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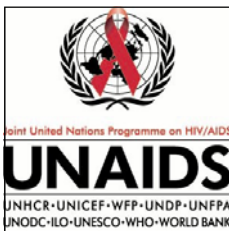
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IRELAND WIN INTERCONTINENTAL CUP

Ireland have claimed the ICC Intercontinental Cup 2005 title by beating Kenya by six wickets in a thrilling climax in Windhoek, Namibia.

Ireland becomes the second European winner of the event, following in the footsteps of Scotland who won the inaugural title in 2004.

Victory in the final of the 12-team event gives Ireland the right to lay claim to being the best first-class nation outside the Test arena. Their path to the final saw them beat Scotland and complete winning draws against Holland and UAE.

This success caps a fantastic

year for Ireland that has also seen them qualify for the ICC Cricket World Cup for the first time.

They did that by reaching the final of the ICC Trophy in July where they lost out to Scotland.

A full match report can be found on www.ecc-cricket.com



Below: Ireland squad celebrate



Above: Eoin Morgan on his way to 60

Below: Kyle McCallan & Andrew White receive joint Man of Match Awards from Percy Sonn



DEVELOPMENT AWARDS

The ICC Development Program Annual Awards will be launched on 28th November so please get thinking about your nominations.

The format will be the same as previously, with regional winners being put forward for the global awards. The application forms will be sent directly to the countries to arrive by 28 November ready for the launch of the Awards. The Awards website will once again be up and running from the launch and countries will be able to nominate on line.

The process is as follows:

Launch and nomination forms distributed – 28 November 2005

Closing date for applications – 31 January 2006

Regional winners announced – 27 February 2006

Global winners announced – 30 March 2006

Some excellent prizes will be available so we urge all countries to start considering their nominations.

INDOORS

The 2006 ECC Indoor Championship will be held at Lord's Cricket Ground on 10-12 February 2006, in MCC's newly refurbished Indoor School.

Eight teams will be competing during ECC's 10th Anniversary year in 2006 - Belgium, Denmark, France, Holland, Finland, Hellas, Luxembourg and Portugal.

This will be Finland's first time in the tournament and Hellas will be looking to retain the title following their win in Denmark in February 2005.

MCC TOUR TO FINLAND

The inaugural MCC tour to Finland in July was a great success. Downpour apart on the first morning, we were blessed with clear & warm weather throughout the trip resulting in the original tour agenda going almost entirely to plan.

Not only was the tour a success in playing terms, offering as it did numerous opportunities for players in Finland of differing stature to match themselves against such distinguished opposition, but in addition all the games were played with an excellent spirit, the FCA gained more exposure for the game in the Finnish national press with a "first-ever" 2-page full colour cricket article and coaching courses were held for juniors and naval cadets in both Helsinki & Turku.

The MCC played against 3 teams: a President's XI's, a Turku-invitational side and the Finnish national team. The MCC won the first game by a mere 10 runs. Chasing a score of 209 in 40 overs for victory, the President's XI appeared to be cruising at 157/3 after 31 overs, but then crumbled under an escalating run rate with a combination of run outs and rash shots to leave them 10 short, the last over being a wicket maiden for Tom Glover of the MCC.

The MCC then won comfortably in Turku. Following James Samworth registering the only century of the tour with a delightful 121, the MCC went on to win the game by the small matter of 55 runs. The final match versus the Finnish National team saw the MCC find themselves under pressure after a top order collapse left them reeling at 71/6. However, Neil Burton and Douglas Green steadied the ship with a solid partnership of 98 to leave the Finnish National team a target of 183 to win from 50 overs. The Finnish team in turn found themselves in trouble as they struggled at 65/4, but thanks mainly to a glorious, chanceless innings of 71 n.o. from Timo Ilva off 126 balls and including 11 boundaries along with able support from Amrik Bhatia 43 n.o. guided Finland comfortably to their target with 5 wickets intact and 6 overs remaining.



Below: FCA President's XI & MCC

The generous tour grant from MCC & ICC was most gratefully accepted, part of which was put to good use already before the MCC team's arrival in renewing the matting wickets at the two grounds used for the tour. The remaining funds are intended to be put towards either of two firsts in Finnish cricket in 2006: a bowling machine or the first permanent cricket ground.

Needless to say, all funds towards grass roots development in Finland are most welcome. The tour itself along with the grant, provided the finishing touches to an excellent season of cricket and one which has cemented further the foundations for the healthy future of cricket in this country. Let us hope that this will not be the last MCC tour to Finland! (Andrew Armitage, FCA Chairman)



The Toss
Tiina Hetemaa (Umpire), ECC's very own Philip Hudson (MCC Captain) & Michael Pegg (Finland Captain)



Finnish National Team v MCC

JUNIOR TOURNAMENT IN SLOVENIA

On the 16th October Slovenia held its annual Junior Schools Cricket Tournament. This was the third consecutive year of the event. At the beginning of the September, after the children have come back from school holidays, we start coaching children cricket at various schools. This year we were at five different schools and coached over 700 children. The children are aged from 8 to 12 years old and are coached during their regular PE lessons. This continues until the tournament, which means that the children get about 6 weeks of coaching.

This year at the Junior Schools Cricket Tournament there were over 100 children competing, comprising of eight teams divided into two groups from five schools. The participating schools were: Nova Fuzina, Smlednik, Dolina Kuma Interna-

tional School, Polje and Dolina Kuma. The winner of each group played in the final. This year's winner was Nova Fuzina and it is the second year in a row that they have won the event.

We are very lucky to have the support of Harvey Norman who is the major sponsor of cricket in Slovenia. The winning school, Nova Fuzina, received a 52cm Philips Flat Screen Television from Harvey Norman. Also, the best batsmen and the best bowler received a MP3 player from Harvey Norman. In addition, every child that attended received a gift bag from Harvey Norman which contained; 20 blank RW DVD's, 20 DVD pouch, a Lets Play Cricket t-shirt and a Harvey Norman discount card for the family.

The British Embassy also spon-

sors the tournament by providing lunch for all the children and their family. The lunch is held outside, next to the stadium, after the final, where also the presentations are made.

We also have Coca Cola as a sponsor of the tournament providing drinks for all the children and their families. All the schools that compete receive Kwik cricket equipment, which we have received from the ECC. (M. Oman)

Below: action from the tournament



The winning School, Nova Fuzina, with their medallions and Trophy



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O'SULLIVAN'S TRAVELS

EDP Coach Richard O'Sullivan has been busy recently, visiting several member countries.

Italy

Over two bright and sunny October days teachers from the Bologna area were the second group of Italians in a month to attend an ICC Introduction to Cricket Course. In late September Italian National Coach Joe Scuderi an ICC/ECC introductory course tutor conducted a course for seven teachers and club members during a visit to Rome. Therefore with the ten participants in the Bologna course the FCrl hopes to make further strides in their school/club Kwik Cricket program in these areas.

Belgium

Following their recent election as Associate members key Belgium Cricket Federation (BCF) personnel organised a two day October development meeting. The meeting was also attended by ECC Coach Richard O'Sullivan who has a great deal of experience in grass roots development in the UK and across Europe. An honest analysis of 'Where the BCF Are Now' and the strengths and weaknesses of cricket in Belgium began the forum and from that a plan for the future was formulated to hopefully use the new found resources in the most efficient way possible.

The focus of discussions following a successful hosting of the Affiliates Championship in August 2005 where an ageing National Side performed admirably was on creating a sustainable school program that can feed players into the local clubs. The aim is to run a series of introductory sessions in schools for U11 and at U13 and

During both courses the participants had the opportunity to try the game for themselves which during the Bologna course (tutored by ECC Coach Richard O'Sullivan) culminated in a pairs Kwik Cricket Match at Pianoro CC. Participants also received information on basic scoring and umpiring. The important 'Spirit of Cricket' message was well received with the recent Ashes series providing obvious examples and it was commented on how Calcio (soccer) could benefit from some of the same attitude.

On day two the course even provided the chance for the participants to share their newly acquired skills with some pupils

interested children will then have a ten week program of coaching and pairs matches provided by their local club. The program all culminates with all four clubs across Belgium offering the scheme bringing their young players together for a pairs cricket festival. Following this spring-time activity the clubs will offer the opportunity for players to compete for their club in the already established national competitions at their appropriate age groups. The aim is then to repeat the scheme annually at the same schools to a new crop of youngsters and eventually involving more schools and clubs. If the scheme works it will bring young people and their parents to the game and they will hopefully bring further human and financial investment to the clubs in Belgium.

Jersey

Over the weekend of 28th – 30th October players and teachers from Jersey, Guernsey and Sark had the opportunity to

at one of the local schools and it proved yet again that if given the opportunity children worldwide can have fun playing our great game. During the two days Richard was also able to attend the FCrl Development Committee which hopes to utilise all this new found enthusiasm from the teachers to give even more children the opportunity to take up the game at club level.

Below: Pianoro CC



undertake Level 1 & Level 2 ECB Coaching qualifications.

With their newly gained ICC Affiliate member status ECC Coach Richard O'Sullivan was able to visit to assist Jersey Development Officer Chris Minty in delivering the Level 1 course to eighteen candidates whilst delivering the Level 2 course to five previously qualified and experienced Level 1 coaches. All the participants were extremely enthusiastic and worked tirelessly from the Friday evening to the Sunday late afternoon.

Victoria College near the Jersey capital of St. Helier provided an excellent facility and during his visit Richard was also able to view some of the excellent grass and artificial facilities that Jersey and the Islands as a whole will bring to their membership of ICC. The hope of the Islands is that with all the new coaches, the momentum of the Ashes series and the good facilities available that Island cricket will continue to develop at a healthy rate.



Richard O'Sullivan



Jersey Course Attendees

Newsletter Copy

Stories and photos for the next Newsletter to be emailed to louise.kent@icc-cricket.com by 5th December

ICC U19 WORLD CUP

The groups and schedule have been announced for the U19 World Cup and full details can be found on www.ecc-cricket.com.

With England, Europe will be represented by Ireland and Scotland. The teams will arrive in Colombo on 31st January 2006 with the initial rounds taking place between 5-10 February. The top 2 teams from each group will go into the Super League with the remaining teams entering the Plate

Championship. These games and the semis will take place during 11-17 February and the finals on 18 and 19 February. The competition will be officially launched in Colombo on 28th November 2005.

Group A
Pakistan, New Zealand, Bangladesh, Uganda

Group B
West Indies, South Africa, Australia, USA

Group C
India, Sri Lanka, Scotland, Namibia

Group D
England, Zimbabwe, Ireland, Asia Winner

Pakistan took the title in 2004 in Bangladesh.



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Assembled players at the Belgian Sixes



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DATES FOR 2006

ECC TOURNAMENTS

10-12 February	ECC European Indoor Championship	Lord's Cricket Ground
18-20 July	ECC European U23 Championship	Ireland
18-20 July	ECC European U17 1st Division Championship	tbc
25-27 July	ECC European U13 1st Division Championship	Denmark
25-31 July	ECC European U19 Championship	Ireland
1-3 August	ECC European U15 1st Division Championship	Denmark
3-9 August	ECC European 2 nd Division Championship	Scotland
4-9 August	ECC European 1 st Division Championship	Scotland
15-17 August	ECC European Women's U21 Championship	Holland
18-24 August	ECC European U17 2 nd Division Championship	Israel
26-30 August	ECC European 4 th Division Championship	Belgium

OTHER ECC EVENTS

19-20 January	ECC Coaching Conference	Warwick, England
1-2 March	ECC Tournament Officials Forum	Lord's Cricket Ground
10 March	ECC Tournament Rules Sub-Committee Meeting	Lord's Cricket Ground
17-18 March	ECC Governance, Admin & Management Forum	Lord's Cricket Ground
6 April	ECC Executive Meeting	Lord's Cricket Ground
8-9 April	ECC Umpires' Seminar	Antwerp, Belgium
11-14 April	ECC Centre of Excellence	La Manga, Spain
17-23 April	ECC European Cricket Academy	La Manga, Spain
13 May	ECC President's Day (1 st Test, England v Sri Lanka)	Lord's, Cricket Ground
16-17 May	ICC Development Committee Meeting	Dubai
3-7 July	ICC Annual Conference	Lord's Cricket Ground
6 July	ECC AGM	Lord's Cricket Ground
6 July (provisional)	ECC 10 th Anniversary Dinner	Lord's Cricket Ground
22-23 September	ECC Tournament Rules Sub-Committee Meeting	Lord's Cricket Ground
27 October	ECC Executive Meeting	Lord's Cricket Ground

BELGIAN SIXES CHARITY FUNDRAISER

Cricket Belgium took full advantage of October's unseasonably summer weather to organize a fund-raising Sixes competition last Sunday. Eighteen teams took to the field on a bright and warm day to help the relief effort following the devastating earthquake in South Asia just over a week ago.

His Excellency Saeed Khalid, Pakistan Ambassador to Belgium, joined the players for more than an hour and spoke about the earthquake, its devastation and the tragic impact it is

having on families and livelihoods. A number of players in Belgium have family in the affected area.

The events began on Saturday with youth cricket for Under-11s, Under-15s and Under-17s at the Antwerp Indians ground. On Sunday, the seniors arrived from all parts of the country to take part in an event that was organized in just a few days. Players paid 20 euro to take part and teams were divided into four groups, each playing a morning or afternoon session at the Antwerp CC ground in Rumst or the Antwerp Indians CC

ground in Wilrijk.

At Antwerp CC, despite a heavy dew on the freshly cut grass, the morning session brought more runs than the afternoon session, when players benefited from a drier outfield. A bowling competition between sessions brought 32 hopefuls onto the field and an astonishing result of 11 hit wickets in the first round. The second round whittled the field down to five and the final round brought success to three.

It was a successful day, and although the format of the five-over competition meant there were no overall winners the competition was intense. Cricket Belgium would like to thank umpires Bill Monkau and Andrew Scott as well as both clubs and all the players for their generous support and assistance. The total raised will be directed through the Belgian Red Cross.



Photo left to right:

Javaid Siddiqi, Ken Farmiloe, Dennis Newport, HE Saeed Khalid, Pakistan Ambassador to Belgium, Peter de Boeck and Martin O'Connor