	0
Grant	4	0	25	1
Duncan	2	0	34	1

Result: Ibiza won by seven wickets.

Match 2

Campo de Futbol, San Jose, Ibiza, Sunday 4th October 2009.

Toss: Allstars.

Weather: warm and very sunny.

Format: 30 overs a side, maximum 6 per bowler. 13 a side (batting and fielding as 11 fielders were rotated).

REPORT

Three days of frankly heavy drinking plus continuing investigations into a late season club world in which lap-dancers seemed to outnumber customers by five to one, and where every drinks order seemed to be rewarded with a free shot of peach schnapps, might not seem ideal preparation for a big game. After all, this was the one where we had to show Ibiza we weren't just good at staying up late, we could play cricket too.

It was to be a thirty over game. We won the toss and skipper for the day James Abrahams elected to bat on another day of brilliant Mediterranean sunshine, the temperature around the 27 centigrade mark. Joe Nichol, cap this time well fixed to head, began the innings with a fusillade of boundaries. His fellow opener Venay Jethwa was unlucky, controversially run out for 5. James Hindle was unable to repeat his heroics of the first match, spooning up a catch to the wicket keeper before scoring a run. But Joe, despite evidence of severe dehydration, kept on scoring before falling eventually for 69. This seemed like a good start. And there was more to come. I posted my highest score for the Allstars, 42. Paul Bowman also contributed an energetic 33. It looked as if we might be able to pass 200. Surely a useful total in 30-over cricket.

But wickets then tumbled. Jon Hautot was stumped on 14, James Abrahams chipped an exquisite four but was then run out, Richard Stephenson unluckily failed to score, Nick Chadwick was not out 17 and Jon Ryan did not bat. Our innings came to a close with the score on 197 for 8.

In reply, Ibiza Cricket Club looked intimidated. Wickets fell with regularity. Jon Ryan, defying an increasingly debilitating knee injury, completed a heroic opening spell, shrugging off a volley of jibes concerning his ability to digest curry. He ended with 3 wickets for 58 runs off six overs. Paul Bowman, Vivek Seth and Joe Nichol were also among the wickets and, eight down and lots of runs still to get, the ICC appeared to be reeling towards defeat.

A champagne moment for the Allstars had meanwhile come in shape of a magnificent catch for tour organiser and club-founder Maxie Haddow-Allen, not always known for his lighthness in the field. A cunning ball from bowler Venay Jethwa was hit very high and very far by the ICC's R. Parmenter, but pouched wonderfully and without fuss by Maxie fielding almost out of sight in the right back position, near the far goalpost.

Yet the last laugh was with the locals. Scores of 46 by S Wilson, 37 by S. Browne, 30 by J. Parmenter and, crucially, 24 not out from their skipper Martin Makepeace saw them overtake our total with three overs to go.

After the game there were generous words for us from Martin, although he did indicate that in the run-up to the tour he had received a quite extraordinary number of emails from Maxie. Nevertheless he presented us with a commemorative shield. We in turn thanked the ICC for some good cricket and some wonderful hospitality, handing over a new edition Allstars shirt to them plus a signed miniature cricket bat.

So we may have played two lost two, but in the end we performed like heroes, showed what the Allstars can do and gave them a real run for their money. Honour restored, we set off back to the coast ready for one final Ibiza sunset and a yet another bucket of peach schnapps.

Man of the match: (as adjudged by the editor© Tony Grant, for a stubborn batting effort which provided the backbone of the innings.

Champagne moment: By common consensus, Maxie's catch.

SCORECARD

St Anne's Allstars

JC Nichols	c Cooper	b R Parmenter	69
VM Jethwa	run out		5
†JM Hindle	c Cooper	b Way	0
AH Grant	run out		42
PM Bowman		b Linnell	23
J Hautot	st Cooper	b Way	14
*J Abrahams	run out		5
RJ Stephenson	c Makepeace	b Way	0
N Chadwick	not out		17
RP Jackson	not out		0

Extras (15w, 1nb, 3lb) 23

Total (30 overs) 198-8

DNB: J. Ryan, V. Seth, MJC. Haddow-Allen.

Fall: 1-15 (2), 2-16 (3), 3-82 (1), 4-123 (5), 5-175 (4), 6-176(6), 7-176 (8), 8-197 (7)

Bowling	O	M	R	W
J Parmenter	6	0	54	0
Way	6	0	34	3
R Parmenter	6	1	23	1
Browne	6	1	37	0
Linnell	5	0	35	1
Ambrose	1	0	11	0

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N Linnell	c Hindle	b Ryan	6
P Ambrose		b Bowman	2
S Wilson	c Hindle	b Ryan	46
†M Cooper	c Abrahams	b Ryan	0
S Browne	c Hautot	b Seth	37
M Fowler		b Nichols	1
R Parmenter	c H-Allen	b Jethwa	1
*M Makepeace	not out		24
R Way	c Hindle	b Seth	19
J Parmenter	not out		30

Extras (27w, 3b, 5b, 2lb) 37

Total (27 overs) 201-8

DNB: Unknown.

Fall: 1-36 (2), 2-94 (1), 3-119 (3), 4-123 (4)

Bowling	O	M	R	W
Ryan	6	0	58	3
Bowman	6	0	38	1
Jethwa	6	0	33	1
Nichols	4	0	19	1
Chadwick	3	0	27	0
Seth	2	0	19	2

Result: Ibiza won by two wickets.