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ALSO ON www.ecc-cricket.com THIS MONTH:

Full tournament results and scorecards

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EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Italy off to Malaysia

In the 2nd Division, Italy were victorious with 5 straight wins and now go on to join seven other nations at the ICC World Cup Qualifying Series Division 2 in Malaysia in February 2005, a play off for the 12th and final place for the ICC Trophy in July 2005. The other competing nations with Italy in group A will be Kuwait, Nepal and Papua New Guinea. Group B will be Cayman Islands, Fiji, Qatar and Zambia.



Above: Italian Captain Joe Scuderi



In the European Championships 1st Division, ECB XI took the title and Ireland clinched the top place for the ICC Trophy by finishing second as the top Associate member. Ireland along with Denmark, Holland and Scotland now qualify for the 2005 ICC Trophy to be held in Ireland. The top five countries from the twelve team tournament will qualify for the 2007 ICC Cricket World Cup in the West Indies.



Right: Italian Squad

MORE TOURNAMENT NEWS....

ICC Intercontinental Cup

Scotland defeat Ireland by 8 wickets and win the regional round, qualifying for the semi-finals in Dubai in November.

Full scorecards in the results section of the website.



ECC Regional Tournaments

Below: Ireland U13's

U19 Championships

Ireland finish top with Scotland but Ireland take the title due to defeating Scotland.

U17 1st Division Championships

Scotland lift the Trophy after defeating Ireland in decider

U17 2nd Division Championships

Israel clean sweep following close final match with Gibraltar

U15 1st Division Championships

Ireland clean sweep in Herning

U13 1st Division Championships

Ireland retain the title with a clean sweep



FLICX TRI NATIONS SERIES, PRAGUE

Prague was the centre of the European cricketing world during the weekend of 10/11th July with the National teams from Poland, Slovak and Czech Republics participating in the inaugural "FLICX TRI-NATION SERIES". A competition designed for only national players of all three developing cricketing countries.

The opening game saw a tight battle between the Poles and Slovaks, with Poland batting first. The Slovak bowlers claimed a steady flow of wickets around their determined Vice Captain, Matej, who ended up with 19 runs in the total of 67 for 8 (20 overs). In reply the more experienced Slovak batting line-up kept the run rate going with Bogady hitting a fine 18 not out in the run chase. The Slovaks winning run saw an emotional display from the whole team who invaded the pitch to celebrate their first ever victory and almost squashed young Juricek in the process!

The second match on paper looked a thriller with Slovakia v Czech Republic. The Czechs batting line up has a few more seasons experience and maintained a steady run rate throughout. Lucas (31), Misa (29) and Captain Janicek with an explosive 21 runs off only 12

balls at the end pushed the score to 109 for 3. The Slovak run chase suffered an early setback with Talacko removing the opener and several of his friends to see the game almost over before it started, Slovakia reeling at 7 for 4 after 8 overs. The Czech tight bowling attack pushed to an easy win in the 13th over, Slovakia all out for 34.

Could Poland upset the strong Czech line up in their last match of the day? The Czechs lost the toss and Poland sent them in, claiming the first wicket on the third ball, this brought young Mik Stary (16) to the crease, who started with some stylish boundaries, and continued throughout his impressive innings of 46 not out. Along the way to a solid score of 142 for 5, Mik had 50 run partnerships with both Talacko and Honza. Jason taking 2 for 7 was the best bowler for the Poles. Poland, with plenty of spirit in reply, unfortunately lacked the batting experience to chase this large score, and with the young Czech bowling attack again claiming steady wickets, kept the run chase on the back foot. At 52 for 9 the game was stopped for bad light. The game concluded on Sunday morning with a terrible mix up between the last pair, run out

and Poland all out for 61. A good win again for the young Czech team.

Unfortunately for all players, a sudden thunderstorm stopped any further cricket activity, which meant that the Czech Republic team with 2 wins won the "FLICX TRI-NATION SERIES" first annual tournament, with Slovak Republic second and the determined Polish side third, and with the desire to do better in next year's event, hopefully to be held in Bratislavia (Slovakia).

A great cricket weekend was had by all, with some players playing cricket for the first time ever. Teams playing against other national players of similar cricketing abilities gave them a good idea on how they are playing and developing overall. This format gives all teams a real achievable goal to aim for with their future development, to improve with more experience and continue the friendships developed over the weekend, but most of all to keep the "spirit of cricket" well and truly alive in the centre of Europe. All teams would like to thank Richard from Flicx for his personal support with the tournament; without it, they would not have a real pitch to play on in any of these developing countries.

www.ecc-cricket.com



Tri Nations Squads



Winning Czech squad with Coach

CYPRUS CRICKET LEAGUE FINAL

On a day in July that fortunately saw a drop in temperatures after the heatwave of the preceding week, ESBA took on the Sri Lankan Cricket Club at Happy Valley, in what was in effect the final of the Cyprus Cricket League. Both teams were unbeaten through the six games of the season, and although ESBA were without their prolific all rounder Steve Ballard, the game promised to be a keen competition between two evenly balanced sides.

ESBA batted first and opening pair Khan and Captain Roger Thompson faced a truly daunting pace attack from Sri Lankan opening bowlers Shamira and Niroshan. Sri Lankan CC then turned to the leg spin of Pradeep and with the medium pace of Ognuka, and Sampat, they effectively kept ESBA scoring rate under control. Healy and Jones settled down into ESBA's second batting partnership, both scoring and defending in equal measure. But the time had come for risks as the run rate needed to in-

crease in the final overs. But despite Jones' best efforts, the surge needed to post a really effective total never materialised, snuffed out by tight bowling from Sampat, Askar and Nalak. Jones went on to score 37 not out, to give ESBA a fighting total of 147 for 6 after 30 overs.

At half time the Sri Lankan CC were probably the happier of the two teams, but ESBA's particular strength through the season had been in their ability to strangle their opposition's batting with consistent and accurate medium pace bowling. However this did not seem to work so well against the Sri Lankan opening pair. The free hitter Askar supported by the solid Dhanuka started scoring from the off, laying in to ESBA's normally parsimonious opening bowling partnership, Thompson and Healy. The game was quickly slipping away from ESBA, with the Sri Lankans bettering their run rate by quite a good distance, without losing wickets. Only with the bowl-

ing change of Duke and Bean, both medium pace, was Askar dismissed for 40 by Bean. But the breakthrough offered little comfort as it brought Dileepa and Niroshan to the crease. Dileepa has already shown his batting ability with a 63 and a 50 no in earlier games, and he soon justified his reputation. Despite the return of ESBA's opening bowlers Thompson and Healy, Dileepa was not to be contained, finishing in fine style with two sixes in the last over from Thompson to take the game. Dileepa finished 58 not out.

The Sri Lankans, 152 for 2 after 23.3 overs, were the 2004 league champions.

After the game, Chairman of the Cyprus Cricket Association, Steve Carr, offered the man of the match award to Dileepa. Thanks go to all the teams taking part in the competition, to Natalex for providing the trophies and to Elias Beach for providing space at their country club to play cricket.



Steve Carr presents Man of the Match award to Dileepa



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A FIRST IN FRANCE

The first ever matches between Lyon and the South-East Region took place on the weekend of July 3rd and 4th, 2004 at the Ecole Centrale de Lyon.

Saturday's match was played over forty overs, and the South-East won the toss and chose to field in fine conditions. Trevor Yeomans struck twice in his first two overs, David Coates then bowled dangerman Uddika for 15 before powerful left-hander Halim Saeed was brilliantly run out by Bernhard Haak. The innings was rescued by Captain Chris Cope being last out for an invaluable 24, receiving support from Roger Spokes. Lyon were all out for 98 at the end of the twenty fourth over. South-East started their run chase well, Roshan Perera and Laurent Amiot putting on 31 in seven overs, but right-arm seamer Ali Raza then ripped out the top order, taking 4 – 8 in three overs and reducing the visitors to 50 – 5. Satpal Randhava steadied the ship with 24 crucial runs with support from local boy Anthony Schooling. But the tide turned when Atif Mian took three wickets in nine balls and Uddika took a brilliant caught and bowled and suddenly the

South-East were 76 – 9 and facing defeat. In a tense finish tenth wicket pair David Coates and Sean Burke negotiated eight overs and scored the necessary 23 runs to win. South-East won the match by two wickets (they were twelve a side) and the inaugural Coupe d'Amitié was presented to South-East Regional president Len Terry.

Sunday's match was also played twelve a side over forty overs. Lyon won the toss and chose to field, and pacy right-armed Bilal Hassan removed both openers to leave South-East 26 for 2. But Satpal scored a masterful 56 over twenty four overs with support from Christiaan and Bernhard Haak, and then Jonathan Dwyer contributed a patient 13 to a sixth wicket partnership of 59, the highest of the weekend. Uddika then took four wickets for one run in eleven balls to reduce South-East to 161-9, but a useful eleventh wicket partnership of 30 between Maurice Mitchem and skipper Sean Burke pushed the visitors' total to an imposing 191 in 39 overs.

Lyon started disastrously, with Bernhard Haak claiming two

wickets in the first over. But Uddika counter-attacked brilliantly, hitting the last ball of Christiaan's first over to the short boundary for six, disappointing the Entrecasteaux club statistician and breaking Christiaan's remarkable streak off twenty six consecutive overs without conceding a boundary, a streak stretching over six matches and three seasons. His combined analysis over that period; 26 – 9 – 44 – 9. Uddika received valuable support from Ali Shah and Chris Cope. Robert Hackwill helped Uddika add a further 26 for the sixth wicket, but the introduction of spin from one end slowed the run rate and only eighteen runs were scored in nine overs and Lyon was precariously poised at 104 – 7 after 27 overs. However, the Haak brothers quickly wrapped up the tail with four wickets in three overs, Bernhard finishing with 5-42. South-East won the match by 57 runs, with Uddika Bandaranayake awarded Man of the Match for 78 runs and 5-22.

Satpal Randhava received a bottle of champagne as undisputed Man of the Series, with 80 runs in the two matches compiled over 38 overs, as well as two catches, two stumpings and a spectacular run out.



Lyon and SE Region Teams

UMPEYE EN FRANCAIS

Umpire Paul Baldwin was invited to Switzerland on 10/11 July to umpire in two Internationals between the hosts and France at Cossonay CC. Here is his report on the games.

Saturday dawned fine and France won the toss and elected to bat. Wickets tumbled with a regularity that was almost like Swiss clockwork. The Swiss fielding was top class with 2 excellent run outs and after some initial errant bowling forced the French to play a risky game going for the big hits. The French saviour was Pereira with his bullish knock of 56 off 49 balls. Ali bowled a good line and finished with 3 for 22, ably supported by Swanepoel (2 for 25) and Kamran (2 for 27) reducing the French to a deceptively small total of 141 all out in only 30.5 overs. Due to the shortness of the first innings play continued after a 10 minute interval, and the French immediately struck as the skipper Tom Brink was dismissed for a 23 ball duck, and the next 4 batsmen fared no better and followed in quick order, to leave the Swiss at 10 for 5 at Lunch.

But the lunch seemed to weigh down on the Swiss batting. Azeem gave some respectability to an innings that never really got started with a classy 37 not out, but with extras as equal second top scorer (10), Azeem ran out of partners very quickly, and after just 92 minutes "Time" was called as Switzerland collapsed to 75 all out leaving France to claim the victory by 66 runs. The Swiss galvanised by their defeat on Saturday had a changed 11 for the Sunday match and winning the toss elected to bat. Swanepoel took the attack to the bowlers despatching them into the trees on a regular basis, and although he again lost his partner Brink (2) early Swanepoel continued to plunder the French bowling helping himself to 3 sixes and 4 fours in an entertaining knock of 46 off 44 balls before having his wicket claimed by Linton. Azeem (38) and Sanjeev (32) added another 11 fours and 2 sixes between them in a much improved batting display to give the bowlers a decent target of 205 to defend. French skipper Shabbir was pick of the bowling

with 3 for 33, but the French looked as if they were lacking the penetration and accuracy they had demonstrated the previous day.

The French innings went from bad to worse as opener Pereira was caught without scoring off his 5th ball from Ali and two wickets quickly followed to leave France on 10 for 3. Captain Shabbir steadied the boat with 2 sixes and 8 fours in a well constructed 66. 40 minutes were lost for rain, but concentration remained intact as Grant played 2 classy drives through the covers in a promising 26, but it was wicket keeper Wasim playing a free scoring innings of 64 off 52 balls ably supported by Edwards (21), that guided the French to a comfortable 5 wicket victory.

Although the French won both matches it was an even contest that had both sides on top for periods, but the French were able to convert their pressure into victories. Thanks go to John McKillop for his excellent hospitality, the Swiss Cricket Federation and Cossonay CC, who hosted us so admirably.



L to R : Paul Baldwin & Ted Anderson (Umpires), Richard Thomas (Scorer)



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CRICKET'S 'OSCARS'

International cricket's most outstanding players and teams of the past 12 months will be honoured with the inauguration of a series of awards to be presented at a gala ceremony in England this September.

The gala event, to be staged at London's prestigious Alexandra Palace on 7 September, will become an annual feature on the international cricket calendar.

Players from all Full Member countries, as well as Kenya and the United States of America, who will be in London preparing for the ICC Champions Trophy, are expected to attend the Awards ceremony.

The awards have been established by the ICC in association with the Federation of International Cricketers' Association (FICA) and presented by Hyundai.

ICC Chief Executive Malcolm Speed said, "The establishment of the ICC Awards is a significant and important initiative for international cricket, and for the players in particular," said Mr Speed. "The ICC Awards will no doubt generate a great deal of interest, discussion and debate in the cricket community about nominations and selections, and that is something we certainly welcome as a positive story for cricket".

Seven player-related awards will be presented on the night in two categories: individual and team awards.

FIRST DCB CLUB FROM NEW FEDERAL STATES

Why play one 'exotic' type of sport in Germany when you can play four.

With the formation of the Schwerin Boßeln, Boule, Croquet and Cricket club (SBBCCC) Schwerin, situated between Hamburg and Berlin in Meckelenburg-Vorpommern, has a club which seeks to introduce four such sports to the Schwerin public. As far as cricket is concerned this new club means that cricket is now played in 11 of the 16 German federal states, so that it is now far from being in the 'unknown' category of sport. The founder of the club is Detlef Mai, who has said that he read the laws

The individual awards are:

Cricketer of the Year;
Test Player of the Year;
One-Day International Player of the Year
Emerging Player of the Year.

The team awards are:

Test Team of the Year;
One-Day International Team of the Year
Spirit of Cricket Award.

A voting panel of up to 50 cricket luminaries - including present captains, match officials and former prominent players - is being established to vote on the individual awards.

The ICC has named the first inductees: Michael Atherton (England), Martin Crowe (New Zealand), Kapil Dev (India), Sunil Gavaskar (India), Ian Healy (Australia), Michael Holding (West Indies), David Houghton (Zimbabwe), Graeme Pollock (South Africa), Barry Richards (South Africa), Sidath Wettimuny (Sri Lanka), Rajan Bala (Asian Age, India), and Tony Cozier (media commentator, West Indies).

The Academy will cast votes for the individual awards from a shortlist of players identified on the basis of their performances over the course of the judging period of 1 August 2003 to 31 July 2004 and includes all Test and One-Day International matches played during this time.

Players eligible for the Emerging Player of the Year award must be under 26-years-of-age at the



start of the voting period and have played no more than five Test matches and/or 10 One-Day Internationals before the start of the voting period.

The team awards will see the announcement of official ICC World XI teams in both Test and One-Day International cricket. The Test Team of the Year and the One-Day International Team of the Year will both be World XI sides made up of the best individual international players in the respective forms of the game.

Selection for the World XI teams will be made by an ICC selection panel of five former high profile players. Highly respected media personality and former Australian captain Richie Benaud will chair the panel joining fellow cricket legends Ian Botham, Sunil Gavaskar, Michael Holding and Barry Richards.

The Spirit of Cricket award will be presented to one international team determined by the captains and match referees. In addition to the seven player-related awards, an award will be presented to the Umpire of the Year.

which will play 'friendlies' this season and then gear itself up for entry into the North German Cricket Association league next season.

And in case you are wondering what Boßeln is, it is a traditional bowling game from Friesland, Germany, where two teams of from 2-10 players roll a ball (weight about 1 kg) over a set distance (1-4) km along a road. The winner is the team that covers the distance with the fewest attempts, the team members starting to bowl from where the last player's ball stopped.

Anyway, back to cricket....

of cricket through 50 times - no mean achievement - and then started with others to play with equipment borrowed from a helpful German club. In the meantime they have their own equipment. Important for cricket development is that the club went straight into youth cricket and at the beginning of July sent a team to Hamburg to play in the Northern section of the newly-formed German junior league. There they met teams from Berlin, Hamburg and Buxtehude. A photo of the Schwerin youth team can be seen on the DCB website (www.cricket.de). In addition to the pioneering youth team, within a short time they have also formed a senior team