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The KNCB—winners of the Best Overall Cricket Development Program award in the Europe region
Photo courtesy of Getty Images

2003 ICC Development Award Regional Winners

2004 got under way with the announcement of the regional winners of the 2003 Annual ICC Development Awards. The winners come from 20 countries across the globe, from Mozambique to Thailand to the Cayman Islands. This is the second year of the awards programme, and the first time all five regions have taken part. The winners were selected by the five regional head offices and have now been forwarded for consideration for the Global Awards in their respective categories. ICC Chief Executive Malcolm Speed congratulated the awnwinnners on their achievements: "It is thanks to the commitment and dedication of so many unheralded people that cricket continues to grow outside the 10 Full Member countries. I commend all the award winners for their enthusiasm for the sport and hope that these awards will inspire others to follow their example."

The awards promote excellence in cricket development and recognise exceptional performance and service to the game in the ICC's Associate and Affiliate Member countries. Nominees in 2003 came from a range of levels - country, club, association, team, school and individual - highlighting the positive impact cricket is making on the lives of players from culturally diverse communities.

A complete list of winners from the 5 regions can be found on the website, but in Europe, the honours went to the KNCB (Best Overall Cricket Development Program & Best Cricket Promotional Program), the Israel Cricket Association (Best Junior Development Initiative), Maija Scamans, Finland (Best Women's Cricket Initiative), the Norwegian Cricket Board (Flicx Community De-

velopment Award), Glostrup CC, Denmark (Best Spirit of Cricket Initiative), Bob Gibb, Norway (Volunteer of the Year) and Stanley Perlman, Israel (Lifetime Service Award). The European Development team would like to thank everyone who submitted nominations. There were a number of strong contenders in most categories, but after much discussion it was agreed that the candidates listed above were worthy winners. Congratulations not only to the winning organizations and individuals, but also to the other deserving nominees, and indeed to all those who devote so much of their time and energy to developing cricket around Europe - keep up the good work everyone!

New Home for ECC Website

As you will already have seen, the ECC website has moved during the Christmas break, and now has a new domain name - www.ecc-cricket.com - so please update your list of favourite sites now! We would like to thank Wisden Cricinfo, and particularly our former webmaster Robin Abrahams,

for providing an excellent service over the past few years, and welcome John Elder on board as our new webmaster. Many of you will already know John, who hosts sites for both Scottish Cricket and the Irish Cricket Union and has also been running his own European

cricket site until recently. John was our webmaster until a couple of years ago, and we are delighted to be working with him again - his enthusiasm for and dedication to the cause of European cricket make him a valuable addition to the ECC team.

New ECC web address!

www.ecc-cricket.com

update your list of favourite sites now!

ICC appoints new Global Development Manager

The ICC has announced that Matthew Kennedy will take over as Global Development Manager from 15 January. ICC Chief Executive, Malcolm Speed, said that Kennedy - currently the ICC's Regional Development Manager for the East-Asia Pacific region - was the outstanding candidate to emerge from a strong field for the crucial role:

"The ICC was in the fortunate position of having multiple applicants who were capable of taking on this important

role but Matthew's credentials for this role are outstanding. He has a terrific background in establishing and delivering development programmes through his current role with the ICC and before that with the Victorian Cricket Association in Australia. This is a critically important role for the growth of the game internationally and he will bring with him the operational understanding of development issues as well as the

capacity to think strategically about continuing the impressive growth cricket has enjoyed around the world."

Matthew is looking forward to taking up the position: "Cricket is enjoying a period of significant growth with 89 countries now members of the ICC and this position will give me the chance to help shape the future development of the game around the world."

www.ecc-cricket.com

"Matthew's credentials for this role are outstanding. He has a terrific background in establishing and delivering development programmes"

2004 ECC Indoor Championships

Teams from 10 countries (Associates Denmark, France, Germany and hosts the Netherlands, and Affiliates Austria, Belgium, Hellas, Portugal, Spain and Switzerland) are currently preparing for the forthcoming ECC Indoor Championships, to be held on 14-15 February in Schiedam, a town with an interesting old centre featuring the world's

highest windmills, old warehouses and distilleries once belonging to the (in)famous gin industry, bridges and canals, but also a cricketing history dating way back to 1884. Matches will be played at the Margriet and Groennoord sports centres, both of which are within walking distance of the Novotel Accor Hotel where all partici-

pants and officials will be accommodated. Details of the tournament rules and regulations can be found under Operating Procedures on the Tournaments page of the ECC website, and the KNCB have also set up a dedicated tournament website at:

indoorcricketschiedam.com



2003 Indoor Championship winners Denmark—looking forward to defending their title in Schiedam
Photo © Barry Chambers

Scottish Cricket Drives Women's Game Forward

Following the reformation of the senior national squad in preparation for the 2003 IWCC Trophy in the Netherlands, Scottish Cricket has had a huge drive in the development of women's cricket.

A girls' schools indoor tournament has been set up to attract new girls to the game. Morning training sessions, based on fun, enjoyment and skill development, will be followed by tournament games in the afternoon.

In conjunction with this, a

Women's Open Day will be held on 11 January. Over 150 girls have been invited to come and either try the game for the first time or take part in events which it is hoped will rekindle their interest in the game. From those who are interested and wish to continue, a development squad will be formed for fortnightly 3-hour training sessions over the winter period from January through to April. If the plans are successful, Scottish

Cricket will be able to build on this foundation to develop interest and individual cricket skills, and to plan for an increased number of female domestic cricket matches.

The Scottish senior national squad and U21 squad will also be training fortnightly over the winter period in preparation for a festival to be held in Scotland involving English counties and the ECC U21 Women's Championships.



cricket without boundaries

USA confirmed as final team in ICC Six Nations Challenge UAE 2004

The International Cricket Council today confirmed the USA as the final team in the ICC Six Nations Challenge to be contested in the United Arab Emirates from 29 February to 6 March 2004. The USA will join Canada, Holland, Namibia, UAE and Scotland in

the competition that will decide the final qualifying place for the ICC Champions Trophy 2004 in England. The winner of the ICC Six Nations Challenge will play both Australia and New Zealand in the ICC Champions Trophy. This will be the sec-

ond ICC Six Nations Challenge and the first time that it will feature six Associate Member countries. The inaugural tournament in Namibia was contested by Canada, Holland, Kenya, Namibia, Sri Lanka 'A' and Zimbabwe 'A' and was won by Kenya.

Dave Gelling in Austria

In a recent weekend visit to Austria, EDP Coach David Gelling ran a Level I Course in Vienna. There were 11 candidates, 3 of whom only attended the first day to receive some basic information as new coaches. The 8 other candidates completed the course and it is hoped they will be-

come active with Colts development in Austria. With two schools near to the new Concordia ground showing an interest in introducing cricket, future plans include a Teachers Introductory Course which may be combined over a weekend with an introduction to Level II for

the more experienced coaches, with workshops including Introduction to Video Analysis, Intro to Net Coaching and Technical Modelling & Demonstrations. Thanks to the ACA, in particular to Siva, for making this an enjoyable visit.

Another Busy Year for Italy's Capannelle CC

This year Capannelle had a very busy season. In Serie A Capannelle fielded a very young team (average age just 22) in order to give younger players a chance to gain experience, and finished 6th. Meanwhile in the Coppa Italia (a tournament reserved only for Italian citizens) Capannelle won in the quarter finals against Roma CC and then lost by one run against Galliano in the semi-finals. Capannelle, Asian CC, Viterbo CC and Roman Srilankans took part in the club's 2nd annual "Enjoy the Spirit of Cricket" tournament, and the senior team also organised its 5th tour UK tour, based in Milton Keynes (north of London). The tour consisted of 4 games, but unfortunately 2 of them

were rained off. In the first match Capannelle scored 280/6 off 40 overs. In the Indoor U21 Championship, Capannelle finished third, and for the second consecutive year Capannelle won the U15 Italian Championship, losing only two games out of 12. In the U13 Championship, the Capannelle team played very well, considering that the squad is very young and inexperienced. The team finished 3rd, beating Smit CC, Grosseto CC and Pianoro CC. For their 5th consecutive London tour, Capannelle fielded an U16 team. Once again, the team played with local clubs such as Eascote CC, Teddington CC, Twickenham

CC, Spencer CC, Carshalton CC and St. Martin's school. The young players also had the opportunity to practice with ECB Level III coach, Andrew Iga. The club ended its season with the annual party in which the club president Mrs Franca Beranger, the senior captain FA Jayarajah, and the chairman of the USIP Andrea Novelli, made presentations to the U15s who had won the national championship. Trophies were also handed to the best bowler, batsman and fielder.



EDP Coach Dave Gelling & his ECB Level I candidates in Vienna



Italian U15 Champions, Capannelle CC



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cricket without boundaries

2003 - A Review of the Year

Play got under way in 2003 with the Dutch travelling to South Africa in February to do battle with the world's great cricketing nations at the World Cup. Although failing to progress beyond the first phase, the Dutch acquitted themselves well in matches against the likes of Australia, India and England, and their determination and commitment to learning from the experience gained them many admirers.

February also saw twelve squads fighting it out at the Indoor Championships in Denmark, while administrators and development officers from around Europe attended the 2nd ICC European Development Program Administration & Management Forum, which was being held on the same site. The tournament ended with a home victory for the hosts in the DCF's 50th anniversary year, and also saw the start of the EDP's 2003 'Imagination' Roadshow, which subsequently travelled through France, Spain and Morocco before dropping anchor in Gibraltar, with over 2500 children, parents and teachers having attended the spectacular, high-octane sessions.



Imagination Roadshow in Gibraltar

The roadshow had barely finished when the second EDP

Academy got under way, with 16 of Europe's most talented young players being put through their paces by a highly qualified group of coaches for two and a half weeks in Spain. This was immediately followed by the annual U16 coaching camp at Bradfield College, where 25 youngsters from 13 countries spent several days in intensive coaching sessions.



Spirit of Cricket Weekend in Denmark

The season got under way in most corners of Europe on 3-4 May - European 'Spirit of Cricket' weekend - with over 20 countries organising events ranging from specially arranged matches and Kwik Cricket festivals, to club open days and coaching sessions, and even a mini World Cup. Having thus reacquainted themselves with their bats and pads after the winter break, all nine European ICC Associate members and most of the fourteen Affiliates enthusiastically got their preparations for the summer's international competitions under way.

Despite losing their U17 title to the Scots, Ireland continued to dominate the 1st Division youth events, taking home the silverware at both U13 and U15 level for the third time in consecutive years, and winning the ICC European U19 World Cup Qualifier to secure a berth, alongside runners-up Scotland, for the 2004 U19 World Cup in Bangladesh. The Irish women are also World Cup bound, having

won the IWCC Trophy in the Netherlands ahead of fellow qualifiers the West Indies. The Scots fought back in Belfast to regain the ECC A-Team title, with last year's winners, the Netherlands, eventually clinching second place after a dramatic victory over Denmark.

The ECC Notts Sport[®] Trophy - the ICC Affiliate members tournament - was won by débutants Norway, who will duly line up alongside the Associates at the 2004 European Championships in the Netherlands and Belgium. Israel, meanwhile, were busy confirming themselves as a force to be reckoned with at 2nd Division youth level. Current holders of the U13-2nd Division title, they went one better than their 2001 U15-2nd Division Championships runners-up spot by winning this year's event in France.



Israel—winners of the U15-2nd Division Championships & the 2003 ICC Best Junior Development Initiative award for the Europe region (see p1)

A busy year, then, and 2004 will be just as hectic, with 12 tournaments and a whole host of other events and initiatives planned.