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*Report and photos from the  
ECC Centre of Excellence  
and  
European Academy  
in La Manga, Spain*

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**ECC INAUGURAL UMPIRES' CONFERENCE**

The inaugural European Umpires' Conference got underway on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> April at the Corinthia Hotel in Antwerp. Nearly 50 umpires from throughout Europe gathered to listen to presentations from assorted European personalities ranging from ICC European Development Manager Richard Holdsworth to International umpire John Holder.

With an increase in numbers of 75% within the last 4 years in Europe, umpiring is the most rapidly growing aspect of the development program and the seminar proved that it is also regarded by the ECC as one of the most important. Ingeborg Bevers, the only female umpire to attend the seminar said, "The presentations have been great. They have helped us all to re-focus on what we do on and off the field, especially the umpiring practicalities".

Day 1 provided the delegates with an overview of the opportunities which are available to umpires in Europe. With the recent addition of an ICC Associate and Affiliate Panel, there are now opportunities for European umpires outside England to officiate in the ICC global programme of events such as the U19 Cricket World Cup, ICC Trophy and ICC Intercontinental Cup.

On day 2, ECC Regional Umpire Consultant Graham Cooper high-

lighting several points from the newly issued European playing conditions for 2006, and there was a lively discussion between the participants on the particulars of the new wide ball definition and the associated pitch markings.

John Holder charmed the delegates with his tales of 23 years on the first class circuit in the UK and further abroad on International duty, prompting many questions from the floor. He went into detail on fieldcraft, people management, team work, body language and on the umpire dress code. Richard Holdsworth closed the day by illustrating the ICC Code of Conduct and how it would be applied at European tournaments this season. Ingeborg commented, "The benefits of talking cricket and meeting your colleagues at this kind of event are fantastic, we

can really interact with each other," a comment that echoed the thoughts of many who were appreciating the atmosphere and instruction being offered to them during the 2 days.

The final day featured amongst others a gallery of umpiring do's and don'ts which caused great mirth and occasional embarrassment. John Holder commented at the end of the seminar, "The event has been excellent, the content and concept has been first class". Graham Cooper summed up the event, "It has been very successful, very positive and a great opportunity to meet all the umpires for this years tournaments and to talk through any problems there may have been and most importantly for both players and umpires to get a high level of consistency."

**EUROPE REFEREES VALUABLE TRAINING**

Former ICC Umpire Manager Chris Kelly took time out from his new role at the England & Wales Cricket Board to help train Europe's Tournament Referees. The training course was the first of its kind in ICC Associate and Affiliate countries worldwide and it allowed 11 European Tournament Referees valuable learning to ensure they officiate Europe's 10 tournaments this summer in a professional manner. The training involved the role of the Referee, ICC Code of Conduct, holding disciplinary hearings etc.

ICC Regional Development Manager Richard Holdsworth said, "It

is important that whilst we are all trying to improve the standards of players, we must ensure we have high level experts officiating at our tournaments". "This training is the first part of creating an official European panel of Referees".

European Tournament Referees attending were:

David Jukes  
Ray Holyer  
Ken Amos  
Richard O'Sullivan  
Bjarne Jensen  
Jacques Mulders  
John Boomer

Steve Tovey  
Richard Holdsworth  
Philip Hudson  
Graham Cooper

*Below: Chris Kelly at the course*



# TEGERNSEE INDOOR TOURNAMENT

11th & 12th March saw the 8th Annual Tegernsee Indoor Tournament. Tegernsee is a picturesque town on the lakes of Lake Tegernsee in the Bavarian Alps. This year's tournament attracted teams from Austria Cricket Club Wien, Zuoz (Switzerland) and a combined Swiss U15 side - the Swiss side was actually competing for the first time in any form of cricket.

The preliminary rounds saw an all play all competition. One of the highpoints of this round saw the Swiss U15 take on Zuoz in their first ever game and win. The round ended in the most dramatic fashion with the Swiss requiring 3 bonus points against ACC Wien I to get through to the 3rd/4th playoff. They gained 1 batting bonus point and then another bowling bonus point. One more wicket and they were through. With 1 run required the Vienna boys set off for a risky single. The throw came in and hit the base of the wickets. The point was nearly theirs but, in a bizarre twist of fate, the balls did not get dislodged. This allowed the Zuoz team through to the 3rd/4th playoff against ACC Wien II. Tegernsee and ACC Wien I competing the final.

The 3rd/4th playoff was keenly contested with Timo scoring an unbeaten 33 in Zous total of 86 all out. ACC Wien II lost an early wicket before Ciju Puthuppally and Patrick Tice settled down to bring ACC Wien II home in the 8th over.

The finals saw the ACC Wien I side post an imposing total of 164. The competition rules mean batsman must retire after scoring 25. Vienna managed to use all of their batsman without losing a wicket. Rohan Dickenson, Lukas Dobner, Rojin Noel Philip and Shivam Subash all making the 25 mark.

The Tegernsee innings never really got going due to some

good bowling from the Vienna boys. Tim Eberhárt who had impressed earlier in the tournament fell early. Christoph Mähringer scored 20 and Chris Shulte-Cloos top scoring on 22 before finally getting all out for 96 in the 10th over. ACC Wien I were once again worthy winners, making it 8 in a row.

For the coming summer tournaments are being arranged in Vienna from 25th to 28th of May and then Zuoz, Switzerland, in the middle of June.

Junior Cricket in the German speaking lands should have it's best year yet.

Below: Winners ACC Wien I



Action from the tournament

# COLÁISTE PHÁDRAIG ENTER LEAGUE

The Leinster schools cricket leagues, commencing shortly, have welcomed a newcomer in Coláiste Phádraig, a boy's secondary school in Lucan. The school will make their playing debut in the U'14's league and will play fixtures against the more traditional cricket playing schools, St Columba's College, Belvedere College, St Mary's and St Michael's College.

The school's interest in cricket has been generated by an Asian contingent currently residing in the area. Nigel Pyne (North Kildare and Leinster Cricket Union) has been running sessions at the school for the past 6 weeks. At last week's session the Leinster Cricket Union were able to provide the school with some much-needed training equipment (Inter Cricket Sets supplied by the European Cricket Council) that should prove beneficial to future development within the school.

Aju Yeldhose from India has

been present at all of the sessions in the school gymnasium. "I have played cricket from a very young age and cannot wait to represent my school in the league games taking place in May". Usman Shahid from Pakistan is a useful bowler and is quietly confident in taking on the bigger fee paying schools. "Our training so far has been very good and a lot of our players are making progress. In the coming months we hope to generate more interest within the school and hopefully be able to field more than one team". All of the boys have expressed an interest in joining local club North Kildare following their school's campaign.

Brian O'Rourke, Development Officer with the Leinster Cricket Union, commented on the recent surge of interest "Any new schools looking to make a start in the game will receive full support from our Union and in particular our team of coaches. It is great news that Coláiste

Phádraig have taken the step to enter into this year's schools competition and we will watch with interest their progress over the coming months. Who knows, the next Shahid Afridi or Shoaib Akhtar could be produced from the school here in Lucan".

Others that have attended sessions at the school include: Hainal Bogdon, Sujon Almagir, Ali Khalid, Muhammad Salman, Haris Mohammed, Salman Tariq and Nithin Thamby.

Coláiste Phádraig is a school that has developed very close links with local GAA club Lucan Sarsfields. If the interest in cricket generated over the past 6 weeks is anything to go by, don't be surprised if this school causes an upset or two during this season's schools cricket campaign.



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Photo above right: Members of the Coláiste Phádraig cricket team with their new training equipment

## GETTING SCHOOLS TO PLAY CRICKET

### New strategy to develop youth cricket in Germany

The motto was "Keeping cricket history moving". On 5<sup>th</sup> March a training session in Rösrath, Germany took place with Germany's Youth Development Officer Philipp Bächstädt showing the pupils an old school cricket picture. It shows a child trying to hit the ball and a teacher keeping wicket. The children were immediately reminded that cricket is played by young people, even at their age. Enthusiasm from that moment on was great.

All children enjoyed warming up, stretching and beginning their first catching and fielding drills. However, like all children, playing the game was the most exciting part of the session for everyone involved. During the

session batting and bowling techniques were practiced with a Kwik-Cricket game taking place at the end. Kwik-Cricket sets were given to the group so that cricket could carry on being played.

The game was enjoyed by all with some of the kids showing good technique, which allowed them to play their shots and enjoy scoring some runs. The talent on show was great to see. At the end of the session, Philipp informed all the children that playing for the German national cricket team was definitely a possibility for every one of them, if they continue training hard.

Philipp has introduced a new scheme, which encourages all qualified German based coaches to coach on a constant

basis at their local schools and clubs. With the coaches and local children all getting involved it is hoped that German newspapers will continue to write about the sport and with time, cricket could develop into a game understood and played by all Germans.

Below: Philipp Bächstädt



The old school cricket picture...



Training session attendees

## SWISS WOMEN'S CRICKET STARTS WELL

With a couple of theoretical sessions under their belts the newly formed Zurich women's club enjoyed their first session in the indoor facilities of Hottlingen school. The sessions are being coached by the enthusiastic Bandula Gunawansa, who is attending the latest ECB Level 1 coaching course in Switzerland together with 10 other prospective coaches.

Former European Development Officer Adam Cole and David Gelling, who ran the first Level 1 course in Switzerland last November/December, flew in this month and their passion has clearly rubbed off on the new coaches who are now eager to pass on their new knowledge to the youngsters and the women now wanting to

take part in this sport that for too long has been so foreign to Switzerland.

Bandula Gunawansa was glad to be able to draw on the willingness of half a dozen Royal Zurich CC members to assist him. The participating women, who almost form a full team, finished their 2-hour training enthusing over how enjoyable it had been and how keen they were to swell their numbers by inviting others to the Friday evening sessions. Indeed, already the basics of bowling and batting have been grasped and there is clearly a good deal of natural talent among the group.

The first match is already in the planning stages. At the AGM of the Royals on April 2<sup>nd</sup> the idea

of a friendly match with mixed teams met with great approval, and a wish to incorporate some of the budding 14- and 15-year-olds from the Zurich region was likewise commended.

It is to be hoped that other Swiss clubs will follow suit and encourage both women and youngsters to join this team sport which has so much to offer.



Above and left: action from the Indoor sessions in Zurich



## LA MANGA HOSTS IRELAND U15'S

The Ireland Under 15 squad visited La Manga Club in Spain on a 5 day tour which included 2 games of cricket against the Spanish U15's on Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th March.

This opportunity to play cricket at La Manga provided both teams with some useful practice in the good weather and the still young and developing Spanish team managed to do very well against the visiting opposition in their 2 games.

Ireland had 2 successive wins with their young talented side and there was much evidence of their quality and the high degree of commitment demonstrated by both players and Coaches.

Ireland's two young wicket-keepers got a surprise when the Kent County Cricket Club and Irish wicketkeeper Niall O'Brien gave them his time for some coaching in the nets one afternoon while Kent were training at La Manga Club.

Above right: Irish and Spanish teams

Below: action from La Manga



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School Coaching starts in Villamartin, Alicante (full story on www.ecc-cricket.com)



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## FIRST FRENCH U19 INDOOR TOURNAMENT

Eight teams gathered from all parts of France to participate in the first U19 Indoor National Cup in Le Touquet. The tournament took place in a very positive atmosphere and a great venue, a huge sportshall which was large enough to include 8 tennis courts.

It was a very intensive tournament due to the short time allocated, starting at 11am on Saturday 18th March and ending at 2pm on Sunday 19th March. However, the cricket was of a high standard and the U19 participants and local supporters really enjoyed the event. Two of France Cricket's Umpires were involved in 16 out of 18 games, a real marathon, and thanks go to David Rhodes and Sharkey Jay-

awardene for their efforts. The Town Hall was very pleased with the Tournament and has already offered to host it again next year.

### Results:

**Final** : USCA 125-4 beat Entente St Aulaye/Drancy 93-5 (10 overs match)

**3rd place** : Creil 51-5 lost to Sri Lankan 54-0 (5 overs match)

**Best player** : Don Janith (USCA) selected by the Umpires

### Final Table

- 1 USCA
- 2 St Aulaye
- 3 Sri Lankan CC
- 4 Creil
- 5 Entente Rivira/Entrecasteaux
- 6 PUC
- 7 Thoiry
- 8 Dreux



Above: Winners USCA



## DENIS DELIVERS COURSE IN JUTLAND

A snow bound Copenhagen Airport with a swirling blizzard did not prevent Denis Burns delivering the ECC Introductory Course in Denmark at the beginning of March. The course took place in the beautiful town of Viborg in Jutland. The venue was the Golf Hotel complex on the shore of the frozen lake that skirts the town. Eight candidates were in sparkling form and eager to raise questions and debate the Laws in fine detail. Although this was an introductory course a number of candidates had substantial experience, both in Denmark and

Pakistan, of umpiring in a variety of leagues. The modern complex, with up-to-date IT facilities, was a first class venue organized by Bjarne Jensen. A big 'Thank you' must go to Peter, the manager of the Golf Hotel, who ensured that Denis's lost luggage was transferred from Copenhagen to Viborg via Karup in time for the first session.

The course was a highly organised and successful event and reflected the efficiency and expertise that is the hallmark of Danish Cricket and Umpiring. The use of the internet

by Danish umpires for organising and reporting on matches is very advanced and the software developed to support umpires ensures smooth organisation and communication throughout the country.



## JUNIOR CRICKET COMES TO MUNICH

Following a very successful ECB Level 1 course held recently in Munich, junior cricket coaching sessions have been held at the European School in Munich.

The sessions have been open to all children and they have been overwhelmed by the turnout. The first weekend saw 23 children participate and the second nearly 30. The children have come from a mixture of backgrounds and abilities, some ex-pats having played the game before through to one Japanese boy who's only played Baseball before. The coaching sessions have been lead by Michael Kwan of MICC cricket club who has recently passed his Level 1 and he has been aided by

numerous other coaches throughout the two weekends.

Hopes are high that the initial success can be built upon and

games can soon be organised against Tegernsee Cricket Club which is less than an hour from Munich.

