

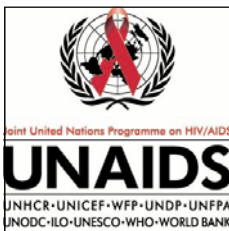
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COMING NEXT MONTH:

ECC Academy Squad Announcement

Graham Cooper in Rome

ECC Intro Course in Paris

Coaches Conference in Italy

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ECC CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

Twenty four junior cricketers from fourteen countries attended the 2005 Centre of Excellence which was once again held at Bradfield College in Reading. The players were put through a demanding four day program by the experienced ECC coaching team. Assisting the ECC team were eleven European leaders who were invited to attend the camp to develop their coaching skills.

The standard of players once again continued to increase from previous years and a great deal of credit must be given to countries who have worked hard on developing the game in their country.

Throughout the four days the leaders were asked to plan and

deliver a number of sessions for the players with assistance from the ECC coaches. These sessions allowed all the leaders to gain further coaching experience so that they are able to deliver more productive sessions in their own countries.

One of the key aims of the High Performance Program is to provide opportunities for talented players to develop their skills through camps such as the Centre of Excellence. It is expected that the majority of the players who attended the camp this year will go onto represent their national teams at ECC tournaments and for some we look forward to seeing them perform at the ICC World Cup sometime in the future.



Roland Lefebvre discusses fielding theory



4 EUROPEAN UMPIRES ON ICC PANEL

Following the meeting of the ICC Umpires' Sub-Committee, the Europe Region has had all four of its nominated Umpires selected to the ICC Associate & Affiliate Umpires Panel for 2005/6.

Niels Bagh (Denmark), Paul Baldwin (Germany), Trevor Henry (Ireland) and John Thallon (Scotland) are the successful Umpires who have been involved in the ICC European Development Program for several years. Members of the panel will be appointed to Regional ICC Intercontinental Cup matches globally throughout the year and 4-6 Umpires will be selected to officiate in the ICC

Trophy in July 2005 and in the ICC U19 World Cup in 2006.

The ICC established a panel of Associate and Affiliate Umpires during 2004 and each region was asked to nominate their 4 best Umpires. These 20 Umpires officiated at the WCQS Division 2 tournament in Malaysia in February and following that tournament, the Umpires' Sub-Committee made their selection for the 12 man panel.

The Sub-Committee consists of Darrell Hair, ICC Elite Umpire, Chris Kelly, ICC Umpires & Referees Manager, Graham Cooper, EDP Umpires Consultant and Chris Briers,

ICC Development Operations Manager.

ICC European Development Manager Richard Holdsworth commented: "This is wonderful news for the four umpires and shows the strength of umpiring in European Associate and Affiliate countries. They deserve such credit and this is a fitting reward to their services to cricket thus far. As part of the ICC European Development Program over 500 umpires from 23 countries have been involved in the ECC Umpire Education Programme since 2001 and over 230 of these have qualified through the ECC & ACU&S system".

UMPEYE GOES MALAYSIA by Paul Baldwin

Paul's experiences as an Umpire at the WCQS Division 2 tournament in Malaysia are detailed in full on the ECC website. Here is a short extract...

Tuesday - It was time to bite the bullet, I was standing in the Cayman Islands vs. Qatar match at the Royal Selangor Club, my colleague for the day, Tony Cooper of Fiji. It was hot, as the film Good Morning Vietnam so ably illustrated, it wasn't just hot, it was real hot, damn hot! Three paces and the sheen of sweat had already broken out on my burning brow! I certainly learnt that I should wear a hat in such conditions, 2 days later all the skin on my head fell off!

What was worse was that I was standing with my hands behind my back, now I had put copious layers of factor 75 on, but with the constant movement of my hands from behind my back, all the cream was rubbed off the

tops of my hands and my fore-arms. The result being I ended up with arms the colour of freshly cooked lobster at the end of the day. A saying "Only mad dogs and English men stand out in the midday sun" came back to me, and it's true, the clubhouse was air conditioned, and the refreshments were flowing, and there were Tony and I suffering.

Although not as much as the players, there was a study carried out on all players and umpires during the tournament to see how much weight was lost during a match in such extreme weather conditions. Now in one game I lost 2 Kilo's, and I was "only" standing, no running around or sprinting. I would hate to think how much some of the players were losing.

Qatar comfortably won the match, and we all retreated back to the air-conditioned hotel and got ourselves ready

for the official dinner.

The dinner itself was an experience; dining with the King and Queen, drum concerts and the Prince of Malaysia singing his party piece "My dingaling". Food fit for a king, although John and Trevor were less enthused by the baby squid and chilli soup, and I attempted to help them out by eating their portions too....

See the ECC Website for the full article.



Play at Kelab Aman



Paul (2nd right) with some of his Umpire colleagues



Women's World Cup
South Africa

See ECC Website for
Ireland's Results
and diaries by
Ireland player
Emma Beamish

COACHING NEWS FROM CYPRUS

The Cyprus Cricket Association recently ventured into the second phase of its Coach Education programme in the space of 12 months. Having undertaken the Introductory Course in April 2004 the CCA has now completed its first ECB/ECC Level 1 Course with 11 Participants on the course including a number of teachers from local schools in Limassol. Based at Happy Valley Cricket Centre near Episkopi, Richard Cox (ECB/ECC) put the participants through their paces in Batting Bowling Fielding and Wicket-keeping before going into the key aspects of Long Term Athlete Development Programme and some of the fresher/newer thinking of ECB on the "How to Coach" skills of Instruction / Demonstration/ Explanation / Observation / Analysis and Feedback

Richard was then joined by Brian Foulkes former ECB Staff Coach (and resident of Cyprus) to complete the Assessments including a Multiple Choice Question Paper / Group Coaching and Demonstrations with some of the better 14/15 year olds from the CCA Development Programme. One notable attendee on the course was George Nikolau (Cypriot born and bred) who teaches PE at a

local Limassol School. George embarked on the course having never seen or heard of Cricket before in his life other than conversations in the playground with ex-pat teachers and school children – a challenge for George indeed. Furthermore a challenge for his fellow coaches and Richard Cox – by the time the assessment was undertaken on the second weekend George had immersed himself in the Coaches Manual / Cards and the concept of LTAD. Notwithstanding that and encouraged by fellow teachers each and every day he took the opportunity to work with his school kids in the playground before/after school in order to gain more knowledge of the game. So it was unsurprising that under assessment conditions Brian Foulkes found his wicket keeping session exemplary/his demo's "wholesome" and his debrief "engaging" whilst he topped it off with a score of 36/50 on his written paper !!! – incredible.

Interestingly March 5th was registration day for the new CCA youth coaching programme and 91 children turned up to register for coaching for the next 10 weeks leading to a Festival and Competition in May. Coincidentally shortly

after the registration day ECC issued its facts and figures for the ASP for 2005/6 showing Cyprus well-down on youth participants – with an intake like this and coaches like George Nikolau accolades cannot be far away for the programme which is run on a "scant" budget overseen by a tireless Steve Carr (Chairman) and Richard Steenhuis (Secretary) The candidates on the course will definitely be busy having completed their assessments with lots of talent to work with in the coming months.

Steve Carr closed the weekend by organising a game of 6 a side Cricket with the coaches and Assessors – Richard Cox partnered by the erstwhile George Nikolau was comfortably outscored as the two teams polished off a most enjoyable course in the hazy Cyprus Spring sunshine – remember the name George Nikolau !!

Finally the Cyprus league season commences on May 8th with 12 teams now competing in 2 Divisions including promotion and relegation – for further information on Cricket in Cyprus go to www.cypruscricket.com



Richard Cox assessing at the course



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CZECH NATIONAL INDOOR LEAGUE

During January and February the Czech Republic held its first national league competition for 2005, with teams vying for the "Move-One" Indoor Cricket Shield (organised and hosted by the CCU Czech Cricket Union). Large numbers of spectators were attracted by the novelty of the Indoor League taking place at the Olsanska Sports Complex, close to the centre of Prague.

The league was comprised of 6 teams, playing 6-a-side, using a converted indoor soccer bubble. The matches were played in accordance with an adapted version of the rules issued by the Australian Indoor Cricket Federation (AICF), with 3 pairs batting for 5 overs each and an option to bowl only 5 of the 6 in each team for a maximum of 3 overs each. The rules were

amended to allow those new to the game to be eased into the fray. Over the 6 weeks each side got to play each other once and then a finals day was held to determine final places.

Chodov CC was clearly the team to beat throughout the competition, although it lost a close match to Prague CC in somewhat controversial circumstances the week prior to the finals. This helped to set up a great sense of rivalry for the final. In the end, the victor was Chodov CC with a resounding win over Prague CC, the final score being 144 to 68.

The Indian Ambassador P.S. Raghavan was on hand to present the winners shield. "Blesk" a major local daily paper, and the BBC were on hand to give the finals media coverage.

The Czech Cricket Union now faces the challenge of turning an outstanding winter indoor league into an even bigger success for summer. The summer league planned to begin late May will consist of at least 6 teams. The CCU board is busy negotiating at the moment to have two new grounds in place for May. A big challenge, but with the success of winter the cricket movement is re-gaining momentum in the Czech Republic after an uneventful 2004 season.

A big part of this success rests with Move-One (www.moveone.info) who sponsored the tournament, for which we thank them and hope to have them behind us again in the coming years!

www.ecc-cricket.com



The Indian Ambassador presents the winner's shield



Action from the league

A FIRST FOR KWIK CRICKET IN BULGARIA

For the first time in Bulgaria a junior Kwik Cricket Tournament was held in Sofia. With this first tournament begins a big project in Bulgaria named 'Cricket Friends'. Eight teams of 6 players participated in this tournament, held in the hall of Durjba School in Sofia. Each game consisted of six four ball overs.

The games were all keenly contested and the Final was won by Voluak School, with best player being awarded first place to Viktor, followed by Kosio and Ileana in 2nd and 3rd places.

Bulgaria. Organisers were Ludmil Trenev and Saif-ur-Rehman. Head Umpire was Ivo, final year Student at the National Sports Academy and Umpires were all the students who attended the Umpire Course.

Chief Guest was the President of the Cricket Federation of

Below: tournament participants

Before this tournament, the Bulgarian Cricket Federation arranged an Umpire Course for the students of Cricket from the National Sports Academy. The lecturer was Mr. Saif-ur-Rehman. On the first day of this course Saif discussed the history of Umpiring and all the responsibilities of the Umpire during the cricket match. The second day was for the practical and the exam. All students did well on this course.



SCOTLAND WIN GLOBAL AWARD

Cricket Scotland has won the ICC Global Development Award for the Best Cricket Promotional Program with its Lloyds TSB Scotland initiative.

ICC European Development Manager Richard Holdsworth said "This superb venture shows how far reaching and innovative a sponsorship deal can be. Cricket Scotland's relationship with Lloyds TSB Scot-

land has been outstanding, exploiting all areas of the game – different levels and ages, girls & boys, men & women. A partnership of this size can create promotion of the game which hits many thousands and helps make them more aware of the game and Scotland's progress. It's a fantastic initiative which should help sustain and grow Scottish cricket".

You first Lloyds TSB Scotland



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IRELAND IN AUSTRIA

Ireland and ECC coach Brian O'Rourke took time out on a recent visit to Vienna to work with young cricketers from the Austria Cricket Club Wien (ACC) in a specially arranged coaching session held at the Tesarekplatz Primary School.

The visit was brought about by the Austrian Cricket Development Manager Siva Nadarajah, while also in attendance was ECB Level 1 coach Walter Blaschke, together with Robert Pinchis and Gary Cos, two coaches from Bolton in England who are currently in Austria as

part of their University studies.

The first part of the day's activities concentrated on a variety of catching, intercepting and throwing exercises before a full hour was spent on developing bowling skills. The afternoon's batting concentrated mainly on front foot and back foot batting drills before the squad were introduced to new small-sided games to help skill development.

The squad of players included brothers Dalton and Partick Tice who live in Vienna, whose

mother is from Wicklow in Ireland, and both boys will be moving to St Columba's College in Dublin shortly to continue their education.

Overall, an enjoyable day was had by all involved and the young players are now eagerly awaiting their playing and coaching schedules for the summer months ahead.



Brian O'Rourke (left) with coaching session participants

ISLE OF MAN UMPIRING COURSE

Senior tutors Bill Cook and Doug Beebe from the Association of Cricket Umpires & Scorers (ACU&S) with attendees at a recent cricket umpiring course held in the National Sports Centre on the Isle of Man. The course was made

possible through support from the European Cricket Council (ECC) of which the Isle of Man is now an Affiliate member.

Also pictured are John Carine, Secretary of the Isle of Man ACU&S and Dougie Hind,

Chairman of the Isle of Man Cricket Association.



DENNIS STONES IN PARIS

On the week end of 25th to 27th February, Dennis Stones travelled to Paris to lead an ECC Introductory Umpiring Course and Examination.

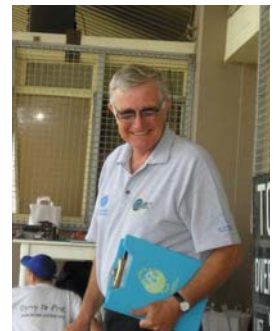
There were nine participants including one who had travelled from Italy to attend as well as the captain of the French National team! Everybody got themselves involved and there were lively discussions, particularly about penalty runs and player behaviour. The general view was that it was a pity penalty runs were not used to cor-

rect bad behaviour and Dennis was asked to toddle along to Lords and put the matter right! Any language problems were ably handled by David Rhodes of the French Umpires Association who smoothed over the sometimes heated discussions that took place.

During Saturday and Sunday the course was visited by a film crew who were shooting a documentary. This is to be shown in France with the intention of raising the profile of the game. Dennis was asked to

explain cricket in precisely two minutes which rather took him aback. However, he tried and the result seemed to please the director. They also filmed some of the course including the interaction between the students and instructor. Everybody played their part though one or two did ham it up!

Dennis was well looked after by David Rhodes who stayed late in the evening and this was very much appreciated by Dennis as he was never left at a loose end.



Dennis Stones

SPAIN - AWARD FOR JIM MORGAN

Each year, the Province of Valencia makes an award to the best individual in each of a number of sports played throughout the region and, for 2004, Jim Morgan won the award for the Best Cricketer (in Spain, he had scored 2,223 runs and had 50 wicket-keeping dismissals).

Jim was unable to attend the

Awards Ceremony so the Sports Minister went to the ground at the Columbus Oval in Albir to make the presentation. At the time, Jim was in the nets helping to coach some of Spain's junior cricketers.

The photograph shows Jim receiving the trophy. Also in the picture are some of the children he was coaching.



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Richard Cox & Heath Streak
with the Irish U15's



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SIXTH FORM COLLEGE MEETS CRICKET

The Cantonal 'Sixth-form College' of Glarus, Switzerland, has been running an optional subject entitled "Sports and Culture in English Speaking Countries" for students in the sixth form. The 18-year-old boys and girls dealt with 'Cricket' during the winter season 2004/5. They learnt about its laws, customs and special vocabulary as well as Cricket history and culture. Another part of the subject was to actually practice and play the game. After an introduction by two teachers of the school in Glarus, the students were invited to join a couple of training sessions with the Royal Zurich Cricket Club. Their impressions were as follows:

- We were welcomed by the club members and they showed us their techniques in a very amusing and friendly way. (Julie)
- When I saw the team I was a bit surprised because I expected them to be wearing the typical white cricket clothes. They were all from different countries and of different ages. I had the feeling that they enjoyed our visit. (Mirjam)
- It was amazing to see from how far people come just to play cricket. (Daniel)
- The people were all from different nations. Sometimes it was a bit difficult to understand the Indian pronunciation. (Tom)
- I liked the training but sometimes I didn't understand everything they said or tried to explain to me, so I just said, "Yes, yes!" (Corinne)
- It was interesting to see how the team members played and also to play with them. Now we know what we have to learn and what it looks like when you know how to bat and bowl. (Regi)
- It was a good experience to see how fast the game can be. Cricket is a very interesting game and if there were a club near Glarus it would be fun to play there. (Tom)
- For me it was very special to have to run and bat with pads on my legs because I felt a bit handi capped and I couldn't run as fast as usual. (Kira)
- At first I had some problems to understand every rule they had, but then it worked out very well. When one of us was batting they didn't bowl as fast as they could, but when it was one of them, I could hardly see the ball. (Silja)
- Sometimes I was scared to death! (Daniel)
- It was impressive to see how emotional the game is when played by people who like the game. (Julie)
- One of the things that impressed me most was the fight for every single run (Daniel)

WARWICKSHIRE ENTERTAIN THE IRISH

Further to the recommendation of ECC and Richard Holdsworth (European Development Manager) that Countries and Counties should work more closely together, Warwickshire CCC/CB and the Irish Cricket Union have this week further strengthened their ties when 2 of their better Under 15 Cricketers Andy Balbarnie and Graham McDonnell flew from Dublin to Birmingham to be part of the pre-season Training Programme with Warwickshire's

first team squad including Heath Streak. They then joined up with the WCCC Academy boys for fitness testing and completed their first day with the WCB Development of Excellence Programme in the state of the art Edgbaston Cricket Centre. Their second day is a detailed 1-1 coaching day doing drill work as well as nets etc with ECB / WCCC Coaches as part of their personal technical development in readiness for the Irish season

joint initiatives between Warwickshire and the Irish Cricket Union to develop cricket in the UK. Richard Cox, Director of Cricket (WCB) said " This has been an excellent opportunity for both Warwickshire and Ireland to develop stronger links and provide opportunities for players and coaches alike to further their skills and experiences. I am sure the relationship will continue into the future especially as Irish Cricket at all levels continues to get stronger and stronger"

This venture is one in a long line of

LEINSTER CU FIRST ECB COACH AWARD

Leinster CU stepped in to the unknown recently when they hosted their first ECB Coach Award under the new ECB "pathway" structure currently being rolled out by ECB Coach Education Manager Gordon Lord and his Training Team. Based at North County Cricket Club over the next few weeks and months the 12 candidates embarked on Modules 1 and 2 of the new course with fervour and a great deal of interaction.

Course Tutors Brian Kelleher, Vinny Savino and Brian O'Rourke were backed by

ECB/ECC Trainer Richard Cox in assisting with their delivery of the first parts of the new course. The first weekend looked closely at the skills of fielding and wicket keeping using the coaching cards and practical sessions but more to the point looked at the key elements of "how to Coach" and the skills need to impart knowledge effectively and efficiently. Commencing with a broad ranging look at the key attributes of a coach the Tutors then went into detail using the practical sessions to ensure that all candidates understand

the key principles of how to Instruct and Explain, Demonstrate, Observe and Analyse, Generate and Provide Feedback.

All in all the day proved a challenging one for Tutors and Candidates alike but both came through with flying colours and are now set to further their coaching with 6 further modules plus 10 hours of supported practice in the field coaching with other qualified coaches before returning for their assessment in May.