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COMING NEXT MONTH:

Italy prepare for the WCQS Division 2

Denmark prepare to host the Indoor Championships

ECC Announce New Academy

Invitation for the ECC Youth Coaching Camp

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CRICKET HELPS DISASTER RELIEF FUND

The ICC is currently working with its members to put in place a number of fundraising initiatives to help the countries that have been so badly affected by the tsunami earlier this week.

The worst-affected areas include Sri Lanka and India which are ICC full members; Malaysia which has been an associate member since 1967; and Thailand, the Maldives and Indonesia which are all affiliate members.

Proceeds from these events will be donated to the global relief and development organisation, World Vision, which is dedicated to helping children and their communities worldwide. World Vision has staff across the Asian region and is providing food and Family Survival Kits to the countries devastated by the earthquake and tsunami with its staff working around the clock to assist people in the most devastated areas of India, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand as they deal with the aftermath of the tsunami.

Cricket fans have shown their strong support for the 10th January World Cricket Tsunami Appeal fund-raising

game at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG), with nearly 20,000 seats sold on the first day, midday on 4th January. Proceeds will be donated to World Vision.

"To sell almost 20,000 tickets in half a day is a fantastic result and augers well for creating a strong atmosphere at the fundraising game on Monday," said International Cricket Council (ICC) Chief Executive Malcolm Speed.

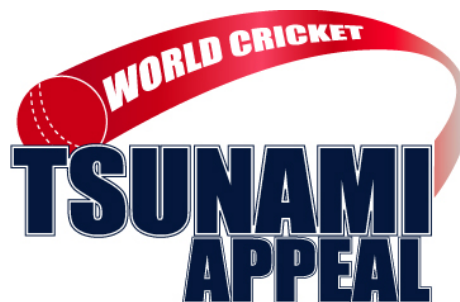
"It is a tremendous reflection of the strength of the international cricket community – fans and organisers - to come together to support the Tsunami Appeal".

Cricket Australia, Cricket Victoria, and the Melbourne Cricket Club, who are organising the match on

behalf of the ICC, the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) and the Federation of International Cricketers' Association, are hoping to fill the 80,000 capacity seat MCG.

The 50-over day-night match features some of the biggest names in cricket, with an ICC World XI taking on an ACC XI. Full squad lists can be found on the ECC Website.

If you want to find out more about World Vision or if you want to make a donation to the relief efforts, visit the following links: www.worldvision.org.uk if you are in the UK or www.wvi.org if you are elsewhere in the world



ICC CRICKET SHOW IN EUROPE

After much effort by ECC and ICC, Sportsbrand, the producers of the ICC Cricket Show, has reached an agreement to broadcast the programme 3 times a week on Canal + TV stations in Sweden, Denmark, Norway and Finland. It is expected that the show will reach 4.7 million homes.

Arrangements are also being made to broadcast the show in the Netherlands and Greece.

The 30 minute weekly show includes highlights from International matches around the world that week as well as interviews with players and key personnel

in the game. The programme also has highlights of events from the ICC developing countries.



2004, A VINTAGE YEAR FOR ISLE OF MAN

2004 was a good year for Manx Cricket and an exceptional one for St Johns. The Mullen-e-Cloie club almost completed a clean sweep of the major trophies. They won the Standard Bank League, the Tinker Cup, the League Cup and the Six-A-Side tournament. The only top prize to elude them was the evening Aon Cain League. Jon Norrington led the team with style and personally had a great season. He hit more than 600 runs at an incredible average of 76 – including three centuries. In addition Jon took 21 wickets at just over 12 each. The skipper was backed up by some excellent work from the rest of the side so congratulations to St Johns for some great performances and a campaign to be proud of.

Looking at 2004 generally, it was the batsmen who held sway. Eleven centuries were scored – including Johnny Palmer hitting 117 in just nine overs. Valkyres won the Cain league on the last match when they beat

Peel while Crosby reached the final of the Tinker Cup, but were alas hit by injuries and holidays.

Cronkbourne, last season's champions, were also badly hit by absences. Simon Watson had a good campaign with a tally of over 700 runs at an average of 44. Ronaldsway won the MAC Financial Forrester Division One and retained the IoM Bank Blincoe Cup. They were boosted by a formidable array of bowling as Sean Crossley, David Ward, Stevie Wicks, Brian Gartland and George Broad all had a bumper haul. Ramsey won the Forrester Two and put in some good performances in the Karran.

The youth scene was vibrant. There was a new highly successful Lloyds TSB Under-11 league plus the Under-13 and Under-15 divisions. Castletown won the U11 and Cronkbourne the U13. The two clubs also finished joint top of the U15 with identical records and then, believe it or not, tied in

the play-off! A second play-off was washed out by the rain and so the Championship was shared. There was a very successful tour of Holland for the Island Juniors who won one match, lost another and then saw their third game abandoned because of rain.

On the national scene the Island had a thrilling win over the MCC in June and finished runners-up to Guernsey in the Four Islands Tournament. Scotty Pearce won the award as the best bowler in the competition.

The season culminated with the IOMCA Dinner. ECC Ambassador Mike Gating attended as guest speaker and the following day undertook some coaching with junior players.

But the Big News of course was that the Isle Of Man were admitted as an Affiliate member of the ICC. This is a real feather in our cap and opens many doors and brings exciting prospects. Watch this space!

www.ecc-cricket.com



Mike Gating & Jon Norrington



Mike Gating with IOM U15 & U13 players

LEINSTER REACHES OUT TO ETHNICS

Many National Schools in the Dublin area continue to be introduced to cricket this winter with school coaching visits attracting many newcomers to the game.

One such school, which has now established cricket as part of their PE curriculum, is the Muslim National School in Clonskeagh. The school came about through the growing number of Muslim families in Ireland and a deep-felt need for an education which would keep in focus the values of the Islamic faith.

The temporary school building at the Dublin Mosque and Islamic Centre on the South Circular Road was no longer adequate and in 1992, following support from Sheikh Hamdan Al-Maktoum of Dubai, the new school was opened at Clon-

skeagh by the then president of Ireland, Mrs. Mary Robinson.

The socio-economic backgrounds of the families vary, as is the case in most National Schools. Although 50% of the children in the school were born in Ireland most of their parents are foreign. English for most of the children remains a second language with Arabic and Urdu being predominantly spoken.

Despite the many cultural differences, there is one binding force – Islam. The ethos of the school is distinctly Islamic. This is reflected in various practices in the school. The introduction of cricket to the school has been a huge success and the game has quickly established itself as the most popular sport amongst

the 200 pupils. They also involve themselves in swimming, basketball and Gaelic Football.

Chaotic scenes were experienced at the school recently when, following the conclusion of the six week coaching period, a game was arranged between Pakistan and The Rest of the World. With Pakistan struggling and needing quick runs, enter 10-year-old Mansoor 'Inzamam' Amjad. Keeping a cool head and striking the ball particularly well he dispatched the final ball of the game out of the school grounds and onto the adjoining Roebuck Road. Pakistan won by 2 wickets and school pupils and staff are still talking about the game and are desperately seeking further coaching visits from the Leinster Cricket Union.



Players at the Muslim National School



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ICC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM AWARDS

A reminder to everyone that the closing date for nominations is 31st January 2005.

The awards recognise exceptional performance and service to the game in countries outside of the ICC's 10 Full Member Countries and form part of the ICC's commitment to promoting excellence in cricket development in the 82 Associate and Affiliate member countries.

There are nine categories in the ICC Development Program Awards 2004 including two new awards for the Photo of the Year and a special UNAIDS Award to recognise cricket-related work that has

directly contributed to addressing HIV/AIDS issues and awareness as part of world cricket's commitment to help 'run out AIDS'.

The nominations are first received on a regional basis with the regional winners progressing to the global final where an esteemed ICC judging panel will select the worldwide winners.

Full details of the criteria, nomination process and an application form are available on the official ICC website at www.icc-developmentawards.com.

Regional nominations close on 31 January 2005 and regional winners will be announced on the 28

February 2005. The ICC judging panel will then select a global winner from the five regional nominations in each category, to be announced on 31 March 2005.

The full list of award categories is set out below:

- Best Overall Cricket Development Program
- Flicx Junior Cricket Initiative
- Best Women's Cricket Initiative
- Best Cricket Promotional Program
- Best Spirit of Cricket Initiative
- Photo of the Year
- UNAIDS Award
- Volunteer of the Year
- Lifetime Service Award

www.ecc-cricket.com

Forthcoming ECC Events

ECC Indoor Championships
12-13 February

Tournament Officials Forum
1-2 March

TRSC Meeting
11 March

Executive Meeting
1 April

BRITISH MINISTER VISITS SLOVAKIA

13th October 2004 was a big day as the Slovak Cricket Club was given significant recognition. The members of SCC were invited to a reception at the British Embassy by the Ambassador Judith Anne Macgregor. The reception was held in honour of a visit by Richard Caborn, the British Minister for Sport and Culture.

The SCC were very pleased with the invitation and the assurance it gave that cricket in Slovakia is on course to becoming much more successful.

Also attending were several famous medalists from the Athens Olympics. Mr. Jozef Vengloš (former Celtic Manager) represented the Slovak Football Association and some representatives of the Slovak Tennis Federation attended as well as the Slovak paralympic medalists.

The British Minister Richard Caborn gave a speech and mentioned Slovak cricket and expressed regret at his lack of time for playing cricket whilst in Slovakia. The SCC presented Mr.

Caborn with a symbolic present – a cricket ball from their very first official international match that they won against Poland. The Minister promised that the cricket ball would be kept in Long Room of cricket's "temple" at Lord's in London. Mr. Caborn in turn presented the SCC with a cricket bat signed by the England Test team.

The evening was no ordinary evening for the SCC and it was a special appreciation of the efforts that have been made for Slovak cricket.



Slovak CC present the cricket ball to Richard Caborn



Players at the Christmas Cricket Match

CHRISTMAS CRICKET IN SPAIN

The sun shone brightly on the Columbus Oval at Albir as the young cricketers of the Asociacion Española De Cricket came together for a Christmas cricket match. The festivities commenced with the presentation of seasonally red training shirts kindly donated by The Orange House, and concluded with Christmas fayre of mince pies and choco-

lates; healthy life-style was abandoned for the day! As always, the proceedings were organised by Asociacion Española De Cricket coaches and encouraged by a supportive band of parents.

After a great deal of fun and some quite reasonable cricket, presentations were made to Christian Muñoz

(man of the match), Jack Hersh (shot of the day) and Zac Waddington (most improved player of the season).

Junior training and coaching under the direction of Asociacion Española De Cricket Coaches will re-commence at the Columbus Oval on Saturday the 5th February, 2005.



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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@icc-cricket.com
+44 (0)20 7616 8637

European Development Officer

Philip Hudson
philip.hudson@icc-cricket.com
+44 (0)20 7616 8636

Project Officer

Louise Kent
louise.kent@icc-cricket.com
+44 (0)20 7616 8638

Accounts & Project Officer

Denise Farrell-O'Neill
denise.oneill@icc-cricket.com
+44 (0)20 7616 8639

Umpiring Consultant (P/T)

Graham Cooper
graham.cooper@icc-cricket.com
+44 (0)20 7616 8633



Manishi Mathur, Oldenburg's youngest player, aged 12



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ITALY IN MALAYSIA

The match schedule for the World Cup Qualifying Series Division 2 is as follows:

Mon 21 Feb	Italy v Kuwait Cayman Islands v Fiji Nepal v PNG Qatar v Zambia	Royal Selangor Club Selangor Turf Club Kelab Aman Bayuemas Oval
Tue 22 Feb	Cayman Islands v Qatar Kuwait v Nepal Fiji v Zambia Italy v PNG	Royal Selangor Club Selangor Turf Club Kelab Aman Bayuemas Oval
Thur 24 Feb	Italy v Nepal Fiji v Qatar Kuwait v PNG Cayman Islands v Zambia	Royal Selangor Club Selangor Turf Club Kelab Aman Kilat Club
Fri 25 Feb	Semi Finals and Plate Semi Finals	
Sun 27 Feb	Final and placings	



GERMAN INDOOR YOUTH CRICKET

Snow may be over most of the country, but indoor cricket in Germany is thriving. Six indoor youth teams from six towns and cities, representing five different states: Berlin, Buxtehude (Lower Saxony), Oldenburg (Lower Saxony), Hamburg, Schwerin (Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania) and Lübeck (Schleswig Holstein) form the DCB Youth League North and two rounds of matches have already been played.

Berlin Stragglers, the current DCB outdoor youth champions, carried all before them in the first round on 22 November, beating

Schwerin and Hamburg in Berlin. In the second round, held in Schwerin on 19 December, Hamburg swept the board with wins over Schwerin, Buxtehude and Oldenburg. In the other games Buxtehude beat Schwerin and Oldenburg while Schwerin came out victorious against Oldenburg. The table is led by Hamburg on 8 points, Berlin and Buxtehude both on 4 points, Schwerin on 2 and Oldenburg and Lübeck still to get off the mark.

In Bavaria in the south, the Altmühltal Beilngries school team travelled down to Tegernsee on 10 December

to play two matches against Tegernsee Grammar school. Beilngries have been playing competitive cricket for less than a year whereas Tegernsee have been the leading indoor youth team in Bavaria for many years. This experience showed through when Tegernsee narrowly won the first match 35-29. The second match ended 54-35 in Tegernsee's favour. Beilngries can take heart from their performances in both matches, which were very impressive considering the short time the players have been exposed to the game.

ISRAEL HOST ROLAND LEFEBVRE

EDP Coach Roland Lefebvre spent another action-packed and very beneficial four days in Israel, taking advantage of the excellent weather and school being closed for the Channuka holiday. Lefebvre, highly respected by all the players who keenly anticipated his visit, spent time working with both the U19 and U15 squads, placing an emphasis on fitness training. One day was also dedicated to the younger players, with the hosting of a mini-cricket tournament.

Eight teams participated,

divided into two groups of four. The younger group featured two teams from a school in Be'er Sheva who have recently introduced cricket into their curriculum, together with a team from Ra'anana and a team from a school in Dimona. The Ra'anana team, who have been together for a couple of years, were too strong for the new comers, and won their group relatively comfortably.

The competition in the older group was very fierce, with teammates from the Israel U13 team coming face to

face with each other for the first time since playing together in Gibraltar, and showing little respect for the friendships they had built up over the summer! The final came down to a contest between the star-studded Korchuk team, and Ra'anana, who just edged out to win and complete the double for their club.

The regular youth program continues through the winter, with a busy summer schedule to look forward to, highlighted by the Maccabi Games which will include cricket at U19 level for the first time.