

SA were undisciplined?

ICC Cricket World Cup SOUTH AFRICA 2003

INTERNET, undated

In a controversial leaked report, the South African team has been accused of undisciplined preparation for the World Cup.

The players mentioned included Herschelle Gibbs, who was accused of "bingeing", Allan Donald, excessive drinking, and Lance Klusener of poor fitness.

The report filed to the United Cricket Board (UCB) of South Africa by Andrew Gray, fitness trainer of the South African team, was published in a Cape Town newspaper.

However, Gray, now with the national team touring in Bangladesh, clarified that the report did not refer to preparations just before the World Cup. He said the comments were made in

December last year as part of letters to individual players in the World Cup squad.

But Gerald Majola, the UCB chief executive, admitted to the South African media: "Gray will never say that about the players. Prior to the World Cup, we were advised on how to prepare for matches and when we could relax a bit. We are all professional sportsmen. We're not idiots who'll drink too much before South Africa's cricket matches."

Donald told News 24 that the South African players on tour in Bangladesh were very disappointed about the report. "I spoke to Corrie van Zyl (bowling coach) and he said that he felt like a boxer who was being knocked down as soon as he tried to get up from the canvas."

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Reacting more sharply, Donald called the published report "absolute rubbish". He told the South African media: "Gray will never say that about the players. Prior to the World Cup, we were advised on how to prepare for matches and when we could relax a bit. We are all professional sportsmen. We're not idiots who'll drink too much before South Africa's cricket matches."

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Twenty 20 finals at Trent Bridge

INTERNET, London

Trent Bridge is to replace Lord's to host the finals of the Twenty20 Cup, county cricket's newest competition, after locals objected to loud music at the home of cricket.

The Nottingham venue got the nod from the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) on Thursday, a month after Westminster City Council turned down an application for an entertainment licence at Lord's.

The July 19 finals day involves the two semifinals and the final of the competition, which sees each team bat for 20 overs, and a host of other rule changes.

The ECB admitted Lord's with a capacity of 28,000 had been the original choice.

But there was a body of opinion within English cricket's governing body that the tournament, with a mandate to attract a new audience, should move away from its traditional base.

Simons angry, frustrated

ICC Cricket World Cup SOUTH AFRICA 2003

INTERNET, Chittagong

Eric Simons, coach of the South African cricket team, says he learned with "anger and frustration" of the negative article published in South Africa about his World Cup squad.

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"When the issue of weight is brought up in our assessment we are

assessment exercise the squad did four months prior to the start of the World Cup. In the exercise we looked for any potential weaknesses that may have existed among the potential squad members.

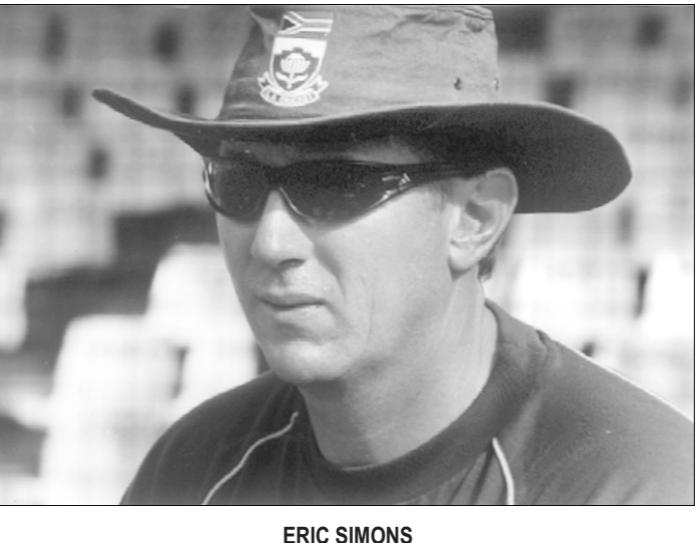
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The team has a policy of no alcohol from two days before, and obviously throughout any international match, and this was policy throughout our World Cup campaign.

"Mr Gray's report goes on to state that every provisional World Cup squad member passed a fitness test prior to the naming of the final squad, but the reporter does not bother to mention this as, clearly, it does not suit the overall tone of his story.

"I could continue explaining why



ERIC SIMONS

unbeaten partnership of 69.

Meanwhile, in an exciting day's play at Lord's in which 15 wickets fell, Sussex took a strong grip on a low-scoring match against Middlesex, who scored 239 in the first knock on Wednesday.

Middlesex never really recovered from their overnight score of 79 for 4 as they slumped to a below-par 116 all out, as James Kirtley and Mushtaq Ahmed took three wickets apiece.

The Gloucestershire innings was curtailed to only 17 overs due to rain, but slow left-arm Monty Panesar had Phil Weston caught by Mark Powell at short-leg for 13 to reduce them to 61 for 1.

Meanwhile at Taunton, wickets continued to tumble on Day Two.

Somerset's last five first-innings wickets added only 45 runs to be all out for 171 as Steve Harmison and Vince Wells claimed three wickets apiece.

Jonathan Lewis followed his 78 in Durham's first innings with a brave 50 in the second, but they were soon in trouble again at 66 for 4 after Nicky Peng was out for just 4.

But after Lewis went, Danny Law (35 not out) and Andrew Pratt (19 not out) calmed Durham's nerves to hold on till stumps, taking the score to 153 for five.

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