



BeyondTheBoundary

The official newsletter of the European Cricket Council
in association with ICC Development Program

www.ecc-cricket.com
Issue 66, May 2006



ICC Development
Program - Europe

ECC GOES LARGE . . . IN LA MANGA

After the successful running of this year's Cricket Centre of Excellence and European Cricket Academy at the La Manga Club in April, ambitious plans are afoot for the creation of a European Cricket Centre at the Spanish sporting resort.

Commenting on the success of this year's events, ICC European Regional Development Manager Richard Holdsworth was full of praise for the facilities already present at La Manga. 'The opportunity for the boys to work outside is in itself a huge advantage,' he says. 'At La Manga both the Academy and the Centre of Excellence were based outside, and we were able to take advantage of a purpose-designed facility in a Mediterranean climate. We had no more than two hours' rain in two and a half weeks.'

A further point in favour of the Spanish site, Holdsworth adds, is that it moves the events away from England, into one of cricket's developing nations. This can only be good for the future of European cricket.

The future plan is to hopefully develop turf wickets for both matches and practice, in addition to the existing artificial surfaces. A turf management consultant has been brought in to advise on the possible creation of the new facilities, and the hope is that they may be ready for next year's spring schools.

The development will also make it possible to hold European tournaments at La Manga, adding another country to the rota. It is possible to play cricket in southern Spain from February to November, so that the new Centre will extend the European season by several months. It could also be available to European national sides preparing for major tournaments.'

Both Holdsworth and Regional Development Officer Philip Hudson, who managed both the Academy and the Centre of Excellence, are very

positive about this year's programme. 'Standards are improving every year,' says Holdsworth, 'thanks to the work which is being done in the countries themselves. At this year's Academy and Centre of Excellence we could see the effect of players' experience in the U19 World Cup, where Ireland and Scotland both took part, and the recent visit of Dutch and Belgian teams to Mumbai'.

Hudson reinforces the point. 'Both the older boys in the Academy and the younger lads at the Centre of Excellence are making huge progress,' he says. 'And the achievements of the graduates of previous years, such as Scotland's Gary Kidd and The Nether-

▼ Batting Drills



▲ Fazil Mahmoud Coaching

lands' Alexei Kervezee, show what can be achieved. It gives the current crop of players a target to aim at.'

Participants in the Academy benefit from specialist coaching in batting, seam bowling and spin, as well as more general programmes in fitness. 'Using La Manga,' Hudson points out, 'we've been able to introduce cool-down sessions in the pool. And every player was required to take a fitness test, the results of which will be included in the final report which we send to the player himself and to his governing body. These reports will identify personal goals, and assist the coaches back in the home country in their further work with the player.'

The availability of two grounds and four nets makes room for a varied programme, extending from one-to-one sessions with coaches to match situations, and the coaches, including the ECB Elite Coach Development Manager Gordon Lord, make extensive use of video analysis in helping players to identify their weaknesses and work on resolving them.

The programme begins with the 13-17 age group who take part in the Centre of Excellence. A feature of this event is the presence of country leaders as well as promising young players from the participating countries. 22 players from fifteen countries, twelve of whom also sent a leader, took part this year.

'The intention is that the Centre of Excellence experience should feed back into the coaching programmes at country level,' says Holdsworth. 'It's focused on the development of European coaching as much as on the players' particular skills.'

And the indication is that it's working: although the range of skill and experience among the younger age-group is wide, the coaches are delighted to see that the gap is closing. With the plans for the European Cricket Centre well in hand, it seems certain that the rise in standards can only continue.

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SUPPORTED BY



ITALIAN COACHES SEARCH FOR SPEED AS THEY LOSE AN HOUR OF SLEEP!

The weekend of 25th & 26th March saw the first signs of summer, as a warm March weekend when the clocks went forward coincided with the second 'Gruppo Italiano Tecnici Cricket' (GITC) Annual Conference.

Maremma C.C. in Grosseto hosted thirteen coaches along with ECC Coach Richard O'Sullivan who has made regular development visits to Italy over the last six years. He in conjunction with FCrl coaches Riccardo Maggio and Kelum Perera, (both of who have attended ECB level III courses in the recent past) delivered another ambitious and challenging two day programme.

Patrick Leech the GITC Chairman was keen to see coaches experience the 'Games for Understanding' approach to developing technical and tactical skills. He was not to be disappointed as the record for coloured cones used in any one place in Italy was broken as the FCrl coaches played the small sided games they had designed during the session with their usual enthusiasm!

After this very active session the coaches were reminded of the role and method played by observation and analysis in cricket coaching. Then using video clips of young players and comparing them with those of top performers the coaches tested their observation and analysis skills.

With an hour less sleep than normal speed was the definitely the order of the day as after revision of the key elements of overarm throwing and a few fun games the coaches used electronic speed machines to test their own performance.

The morning finished with an exploration of art spin bowling and after lunch it was time for the final theory sessions firstly on preparation and a secondly a review of the FCrl school/club development activities.

It is a measure of the success of national coaching associations that participants are already talking about the content they would like for 2007.

The question is will the clocks and the coaches' speed go forward for 2007?



◀ Kelum Perera & Riccardo Maggio in L3 video analysis



◀ GITC coaches discuss the throwing technique



◀ Practicing throwing



◀ Dave Langford-Smith of Ireland in action against the batting of Gloucestershire's Jon Lewis (Photo: Martin Bennett)

Ireland knock over Gloucestershire CCC

Ireland knocked over five times C&G Trophy winners Gloucestershire by 47 runs in Gloucester to record their first ever victory over county first class opposition away from home. Off spinner Kyle McCallum and overseas Pakistani test player Shahid Afridi took six wickets between them for just nine runs in 12 overs to complete the victory.

The Irish had struggled at 118-7, however a recovery led by Irish U19 World Cup player Eoin Morgan (40) and Afridi (36) followed by a crucial 61-run stand between Peter Gillespie (41no) and David Langford-Smith (34) ensured a respectable 193-9.

In reply, five times Trophy winners, Gloucestershire looked well set at 53 without loss, but two wickets for Andre Botha and one for captain Trent Johnston, saw Gloucester in trouble. The crucial wicket came with the dismissal of Australian International Ian Harvey, well caught by Dominic Joyce off Langford-Smith.

Gloucester then recovered to 124 for 4; however the introduction of Kyle McCallan and Shahid Afridi into the attack proved highly successful. McCallan picked up two wickets with his first two deliveries, after Afridi had made the initial breakthrough, having Gidman caught behind by Jeremy Bray.

Former Gloucestershire Development Manager and now ICC Regional Development Manager for Europe, Richard Holdsworth commented; "This is another great day for Irish cricket and in their continued preparation for the ICC Cricket World Cup in 2007. After only one match in the new format C&G Trophy the Irish have defeated my old county and that's fantastic. It really shows the progress the team is making and I am very pleased for coach Adi Birrell and the rest of the players. Let's hope they can continue being competitive in the first season in county cricket".

LEINSTER MOVE FORWARD ON COACH EDUCATION

Coaches are critical to the success of any cricket development programme and as a result the Leinster Cricket Union (Ireland) have been in close working contact with the National Coaching and Training Centre (NCTC) who act as technical advisors to the Irish Sports Council. Significant change has been undertaken in relation to course syllabus and course material, the result being the delivery of a more professional course and the production of higher quality coaches. 38 newly qualified coaches have entered the coaching field following the running of four separate courses held over the winter.

Course 1.

ICU/ICC Introduction Course – Malahide Community School (Nov 23rd, Nov 30th, Dec 7th & Jan 11th)

"The course gave me a great understanding of the role of the coach and the 'best practice' methods of teaching schoolchildren new skills. I have been using these teaching methods on my weekly coaching visits to the National Schools in the Malahide area" Sam Cassidy – Malahide CC

Course 2.

ICU/ICC Introduction Course – North County CC (Nov 26th & Dec 10th)

"The new techniques that the course teaches are excellent. A lot different than the 'block it - hit it' technique that I remember from schooldays. Each drill is now broken down into 4 or 5 easy-to-remember segments which culminate to make the perfect technique. I have been using these methods while working with the St Columba's U'14 school team in recent weeks. I'm hoping all I have learnt from this course can be passed on to the group of young cricketers I am currently working with". Bazil Cromer – Sandyford CC



Course 3.

ICU/ICC Introduction Course – CUS School (Jan 17th, Jan 24th & Feb 23rd)

"Following completion of the course, our school principal Mr Jennings has had us running cricket sessions in the schoolyard for the boys in the Prep school. Although a bit nervous at first we have all worked hard with the young cricketers and we have all noticed an improvement since we started the coaching sessions six weeks ago" Ray O'Connor – CUS School and Merrion CC

Course 4.

ICU/NCTC Level 1 Course – North County CC (Feb 25th, Mar 4th, Mar 25th & Apr 1st)

"It was an excellent course and was very much designed to assist me as a coach to develop my coaching skills by providing me with the latest information on cricket techniques, group coaching and Long Term Athlete Development. It helped me develop an understanding of the key technical coaching points (what to coach) along with the best methods of delivering these sessions (how to coach)" Fintan McAllister - Rush CC & Irish squad member

▲ Recently qualified coach Sam Cassidy coaching girls from Pope John Paul's National School in Malahide

Umpire Exchange Programme Gets Underway

May will see the umpire exchange programme between Germany and The Netherlands well and truly get underway as Richard Eames from Belgium officiates in Germany in the British Army (Germany) versus North Rhine Westfalen match. This is a challenge series that will be played over 3 games, and it promises to be a tough match with 4 players from the NRW state side in contention for National honours this summer.

The following day Paul Baldwin will stand in the VRA vs Excelsior match in the KNCB Hoofd Klasse, and is also scheduled for the Excelsior- HBS match in Rotterdam on the 21st May. "I'm very excited," Paul said, "It's a big game and I am really looking forward to standing with my Dutch colleagues. The Hoofd Klasse has a host of players with International experience and which no doubt will make the games very interesting."

◀ Steve Tovey & Paul Baldwin and, below, Richard Eames



The Tutor team of Brian O'Rourke, Brian Kelleher and Vinnie Savino were very pleased with the new amount of coaches brought into the system and appreciate their role in the further development of the game within the province.

The weekend of the 28th will see Richard Eames in Holland for the VRA-VCC match in Amstelveen and mid July will see the program go full circle as Steve Tovey will stand in the final match of the BA(G)- NRW challenge series in Mönchengladbach, Germany as umpires from the Benelux countries and Germany look to broaden their umpiring horizons in preparation for European tournaments to come in late July and August.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Estonia Gets Kitted Out

Cricket development in Estonia received a massive boost recently when a lorry load of cricket equipment arrived at the ECA offices in Tallinn.

The shipment, part of the European Cricket Council support scheme in conjunction with the MCC, included enough supplies to enable the ECA to begin the process of teaching cricket in schools in the former Soviet block country.

Discussions with educational institutions are already underway to create an environment to make cricket a sporting option for children aged between 10 and 16 years. Jason Barry, National Team Coach, said, "It has been our wish to see schools in the area take up the game and it seems that with the support of the ICC, ECC and the MCC this can now be realised". "We can't thank Readers and the organisations involved enough!". The equipment, including Kwik Cricket sets, will be offered to local schools with coaching sessions given to local PE teachers to increase the chances of the Estonian youth taking up the sport.

Currently Estonia has two cricket clubs and a national team with a total of 29 eligible Estonian players out of a total registered number of 48.



▲ ECA Coaches James Ramsden, Richard Barnwell, Jason Barry and Clinton Hailey open the boxes of Readers equipment

Jersey Women's Cricket Update

There had been talk about starting a Ladies' Cricket Team in Jersey which came to a head when the Jersey Cricket Development Officer, Chris Minty, was approached by a couple of ladies who wanted to know if he could organise a Ladies Cricket Team. Chris then contacted Gemma Dunning and Becky Silva to see if they would be interested to set up some coaching sessions.

Hence, they chose to start off with some 'taster sessions' which commenced in June 2005. There was a good and positive turn out to these sessions with up to 20 ladies attending, and this ran until September 2005. They capitalised on this by offering winter indoor sessions which had a great attendance. The ladies have been really enthusiastic and have come on leaps and bounds since last year and have started using proper equipment which they put to good practice using their newly acquired skills in the nets and this will continue when they start outdoor sessions during May.

They are setting themselves targets for the future of ladies' cricket. They are hoping to organise a couple of friendly matches against the Guernsey Sirens, (the Guernsey ladies team) both in Jersey and in Guernsey and obviously this would be a fantastic opportunity for the ladies to gain both experience and practice in a real life cricket match. They are also approaching schools.



▲ Gemma Dunning, who along with Becky Silva is organising the ladies coaching sessions (Photo: Jersey Evening Post)

The Netherlands & Scotland to host ICC Global Events

The ICC World Cricket League Division One will bring together the top six Associate Members in the world and will be hosted by The Netherlands in 2010 while ICC World Cup Qualifier in 2013 (formerly ICC Trophy) will be hosted by Scotland. The hosts for the ICC WCL Div1 in 2014 are still to be confirmed but among the Members still in the frame to host this event are Ireland and Namibia.

"In total we have six different Associate Members from across four continents hosting significant events over the coming years," said ICC President Ehsan Mani.

"All of these Members have produced hosting submissions that comply with similar strict criteria to that in place for the ICC Cricket World Cup. That so many Members have had the commitment and support to satisfy these criteria is testament to the increasing profile of the sport beyond its traditional boundaries."

ICC Associate Member & U19 Events Schedule 2007-15

Year	Event	Host
2008	U19 Cricket W.Cup	Malaysia
2009	ICC W.Cup Qualifier (formerly ICC Trophy)	UAE
2010	U19 Cricket W.Cup	Kenya
2010	World Cricket League (Division 1)	The Netherlands
2012	U19 Cricket World Cup	Canada
2013	ICC W.Cup Qualifier (formerly ICC Trophy)	Scotland
2014	U19 Cricket W.Cup	UAE
2014	World Cricket League (Division 1)	tbc

ECC PARTNER PROFILE DANUBIUS HOTEL REGENTS PARK

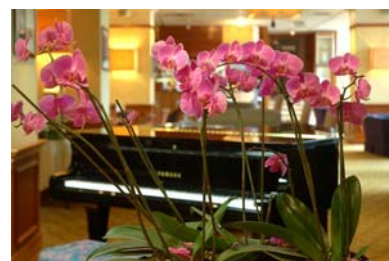
Overlooking Lords Cricket Ground and adjacent to Regents Park, the four star Danubius Hotel Regents Park is located in the plush residential area of St. Johns Wood. With ample car Parking and outside the Congestion Charge Zone, the 366 luxury bedrooms are tastefully furnished to the highest international standards, incorporating the requirements of both the business and leisure traveller.

But it is not only accommodation that we do provide. The newly fully refurbished Pavilion Bar is the ideal place to relax in a cosy and traditional atmosphere with the buzz of the cricket on your doorstep. Why not choose from our carefully selected wines and beers or one of our tempting cocktails mixed for you by our experienced bar team.

Alternatively enjoy in the Brasserie style atmosphere of Minsky's Restaurant the best of British and seasonal products which are carefully chosen and prepared by our Executive Chef. Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner daily.

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European Players assist Test Cricketers at Lord's

European players on the MCC Young Cricketers staff had the opportunity to assist in the England and Sri Lanka Test preparations the day before the 1st Test at Lord's. They helped out at the practice sessions by bowling and wicket keeping in the nets.

The players are from the left:

- Gary Wilson - Ireland
- Michael Pedersen - Denmark
- Ian Young - Scotland
- Gary Kidd - Ireland

▲ Images from the Danubius Hotel Regents Park

◀ European players on the MCC Young Cricketers

Coming Up

European Presidents' Day

Intercontinental Cup:
Scotland & Ireland v Namibia

ECC Partner Profile



ECC Official Partners and Suppliers



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