



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

P2
ECC Youth Camp
Baseball Players Turn to
Cricket

P3
News from Ireland:
Richard O'Sullivan in Ireland
Schools Cricket Forum in
Leinster
Youth Cricket in Munster

P4
Progress in Eastern Europe
Coaching News Around Europe

*"This Tournament
will leave a positive
legacy for cricket in
Ireland"*

Supported by:



cricket without boundaries

IRELAND TO HOST ICC TROPHY IN 2005

ICC President Ehsan Mani and ICC Chief Executive Malcolm Speed have signed the Host Agreement for the ICC Trophy 2005 in Ireland. The eighth ICC Trophy will be centred around Belfast and Dublin in July 2005 and Mr Mani and Mr Speed visited both cities to sign the agreement and receive a briefing on the preparations for the 12-team event.

Mr Mani said that he was very pleased that the Irish Cricket Union (ICU) was planning to host matches in both centres.

"Throughout its history, the ICU has operated as a unified body and I am delighted that matches will be staged in both the north and south of the island," said Mr Mani. "This tournament will leave a positive legacy for cricket in Ireland as it will raise the profile of the game and assist in the development of better facilities for practicing, playing and watch-

ing the sport. The ICC Trophy in 2005 will have more at stake for the 12 participating nations than ever before. There will be five places at the next ICC Cricket World Cup in the West Indies available to the competing teams. This is two more than in 2003 and a clear reflection of both the ICC's commitment to spreading the game and the improved performances of the developing nations at the last ICC Cricket World Cup."

The ICU has received significant support from the clubs, provincial unions and government both north and south of the border in its preparations. As well as local cricket officials, Mr Mani and Mr Speed met with the Minister for Arts, Sports and Tourism, John O'Donoghue, in Dublin and the Permanent Secretary for the Department of Culture Arts and Leisure, Aideen McGinley, in Belfast.

"The ICC Trophy is a prestigious event and this is a momentous day in the ICU's history," said ICU Chairman Joe Doherty. "A lot of hard work has already been put in to get us this far and we now look forward to tackling the remaining stages of preparation and welcoming teams from all corners of the cricket world."

The ICC Trophy is part of an international tournament structure that provides a pathway to the elite level of competition for almost all of the ICC's 89 member countries. This begins with regional tournaments taking place throughout 2004 and will climax with the ICC Cricket World Cup in the West Indies in 2007. The last ICC Trophy was held in Canada in 2001 with Holland emerging victorious in a tense final against Namibia. Former winners of the ICC Trophy include Sri Lanka, Zimbabwe and Bangladesh.

SIGNATURE SPORTS CLOTHING DEAL

As part of the several sponsorships and agreements ECC are currently sourcing to benefit countries and their clubs, the ECC is pleased to announce that they have joined forces with Signature Sports, who will not only be giving ICC European Member & Prospective member countries great discounted deals, but will also be sponsoring all clothing for the European Cricket Academy for the next three years.

With this the European Cricket Council has appointed Signature Sports as its 'preferred supplier for cricket clothing'. The company specialises in providing team playing kit with embroidered or printed logos. For full details, click onto their website: www.signaturesports.co.uk

If you visit their News Updates section on the website, you will see details of the agreement and how to get into the exclusive area of their site. This area can only

be accessed by Country Boards and clubs affiliated to them, all of whom are recognised by ECC.

As the relationship develops, this area will have special offers that are exclusive to ECC members, and individual clubs will have a more individualised User Name and Password. Therefore, please register your details with Signature Sports as indicated in the site. This is entirely without commitment but will help us develop the relationship with Signature Sports to your advantage.

We hope that many countries and clubs will benefit from what ECC can recommend are very good products.



Signature Sports
for team players

ECC YOUTH CAMP BRADFIELD COLLEGE

Bradfield College, Reading was once again the destination for talented European cricketers and developing coaches attending the ECC Youth Camp held from the 13th-17th April.

The camp has grown considerably over the last few years and is now seen as a very important development initiative for improving both playing and coaching standards by many ICC European Member countries. Bradfield College has been the host of the camp for the last four years and once again the wonderful facilities allowed the camp to be a success.

Member countries from throughout the European region were allowed to put forward a maximum of two players and one active coach, to accompany the players and take part in a specially planned leaders program. The number of participants increased this year, compared to previous camps, to 26 players and 15 team leaders. Countries that sent players ranged from the leading Associate members, Scotland and Holland, through to Affiliate members such as Finland and Croatia.

The ECC put together a highly experienced team of staff coaches all of whom are work closely with junior development in their respected European countries. All the ECC staff coaches, Level III qualified, acted as a good reminder to all involved that the level of coach-

ing in Europe is improving rapidly due to the EDP Coach Education programme.

Throughout the camp all the players were put through an enjoyable but tiring coaching program by the EDP staff coaches. Due to the magnificent weather that greeted us for the majority of the course, changes were made to the program to allow for an increase in outdoor training activities. The aim of the programme was to introduce different coaching techniques and drills to all the participants so that new ideas could then be taken back to their relevant countries.

A separate programme was run for the 15 team leaders with the aim of improving their coaching standards and hopefully giving them the additional knowledge they require to improve their coaching qualifications in the future. The team leaders program involved introductions to



subjects such as Video Analysis and Net Coaching while also being given time to work on a variety of activities such as technical modelling and demonstrations. Much of the programme centred on the leaders working in close liaison with the more experienced EDP staff coaches.

Overall the camp was a huge success and standards of both the players and coaches improved greatly over the duration of the camp. Many thanks must go to all the staff coaches who worked tirelessly throughout and also to the staff of Bradfield College who again ensured the camp ran without too many problems.

One of the most pleasing areas of the 2004 Youth Camp was the standard of the players which continues to rise each year and hopefully this trend will continue for future camps.

www.ecc-cricket.com

For more photos of the Bradfield Camp, see

ecc-cricket.com



Coaching staff

BASEBALL PLAYERS TURN TO CRICKET

EDP Umpire Consultant Graham Cooper visited Sofia over the weekend 16-18 April where he ran the ECC Introductory Umpires Course and Exam.

The course was held in the National Sports Academy which houses 3000 students, all who have prowess in one or more sports. At the Academy the children have normal schooling but have the opportunity to train and get competitive experience in their chosen sport. Whilst Graham was there they had a large football tournament taking place along with rugby matches and athletics.

Cricket is relatively new to Bulgaria – the better known bat and ball sport being baseball – and Graham often had to try and equate cricketing terminology to that of baseball in order to try and explain the laws. Only a few of the umpires had a good understanding of English and we were all extremely grateful to Boyan Atanasov for translating Graham's explanations. Although the course does have a considerable amount of visual material it still requires a certain amount of oral work and so Boyan's presence was vital to the proceedings.

Eleven umpires started the course on Friday and were keen to learn about the game and the role of the umpire. Several had only just taken up the sport and found it difficult to fully comprehend the vagaries of the English game. However, seven of them took the plunge and manfully sat the exam – the results of which will be known at a later stage.

We wish them all the best for the new cricket season and Bulgaria's attempts to get cricket on the map.



cricket without boundaries

RICHARD O'SULLIVAN IN IRELAND

Two days over the Easter school holidays provided the perfect opportunity for EDP coach Richard O'Sullivan to assist Brian O'Rourke the Leinster Cricket Development Officer with his holiday coaching and coach education programmes.

North County's Indoor Centre hosted five hours of coaching for both U12's & U14's over the two days. The centre has been built specifically as a cricket centre, with superb lighting, four wide cricket lanes and full length run-ups.

Richard led sessions on grooming both batting and bowling skills, with groups of no more than two players constantly active. This was interspersed with exciting new fielding and

running between the wicket drills and each session finished with a conditioned game applying those subjects which had been covered during the session. The U14 group also applied these skills to a hardball net situation and Richard was very impressed by the standard. These sessions come at the end of the Leinster winter coaching programme and certainly evidence of the fantastic work being done by Brian and his team of coaches.

Richard was also able as author of 'ICC Cricket', an illustration only booklet covering the Spirit of the Cricket as well as the techniques and umpiring signals, to use the booklet as a quiz to reinforce these important cricket issues. Combined with the use of the fantastic

ECB resource the 'Howzat' CD-Rom which showed the players field placing and explored the jargon used in cricket, the two days were action packed. Leinster is holding further sessions for the U11, U13 & U15 squads the following week when Brian and his team will cover many of the same topics.

On the first evening Richard was also able to help Pembroke CC with a pre-season training evening and on the second evening he tutored the ECB Coach Development Workshop 'Introduction to Net Coaching' at Merrion CC. This was attended by six Level I coaches looking to further their effectiveness in the net situation. Hopefully these coaches will also go on to the next ECB Level II course to be held Ireland in 2004-5.

SCHOOLS CRICKET FORUM IN LEINSTER

23 Secondary Schools were in attendance at a special pre-season Schools Forum held in St Columba's College recently. The event provided a great opportunity for PE teachers and school coaches to discuss their plans for the schools cricket season that has just commenced.

Leinster CDO Brian O'Rourke welcomed the participants before delivering a presentation on the development efforts currently in place within the Union. Vincent Savino gave a short talk on the Coach Education process within the LCU and

encouraged all present to register for the courses scheduled to take place next Autumn.

Malahide cricketer Brian Gilmore gave the Schools Forum a full insight into the cricket set-up within CUS School, their coaching programme, fixtures, facilities and links with cricket playing schools in both South Africa and England.

Boys from nearby Wesley College demonstrated the new ECB 'Inter Cricket' game currently being distributed to secondary schools before they were put through a variety of

skill development drills for all the coaches to observe. The participants were kept busy throughout and all gained valuable information on the latest equipment available and coaching techniques currently being used with the Leinster Under-Age squads.

All teachers departed with a variety of new playing equipment (Inter Cricket Sets, practice balls, bats, posters, coaching cards/videos etc) subsidised by both the ICC Development Program and LCU. The equipment will no doubt prove valuable to their school coaching sessions in the summer months ahead.



Attendees at the Schools Forum



Brian O'Rourke with the Munster U13's

YOUTH CRICKET IN MUNSTER

Munster's Youth cricketers started their Easter holidays with a full programme of coaching and net practice following a visit by Leinster CDO Brian O'Rourke to the splendid facilities at the Mardyke Arena.

Over 60 enthusiastic cricketers attended during the day along with qualified coaches Jim Doran, Philip Russell, Peter Sherlock, Jim Callaghan and Lief Peterson who play a most important part in Munster's latest cricket development plans.

The morning session was spent with the U11 squad which was

made up of no fewer than seven players from the Lismore club in Waterford. The core of the session was spent on different batting drills before they finished the group's activities with several games that proved most enjoyable. South Leinster will accommodate Munster players for their U11 friendly fixtures against North Leinster later in the summer.

The U13 squad are busy preparing themselves for the Inter Provincial series in July and prior to this have planned a two-day trip to Headford School, Kells in June. The U15's have the makings of a

useful side and will include Aman Sadav, a bowler recently arrived from New Delhi. Several of this squad will attend the Easter Coaching Clinics held by the LCU in Dublin, and it was arranged for Morgan Callaghan (Limerick), Joe Sherlock (West Cork Rebels) along with father Peter, to attend the ECC Youth Camp 13-17 April.

Along with these sessions, Munster Reds player Stephen Hickey and Dermot Giltinan have been running Saturday morning practice sessions for children attending Presentation College situated next to the Mardyke.



cricket without boundaries

ICC European Development Program

The Europe Office
Lord's Cricket Ground
London NW8 8QN

T: +44 (0)20 7616 8635
F: +44 (0)20 7616 8634

European Development Manager
Richard Holdsworth
richard.holdsworth@mcc.org.uk
+44 (0)20 7616 8637

European Development Officer
Philip Hudson
philip.hudson@mcc.org.uk
+44 (0)20 7616 8636

Project Officer
Louise Kent
louise.kent@mcc.org.uk
+44 (0)20 7616 8638

Accounts & Project Officer
Denise Farrell-O'Neill
eccaccounts@ukonline.co.uk
+44 (0)20 7616 8639

Umpiring Consultant (P/T)
Graham Cooper
graham.cooper@mcc.org.uk
+44 (0)20 7616 8633



cricket without boundaries

PROGRESS IN EASTERN EUROPE

A cricket tournament was recently organized in Minsk, Republic of Belarus.

The contingent of players playing cricket in Belarus is foreigners from Asian countries. Cricket has long been played among foreigners, but still no Belarussian players are involved. Therefore our aim is to involve Belarussian people in playing cricket and to give a start to the game in that cold country!

This tournament is the 11th Sintez-MM Trophy, organized in the memory of the Late Mrs Phul Kumari Devi and the Late Mr Jit Govind Shrestha (mother of Dr Upendra Mahato and father of Dr Niraj Govind Shrestha, Directors of Sintez-MM group). This year the tournament was held between 18th-24th April. At the opening ceremony of the Sintez-MM Trophy, local TV covered the event and encouraged interested locals to attend.

The tournament consisted of four teams, two from Minsk and

one each from Vitebsk and Gomel city. The tournament was played on a concrete ground with taped tennis balls. Matches were 11 a side and of 30 overs duration. ECC Rules were followed. The winning team was the SAARC XI team from Minsk. Runner-up was Vitebsk XI. Best Batsman was awarded to Ajit Joseph from Minsk XI, best Bowler to Jitendra Singh from Gomel XI and all rounder to Navin Kohali from SAARC XI.

The tournament was opened by the Indian Ambassador to Belarus, Mr Tara Singh, together with the Honorary Consul of Nepal to Belarus, Dr Upendra Mahato, Member of Parliament to Belarus, Finberg Michael and other respected guests. The tournament was enjoyed by a large number of locals who were enthusiastic in asking about cricket and how to learn to play the game.

It is hoped that the tournament will leave a good impression of the game and help the development of cricket in Belarus.

In Poland, Polonia C.C (for this game a combination of players from Gorzow C.C and Lubuskie C.C) travelled to Hengelo in Holland for a pre-season 40 over game over the weekend of 17th and 18th April. Polonia batted first and managed to score 118 runs before losing all their wickets in the 36th over. Hengelo achieved this score in 30 overs with the loss of 6 wickets. However everyone had a great time and learnt a tremendous amount from Hengelo, who this year celebrate their 50th anniversary.



Polonia & Hengelo Teams

COACHING NEWS AROUND EUROPE

An ECB Level I was staged in Gutersloh, Germany on the 21st & 22nd of February and the 3rd and 4th of April. Ten candidates attended the course and worked extremely hard throughout the four days. The group gelled together quickly and were soon coaching and assisting each other which, without doubt, helped towards the success of the course. The facility was the gym at the army base in Gutersloh and thanks must go to all the staff who made life extremely easy during the course, supplying the attendees with anything that was needed, including leaving the Test Match on Sky TV during the day! The course produced nine successful candidates and thanks must go to Nigel Keen and Dan Kremer who with Richard Skyrme organised the two weekends, and also thanks to Adam Cole who went out to assist on the final day.



Level I attendees Gutersloh

Cricket Italiana (FCrI) coaches from across Italy assembled for the course which requires the coaches to extend their previous group coaching basic skills to be able to effectively run a cricket net.

In order to achieve this, the coaches firstly revise and then are introduced to large quantities of new technical information and spend many hours practicing their personal demonstrations. Sports science components and video analysis of players' techniques, along with operating safely and effectively in a net all combine to make the course challenging and extremely tiring for the candidates.

With such a wide range of topics to cover, course tutor Richard O'Sullivan was fortunate to be assisted by Doug Ferguson. Italy itself proved invaluable. Joe Scuderi the Italian National Captain, was provided by the FCrI to further assist and all the coaches could certainly aspire to the standard of his demonstrations.

By the end of the course the tutors agreed that all the candidates demonstrated they were vastly improved coaches and all showed competence in certain areas. Indeed a number of the coaches undoubtedly demonstrated the potential to strive for the Level III course in the future. This would hopefully lead to the ECC/FCrI long term aim of an indigenous Italian speaking Staff Coach who can run an FCrI coach education program.

The commitment the coaches showed during the Level II course will not only benefit the many players they coach but takes Italian cricket one step closer to this dream.