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COMING NEXT MONTH:

MCC Tour to Finland & Estonia

MCC Tour to France

Dates for 2006

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TOURNAMENT REPORTS

U19 WCQS - Dundee, Scotland

10 teams arrived in Dundee, Scotland to take part in the 2005 ICC U19 WCQC. The 1st Division was made up by Scotland as hosts, 2003-winners Ireland, together with Holland and Denmark. The 2nd Division comprised Belgium, France, Germany, Gibraltar, Israel and Italy.

The prospect of playing cricket in this most beautiful corner of Scotland will have excited and challenged the players, some of whom will have been playing on grass for the first time.

In the deciding fixture, on the final day, Scotland beat Ireland by 6 wickets to take the 1st Division title. In a similar finale Gibraltar eased out Israel by 42 runs to take the honours in the 2nd Division. Scotland and Ireland will move forward to Sri Lanka, where they will represent Europe in 2006 Under 19 World Cup Finals.

Michael Pederson (Denmark) and Arun Ayyavooraju (France) were voted as the Players of the Tournament for the 1st and 2nd Divisions respectively. Ireland and Belgium picked up their well-deserved divisional MCC Spirit of Cricket Awards.

Notts Sports Affiliate Championship - Antwerp, Belgium



A nine team ECC Notts Sports Affiliate Championship was won by a talented Norway side who remained unbeaten throughout the tournament. To further increase their celebrations Shabbaz Butt, their young leg-spinning batsman, was named Player of the Tournament at the Gala Dinner at the end of the nine day tournament.

With nine teams the tournament was played in two phases. In phase 1 three groups of three played in mini leagues over the first three days of competition with the top two from each league making up the phase 2 'super six' who went on to play for places 1-6 with the 3rd place teams from Phase 1 playing each

other twice to determine positions 7-9.

Finally, on behalf of all the players and officials, I should like to wholeheartedly thank all those clubs and individuals who worked so hard to make the 2005 Championships such a great success. (D Jukes, TD)

Below: winning Scotland squad



U15 2nd Division - Rome, Italy

Eight squads participated in the tournament, with some lads who had played at European U13 level knowing what to expect. For the others, cricket in Italy was an experience they will never forget.

The heat, the playing surface, the outfield all added to the experience and fortitude of each young cricketer. All gave of their best on the field, with the hardest job arriving at the Player of the Tournament (Max Stokoe of Isle of Man) and "Spirit of Cricket" team winners (France).

Each team played on five consecutive days a 35 over match.

The final Friday settled the Championship. The aim was to have league placing for all eight nations. This was achieved with Isle of Man winning the Championship, beating Belgium by 11 runs.

The host organisers and clubs had a successful Championship with a great deal of hard work. Well-done Italian Cricket. The competing nation's Managers and Coaches all returned home tired and wiser from their efforts. The Umpires and Scorers achieved new standards working as the third team. All areas of cricket benefited from the U15 2nd Division Championship.

The players, managers, coaches, umpires, scorers, host organisers and the European Development team have all enjoyed and gained from participating. (K Amos, TD)

Below: Winning Isle of Man squad



Dellor that led them to eventual victory.

Hellas can be consoled with 2nd place and the hosts Belgium with the Spirit of Cricket Award and all those present can spend their winter waiting for their next tournament remembering the superb hospitality and pleasant grounds of Belgium. (R O'Sullivan, TD)

Below: S Butt bowls for Norway



TOURNAMENT REPORTS *continued*

European Women's Championship - Cardiff, Wales

The European Women's Championships 2005 was centred around Cardiff between 14th-19th August and was conducted in sunny weather and without a hint of Duckworth/Lewis.

On day 1 Ireland outclassed a spirited Scotland side by 203 runs mainly due to a superb innings of 93 from Clare Shillington whilst in the other match Holland, with Caroline Salomons making 89, came out winners by 7 wks against the hosts Wales.

Day 2 saw Holland easily defeat Scotland by 5 wks and England defeat an under achieving Ireland by 63 runs. England were gaining in confidence with every match and proceeded to amass a record total of 323 (Sarah Tay-

lor 83 not out) against Scotland and with Stephanie Davies taking 4 wks for 5 runs completed a victory by 202 runs. A determined Wales performance, ably led by a classy century of 107 not out from Hannah Lloyd, helped them to beat a still under achieving Ireland team by 59 runs.

After a well deserved rest day, England (with Sarah Taylor once again to the fore in scoring 90 not out), soundly saw off the Holland challenge by 94 runs whilst the Wales team, playing at Sophia Gardens for the very first time, completed a resounding victory over Scotland by 143 runs with Hannah Lloyd remaining undefeated on 121 runs.

The final day arrived with the overall placings still undecided, however England were in no mood to deny them being champions and resolutely beat a disappointing Wales by

10 wks. The match between Holland and Ireland produced some high quality cricket but with Clare Shillington scoring 95 not out and Ceceilia Joyce 77 not out, they eventually ran out comprehensive winners over Holland by 116 runs.

These results left England as the undefeated Champions whilst the minor placings were decided on net run rate which resulted in Ireland finishing as runners up, Wales in 3rd place, Holland 4th and a spirited Scotland 5th. Ireland won the Spirit of Cricket Award and Hannah Lloyd from Wales, as a result of 2 undefeated centuries was voted Player of the Tournament. Other noteworthy performances came from Sarah Taylor of England who remained undefeated all week and Clare Shillington of Ireland.

Overall a most enjoyable tournament played at some beautiful venues and in the best traditions of cricket. (R Holyer, TD)

U15 1st Division - Holland

Ireland once again won the Under 15 1st Division title having seen off the efforts of hosts Holland, who finished second, Denmark who finished third by virtue of winning their last match against Scotland, and of course Scotland who finished fourth.

Due to inclement weather leading up to the championships, the outfield on pitch 2 at the V.O.C. ground was exceptionally slow and led to low scores on all 3 days. This pitch, in contrast to the grass pitch on field 1, was of coconut matting which made it also more difficult to score quickly.

A number of excellent innings were played throughout with Ben Ackland of Ireland and Alexei Kervezee of Holland making outstanding contributions. Bowlers also produced good figures the best being 4 for 13 by M. Bremner of Scotland in their match against Holland, K. Morton 4 for 16 for Scotland against Denmark, S. Ahmed of Denmark who took 4 for 33 against Holland and A. Kervezee 4 for 21 against Scotland.

Denmark was awarded the MCC Spirit of Cricket team award for the continuing understanding and assistance throughout the tournament. The

Player of the Tournament award went to Alexei Kervezee for his excellent performances with bat and ball. Thanks to Jos Heggelman and Andrew Vieler for all their help before and during the tournament. (S Tovey, TD)



Action from the U23 Championship

U23 Championship - Holland

The Under 23 Championship held in Deventer, Holland, won eventually by Scotland, with Ireland 2nd, Holland 3rd and Denmark 4th.

Once again in Holland, weather proved to have an influence on the matches played, not so much as rain during the Championship, although we almost lost one day, by making it extremely difficult for the ground staff to prepare pitches for these three days. It must be said though that although soft, play was possible and on pitch 2 the same strip was used on all three days. Many thanks must go out to

Rutger Loenen and his men who worked tirelessly to ensure play. During a summer of close finishes in England, we also endured nail-biting ends to a number of matches. The closest being the penultimate ball victory of Scotland over Ireland with only 1 wicket left on day one, this proving to be the deciding match of the tournament.

Denmark were awarded (as in the U15 tournament) the MCC Spirit of Cricket Award, with the Player of the Tournament Award going to Kevin O'Brien of Ireland for his outstanding performances with bat and ball.

Special thanks should go to Satar Alladin who worked before and throughout the tournament to ensure that everyone enjoyed themselves. (S Tovey, TD)

U17 1st Division - Copenhagen, Denmark

Won by Ireland
Player of Tournament - Greg Thompson (Ireland)
Spirit of Cricket Award - Scotland

U13 1st Division - Dublin, Ireland

Won by Ireland
Player of Tournament - Vinoo Tewarie (Holland)
Spirit of Cricket Award -



EDM Richard Holdsworth presents the Women's Championship Trophy to England Captain Natalie Lane



Zec Tomlinson of Notts Sport Presents the Affiliate Championship winners trophy to Zeeshan Ali



U13 winners Ireland



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17TH MACCABI GAMES, ISRAEL

The highlights of the recently completed Maccabi games were undoubtedly the superb organisation and the visit of the ICC CEO Malcolm Speed.

The games were divided into the senior and junior sections as follows:

Seniors - South Africa (Captained by International Adam Bacher), Australia, India, Great Britain (Captained by Oxford Captain Darren Gerrard) and the hosts Israel. Australia, Israel, South Africa and Great Britain played out for the junior competition.

The senior group was won by South Africa who outplayed Australia in the final with Adam Bacher scoring 102 as South Africa amassed 313 in their allotted 50 overs. In reply the Aussies struggled to 160. Great Britain after losing to Israel in the round robin came back strongly to take the bronze medal when they convincingly defeated the hosts.

The South African juniors were years ahead of their rivals winning all 6 games with ease. Each of the 4 teams played each other twice. Israel, playing against a level of cricket un-

known to them, played outstandingly to defeat Australia on the final day to take the silver medal, with Australia the bronze.

The series of 24 games were played at the 2 grounds in Ashdod and the 2 grounds at the National Athletics Stadium. All 4 grounds were in magnificent condition with the new site screens, locally made and provided by the EDP, proudly in place. The facilities at all the grounds were outstanding, the catering superb.

Israel took the initiative in requesting 4 ECC Umpires to assist in this special event through the Annual Support Programme. Ken Amos, Neils Bagh, Richard Smith and Stephen Tovey were specially flown out to join Naor Gudker in officiating at the senior tournament. The 4 ECC Umpires also umpired the junior games and/or stood as third Umpire cum referees. 2 local Umpires Hillel Awasker and Norman Sankar, who umpired the juniors, also went on to officiate at the Under 15 2nd Division Championship in Rome. It was the presence of the 4 visiting Umpires that added a special

stature to the competition.

Malcolm Speed and his wife Allison arrived on the penultimate day and were present at the final in Ashdod. A film was made at the final at which 10 minutes of cricket was screened followed by two interviews with Malcolm Speed and local Chairman Stanley Perlman. The movie was made for screening on the ICC Cricket World weekly programme and hopefully will be shown during September.

During the interview Malcolm Speed, who was referring to the ICC Development Program, said "Israeli cricket punches way above its weight." That sums up the success of the 17th Maccabi Games tournament.

The Israel Cricket Association, after so successfully running this major tournament (there were 6,500 participants at the games, the third biggest world sports meet after the Olympics and the Student Games) is now hoping to host the European Under 17 2nd Division Championship in 2006. The security at every cricket game was phenomenal and in addition a doctor, nurse and paramedic were available for all the players medical needs.

Visit
www.ecc-cricket.com
for Umpire
Steve Tovey's
Report on the
Maccabi Games



One of the two grounds in Ashdod, Israel



Intercontinental Cup action
Ireland v Scotland



INTERCONTINENTAL CUP LATEST

The completion of the Europe group matches see Ireland going through to the Semi Finals in Windhoek, Namibia, during 23-29 October 2005.

Other countries in the play-offs are UAE, Kenya and Bermuda.

The final points awarded in the Europe group are as follows:

1. Ireland 41
2. Scotland 21
3. Holland 11.5

Results of the 3 games were as follows:

Holland drew with Scotland
Scotland lost to Ireland by 3 runs
Ireland drew with Holland

Full scorecards and photos can be found on:
www.ecc-cricket.com



LEINSTER VISIT STAFFORDSHIRE

The Leinster U15's recorded their highest finishing position (2nd) in their three years of participating in the Staffordshire Youth Cricket Festival. The tournament, held during 15-19 August at Wolverhampton Cricket Club, will be remembered for some fine individual performances from the Leinster players.

Leinster finished second in the competition behind Cumbria.

Graham McDonnell's 200 came off 133 balls in 176 minutes and contained 24 fours and 7 sixes. Shane Getkate faced 105 balls in 148 minutes and hit 11 fours and 1 six in his 104 not out and shared a partnership of 249 with Graham McDonnell. Ben Ackland's 107 came off 110 balls in 144 minutes and contained 10 fours and 4 sixes.

Following some excellent all-round performances, Andrew

Balbirnie was awarded player of the tournament and was presented with a G&M 'Purist' cricket bat.

Photo right:
Graham McDonnell (200*) and Shane Getkate (104*) following their record breaking partnership (249) at the Staffordshire Youth Cricket Festival.



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Galah and Slovakia CC's



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MICHAEL PEDERSEN WITH MCC YC'S

It was with great pleasure that I was informed by the Danish Cricket Federation that I had been invited to attend the MCC YC's scheme for a two week period. I have plenty of ambitions to become a professional cricketer and believe that the experience of joining the Young Cricketers at Lord's Cricket Ground could only assist me in reaching my goal. I was invited to attend from the 8th August through to the 19th August.

On the morning of Monday 8th I was picked up at Heathrow by Philip Hudson from the ICC Europe Office. He drove me and Lakmal Kasturiarachige, an Austrian cricketer who was staying for the same duration as me, directly to a beautiful cricket ground called Wormsley where we were to play our first game for the YC's against Berkshire U25's in a 50 over match.

We won the toss and decided to bat on what looked like a good batting pitch. After 50 overs we had scored 254 for 7. I was asked to open the batting and ended up as top score with 70 even after my early morning flight. We then bowled Berkshire out for 130 and Lakmal who was named "Lucky" for the duration of the trip, captured 4 for 35 with his leg-spin bowling. This was a great way to start our adventure and also a good advertisement for European cricket. At the end of the game we were both included in the squad to play in the Second XI Championship game against Essex. The three-day game was due to be played at Billericay CC in Essex.

We lost the toss against Essex and were put into bat. I was again asked to open the batting and I had one of my better days

at the crease although I was disappointed not to reach three figures. I scored 73 out of our total of 395 for 5 declared. We were quite pleased with our total because of the strength of the opposition we played against. Essex fielded 7 players with First Class experience including Will Jefferson, Ravinder Bopara, Mark Pettini, Graham Napier, Tim Phillips, Ryan ten Doeschate (Holland) and Tony Palladino.

It was now our time to field and 110 overs later we were walking off the field with Essex finally declaring. They had scored 660 with Will Jefferson still in on 303 not out! Jefferson's score set a new record as the highest score scored by an Essex player in the Second XI Championship. Their plan was to bowl us out in the second innings in just under a day, but we only lost 4 wickets and drew the match fairly comfortably. I managed to score 20 runs in the second innings which was a slight disappointment after my score in the first innings. "Lucky" managed to get 5 for 200 of 43 overs when we bowled. Lakmal is used to bowling 10 overs at a time so this was a great effort although he was slightly disappointed to go for so many runs. Lakmal's wickets included 5 of the players with First Class experience which was great to see.

After the Essex game we had a few days off. "Lucky" and I went to see some of central London and enjoyed experiencing the sites. Our next game was against Northants 2nd XI. I was asked to do 12th man duties as 4 of the MCC YC's contracted players returned to the team. On the second morning I was

told to report back to Lord's as I was needed to act as 12th man for Middlesex 1st XI against Sussex. Even though they lost inside 2 days I enjoyed the experience very much. It was great to share the changing room with England players such as Owais Shah and to see how they prepare. The game only lasted two days as Sussex came out easy winners but it was wonderful to get the opportunity to come out onto the field at Lords with a decent crowd present. It was well worth all the running up and down the stairs when the wickets fell!

I truly enjoyed the 2 weeks I spent with the MCC YC's, and I can certainly recommend a similar stay to anyone who enjoys cricket and wants to be tested at a really high level. I have no doubt that my game will have improved due to the experience and this can only be good for my future plans and also for the future of Danish Cricket.

(M Pedersen, Denmark)



AUSTRALIAN GALAH CC VISITS SLOVAKIA

On Wednesday, 3rd August, Slovak Cricket Club was honoured to welcome the players of Australian Club GALAH. Galah CC was on a cricket tour to Europe having already visited Austria, Slovenia, Croatia, Hungary and finishing in Stratford, England.

Australian players came in a good mood and geared up for the 25 over match that started at 2pm. The Slovaks, known as large hearted hosts allowed the Australians to win the toss and they elected to bat. Slovaks started well with the excellent bowling of young Slovak guns Somorovsky and Lences. After

the 8th over the first warning came, the sunny and hot day changed into a storm. The play was suspended for 10 mins and after that break the Australians shined and Beasley scored his 50. The only bright Slovak moment was the first international wicket by the youngest guy on the ground Mucka (15). In the 15th over the sky suddenly clouded again and rain came for the second time. The players were full of enthusiasm about playing and did not mind the pouring rain at all. However the storm became stronger and the lightening really dangerous and therefore the match was suspended again in the 16.2

over. At that stage the Australians were 121 for 3.

The skippers decided to wait an hour to make a final decision. So it was time for a lunch, Slovak specials were served but the biggest cheering belonged to Slovak beer and wine. At 5pm. the match was definitely abandoned with no result.

Despite the bad weather, the Australian visit was a successful event and an unforgettable experience for Slovak cricket. Although the match was washed out, new friendships and good memories will stay forever.