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ITINERARY

8 February	Travel Day	Depart Devon Arrive Heathrow Airport Depart to Colombo (via Doha), Sri Lanka - Qatar Airways
9 February	Rest day	Arrive in Colombo Check in Cinnamon Lakeside Hotel Leisure afternoon
10 February	Match Day	MCA Girls Academy Team Bloomfield Cricket & Athletic Club
11 February	Rest Day	Leisure Morning Colombo City Tour
12 February	Match Day Travel Day	Anula College Team, SLDC Cricket Ground Transfer to Kataragama
13 February	Rest day	Leisure Morning Afternoon 4x4 Safari at the Yala National Park
14 February	Culture and Travel Day	Transfer to Citrus Waskaduwa Hotel Galle Fort Visit Turtle Hatchery Visit
15 February	Match Day	Sirimavo Bandaranayake College Team Pujitha Uduwana Sport Academy Ground
16 February	Match Day	Sigi Cricket Academy Team SLAOC Cricket Stadium - Dombagoda
17 February	Culture Day	Visit to Kalutara Temple
18 February	Match Day	Panadura Girls Cricket Club Team Aarons Country Club Ground
19 February	Match Day	Wadduwa Central College Girls Team General Balagalle Cricket Stadium (GBCS)
20 February	Travel Day	Catch Flight Return to London Heathrow Return to Devon

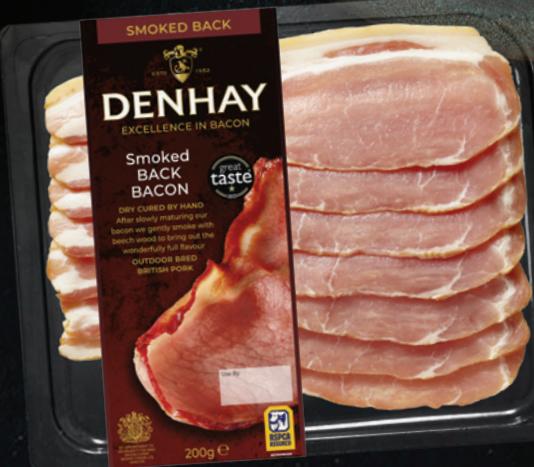
8 - 20 FEBRUARY 2026



TOUR ITINERARY



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DARCY JONES
and the team!**

CEMENTING THE PATHWAY FOR GIRLS IN DEVON

Ann-Marie Presswell

*Women & Girls' Development Officer
Devon Cricket Foundation*

As we prepare for the third tour to Sri Lanka, it gives me a chance to reflect on how far the game has come for young women in Devon.

I am incredibly proud to have been involved in the growth of cricket for girls in the county. This season we can truly say that in the recreational game, girls have a complete pathway from All Stars and Dynamos, through to open age cricket. Thanks to dedicated clubs and volunteers, girls now have the choice to access cricket they would like to play.

The cementing of the Sri Lanka Tour into the Girls' Pathway Calendar is a further representation of increased opportunities for girls. This year, we are lucky to be joined by Steph Hutchins, who is our first ever appointee to the role of Head on Women and Girls' Pathway, and Paul Heard, who has years of touring, playing and coaching experience alongside Steph.

From our previous tours we know that for us as staff each day will provide us with challenges and opportunities to develop personally and within our game. In both previous tour, I have been impressed that the girls have followed suit.



Representing their county abroad, the girls have shown themselves fine ambassadors of the game. The tour not only provides the girls with high quality cricketing experiences, it also enriches their personal growth through cultural immersion and team bonding.

Whilst a cricket tour in name, we all come home having gained so much more from Sri Lanka. My abiding memories last year will be taken from the after game sessions and presentations. Watching the girls break down language barriers and build connections through cricket with huge smiles on their faces, is a privilege I bring home.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has made this tour possible for all our players – parents, supporters and sponsors. I am sure that the girls will share their experiences with you when they return.

To the tour of 2026: embrace the challenges the tour will bring, learn both on and off the field. Take the opportunities and make them yours!

HONOURED TO REPRESENT DEVON

Maisie Barr

When it was first announced that the U15 Devon Girls would be touring Sri Lanka in 2026, I was determined to make the squad. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity I really wanted to be part of. So when I received the email to say I'd made it, I was delighted.

I feel it is a huge honour to represent my county team alongside the rest of my Devon teammates on an overseas tour. I'm excited to test myself against different playing styles and challenges the tour will offer. In the future, I'd love to play cricket overseas, so I think this will be a great experience to learn from.

The main challenge I think we will face will be the heat. After speaking to some of the girls who toured in 2025, they said the humidity is something they had never experienced before, and it's tough to get used to. It will also be interesting to see how the pitches play due to the drier conditions we will face in Sri Lanka, especially when facing spin bowling. I don't think any of us will have experienced anything like this before when playing cricket in the UK.

I already know most of the girls in the squad, having played with them through county age group teams, but



I'm also looking forward to welcoming and bonding with new players selected this year. I think playing lots of games together over a short time in challenging conditions will improve us individually, but also as a team. This will be great preparation for our games in the upcoming summer and beyond.

I'm looking forward to learning about different cultures in Sri Lanka and how they live differently from us in the UK. I'm not a fussy eater, so I'm excited about the different foods we will experience. The hotels and pools we are staying in look amazing, and I'm really looking forward to having fun with the girls during rest time between games. I'm also very excited to enjoy the variety of planned trips arranged for us. In particular, I'm most looking forward to the safari and seeing wildlife close up.

I'd finally like to thank everyone at Devon Cricket, Parents, Sponsors, and Lions Sports Travel who have contributed and supported us to make this trip possible.

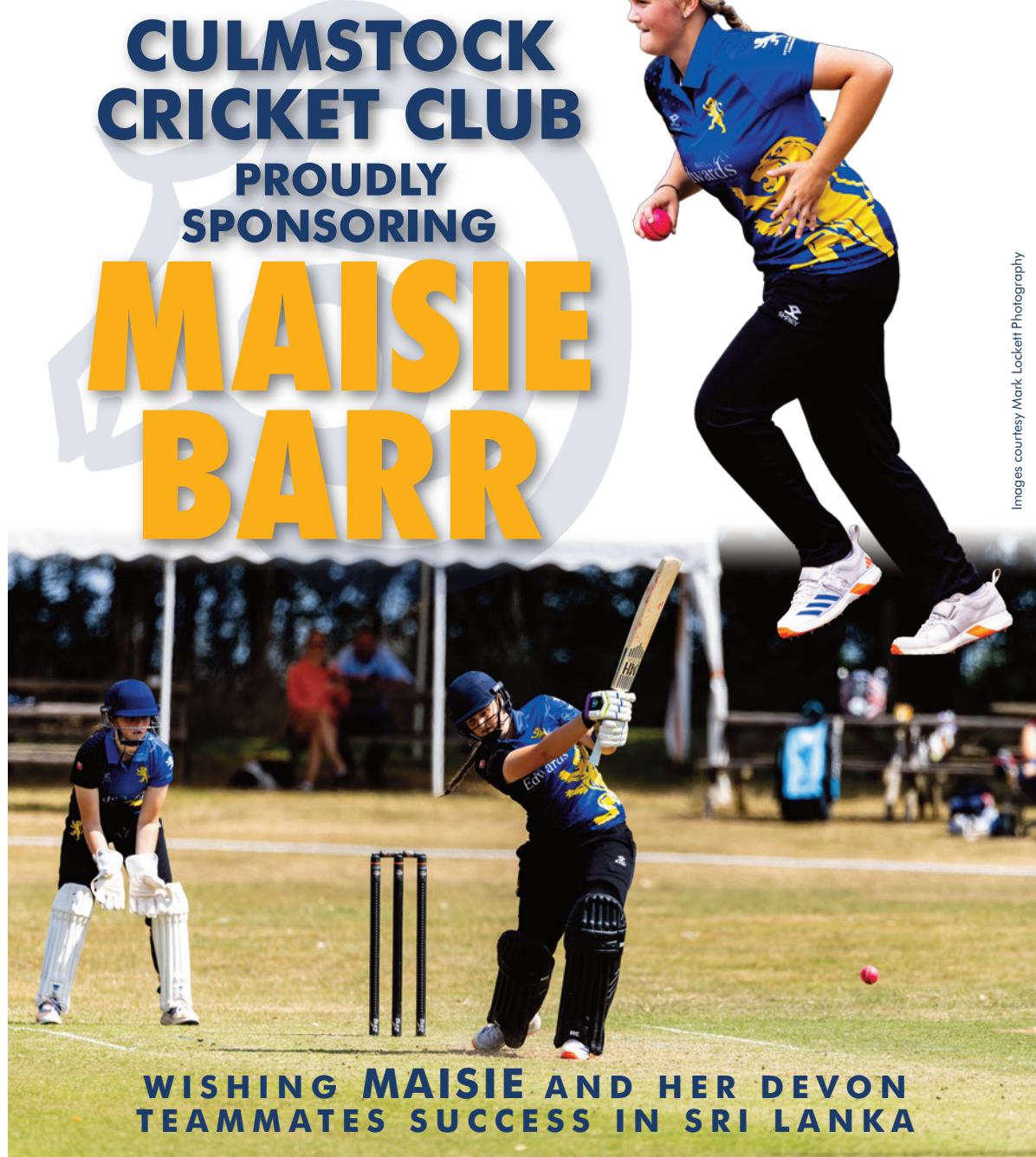
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CRICKET, CULTURE, AND CONNECTION

Following a second successful tour last year, Ann-Marie Presswell and the team reflect on their experiences.

On 9 February 2025, 13 county players gathered at Exeter Services to start their journey to Sri Lanka on the second Under 15 Girls County Tour.

Joined by County Age Group and Devon Women Lead Coach David Joseph, and Performance Pathway Coach and Devon Women player Katie Donovan, everyone was very excited.

"I had the absolute pleasure of being a part of the coaching staff for the Devon Under 15 Girls Tour to Sri Lanka," says Katie.

"Having been part of the Devon set up since I was 10, including going on the Women's development tour to South Africa when I was 14, I now had been given the opportunity to transfer my knowledge onto the new generation which was really exciting."

Of the 13 days on tour, the girls had six days of cricket, playing different opposition in grounds around the Colombo area. The girls were very much encouraged to say "Hello!" to the opposition and introduce themselves, and even learnt some phrases on the way to the grounds.



The heat was something that the girls had to get used to, and after a few days, they found the resilience to cope with that during the games, knowing when to take a break and work as a team to support themselves, which they did more and more as the tour progressed.

The girls came away with three wins and three losses, of which they should be very proud.

Off the cricket field, the girls were given the opportunity to experience the culture of the country. They visited a temple, went on safari, found out about the conservation of turtles at a turtle hatchery, and visited a school with the Wiltshire Under 15 Boys team, who were presenting children with cricket equipment that had been sent over.

"It was a real eye-opener to see the basic conditions of the classrooms and made us realise how lucky we are with the facilities we have in our schools at home and our cricket clubs," says Grace.

"After visiting the school and giving the children some shirts and cricket kit, we all played some cricket in the school grounds, which was brilliant fun! It was a really good opportunity for us all to come together, play the sport we love and just have fun."

Arriving home in the wind and rain, the players and staff felt that Sri Lanka was a world away, but the success of the tour meant that the girls take home stories that will last a lifetime. All the girls worked hard to get the opportunity to represent their county in Sri Lanka. They should be incredibly proud of what they have achieved, both on and off the pitch. They made the tour the enjoyable and successful trip that it was. They go back to their clubs now as role models to inspire the next generation.

"Overall, the tour was an unforgettable experience, filled with cricket, culture, and new friendships," reflects Charlotte.

"We returned home with wonderful memories and a sense of accomplishment, grateful for the opportunity to represent Devon Under 15 girls on this incredible journey."



Rebecca Savory concludes:

"Sri Lanka provided an incredible opportunity for me to immerse myself in diverse cultures, gain independence, and enjoy playing cricket in a stunning environment."

"The Sri Lankan girls were incredibly welcoming and supportive, and we happily exchanged caps and shirts as mementos of the matches. We formed friendships and even exchanged contact information to keep in touch once we were back in Devon"

Lottie Wood, Player of the 2025 Tour.



"As a team, we developed tremendously and quickly bonded, giving us a fantastic head start for what promises to be a busy season ahead."

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BUILDING SKILLS, BONDS, AND LIFELONG MEMORIES

Steph Hutchins

Head of Womens & Girls' Pathway

After the success of the previous tours to Sri Lanka and the restructuring of the girls' pathway, we are excited that the tour is now running annually.

The tour offers players the chance to compete in conditions very different from those in the UK, while also allowing them to continue building on the skills they've developed during winter training. Previous tours have shown that players grow not only tactically and technically, but also as a team, strengthening their unity ahead of the season back home.

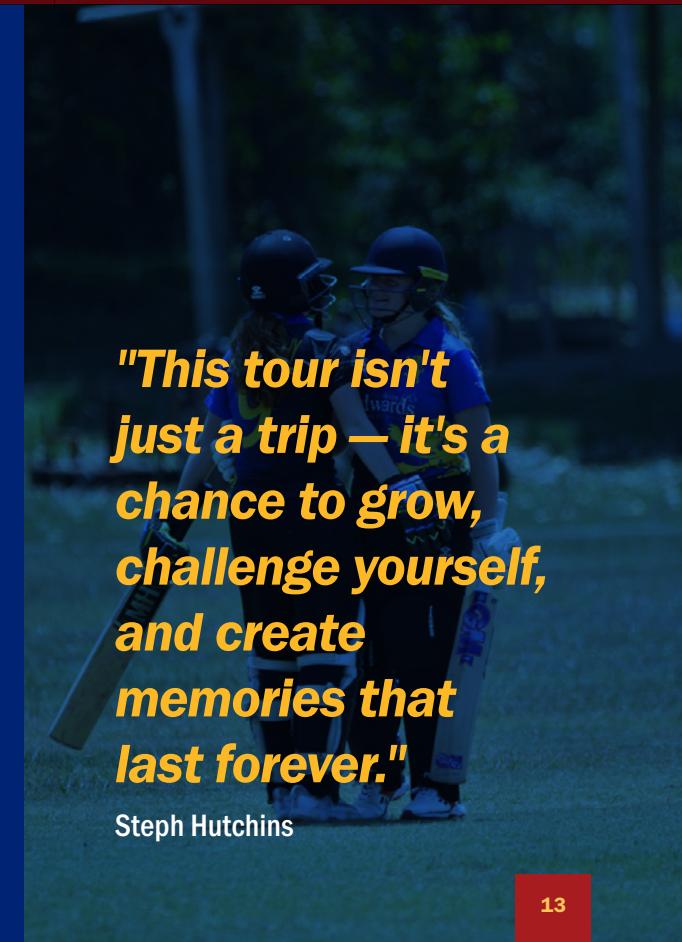
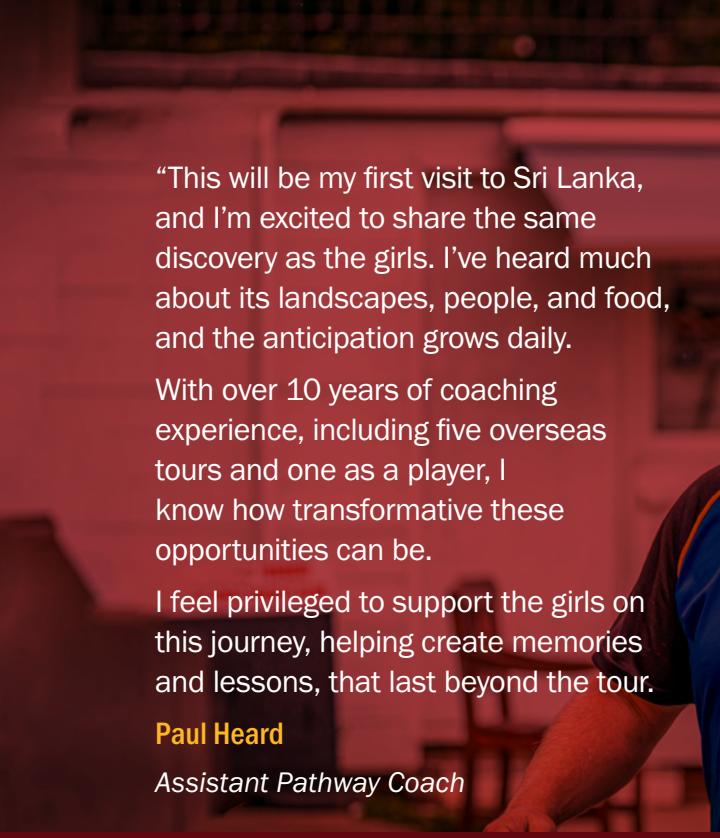
However, touring is not just about playing. Sri Lanka is a wonderful country, and both players and staff receive a warm welcome at every ground and hotel they visit. The tour itinerary will allow the players to experience city life, the beautiful inland countryside, wildlife on safari, and time at the beach. These experiences will stay with them for the rest of their lives.



Opportunities to tour are rare, and playing overseas brings challenges different from those in Devon. On tour, players will learn to overcome them with support from Paul and myself. Paul brings a wealth of knowledge and experience, and we are excited to welcome him onto the Sri Lanka Tour in 2026.

Touring offers a memorable experience for not only the players from our side but also the teams we play against, as it's not often they get the chance to face a touring side.

Putting a tour like this together takes a great deal of planning, and we would like to say thank you to Dipan, Wendy, and the rest of the team at Lions Sports Travel for helping to organise these tours and for making them such a great experience for both players and staff.



"This tour isn't just a trip – it's a chance to grow, challenge yourself, and create memories that last forever."

Steph Hutchins

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on their Sri Lanka Tour



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ECB Level 3 Coach

Lead Coach, Head of Women & Girls Pathway

Steph leads the Women and Girls' Pathway, working across all County Age Groups. She has coached Devon for eight years in Youth Development, County Age Groups, and schools. A former

Western Storm player, she currently captains Devon Women and has also played in Australia and South Africa, where she coached clubs and worked with Cricket Victoria on their Youth Premier League pathway. Steph has guided the CAG U18 Girls for four years, reaching two National Finals, supported the U15s on their 2023 Sri Lanka tour, and looks forward to leading a group she first coached at U13s.



ECB LEVEL 3 Coach

Assistant Pathway Coach - oversees the Youth Development programme U11-U14 Boys & U13-U15 Girls.

Paul works full-time with the Devon Cricket Foundation in the Performance Pathway, leading Youth Development and delivering across girls'

and boys' CAG and EPP programmes. He gained his ECB Level 3 in 2020 and is working toward obtaining his Level 4 – Specialist Coach. Having toured South Africa with the U15 boys as both a player and a coach, he looks forward to sharing his overseas experience in a new country.

TOUR SQUAD

DEVON U15 - 2026





CLUB	OTHER INTERESTS
CULMSTOCK CC	BADMINTON, GOLF & THE GYM
SCHOOL	FAVOURITE PLAYER
UFFCULME SECONDARY SCHOOL	LAUREN BELL & JIMMY ANDERSON
BATTING	FAVOURITE SONG
RIGHT HAND MIDDLE ORDER	NAIVE - THE KOOKS
BOWLING / KEEPER	LOOKING FORWARD TO
RIGHT ARM FAST	Playing in a different country and learning about the culture.

CLUB	OTHER INTERESTS
SANDFORD CC	RUGBY
SCHOOL	FAVOURITE PLAYER
QUEEN ELIZABETH'S	HEATHER KNIGHT
BATTING	FAVOURITE SONG
RIGHT HAND TOP ORDER	OVERDRIVE - BECKY HILL
BOWLING / KEEPER	LOOKING FORWARD TO
RIGHT ARM FAST	Experiencing the culture, and spending time with teammates.



CLUB	OTHER INTERESTS
EXETER CC	HOCKEY & NETBALL
SCHOOL	FAVOURITE PLAYER
EXETER SCHOOL	CHRIS WOAKES
BATTING	FAVOURITE SONG
RIGHT HAND MIDDLE ORDER	MR. BRIGHTSIDE - THE KILLERS
BOWLING / KEEPER	LOOKING FORWARD TO
RIGHT ARM FAST	Culture and winning!

CLUB	OTHER INTERESTS
PLYMOUTH CC	HOCKEY & MUSIC
SCHOOL	FAVOURITE PLAYER
PLYMOUTH COLLEGE	NAT SCIVER-BRUNT
BATTING	FAVOURITE SONG
RIGHT HAND MIDDLE ORDER	POMPEII - BASTILLE
BOWLING / KEEPER	LOOKING FORWARD TO
RIGHT ARM FAST	Cricket and fun with friends in a country I've never visited.

CLUB	OTHER INTERESTS
EXMOUTH CC CLYST HYDON CC	HOCKEY & GYMNASTICS COACHING
SCHOOL	FAVOURITE PLAYER
BLUNDELL'S SCHOOL	TAMMY BEAUMONT
BATTING	FAVOURITE SONG
RIGHT HAND LOWER ORDER	TEENAGE DIRTBAG - WHEATUS
BOWLING / KEEPER	LOOKING FORWARD TO
RIGHT ARM MEDIUM	Experiencing the different culture.

CLUB	OTHER INTERESTS
PLYMOUTH CC	HOCKEY & NETBALL
SCHOOL	FAVOURITE PLAYER
PLYMOUTH COLLEGE	TAMMY BEAUMONT
BATTING	FAVOURITE SONG
RIGHT HAND MIDDLE ORDER	FIREBALL - PITBULL
BOWLING / KEEPER	LOOKING FORWARD TO
WICKET KEEPER	Experiencing a new place with everyone.





CLUB	OTHER INTERESTS
HEATHCOAT CC	HOCKEY
SCHOOL	FAVOURITE PLAYER
BLUNDELL'S SCHOOL	LAUREN BELL
BATTING	FAVOURITE SONG
RIGHT HAND MIDDLE ORDER	SHE MOVES IN HER OWN WAY - THE KOOKS
BOWLING / KEEPER	LOOKING FORWARD TO
RIGHT ARM PACE	Exploring cultures and improving my game in new conditions.

CLUB	OTHER INTERESTS
OTTERY ST MARY CC	SWIMMING, ART, AND LISTENING TO MUSIC
SCHOOL	FAVOURITE PLAYER
THE KINGS SCHOOL, OTTERY ST MARY	LAUREN BELL
BATTING	FAVOURITE SONG
RIGHT HAND LOWER ORDER	BELIEVER - IMAGINE DRAGONS
BOWLING / KEEPER	LOOKING FORWARD TO
RIGHT ARM MEDIUM	Experiencing different cricket conditions and a new culture.



CLUB	OTHER INTERESTS
PLYMOUTH CC	PERFORMING ARTS
SCHOOL	FAVOURITE PLAYER
TORPOINT COMMUNITY COLLEGE	HEATHER KNIGHT
BATTING	FAVOURITE SONG
RIGHT HAND MIDDLE ORDER	DON'T STOP MOVING - S CLUB 7
BOWLING / KEEPER	LOOKING FORWARD TO
RIGHT ARM FAST	The cricket, and the food.

CLUB	OTHER INTERESTS
SANDFORD CC	HOCKEY & FOOTBALL
SCHOOL	FAVOURITE PLAYER
THE MAYNARD SCHOOL	BEN STOKES OR FREDDIE FLINTOFF
BATTING	FAVOURITE SONG
RIGHT HAND TOP MIDDLE ORDER	LUSH LIFE - ZARA LARSSON
BOWLING / KEEPER	LOOKING FORWARD TO
RIGHT ARM FAST	Playing in a different country and experiencing Sri Lanka culture.



CLUB	OTHER INTERESTS
HEATHCOAT CC CULMSTOCK CC	NETBALL, HOCKEY, AND FRIENDS
SCHOOL	FAVOURITE PLAYER
TORPOINT COMMUNITY COLLEGE	SHANE WARNE
BATTING	FAVOURITE SONG
RIGHT HAND MIDDLE/TOP ORDER	PARTY ROCK ANTHEM - LMFAO
BOWLING / KEEPER	LOOKING FORWARD TO
LEG SPIN	Experiences playing against different teams and the safari.

CLUB	OTHER INTERESTS
EXETER CC	HOCKEY
SCHOOL	FAVOURITE PLAYER
EXETER SCHOOL	GRACE HARRIS
BATTING	FAVOURITE SONG
RIGHT HAND MIDDLE ORDER	WHERE IS MY HUSBAND! - RAYE
BOWLING / KEEPER	LOOKING FORWARD TO
RIGHT ARM FAST	Being able to come together as a team and enjoy the culture.



#44



#45



CLUB
HATHERLEIGH CC

OTHER INTERESTS
MOUNTAINEERING, MY
DOGS AND MUSIC

SCHOOL

OKEHAMPTON COLLEGE

FAVOURITE PLAYER

LAUREN BELL

BATTING

RIGHT HANDED
MIDDLE ORDER

FAVOURITE SONG

I AIN'T WORRIED
- ONEREPUBLIC

BOWLING / KEEPER

RIGHT ARM MEDIUM

LOOKING FORWARD TO

Cricket in a different country,
meeting new people and cultures.

CLUB

CORNWOOD CC

OTHER INTERESTS

NETBALL & BAKING

SCHOOL

DEVONPORT HIGH
SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

FAVOURITE PLAYER

LAUREN BELL

BATTING

RIGHT HAND
LOWER MIDDLE ORDER

FAVOURITE SONG

KISS ME - SIXPENCE
NONE THE RICHER

BOWLING / KEEPER

RIGHT ARM FAST

LOOKING FORWARD TO

To enjoy a different culture,
meeting new people and cultures.

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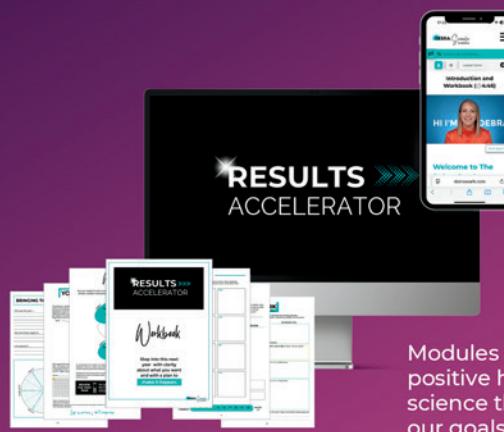
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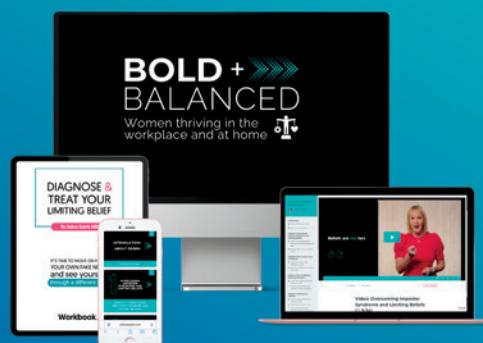
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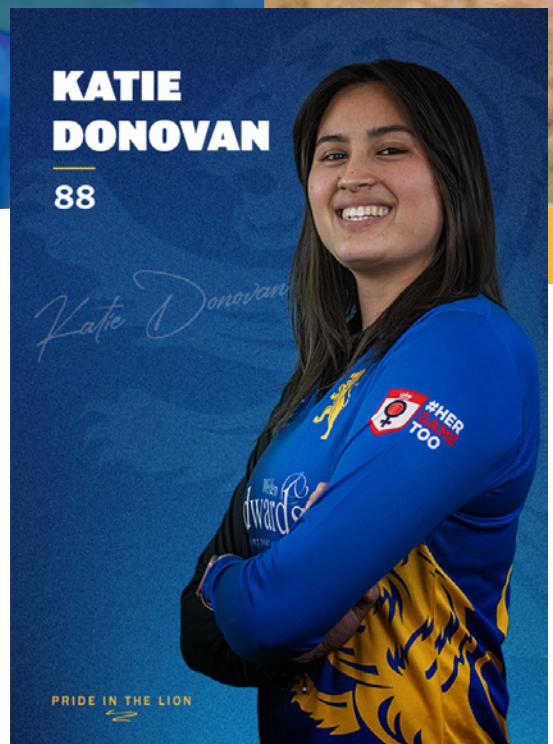
BUILDING PATHWAYS, CONFIDENCE, AND FUTURE LEADERS

Katie Donovan

The cricket tour to Sri Lanka offers far more than international match experience — it provides a unique developmental pathway for young players aiming for higher-level cricket.

Sri Lankan conditions challenge players in new ways, with spin-friendly pitches, lower bounce while a hot, humid climate demands sharper footwork, improved decision-making, and strong physical resilience. Facing local opposition exposes players to diverse bowling styles and tactical approaches, helping them develop adaptability, strategic awareness, and the ability to analyse opponents quickly.

Moreover, the leadership opportunities such as the rotation of captaincy help players develop ownership and decision-making.



Touring also builds the mental strength essential for future representative cricket. Playing away from familiar surroundings encourages independence, while the pressures of travel, tight schedules and unfamiliar conditions teach players how to stay composed and bounce back from setbacks — which is great preparation for pathway cricket where demands increase.



Off the field, shared experiences strengthen team culture, communication, and leadership, with opportunities for players to take on responsibilities, contribute to group decisions and support one another.

Intensive coaching, frequent training sessions, and regular match play accelerate skill development and give players a deeper understanding of performance analysis, preparation routines, and recovery. Exposure to Sri Lanka's rich cricketing culture broadens their perspective, helping them grow as both athletes and individuals.

Overall, this tour mirrors many aspects of a high-performance environment — travel, discipline, analysis, commitment, and adaptability — providing the U15 girls with invaluable preparation for regional and national pathway programs.

“Sri Lankan conditions demand sharper footwork, smarter decisions, and resilience — lessons that mirror the demands of pathway cricket.”

Back in 2018, when I was a shy, quiet 14-year-old who didn't think much of cricket, I was invited on a development tour with Devon Women. Looking back, in hindsight, it definitely provided me the confidence boost and belief that I could progress to a higher level.

From then on, I took every opportunity to play the game, and I got to play in more experienced teams, eventually playing for the regional academy team in 2022.

Fast forward to today, I am now playing International Cricket for the Philippine National Team having toured Singapore, Bali, Japan, Fiji and will shortly be leaving to play in Bangkok, Thailand.



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and the Devon team
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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