



HOWZAT?

The biggest party in sport BY PETER SWAIN

Kittitians and Nevisians love their cricket – and also enjoy a good party. Combine the two and you have the Caribbean Premier League (CPL), a glorious six-week festival of sport that takes place every August and September in Guyana, Trinidad, Barbados, St. Lucia and Jamaica, as well as St. Kitts.

The ten-day period during which all six teams play at Warner Park in Basseterre is a celebration of skill and athletic prowess on the field, and a joyous, enthusiastic riot off it. Music, food, the occasional beer and very vocal spectator support is the backdrop to what is quite simply the highlight of the local sporting calendar.

Encouraged by fervent supporters who fly in from all over, the St. Kitts and Nevis

Patriots, led by the brilliant Chris Gale, may not have won the 2018 tournament, but great things are expected this year. Whatever happens on the field, it's a party not to be missed.



“When the England cricket team arrive, there’ll be fireworks”

And for cricket fans, it gets even better. The full England cricket team start their West Indies tour in January, with Test matches in Barbados, Antigua and St. Lucia. But the highlight of the season for Kittitians will be the two T20 internationals between the West Indies, current T20 World Champions, and England, being played at Warner Park on March 8 and 10. There’ll be fireworks. ♣

Rules of Cricket

For the uninitiated, a quick explanation...

In CPL games, two 11-man teams have one innings each lasting 20 six-ball overs. Unlike international Test cricket, played over five days with intervals each day for Lunch and Tea, and matches often ending in a Draw, CPL games take three to four hours, and there’s always a winner.

A coin toss decides who’s in first and who’s out. Then two men in the side that’s in go out, and when one’s out he comes back in and the next man goes in until he’s out. After 20 overs or so, when ten men are out, the side that’s out comes in and the side that’s been in goes out and tries to get

those coming in, out. There are two umpires who stay out all the time and decide when the men who are in are out. Clear?

Ways of getting out (often initiated by a cry of “Howzat?”, or “How’s that?”, from the fielding side) include the often painful Leg Before Wicket and always frustrating Played On. Fielding positions include a Silly Mid-off, Long Leg, Gully, Sweeper, Cover Point and Fly Slip. The Long Hop, Googly, Wrong’un and much-feared Chinaman (left-arm unorthodox spin) are all types of bowling delivery. While shots by batsmen include the Reverse Sweep, Late Cut, Tickle, Cover Drive and very modern Paddle Scoop.

The aim of the game is to win.

Sport is Us

Our first-class facilities make us a centre of international sporting excellence BY JACK TOWNSEND



GOLF

The Federation has three fine 18-hole courses, making it one of the Caribbean’s premier golf destinations. On Frigate Bay, the 6,851-yard **Royal St. Kitts** is ideal for the first day of any golf trip, with the opening holes playing inland followed by a spectacular closing stretch along the ocean, reminiscent of Pebble Beach.

Thanks to numerous water hazards and a strong breeze off the sea, low scoring is challenging, but the design isn’t so penal that higher handicappers won’t enjoy the round. Rates are reasonable, there are good rentals available and the clubhouse restaurant is fast and friendly. royalstkitsgolfclub.com

“The course winds across jungle-engorged ravines before plunging down to the beach”

At the **Four Seasons** on Nevis, the hilly Robert Trent Jones II course is rated one of the best in the Caribbean. It features views of the forested 3,232-ft Peak above and cobalt waters off Pinney’s beach below.

Players often find the mountainous 6,766-yard track plays longer than its yardage, as it winds up steep slopes and across jungle-engorged ravines before plunging back down to finish next to the beach. fourseasons.com/Nevis



Irie Fields is the new Ian Woosnam-designed 18-holer toward the northwestern tip of St. Kitts. At 6,500 yards, it isn’t long but this part of the island can be very breezy, so the demanding green complexes and sloping fairways make this possibly the most difficult of our full-length courses. bellemontfarm.com/discover/golf

TENNIS

The Nevis **Four Seasons** has a magnificent tennis centre which welcomes guests and non-guests alike at very reasonable rates (fourseasons.com/Nevis). Open every day

from 7am to 9pm, five of the ten courts – six hard and four clay – are floodlit to take advantage of the cooler evenings.

There are always professionals on site for individual, group and children’s coaching sessions, with the Tennis for Life training program an effective way for occasional players to work on their game.

A well-stocked tennis and golf pro shop has complimentary shoes and rackets as well as a stylish range of apparel. The Hermitage, Nisbet and Montpelier have their own courts, while floodlit tennis is also available at the Marriott on St. Kitts. ♣

