

## REPORT TO THE LORD'S TAVERNERS AUSTRALIA

### INDIGENOUS CRICKET TOUR OF ENGLAND

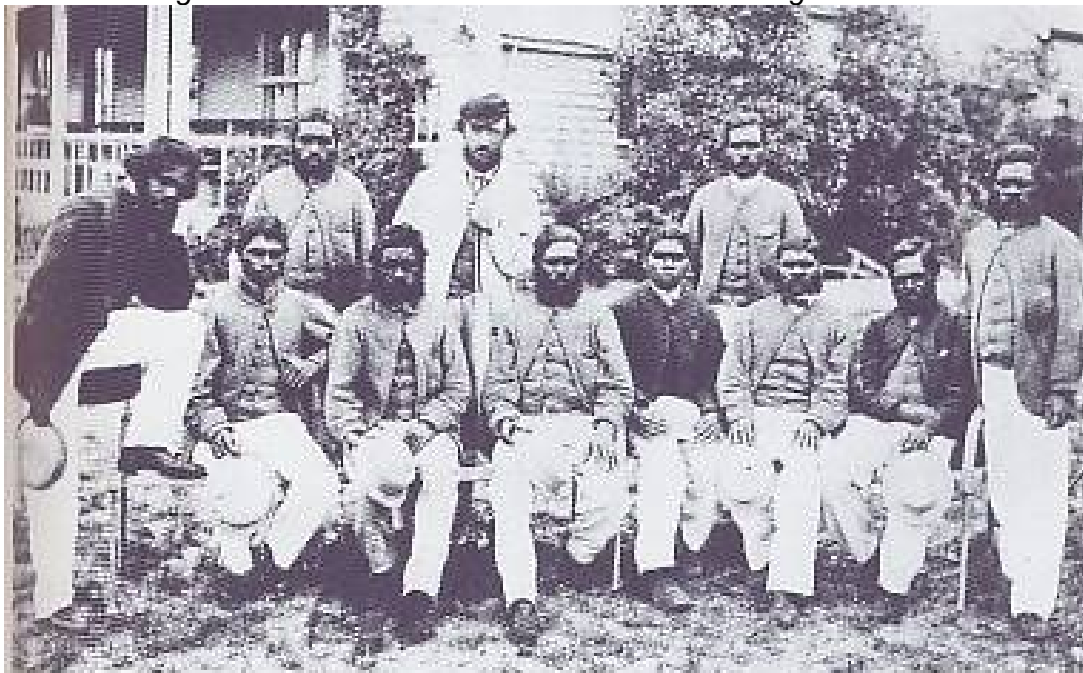
#### PURPOSE

The purpose of this paper is to update The Lord's Taverners on the recent Indigenous cricket tour of England from 20 June – 21 July 2009, which would not have been possible without the generous support of The Lord's Taverners.

#### BACKGROUND

The first Australian cricket team tour to England was an Indigenous team back in 1868 (Image 1). 141 years later, the first Indigenous cricket tour under the auspices of Cricket Australia (CA) has been successfully completed.

*Image 1 – First Australian Cricket Team to Tour England in 1868*



The Aboriginal team of 1866 under the captaincy of Tom Wills formed the nucleus of the side that toured England in 1868. Back row (standing, left to right): Turpsot, Tom Wills, Mulligh. Front row (left to right): Ing Cole (with leg on chair), Dick-a-Dick, Jellico, Peter, Redrap, Harry Rose, Bullocky, Cuzeta. Turpsot, Wills, Jellico and Harry Rose did not tour England in 1868. (Original photograph — National Library of Australia)

The first match in 1868 was played at The Oval in London and attracted some 20,000 spectators. According to the Daily Telegraph, many of these spectators attended out of curiosity rather than merely to savour a cricket contest when they reported: *"It is highly interesting and curious, to see*

*mixed in a friendly game on the most historically Saxon part of our island, representatives of two races so far removed from each other as the modern Englishman and the Aboriginal Australian”.*

In all the Indigenous team of 1868 played 47 matches throughout England over a period of six months, winning 14, losing 14 and drawing 19 – a good result that surprised many at the time. Their skills were said to range from individuals who were exceptional athletes down to two or three other team members who hardly contributed at all. The outstanding player was Johnny Mullagh who reportedly scored 1,698 runs and took 245 wickets! An admired English fast bowler of the time, George Tarrant, bowled to Mullagh during a lunch interval and later said, "I have never bowled to a better batsman".

In addition to playing cricket, the Indigenous Australian cricketers of 1868 frequently put on an exhibition of boomerang and spear throwing at the conclusion of a match. Dick-a-Dick would also hold a narrow parrying shield and invite people to throw cricket balls at him, which he warded off with the shield. The Indigenous Australians were narrowly beaten in a cricket-ball-throwing competition by an emerging English all-rounder of star quality, 20-year-old W. G. Grace, who threw 118 yards!

Over the last 141 years there have been a number of private tours which included players of Indigenous heritage, with the 1988 tour to England being the closest thing to an official CA supported tour. One of the players on the 1988 tour, Michael Mainhardt, is now the coach of the Queensland Imparja Cup team and was the coach of the 2009 Indigenous Cricket Tour of England. A part of the Management team on the 1988 tour, and a senior official on the 2009 tour, is Vince Copley, who is the Co-Chairman of the National Indigenous Cricket Advisory Committee (NICAC). Trevor Woodhead, who is on the NT Board and currently the only Indigenous Board Director in Australian Cricket, also joined him on the 2009 tour.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **The Lord's Taverners Australia Support**

Cricket Australia is very pleased to have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with The Lord's Taverners, which will see both organisations work closely together to make cricket more accessible for disadvantaged Australians across the country. As part of this MOU, The Lord's Taverners have already provided significant support to Indigenous cricket, and specifically to the Indigenous Cricket Tour of England. To highlight this partnership, the logo depicted in *Image 2* signifies The Lord's Taverners commitment to Indigenous cricket, and Cricket Australia's desire to acknowledge the fine support of The Lord's Taverners.

*Image 2 – The Lord's Taverners Indigenous Cricket Logo*



In addition to the significant financial support of The Lord's Taverners, a substantial amount of time was contributed to make the Indigenous Cricket Tour to England possible. Further, it was great to see both Greg Brown and Michael Martin in England supporting the Indigenous Cricket Tour on behalf of The Lord's Taverners on a couple of occasions. After viewing a game in Sunbury, just outside of London, Greg and Michael also attended the farewell function for the Australian Indigenous Team.

## Squad Selection

The squad of 14 indigenous players were selected either for their performance in the Imparja Cup, or from State and Grade cricket performances. In addition to this selection criterion, CA has conducted several development camps with the CoE over the last 3 years that have culminated in a core group of players being identified for future development. A number of players from these camps are included in the touring group. Apart from two “mature age” players who were selected to act as on field leaders and mentors, all other players needed to be under the age of 22 years with the distinct prospect of advancing to higher honours.

The final squad comprised of the following players:

- |                                   |                          |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Daniel Christian 26 (C) SACA   | 8. Danny Tye 20 CACT     |
| 2. Peter O’Callaghan 24 (VC) CACT | 9. Chris Swain 18 QC     |
| 3. Lewis Upton 17 WACA            | 10. Ben Mainhardt 18 QC  |
| 4. Trent Clements 16 QC           | 11. Brad Lovell 20 TCA   |
| 5. Worrin Williams 22 QC          | 12. Josh Walmsley 20 TCA |
| 6. Josh Lalor 21 CNSW             | 13. Darcy Short 18 NTC   |
| 7. Cameron Trask 19 QC            | 14. Preston White 18 QC  |

Coach: Michael Mainhardt QC

## Centre of Excellence Player Camp

Preparations for the tour commenced with a 4-day player’s camp held at the CoE in Brisbane. The first day and a half focused on an Indigenous Leadership Program delivered by the Federal Government. Upon completion of the leadership modules, the players then participated in a rigorous training program under the guidance of the CoE coaching staff, which included former Australian players Craig McDermott and Andrew Bichel and CoE head coach, Greg Chappell.

## Indigenous Tour to England

Overall the tour finished with the excellent record of 8 wins, 3 losses and 1 game abandoned due to bad weather from 12 games. Given the team was relatively young they played with great maturity and were well lead by Dan Christian (SACA – Captain). The performance of several players on the tour warrant special mention. Darcy Short (NTC) for his ability with both the bat and ball, Preston White (QC) for his bowling, Dan Christian (SACA) for his leadership and batting, and Josh Lalor (CNSW) for his bowling were the standout performers. A full list of results and performances is included with this report (Attachment 1 to this paper). A series of Twenty20 and 50-over games were conducted primarily in the South of London against good quality opposition. One of the team’s highlights was the 2-day game against the MCC Combined Universities team which resulted in the Indigenous team chasing down 388 for victory with 9 wickets down and just 3 over’s left in the match!

*Image 3 – Australian Indigenous Cricket Team to Tour England in 2009  
with Australian Fans at Reading CC*



## Media

The media around this team was fantastic with coverage on ITV 1, Channel 4, BBC World, BBC radio and Sky Sports during the tea break of the Lord's Test Match. A majority of the players participated in interviews with the media and should be congratulated for the way they conducted themselves and provided clear and concise answers. Attachment 2 to this paper is a copy of the Koori Mail published on Wednesday 29 July 2009 titled "Tourists Received Well", and gives just a glimpse of the extent of this coverage. The other end of the spectrum in terms of the value of media coverage was a four minute segment screened by Sky Sports during the Lord's Test.

## Tour Highlights

Whilst there were many highlights, a number stand out as key events:

- The exemplary behaviour of all players, and the positive feedback we received on the players from spectators, club officials, opposition players and officials, hotel management, flight crews and passengers.
- The visit to Day 3 of the Cardiff Test.
- Two of the players bowling to the Australian Men's Team at Lords prior to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Test.
- The visit to the Australian High Commission.
- The incredible media coverage surrounding the tour.
- The Aussie night held at O'Brien's Hotel in Brentford.
- Following the footsteps of the 1868 team to Teddington, Richmond, and where it all started, at Bat & Ball in Hambledon.
- The incredible support the team received wherever they played, and the genuine interest this team created.
- The wonderful hospitality and meals afforded to the team by all Clubs.

*Image 4 Australian Indigenous cricket team at Reigate Priory ground*



**DAMIEN BOWN**  
GENERAL MANAGER, GAME DEVELOPMENT

2 September 2009