



BeyondTheBoundary

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DOUG INSOLE HANDS OVER THE REINS

Roger Knight, former Secretary and Chief Executive of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), has succeeded Doug Insole CBE as Chairman of the European Cricket Council (ECC). The appointment was made at the ECC's Annual General Meeting held at Lord's Cricket Ground on 6 July with Mr Insole standing down after nine years in the role. Mr Knight assumed the chair on 1 October at the end of a 13-year term at the head of the MCC's administration.

Paying tribute to Mr Insole's contribution to the ECC, David Collier, ECB Chief Executive, said "We are hugely grateful to the work Doug has done for Europe's 27 member countries over the last nine years as Chairman. He was instrumental in the formation of the ECC and has built a solid foundation of the organization over that time." European Development Manager, Richard Holdsworth, added 'Doug has been an excellent leader of the organisation. During that time he has seen enormous growth in the program and a 100% increase in member countries. His immense experience in cricket administration and management has supported the Executive well and created a well respected organisation. Doug will be missed but we wish him well as the new MCC President'.

Commenting on his appointment, Mr Knight said: "To take on this role is a great privilege and honour. Having been involved for a long time in the development of cricket in Europe, I look forward now to chairing the Council and taking a full part in an exciting period for the game in Europe's 27 member countries. With three European countries in the ICC Cricket World Cup in March 2007, it is clear that playing standards are being raised. At the same time the number of countries where cricket is played in Europe has increased dramatically. It is ECC's role to help this growth to continue and to raise the level higher still."

ECB Chief Executive David Collier said: "Roger has been a great supporter of cricket development throughout the world, serving on the ICC Development Committee, and has actively supported the ECC through its formative years. "He brings a wealth of experience as the incoming Chairman of the ECC which is fortunate to have such an outstanding person to succeed Doug Insole. ECB wishes Roger every success in his new role."

Mr Insole succeeded Mr Robin Marlars as MCC President on 1 October.

▼ Doug Insole and Roger Knight



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Roger Knight

ICC World Cricket League Expands

At least one and perhaps two more European countries will have the opportunity to take part in global competition as a result of the ICC's decision to expand the World Cricket League to five divisions.

The leading five European nations have already won places in the first three divisions: World Cup qualifiers Ireland, The Netherlands and Scotland in Division 1 (which will take place in Kenya in January-February next year), Denmark in Division 2 (planned for Namibia in November 2007), and Italy in Division 3 (planned to take place in the USA in summer 2007).

But with an eight-team Division 5 tournament now planned for the first half of 2008, five places in which are assigned to the next ranked country in each region, Norway are guaranteed a slot, along with Afghanistan, Argentina, Botswana and the Cook Islands.

The three remaining places will be allocated by the ICC Development Committee when it meets in December, and those allocations will be based on the rankings of the next group of countries. This means that Jersey, runners-up to Norway in this year's European Second Division tournament, and possibly even Germany, who finished third, will be competing with The Bahamas, Panama, Nepal, Singapore, Mozambique, Zambia and Japan for those last three positions. Given the size and comparative strength of the European region, however (with 27 members it is by far the largest of ICC's five regions, and it has a well-established four-division tournament structure of its own), there must be a reasonable chance that Jersey will join Norway on the bottom rung of this ambitious global competition, and even an outside possibility that Germany might get the nod as well.

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ECC WOMEN'S ACADEMY LIFTS CONFIDENCE

Organised by Cricket Scotland and sponsored by Lloyds TSB Scotland, the first European Women's Academy brought together eleven girls from Scotland and six from each of Ireland and The Netherlands. Led by Scotland's Steve Seligmann, a team of coaches which included former England captain Jane Powell and ex-England international Kate Lowe put the players through an intensive week-long programme at Fettes College, Edinburgh.

For ICC European Development Officer Philip Hudson, the week provided the girls with an unparalleled opportunity to think about and understand their cricket better. 'They're talented players,' he says, 'but they need more intensive coaching than they are generally able to receive in their own countries. We have placed a lot of emphasis on attitudes, on being positive about their own game and on thinking about their place as individuals within the team.'

Video analysis, which most of the participants had never encountered before, was employed to help the girls work on their own game and review opponents' strengths and weaknesses.

Dutch all-rounder Lotte Egging was enthusiastic about the whole experience. 'We've learned a lot about tactics in the field, about anticipation and about how other players perform.' She found the scenario exercises particularly helpful, as they made the players focus on what is important in a particular match situation. 'And we know it's practice, so we can make mistakes and learn from them without the pressure of being in a match. I knew that the mental thing was important, but now I can really see why.'

One feature of the week was a session with Scottish national coach Peter Drinnen, who talked about tactics. But there was also a good deal of emphasis on skills, with sessions on playing both seam and spin, and discussion of the importance of fitness. The girls also had two mornings of pilates work.

Suzanne Kenealy, an Ireland international who was managing her country's contingent, saw the Academy as useful at many different levels. As assistant coach to the Irish under-21 side, she had learned a great deal from the coaches as well. Kenealy also found the presence of Powell and Lowe a crucial factor, since they functioned as role models for the young cricketers. 'Hearing Jane talk about her experience at the World Cup was very important,' she said, 'especially since these girls are hoping to get to the World Cup themselves. And her emphasis on the fitness demands of the modern game was enormously valuable.'

From the evidence of the match which was one of the Academy's culminating events, the coaches had been pretty successful. Two mixed teams, bringing together girls from all three countries, were going through their paces, producing highly competitive cricket with lots of tactical awareness.



◀ ACC U15 Team



◀ Women's Academy at Fettes College

Austria's Future Challenge Cup

An excerpt from a report from ACC Wien U15 Captain Lukas Dobner. The full article can be found on www.ecc-cricket.com.

Participating teams were: Austria Cricket Club Wien under 11, Swiss under 11, Austria Cricket Club under 15, and German teams Oldenburg CC youth and Tegernsee CC youth.

Day 1

What a great day to start the annual Future Challenge Cup, Youth tournament. Not a cloud in the sky but a cool breeze to keep us from roasting in the sun. I had been at the ground since 8am with some other players to prepare for the spectators and parents. At 9am the Swiss teams arrived, U11 and U15. The first match was to be for the U11 teams starting at 9:30. Our ACC U11 side was put in to bat first but a good bowling and fielding performance restricted the team to 39 all out off the 15 overs. The Swiss side was also a strong batting team and got the 42 runs off just 9.5 overs although Patrick the captain of ACC took the only 3 wickets for 5 runs in his 2 overs.

The Swiss U15 won the toss and chose to bat. A dominant approach by the opposing batsman took them to 151-4 in 20 overs. We got off to a good start and were able to capitalize by getting to 155 in the last over.

The second match for the U11 was rather the same as the first one. Our team was put in to bat first and it was another good performance in the field by the Swiss U11. We were unable to put up an imposing total and the Swiss managed to get their second win of the tournament.

Our second match was restricted to a 20 over game due to the amount of time available. This time we won the toss and we put them in to bat first. The Swiss batsmen got a high total of 122-1. This time our batting was even better. All of our first five batsmen got over 20 runs and it took us to 126-2 with 11 balls to spare.

Day 2

The second was the day the German teams arrived. The first match was between Oldenburg and Swiss. Oldenburg were all out for 44 and it was no problem for the Swiss getting the total. *(continued on www.ecc-cricket.com)*

CYPRUS YOUTH TOUR HOLLAND

A squad of 16 young cricketers representing Cyprus had a very successful tour to Holland in July.

On 2nd July they played against a very strong Under 15 Holland B Team whose opening batsman Tobias Visee is a regular first team player. He got his team off to great start hitting 74 runs before being caught by Papaonisiforou. Holland went on to score 273 for 9 wickets in their 40 overs. The most effective bowler for Cyprus was Paphos schoolboy George Papaonisiforou who took 3 wickets for 46 runs in his 7 overs. With victory an almost impossible task Team Coach Colin Relton advised cautious batting with the aim being to bat out their 40 overs and make the Dutch team at least work hard for their expected win. The Cyprus batsmen followed their Coaches' orders and batted bravely against some tight bowling. Batting for 2½ hours and staying there for 38 of their 40 overs Cyprus were bowled out for 108 runs. Although helped by 44 extras, this was a good performance against a team representing one of Europe's top four cricketing nations.

The following day the opposition was the Holland Under 13 Team. This time Cyprus batted first scoring 138 runs from their allotted 35 overs. Opening the batting Kabir Malhotra, the Cyprus Captain, scored an excellent 56 runs. Holland replied by passing their target of 138 runs after only 22 overs to win by 7 wickets.

After watching Holland play Sri Lanka in a ODI, it was on to Antwerp to face a Belgium youth team. Knowing the strength of the Cyprus team, Belgium rested some of their strong-



est players to give some of their younger players the opportunity to play International Cricket. Tight bowling from Cyprus meant that the scoring rate was low. Belgium batted out their 40 overs for only 121 runs with their top scorer Shukla (20 runs) assisted by Weighill (10 runs) and Court (10 runs).

George Papaonisiforou again performed well to take 3 wickets for 12 runs in his 8 overs. Next best was Liam Fletcher with 2 wickets for 13 runs from 7 overs. Chasing an achievable 121 Cyprus also found the runs slow to score. Losing the wickets of Hill and Bailey cheaply, a partnership with opening batsman Malhotra and no. 4 bat Fletcher took the score to 53 for 3 wickets when Malhotra was caught for 29 to again top score for Cyprus. With 25 overs still left Cyprus could afford to score slowly so long as they didn't lose their remaining batsmen. Fletcher batted for over an hour for his 13 runs before being bowled by Shukla. After the 34th over Cyprus were still on only 117 runs and they were down to their lasting batting pair of Stainton and Goyal. In the 35th over Goyal kept his nerve to hit the winning run to score 4 not out to record Cyprus Cricket's first ever International win!

The boys returned to Cyprus hoping that the experience gained will help them succeed next year when they compete in the European Under 15 Division 2 Tournament in August 2007.

▲ Cyprus' touring squad

▲ Rob Turner, MCC Captain, Robin Marlar, MCC President, Doug Insole, ECC Chairman, Ryan Watson, Europe XI Captain

MCC Victory over Europe XI

The MCC tourists completed a comfortable five-wicket victory in their match against a European XI in Rotterdam on 29th June, but the combined eleven made them work hard all the way.

At 97 for five the European bowlers had given themselves an outside chance of pulling off an improbable victory after their side had been bowled out for 162, but an unbroken sixth-wicket partnership of 68 between former New Zealand international Chris Cairns and skipper Rob Turner saw them home with more than ten overs to spare. Pick of the European attack was Trent Johnston, who claimed the wicket of Darren Bicknell in an impressive opening spell of seven overs for 11 runs.

Left-arm spinner Ross Lyons then bowled the dangerous Mohammad Nabi for 19 in his first over, and when Kyle McCallan disposed of James Hamblin, caught at backward point by Lee Savident, the MCC were 97 for five and in a spot of bother. This brought Turner in to join Cairns, however, and they steadily worked off the remaining runs, Cairns reaching his half century in 79 minutes from just 48 balls. Five overs later Turner lofted Ryan Watson over mid-on for the winning boundary, and the first venture of the European XI had ended in defeat.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Stockholm Junior Challenge

There was perfect weather for Sweden's inaugural under-20 cricket tournament, the Stockholm Junior Challenge, organized by the Swedish Cricket Federation. This tournament is the first step towards the introduction of a national Junior Cricket League in 2007, which will create a natural bridge between informal meetings in schools and the National Cricket League.

Three teams competed in the Junior Challenge, all backed by established Stockholm clubs: Afghan Tigers, Jinnah Falcons and the Sigtuna Lions. Many of the players are already familiar with cricket through association with senior players at the clubs, but until this competition have often found the transition from tape-ball to hard-ball cricket against full senior teams fraught with disappointment. Competition against their peers is therefore vital so that they can continue to enjoy the game.

All matches were single-innings, 20 over games, played at Hallunda Cricket Ground in Botkyrka, with umpires appointed by the Swedish Cricket Federation from the national umpiring pool. Sigtuna Lions had a straight run of victories in all their matches culminating in an unreachable 200/8 in the final against the Afghan Tigers who could only manage a brave 169/4 in their 20 overs.



▲ Junior Challenge Winners

France v Grand West XI

It was a fantastic day for French cricket at Saumur when a competitive Grand West XI took on the Equipe de France in preparation for the European Championships.

France won the toss and alarm bells rang early for the batting team as Hird (3/43) picked up two quick wickets for the home side and had France on the back foot at 2 for 7. What followed however may well be a France Cricket record as 16 year old Jonathon Houghton (71 from 90 balls) and Waseem Bhatti (124 from 87 balls) gave the many spectators and supporters a masterful display of classic batting to amass 193 runs for the third wicket partnership.

With a large total in sight the French teams middle order collapsed until Greg Smith and 15 year old Usman Khan added 48 runs for the ninth wicket partnership and hurried the score along to a massive 302 runs from 48.4 overs.

The French team had no excuses as 49 runs passed before they could manage their first wicket. The run chase continued in fine fashion as the top five batsmen for Grand West all made double figures but the French total seemed a daunting task for Grand West as they opted for survival tactics allowing them to pick away at the bowling for 48.1 overs before they were bowled out for 199. France won the match by 103 runs. Player of the Match: Waseem Bhatti



▲ Equipe de France

Roger Short Memorial Match in Bulgaria

The annual Roger Short Memorial cricket match, in honour of the former UK Ambassador who was killed in the Istanbul bomb blast of 2003, was held at the National Sports Academy, Studentski Grad on Sunday 18th June.

St George Cricket Club, with contributions from Mark Thomas (25) and Tim Buisseret (33) posted a formidable 143 runs off 25 overs, despite some penetrative bowling from Murray Te Huki (3 for 22). In reply the Embassy, led by Ambassador Jeremy Hill, accumulated runs all down the order, but eventually finished well short on 91.

The proceeds from last year's match were used to buy children's cricket equipment which was presented by the Ambassador to Nikolai Kolev of the Sports Academy before the game.



▲ Action from the Roger Short Memorial match

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sun shines at Optimists Summer Camp in Luxembourg

The Optimists Cricket Club's first ever Summer Camp for Junior cricketers proved to be a splendid success. Good weather coupled with a hard-working coaching team, supporting parents and over 30 kids with boundless energy ensured the inaugural summer camp turned into a week to remember.

A week-long coaching programme was structured smoothly thus enabling all the children to benefit in terms of improving cricket skills and simply having great fun. The age range spread from 5 to 14 and so the group was split into two. The younger group concentrated on developing the basic cricket skills through an wide-ranging array of games and exercises using a softer ball. The older group faced a tougher week with intensive sessions focusing on catching, bowling, batting and fielding skills taught by a selection of Optimists players and all with a real cricket ball.

On the final Friday, structured matches became the highlight of the week with the younger group comprehensively beating a 'selected Dads' team by over 60 runs and with the older group battling each other in a tough limited over contest that displayed all the skills developed during the week. This match turned into a thriller and the crowd roared as it reached its final ball climax.



▲ Scenes from the summer camp

International Cricket Day in Slovakia

On May 6th the International Cricket day took place in Hajske. This day is organized mostly for youths and children. Traditionally, this event, organized by Slovak Cricket Club, was held with the participation of people from all around the world: England, India, Pakistan, Russia, Greece, and Poland. To start, kids had a chance to compete in various contests divided in three groups: boys aged up to 11, boys aged up to 15 and girls. Their achievements were rewarded with prizes and they were also introduced to cricket's laws.

The afternoon began with a match between the Slovak Cricket Club and the International team. The Internationals scored 120 runs for 8 that seemed to be hardly achievable for SCC team. Surprisingly, the Slovak team proved to be very successful with the bat. The man of the match, Michal Bogady, scored an unbelievable 62 runs. The last ball decided that the match was drawn (SCC 120/4). The draw against Internationals showed that SCC is rapidly improving. In the second match, officially the first league one in Slovakia, India (84/5) defeated England (62/5) by 22 runs.

The opinion of those involved and those present every year is that the quality of Slovak cricket is rising and all are looking forward to the following cricket season when the first Slovak cricket champion may be crowned.



▲ Participants at the Cricket Day

Swiss Junior Zuoz Tournament

On the weekend of 17-18 June in the glorious surroundings of the Swiss Alps that rise up about the village of Zuoz, near St. Moritz, the first junior Zuoz Tournament got under way. U15 teams from Germany, Austria, Switzerland and Zuoz competed for the 'senior' trophy while U11 teams from Munich, Zurich, Basle and Geneva met to challenge for the 'junior' one.

The cricket matches were played in the best spirit and to a high standard. Both on and off the field the young cricketers struck up new friendships, cemented old ones and just enjoyed this wonderful opportunity to spend a weekend doing what already means so much to so many of them. As Mike Kwan, the Munich U11 coach, said, "It was a very valuable experience for our players who benefited greatly from it. It was their first taste of competitive cricket and I think Zuoz is something they will always remember. In between matches, most of them spent all the spare time in the nets. By the end of the weekend the strong development of both individual skill and team spirit was clear."

Zurich U11 team won their competition while the Austrian U15 team had once more shown what a strong team they are. Peter Nixon, President of the Swiss Cricket Association, expressed his delight at the rapid and solid development of junior cricket in Switzerland as he presented the trophies and medals.



▲ Action at Zuoz

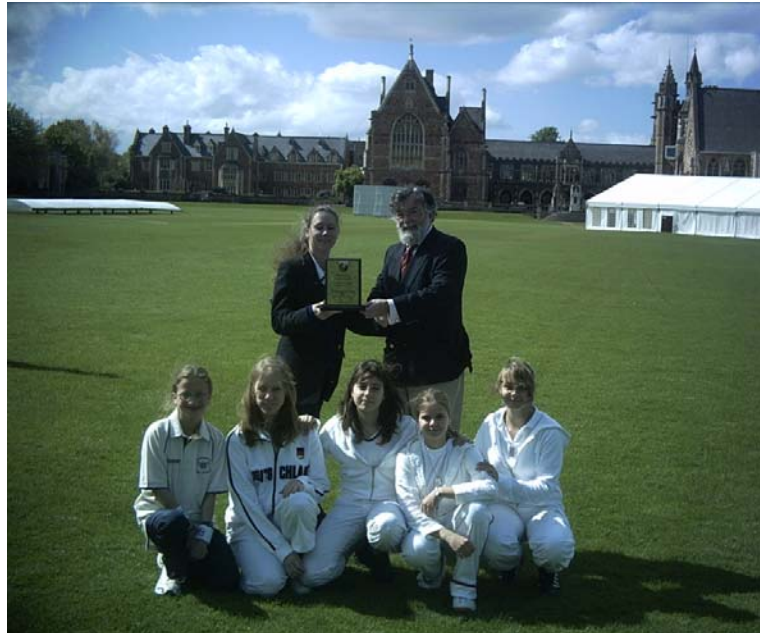
GERMANY LINKS WITH GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Following months of planning and organisation, a dream finally came true for five German girls, when they travelled to Gloucestershire in June to participate in a three day cricket training camp held at Clifton College in Bristol. They were accompanied by DCB Women's Officer Wraye Wenigmann and Berlin Viktoria Chairman and Coach, Sven Leistikow.

Altogether, over 40 girls from Gloucestershire took part in the camp and received training from Tony Wright, Claire Taylor and Steve Kirby on all aspects of cricket. Host Ian Moss from Gloucestershire Women's Cricket Association, with his talent for languages, was also on hand to ensure that all went well for the visitors. The girls learned about the world record 628 innings of AEJ Collins set at Clifton in 1899 and some of the adventures of WG Grace who had played there.

The camp was a great success. For the Oldenburg and Berlin girls, the visit was more than just training, it was a cricket feast. The girls were also able to train with and then watch the Gloucs U13 girls against Devon and the Gloucs U15 girls against Cornwall.

The German girls are now looking forward to seeing their friends again when the Gloucs girls visit in February 2007 for the first North German Girls Indoor Tournament.



Susan joins the Europe Office

We are pleased to welcome Susan Lowrey to the Europe Office team as ICC Regional Projects Officer – Europe.

Susan's role will include communications – website and liaison with countries, PR, press & media relations, marketing including sponsor and partner liaison, women's cricket and other project work.

Susan graduated from Oxford University in 2005 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biological Sciences. She has since worked as President of Oxford University Sports Federation administering the university's 80 sports clubs, and is a keen cricketer having gained a half blue in 2003.

▲ German Cricket Patron Bill Frindall presents Wraye and the girls with their ICC Women's Cricket Development Award

◀ Susan Lowrey

Coming Up

ECC 10th Anniversary Dinner

ECC New Governance Structure

2007 European Events



ECC Official Partners and Suppliers



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