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EUROPEAN ACADEMY ANOTHER HUGE SUCCESS

The ICC European Men's Academy took place in March in Pune, India and it has been a great success.

Geoff Lawson former Australian international and Pakistan National Coach has been in India helping out with the Academy. Lawson had worked with the Global Cricket School previously and in particular with Sachin Bajaj, GCS's MD. The strong relationship between Sachin and Geoff was an important factor in Lawson agreeing to work on the European Men's Academy.

The ex-New South Wales fast bowler captured 395 wickets in his first-class career for NSW and knows exactly what to expect having played at the highest level for 46 test matches and 79 ODIs. He made his debut for Australia in the 1980-1981 season; he took a total of 268 wickets at international level. One of Lawson's most outstanding recognition was winning the Player of the Series award in 1982-1983 Ashes in which Australia won 2-1. He was a fantastic person to have on-board to bring all of his experience to the Academy.

There has been some excellent feedback coming out of the Academy and particularly from Lawson himself: "The week has been absolutely outstanding, the facilities are fantastic, but I expect nothing less, the weather has been great, perfect for cricket and all the players have worked exceptionally hard." The programme has been jam-packed, making use of the facilities which have included net practices, physical training sessions, psychology classes, 1-1 interviews and centre wicket practice, there hasn't been much free time. He continues on to say: "The guys have been pushed really hard, but have responded, the improvement to see is just outstanding. It is important that each player keeps working hard on the areas of their games that they have acknowledged needs to im-



▲ ICC European Academy at Pune

prove for them to perform at International level."

The cultural experience of having the Academy based in India, is also another fantastic advantage, not only does it give the players professional development, but also a personal development of interacting with a different culture and experiencing a new cultural experience.

Accompanying Lawson was a highly qualified coaching team managed by academy director, ICC Regional Performance Officer Philip Hudson. The team included Cricket Ireland's Cricket Operations Director Mark Garaway, ECB's Head of Elite Coach Development Gordon Lord, current Guernsey player and Performance Manager Jeremy Frith and Joce Brooks, Sports Psychologist.

Lawson particularly commented on how he enjoyed working with coaches that he had not been involved with before: "Working with the European Academy coaches has been a fantastic learning and social experience. You get to learn about different coaching techniques from each individual to the next and this can only help to improve

yourself as well. They are a great bunch of people and we have all got on really well and I have made friends which I shall take away with me."

The players have all shown improvement and this can be seen with victories in the two 50-over matches versus GCS Select X1 and Poona Sports Club X1 which were two outstanding performances particularly from individuals Poynter, Kidd and Evans. Lawson concludes: "Without these academies the development of cricket wouldn't work, it has been fantastically organised and one of the most enjoyable events I have worked on."

Below: Geoff Lawson coaching



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ACADEMY PLAYERS GIVE THEIR THOUGHTS



Above: Mark Jonkman practices under the watchful eye of Philip Hudson

The ICC European Men's Academy in India has been a great success, and 23-year-old Mark Jonkman from The Netherlands spoke during the first few days about his experience thus far:

Winning feeling-the hard work is paying off – Mark Jonkman

Pune - So far my first ICC Men's Academy has been thoroughly entertaining; after arriving a day later due to issues with my visa, everything has been fantastic.

We played our first 50-over game on Tuesday and won, all the guys are really pleased with how they performed. I was happy with my performance, 5 overs no wickets, but didn't go for many runs and bowled some decent out swing at good pace. Overall I was very happy with my performance. The past few days we have had training sessions, team talks and 1:1 technical sessions which has made the programme interesting and provided variety.

The facilities here in Pune have been good, we have six nets to use and can train in the middle when it is not in use by the Poona Sports Club teams. I spent time here before for several days with the Netherlands squad before we departed to Dubai for the ICC World Twenty20 2010 qualifiers and thought it was great then; but being here for longer I have seen what a fantastic environment this is to play cricket in and what a great job everyone has done to get the academy organised.

Working with all the coaches has been great for me; as they all specialise in different areas and therefore can help everyone in all different aspects of their game. We sit down with the coaches and discuss how we can improve in different areas and go through plans of how to achieve this. As bowling coach I have worked closely with Geoff Lawson, former Australian

cricket legend. My form has been pretty solid; having played well in Dubai and then to continue it on here, all the coaches seem happy with the way I am developing and particularly how I have trained here. I have worked with Geoff on developing my slower balls and adding additional variety to changes in pace.

Involved in another 50-over game yesterday which ended in a victory for us and we are continuing the winning feeling, to take into the two remaining Twenty20 matches. The bowlers bowled well and as a unit; while Andrew Poynter scored a quality 80 not out. We have been training pretty hard, so had a slightly less demanding day today, which started with a hard pool fitness session which was a team based activity. We followed this with the rest of the day free from activity. I enjoyed having a relaxing day and socialising with the guys; I already knew a couple of them, but the whole group has mixed so well and everyone enjoys each other's company. The plan is to have a team meal tomorrow night after hopefully winning both T20 games. I know how much everyone would like to go through the trip unbeaten!

Looking forward to the last day of the Academy; to make the most of everything here and then it will be home for some rest and then begin training with Netherlands for the Pro 40 League- hopefully taking everything from here into a great season.



Ireland international 24-year-old Gary Kidd (photo above) spoke to ICC Europe about the first couple of days in Pune.

The hard work begins – Gary Kidd

Pune - It has been an excellent first couple of days; but time has just flown by. We landed yesterday into brilliant hot sunshine and arrived at Pune; the club facilities at Poona Sports Club are excellent. We had a quick light swim session which included lots of stretching, we then had some dinner and then

to bed; as everyone tried to acclimatise to the time change.

Woke up today and have had a really good day, not too jet-lagged must have been the week I spent in Dubai, at the ICC World Twenty20 qualifier. This morning we had 1-1 informal meetings with the coaches; this helped everyone to settle in; as it's inevitable that you will stick with your country team mates. However, everyone got involved and mixed; it made the atmosphere a lot more relaxed and will hopefully be similar for the rest of our stay. We had some light-net sessions and a cool-down in the pool which finished the day off well. We were challenged in our debrief to raise our standards as performance wasn't as high as the coaches expected.

Then we had a really interesting psychology session with Sports Psych Dr Joce Brooks, as a group we were all being tested to see what personality types we had and the strengths and weaknesses of them; therefore how to help us improve. We were introduced to Myers Briggs personality preference. It was interesting to find out how different people work. My type confirmed that I prefer to make decisions based on the values I hold as opposed to logically analysing things. I also like to keep my options open rather than planning out. I recognise that with these preferences that I need to improve my planning. We have more nets tomorrow with the head coaches and GCS staff.

Really looking forward to the double sessions as it involves working closely with the coaches and developing my game, which will be brilliant looking forward to the season and my chances of ICC World Twenty20 in West Indies taking place in a couple of months. All in all it has been a really enjoyable couple of days, Pune is an excellent city, and the facilities, sessions and weather have all been brilliant; let's hope the next seven are just as good.



Above: Mark Garaway, Gordon Lord and Geoff Lawson

LEINSTER LINKS WITH SA SCHOOLS



The recent trend of Leinster underage cricketers attending part of their Transition Year in South African schools continues this year.

The Leinster Union has over the past 6 years assisted young cricketers to find appropriate schooling arrangements at various venues around the country. The experience gained is invaluable with most returning as better cricketers and having experienced firsthand South African culture and their love of sport.

The Leinster Cricket Union's link with Muir College (former pupils include Ireland U19 players Andrew Balbirnie, George Dockrell & Jordan Coghlan) in South Africa's Eastern Cape will see Leinster cricketer Darren Nicol attend the school for a 10-week period. In his second game Nicol, a member of this year's Ireland U15 squad, scored 56 for the Senior 2nds against local school Woodridge.

Other Leinster youth cricketers attending South African schools include CUS students Killian Lynskey, David O'Tuama and Eamon Donohoe (St Alban's College – Pretoria), Andrew Neary, Matthew O'Driscoll, Ruadhan Magee & Adam Quinlan (Kearsney College – Durban).

The playing format in the Eastern Cape breeds tough cricketers (9am start, 20 overs from 4.30pm) and it will not be long before players like James Price & Ryan Dugmore (St Andrew's College), Sisanda Magala (Muir College), Colin Ackerman & David White (Grey College) make their mark in the professional ranks with local franchise 'The Warriors'.

Trips like these offer a great experience to young Leinster cricketers and expose them to a high standard of schools cricket. It is hoped

that these established links with South African schools will continue for many years to come.

Left: Muir College v Paarl Gym at Santa Sana CC in Eastern Cape

Below: Darren Nicol with members of Muir College U15 team



German Cricket On the Front Foot

Emerging from a harder than usual winter, with spring on its way and - most important of all - the new cricket season almost upon us, those involved with German cricket have good reason to look forward to the summer. Since the end of last season a mini-boom has occurred in the number of new clubs registering with the DCB and wanting to play competitive cricket in 2010. The DCB now has, at the last count, 59 clubs, putting 65 teams into the next cricket season.

Leading the way in this expansion is a new regional body, the Baden-Württemberg Cricket Association, which brings with it seven new clubs, Stallion CC TSG-Wiesloch, Kaiserslautern University CC, PAK Freiburg, Lions Karlsruhe, TSV Höfingen (Leonberg) CC and Karlsruhe CC into the cricket fold. Together with three existing clubs, TSG Ketch, Cosmopolitan Mannheim and Nomads Freiburg CC, the new clubs will form a completely new nine team regional league.

The DCB has for a good number of years had many individual inquiries from people wanting to play cricket in the south western part of Germany, but until recently no one to bring them together. In Irfan Baig, an erstwhile

captain of the German national team, the right man came forward to bring together other like-minded people and get things organised – with remarkable results.

Expansion in club cricket was not, however, confined to the south-west. In the north-west, the North Rhine Westphalia Cricket Union (NRWCU) has attracted four new teams (Bonn Royals, Xtremers CC, Cologne International CC and Deutsche Welle. With the other nine existing clubs, and the Bonn Veterens' team, NRWCU cricket region can now boast the highest number of teams (15) in the DCB's six cricket regions, which will go into the new season.

In the north of Germany, the North German Cricket Association (NDCV) can present three new clubs, HC-Hanover, HC Lüneburg and Jakob's University, with existing clubs Bremen and Buxtehude returning to league cricket again. Hamburg Sport Verein (HSV) will be entering three teams in the league.

Berlin will have two new teams in its second division, Reinekendorfer Fuchse and HCC Werder.

In Bavaria, one new team will join the South league, Punjabi CC. The West league (Hessen) has not announced any new clubs and will go into the league season with an eight team league.

All looks set, then, for an exciting season of cricket on the domestic front, with plenty of league cricket, inter-regional games, Twenty/20 regional and national competitions and, of course, the 'friendlies' and games against touring clubs.

Below: Irfan Baig



EUROPEAN CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE



The ICC European Centre of Excellence was held at La Manga Club, Spain on April 6th-12th, 2010.

Organised by ICC Regional Development Officer Christopher Porter, the Centre of Excellence aim is to help identify and select the most talented young cricketers in Europe, and develop them through excellent coaching and support services in order for them to achieve their potential.

The players (24) aged between 14-16, came from 13 European countries and were accompanied by 13 leaders of whom were selected by their country to develop their understanding on Player Development and Coaching. Joining Christopher Porter in the coaching team was Centre of Excellence Director Richard O'Sullivan and ICC Regional Performance Officer Philip Hudson. Two Europe based coaches also joined the coach team, Peter Gough (Jersey Cricket) and Neil Macrae (Cricket Scotland).

During the Centre of Excellence the players were involved with a range of activities which consisted of fitness and fielding, batting and bowling skill sets, video analysis, middle practice and match play. Overall the 2010 Centre of Excellence was a great success with all players and leaders enjoying the experience. ICC Europe would like to say thanks to Richard O'Sullivan, Peter Gough and Neil Macrae for their efforts making the Centre of Excellence a high quality event.

Chris Porter and Philip Hudson are looking forward to the next Centre of Excellence in 2011 developing more talented players and coaches of the future.



Centre of Excellence - Players

Belgium N.Parikh, S. Shah
Denmark M. Nyeng, F. Ahmed
France T. Liddiard
Germany T. Marwaha, H. Mubarik
Gibraltar G. Dumas, K. Stagno
Guernsey N. Waldron
Ireland B. Hoey, L. Cole
Isle of Man A.Killey, S. Kelly
Italy A. Muhammad, H. Signh
Jersey L. Gallichan, C. Rabet
Netherlands V. Kingma, W. Coster
Scotland A.Umeed, Z. Muir
Switzerland N. Nanjungud, L. Illien

Centre of Excellence—Country Leaders

Belgium M. Vandereviere
Denmark F. Klokker
France D. Bordes
Germany H. Heinrich Mai
Gibraltar N. Wright
Guernsey P. Reeves
Ireland N. Dunn
Isle of Man P. Littlejohn
Italy L. Jayarajah
Jersey T. Delahate
Netherlands E. Verhagen
Scotland A. Patterson
Switzerland R. Boucher



NEWS IN BRIEF

First game on new turf wicket at Voorburg CC

After UD/Salland, Kampong, Excelsior, VOC and VRA, Voorburg CC - on the outskirts of The Hague – recently baptised the sixth turf square in the Netherlands. With the landmark Saint Martin church in the background, the view from the clubhouse terrace is quite stunning. On Saturday April 17, the wicket was used for the very first time during a warm-up game of VCC against Hermes DVS.

The square was largely financed with private contributions from VCC supporters. Driving forces behind the realisation and maintenance of the square are Chris Boniface, Frits Makkee, Willem Ligtenstein and Dutch record international Tim de Leede, who appeared in three World Cups.

VCC, a club with many expats from all around the world, is now awaiting ODI status for the ground.



Above: Voorburg CC's new turf wicket (photo: F. Reman)

Junior Trials in Spain

Over the past 3 weeks Cricket Espana (CE) has held 2 Junior Cricket Trials for players aged between 7 to 18 years of age to form Spanish cricket Squads for U11, U13, U15, U17 and U19 levels.

The first trial took place in Barcelona at the superb Olympic Park where 40 juniors took part with a selection of players in all age groups, and the second trial took place at Sporting Alfas CC with younger players, 30 in all. From these 2 trials plus all other recognized players in other regions of Spain, CE can now be satisfied that strong squads can be formed to represent Spain in the future. At both trials some outstanding players were seen and there are also around 30 players that were not available for this weekend to pick from.

Squads will be announced in the near future with various coaches to be selected by the main committee, and 3 players from these trials have been selected to represent Spain in the ICC European U17 Division 2 Tournament in the Isle of Man with possibly 1 more too. With regards to the girls, a number of girls took part in the second trial and will all be joining their age group squad. CE does not yet have enough girls of a certain age to form an individual squad but hope to have a girl's squad later in 2010. CE is looking to visit the other regions within Spain to further expand junior squads.



Above: Participants at the CE junior trials

ICC announces schedule for ICC World Cricket League Division 1

The ICC has announced the schedule of the six-team ICC World Cricket League Division 1 (WCL Div.1) 2010, which will be hosted by Koninklijke Nederlandse Cricket Bond (KNCB) in the Netherlands from 1 to 10 July.

Besides the host nation, defending champion Ireland, Kenya, Canada, Afghanistan and Scotland will take part in the tournament which showcases the best ODI cricketers from the Associate and Affiliate Members.

The tournament will also provide Kenya, Ireland, the Netherlands and Canada an ideal platform and a perfect opportunity to assess their progress as they continue to prepare for the ICC Cricket World Cup 2011 which will be staged in India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh from 19 February to 2 April.

A total of 18 matches will be played in this year's tournament that will be staged on a single-league format with the top two sides qualifying for the final and the other four teams squaring-off in the play-off matches on the last day of the tournament. See right for the tournament schedule.

ICC World Cricket League Division 1- The Netherlands

Seeding (based on teams' standing in the ICC Cricket World Cup Qualifier 2009): 1-Ireland, 2-Canada, 3-Netherlands, 4-Kenya, 5-Afghanistan, 6-Scotland.

Tournament schedule (venues tbc)

Thursday 1 July – Netherlands v Scotland, Canada v Afghanistan, Ireland v Kenya

Saturday 3 July – Canada v Scotland, Ireland v Afghanistan, Netherlands v Kenya

Monday 5 July – Kenya v Afghanistan, Netherlands v Canada, Ireland v Scotland

Wednesday 7 July – Ireland v Canada, Kenya v Scotland, Netherlands v Afghanistan

Friday 9 July – Netherlands v Ireland, Afghanistan v Scotland, Canada v Kenya

Saturday 10 July – Final, third-fourth position play-off, fifth-sixth position play-off

ICC Associate Mem-



ICC World Twenty20 to be broadcast in 15 European languages

Cricket fans in France, Turkey, Greece, Hungary and many other nations can follow TV commentary in their own tongues as Eurosport reaches out

If you've ever wondered how to say "howzat?" in Polish or "free hit" in German, you could find out over the course of the next few weeks as the Eurosport channel will be broadcasting the upcoming ICC World Twenty20 from the West Indies in 14 languages across the length and breadth of the continent.

The broadcaster, which is an official licensee of ICC's broadcast partner ESPN STAR Sports, has confirmed it will broadcast 23 matches from the event. 14 games will be live on Eurosport 2 and all of the 23 will be available via Eurosport Player, Eurosport's online pay-TV service.

Along with the other licensees, this exciting development means that the ICC World Twenty20 2010 will be accessible to 56 territories across the continent of Europe. In addition, the full list of languages that Eurosport plans to broadcast in are **Bulgarian, Czech, Danish, English, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Polish, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Swedish and Turkish.**

This is in addition to the global reach of the tournament through ESS's various licensees in more than 200 territories around the world.

Through Eurosport, ESS is also launching its exciting "What is Cricket?" educational campaign in order to continue building upon the event's growing popularity in Europe.

This ESS campaign aims to build on last year's efforts to bring Twenty20 International

cricket closer to fans in Europe with five-minute promotional clips on Eurosport that introduce key elements of the sport and show new fans and viewers what makes the ICC World Twenty20 so exciting to watch.

As a flavour of what you can expect on your TV screens over the next few weeks, you can watch clips of Eurosport's multi-lingual coverage of the ICC World Twenty20 2009 in England on the event website www.iccevents.yahoo.com.

ICC Chief Executive Haroon Lorgat said: "This is another example of how the ICC and our partners are bringing the great sport of cricket to the world and promoting it beyond its traditional boundaries. It is great news for cricket and for the sports-lovers of Europe.

"This is the second time Eurosport has broadcast an ICC event – the first being the ICC World Twenty20 2009 in England. After that tournament we received correspondence from cricket novices in places like Sweden and Italy wondering how they could find out more about the game and if there were any clubs in their neighbourhoods they could join," said Mr Lorgat.

"Being able to put these new cricket-lovers in touch with our Members across Europe was particularly satisfying and we hope this year's event in the West Indies will inspire yet more people to pick up the game."

The "What is Cricket?" campaign on Eurosport will take the form of regular on-air features explaining the fundamentals of the game to viewers who may not have seen much cricket in the past.

The 17-day tournament will feature 12 teams with all the top international players in the world taking part and with tickets for the big event fast disappearing, fans who are unable to support their teams at the grounds will be afforded the best possible coverage courtesy of ESS.

The event will also feature eight women's teams, which will play their group-stage matches in St Kitts. The semi-finals and final will run as double-headers with the men's version in St Lucia and Barbados in front of ESS cameras, giving enormous exposure to the women's game around the world.



DATES FOR THE DIARY

- 28 May - Lord's**
European Presidents' Day (England v Bangladesh)
- 11 June - Lord's**
ECC Board Meeting
- 15-16 June - Lord's**
European Governance & Admin Forum & ECC AGM (moved from April)
- 1-10 July - The Netherlands**
ICC WCL Division 1
- 13-19 July - Jersey**
ICC European WCL Division 1
- 13-19 July - Guernsey**
ICC European WCL Division 2

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