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*Full Six Nations schedule*

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*It could be you! How to get involved in the ECC tournament programme.*

*An umpires life for me: France's Graham Kelsey tells us what it was like to umpire at the ECC Notts Sport © Trophy in Vienna.*

*Congratulations to Denmark's Glostrup CC, who were recently named as global winners in the Spirit of Cricket category of the ICC Development Program Annual Awards !*

## ICC U19 Cricket World Cup – Under Starters Orders



Ireland—winners of the 2003 ICC European U19 World Cup Qualifier

Ireland and Scotland's best young players are heading for Bangladesh to take on players from the 10 ICC Full Member countries plus fellow qualifiers Canada, Nepal, Papua New

Guinea and Uganda in the ICC U19 Cricket World Cup, which is due to start on Sunday 15 February. The Irish and Scots both play their first matches on the Monday, taking on the West Indies and India respectively. Ireland, in Group D, will also play against Pakistan and Papua New Guinea, while Scotland, in Group C, will face New Zealand and Bangladesh during the first week of the competition. At the end of the group phase, the leading two teams

from each group will qualify for the superleague, to be held in the Dhaka region, while the bottom two will enter the plate competition in the Chittagong region. The semi-finals will start on 1 March, with the final of the plate competition scheduled for Thursday 4 March, and the superleague final on Friday 5 March. We wish both Ireland and Scotland the very best of luck, and will be following their progress closely!

## Six Nations Challenge Schedule Confirmed

The ICC has confirmed the fixtures for the ICC Six Nations Challenge UAE 2004, the tournament which will determine the final qualifying place for the ICC Champions Trophy in England later this year. The schedule of the round robin tournament has kept the three teams that fea-

tured in the ICC Cricket World Cup 2003 apart for the first round of matches on Sunday 29 February, but sees European Associates Holland and Scotland go head to head on the opening day. All the teams will play five 50-over matches, concluding on Saturday 6

March. Wednesday 3 March will see a rematch of the 2001 ICC Trophy final between Holland and Namibia, and Scotland will have an opportunity to avenge its defeat to Canada in the play-off final of the same tournament on Thursday 4 March.

## Countdown to ECC Indoor Championships



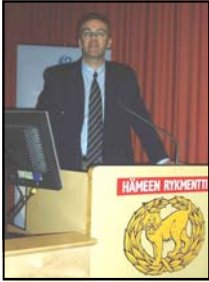
Spain take on the Netherlands at the 2003 Indoor Championships

Teams from 9 countries (ICC Associates Denmark, France, Germany and hosts the Netherlands, plus Affiliates Belgium, Hellas, Portugal, Spain and Swit-

zerland) will be heading for Schiedam in the Netherlands to do battle this weekend (14-15 February) at the European Cricket Council's annual Indoor Championships. Current title holders Denmark will be keen to retain the cup, but with two of the last three events being won by the hosts, they may face stiff competition from the young Dutch squad. Three-time winners and last year's runners-up

Portugal will also feel they have a point to prove. Matches will be played at the Margriet and Groenord sports centres, and tournament rules and regulations can be found under Operating Procedures on the Tournaments page of the ECC website, [www.ecc-cricket.com](http://www.ecc-cricket.com). The KNCB have also set up a dedicated tournament website at [indoorcricketschiedam.com](http://indoorcricketschiedam.com).

## Richard Cox visits Finland & Ireland



EDP Coach Richard Cox holds forth at a presentation for the Finnish armed forces

The Finnish Cricket Association recently embarked on a new initiative to involve the military in cricket in Finland. Thanks to a strong connection with the Naval Academy, the FCA were invited to give a presentation to leading sports coordinators and PE specialists within the Finnish Armed Forces to raise the profile of the game and to adapt other examples of good practice from European cricketing nations. The ECC, represented by Richard Cox, delivered presentations on the role of the ICC and the European Development Program, after which local officials Andrew Armitage, Maija Scamans and Juha Harjunpää delivered information on the FCA, techniques and tactics. The day finished with a taster

session for 30 military personnel.

The party used the second day to address issues leading up to the forthcoming ICC European Development Program Administration, Governance and Management Forum, to be held in Helsinki on March 19-21 at the cricket-loving Lord Hotel.

Richard Cox then continued on his way from Helsinki to Dublin to support the ICU Coach Education and High Performance Programmes at North County CC, beginning on the Saturday with the first ever European Child Protection course for Level I and II coaches. 30 people were in attendance to look at some of the key issues surrounding good practice in coaching young people and how to deal with issues of a sensitive nature. The Good Practice in Child Protection Seminar is now a mandatory requirement of ECB Level 1 and 2 courses and this is expected to be the first of many to be run around Europe.

The morning session was fol-

lowed by a Coach Development Workshop on "Introduction to Video Analysis" – a bridging course aimed at easing the path of Level 2 candidates who wish to progress to higher levels. This course looks at the "how to analyse and what to analyse" elements of batting and bowling and proved a useful exercise for the forthcoming Irish Level 2 course. Finally, on the Sunday, Cox delivered an "Introduction to Net Coaching" workshop followed by working with the Irish U19 team who are shortly heading off to Bangladesh to take part in the ICC U19 World Cup.

A busy weekend for both Finnish and Irish Cricket but no doubt a marker for both countries as they strive for higher levels of performance at the western and northern tips of the European Development Program.



Intense concentration from the Irish coaches

## Administration, Governance & Management Forum 2004

Most of the European Cricket Council's 23 member countries, as well as those Prospective Members taking part in the 2004 Representative Championships in Slovenia, will be represented at the 2004 ICC European Development Program Administration, Governance & Management forum in Helsinki, 19-21 March.

The forum provides an invaluable opportunity to enhance communication and under-

standing between the Europe Office and ECC member countries, and, indeed, between those member countries themselves, providing a platform for the sharing of successful ideas and good practice. Attendance will benefit individuals, their associations, and the development programmes within their countries, and will also enhance the European Development Program's ability to respond to the needs of the membership of the ECC.

Planning is already well advanced, with a number of important issues up for discussion, and guest speakers from various organisations invited to take part. ICC Chief Executive Malcolm Speed will be attending the forum to speak to attendees about organisational effectiveness and to award this year's Development Program Annual Awards to the Europe region winners.

*'The Good Practice in Child Protection Seminar is now a mandatory requirement of ECB Level 1 and 2 courses and this is expected to be the first of many to be run around Europe.'*



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## Richard O'Sullivan in Italy



Circuit training at a school in Taranto, Puglia

Although embarking on his 4<sup>th</sup> year of regular development visits to Italy, European Development Program coach Richard O'Sullivan was still able to get involved with first-time events for the FCri (Federazione Cricket Italiana). On this occasion it was two coach development workshops and a visit to Taranto in Puglia, which geographically is the 'heel' of Italy.

On the weekend of 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> January, Rome played host to the ECB Coach Development Workshops: Introduction to Video Analysis and Net Coaching. Capannelle CC kindly organized the venue and

nine coaches from all over Italy attended. These two particular workshops are directly geared towards aiding prospective Level II coaches, with some of the integral content of an ECB Level II award. At the end of the workshops, Richard was pleased to be able to invite all of them to further develop their skills and attend the first actual Level II course to be held in Italy, in Grosseto, April 2004.

Richard was then to be a part of another Italian 'first': an official FCri visit to aid cricket development in Taranto, Puglia. The cricket activity he discovered was extremely heartening and potentially vital for Italian cricket. Emanuele Novellino a local father, who is a qualified rugby coach, has, with the help of the local sports centre, introduced cricket to schools. Interested players are then fed through to after-school club

sessions. Emanuele has learnt the game solely through video footage, and bearing this in mind his knowledge of the game, coaching expertise and personal performance are nothing short of incredible. Also during the week he became an official FCri coach, which will further benefit the area.

In addition, the sports centre has also started an adult education programme, of which many of the participants accompanied Richard on his school visits and those who had played cricket for the very first time showed great progress during the week. The parallel development of both youth and adult structures should give Taranto every chance of sustaining a cricket section that can develop local competitive structures. Long may these Italian firsts continue!

*'Emanuele has learnt the game solely through video footage, and bearing this in mind, his knowledge of the game, coaching expertise and personal performance are nothing short of incredible...'*

## Double Whammy: Graham Kelsey reports from South East France

On the second weekend of January the French Cricket Coaches Association and the South-East Regional Association of Cricket Clubs got together for 2 days of coaching and training.

Thanks to the municipal authorities of Entrecasteaux and the efforts of local coaches Lenny Terry and Sean Burke, the association was able to have the use of an indoor hall for the weekend. The Saturday had been set aside for a forum: where the region's coaches could compare notes with colleagues. Present at the 7-hour forum were coaches from each of the member clubs of the

South East region, which in 5 years has developed almost out of nothing, including 2 ECB Level II and 4 Level I coaches.

It wasn't just discussion however - far from it. After a long series of activities designed to help the coaching of fielding, bowling and batting to local youngsters the day closed with a game of indoor cricket - the first ever played in the South of France.

The Sunday, saw a first gathering of a selection of the junior cricketers in the South-East: those who will, we hope, form the basis of the U13 and U17 regional squads for this year's

French Inter-Regional Championships, to be staged in the South-East of France, at Entrecasteaux, on 20-23 May. Young players came in from Marseille and from Aix-en-Provence to the west, and from Grasse, Antibes, Valbonne and Cannes to the east, to join those from the village's own youth development programme.

Regional Development Officer & coach Trevor Yeomans set the upbeat tone for the day's cricket activities and explained the objectives that the regional association had set itself. The primary object, however, of this first gathering was very much to ensure



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## DIARY

- 11 March: ECC Tournament Rules Sub Committee meeting, Lord's  
12 March: ECC Executive Committee meeting, Lord's  
19-21 March: ICC EDP Administration, Governance & Management Forum, Helsinki

### Coaching:

- 7-8 Feb: Gorzow Wielkopolski, Poland : ECC Intro Course (Philip Hudson)  
7-8 Feb: Cyprus: ECC Intro Course (Richard Cox)  
7-8 Feb: Lisbon, Portugal: Elite Coach Visit (Graeme West)  
20-22 Feb: North Rhine, Germany: ECB Level I (Richard Skyrme)  
27 Feb - 1 March: Denmark: Elite Coach Visit (Graham Saville)  
28-29 Feb: Turku, Finland: ECC Intro Course (Stuart Welch)  
28-29 Feb: Prague, Czech Republic: ECB Level I (Richard Cox)

### Tournaments:

- 14-15 Feb: Indoor Championships, Schiedam, Netherlands  
16-18 July: U13-1st Division Championships, Dundee, Scotland  
17-24 July: European Championships 2nd Division, Antwerp, Belgium  
18-24 July: European Championships 1st Division, Netherlands  
19-23 July: U19 Championships, Oundle, England  
24-26 July: U17-1st Division Championships, Derry, Ireland  
30 July - 1 Aug: U15-1st Division Championships, Herning, Denmark  
1-6 Aug: U17-2nd Division Championships, Bologna, Italy  
10-12 Aug: U23 Championships, Glasgow, Scotland  
10-12 Aug: Women's U21 Championships, Dublin, Ireland  
15-20 Aug: Representative Championships, Ljubljana, Slovenia  
23-28 Aug: U13-2nd Division Championships, Gibraltar

## Double Whammy (cont from page 3)

that the kids enjoyed themselves.

A brief session of stretching and it was into the first game of indoor cricket which, of course, none of them had ever seen before, let alone played. Keep it simple, keep it straight, bowling and batting. Keep on your toes, keep concentrating, keep thinking 'this is for me', and get it back in quick, over the stumps. There's nothing like indoor cricket to ingrain good basic technique.



Indoor cricket comes to South-East France

We'd always felt that we would need to have a hall to be able to put into place a genuine development programme through the winter because even in the South-East of France you can't guarantee sunshine all the time.

So, the first step has been taken.

The first step in a series of steps which are already planned on the regional fixture schedule: a second gathering in February, a third in March, another in April, leading up to a fifth on the Spirit of Cricket weekend [May 1st-2nd]. And then into the National Inter-Regional Championships on the Ascension weekend. They might not win but they're going to be ready: and hopefully, they're going to enjoy it, win or lose.