

## **COLLINGBOURNE CRICKET CLUB 25TH ANNIVERSARY TOUR TO DEVON**

Collingbourne Cricket Club are pleased to report that they embarked on a very successful 25th consecutive tour to South East Devon which was aptly named our SILVER TOUR.

The famous Collingbourne duck was painted silver and every tourist took along a non cricketing hat decorated with something silver.

The tour party was based on The Esplanade at Sidmouth and the tourists were able to complete 4 out of the 5 arranged fixtures.

The first fixture was at Whimble where Collingbourne have been visitors for the entire 25 years having seen Whimble graduate from a small ground with 2 oak trees within the boundary, to a much larger new ground which now hosts representative cricket Devon Junior Cricket matches. Whimble batted first and were given a whirlwind start by 18 year old Chris Palfrey who hit 108 from 56 balls helping the home side to a total of 285 from their 46 overs. In reply the tourists were given a good start by club secretary Karl Rogers (25) and Tom Pike (20) who took the score to 50 before there was a collapse of wickets with only Owen Dowsett (19 n.o) making any additional significant contribution with the tourists finishing 108 all out.

The second match of the tour was played on the prestigious Sidmouth cricket ground right on the seafront in the centre of Sidmouth. Again the home side batted first reaching a total of 232 from their 40 overs and Collingbourne made an excellent response reaching 102 for the loss of only one wicket thanks to an excellent half century from club stalwart Graham Chandler (60). Unfortunately the momentum could not be sustained despite an excellent half century from Ian Kiy (50 n.o) with the tourists finishing on a very respectable total of 192.

The tourists' next match was at Axminster which was a wonderful game. Again the home side batted first totalling 219 from their 40 overs with Collingbourne's surprise package bowler Dave Gale finishing with 3 wickets for 11 runs. In reply the tourists were struggling at 101 for 5 after 22 overs when John Foster (60) and Geoffrey Rogers (60 n.o) enjoyed a 119 run partnership to see Collingbourne home in the last over of the match.

The final game was against Yarcombe and Stockland, another club which the tourists have enjoyed visiting for 25 years. At last the tourists were put in to bat scoring 206 runs with the highlight being a magnificent 87 not out from Owen Dowsett who recorded his first ever half century and also hit his first ever 6 to make a silver tour to remember. Alas there was not to be a happy ending to the tour with Yarcombe chasing down Collingbourne's total with 3 overs to spare, despite a good spell of bowling from Jon Candler who finished with 3 wickets for 35 runs.

At the end of each match the host club were invited to join the tourists with a glass of bubbly wine to celebrate 25 years of touring and there was excellent après cricket

with “Silver Annie’s” being from each host club and the tourists being awarded a silver wig to be worn for the rest of the evening.

There were of course plenty of jugs of ale, hilarious court sessions with many fines for indiscretions and of course numerous cries of “Hats on Collingbourne”.

Collingbourne Cricket Club have indeed been very lucky to tour South East Devon for 25 consecutive years where they have enjoyed renewing friendships and rivalries and they have been able to invite some of the host clubs including Axminster, Yarcombe and Whimple to visit Collingbourne where they have been able to reciprocate some of the hospitality.

The Club is now already making plans for its 26th tour with the Collingbourne duck now going on its summer migration in the safe custody of Tom Pike who recorded the last duck of the Tour.

Report from Karl Rogers, Club Secretary and Tour Organiser