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Germany: Huge boosts for university cricket

Czech Republic: Cricket on track for expansion

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Brian O'Rourke tells us about Ireland's experiences at the recent ICC U19 World Cup

Coaching:

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Young Cricketers:

It's all go, go, go in Andalucia

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European Cricket Fraternity heads for Helsinki



ICC CEO Malcolm Speed presents KNCB CEO Alex de la Mar with the Development Award for Best Overall Development Program

Twenty four countries were represented at the 2004 ICC European Administration, Governance and Management Forum in Helsinki on 18-21 March. Hosts Finland along with the Europe Office staff organised a very successful forum which provided

an opportunity for development and administrative personnel to share good practice and initiatives successfully implemented in their countries. Guest presenters included Rebecca Ledingham, ECB Child Protection Manager, and Pete Ackersley, ECB National Development Manager, who discussed club development and management structures. He also spoke about ECB's Kwik Cricket and Natwest Inter Cricket as well as coaching drills and skills which can be used for teachers and coaches.

ICC Chief Executive Malcolm Speed attended the forum and

presented the ICC Regional Development Awards at the forum dinner. The following day he gave a very interesting presentation on Organisational Effectiveness. The ICC Global Development Program was outlined by new ICC Development Manager Matthew Kennedy, which showed all countries the wider picture of the Development Program.

Some of ECC's main suppliers - Notts Sport, Albion C&D, Crazycatch, and Flick UK - attended the weekend to network with personnel from countries and provide good deals for them.

Notts Sport sponsor 2004 ECC Representative Championships

Notts Sport and ECC have continued and enhanced their long standing relationship, and in Helsinki Notts Sport Export Manager Zec Tomlinson announced that Notts Sport would be sponsoring the 2004 ECC Representative Championships. Tomlinson gave a presentation on the maintenance of artificial pitches, new

grounds and possible pitches in various countries. ICC European Development Manager, Richard Holdsworth said: "The ICC European Development Program is grateful for Notts Sport's support for the 2004 Representative Championships in Slovenia. Notts Sport has generously sponsored the last

two ECC Trophies in Vienna and this shows their increased interest in European cricket".



USA claim ICC Champions Trophy berth in thrilling finish

In an amazing conclusion to the ICC Six Nations Challenge, the USA were crowned winners of the event, and will now take on Australia and New Zealand in the 2004 ICC Champions Trophy. Going into the final round, USA had to defeat Scotland, and required UAE to defeat Holland, to have any chance of qualification. Both these results occurred, and with Namibia defeating Canada, five teams were locked together on three wins from five matches in a remarkable finish to the tournament. Net run rate was therefore required to separate the five

sides, and the USA were duly announced winners by a mere 0.0276 of a run.

Scotland, who eventually finished second, played USA on the final day. The total of 206 set by the Scots was reached by the USA on the second ball of the 48th over, but had they not reached this target until five balls later (ie the first ball of the 49th over), the resulting change in net run rate would have seen Scotland victorious in the tournament.

Holland's defeat by UAE was

also crucial to the final result. A win to Holland in this game would have guaranteed them victory in the tournament and a position in the ICC Champions Trophy. After batting first and scoring 289, Holland appeared to be well on the way to achieving this, however a courageous performance by the local side saw them pass Holland's total after 49.1 overs.

The final points table can be found on the Tournaments page of www.ecc-cricket.com.

ICC Intercontinental Cup Kicks off in UAE

The ICC's first ever first-class cricket tournament for the countries below Test level began in the United Arab Emirates on 1 April. The ICC Intercontinental Cup is a new tournament that will give the top Associate Member countries from each region exposure to the longer version of the game. The ICC's leading three Associate countries from four regions – Africa, Americas, Asia and Europe – will play regional three-day matches with the top team from each region progressing to the semi-finals and final to be held in the United Arab Emirates in November 2004. The opening match will be the Asian qualifier

between the UAE and Nepal in Sharjah from 25 to 27 April.

ICC High Performance Manager Bob Woolmer believes the tournament is an essential part of the ICC Development Program: "Following the performances of the Associate Members at the ICC Cricket World Cup 2003 it was patently clear that these countries needed an international programme at a more advanced level. The multi-day game is the clear pathway to improving the playing level of these countries. Batsmen will learn to build an innings, spend more time at the crease and thereby increase

their confidence and ability. Bowlers too will get fitter and more accurate and learn more skills."

The tournament introduces innovative playing conditions to international cricket, including a points system created specifically for the event. Uganda, Kenya and Namibia will contest the Africa qualifiers; Bermuda will take on Canada and USA in the Americas; Malaysia, Nepal and UAE will face off in Asia and in Europe Holland will meet Ireland and Scotland.

For the full story and match schedule, see News on www.ecc-cricket.com.

www.ecc-cricket.com

"Batsmen will learn to build an innings, spend more time at the crease and thereby increase their confidence and ability. Bowlers too will get fitter and more accurate and learn more skills."

Israeli Cricket setting the Pace



Former Dutch World Cup captain Roland Lefebvre coaching Gal Metz & Danni Hotz

ICC European Development Manager Richard Holdsworth made the first ECC visit to Israel for over five years during the recent Festival of Purim, to see the great development work which accounted for the country's ICC Development Award for the Best Junior Cricket Initiatives in Europe. The EDM furthered relationships with the Israel Cricket Association and was extremely well entertained and welcomed. The trip was combined with a visit of EDP Coach and former Dutch World Cup Captain Roland Lefebvre. Roland, an old friend to Israeli cricket, started on Friday with one-to-one coaching sessions with promising young players Gal Matz and Dani Hotz, followed by the first National Team training session of the spring. Richard Holdsworth met with ICA Chairman Stanley Perlman and Director of Cricket

Operations Steven Shein to look at Israel's future development and discuss issues regarding the European Development Program. Shein gave a very detailed presentation on Israel cricket development plans and the meeting was extremely positive. After an evening celebration of Purim at the Perlman residence, the EDM travelled south on Saturday to Be'er Sheva where coach George Sheader has been working hard developing keen young players. Roland Lefebvre and the EDM took batting and bowling skills sessions before organising a match for the children. The ability of the players was outstanding and impressed the EDM immensely.

Sunday saw a mass of activity as Steven Shein organised a huge Kwik Cricket Festival for over 80 children from around Israel at the Tel Aviv National Sports Centre ground. Meanwhile Lefebvre continued his good work with small group sessions with U17 players in the nets at the impressive stadium.

The day ended very appropriately with several

presentations to winners and outstanding performances, including two very important ICC Regional Development Awards. Richard Holdsworth had great pleasure in awarding the first for the Best Junior Initiative in Europe and presented a plaque and certificate to Steven Shein for all the tremendous work Israel is doing with their young cricketers. The second was the ICC Lifetime Achievement Award presented to Chairman Stanley Perlman, whose dedication and commitment to Israel cricket over three decades has been outstanding.



A match under way in Be'er Sheva



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In-Service Cricket Training in Germany

Twenty teachers of English and Sport from schools in and around Passau in Bavaria, Germany, recently attended an afternoon's in-service programme on cricket organised by Elfie Bruchner-Jackson, Annemarie Siebert and the DCB, held in the FOS School in Passau. The course was given by DCB president, Dr. Brian Fell.

The first part of the afternoon was given over to the history and the development of the sport in England and the Commonwealth, followed by up-to-date information about cricket in the modern world context as developed by the ICC, and on a regional basis by ECC. Finally,

the teachers were given an insight into the development of the sport in Germany itself, from the beginning of the nineteenth century to today.

There was also a section, particularly for the English language teachers, on the language and literature of cricket. German school textbooks on English often refer to cricket and expressions which have developed out of the game. The concept of 'the spirit of cricket' received special attention.

After a showing of the Kwik cricket video and a cricket 'tea' in the traditional form of sandwiches and cake, the partici-

pants went into a gym and tried cricket out for themselves. After basic instruction in holding the bat and the bowling action an ad hoc game got underway in which technique and laws were gradually introduced. The action was fast and furious, run-outs very common until a tip and run mentality was overcome and the batsmen started considering whether their partner could make his or her ground, too.

The teachers clearly enjoyed themselves and a good number, armed with a Kwik cricket video supplied by ECC, will pass on their new-found knowledge to their classes and are keen to watch some cricket outdoors when summer arrives.

Richard Cox in the Czech Republic

The Czech Republic recently re-started its Coach Education programme with several Prague CC members attending the first part of a 4-day ECB Level 1 Course under the direction of EDP tutor Richard Cox.

The delivery of the ECB's Level 1 style coaching programmes is changing, with coaches being encouraged to get "coaching hours" under their belts before proceeding to the assessment phase of the course. All the Czech candidates have now been through the practical

elements of the course (2 ½ days covering the essential elements of batting, bowling, fielding and wicketkeeping, as well as the principles of group coaching, umpiring and field setting, and culminating in supported practice sessions coaching each other) and will now be involved in a Summer-long development programme with Czech schools and cricket clubs. The final assessment plus the Child Protection and First Aid elements of the course will take place in September, when all involved will have had

a chance to gain the necessary experience.

The course also embraced the new ECB thinking in terms of the delivery style of tutor Richard Cox, centred on "Discovery Learning" and a tutoring style geared towards questioning, observing and analysing each other.

No doubt ECC and ECB will watch their progress with interest as we move into a new era of Coach Education and delivery in Europe and the UK.

www.ecc-cricket.com

*Also in Germany
this month:*

***Huge boosts for
university cricket***

***See ecc-cricket.com
- News for further
details***

*Czech cricket on
track for expansion -*

***See ecc-cricket.com
- News for the full
story***



Coach Cox shows how it's done in Prague

Graham Cooper in Slovenia

During the weekend of March 19-21 EDP Umpire Consultant Graham Cooper visited Slovenia to run an ECC Introductory Umpires Course and Exam for 4 very keen umpires. The course was held in a local school that afforded excellent facilities and the 4 attendees worked hard to learn all they could from Graham. It was extremely encouraging to see that three of the umpires were indigenous Slovenians who had learnt about cricket

through local contacts.

Although the numbers attending were small, one must bear in mind that there is only one main club in Slovenia (Ljubljana CC). A second club has recently been formed, however, and two of the umpires came from this club. It is encouraging that they see the importance of umpires and are keen to involve umpiring training as part of their development.

Graham completely lost his voice following the Saturday sessions and it was touch and go whether he would get it back in time for the Sunday sessions and, more importantly, for the exam. Fortunately it recovered sufficiently for him to get through Sunday's work. A busy, but very rewarding, few days – even though the voice suffered somewhat.



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All change at the Europe Office (again!)

ICC European Project Officer Alison Davies leaves the Europe Office on 22 April for 12 months' maternity leave. Alison has worked on the European Development Program for 4 years and has done a tremendous job in supporting all the cricketing countries across Europe. She has instigated and implemented many projects in her time, which have been very successfully organised and run. We will miss Allie greatly but wish her and Owain

all the best with their newborn. We hope to see her back in April next year.

We have also welcomed this month two newcomers to the Europe Office staff. Denise Farrell O'Neill, who many of you will already know in her capacity as our Accounts Assistant, has become full-time and will be dealing with tournament administration and other project work in the office on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, as well as continuing to

manage the accounts from home three days a week. Louise Kent, who until recently worked in the ECB's Performance Department, has 14 years' experience in cricket administration at Lord's, and will take over as ICC Projects Officer while Alison is on maternity leave.

For the revised contact details for the office, please see the left-hand column on this page.

How we learned to stop losing and finally win at cricket



Turku CC at the annual Finnish indoor tournament

To play a correct off drive to a half volley you need to give your bat high backswing, then your head and shoulders dip, as one, to the line of the delivery. Simultaneously, your front leg lands bent while your back leg stays straight, although the back foot is raised slightly towards the inside. The bat accelerates through the swing down to meet the ball and you crack the ball for four (well...theoretically). Elegant and simple! Well not so simple if you're Finnish and you've learnt to play from ex-pats who've forgotten all they learnt as kids except for bludgeoning the ball! Thus, with cricket in new cricketing nations, coaching is needed to rectify that. And coaching is what this success story is about...

In November 2003, Turku Cricket Club (TCC) in Finland decided that they wanted to set up a junior team. Juniors need coaching though. Step forward the Finnish Cricket Association (FCA) and the ICC EDP, which provides assistance to those

taking the game into schools in new territories. Hence, five months later, a coach from the UK, Stuart Welch, arrived to run an Introductory Coaching course, with the aim of teaching TCC and some local sports teachers how to teach youngsters the basics of cricket. Twelve hugely enjoyable hours of coaching later, everyone has learnt something new and most have learnt more than they have in their previous cricketing lives combined!

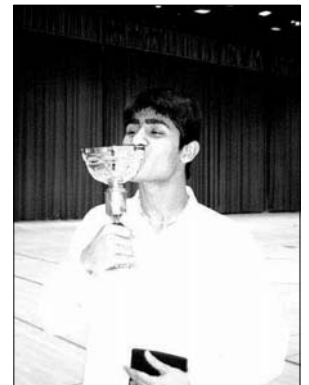
Although the aim was to take that knowledge and pass it on to the children being taught, for the next two weeks the players not only teach kids, they apply what they have learnt in their own practice. Importantly for TCC's player development there's the "Lord's Driving Game", games based on an underarm throw from a single saving position, games that teach different aspects of batting, bowling and running. All the games represent one skill and each skill is turned into a fun easy game for kids - or in this case adults. The adults improve rapidly. Practice becomes even more fun because of the structure and organisation.

The new knowledge had arrived at just the right time, as two weeks later TCC hosted the annual Finnish indoor tournament. Turku were rank outsiders for the tournament, having never won anything in their 11 year existence, but had gained a reputation for losing gracefully and serving elk

curries or nothing at all for lunch. The tournament is limited to 10 teams from 8 clubs, and approximately a third of the players are Finnish. Three of the clubs have juniors playing for them. Women also play in one team and take deserved wickets. There is gamesmanship but there's also generosity and acceptance of the umpires decision no matter what! There is also music, support, noise and colour. There are celebratory pitch invasions, air horns blaring and dancing on the pitch as teams gain unexpected victories...

Paul Hayes, Turku CC

To find out whether Coach Welch's hard work with Turku CC paid off, see the full article on ecc-cricket.com - News



The new Finnish Indoor Champions with the trophy - see ecc-cricket.com - News to find out which club won