



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

P2 & P3

A selection of reports from the ECC/MCC Spirit of Cricket Weekend

P4

*Cricket Fever in Germany
Presidents' Day
Alison's New Addition!*



Azhar Mahmood bowls to Jason Molins

IRELAND CUP ADVENTURE ENDS

As the Times newspaper said 'It could almost have been written by an Irish hand. Victory in a one-day competition in two days, yet this was no accident. Surrey, arguably the strongest county in the domestic game, were beaten and beaten well with 10 balls to spare'.

Ireland have had a great run in recent times, beating Zimbabwe by 10 wickets last year, and reaching the last 16 of the Cheltenham & Gloucester Trophy will have done them no harm ahead of this year's ICC Intercontinental Cup and the European Championships. Surrey had not previously lost to a non-championship or Minor Counties side and with 8 international players Ireland achieved the unthinkable on 5-6 May.

Jason Mollins the Irish captain set about the task of chasing Surrey's total of 261 achieved on the first day with relish. Scoring just over a run a ball he was removed by Azhar Mahmood for

58. He and Jeremy Bray put on over a hundred for the first wicket setting it up for Gerald Dros (45) and finally Andrew White to score the winning runs and receive Man of the Match for his 3 for 43.

Ireland put up a great show in the next round scoring 263 in 50 overs against Northants on

30th May, but sadly their bowling was not quite up to the mark with a damp ball and Northants won by 6 wickets. This run will have given Ireland confidence going into this season's ICC tournaments ahead of the ICC Trophy World Cup Qualifier in Ireland next July.



The Irish squad celebrate their win against Surrey

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ICC VISIT THE ISLE OF MAN

A very successful visit to the Isle of Man took place on Thursday, 13th May of representatives of the International Cricket Council (ICC).

The visitors were Tim Lamb, Chief Executive of the ECB and ICC Committee member; Matthew Kennedy, ICC Global Development Manager, Richard Holdsworth, ICC European Development Manager, and Andy Hayhurst, Director, Lancashire Cricket Board. All were very impressed by what they saw and were well entertained by the Isle of Man Cricket Association (IoMCA).

The "red letter day" is Thursday, 1st July when the ICC meet at Lords (AGM) to accept, amongst other issues, membership applications. There are 3 applications

to consider (all for affiliate member status) from the Isle of Man, from Mexico and from China! Tim Lamb will be proposing the membership application from the Isle of Man as the representative for the full member in the European region (i.e. the ECB). He is very confident that the application will be accepted.

Tim and Richard commented, having seen the Isle of Man in person for the first time, that the facilities and infrastructure for cricket on the Isle of Man is comparable with the top affiliates already in the European Cricket Council. Tim also commented that, subject to performances on the field, he believed that a "promotion" of the Isle of Man to associate member status within the ICC could

happen in the near future.

It would look like the Isle of Man's first tournament as an ICC member would be in the European Affiliates Championships to be held in July 2005.

This visit was only possible with the kind support of the Standard Bank - IoMCA national sponsors. As part of the arrangements for the day, there was a reception at Government House for the guests kindly hosted by His Excellency, the Lieutenant Governor Ian MacFadyen. To recognize this important event, a new IoMCA tie (based on the new logo) has been designed and produced and guests at the reception were presented with one of the new ties by the Standard Bank.

ECC/MCC SPIRIT OF CRICKET WEEKEND

www.ecc-cricket.com

Here is a selection of reports from Spirit of Cricket events held in May.

CYPRUS

On 24th May 2004, the Episkopi Hockey Pitch was the venue for the Cyprus Youth Cricket Festival. Young cricketers from Episkopi and Akrotiri competed with local young cricketers from Limassol, Larnaca and Paphos.

The under 12's played Kwik Cricket with brightly coloured plastic equipment. Everybody got to bat and bowl and instead of being out the batter loses five runs. Eight 7 a side teams were split into two divisions and all teams played at least three games.

The hockey pitch was divided into quarters to enable an active two hour session with all the children on the pitch together playing four matches simultaneously. The top two teams in each division played in the Semi Finals. In an exciting Final with lots of support for both teams The Elements narrowly beat Superstars. Match officials noted several outstanding performances and

awards were made to several young cricketers.

In a separate competition the under 16's played in a pairs competition and awards were made including Christos Markides who was given the player of the competition award. Sixteen year old Christos, a fast bowler who lives in Larnaca, has just returned from the ECC Youth Coaching Camp at Bradfield College in England. The Coaching Camp is provided by the European Cricket Council who give the best coaching available to a small select group of leading European Youth Cricketers.

As well as trophies the Young Cricketers were presented with their Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum Certificates which had been earned during the previous two months by attending a weekly coaching course at Happy Valley. Cricket Coaching Certificates were also presented to the Coaches who had participated in an ECC Introductory Coaching Course

in February.

The Chairman of The Cyprus Cricket Association, Steve Carr, who presented the awards, thanked the Coaches for dedicating their time and efforts towards teaching the young cricketers new skills. It is hoped that some of the youngsters will one day take part in the Cyprus Cricket League which now has eight teams. For more information on playing cricket in Cyprus see the website : www.cypruscricket.com or email : carrs@globalsoftmail.com.



AUSTRIA

Sunday 2nd May 2004, saw Vienna CC's season opening party combined with Spirit of Cricket Day. The purpose of the event was to introduce cricket to the friends and families of players, and to promote a day out at the cricket as something for everyone, to re-activate VCC's growing number of Veteranen (former players who no longer play an active role on the pitch) ahead of the club's impending 30th anniversary, to introduce the game to children as a fun sport, and to have a sociable day out. In short the purpose of the day was to mirror some of the aims of the European Development Program - Spreading the Field, Widening the Market and Participation.

The day was made up of several events – with the first event a children's Kwik Cricket session – a mixed group of 20 children from 5-10 played Kwik Cricket games and catching games, soon coming to grips with some of the rudimentary cricket skills – stopping and throwing the ball in, batting and

catching. They duly carried on playing after the end of the session, whilst several older children were able to enjoy improvised soft ball games on the ground.

For "friends" – a mixture of girlfriends, partners, siblings and those who just wanted to see what Cricket was all about, a pairs game was played - with mixed pairs batting and bowling to each other, with some of the Veteranen, including Vienna CC's first ever captain, Walter Wiesmüller, joining in. Each pair faced a couple of overs, and everyone bowled an over too.

A wide selection of photos were on display in the pavilion, along with brochures from previous tournaments, indoors and outdoors, as well as copies of "Cricket in Österreich" - a brief German guide to cricketing activities - which was originally used at last year's Tag des Sports. Club merchandise was also on sale – embroidered club caps and ties available.

Whilst children and friends enjoyed the barbecue, salad

bar and drinks, Vienna Cricket Club took on United Nations Cricket Club in a friendly match, with Tim Hind, former Austrian National Team captain umpiring. Trevor Clayton was the mainstay of UNCC's batting performance – scoring 68 out of 158 all out. VCC won the game by 8 wickets, with Andrew Simpson-Parker top-scoring with 61 retired, and Tim Simpson batting through for an unbeaten 44.

After the match there was live music from Helmuth (Vienna CC and one of Austria's international umpires) and Georg from Masalamo playing several numbers on didgeridoo, percussion and iMac. Following presentations of commemorative certificates to everyone who had taken part in the day's events, with darkness descending over Seebarn, a firework display rounded off the day.

Thanks in particular must go to Heinz Prušnik-Dragosits and Tanja Prušnik and the various helpers during the day for organising the event, which was a resounding success.



Photo: Heinz-Peter Prušnik-Dragosits



cricket without boundaries

LATVIA

Latvian Cricket Club had been looking to re-start indoor games and when the club learned about the 'MCC Spirit of Cricket Weekend' from the ECC's website, they decided to celebrate this event in order to raise awareness of the game and introduce it to a wider community.

The event coincided with the 1st May celebrations as Latvia joined the EU. The indoor event at Zelta Indoor Complex was a success not only because of the participation and immense interest of young cricketers from the International School of Riga and other local schools but also their parents & teachers. After handing over an introductory text about cricket to each of the participants the event started with a short lecture/seminar by Sumit Chakravarty of LCC to the children explaining to them the

basics of the game. It was then followed by the Kwik Cricket video which was watched with great interest by the kids. Soon after the video, a short session of questions and answers followed. Later on, the kids were equally divided into 2 teams of equal strength and a game of 10 overs was played between them. Latvian Cricket Club members were there to help with bowling, batting and fielding in the correct way. The winning team was awarded the Kwik Cricket video, kit and teaching cricket manuals and posters were distributed to the other team. After the game, refreshments were offered to the participants and an invitation was accepted by the club to visit their schools for a demonstration of the game at a later date.

The outdoor event that was supposed to be held on the 2nd of May was rescheduled. Unfortunately, it had to be

rescheduled to the 8th of May as it was raining & VEF stadium wasn't ready on that day. This untimely delay though luckily gave the club a chance to mobilize themselves & organize a mini tournament among 4 teams of expatriates from the subcontinent. They were: Latvian Cricket Club, Pakistan XI, Sri Lanka A and Sri Lanka B.

The final was a Sri Lankan derby as the two teams have met before and know each other's game. Sri Lanka A won the toss and batted first scoring 92 runs in 12 overs. Their opponents gave a hard time in the middle but were eventually bowled out for just 4 short of the target. Sri Lanka A deservedly won the final game and got the applause of the cricket fans who gathered to cheer the winning team. After the final, all teams had refreshments and a positive chat and it is hoped that in future such events will take place on a regular basis.



Safdar Alam & Sumit Chakravarty explain the game

SLOVAKIA

The European Cricket Day in Slovakia took place on Saturday, 1st of May in Hajske, Nitra County. It seems to be a tradition that the weather is good in early May. After days of preparations they started at 10am with contests and activities for schoolchildren. They divided kids into groups by their age and skills and thus had plenty of work until 2 pm when the main match started. Kids were rewarded with sweets, T-shirts and other gifts. Again this year they had a barbecue so no one returned home hungry.

A few weeks before the event an interview took place on the

breakfast show of TV JOJ and also an article about Slovak Cricket Club in the Slovak Spectator newspaper was published which attracted the attention of new people who called and turned up for Cricket day. This year they had foreign guests and players from England, Scotland, South Africa, Holland and India. The biggest honour was that the Ambassador of India, M.K. Lokesh, came to watch the game that is so popular in his country. He stayed with the club for a dinner and he was very interested to hear their plans for the future.

The main match started at 2pm. Apart from the fact that the wicket on the football ground

was far from perfect the club found no black points to the day at all. Players enjoyed the game and many of them got to play cricket after years of living in Slovakia. The result of the match was not important at all. Whoever came, they won. It was another perfect cricket day with lots of fun, new friendships and fair play spirit.

The day would not have been possible without the help of the many people and sponsors involved. Thanks to Jan Popelka, Marian Sloboda, the Football club and Obecny urad Hajske.

Last year the club believed that the popularity of cricket in Slovakia would grow but now it is a reality.



The Ambassador with the squads

POLAND

Magdalena Pospieszna and Marcin Pospieszny of the Polish Cricket Association organised and ran a one day 'Introduction to Cricket' event in the town of Skwierzyna in the west of Poland on May 1st 2004. This event, like the similar event in Gorzow held a day later, was part of the ICC European Development Program's Spirit of Cricket Weekend initiative, and was aimed at introducing cricket to children in Poland. The event in Skwierzyna was attended by around 30 children between the ages of 10 and 13. The

day began with a brief talk on the history and general idea of the game by Magdalena Pospieszna (the Vice President of the PCA), and was followed by a number of cricket related activities, a drinks break and ended with a series of kwik-cricket matches. All participants were rewarded with a surprise present of a cricket t-shirt, kindly provided by the ECC. The school, in which the children are pupils, has been given on permanent loan a set of kwik-cricket equipment so the children can continue the game during their normal school sports lessons.



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Boris Gegarnof and the indoor team



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CRICKET FEVER IN GERMANY

In 1986 Boris Gerganoff, a teacher of English, Art and History, started to give his pupils studying English at the Altmuhlal -Relaschule Beilngriess in Lower Bavaria, Germany, more than a mere explanation of the words and phrases dealing with cricket which they found in the literature in English they had to read. He introduced them to the game itself by getting them to make their own bats and stumps and then got them to start playing what he describes as 'family cricket'. There was no plan to turn them into cricketers or play in a team, just the wish to interest them, through English, in a key aspect of English life: cricket.

Boris Gerganoff did not know that at the same time interest in cricket was growing and spreading throughout Germany and continental Europe. He introduced many pupils to cricket over the years, but it was not until the age of the internet that, in 2003, some of his pupils came across the Deutscher Cricket Bund website and awareness dawned that other people were playing cricket in Germany - indeed a great many.

Contact was quickly made with the, then, DCB Youth Officer, Wolfgang Albert and he, together with Tilak Wettimuni, travelled up from Tegernsee to hold a training session at the school. The session was a great success, and ECC t-shirts issued at the time were (and still are) worn with pride. Kwik cricket sets were then supplied by the DCB through the EDP Annual Support Scheme and in 2003 a cricket sport group with serious playing intentions was formed at the school. The Beilngries cricketers were then invited, and attended, a coaching session organised by the Bavarian Cricket Association in Munich.

In February 2004 the great moment came when the school team took part in its first tournament - the Tegernsee Indoor. There, the Beilngries team had a baptism of fire against the much more experienced teams of Tegernsee and Vienna. However, the team came through it wanting more.

The DCB decided, together with the school, to take Beilngries into its plans for a new junior league in which junior teams from the five cricket regions of Germany would play off for a German junior championship. Beilngries would link up with a couple of more experienced young players from Passau to form a joint team in the Bavarian section of the league.

With this in mind, Brian Fell, DCB President and ECB Level I coach, started to make regular trips from Passau to Beilngries to hold coaching sessions. Things have had to move along at a pretty rapid pace to get the team ready for its first taste of competitive hard ball cricket on 10 June 2004, in Vienna, but the coach has found the players full of enthusiasm and eager to learn. The homemade bats have been exchanged for the more professional thing; gloves, pads and helmets introduced and got used to - on the day the team will be ready!

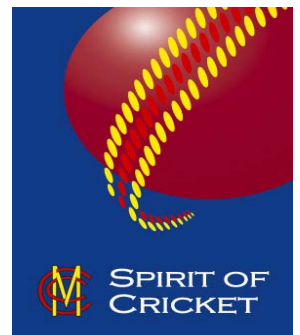
The introduction of cricket into the life of the school has the full backing of the Beilngries Head, Herr von Brevern, a sports enthusiast himself, and Deputy Head, Kurt Wink, who is a sports teacher; so that together with the initiator of cricket at the school, Boris Gegarnof, cricket has every chance of further establishing itself there. In addition, there are plans to involve the Beilngries junior school and the local grammar school in cricket. Cricket, then, looks to have a bright future in Beilngries, Bavaria.

12 COUNTRIES DESCEND ON LORD'S

The European Cricket Council played host to 60 people from 12 countries across Europe as part of European President's Day kindly supported by the Marylebone Cricket Club. Presidents, Chairmen, Board members, sponsors, Country Ministry of Sport and Education, ICC staff, coaches and umpires were all well entertained during the fantastic 1st Test against New Zealand. It was a great opportunity

for so many personnel involved in cricket to have the opportunity to share ideas and help promote cricket.

A further European flavour to the Test occurred when Danish cricketer Freddie Klokker took to the field for a short spell as a temporary replacement fielder for England. The 21 year old is a professional with MCC Young Cricketers at Lord's.



ALISON HAS A NEW ADDITION!

Project Officer Alison Davies and husband Owain are the proud parents of a baby boy. Ifan Alun Davies was born on 13th May weighing in at just under 7lbs. 'Yes, I finally agreed to go with a good Welsh name which has probably earned me 20 years' worth of brownie points with the in-laws', says Alison. 'He's a real cutie and we love him to bits'.

