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ECC COACHING CONFERENCE

Europe's second Coaching and Development Conference takes place on 19-22 January at Warwick University in England. Twenty-eight coaches from thirteen countries will take part in the event including Scottish Coach Andy Moles. The former Warwickshire player and Kenya Coach has been in Pretoria, South Africa for most of this winter heading up the ICC World Training Camp and will share his experiences with Europe's best up and coming coaches.

As part of the ICC Development Program coach education in Europe has increased dramatically since 2002 due to ECC's involvement with the England and Wales Cricket Board and its Coach Education Programme. The number of qualified coaches has increased from 1,028 in 2002 to 1,546 in 2005, an increase of over 50% in three years.

Commenting on the achievement ICC's Regional Development Manager for Europe, Richard Holdsworth explained 'This remarkable growth is due to countries now prioritising coaching and realising that the way to improve and produce young cricketers is to ensure they have high quality coaching'. 'ECB's Coach Education Programme is widely regarded as the best in the world currently, and in

Europe we have benefited hugely from the expert tuition from ECB's experienced Tutor workforce, some of whom have been travelling around Europe for several years delivering and assessing courses'.

It is therefore appropriate that all 28 coaches will also be attending the 2nd ECB Coaches Association National Conference during the same period. Coaches will benefit from sessions presented by ECB Academy Director Peter Moores, England Assistant Coach Matthew Maynard, and former England player and Warwickshire Captain Nick Knight.

They will deliver sessions on 'developing winners', and 'playing against spin'. Coaches will also hear on 'Leadership' from former England Captain Nasser Hussain

and on 'spin bowling' from ECB Chairman of Selectors David Graveney. It is hoped these coaches who are all involved in coaching their national teams at various age groups, will be upskilled and share their experiences with other coaches in the country, while enthusing new people to get involved in coaching.



Below: N Hussain & D Graveney



Photo: Getty Images

ECC INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIP

The 2006 European Indoor Championship celebrates the 10th year of the European Cricket Council and as the Marylebone Cricket Club hosted the tournament ten years ago at Lord's Cricket Ground, it seems appropriate that they will do so again this year.

The body which then controlled European Cricket was the European Cricket Federation of which the President was Roger Knight, MCC Secretary and Chief Executive. The body then became the European Cricket Council in March 1997 under the Chairmanship of former England cricketer

Doug Insole CBE, and later that year became supported by the ICC Development Program.

In that time Portugal have won the tournament three times, Denmark twice and the current holders Hellas (Greece) twice. With The Netherlands participating for the first time since 2004 and progressive Affiliate Finland participating for the very first time, the tournament is set to be a very competitive one.

The tournament commences at 1600 on Friday 10 February and the final at 1230 on Sunday 12 at the MCC Indoor School,

Lord's Cricket Ground.

The schedule of matches can be found on page 4.

Below: 2005 Winners Hellas



ISRAEL TO HOST TOURNAMENT

The European Cricket Council (ECC) has announced its tournament schedule for 2006 with Israel set to host its first international cricket event.

The Israel Cricket Association (ICA) will stage the European U17 2nd Division Championship, hosting teams from Belgium, France, Guernsey, the Isle of Man, Italy and Jersey over a seven-day period in August. The matches will be staged at two venues, the Olympic Athletics Stadium in Tel Aviv and also in Ashdod, 40 kms south of the capital city.

Stanley Perlman, Chairman of the ICA, said he was ecstatic and thrilled at the award of the event and promised to make it a great tournament for everyone involved. "When we started our youth program officially in September 2000 we set certain goals and one of our distant aims was to host cricket tournaments," he said. "Hosting the ECC U/17 tournament is a fulfilment of that aim. This is just great and I am proud for everyone. "It shows the coaching staff and most importantly the youth that we are extremely serious and determined to take the game to even greater heights of achievement. "This is not only going to be a sports spectacle but we also intend to show all

participants what a great country Israel is from a cultural, historical and religious point of view. "Whether it is the water bottles, the food or the sight-screens everything is going to be perfect at the 2006 games. Israel means business," he added.

Mr Perlman also sought to reassure those who may have concerns over security. "I can understand that concern," he said. "All I can do is to reiterate that all the grounds are under severe security provision. "There has been a change around in the perception of what is going on and there is optimism in the air. "One of our next aims is to set up a cricket scheme with Palestinian children and we will definitely achieve it within the next three years. "Already we have some amazing stories with the youngsters we have worked with and our motto is 'Hit poverty for 6'," he added.

ICC Regional Development Manager for Europe Richard Holdsworth said: "This is hugely positive for cricket in Europe and in Israel in particular. "Cricket there has a huge emphasis on youth, they have fantastic programmes in schools and clubs and use cricket as a force for good to keep children off the streets.

"The exposure the game will get through this tournament can only help development there even more."

Israel, an Associate member of the ICC since 1974, has 18 domestic clubs in three divisions with 270 seniors and 270 juniors playing the game plus a further 1000 youngsters involved in development programs. The tournament in Israel is one of 11 scheduled by the ECC in 2006, equalling the highest number it has previously staged, in 2004.

Below: Ashdod



Above: action from the recent Maccabi Games



Stanley Perlman



Signals Issue 2 Is ready!

See the ECC Website for issue 2 of 'Signals', the newsletter for Umpires.

IRELAND JOINS FORCES FOR COACHING

A new initiative bringing together the Leinster Cricket Union (Ireland), Malahide Cricket Club and Malahide Community College will see 15 Transition Year students undertake a 12-hour ICC 'Introduction to Coaching' course over the coming four weeks.

The purpose of the course is to enable the participants to help introduce cricket to schoolchildren by giving them basic cricket skills and an ability to organise fun game activities related to cricket.

On completing the course the students will be able to:

- Plan a safe, organized and effective cricket session for young people
- Deliver a safe, organized and effective cricket session for

young people under direct supervision

- Gain knowledge and understanding of small-sided games
- Gain sufficient knowledge to umpire youth/schools matches
- Plan local cricket festivals/tournaments for 7/11 year-olds
- Assist the cricket development programme within their own school
- Provide coaching visits to the three primary schools in the Malahide area (St Andrews, Pope John Paul's and St Oliver Plunket's)
- Identify where to go next as a coach and gain support/advice from the Leinster Cricket Union
- Be in a position to act as a scorer for youth/schools games

The 15 candidates currently attending the courses are: David Hanley, Sean Gill, Keith Reynolds, Aisling O'Brien,

Sean Hill, Neil Boyne, Andrew Richardson, Killian Grimes, Tony Ennis, Laura Kane, Simon Chase, Darragh McGrath, Rory McGrath, Fergal Flood & Sam Cassidy. The course tutor has been Leinster Development Officer Brian O'Rourke

Both CUS and St Columba's College, other cricket playing schools in Dublin have agreed to run the course early in the New Year where further students will be given the opportunity to enter the coaching ladder at an early age.

Photo right: Students from Malahide Community College attending the ICC 'Introduction to Coaching' course currently being delivered by the Leinster Cricket Union.



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SWISS COACHING MOVES FORWARD

Cricket youth development in Switzerland has received a timely boost with five volunteers passing the ECB Level 1 coaching course.

The numbers of youngsters taking up cricket in the country has shot up dramatically in the last 12 months, creating a need for more coaches and a more organised coaching programme.

As a result, European Cricket Council coach Dave Gelling flew in from England to put Swiss coaches through their paces at the Kantonschule Hottingen on the weekends of November 26/27 and December 10/11.

The course ran over 18 hours

and was largely non-technical with the emphasis on enjoyment, basic skill development and structured group coaching. The participants were taught how to plan and prepare coaching sessions, communicate effectively and give demonstrations.

Helping out on December 11 were 12 juniors from Zurich Crickets who acted as guinea pigs for the eager coaches.

Patrick Henderson, Matthew Allen and Alexander Segert (Zurich), Jay Singh (Basel) and Hascal Gollop (Geneva) all passed the course to qualify as Level 1 coaches. In addition, Merlin Hendricks, Alex Gray and Karl Kick (Zurich) were awarded with ICC Introductory

Certificates after attending part of the course.

"This is an important development in the youth programme in Switzerland," said SCA Youth Development Officer Patrick Henderson. "Attendance numbers are constantly increasing and we need to keep up with this welcome phenomenon to offer the best possible coaching.

"With the rapid progress we are making, we are hoping to field the first ever national youth teams in Swiss cricket history."

A further ECB Level 1 coaching course is being planned for next Spring with more volunteers wanting to take the qualification.



Matthew Allen, Patrick Henderson (SCA Youth Development Officer), Hascal Gollop, Dave Gelling (ECB Coach), Jay Singh, Alexander Segert & Alex Gray.

GUERNSEY'S HANNAH GETS SELECTED

Guernsey born Hannah Mechem has gained a place in the Sussex U17 girl's squad in the recent trials at Burgess Hill, Sussex.

The trials were run over a two week period where 133 hopefuls were whittled down to just 16.

Jason Shambrook, GCB Development Coach was naturally delighted, "Hannah has only been playing for a relatively short period of time but we had every confidence in her abilities as both a batter and a useful right arm bowler. It just goes to

show that with hard work and a good system in place, anyone can achieve their goals if they put their mind to it".

Hannah's next trip to the UK will be on 21 January where she is set to train not only with the U17 side but possibly with the senior women's team. "The coach told me that because of the travel implications I might be able to train with the women's team which will make the trip to the UK more cost effective", said Hannah, "There are three international women's players at Sussex including the captain Clare Connor, Rosalie

Birch and Caroline Atkins".

Hannah's cricket started at junior school through the schools development initiative and progressed through the local women's team, the Sirens. It was from there that she started training as part of the Pricewaterhouse Coopers Cricket School of Excellence in Guernsey that caters for the top youth players on the Island.

"Hannah will play several fixtures in the UK for Sussex", said Jason, "It is all about providing opportunities for players to maximise their potential".



Hannah Mechem

EUROPEAN UMPIRES IN WORLD CUP

ICC Associate and Affiliate Panel Umpires Paul Baldwin (Germany) and Trevor Henry (Ireland) have been selected by the International Cricket Council to officiate in the ICC U19 Cricket World Cup Sri Lanka 2006.

The announcement came from Chris Kelly, ICC Umpires and Referees Manager in Dubai who is in charge of all appointments in International cricket. The Europe Region has four umpires on the 10-man panel which was established by ICC at the beginning of 2005. Both umpires have been officiating in their country for many years and due to their impressive performances and experi-

ence in their country and at European tournaments, they were selected onto the panel. Both have experience in European Championships, ICC World Cup Qualifiers and the ICC Intercontinental Cup, but this is perhaps the highest accolade either has had.

Commenting on their appointment Richard Holdsworth, ICC Regional Development Manager Europe said; "This is a wonderful opportunity for both Trevor and Paul. They have been involved in the Development Program for some time and this is just reward for their efforts and for the quality of their umpiring. There are over 900 umpires in Europe's 27 ICC member coun-

tries who have been on an umpire training course and the increase in umpires since 2002 is 76%. These appointments will help create an even better profile for umpiring in Europe and show the ambitious umpires that there is reward at the top level now for Associate and Affiliate Countries".

Below: Trevor Henry



Photo: B Chambers



Paul Baldwin



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ICC European Development Program

European Cricket Council
The Clock Tower
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

Project Officer (P/T)

Jenny Thornton
jenny.thornton@mcc.org.uk
+44 (0)20 7616 8639

Accounts Officer (P/T)

Denise Farrell-O'Neill
denise.oneill@icc-cricket.com

Umpires Consultant (P/T)

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



Paulo Buccimazza



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ECC INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULE

Friday 10 February – Phase One - Round Robin

Pitch 1	Pitch 2
1600 Hellas v France	Denmark v Belgium
1700 Portugal v Luxembourg	Holland v Finland
1800 Hellas v Denmark	France v Belgium
1900 Portugal v Holland	Luxembourg v Finland
2000 Hellas v Belgium	France v Denmark



Portugal batting (2005)

Saturday 11 February – Phase One - Round Robin

Pitch 1	Pitch 2
1000 Portugal v Finland	Luxembourg v Holland
1100 Hellas v Finland	France v Holland
1200 Denmark v Luxembourg	Belgium v Portugal
1300 Hellas v Holland	France v Luxembourg
1500 Denmark v Portugal	Belgium v Finland
1600 Hellas v Luxembourg	France v Portugal
1700 Denmark v Finland	Belgium v Holland
1800 Hellas v Portugal	Belgium v Luxembourg
1900 Denmark v Holland	France v Finland

Live coverage
will take place on
www.ecc-cricket.com

Sunday 12 February – Phase Two - Knock-Out

Pitch 1	Pitch 2
0830 5 th v 7 th	6 th v 8 th
0930 Semi – 1 st v 3 rd	Semi – 2 nd v 4 th
1030 5/6 play-off	7/8 play-off
1130	3/4 play-off
1230 Final	
1345 Presentation	



Right: 2005 winners, Hellas

SWISS JUNIOR TOURNAMENT

Switzerland's future Flintoff's, Tendulkar's, Inzamam's, Pollock's, Ponting's and Jayasuriya's showed off their budding talent at the inaugural Junior Cricket Tournament in Basel on Sunday, 20 November.

from six to eight players with each participant bowling one over and every pair of batters staying in for two overs. There were plenty of boundaries hit, wickets clattering and fine catches, but also some intelligent cricket on show.

"The children have come a long way in the last couple of years," he said. "The coaching is really paying off and hopefully we are not far off staging international junior cricket tournaments in Switzerland." "This is a sport that any child can enjoy and the Swiss are taking to in growing numbers. You only have to look at the enthusiasm of these children during the tournament to see that."

Some 50 boys and girls from four regions, ranging from six to 15 years of age, took part in the indoor tournament, with sides from Zurich, Zumikon, Basel and Geneva playing under-9s, under-11s and under-15s matches. The matches were played with a dazzling mixture of skill, spirit, determination and plenty of emotion in front of an enthusiastic audience of parents at the Freies Gymnasium. Teams ranged in number

Organisers Jay Singh (SCA Competitions Chairman) and Patrick Henderson (SCA Youth and Development Officer) were impressed with the level of skill and team cooperation on display. Mr Henderson was particularly pleased with the way the tournament highlighted the achievements of a rapidly expanding youth and development programme being carried out with dedication by a growing number of coaches around Switzerland.

The event was applauded as a resounding success by organisers, parents and players alike. Dads were resoundingly thrashed by a crack team of juniors during a parent-children match.

MIDDLESEX VISIT FOR PAULO

Paulo Buccimazza who is the Youth Development Officer for the Federação Portuguesa de Cricket is to benefit from a two week cricketing programme that commences on Friday 6th January. Paulo will be based at the Middlesex CCC Indoor School in Finchley where he will work closely with Middlesex Cricket Board's Development Officer Graeme West. Graeme who is

also the current Portugal national coach has put together a programme which will assist Paulo in developing his cricketing knowledge and allow him to gain further coaching experience.

Paulo will be taking his ECB Level 2 coaching award during his visit while also being involved in Middlesex Academy and County squad training sessions.

During the two weeks Paulo will be joining Middlesex CB Community Coaches in their visits to schools in the county to introduce the game of cricket to local children. The ECC will be working closely with other First Class County Cricket Clubs in the future to provide further opportunities for other coaches in member countries.