

VETS CLUB GB O55 SECTION – TOUR TO SOUTH AFRICA

OVERALL PLAYED 12 – WON 10, DREW 1, LOST 1

The Tour was a resounding success with all six players rooming together at different Hotels and all being good friends. Not a single argument in 3 weeks and everyone tried their hearts out on the courts with some really fantastic wins. We started in Cape Town and beat a very strong Western Province O50 side 4/2 – a very good result. We then repeated this result before playing a mixed O55/O60 side at Camps Bay on the Friday night, winning easily. A better venue for squash is hard to imagine, sitting on the verandah with a beer, watching the sun set on the ocean a hundred yards away! We moved up the 'garden route' to Knysna where the Southern Cape put out their top 2 O40 players. John Smith, who incidentally trained all summer for the tour, had a truly fantastic win here and John Perrott nearly repeated the dose! His opponent could not believe J.P.'s age! He was on court well over an hour. Moving up to Port Elizabeth where we played Eastern Province, caused us some problems, though not on the squash court. Yours truly got acute food poisoning and some of the others suffered stomach cramps. Durban welcomed us by donating their very strong O50 team, to play us in a friendly at the prestigious Durban Country Club (the Zimbabwe National O45 Champion was at No 3). Again John Smith proved equal to the task and John Perrott was 6/2 up in the fifth with Bruce Veale, the refugee from Zimbabwe, before the latter *slowed* the game down!!

The reception precluded the tournament which was split at 12 clubs all over the Durban area. Just our luck we were 30 miles out and to get a taste of the hideous driving by the taxis we saw 8 dead on the way to the first match on the motorway. The taxi driver, no doubt totally overloaded, ploughed into a group of charity runners.

With a squad of six virtually all the same strength, meant we were unbeaten in five matches at 3,4 & 5 and again John Smith came up trumps. With Transvaal winning everything, we couldn't afford to lose unnecessary games or points as we were playing them on the last day. At 1/2 and 1/8 down to the Zimbabwe No 2 Ian Gray, Smith looked mentally and physically shattered. Twenty minutes later he walked off court the victor and Trevor Wilkinson sealed it up with a resounding 3/0 victory over the Zimbabwe No1 Guy Davies, to bring himself back to form. With the Captain injured for the last two games meant there was no room for error and all the players played beautifully to record a 4/1 victory and the Championship. Trevor Wilkinson at 1/2 and 8/4 against the World O45, O50 Champion Roy Plumstead was one of the matches of the tournament, but Roy pulled out all the stops.

The final match was a match too far, against a very strong Transvaal O50 side in Johannesburg, but we survived with a 3/3 draw. John Perrott and Adrian Wright both had very good victories, whilst Trevor Wilkinson completely blitzed his opponent who is highly ranked in South Africa.

Captains are allowed some leeway, and the two players, in my opinion, who played out of their skins and recorded victories not thought possible were John Smith and Adrian Wright. The mean machine John Perrott was the centre half of the tour and proved invaluable, always 110% committed, flat out from the knock up onwards and showed everybody in South Africa why he has won numerous British titles.

All the players really enjoyed themselves and were amazed at the hospitality and friendship of our hosts.

I extended John Woodliffe's invitation to next years Chairman, Nick Penstone, and they will probably bring a side over before the Masters in Helsinki, August 2003. Their main problem is cost as the Rand is so weak and for them to come we would have to accommodate them privately. The duration of their tour in GB would probably be no longer than a week and would encompass around 7 players as per their last trip in 1998. Nick reciprocated, as did the others, asking us to supply teams + a Ladies side, Sept next year in Cape Town.

Competition V Northern Transvaal – Won 4/1

Trevor Wilkinson	Bugs Palmer	7/9	5/9	1/9
John Smith	Laurie Moths	9/3	9/1	9/0
John Perrott	Tony Mills	9/0	9/1	9/1
Martin Pearse	Ashley Lowrenstein	9/0	10/9	9/6
David Hardern	Buggi Lolli	9/5	0/9	9/1

Competition V Eastern Transvaal – Won 5/0

John Smith	Des Kayatt	9/2	9/0	9/1
John Perrott	Mike Pierce	9/3	9/0	9/2
Martin Pearse	Dave Rothman	9/2	9/1	9/4
Adrian Wright	Lawrence Kapp	9/7	9/0	9/4
David Hardern	Neill Richards	9/5	9/1	9/1

Competition V Zimbabwe – Won 5/0

Trevor Wilkinson	Guy Davies	9/2	9/0	9/3
John Smith	Ian Gray	9/6	1/9	4/9 10/9 9/5
John Perrott	Kevin Martin	9/2	9/3	9/2
Adrian Wright	Peter Howlson	9/4	9/5	9/1
David Harden	Guy Delamere	9/1	9/0	9/1

Competition V Transvaal – Won 4/1

Trevor Wilkinson	Roy Plumstead	8/10	7/9	9/6 3/10
John Smith	Tony Martin	9/5	9/3	9/5
John Perrott	Bert Van Es	9/2	9/6	9/2
Adrian Wright	Phil Sagar	9/4	6/9	9/3 9/4
David Hardern	Keith Young	9/5	7/9	9/5 9/2

Friendly V Transvaal Select O50 – Draw 3/3

John Smith	Roy Plumstead	4/9	2/9	3/9
Martin Pearse	Chris Grainger	7/9	10/9	9/10 6/9
John Perrott	Bugs Palmer	9/6	9/7	5/9 9/6
David Hardern	Tony Martin	9/4	0/9	7/9 5/9
Trevor Wilkinson	Peter Gillies	9/2	9/0	9/3
Adrian Wright	Karl Van Heerden	10/8	7/9	9/6 5/9 9/6

055 SA TOUR RESULTS

Friendly Western Province Masters Select – Won 4/2

John Perrott	Frikkie Bester	9/10 9/6 9/6 9/6
John Smith	Theo Kleinhans	9/4 9/6 8/10 9/7
Trevor Wilkinson	Nick Penstone	9/1 7/9 9/6 8/10 5/9
Martin Pearse	Scotch Gibb	2/9 4/9 10/8 7/9
David Hardern	Brian Currie	9/4 9/5 3/9 4/9 9/5
Adrian Wright	Richard Allen	6/9 10/9 10/9 9/6

Friendly Western Province O50 – Won 4/2

John Smith	Frikkie Bester	2/9 6/9 10/9 9/0 9/7
John Perrott	Theo Kleinhans	9/2 9/4 0/9 9/5
Martin Pearse	Johan Bezuidenhout	9/3 9/10 5/9 5/9
Trevor Wilkinson	Laurie Snyman	9/1 9/4 9/7
Adrian Wright	Scotch Gibb	10/8 9/6 4/9 9/7
David Hardern	Joe de Witt	4/9 10/8 5/9 6/9

Friendly V Western Province O55/O60 Select – Won 5/1

John Perrott	Nick Penstone	9/1 9/4 7/9 9/5
John Smith	Richard Allen	9/0 9/5 9/6
Trevor Wilkinson	Brian Currie	9/0 9/1 1/9 1/9 5/9
Martin Pearse	Bertie Blighaut	9/1 9/0 9/2
Adrian Wright	Albie Van De Schwartz	9/6 9/4 9/6
David Hardern	Brian Heath	1/9 9/5 9/1 9/1

Friendly V Southern Cape Masters - Won 5/2

John Smith	Errol Siebrits	10/8 9/5 3/9 9/5
John Perrott	Craig Tingle	9/10 7/9 0/9 8/10
Trevor Wilkinson	Willy Bucke	7/9 0/9 7/9
Adrian Wright	Bert Van Es	9/5 9/3 9/2
Martin Pearse	Eric Brotherton	9/3 9/3 Ret
Martin Pearse	Johan Bezuidenhout	9/2 9/1 9/1
David Hardern	Ian Bannatyne	9/6 10/8 9/0

Friendly V Eastern Province O55 – Won 6/0

Trevor Wilkinson	Piet Snyman	9/6 9/2 9/2
Martin Pearse	Louis Prinsloo	9/4 9/1 9/2
David Hardern	Tony Oshry	9/4 9/0 9/0
Adrian Wright	Malcolm Sims	9/3 9/1 9/0
John Smith	Jimmy Catt	9/6 9/4 9/1
John Perrott	David Burgess	9/1 9/1 9/1

Friendly V Natal O50 – Lost 1/4

Trevor Wilkinson	Kevin Dowling	5/9 6/9 7/9
John Smith	Jean Hubert	9/7 10/9 6/9 9/7
John Perrott	Bruce Veale	5/9 6/9 9/7 9/10
David Hardern	Tony Jackson	6/9 9/4 5/9 6/9
Adrian Wright	Phil de Jager	5/9 7/9 7/9

Competition V Western Province O55 – Won 4/1

Trevor Wilkinson	Nick Penstone	10/8 7/9 8/10 9/10
John Smith	Richard Allen	9/2 9/5 9/7
John Perrott	Brian Currie	9/0 9/3 9/1
Martin Pearse	Bertie Blighaut	9/1 9/3 9/1
Adrian Wright	Tony Butt	9/0 9/0 9/0