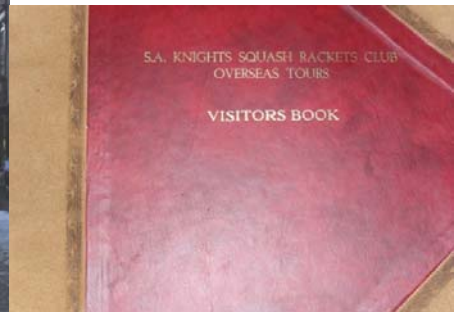




# THE KNIGHTS



25th

TOUR



The United Kingdom

By Alan McGuigan



*Knights 2010/11*



Alan McGuigan



Justin Gouweloos (capt.)



Brett van Rensburg



JP Britz

After much anticipation, waiting, expectation and excitement leading up to our tour to the United Kingdom, three out of the four team members were to represent the legendary Knights Squash team set out on our historic journey leaving for Heathrow International Airport from Johannesburg on the 28<sup>th</sup> of November 2010. Prior to our departure and again once we were airborne, much discussion took place about what we expected from the tour as well as all the many memories and experiences we would soon be a part of. However, little did we know then just how much we would come to cherish these memories and how the experiences we encountered could have been enjoyed so much. In a few words all I can say is that ‘anything that you’ve ever heard about the Knight’s tour to the UK is not only true but more importantly a complete understatement of just how utterly incredible the tour itself is’. Personally the tour has provided me with the best ever touring experience of my life as well as a once in a lifetime opportunity to improve my squash and take to another level and I am sure, with complete confidence, that I can say the same for my three fellow teammates.

After touching down at Heathrow, myself along with teammates Brett van Rensburg and JP Brits were immediately welcomed by Joe Richardson and his wife, Maggie, who were for the most part responsible for organising, amongst other things, all our tour fixtures as well as travel arrangements and to whom we all owe a large debt of gratitude. After they had taken us for a scrumptious English Tea, something we would become accustomed to on tour, we were escorted to our flat where we would be staying for the first two weeks of our trip. On arrival JP, Brett and myself thought it was a good idea to explore our local surroundings and without much thought proceeded to take a ‘small’ tour around ‘town’. On our first day excursion we managed to cover quite a large area of London and while we were in awe of some of the magnificent architecture and wondrous sites we soon found ourselves smack bang in the middle of London. After another hour or so of walking, we settled down in a run-of-the-mill English pub for our first lemonade of the tour.



A view of St Paul's Cathedral with Brett and JP walking in the foreground.

Our day-one enthusiasm was mighty impressive, but 'our quick walk through central London' and after a failed attempt at a night out in Soho, we decided to try and find a way home as it was nearing midnight and we had also sort of forgotten our way home. However, in increasingly colder conditions, with the help of JP's navigational skills we managed to find our way back to our flat by bus and finally after a busy and tiring first day we decided to call it a night and get some rest.



JP and myself posing with one of England's famous 'red telephone boxes'.

The 30<sup>th</sup> of November marked the day of our first match against the Bath and Racquets Club and after being joined by our fourth and final member, Justin Gouweloos, we were treated to some extremely cold English weather and our first look at snow on tour. After a fairly leisurely day and a good meal of pasta cooked up by our culinary maestro Brett we began to get our kit ready and got dressed into our jackets and ties for our first match of tour.

### **1<sup>st</sup> Fixture: Knights vs. Bath & Racquets:**

Before the tour had begun, we had heard of the strength of squash we would be experiencing on tour and this was emphatically confirmed when we looked at the line up for our first fixture against the Bath and Racquets Club. Amongst their ranks Bath and Racquets had acquired the services of two former world top 10 players in Peter Marshall and Zubair Jahan as well as current professional player and coach Jason Barry and well as established club player Matthew Peakman.

First on court for the fixture were the number two's with JP Brits taking on the very experienced and deviously tricky Zubair Jahan. JP adjusted well to the cold UK climate, finding a good length and mixing his shots between solid drives and some clever muscle-stretching boasts and drops; however Zubair's class and finesse were more than apparent and anything loose was pounced on like a typical ex-world pro. JP tried his best to move Jahan

around court but the elder statesman's control was impressive and he hardly ever relinquished his position on the 'T'. In addition to his immaculate positioning on court, Zubair also treated those fortunate spectators gathered in the gallery to some mouth-watering and mind-blowing shots as he displayed his deft touch which elevated him to the top tier of the professional game. Although JP fought valiantly and played his part in some scintillating rallies he was unfortunately unable to gain any ascendancy over the skilful shot maker and eventually conceded the match three games to love.

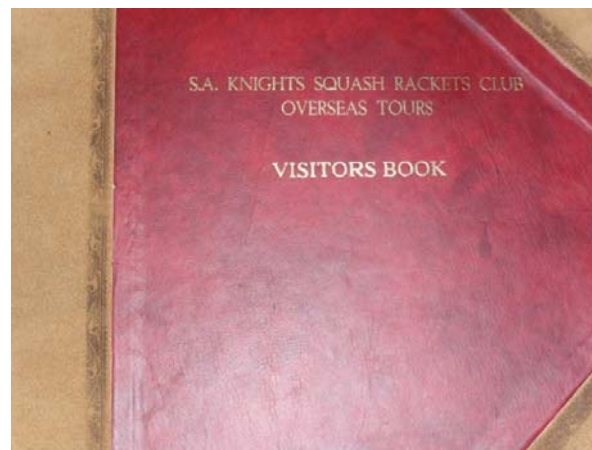
Next on court were the two number 1's with an on-form Justin Gouweloos taking on former world no.2 Peter Marshall. Justin, off the back of a great 2010 season with two near victories over two top 20 players in South Africa (Thoboki Mohohlo and Rudi Willemse), came out of the blocks firing and after some intense rallies and spectacular shots from both players their match was deadlocked at one-a-piece. Unfortunately for the Knight's number one, Peter (just like Zubair in JP's match), seemed to have just too much experience for his younger opponent and worked Justin from corner to corner. Marshall took a tightly contested third game and continued to pile pressure on his opponent in the fourth. Although a fit looking Justin kept the pace and running up for as long as possible he eventually began to waver and after one or two mammoth rallies along with Marshall's deceptive double-handed backhand lost the contest 3-1.

With the Knight's two-nil down in the fixture it was up to yours truly (Knight's number 3), Alan McGuigan to keep their hopes alive. I was up against Jason Barry, a current professional coach/player who bases himself at the Bath and Racquets Club in London. Barry, who originally hails from South Africa has played in many Jarvis Cup tournaments and is also an old boy from my own *alma mater*, Maritzburg College. This added a little spice to our encounter as I was keen to pit myself against a fellow College Old Boy. The first game was close but Jason held his nerve to go up 1-0 and proceeded to dominate the second game as he held a high 'T' position and played some delicate front court shots to extend his advantage at 2-0. With our backs up against the wall I came out fighting in the third and displayed some desperate fetching skills along with a couple of uncharacteristic winners to take our match to the fourth. Confident after winning the third I came out keen to continue my hard work but Jason managed to shorten the rallies and keep me behind him as he steadily

began to build a lead before eventually finishing me off 3-1 and with it the team's chances of averting a first fixture loss.

With the fixture now effectively decided, Brett stepped on court to face his opponent, Matthew Peakman, looking to restore a bit of Knight's pride with a winning performance at number four. He started off well and the first two games were very evenly contested with some long, tiring rallies. In the third and fourth games both players showed off their array of racket skills with Brett pulling off his tricky reverse boast which would become a humorous talking point throughout the rest of our tour. At the end of the match both players stepped off court, tired and content with their efforts with Matthew Peakman coming out a 3-1 victor and handing the Knights their first loss of their tour with a four-nil defeat.

Once all the match formalities had been completed and the result put down into the Knight's legendary 'Touring Book' we all enjoyed a warm sauna before heading out for a much needed dinner. After a hearty meal, the Bath and Racquets team led by chairman Steve Nicholson escorted us to one of the most exclusive night clubs in London, Annabelle's. Inside we were treated to a good deal of lemonades and tons more hospitality as our hosts took great care of us. After a sit down with our drinks and once done discussing the rest of the tour with our opponents, the team decided to try out our skills on the dance floor. We spent around an hour or so dancing alongside a much older demographic than we were accustomed to, before retiring for one final drink and then eventually back to our homely flat making sure to first express our gratitude to our opponents for a unforgettable first fixture.



The Knight's legendary Touring Book' which captures all of our fixtures and results along with comments from our

With the excitement of our first match over and after being generously entertained by Bath and Racquets we all looked forward in great anticipation towards another great experience as we prepared to meet the Jesters at the RAC Club for our second fixture of the thirty-four scheduled on the tour.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Fixture: Knights vs. Jesters**

While many previous Knights expressed the strength of squash in the UK as well as how much fun the tour is and how it's a life changing experience, they also conveniently all happen to recall the Jester's fixture as being the best of the entire tour. At first I was a bit sceptical as to how every Knight seems to be able to recall this night and how it can produce the legendary status that it does; however when I climbed into bed at around half past five the next morning and left Brett and JP outside building a snowman, I appreciated why...

Two current South Africans who were playing in the UK at the time, Michael Wood and Dean Russell, were invited to join us for the evening and they played at 5 and 6 for us with Dean winning in three games and Mike going down in a close encounter.

On court after Mike and Dean was Justin playing against Tim Gardner who reached a career high ranking of world number fifteen and has represented Border at many Jarvis' Cups. As per the previous night, Justin came out firing on all cylinders, raking-up points from killer nicks in both front corner with his deadly cross court drops and smashes which left Tim flat-footed and completely gob-smacked (indigenous terminology). Justin led for most of the match, however Tim began to claw his way back into the encounter with some wily shots and utilising his huge experience. At two-one up in games Justin began to tire and his legs seemed to drag after his equally tough match the night before against Peter Marshall. Although the last two games were extremely close and Justin can consider himself a little unlucky for not grabbing one of them, he eventually went down 3-2 to Tim in a great contest.

Following Justin's match, Brett was next on court against Aqib Kadar, a former Cambridge scholar who is now based in London. The early exchanges of their contest were very close with neither player willing to give up the centre of the court. With some intense rallies ensuing between both players I prepared for my match on the adjacent court against Dean Russell. I was originally meant to play JP's opponent, Jonathan Tredgett while JP took on Justin's opponent from last night, Peter Marshall, however a last minute arrangement meant that the former world no.2 couldn't make it so Jonathan stepped up to two while Dean stepped in to face me. I was looking forward to my encounter with Dean as he had been training overseas for a while now and had seemed to have learnt a lot, I was also keen to try and avenge my Jarvis Cup defeat to him earlier that year.

Dean started off well with his deadly volley drops catching me out of position with my loose cross courts not helping my cause. Luckily my endurance and long stretch meant that I could fetch a lot of his tight shots and I kept interested in the first two games although I unfortunately managed to lose both and went two games to love down. In the third I managed to stay on the 'T' for longer periods during rallies and as a result this put pressure on Dean to play tighter shots. My front court game also improved in the third as I sent Dean the wrong way a couple of times from one or two loose drops. I managed to take the third game and this seemed to set up a thrilling climax for the final two games but unfortunately at around seven-three, Dean got into a bit of a tangle in the front left-hand corner of the court which resulted in him twisting his ankle. He struggled on bravely for a point or so longer but ultimately had to concede the match as he retired injured.

Meanwhile still playing on the adjacent court, Brett was struggling to pick up Aqib's low and accurate boasts which with the colder UK climate were proving quite troublesome. At two-love down Brett had fought valiantly and it was a tribute to just how evenly matched both players were to see that they were still playing by the time my match was over. In the third game of his encounter Brett tried to push Aqib to the back of the court but with some great retrievals and good shots to match Aqib slowly started to build a lead. With his back to the wall Brett gave it his all to the back-end of the game to try and take it to a fourth but was unfortunately unable to win the 'big' points and conceded the match three-love.

With the fixture precariously poised at two-one in favour of the Jesters it was up to the Knight's youngest member, JP Brits, to try and salvage a draw against Canadian born John Tredgett. JP got off to a solid start as usual, finding his length to the back of the court as well as testing John with a couple of quick boasts and clever drops; Tredgett was up to the challenge however and it looked like an epic battle was about to commence. At one-all in games and with the match evenly poised JP made the most of his chances and along with some lengthy rallies which stretched his older opponent, JP took the third game and the momentum into the fourth. With heightened confidence from the previous game, JP got off to a quick start and accumulated a small lead going into the back end of the fourth game. Both players complimented each other's technique very well and their encounter was a good example of good flowing squash with few lets or strokes rewarded. With the pressure mounting as JP got within two points of victory both players poured everything they had into some hefty rallies but it was JP who showed great character, determination and composure to see out the fourth game and secure a 3-1 victory and thus a very credible draw against a strong Jester's side.

With our spirits boosted after a good draw we cleaned and suited up for a delectable supper and some good conversation over a few more lemonades at the RAC's impressive bar. As the drinks flowed and everyone started to get into the spirit of things the night began to heat up and after some acknowledgements from Peter Chalk (who had organised the fixture) and likewise from the Knights we preceded to our entertainment for the night which was an outing to a gentleman's club appropriately named, 'Stringfellows'. Once inside the Knights were once again extremely well taken care of by their opposition and in particular Peter Chalk who took it upon himself to supply copious amounts of champagne and strawberries which livened all of our moods. With broadened smiles on all our faces each Knight's player took it in their stride to introduce themselves to the women circling the club and after a good four or five hours of mingling, and after great enjoyment, we stumbled out of the club with fond memories. Once out of the classy Mercedes-Benz taxi that Brett had somehow managed to organise for us, Justin and myself stepped into our apartment while Brett and JP hone their snowman creation skills and we were all more than content with our first couple of days in

the UK and eagerly awaited the rest of the tour which promised to be filled with as equally fond memories.

### **And our two weeks in London went rumbling on...**

After our night out with the Jesters and after a disappointing 3-1 loss to Charing Cross the Knights recorded their first win on tour against Oxford with Justin, JP and myself all winning. Our winning streak continued for our next three fixtures with the guys weighing in with some strong performances to obtain three convincing 4-0 victories over Colets, Escourts and Roehampton. With all of us beginning to gain confidence and experience on what would prove to be a very long but increasingly agreeable tour.

With our time in London coming to an end before moving onto our 'mobile' tour of the rest of the UK, we set out on a train journey to face our final London-based opposition at the Bexley Lawn Tennis and Squash Rackets Club on the 9<sup>th</sup> of December 2010. In a nail biting encounter Justin, Brett and myself were huddled around court and cheering on JP who had saved six match points and was looking to close out the fixture in the fifth game of his marathon match. Earlier both Justin and yours truly had managed to win 3-0; however with Brett going down 3-2 this meant that JP's match was the decider and after our opening set of poor results we were all anxious to keep our more recent winning form going. With chances toward the back-end of the fifth JP had us gasping for air but with some great recovery shots his opponent, Ted, kept us glued to our seats until JP eventually converted his seventh or so match ball to gain victory and seal a well-earned draw for the Knights.

After our final fixture against London-based opposition we were once again treated to some fine English cuisine as well as a couple of lemonades and great company. This kind of hospitality had been gratefully received by the Knights from all the clubs and their generosity was much appreciated. Of course with the Knights being looked after as well as we were, the inevitable late night was often liable to slip into our schedule. A good example of one of these so called late nights occurred after our fixture against Roehampton. After we had

wrapped up a good win over our opponents we proceeded to have a tasty supper and a couple of lemonades which quickly turned into several. With the lads getting more enthusiastic with each new drink Roehampton pro, Paul Lindsey, kept the drinks bill rolling and once again with some great company the Knights heavily indulged their social side, almost filling an entire bar table with empty glasses. This type of hospitality along with the great social experienced was reminiscent of our time in London and many of the clubs we had visited. A great deal of thanks to all these clubs for making our first leg of the tour as enjoyable as possible.

After our fixture against Bexley and one last night in our apartment in London it was time to pack our bags and head off to Guernsey. Once we had dropped off our spare luggage at Joes' son's house we made our way to Gatwick Airport and from there over the channel to Guernsey.



Our night at Roehampton is only just beginning as we start to fill the table with our empty glasses...



A picture of Justin, JP and Brett on one of our many walks around London.

### **9<sup>th</sup> Fixture: Knights vs. Guernsey**

The Knights arrived on the beautiful island of Guernsey on Friday the 10<sup>th</sup> of December. Once there we met with two of our three hosts, Steve Falla and Ben Rosec and while Brett made his way with Ben to be dropped off at his host's house Justin, JP and myself went with Steve for a tour of the small independent island. Steve showed us around the coastline as well as the inland of the island and answered all our questions expertly as he displayed his vast

knowledge of the island's history. Guernsey is an amazingly beautiful island with stunning vistas and picturesque settings everywhere you looked. Although small the island had all the essentials it needed and reminded me of a kind of tranquil getaway from urban UK life. After our tour, Steve took us back to his house for some refreshments before we headed to the local squash courts for our 9th fixture.



One of the many picturesque views on the island of Guernsey.

Using two courts JP and Brett went on first to try and give the Knights a two-love advantage in the fixture. Both got off to surprisingly shaky starts probably a result of our flight earlier that day. As their matches progressed both players started to tighten up, find their length and make fewer and fewer mistakes. Applying increasing pressure on their opponents both JP and Brett managed to wrap up rather comfortable 3-1 victories and put the Knights in the driving seat for the final two matches.

I was on court next playing at number two against Henry Birch who had earlier that year represented Guernsey in the Doubles squash at the Commonwealth Games in Delhi, India. I took a few rallies in the first game to adjust to our new climate but unlike JP and Brett, making mistakes was not my problem as in contrast my opponent merely hammered his shots into the nick. Although my shots weren't quite making my opponent work as much as I had hoped and similarly a couple of careless cross courts which Henry took early often meant that I was playing off the back foot; luckily however my recovery skills were keeping me in the game as I constantly scraped his tight shots off the floor and walls. After he had blitzed me in the first game to take a one-love lead I fought back and the next two were extremely tight and were both decided 11-9 as we each took a game. Two-one down and starting to stare down the barrel as coupled with some more poor cross courts, Henry's tight working shots and killer drops eventually gave him three match points at 10-7; I nevertheless stuck at it and

managed to fight my way back to 10-all. At this point the fourth game was either of ours to win as we had both been pretty evenly matched up until this point. To my horror though, at 10-all and serving from the right-hand box I served out and gave the advantage back to Henry. Although I ran my heart out on the next point it would prove to be in vein as Henry slotted one last backhand drop and left me stranded with a 3-1 loss and thinking 'what if' for the rest of the weekend. I think it was the only time I served out during the whole tour...

Two-one up in the fixture Justin went on court as my match was concluding and it was up to the Knight's skipper to secure our 5<sup>th</sup> win on tour. He was up against Guernsey local professional and squash coach, Ben Rosec. Ben had recently moved from Guernsey from France with the dream of fulfilling his coaching as a profession and had been very successful on the island. Ben played a very disciplined and basic game with his good length complemented by a good working boast that could often prove deadly. Justin stepped on court a little stiff, as were all of us, and the first two games were close as both players looked for the 'T' position. As the encounter went on Justin started to apply more and more pressure on his opponent with his hard and quick down the walls and cross-courts as well as with his deceptive front court trickle boasts and accurate volleying. With Justin dominating the front of the court the longer the match went on Ben was forced into making mistakes and after a good tussle Justin emerged a 3-1 victor and secured the Knight's 5<sup>th</sup> victory on tour. With the fixture over, the Knights headed with their opponents for a bite to eat at a local restaurant before planning the next day's events and retiring for the night with their respective hosts.

Our next day on Guernsey would prove to be an extremely relaxed one as after a long lie-in we each prepared ourselves for a light social run at the local squash club where we played the night before and a hand at coaching with Ben and a couple of his promising youth players. The mood at the club was very cheerful and a lot of fun was had as the Knight's participated in various activities ranging from coaching, doubles, singles matches and on court drills. The club members and juniors who had turned up were grateful for the opportunity to pit themselves against some new players and the Knight's thoroughly enjoyed their chilled afternoon off from a busy playing schedule. After all the squash had finished the Knights were treated to a lemonade at the club pub and proceeded to try and organise arrangements for that night. Although we had been out already a couple of times on tour it was an

especially special night for one Knight as Brett was celebrating his birthday. With the team keen to make the most of Brett's special day we were planning to head to Guernsey's one and only nightclub for the evening, Folly's. Earlier we'd purchased some beverage to keep us company prior to our excursions and headed over to Henry Birch's house for some 'pre drinks'. Once we had all had our fill and after a small fines meeting conducted by Brett we headed out for what would prove to be a very interesting night.

Before we'd arrive at Folly's we were led by a couple of the local squash players who had accompanied us from Henry's to a few local pubs for some more lemonades. At this point Justin and JP went back to their host's house where they encountered a small house party while myself and Brett were left to mingle with the locals and try and keep up with the rounds which were being handed out. After some time wandering around the city centre, dancing from pub to pub, Brett and yours truly finally arrived at Folly's. Once inside we cashed out on some funny lemonade and eventually ran into Justin and JP who had finally managed to excuse themselves to leave Ben's house and head into town. The night was filled with great music, a good atmosphere and some enthusiastic dance moves from all the Knight's.

Unfortunately, to our disappointment, the club closed at two 'o'clock and I accompanied Justin and JP back to Ben's house to crash out for the night. I must admit whilst following Justin and JP back to Ben's place I felt a great deal of guilt for not returning to my own hosts, Steve Falla, for the evening but this was however well justified as I had completely forgotten where he lived and similarly was not an entirely in the state to try and figure it out as at one point on our walk home I began to follow a complete stranger whilst Justin and JP hid behind the wall of the adjacent street sniggering away. Fortunately, the next day I learned that Brett too had struggled to find his way back to his host's house and this lifted a bit of a weight off my shoulders. Once Folly's had closed and after looking for Brett for around an hour and assuming he had walked home Justin, JP and I headed off. Brett on the other hand had different considerations and after escorting a local girl home also felt the guilt of not returning to his host's house for the evening. To his credit Brett felt his hosts may fear the worst and decided to sneak out of his new acquaintance's house and proceed to make his way back to his hosts. This proved to be the wrong decision however and after learning that he

was on the opposite side of the island from where he was staying Brett spent a short yet cold stint in a telephone box, trying to catch up on some sleep, before hitching a free taxi ride back to his hosts. Like I said an interesting evening...

Once we had all once again met up with our hosts and had a well needed breakfast we headed off for the airport. After thanking our Guernsey hosts for their generosity and saying our goodbyes we boarded the plane back to England. Whilst flying back over the channel I had the chance to go over last night's events in my head and even though it was filled with blank spots here and there I remember thinking it was nights like that which you sit around the dinner table with a couple of mates and humour them with your quirky life stories. The tour was quickly starting to take shape just like many previous Knight's had explained to us and we headed into our next week of fixtures brimming with confidence and enthusiasm.

### **Back in England...**

After arriving back in England our first fixture was supposed to be against Lexden but unfortunately had to be cancelled as we experienced complications with our car rental. Our fixture against Brighton some three days later also had to be cancelled as the club informed us that they had been unable to organise for the event in time. In-between all of this however we managed to record two good victories with a deserved 3-1 win over Bury St Edmunds and a convincing 4-0 victory over Bishop's Stortford. After a free day in Brighton where we did some more touring we then faced a strong Middleton team and sneaked through with a 3-1 win in a very competitive fixture. Next on our tour was a quick ferry trip back over the water and onto the Isle of Wight...



The guys chilling out before our match against Bury St Edmunds.



JP ready for action!



A scenic view of the pier on our day out in Brighton.



A photograph of me at 'The Biltong Hut' along Brighton pier.



JP at the end of Brighton pier.

### **15<sup>th</sup> Fixture: Knights vs. Isle of Wight**

We arrived at the Isle of Wight by ferry on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December 2010. Once finding the club we spent our time preparing ourselves for our fixture later that afternoon. After some lazy games of doubles we each had a shower and tried to warm ourselves up in what was becoming an increasingly cold English winter. Unsure of what to expect for the afternoons fixture we sat patiently waiting for our opponents. At approximately thirty-seven kilometres in length and twenty-one kilometres across the Isle of Wight is significantly bigger than Guernsey and therefore we were expecting some strong opposition. With a small yet enthusiastic crowd gathering and with our opposition having arrived, both Brett and I began

to warm our weary muscles and stepped on opposite courts to face each of our respective opponents.

I went into my fixture against Callum Medway confident yet very tired after a come from behind and very significant victory the night before against Middleton. Thankfully the ‘ref’ gave us a slightly longer warm-up than usual and although I’m not entirely sure he meant it I wasn’t complaining. Our match finally got under way and as I built a solid lead in the first game I began to regain some vigour. I took the first game comfortably and was left during the interval thinking if my match would heat up. The second and third games followed the same path as the first and I gained confidence as I got off to quick starts in both games. I wrapped up the encounter without too much fuss 3-0 and when Brett walked off court with a similarly comfortable 3-1 victory, dropping the third to some sluggish play it became apparent that this fixture would be one of our easier matches on tour.

JP was on court after me and although the scores in each game against opponent, Jamie McNaughton, were fairly close JP was always in complete control and wrapped up his match 3-0 and with it the fixture for the Knights. Last on court for the afternoon was Knight’s number uno Justin. During the warm up Justin offered some amusement to the crowd as he donned the Knight’s traditional Great Britain boxers which were reserved for the worst player from the previous fixture. The crowd had been reasonably quiet during the matches and the boxers added some comedy to the event even though they still appreciated the good level of squash which I’m sure is not often seen on the island. Justin got off to an explosive start and

did not let the cold weather stop him from finding a good length and slotting some typical cross-court nicks. Once he took the first game he was always going to be difficult to stop and romped to an easy victory over his older opponent.



SOUTH AFRICAN TOUR 2010/11			
18 <sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2010			
ISLE OF WIGHT	V		SOUTH AFRICAN KNIGHTS
ADAM DOMINEY	2	2	JUSIN GOUNELOOS
JAMIE MCNAUGHTON	3	3	J.P BRITS
CALLUM MEDWAY	4	4	ALLAN McFIVIGAN
CALLUM ARNOTT	3	4	BRETT VAN RENSBURG

With our fixture against the Isle of Wight over we once again returned to mainland England excited to face our next opponents, Winchester. Rejuvenated and full of confidence we relaxed on the ferry sailing over the Solent and hoped to build on our impressive unbeaten streak reaching far back to our win over Oxford.

### **16<sup>th</sup> Fixture: Knights vs. Winchester**

I'm sure when my fellow teammates read this article they'll be a little unhappy to notice that I highlighted our fixture against Winchester. On a night where we had hoped to extend our unbeaten run we ran into some tough competition and with our relatively easy victory the day before versus the Isle of Wight we began the fixture a little too high in confidence and a little less focussed on our performance. We got off to a good enough start as I sealed a tough 3-0 victory with every game going down to the wire. As I finished and Brett stepped on court JP had taken a 2-1 lead over his opponent on the adjacent court and had match balls in the fourth to finish it off and earn the Knights at least a draw. His experienced opponent was having none of it however and fought back doggedly to somehow claim the fourth before wrapping up a 3-2 win over JP in an equally tightly contested fifth game.

At one-all in matches it was up to Brett and Justin to claim a result for us. Both started slowly and struggled to find a length and pace as they played too many half courts and allowed their opponents to gain superior positions. Their opponents were both crafty and experienced club players and along with their superb league statuses also coached and were therefore strong mentally and up for the occasion. As Brett lost 3-1 and Winchester took over the overall match lead it was up to Justin to try and salvage a draw and at 2-1 down and at the midway point in the fourth game the tie seemed to rest on a knife's edge. With every rally and indeed shot vital Justin made one or two unforced errors and with a couple of deft touches the Winchester number 1 claimed a 3-1 victory and sentenced the Knights to their first loss in more than ten fixtures.

It was a very disappointing loss for us as a team and after such a good run of form we were all distraught with the loss as we were left wondering “what if” as we showered and prepared for dinner in the local club house. Although with dampened spirits we made our way to dinner we were soon immersed in conversation with our opposition and hosts for the evening and the good spirit of the fixture definitely shone through. It was at this point with dinner complete and the Knights ready to put the fixture behind them that the Winchester side introduced to a rather curious drinking game called ‘Tink!’ Never ready to pass down the opportunity to drink and with the disappointment of the night’s fixture weighing heavy on our consciences we accepted their offer.

The rules of ‘tink’ are very similar to that of ‘coinage’ as each player takes a turn and tries to bounce the coin into the centre glass which is filled with a mixture of each participant’s drink. If a participant manages to get the coin into the glass he must nominate a fellow player to down the glass. Although ‘tink’ follows this basic notion there are various other more elaborate rules which are designed to make you slip up. For instance instead of referring to the coin, glass or table a player must instead refer to them as a monitory unit, a receptacle and an international playing surface or i.p.s. for short. Also a player may never receive the monitory unit from another participant but must instead only pick it up off the i.p.s. or if it so happens the floor. Failure to follow these rules would result in a two finger fine of your own drink at which point you must say: “tink” before drinking. Some of the more important rules included rubbing your empty glass on someone’s shoulder once finished a drink and saying e.g. (empty glass) or when receiving a drink making sure to say ‘not out’. Failure to comply with these rules would result in a down-down of an entire drink! It was a pretty brutal game and at some point in the tour including that night each Knights player felt the brunt of its wrath.

The drinking game seemed to have a profound effect on each of us and upon returning back in South Africa we have each passed it onto our friends and ‘tink’ has subsequently resulted in many a late night. Although we may remember Winchester more for that ‘cool drinking game we learned’ rather than for our forgettable fixture I think it’s a great example of how squash has a funny way of teaching us age-old lessons as well as connecting people. That night we were once again taught never to take any fixture too easy and to never be too

confident yet also illustrated the great social side to squash that many players at a competitive level seem to forget. It had been a disappointing result for us yet in retrospect we took a lot away from the fixture and should be grateful. With that in mind and with some drink still curdling in our stomachs we made our way in the early morning for our next fixture away in a cold Birmingham.

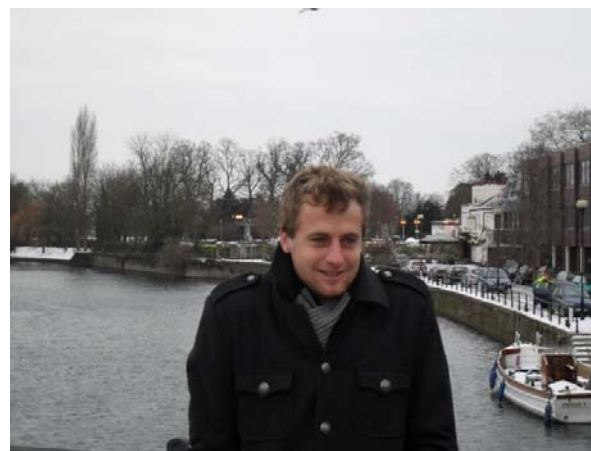
### **The cold strikes...**

With temperatures dropping to as low as minus ten degrees by the time we reached Birmingham, we all started to realise just how cold the UK could be. After exploring for a bit and stopping at a local shopping mall we decided to head off to Edgebaston Priory Club where we would be playing that night. However our progress across town was severely inhibited as heavy snow caused road closures and grid-locked traffic which resulted in us waiting almost three hours to reach our destination only a couple of kilometres away. Things were really starting to take a chill...

On court we were unable to come back from our disappointing loss to Winchester as we lost 4-0 twice, firstly to a strong Edgbaston side brimming with pro-players and then to an equally tough Nottingham side. The experience was teaching us well though and heading into the Christmas break we recorded convincing wins over both Oxfordshire as well as Windsor, 3-1 and 4-0 respectively.



Justin holding a big chunk of snow picked up off the bushes.



Brett feeling the cold as we walk through Windsor.

### Christmas Time:

For many Christmas time is a time to spend with your family and loved ones and rejoice in happiness and goodwill. Being away from home however the Knights didn't have this option for their 2010 Christmas celebrations and spent most of Christmas Eve taking in the festivities of London where we had returned to stay at Joe's daughter's flat for the weekend break. Spending as many weeks as we had together we had all become pretty close and had created a sort of 'touring brotherhood'.

For us Christmas wasn't all without meaning and after a failed attempt at a Christmas Eve dinner which ironically saw us sat down in McDonalds for the umpteenth time we finally got our Christmas meal the following day when we eagerly joined the Richardson's at their house in Baughurst for a Christmas dinner. After an entertaining day of playing games and even receiving a couple of presents we sat round the dinner table and enjoyed the great company. It was a Christmas to remember away from home and our resounding thanks must go to Joe and Maggie for making us feel so at home.



Some great London Christmas decorations on a busy Christmas Eve night.



Some more festive decorations.

### **Back to Business!!!**

After a well spent and relaxing Christmas break we were all eager to get back on court and earn some good results. Unfortunately our enthusiasm took a knock as we lost 3-1 to Torquay in a close encounter which we should have once again perhaps drawn. We avenged this loss the next evening however as we beat Devon and Exeter 3-1 and after a tough 3-1 defeat to Newport in Wales the Knights then won three fixtures in a row as we beat Bristol 3-1 before defeating Pontefract twice over the New Year, both fixtures also ending 3-1.

With confidence once again restored we headed into the backend of the tour keen to finish off well and complete the great Knight's tradition. Although things got off to a shaky start with a cancellation for our fixture against Halifax and a 3-1 loss to a Durham Select team; we nevertheless arrived at Cumbria on the 5<sup>th</sup> of January 2011 searching for a good win.

### **28th Fixture: Knights vs. Cumbria**

Once we'd arrived in Cumbria we were greeted by Tom Armstrong and Ian Richardson and taken to a well known hotel to unpack and unwind before our fixture. We were to spend two days in Cumbria with the first designated for our fixture and the second put aside for us to assist in a bit of coaching and some social squash with many of Cumbrian brightest youth players.

Arriving at the venue with a decently sized crowd starting to gather in the gallery we all went on court and warmed up with a couple of rounds of 'king'. Once we had met our opponents and everyone was ready we got under way. Just using the one court Brett was on first and with the crowd whispering between themselves in expectation of a competitive fixture Brett's match sprung into action.

Brett was up against local Cumbrian player, Gavin Scott, and got off to a strong start as he forced his opponent to the back of the court and with his impressive length and a couple of great retrievals took a 1-0 lead in games. In the second game Brett continued his onslaught and drove the ball well to the back before starting to also incorporate a couple of well disguised drops and boasts which really got his older opponent sprawling from corner to corner. After Brett took a 2-0 lead the third game turned into an interesting affair as with Brett the obvious fitter player Gavin tried to use his guile and experience to try and pull off some miraculous shots but too good Brett forced Gavin into endless mistakes and eventually secured a comfortable 3-0 victory.

I was next on court and with the odd person in the crowd starting to enthusiastically cheer the name 'Animal' I automatically prepared myself for a tough encounter. The 'Animals' real name was Gary Timante and after challenging me to a two pound bet on whoever was to win we got under way. The first couple of points were incredibly long as we both rallied the ball down the backhand and forehand walls. I was feeling comfortable until with a change of pace and some very cleverly placed shots, the Animal claimed first game. I got off to a poor start in the second and with Gary working me from corner with typical pro experience, which he would have picked up in his time on the world circuit as a much younger player, he took a 2-0 lead. Knowing that if I kept running I'd have a chance I gave it my all in the third game but it just wasn't enough as with some clever positioning and pin-point accurate shots I went down 3-0.

With the fixture deadlocked at one a peace and with me two pounds out of pocket JP stepped on court to face his opponent, Andrew Kelly. Andrew possessed a rather unorthodox technique and was at first very difficult to read, especially in the front. JP was on top form however and after a couple of interesting opening points JP sped into a first game lead before wrapping it up. It was a similar story in the second and third game as well as once JP had pushed his opponent behind him and had taken control of the 'T' he calmly put the ball away in the front of the court. After a sound performance JP walked off court with an easy 3-0 victory and set up the fixture win for the Knights as Justin went on last against local 'pro', Paul Bell.

With the smell of victory in the air Justin got off to a surprisingly cautious yet steady start as he rallied with his opponent in the back looking to gain the middle of the court. As the first game reached its backend Justin pulled off some typically 'smashing' shots which left Paul flat footed and bemused as he quickly went a game down from a previously very evenly poised position. In the second Paul seemed to have learned from his mistakes in the first as he kept the ball away from Justin's volley and began to position himself higher up the court and apply pressure on the Knight's number 1. With the second game coming down to a tie break Justin managed to stay composed, grabbing a 2-0 lead and went into the third full of confidence and hungry for victory. With Justin keen to finish his opponent off as quickly as possible he came out of the blocks in the third game firing on all cylinders as he pounced on anything loose and hunted down the volley. To his credit Paul tried to keep a foothold in the game but did himself no favours as with some unforced errors along with some sloppy cross courts he handed Justin a 3-0 victory and hence a 3-1 fixture win for the Knights.

After a good victory the night before and with the limbs really starting to take strain the Knights enjoyed their long lie in and late breakfast on their free day in Cumbria. Although we had no official fixture for the day squash was still on the menu as Windscale Squash Club had set-up a day for some of the local youngsters to come and meet the Knights personally as well as to get a bit of coaching and perhaps even a game. The day was a humbling experience for all of us and whilst coaching the very youngest of players, only 6 years old or so, the reward of just a smile from the joy of hitting a good shot was payment enough for any of our services.

The day really made me appreciate just how far I had come as a squash player and all the great memories squash had given me over the years. We had really enjoyed our time in Cumbria and when asked to sign autographs we felt a strange sense of importance and responsibility at promoting our beautiful game. The two days spend in Cumbria had been a resounding success and a lot of thanks must once again be made out to all our hosts for their support and generosity not only for this fixture but the entire tour as a whole.

### Onto Carlisle and into Scotland...

Once finished in Cumbria we had a short journey to Carlisle where we faced a strong county side in front of a packed gallery and the biggest crowd so far on tour. We recorded a 3-1 victory with JP avenging my previous night's loss to Gary Timante (The Animal) and regaining the two pounds I lost. After Carlisle we headed up north into Scotland and had a good 3-1 victory over Glasgow before losing the next night against Edinburgh, 4-0. With the prospect of facing a tough Aberdeen outfit the next night the Knights were keen to bounce back from their shabby defeat to Edinburgh as well as to meet perhaps one of the greatest squash players of all time, Peter Nicol, who would represent their team at number 1. Upon learning the news that Peter's participation a few days earlier we were all in disagreement of who should play him. With no reachable answer we drew names out of a hat and JP was the lucky winner and would have the honour of a match up with Peter the next day.



A picture of the packed gallery for our fixture against Carlisle.



A picture of a bag-piper on our walk around Edinburgh.



### **32<sup>nd</sup> Fixture: Knights vs. Aberdeen Squash Racquets Club**

With the Knights excited to return home after almost two months overseas we went into our final fixture in Scotland hoping to bow out strongly toward the end of the tour as well as to gain some vital experience from squash legend, Peter Nicol. Keen to get off to a good start, knowing that JP would have his hands full, Brett and I were first on as we once again made the most of two courts.

I was up against a big and burly club player appropriately nicknamed 'the farmer'. During the warm up I remember thinking to myself: "well at least this guy won't have any touch" and my theory seemed to be proving right as with some good solid basics and tight straight drives to the back I took a 2-0 lead. However I was just about to be proven wrong as with some good moving shots to the front and an increase in the tempo my body started to buckle under the immense punishment it had been subjected to over the last seven weeks. 'The farmer' took the 3<sup>rd</sup> game and as rushed out into a commanding lead in the fourth. With my legs starting to give way I began to see why he had been nicknamed 'the farmer' not only because of his big build but more importantly at this point his endurance and competitive will to push on.

After learning that Brett had gone down in a tight five setter I knew I had to put any pain behind me and win the fifth game of my match if we were to have any hope of getting a result out of the fixture. I dug extremely deep for the first couple of points of the fifth game and after gaining momentum and a small lead I consolidated with some long rallies with both of us waiting for our opponent to make a mistake. Finally after more than an hour a half on court I got a match ball and converted straight away to draw the team score level at 1-1.

Meanwhile on the adjacent court Justin had already obtained a 1-0 lead over his opponent and club owner, Alistair Gorrie. Alistair was a really solid player with impeccable technique and

great timing. Justin however played his usual fast paced game and forced Gorrie into unforced errors. With momentum in the match swaying from side to side as neither player seemed to gain supremacy it was Justin who managed to win the big points and converted two crucial tie break games to secure a 3-1 victory and ensure that the Knight's would at least get a draw out of the fixture.

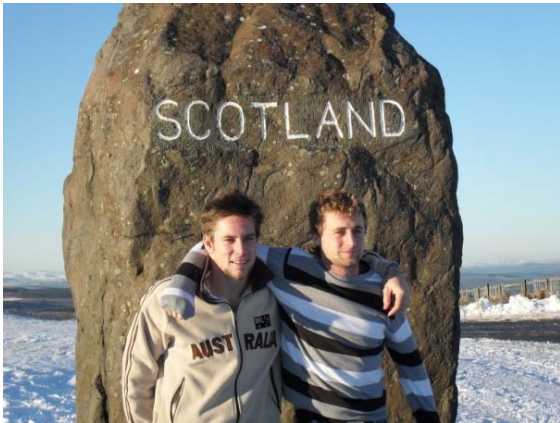
With Justin and Alastair Gorrie's match coming to a dramatic conclusion, the main attraction of the night was just getting under way as JP took on Peter Nicol. Peter has been retired from professional squash for a couple of years now but it was evident from the onset of their match that he still possessed all the class of a former world champion and World number 1. The opening exchanges of the match were filled with typically long rallies with both players trying to gain ascendancy. JP was extremely pumped up for the encounter and worked hard not to give away any cheap points as he looked to make the most of this experience. With the game becoming more open, Peter's experience of years spent at the summit of world squash started to tell as he seemed to work JP around the court at will and rarely left his position on the 'T'.

Peter's choice of shot selection was astounding as he consistently put the ball in the right areas and along with his immaculate accuracy and great deception it became easy to see just how he got to where he did in his squash career. Being able to watch this kind of genius in person really made us appreciate the game and no one was appreciating it more than JP. 2-0 down but working as hard as ever JP really dug deep in the third game and tried to mix up his shots and pace in an attempt to change the tempo of the game. After some scintillating rallies and after forcing Peter into a tie break JP eventually went down 3-0.



The legendary Peter Nicol in action against JP.

The Knights earned an honourable draw for the evening and after a quick shower enjoyed a tasty meal accompanied by some lemonades and the inevitable good company of our opponents. After a few laughs along with another pint or two we headed to Alastair's for the night and the next day left Scotland, headed back to England for our final fixture and then back home.



Brett and Justin at the England-Scotland border as we re-entered England.



JP and I at the England-Scotland border.

### **One last match and then back home...**

Our final match was played on Tuesday the 11<sup>th</sup> of January 2011 and fittingly it was one of our most convincing performances on tour as we recorded a 4-0 win over Northumberland, our 19<sup>th</sup> win altogether out of a possible 31 matches. Once we had completed some last minute shopping back in London we said our goodbyes to Joe and Maggie Richardson, who enough thanks cannot be expressed in words for all their generosity and goodwill, and finally made our journey back to South Africa as we left Heathrow International Airport.

On reflection I'm not sure how I can adequately incorporate all of what we had felt whilst on tour into one concluding paragraph. When departing South Africa I'm sure we all had notions of how we would return better players with tons of experience and many stories to tell. In retrospect however, the tour seemed to offer us so much more than that and if I was to have to sum it up in a word I would say it was an 'experience' and an epic one at that. Life is filled

with experiences, both good and bad. This tour was a once in a lifetime opportunity to expand our sporting careers whilst also interacting with fellow squash fanatics who share or even live our dreams. It was an eye opening seven weeks and an experience which will foster memories until the day we die.

**In essence it was a fantastic tour and so many thanks must go to all those who helped to make this possible and likewise my fellow teammates who contributed so greatly to everything we shared together.**

Thank You.

**Full Match Results For The Knights 2010/11 Tour Of The UK**

**Knights team for 2010/11 tour to the UK: Justin Gouweloos (Pietermaritzburg), JP Brits (Pretoria), Alan McGuigan (Pietermaritzburg) and Brett van Rensburg (Durban).**

**Fixture 1: Knights vs. Bath & Racquets Club**

- 1) Justin Gouweloos 1-3 Peter Marshall
- 2) JP Brits 0-3 Zubair Jahan
- 3) Alan McGuigan 1-3 Jason Barry
- 4) Brett van Rensburg 1-3 Matthew Peakman

**Knights lost 4-0.**

**Fixture 2: Knights vs. Jesters**

- 1) Justin Gouweloos 2-3 Tim Gardner
- 2) JP Brits 3-1 Jonathan Tredgett
- 3) Alan McGuigan w/o Dean Russell (injury) (1-2 in games)
- 4) Brett van Rensburg 0-3 Aqib Kadar

**Knights drew 2-2.**

**Fixture 3: Knights vs. Charing Cross Sports Club**

- 1) Justin Gouweloos lost 3-2
- 2) JP Brits lost 3-0
- 3) Alan McGuigan lost 3-0
- 4) Brett van Rensburg won 3-0

**Knights lost 3-1.**

**Fixture 4: Knights vs. Oxford**

- 1) Justin Gouweloos won 3-2
- 2) JP Brits won 3-1
- 3) Alan McGuigan won 3-0
- 4) Brett van Rensburg lost 3-2

**Knights won 3-1.**

**Fixture 5: Knights vs. Colets**

- 1) Justin Gouweloos 3-0 Guy Olby
- 2) JP Brits 3-0 Adrian Jaski
- 3) Alan McGuigan 3-2 Alan Thompson
- 4) Brett van Rensburg 3-2 Dermot Hurford

**Knights won 4-0.**

**Fixture 6: Knights vs. Escorts**

- 1) Justin Gouweloos 3-0 Harry Leitch
- 2) JP Brits 3-0 Jamie Douglas
- 3) Alan McGuigan 3-0 Matthew Austin
- 4) Brett van Rensburg 3-2 Dominic Curtis

**Knights won 4-0.**

**Fixture 7: Knights vs. Roehampton Club**

- 1) Justin Gouweloos won 3-1
- 2) JP Brits won 3-0
- 3) Alan McGuigan won 3-0
- 4) Brett van Rensburg won 3-0

**Knights won 4-0.**

**Fixture 8: Knights vs. Bexley Lawn Tennis & Squash Rackets Club**

- 1) JP Brits lost 3-2
- 2) Justin Gouweloos won 3-0
- 3) Alan McGuigan won 3-0
- 4) Brett van Rensburg lost 3-2.

**Knights drew 2-2.**

**Fixture 9: Knights vs. Guernsey**

- 1) Justin Gouweloos won 3-1
- 2) Alan McGuigan lost 3-1
- 3) JP Brits won 3-1
- 4) Brett van Rensburg won 3-1

**Knights won 3-1.**

**Fixture 10: Knights vs. Lexden**

Fixture Cancelled

**Fixture 11: Knights vs. Bury St Edmunds**

- 1) Justin Gouweloos 2-3 Jamie Goodrich
- 2) JP Brits 3-0 Steve Maitland
- 3) Alan McGuigan 3-0 Martin Leven
- 4) Brett van Rensburg 3-0 Stuart Parke

**Knights won 3-1.**

**Fixture 12: Knights vs. Bishop's Stortford Squash Club**

- 1) Justin Gouweloos 3-0 Nick Mulvey
- 2) JP Brits 3-0 Charlie Johnson
- 3) Alan McGuigan 3-1 Tim Dixon
- 4) Brett van Rensburg 3-2 Justin Dixon

**Knights won 4-0.**

**Fixture 13: Knights vs. Brighton**

Fixture Cancelled

**Fixture 14: Knights vs. Middleton Sports Club**

- 1) Justin Gouweloos lost 3-2
- 2) JP Brits won 3-2
- 3) Alan McGuigan won 3-2
- 4) Brett van Rensburg won 3-0

**Knights won 3-1.**

**Fixture 15: Knights vs. Isle of Wright**

- 1) Justin Gouweloos 3-0 Adam Dominey
  - 2) JP Brits 3-0 Jamie MacNaughton
  - 3) Alan McGuigan 3-0 Callum Medway
  - 4) Brett van Rensburg 3-1 Callum Arnott
- Knights won 4-0.**

**Fixture 16: Knights vs. Winchester Squash Club**

- 1) Justin Gouweloos lost 3-1
  - 2) JP Brits lost 3-2
  - 3) Alan McGuigan won 3-0
  - 4) Brett van Rensburg lost 3-1
- Knights lost 3-1.**

**Fixture 17: Knights vs. Edgbaston Priory Club**

- 1) Justin Gouweloos lost 3-1
  - 2) JP Brits lost 3-0
  - 3) Alan McGuigan lost 3-1
  - 4) Brett van Rensburg lost 3-2
- Knights lost 4-0.**

**Fixture 18: Knights vs. Nottingham Squash Rackets Club**

- 1) Justin Gouweloos lost 3-2
  - 2) JP Brits lost 3-2
  - 3) Alan McGuigan lost 3-0
  - 4) Brett van Rensburg lost 3-2
- Knights lost 4-0.**

**Fixture 19: Knights vs. Oxfordshire**

- 1) Justin Gouweloos lost 3-2
  - 2) JP Brits won 3-1
  - 3) Alan McGuigan won 3-0
  - 4) Brett van Rensburg won 3-0
- Knights won 3-1.**

**Fixture 20: Knights vs. Windsor**

- 1) Justin Gouweloos won 3-0
  - 2) Alan McGuigan won 3-1
  - 3) JP Brits won 3-0
  - 4) Brett van Rensburg won 3-0
- Knights won 4-0.**

**Fixture 21: Knights vs. Torquay Squash Club**

- 1) Alan McGuigan lost 3-0
  - 2) Justin Gouweloos lost 3-2
  - 3) JP Brits won 3-0
  - 4) Brett van Rensburg lost 3-1
- Knights lost 3-1.**

**Fixture 22: Knights vs. Devon and Exeter Squash Club**

- 1) JP Brits lost 3-0
  - 2) Justin Gouweloos won 3-1
  - 3) Alan McGuigan won 3-1
  - 4) Brett van Rensburg won 3-0
- Knights won 3-1.**

**Fixture 23: Knights vs. Newport Squash Rackets Club**

- 1) Justin Gouweloos 2-3 Greg Tippings
- 2) Alan McGuigan 0-3 Matthew Crowley
- 3) JP Brits 3-1 David Haley
- 4) Brett van Rensburg 2-3 Sam Huxtable

**Knights lost 3-1.**

**Fixture 24: Knights vs. Bristol**

- 1) Alan McGuigan 1-3 Barney Elworthy
- 2) Justin Gouweloos 3-0 Ollie Morral
- 3) JP Brits 3-0 Frank Ellis
- 4) Brett van Rensburg 3-1 Will Tizzard

**Knights won 3-1.**

**Fixture 25: Knights vs. Pontefract**

- 1) Justin Gouweloos 0-3 Neil Cordell
- 2) JP Brits 3-1 Sam Wileman
- 3) Alan McGuigan 3-0 George Wileman
- 4) Brett van Rensburg 3-2 Jacques Kruger

**Knights won 3-1.**

**Fixture 26: Knights vs. Pontefract**

- 1) JP Brits 3-1 Neil Cordell
- 2) Justin Gouweloos 3-0 Sam Wileman
- 3) Brett van Rensburg 0-3 Deon Salfery
- 4) Alan McGuigan 3-0 Jacques Kruger

**Knights won 3-1.**

**Fixture 27: Knights vs. Halifax**

Fixture Cancelled

**Fixture 28: Knights vs. Durham Select**

- 1) Alan McGuigan 1-3 Gareth Lamsden
- 2) JP Brits 1-3 Josh Harris
- 3) Justin Gouweloos 3-0 Andy Parnaby
- 4) Brett van Rensburg 2-3 Andy Cross

**Knights lost 3-1.**

**Fixture 29: Knights vs. Cumbria**

- 1) Justin Gouweloos 3-0 Paul Bell
- 2) JP Brits 3-0 Andrew Kelly
- 3) Alan McGuigan 0-3 Gary Timante
- 4) Brett van Rensburg 3-0 Gavin Scott

**Knights won 3-1.**

**Fixture 30: Knights vs. Carlisle Squash & Racketball Club**

- 1) Alan McGuigan lost 3-1
- 2) JP Brits won 3-2
- 3) Justin Gouweloos won 3-0
- 4) Brett van Rensburg won 3-2

**Knights won 3-1.**

**Fixture 31: Knights vs. Glasgow**

- 1) Justin Gouweloos won 3-0
- 2) Alan McGuigan won 3-2
- 3) Brett van Rensburg won 3-1
- 4) JP Brits lost 3-1

**Knights won 3-1.**

**Fixture 32: Knights vs. Edinburgh**

- 1) Justin Gouweloos lost 3-1
- 2) Alan McGuigan lost 3-0
- 3) JP Brits lost 3-2
- 4) Brett van Rensburg lost 3-0

**Knights lost 4-0.**

**Fixture 33: Knights vs. Aberdeen Squash Racquets Club**

- 1) JP Brits lost 3-0
- 2) Justin Gouweloos won 3-1
- 3) Alan McGuigan won 3-2
- 4) Brett van Rensburg lost 3-2

**Knights drew 2-2.**

**Fixture 34: Knights vs. Northumberland**

- 1) Justin Gouweloos won 3-0
- 2) JP Brits won 3-0
- 3) Alan McGuigan won 3-0
- 4) Brett van Rensburg won 3-1

**Knights won 4-0.**

**Matches tallied:**

**Wins: 19**

**Draws: 3**

**Losses: 9.**

**On Behalf of the 2010/2011 Knights Squash Team**

On behalf of Justin, JP, Brett and myself, I would just like to give a huge Thanks to the following people who made this tour possible and selflessly gave up a lot of their own time to ensure its success and continuity for I trust many years to come:

*To Chris Richards and Steve Doeg for organising the tour and putting in so much hard work towards it.*

*To all families, clubs, match organisers and other persons who hosted the twenty-third Knights touring team with such generosity.*

*To the Provincial Associations, Universities and other organisations and persons who have assisted the Knights players financially.*

*To the Knights Trust for their generous contribution to this year's tour.*

*To John and Tracey Davenport for hosting the farewell match and dinner at their home.*

*To Joe Richardson for putting together a great itinerary as well as hosting us and helping with all kinds of problems we faced whilst in the UK.*

*To the selectors: Charles Fourie, Rodger Harris, Craig Ruane and Steve Doeg.*

*And Finally on a Personal Note*

I would just like to personally thank everyone who kindly contributed and especially the following who made it possible for me to partake in this great tour:

*Andy Bone and Rob Gouweloos for donating the portrait painting of the Leopard.*

*Bruce Koller.*

*Colin Boyes.*

*Frank Bradford.*

*Ian Dixon.*

*Jesters.*

*Maritzburg Golf Club.*

*Maritzburg Golf Club Squash section*

*Midlands Squash Union.*

*Mike Short.*

*Rob Van Heerden.*

*Ron Isaacs.*

*Rory Whitfeld.*

*Sameer Sather.*

*Stuart Pennington.*

*Tecnifibre.*

*University of KwaZulu-Natal.*

*And Finally and once again my dad!!*

