



BeyondTheBoundary

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ICC Development Program - Europe

EUROPEAN PRESIDENTS' DAY

How do you raise public awareness of cricket in a country like Finland? Part of the answer is clearly through the annual ECC Presidents' Day at Lord's. Last year a guest of ECC at Lord's was Finland's Deputy Sports Minister, former Olympic javelin thrower Tapio Korjus who had never seen the game played before. Given his own sporting background he was particularly intrigued by the technique of bowling, and he was impressed enough by the experience to lend his weight to the Finnish Cricket Association's efforts to establish the sport there. He now runs the Kuortane Sport Institute, where the FCA has their training base.

As a result, cricket is now recognised as a full member of the national sporting body, and the FCA has received a government grant and an offer of help with the formidable task of translating a coaching manual into Finnish. Not a bad pay-off from a day spent watching cricket at Lord's!

This year's Presidents' Day took in the third day of the First Test against Sri Lanka, and the guests included the Chef de Bureau des Federations Sportives of the French Ministry of Sport, M. Serge Agreke, the Ministers of Sport of Gibraltar and Jersey, the Hon. Fabian Vinet and Senator Mike Vibert, and representatives of fifteen member countries of the ECC together with commercial partners, sponsors, and other key figures in the world of European cricket.

Welcoming the guests, ICC European Development Manager Richard Holdsworth emphasised the dependence of the ECC on the work of volunteers across Europe and on the support of cricket's many sponsors. 'It's fantastic that we have so many good things going on,' he said, noting that the number of players in the ECC's 27 member nations had risen from 19,000 to 54,000 over the past five years.

This year's guest list included for the

first time the organisers of the ECC's numerous tournaments, as well as tournament referees, umpires, and coaches.

Presidents' Day was supported by MCC, who made both tickets and hospitality available for the sixty participants.

A further highlight of the day was the presentation of the ICC Development Program Annual Awards by MCC Secretary & Chief Executive Roger Knight and ECB Chief Executive David Collier.

The outstanding achievement was by Cricket Scotland, who not only took the European awards for the Best



Overall Cricket Development Program and (together with sponsors Lloyds TSB Scotland) the Best Cricket Promotional Program, but in the latter category won the ICC Global Award as well.

Introducing the awards, ICC Regional Development Manager Richard Holdsworth paid tribute to the way in which Cricket Scotland had created a vastly improved infrastructure, and to their success in developing relationships with commercial partners, underpinning their recent successes on the field. Accepting the Awards, Cricket Scotland President Mahendra Patel said that the organisation's success was the result of the efforts of many people at all levels of the Scottish game. 'This is a challenge for the rest of you,' he added, 'and my advice is: Go for it!'



Above: Richard Holdsworth, David Collier & Roger Knight

Below: Dick Auchinleck, Mahendra Patel & Euan McIntyre with Scotland's trophies



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ECC ACADEMY NEWS

ECC Women's Academy Participants Announced

The inaugural ECC Women's Cricket Academy in association with Lloyds TSB Scotland will see 23 girls from the top three Associate Countries (Scotland, Ireland and the Netherlands) put through their paces by coaches and specialists in August.

Lisa Stephenson, director of marketing, Lloyds TSB Scotland, said: "A key element of our partnership with Cricket Scotland is to encourage more young people to take up the sport. This encompasses our desire to support more young women in the development of their cricketing skills. We very much look forward to this event being held in Scotland."

The participants range from 15 – 21 years of age, with many of the girls from Scotland and the Netherlands representing their U21 and senior national teams.

Scotland

Abbie Aitken, Charlotte Bascombe, Annette Drummond, Kathryn Ellis, Charlotte Farr, Leigh Kasperek, Helen Murray, Diane Pedgrift, Susan Pedgrift, Catherine Smail, Fiona Urquhart

The Netherlands

Lotte Egging, Marijn Nijman, Mandy Kornet, Isabelle Westbury, Merel Krulder, Marloes Braat,

Ireland

Amy Kenealy, Gwen Morgan, Ciara O'Gorman, Jackie McDowell, Sinead Lyons, Melissa Scott Hayward

The five-day event, hosted by Cricket Scotland, will be the first time young girls and women from any of the ICC's 86 Associate and Affiliate Members will be exposed to intensive, elite coaching in an Academy setting.

Taking place at Fettes College in

Edinburgh, Scotland, from the 7th – 11th August 2006, the Academy has been deemed as a Regional High Performance Program event and so has been limited to players from the three most highly developed Associate Members in the region.

"The ECC is very grateful to Lloyds TSB Scotland for their commitment to this European event. This is an extremely positive step forward for women's cricket in Europe and the support from Lloyds TSB Scotland further enhances its ongoing relationship with Cricket Scotland," added ICC Regional Development Manager, Richard Holdsworth.



▶ Group session with Gordon Lord at the European Academy



◀ Cricket at Fettes College

◀ Fettes College

◀ Warming up at La Manga

European Academy

Young cricketers from six countries will come together this month to form the European Academy side, which will play three one-day matches against the England under-17 XI and a two-day game against Warwickshire's Under-19 side.

The selectors made up of the ICC's European Development Manager, Richard Holdsworth, Academy Manager Philip Hudson and Academy Director Richard Cox, has announced a fourteen-man squad, all of whom took part in the recent Academy programme at La Manga Club, Spain.

The bulk of the squad comes from the three countries which are participating in the ICC's High Performance Program (Ireland, The Netherlands, and Scotland), but there will also be players from Denmark, France and Gibraltar.

The Academy team will not be short of international experience: four of the Irish players and two of the Scots took part in the recent Under-19 World Cup tournament in Sri Lanka. All the players have come through the European Cricket Council's system of age-group tournaments, while several are already playing in top-level senior cricket in their respective countries.

The full squad is: Zishan Shah (Denmark), Arun Ayyavooraju (France), Mark Bacarese (Gibraltar), Eoghan Delany, James Hall, Richard Keaveney, Fintan McAllister and Gavin McKenna (all Ireland), Steven de Bruin, Graham Davey and Oliver Lodder (all The Netherlands), Scott Dalgiesh, Scott MacLennan and Calum Macleod (all Scotland).

The programme of matches will be:

- 24, 25 & 27 June v England U17 (Haslegrave, Loughborough Univ.)
- 28-29 June v Warwickshire U19 (Loughborough Carillon CC)

CYPRUS : HAPPY VALLEY FESTIVAL

It was once again time for the annual coaching course. At the first coaching session, the list had grown to in excess of 90 (It was later to pass the 100 mark equalling 2005). Everyone seemed to turn up at Happy Valley at once. All the various age groups were divided up and dispatched to their allocated area and the coaching began in earnest. Over the next seven Saturdays the coaches played their part as did the participants. The fact that there was around 75% attendance each week (including both Easter weeks) speaks for itself. The enthusiasm shown by all of the participants, the help and encouragement given by parents and help given by ad hoc coaches was very pleasing.

On the eighth week we held the traditional Festival of Cricket with a tournament followed by the presentation of certificates, trophies and medals, presented by the mentor of Cyprus cricket, Vice President of Cyprus Cricket Association Richard Cox (Director of Cricket at Warwickshire CC). The winning team was "Killer Cucumbers" They were Alex Mackay, Mike Donnelly, Freddie Wenham, Matt Conway, Joris Willemars, Frank Benn, Nicholas Klein, Sam Angeli, Gabriella Nizam and Henry Firth. Batting and Bowling Awards were made to Giorgiy Kalinovskiy and Tom Conway. Again the support of parents was fantastic and the raffle raised over £300 which will go to support youth cricket in Cyprus.

This year they experimented with a course in Larnaca, and although shorter than the one held at Happy Valley, a small number of participants completed the course. The



standard was high and all achieved a high level of competence. It is hoped that next year they can build on this foundation and get more schools interested. In the meantime plans are being made for an inter schools league with up to two teams from each of the schools taking part.

Running alongside the course were the Cyprus Under 15's training sessions in preparation for their tour to Holland in July. John Mills (St John's School) and Colin Relton (Foley's School) together with others supervised this training. At the end of the Festival the names of those selected were announced. There were some long faces amongst those not selected but there is always next year when Cyprus hopes to enter an under 15 side in the European Championship.

Those selected included four pupils from St Johns School: Liam Fletcher, Tom Mills, Spike Stainton and Michael Hill. Also in the squad are : George Papaonisiforou (Paphos), David Bailey (Paralimni), Adarsh Sekhar (American Academy Limassol) plus the following pupils from Foleys School : William Carr, Creon Tchacos, Ben Hunter, Kabir Malhotra, Robert Patsalides, Harry Calloway, Archit Goyal, Rushil Ranjan, and Elliot Lupson. Matches are planned in Amsterdam, Rotterdam and The Hague and also a triangular tournament in Antwerp with Belgium and Holland.

▲
Happy Valley Festival senior winners

HSBC Manx Youth Games

After 5 months of weekly sessions, the HSBC Manx Youth Games cricket competition took place at Cronkbourne. 6 teams took part: Douglas North 1, Douglas North 2, Douglas South, West, North and South. The coaching sessions were taken by ECB qualified coaches from several clubs from around the Island. As in previous years, many of these kids will be playing in the IOMCA U11 league this season.

The standard of the MYG competition was high, and coming into the competition there was no clear favourite. The West, with players of experience from previous years, were identified early as one of the stand out sides, and the consistent Douglas South also shone. The South were likely to beat anyone on their day, and proved this when they beat the West in the final game to ruin the Westerners unbeaten run. In the end there were the first ever joint winners of the MYG cricket competition – West and Douglas South.

This all should mean an exciting 10 team IOMCA U11 league this season. Looking ahead from that, the MYG should provide clubs with cricketers for years to come, and some of the class of 2004 have already played for the Isle of Man U13s. This is great news, and bodes well for the future of cricket on the Island.

▼
Richard Cox at the presentation ceremony



NEWS IN BRIEF...

La Manga Win

A good weekend recently for La Manga Cricket Club, with a convincing win over the Intellectuals CC. Batting first, La Manga made a good start, putting on 92 for the first wicket off 17 overs, Nick Riley scoring 61 and well supported by Junior member Joel Brook on 13. Some good bowling by the Intellectuals spinners with La Manga guest player Ryan lobb returning figures of 2 for 22.

La Manga moved the score on with some fine batting by Hugh James 27 and new member Patrick Finch scoring 61 in his first match for La Manga. Batting out the overs, La Manga finished on 208 for 6. The Intellectuals reply didn't start off too well losing first 5 wickets for 63 runs but some steady batting from guest player Gary Potton, 58 not out, managed to get the score to a respectable 167 for 9.

With league matches starting soon, club captain George Wambeek has some difficult decisions on team selection with players coming in to form. La Manga's main priority is to try and get to the Final this year as it will be held at the La Manga club in the first week of September.

Big thank you to Bargain Books for sponsoring the Cricket Balls.



▲ La Manga CC v Intellectuals

German Youth Discover Cricket

World Cup football fever has Germany firmly in its grip but a new trend is spreading through the youth of this nation. You are now just as likely to hear the thwack of leather on willow in the parks on a weekend as the biff of boot on ball. The magical attraction of cricket is slowly gaining ground.

The Padagogium in Schwerin has become the first school in Eastern Germany to incorporate cricket into its sports syllabus. Membership is so high that they have also established their own all-girls team, who will participate in the North Germany Youth League later this season.

VfB Oldenburg have also established their first all-girls team. Thanks to equipment from the ECC, the Oldenburg children have now progressed from Kwik cricket to training with a leather ball. This young team had the unique opportunity to demonstrate their skills in front of 6,500 spectators recently at the Marschweg Stadium. They had immense fun playing an exhibition game during the Oldenburg vs Bückebug match as guests of the Northwest Times newspaper. Coach Carsten Höfinghoff was invited explain the game over the stadium PA.

The first North Rhine mini Youth Tournament will be held on June 10th where young cricketers from the Rösrath and St. George's schools will also have the chance to meet and play against local club and State players.



▲ SBBCCC trainer Detlef Mai presents the Schwerin Youth Team with a Kwik Cricket kit

ECB Launches ECBtv

European cricket fans, starved of the chance to watch live international cricket from the UK for almost a decade, will be able to do just that once more thanks to the launch of the England & Wales Cricket Board's official broadband TV service, ECBtv.

ICC Regional Development Manager Richard Holdsworth said: "The ECB's launch of ECBtv is great news for the tens of thousands of cricket fans all over Europe. "One of the huge problems facing the development of cricket in the region has been the lack of coverage on European TV stations but the launch of ECBtv will help address that issue. "For the first time in almost a decade, fans in 24 of the 27 ICC Members throughout Europe now have the opportunity to gain access to live coverage of international cricket in England and Wales and that can only help to stimulate further interest in our great sport."

There are over 73,000 people involved in the game in Europe's ICC Members and the vast majority of them will have the chance to enjoy ECBtv. ECBtv will show the npower Test and NatWest one-day international matches live to certain territories as well as match highlights, exclusive interviews, press conferences, coaching master classes and many other features.

ECBtv can be accessed at www.ecb.co.uk/ecbtv



ECC PARTNER PROFILE SIGNATURE SPORTS

Signature Sports is delighted to be the Preferred Supplier of Cricket Clothing for the European Cricket Council. In addition to supplying the ECC directly for all their own requirements, we have also provided kit for national and club sides in Ireland, Denmark, Italy, Spain, Finland, Portugal, Belgium, Luxembourg and others.

We specialise in working with organisations to create their own look and we have recently expanded our manufacturing capability to enable us to offer an even greater choice, particularly in coloured clothing, training and leisurewear.

For further information, please check out the website,

www.signaturesports.co.uk

or contact managing director Peter Johnson directly on +44 (0) 1306 627878 or via email at: pj@signaturesports.co.uk




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Girls Cricket Develops in Spain

Neil Brook has been coaching a girls team of ages 10-11 at El Limonar School in Alicante for the past six weeks. They are all progressing well and the school is very enthusiastic about cricket with plans to help expand the game in the area.

The introduction of cricket in this school has been very successful, with both boys and girls taking part in regular coaching sessions with the help of PE teachers Alan Dunstan and Domanic Simpson. The school has expressed an interest in starting leagues with other schools in this area of Spain, with both boys and girls of all age groups taking part.

Examples of Signature Sports kit from the 2006 European Academy and Centre of Excellence

El Limonar School, Villamartin, Alicante & the girls cricket team

Coming Up

Ireland v England

Europe XI v MCC

ECC AGM



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