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EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Division 1 : WCQS

The England Board XI, captained by Steve Foster, were winners of the 2004 European 1st Division Championships in The Netherlands between 18-24 July; Ireland were Runners-Up and finished ahead of Holland, Scotland and Denmark respectively. Ryan Watson of Scotland was voted Player of the Championships, having averaged 57.67 runs with the bat, and having taken 10 wickets at 11.40 runs apiece. The leading European Associates will now move forward and take their places in the 2005 ICC Trophy, which will be staged in Ireland during July 2005.

Division 2 : WCQS

The ECC 2004 European Championships (2nd Division), also part of the ICC World Cup Qualifying Series, were held in Belgium between 18-24 July.

The first day commenced steadily with wins for Italy, Gibraltar and France, a highlight being

Scuderi's forceful 83* for Italy. Day two saw Scuderi continue his run scoring with a majestic 112* as Italy gave France a sound lesson in the art of batting. On day three Israel, despite Shein's 6-61 could do little to prevent the power of Norway from achieving a comprehensive victory. The pace trio of Giordano with 4-7, Crosland with 3-9 and Bonora with 3-32 ensured that Germany were not to dent Italy's title ambitions.

On day four France produced an outstanding all round performance to beat Norway and Germany resoundingly defeated Gibraltar with an impressive 75 from Vohra. Italy swept Israel aside to clinch the title. On the final day France, with a sparkling 69* from Bhatti, beat the luckless Israel team, finishing as runners-up. Germany ensured third place with a supremely controlled win over Norway with a 77* from Fernando. Italy rattled up the highest score of the week (262-6) and with Gallo taking 5-17 beat

Gibraltar comprehensively.

Player of the Tournament was Italian Wicket-keeper Gabriella Passaretti who took 19 catches in total, kept wicket tidily and played one crucial innings when Italy were under a little pressure. Overall an excellent week's cricket played in exceptional "spirit" and all participating countries should feel proud of what they achieved.

G. Passaretti



Photo: B Chambers

ECC NOTTS SPORT REPRESENTATIVE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The ECC Notts Sport Representative Championships, 15-20 August, were Slovenia's first for ECC and saw Ljubljana's Chengdujska ground become a reality with a new sponsored Notts Sport wicket, with other matches taking place at Ljubljana's original Valburga ground.

Bulgarian and Swiss Teams



Croatia won the tournament with five straight victories, with brothers John and Paul Vujnovich once again in very good form –

Paul being voted player of the tournament - and together posted an unbeaten 1st wicket partnership of 176 against Luxembourg. Finland, winners of the 2002 Representative Championships, had to settle for the runners-up spot, with Petteri Moilanen's 137* against Bulgaria being the highest innings of the tournament.

After Nelson Burrell's 129* on the opening day, Switzerland suffered mixed fortunes, despite only going down by 16 runs to winners Croatia. Swiss youngsters Manuel Simon and Remo Baleri put in useful performances with the ball. Hosts Slovenia were let down by their batting, with only Rob Crawford managing to post scores, their bowling containing sides successfully. A 9th wicket stand of

43 between Urban Blaznik and Borut Cegovnik and fielding of Egon Jakofcic, including some great catches, were great adverts for indigenous cricketers in Slovenia.

Luxembourg's team included several young cricketers, with spinner Lucas Bush and wicket-keeper Sebastian Finch assuming key roles.

Valburga



ECC U19 & U17 CHAMPIONSHIPS

U19 Championships

The U19 championships took place in fine weather at Oundle School, England during 19-23 July.

Ireland won the Championships, winning 2 out of their 3 games. Scotland were second, Denmark third and Holland fourth. Batsman Gary Wilson of Ireland was awarded player of the tournament, his highest scores being 88 and 63. Thanks were expressed to Oundle School who excelled with hospitality, food and facilities.



Action from Oundle School

U17—1st Division

The North West of Ireland played host to the U17 Championship. Teams assembled just outside Londonderry and awaited the arrival of several players from the U19 tournament in Oundle. The tournament commenced with hosts Ireland and Scotland defeating Holland and Denmark over the first two days. These results set up the championship decider at Limavady CC on the Monday.

Ireland bowled first and restricted Scotland to 160 – 6 in their 50 overs. With the chance of a third European Championship of the season Ireland began their run chase. However, the Scottish bowlers soon had Ireland in trouble and eventually bowled them out for 86 and with it secured the title.

U17—2nd Division

Bologna provided the setting for the 2004 U17 2nd Division Championships between 1-6 August.

Gibraltar recorded the highest score of the week with 217 off their allotted 35 overs, but in general scores for the team batting first were between 140 and 170. The grounds provided a contrast as the chasing team often proved the victor at Pianoro CC with teams at Bologna CC exerting enough pressure to defend their totals.

After round one teams moved to the second phase group which often meant a change of venue and tested a team's adaptability and it was here that Israel by sticking to the basic principles of good cricket: line and length bowling, aggressive and committed fielding and partnership building with the bat, proved impossible for other teams to beat. Gibraltar in the last game of the championship, effectively a final, pushed them close until the Israeli pressure meant a rash of Gibraltarian wickets. The eventual placings were Israel, Gibraltar, Germany, Italy, France, Belgium and Hellas, but with all teams winning at least one match hopefully they all left with their competitive spirit intact.



Israel U17's celebrate

ECC WOMEN'S U21 CHAMPIONSHIPS

Following on the successful staging of the 2002 tournament the Irish Cricket Union with the tremendous assistance of Ursula and Eddie Lewis staged the second U21 tournament in predominantly hot and sunny conditions.

Ireland and England defeated Holland and Scotland and met on the final day for the Championship. The England team once again proved to be the stronger side and ran out easy winners.

However, Emma Beamish of Ireland provided the Host nation with a boost by being nominated Player of the Tournament for her scores of 100 v Holland and 93 n.o. v Scotland.

Winning England Squad



England's Salliann Briggs with the trophy

ECC U23 CHAMPIONSHIPS

The European U23 Championships in the West of Scotland coincided with the most torrential August rainfall ever known in that area, and - for the first time - resulted in abandonment of the entire tournament without the completion of a single match.

After the pre-tournament net sessions and the first day's games had been washed out,

and with more heavy rain forecast for the final day, the Tournament Director proposed that all four teams convene at the relatively dry Ayr ground, where two 20-overs-a-side matches could be played on the middle day.

After an early lunch, play started between Denmark and Ireland, but rain started to fall after eight overs and, with Denmark poised

handily on 59 for the loss of one wicket, no further play was possible.



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ECC U15 1ST DIVISION CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Ireland Under 15 team won the 2004 ECC Championship in Herning, Denmark held between 30th July and 1st August, after beating Scotland in an exciting match where the winning run was scored with 2 balls to spare.

Ireland won all their matches and Holland took second place after beating Denmark by 8 wickets. Scotland was 3rd and Denmark 4th. Congratulations to Ireland for having produced such a great young team, but the team that surprised the most were the Dutch side.

The deciding last match between Scotland and Ireland swung one way and then the other. Scotland who was sent in to bat lost early wickets but

Hamish Locke with 75 pulled Scotland back into the match and skipper Calum McLeod with 55 not out posted a competitive total of 188.

Ireland started well with only one early loss and P. Doyle going well until Ireland got bogged down to Scottish spinners and a flurry of wickets in the eighties which pushed the scoring rate up to a run a ball.

But Neil Hamilton with 59* including several boundaries pulled Ireland back into the match and they scored the winning runs in the last over.

Scotland fought hard in the field and with more luck could have run the match. The game was well supported by the Dutch

players whose game against the Danes had finished ahead of schedule.

A good crowd was very impressed with the quality of play.

*Below and right:
U15's in Herning*



ECC U13 CHAMPIONSHIPS

1st Division

For a second consecutive year, and for only the second occasion, the cricket clubs of Angus & Dundee in Tayside, Scotland, hosted a European Tournament between 16-18 July.

Each of the competing nations, Denmark, Holland, Ireland and Scotland, produced very good competitive matches played in the best of spirit. Denmark, particularly, showed genuine appreciation for good performances of opposition players and its own alike, and justified their Captain receiving the Spirit of Cricket award.

Ireland won all three games, batting second in each, and showed tremendous ability, skill and temperament in this department with only 6 batsmen

taking the crease. A further illustration of their batting superiority is evident when one considers that 4 of their 8 wickets to fall were run outs. Denmark, Holland and Scotland each won one game between them, and a calculation of net run rate gave Denmark second, Scotland third and Holland fourth.

Player of the Tournament Award went to the Ireland all rounder Shane Getkate, from Malahide CC, who had an aggregate of 152 runs only being dismissed once and took 5 wickets across the 3 games.

2nd Division

Gibraltar played hosts to the 2004 ECC U13 2nd Division Championships, which saw great spirit and competitiveness from the four participating coun-

tries. A very close and nail-biting final provided Belgium with their first ever Trophy in a European Tournament.

Belgium U13's



Ireland U13's

EUROPE OFFICE MOVE

The MCC have begun a comprehensive 6 month refurbishment of the Pavilion at Lord's, the first time it will have been closed since 1890. The refurbishment will include redecoration of the Long Room, the creation of a roof terrace on the Pavilion and a general upgrade of all facilities.

This work means that the Europe Office will be moving on 13th September to boxes P & Q, Botham and Willis Boxes, in the Tavern Stand, returning to our present office in mid March 2005. The office will therefore be closed for several days to enable everything to be packed up and moved and the IT and telephone equipment to be

moved and reconnected. We hope to be up and running as quickly as possible after 13th September but we are not sure exactly how long it is going to take so please bear with us!

All telephone and fax numbers and email addresses will remain the same over this period.



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Do check the website to see what else has been happening in European cricket over the last month

www.ecc-cricket.com



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BANGLADESH V IRELAND & SCOTLAND

The ICC and ECC recently instigated an arrangement for Bangladesh to play fixtures against Ireland and Scotland as part of the preparations for next year's ICC Trophy in Ireland and also to provide Bangladesh with opposition to help in their preparations for the Champions Trophy.

Firstly, Bangladesh travelled to Ireland for two Internationals. On 29th August at Storrington, Ireland suffered a final ball defeat, losing by 2 wickets. Top scorer for Ireland was J. Molins on 64 and for Bangladesh N. Iqbal on 100.

30th August saw the second International at Limavady and once again Ireland lost to Bangladesh this time by 54 runs. Performances of note were K. Mashud 51* for Bangladesh and G. Cooke 5-55 for Ireland. Mohammed Rafique received the Man of the Match award for his 42 and 2-30.

Ireland Coach Adrian Birrell was disappointed, 'we did not play to the standard we've set ourselves. Still it is a good lesson to us with the ICC Trophy coming up next year. We can't afford to be complacent'.

Bangladesh then moved on to

Scotland, to Raeburn Place in Edinburgh. The first International was played on 1st September where Scotland lost by 5 wickets.

However, at the second International on 3rd September, Scotland squared the series with victory off the last ball to win by 4 wickets.

The last over saw Scotland needing 14 runs and this was achieved with a four, a single, a four off a no-ball, three singles and a four and with C. English not out on 49. A famous victory had been won by Scotland.



Mohammed Rafique receiving his Man of the Match Award

Bangladesh squad



INSURANCE SCHEME FOR COUNTRIES

For some time the ECC has been concerned about the adequacy of insurance coverage available to and purchased by their members and affiliated clubs.

To this end we have been investigating the coverage available through the ICC and have been in discussions with specialist Sports insurance brokers

PRM, who handle coverage for both clubs and counties in the UK.

We do hope countries will seriously consider their position with regard to insurance and ensure they have adequate cover.

Further details are available via the Europe Office.



ICC DEVELOPMENT STAFF CONFERENCE

For the first time, 17 current full-time development staff from all five ICC regions will be coming together to share views and initiatives.

The conference will be held at

Lord's between 23-27 September 2004 and a major focus of the conference will be to increase information sharing and understanding between all departments of the ICC and the Global Development Program

as a whole and discuss new ideas in regard to the development of the game..