

SA Bar set to teach the world the AB of Cricket

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Edited by JJM

SOUTH AFRICAN cricketers have been travelling to Australia to test their skills for over a century.¹ Never before, however, has a team of South African cricketing lawyers travelled to that continent. December 2015 offers us the first opportunity to do so.

The Australian Lawyers Cricket Council (ALCC) has announced that the Fifth Lawyers' Cricket World Cup will take place in Brisbane from 28 December 2015 to 11 January 2016 and has invited South African lawyers to battle it out against teams from Australia, India, New Zealand, England, West Indies, Pakistan and Ireland.²

The Cup is planned to be played in and around Brisbane, with the final planned for the local test ground, the Gabba.

Teams will be accommodated and fed at the University of Queensland's residences. For those who want to take along their families or other companions with them, B&B and hotel accommodation is also available (at a higher cost).

The estimated cost of participation and (hostel) accommodation is likely to be approximately R12 000 per person, excluding flights.

THIS IS not the first time a South African lawyers' team will play in a Lawyers' World Cup. In 2009, a squad drawn from the Cape, Durban and Johannesburg Bars, complement-

ed by two attorneys, slugged it out on the grounds of Cambridge University in England. Unfortunately, and not unlike Kepler Wessels' team of 1992, after a good tournament the South African hopes were dashed by a bizarre rain rule. The disappointment notwithstanding, the legal Proteas had a fantastic two weeks of cricket and camaraderie, which led to lasting friendships. At subsequent tournaments, held in the West Indies and India, South Africa did not field a team.

This year will be different, though.

Teams must consist of lawyers who have been called to the Bar or admitted as attorneys or are otherwise qualified to practise law. Non-practising lawyers may also take part, provided they are still employed to carry out legal duties.

Even judges, magistrates and the members of legal tribunals are encouraged to take up the cricketing cudgels.

Each squad is limited to seventeen members; no more than five players in any team of eleven may be under the age of 32. Male lawyers who have played first-class professional cricket may take part only once they have turned 42.³

All those bristling to bat or bowl are to contact Duncan Turner at the Johannesburg Bar before the end of May 2015, at email address: vashih@group621.co.za.

At the time of writing (25 March 2015), it might be said we have a reputation to restore. 

Endnotes

- 1 No pun ...
- 2 The history of the tournament and anecdotes from around the world have been published on the web: see www.counselmagazine.co.uk/articles/lawyers-cricket-world-cup-2016; www.lincolnsinn.org.uk/index.php/.../471-the-lawyers-cricket-world-cup; www.nzlwc.org; www.australianlawyerscricket.asn.au
- 3 The full version of the Rules is available at <http://www.nzlwc.org/>



The 2009 South African lawyers' team at Cambridge University in England.