



# BeyondTheBoundary

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

www.ecc-cricket.com

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ICC Development  
Program - Europe

## ECC CONFIRM 2007 TOURNAMENTS

Final confirmation of the European Championship programme for 2007 is shown below.

Areas shown in bold indicate a change from the information published in last month's Newsletter.

The full list of competing countries for each Championship will be confirmed on the ECC website shortly.

2007 will show a number of exciting 'firsts' for the programme.

An inaugural European Twenty20 Championship will take place in Ireland. Competing countries Denmark, Ireland, The Netherlands and Scotland will therefore have some practice in advance of hopefully gaining places at the ICC World Twenty20 Championship in South Africa in 2007. There is potential to hold this tournament as a biennial tournament in future if successful.

The first Division 3 Championship (previously Affiliates Championship) will be held in Belgium.

The inaugural U23 Division 2 Championship will be held.

Two of the newest Affiliate countries will be hosting their first tournaments. Jersey will be hosting the ECC Under 19 Division 2 Championship and Guernsey will be hosting the U23 Division 2 Championship. Spain's La Manga Club will also be hosting their first ECC tournament, the U15 2nd Division.

The successful 2 day format trialled at U19 level in 2006 will be introduced for the first time at U17 Division 1 level in 2007.

Regional Development Manager Richard Holdsworth commented, 'this is Europe's most exciting and ambitious tournament programme in ten years. Europe will deliver a varied programme including a new Twenty20 format, 2-day cricket at U17 level and a new 2nd Division U23 Championship. This will provide very exciting opportunities for many of Europe's best young players'.

**ICC announces ESPN STAR Sports as its GLOBAL MEDIA AND PRODUCTION PARTNER for the next eight years**

While the final figure on the agreement will not be disclosed, it is significantly in excess of the ICC's previous commercial deal with the Global Cricket Corporation (GCC), worth US\$550 million for the years 2000 to 2007.

Commenting on the decision to name ESPN STAR Sports as its preferred bidder, ICC President Percy Sonn said: "We are absolutely delighted that, after an open and transparent process, we have what we believe to be the best deal for cricket. "The Board was unanimous in the view that the ESPN STAR Sports bid was the best, and we believe all of our 97 Members will gain significant benefit from an agreement with ESPN STAR Sports. "The revenue that will come into the game as a result of this deal will ensure every one of those Members will be able to plan for the future with certainty, allowing us to make our strong sport even stronger.

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### 2007

3-5 July	ECC U23 Division 1 Championship	Glasgow, Scotland
20-22 July	ECC Twenty20 Championship	Belfast, Ireland
<b>22-27 July</b>	ECC U19 Division 2 Championship	Jersey
23-27 July	ECC U19 Division 1 Championship (World Cup Qualifier)	Belfast, Ireland
31 July - 2 August	ECC U15 Division 1 Championship	Deventer, The Netherlands
<b>7-9 August</b>	<b>ECC U13 Division 1 Championship</b>	<b>Nykobing Mors, Denmark</b>
7-13 August	ECC U17 Division 1 Championship (2 day)	Dundee, Scotland
13-16 August	ECC U23 Division 2 Championship	Guernsey
14-17 August	ECC Women's Championship (World Cup Qualifier)	The Netherlands
19-25 August	ECC European Division 3 Championship (WCQ)	<b>Antwerp, Belgium</b>
24-30 August	ECC U15 Division 2 Championship	La Manga, Spain



## WOMEN'S CRICKET PROJECTS UPDATE

2006 has been an action packed year for women's cricket in Europe, thanks to an injection of \$15,000, made available following the integration of the International Women's Cricket Council with the International Cricket Council in March 2005. The money helped fund various women's cricket development projects in eight of the ECC member countries.

The largest of the projects, was the inaugural ECC Women's Cricket Academy, run in association with Lloyds TSB Scotland. The five-day event, held in August and hosted by Cricket Scotland in Edinburgh, exposed twenty three girls aged between 15-21 from the top three Associate Countries (Scotland, Ireland and the Netherlands) to intensive, elite coaching in an Academy setting - the first of its kind in the world.

Elsewhere a number of countries got their own projects underway.

The Netherlands were granted over £1000 towards thirty indoor training sessions which helped the girls prepare for the U21 Championships in August, whilst Cricket Scotland chose to prepare for the same championships by putting their £1000 grant towards a U21 Development Series - a set of four matches against district standard U14 and U16 boy's teams.

In Germany the objective was to establish a women's team in each of the five states that would compete in a nationwide league, and to organise 7-a-side indoor and outdoor tournaments. Wraye Wenigmann, the German Director for Women's Cricket, reports that this primary aim is near completion. "We currently have 17 teams throughout the country training girls and boys under the youth scheme and have women playing and training in all five regions, with five active teams in three of those regions. We held our first National Women's Championship in Berlin in September and we anticipate the formation of a Northern League in 2007. Our first European Girls U16 tournament is to be held on 17th-18th February 2007 in Oldenburg. Furthermore, we are now establishing a network of regional officers and have training courses for coaches, umpires and scorers planned for the winter."

Jersey used their grant to fund ten training sessions between January

and April. The aim was to promote ladies cricket in a safe environment, to enhance skills, introduce hardball cricket and ultimately produce junior and senior ladies cricket teams. Chris Minty, Director of Cricket for Jersey, reported "the winter training went very well and continued into the summer with regular outdoor sessions culminating in a middle practice as a finale."

A similar project was held in Spain, to establish and develop the women's game there. Weekly coaching sessions started in February in Albir and there are now around 15 ladies regularly training and hoping to form a team to play their first match. In addition to the success in Albir, November will see the beginning of women's coaching in La Manga, which will be overseen by George Wambeek, Director of Cricket in Spain.



◀ The Netherlands U21 Squad



◀ Jersey ladies practice



◀ Girls play in Zuoz, Switzerland

▶ A girl playing in the mixed U11 festival in Denmark



In Denmark the grant was used to run a series of junior cricket festivals, coordinated by Mickey Lund, Cricket Development Officer. Thanks to this, more and more girls are playing mixed youth cricket and girl's matches have been played between Svanholm and Nykøbing.

Finland launched "Project Phoenix" - an initiative to revive women's cricket through extensive advertising and recruiting. Part of the ICC funding was used to buy essential equipment to run a series of training sessions, out of which a ladies team was formed to compete in the SKK Sixes Tournament held in Helsinki - a valuable experience, providing the women with match practice and the opportunity to watch and learn from the more experienced teams on display. The women will continue training indoors throughout the winter, and the remaining funding will go towards venue hire for these sessions.

In Switzerland a grant of over \$1000 helped fund the "Swiss Young Ladies Cricket Initiative", a scheme to provide girls with access to equipment and facilities to establish three girl's teams in the three regions Zurich, Basle and Geneva. Patrick Henderson, the Swiss Cricket Development Officer, reports that "good progress is being made in the setting up of 'whole' girls' cricket teams and it is hoped there will be one in each of the three regions by the end of the year."

For more information on women's cricket in Europe, please go to the women's section of the ECC website.

## GUERNSEY & SUSSEX TEAM UP

The European Cricket Council is delighted to announce that the Guernsey Cricket Board has entered into a Development Partnership Agreement with Sussex County Cricket Club, winners of the 2006 Liverpool Victoria County Championship and of the 2006 C&G Trophy.

The Agreement will provide Guernsey with many benefits, including regular coaching visits from the Sussex's professional coaching staff, reciprocal visits to the Sussex Academy, advice from the Sussex Academy on developing Guernsey's own National Academy, and opportunities for Guernsey's age group sides to play regularly against the Sussex district representative age group sides. With this ongoing relationship, Sussex will be able to identify any young cricketers with the potential to make a living out of professional county cricket and to represent the county in age group county cricket.

David Piesing, Chairman of the Guernsey Cricket Board, said: "Guernsey cricket has high aspirations to be successful in international cricket and we will benefit enormously from the wisdom and experience that Sussex can pass on to us. "This will help us to create a sustainable development infrastructure for our leading players in all age groups to achieve their full potential. "Exposing our elite players and age group sides to regular competition of a high standard on the mainland backed up with monthly winter visits by Sussex Academy coaches can only help to accelerate the development of those players, as well as aid the development of our own coaches. "Guernsey has already produced one home-grown county cricketer in Lee Savident at Hampshire, and hopefully Tim Ravenscroft is already close to following in Lee's footsteps. "This is first-hand evidence that coming from a small island need not be an obstacle to a professional cricket career if the talent exists and if it can be properly developed at the key age groups."

Richard Holdsworth, ICC Regional Development Manager, commented: "The fact that a first-class county is showing so much support for a developing European island is great news. "There are a number of other European Cricket Council (ECC) Members which have close relationships with counties and we are keen to set up more formal links in the

future with others. "There is much a ECC Member can gain from the expert coaching, development, administration, groundsmanship and managerial skills which a first-class county has to offer."



◀ Guernsey's Lee Savident (v Namibia)



◀ Action from the Twenty20 tournament



◀ George Wambeek, Spain's Director of Cricket, presents the winning trophy to Norway

### La Manga CC Twenty20

The La Manga Cricket Club 20/20 International Cricket tournament recently took place with teams from Norway, UK and all parts of Spain taking part.

Due to the bad weather on Friday no play took place, but with clearing sky on Saturday a prompt start was made.

In a close fought game Combined Colleges beat Mojacar, a more straight forward win for La Manga Hawks over their close rivals Intellectuals in the other match, both winning sides needed to win their next game to qualify for Semi Finals which they duly did with wins over Ticknall CC from UK and Madrid CC enabling them to qualify for the Semis.

The other group matches saw La Manga Ducks get well beaten by Ticknall and Norway beating Madrid, and in their second game beating Intellectuals saw them through to the Semis, the last semi final place going to Ticknall who just piped La Manga hawks by 2 bonus points.

The Semi Finals took place on Sunday with Norway playing Combined Colleges and La Manga Hawks taking on Ticknall, Norway verses Combined Colleges went to the last over with Norway scoring the runs with two balls to spare, with Ticknall having a more comfortable win over La Manga Hawks by 8 wickets.

The final took place on Sunday afternoon between Norway and Ticknall, with Norway batting first and being all out for 76 Ticknall must of thought they had the game well and truly won, Norway had other ideas with some tight bowling and Ticknall losing wickets regularly the game went down to the last over with Ticknall needing 9 to win with singles being taken and more tight bowling Norway finally won the final by 3 runs.

In the third place play off La Manga beat Combined Colleges by 7 wickets.

A Gala Dinner took place at Las Lomas Spa Banqueting suite, with La Manga Cup and Medals presented to Norway, Runners up plaque going to Ticknall and 3<sup>rd</sup> place to La Manga, a raffle and auction managed to raise around 800 Euros on the night for the Spanish Juniors.

## ITALY ESTABLISHES NATIONAL ACADEMY

The Italian Cricket Federation (FCrI) have announced plans to hold its first Academy in April 2007. Set to take place 180km North of Rome, at Grosseto Cricket Club, the Academy will play host to 16 athletes aged between 15 and 19, selected from the six teams in the Italian Cricket League Division 1.

The main aim of the venture is to bridge the gap between the activity in schools and senior club cricket, with an ultimate goal of developing a core of young cricketers capable of winning U17 and U19 tournaments and that will feed into the senior Italian side.

Academy Director, James Cheyne, who grew up playing cricket in England, makes the observation that Cricket in Italy lacks tradition and spirit, and many youngsters are drawn away from the game in their teens. "Youngsters do not grow up with cricket and miss out on the opportunity to pick up the tricks of the game and do not encompass its unique spirit." "The Italian Cricket federation held a 3 day U13 championship in which around 120 boys and girls participated. Five years on, only a few of those boys continued to play the game. This level of dropout is not good and we must do something to sustain the development of cricket amongst the youth". With this in mind, Cheyne says that the main focus is on improving the technical capabilities of the athletes whilst instilling the love for the game.

For the important role of Head Coach, the FCrI have employed Joe Scuderi, the Italian National Coach, who is of both Australian and Italian origin, and is based in the UK. He will



▲ Grosseto CC

work alongside a team of highly qualified coaches, providing a ratio of at least one coach to every four players.

The five day schedule is an intensive one, each day starting with breakfast at 7.30am and ending at 10.30pm, after a review and video analysis. Day one focuses on assessing player skill and fitness levels. Days two and three comprise group and individual coaching sessions and build up to 50 over match on Day four. The fifth and final day sees further fitness assessment and individual evaluation. Each player will take away with him a personalised training program to follow in the year ahead. The athletes will then undergo two annual check points where they must reach minimum requirements in a series of fitness tests.

To get the Academy underway in this its inaugural year, the FCrI are covering the bulk of the costs, injecting €10,900 of the €15,000 needed to fund the project. Each participant is also contributing a small amount and the remainder is coming from the ICC European Annual Support Program. In the future, FCrI hopes to secure additional funding from external sponsorship sources, which will be necessary if the Academy is to achieve its long term goals. Even before the first Academy has got underway, plans are being made to source its own ground and facilities, open it up to girls, and form an Academy team to play International fixtures.

◀ Siva with the Volksschule Geidorf group

### Cricket Initiative in Graz, Austria

It is hoped that two plenary "Introduction to Cricket" days held in a Graz primary school, will lead to the school making cricket activities part of its educational programme and a possibility for supervised afternoon activities for its pupils aged between 6 and 10.

Naresh Laddha has been responsible for the establishment of AVL CC, a cricket club whose structure is unique thus far in Austria, in that it is a sports club attached to a company's employee leisure activities programme. Laddha and some of the players from AVL CC held a youth day in June and have now organised two one day sessions in a local primary school, Volksschule Geidorf, in suburban Graz. Teachers have already expressed a strong interest to incorporate cricket as an activity in PE lessons and for afternoon supervised activities.

Siva Nadarajah travelled to Graz to assist with the first session on ACA's behalf, and the school's initiative is being recognised by the ACA with a Kwik Cricket set and accompanying resources being sent to the school as well as plans being made for an ICC Introduction to Cricket course being held to allow teachers to take cricket sessions.



## BRIGHT FUTURE FOR BELGIAN CRICKET

It is an exciting time for cricket in Belgium as the Belgian Cricket Federation (BCF) undergoes developments at both ends of its cricketing spectrum. At the top, a restructure of the national body will see a shake up in the administrative system, whilst at the other end of the scale, the development of a flourishing schools program ensures cricket continues to grow amongst the Belgian youth.

At the grass roots level cricket is getting a kick start thanks to the enigmatic work of professional coach, Fazil Mahmoud. Journeying from his new found home in Mechelen, Mahmoud is fast making his way round schools across Flanders to spread the gospel of cricket amongst the Flemish schoolchildren. Visiting a total of 14 schools on a regular basis, Mahmoud's time is stretched to the limit, and to ensure that the cricket continues when he is not present, the majority of teachers from these schools will attend a Cricket Introductory Course at the Scheppersinsituut in Mechelen in early December.

Paul Larivière, the National Development Manager, who prepares and organizes Fazil's visits to all schools, reported on the new initiative saying, "The response and reaction of teachers and pupils is absolutely tremendous and I am sure Belgian Cricket will benefit from this in the long run".

Elsewhere, Belgian Cricket is hoping to benefit from a change in the make up of its national body. The Cricket Vlaanderen project, as it has come to be called, will see the division of the



national body into regional associations, a necessary step if the federation wants to qualify for subsidies from the Flemish Government. It comes from the premise that sports and culture are no longer governed nationally, but are instead controlled at the regional level. The move will also enable Cricket Vlaanderen to become a member of Flanders' sports council (BLOSO) and if the time comes for cricket to be recognized as an Olympic Sport, the federation will be eligible to join BOIC (Belgian Olympic and Interfederal Committee). All other Belgian national sporting federations have undergone a similar change and it is essential that BCF follows suit. The changes will see a shake up in BCF's administrative and organisational framework, which will in turn benefit its member clubs.

So, with a new governance structure and thriving youth scheme, Belgian Cricket looks set for a bright future.

▲ Bill Frindall, GCF Patron, congratulates the Berlin Viktoria team, Germany's first girls national champions

### "Every Country should have a Patron like Bill"

The German Cricket Federation (GCF) began negotiations with Bill Frindall MBE to act as its Patron back in 2005 and since this he has been kind enough to visit the country four times.

After a Christmas dinner with Brian Fell, GCF President, Bill attended the Dortmund Indoor Tournament in January. He not only offered encouragement but also gave vital bowling tips to new cricketers from the Rhine and northern regions. With his instinctive acumen and feel for statistics, he chose the award-winning players with barely a look at the score sheets. These players then went on to establish new records with their teams in the 2007 season!

In February, Bill gave a seminar on cricketing Laws and scoring for the North-Rhine teams in Bonn. Bill then joined up with the GCF again in the UK when a group of budding young girl players attended a training camp in Bristol in June with their new partnership-County, Gloucestershire. In October he visited Berlin to deliver more talks and run a scoring course.

According to Wraye Wenigmann, of the GCF, "A seminar with Bill is unforgettable. His vast knowledge and love of the game remain incomparable and infectious. Bill is a natural teacher. Not only that, he communicates the history of the game and a sense of belonging in a cricket family that perhaps some European players have never experienced before."

"We consider ourselves very lucky to have Bill on our side. Patrons? – Every country should have one!"

◀ 4 pupils of the BSGO De Spreeuwen in Mechelen show their enthusiasm after a coaching session with Belgian coach, Fazil Mahmoud



## ECC PARTNER PROFILE LINKS OF LONDON

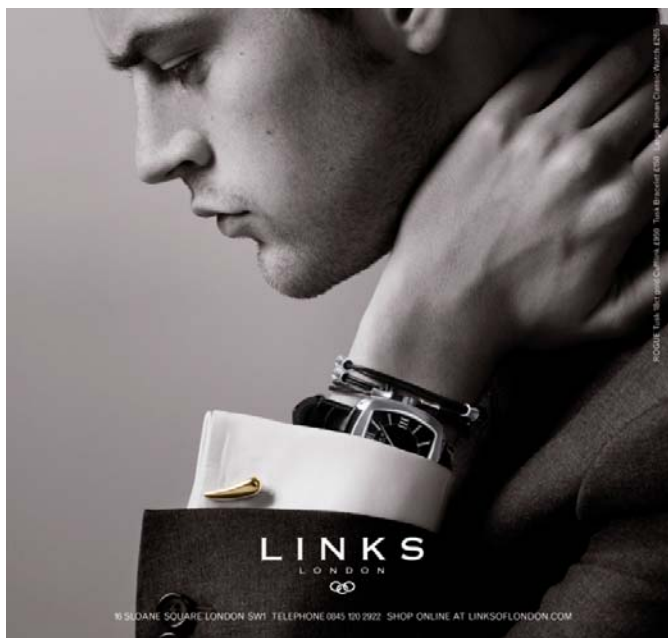
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**Happy Christmas  
&  
Best Wishes  
for the  
New Year  
from everyone  
in the  
Europe Office**



4 Breadalbane CC in Scotland, photographed on 4 December 2006, looking more like a loch with the small pavilion resembling a boat-house

### Coming Up

ECC Umpires & Referees Panel

ECC New Governance Structure

#### ECC Official Partners and Suppliers



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