



BeyondTheBoundary

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EUROPE XI EXACT REVENGE ON MCC

The Europe XI side, under the careful tutelage of Ireland's World Cup Coach Adrian Birrell, exacted an exciting win over MCC at Lord's on the 7th May. Europe took revenge for the loss of the first fixture between the two sides which was by 5 wickets at the VOC Cricket Club in Rotterdam, The Netherlands, in 2006. The fixture has been made possible through the support of MCC President Doug Insole (former ECC Chairman) and Keith Bradshaw, MCC Secretary/Chief Executive.

Europe XI captain Trent Johnston won the toss and elected to bowl under the overcast conditions, with two maiden overs being completed before MCC got off the mark, finally restricting the MCC to 183 for seven in 50 overs, the top bowling performances shown by John Blain and Glen Rogers. The tempo had picked up in the last 5 overs with John Stephenson and Alan Duncan putting on 88 for the 7th wicket, Stephenson ending with a half century from 73 balls.

However, in reply MCC saw the Europe XI slump to 33 for five, leaving it to the captain Trent Johnston and Denmark's Freddie Klokker to lead a recovery. Both were out having almost made a half century, Johnston for 48 from 50 balls with 8

four, and the Dane for 47 from 85 balls with four boundaries. They had Europe reaching 138 for seven before two batsmen, former Scotland Captain Craig White and Kyle McCallan took over to lead Europe to the brink of victory before McCallan was bowled by Stephenson for 25. Craig White and John Blain then saw Europe home, with Wright hitting the winning runs with 20 balls to spare.

Twelfth man was Guernsey's Kris Moherndl, who had been given the opportunity as part of a new initiative this year to offer the experience to one of Europe's rising talents that impressed the selectors during the recent ICC European Cricket Academy in La Manga, Spain.

▼ Freddie Klokker



▼ Craig Wright



▲ John Blain & Trent Johnston

▼ L to R: 12th man Kris Moherndl, Manager Philip Hudson & Coach Adrian Birrell



Photos: Barry Chambers



Contents

2
European Presidents' Day
Italy in Darwin

3
I Cup Final
ECBtv Deal for Europe

4
News in brief from Belgium, Spain & Switzerland

5
Partner Profile
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EUROPEAN PRESIDENTS' DAY

The "Home of Cricket" played host to European Presidents' Day this weekend, as the ICC European Development Program welcomed sixty guests from across Europe to the 3rd day of the 1st npower Test Match against the West Indies.

Members from the national boards of Europe's 27 ICC Associate and Affiliate member countries attended the day and brought with them guests from their home nations, some of whom had never witnessed a game of cricket before. The event, appropriately named Presidents' Day, aims to showcase the great game in front of influential proprietors from within these countries to encourage extra support for the further development of the sport.

Among the European guests were Rolf Pakvalin, Major of Kerava City Finland, and Werner Grosse, Major of Brandenburg Germany. Others visitors included commercial partners and sponsors from various corporations, such as Price Waterhouse Coopers and Royal Bank of Scotland International. Also on the guest list were officials from the ICC Europe elite referees' and umpires' panels, ICC Europe coaches and executives of the MCC and ECB, all of whom were thanked for their invaluable contributions to the Development Program.

Welcoming the guests, ICC European Development Manager Richard Holdsworth emphasised the dependence of the European Development Program on the work of so many volunteers across Europe and on the support of cricket's many sponsors. He also noted that this support has contributed to the recent successes of Associate members Ireland, Scotland and the Netherlands and the increase in participation across Europe with numbers doubling from 41,000 to 83,000 since 2002.

The day also provided an ideal setting in which to hold the ICC Europe Development Program Annual Awards, which were presented in the lunch break by England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Chief Executive David Collier, ECB Chairman David Morgan and European Cricket Council Chairman and former MCC Secretary and President, Roger Knight, MBE. Two highlights were the awarding of the Volunteer of the Year Award to Richard Johnson and the Lifetime Achievement Award to Clarissa Pilkington – both for their

contributions to the development of cricket in Ireland.

The winners of these awards can be found on the ICC Europe Website – www.ecc-cricket.com

Following the Awards ceremony, tribute was paid to Trevor Henry, an ICC Europe Umpire, who sadly passed away last year after a short illness. A raffle was held to raise money for the newly founded Trevor Henry Memorial Fund - prizes included signed memorabilia and tickets to the England v India Test Match to be held at Lord's in July.

The day, made possible by MCC, who provided tickets and hospitality for the attendees, was a great success and showed cricket off to Europe in its best possible light.



◀ David Collier presents an award to Clarissa Pilkington (Ireland)



◀ David Morgan presents an award to Keith Dennis (Jersey)



◀ The day begins with tea and coffee in the Thomas Lord Suite



◀ ECC Chairman Roger Knight welcomes the guests

Photos:
Peter Power



Italy achieve 7th place in Darwin

Despite an exciting beginning to the ICC World Cricket League Division 3 championship in Darwin, Australia, Italy were unable to sustain their promising start and finished in 7th place in the tournament.

In the first game, Italy came back from the jaws of defeat to record a heart-stopping one-run victory over Argentina, eventual runners-up, and with Papua New Guinea (PNG) notching up a one-wicket win over Fiji, gave the ICC WCL Division 3 a sensational start.

Italy looked down and out when Argentina, chasing 176 for victory, reached 159 for five. But Italy grabbed five wickets for 15 runs, including last four wickets for three runs, as Argentina were bowled out for 174. For Italy, medium-pacer Din Alaud was the most successful bowler claiming three wickets for 29 runs while Troy Crosland bagged two wickets for 15 runs.

Italy notched up its second successive victory in the competition by overpowering Fiji by 37 runs. Batting first, Italy collected 186 for nine with Nicholas Northcote top scoring with 37. In turn, Fiji was bowled out for 149.

In Italy's third game, PNG defeated Italy by eight wickets to qualify for the semi-final ahead of the European side on net run-rate after both the teams were tied following two wins each. PNG had to beat Italy by a convincing margin to earn a berth in the last four and it did exactly that when it dismissed the European side for 134 and then achieved the target in 33.1 overs. Italy therefore moved forward to the Plate competition.

In the plate semi-finals, Hong Kong registered its first win of the series when it beat Italy by 39 runs. Hong Kong, batting first, scored 195 in 50 overs and then dismissed Italy for 146 in 45 overs.

In the 7th and 8th place play-off, Fiji lost to Italy by 6 wickets. Fiji scored 123 (T Kurukulasuriya 4-16) and Italy made 124-4 in 33 overs (T Kurukulasuriya 51).

IRELAND DEFENDS ICC INTERCONTINENTAL CUP IN TWO DAYS AT LEICESTER

Ireland wrapped up the final of the ICC Intercontinental Cup inside two days at Grace Road, Leicester with a clinical display, beating Canada by an innings and 115 runs.

It means the cup will be returning for another spell with the Irish Cricket Union as Trent Johnston's men retain the title they first won in Namibia late in 2005.

In the end, Canada was just not up to the challenge that Ireland's bowling presented. The seamers did most of the damage with Johnston, Langford-Smith and Kevin O'Brien all making inroads, with off-spinner Kyle McCullan coming on to claim five late scalps. In the end, Canada was dismissed for 145 in its second innings to go with just 92 on the first day, still some 115 runs behind Ireland's first innings total of 352. Johnston collected the cup from chairman of the European Cricket Council and former secretary of the Marylebone Cricket Club Roger Knight.

The man of the match award was won by opening batsman Jeremy Bray, whose magnificent knock of 146 on the first day meant no one put up any significant resistance.

With Ireland now ranked tenth in the LG ICC ODI Championship following the successes of the ICC Cricket World Cup and having won the ICC Intercontinental Cup two years in succession, there is a real buoyancy and dynamism about cricket in that country.

The new format in the ICC Intercontinental Cup means sides play a minimum of three four-day matches in this tournament. This increases to seven four-day matches from July 2007 and 2008 when the event will be a full round-robin and global format. That compares to a minimum of just two three-day matches per year under the previous structure which, until the semi-finals, was regionally based rather than global.

The ICC Intercontinental Cup began in 2004 to give the leading players from Associate sides the chance to improve by exposing them to a longer form of the game, and has so far only been won by a European country.

Full match reports can be found on www.ecc-cricket.com.



▲ Ireland, winners of the Intercontinental Cup 2006

ECBtv Deal for Cricket in Europe

As the West Indies Test Series is firmly underway in England, the question begs to be asked - How does a fanatical cricket fan in one of Europe's 27 ICC member countries watch live action from the game that they love?

The answer comes in the form ECBtv, which thanks to a new deal forged between ICC Europe, ECB and Premium TV, is accessible through the ICC Europe website (www.ecc-cricket.com) - the official site for European Cricket.

The England & Wales Cricket Board's (ECB) official broadband TV service, ECBtv was launched in May last year, and proved a valuable resource for thousands of cricket fans across Europe. More than 83,000 people participate in the game throughout Europe's 27 Associate and Affiliate member countries and many of these have little or no access to televised international cricket action.

ECBtv will show the npower Test and one-day international matches live to certain territories, as well as match highlights, exclusive interviews, press conferences, coaching master classes and many other features to a global audience. Premium TV has agreed that a proportion of the subscription fees will be fed back into the ICC European Development Program to help the development of cricket in Europe.

The announcement came on the 3rd Day of the of the 1st npower Test, West Indies v England, at Lord's, when representatives from Europe's national cricket boards, together with commercial partners, sponsors, and other key figures in the world of European cricket came together for European Presidents' Day. ICC Regional Development Manager, Richard Holdsworth, made the announcement in the presence of ECB Chairman David Morgan and Chief Executive David Collier. ECB Commercial Director John Perera commented, "ECB is pleased and excited to be able to offer Europe's cricket fans access to ECBtv and it is hoped that it will take the game to previously uncharted areas, inspiring people to get involved in this great sport".

Richard Holdsworth, ICC European Development Manager, commented, "Coverage of cricket throughout Europe is sparse to say the least, due to current broadcasters not being willing to air the sport in developing European countries. This agreement with ECB and Premium TV is a huge boost to all the cricket lovers around Europe's 27 ICC member countries and will allow them to access live footage and highlights of cricket at the highest level. This will allow these countries to further promote the sport and particularly give young people a chance to see cricket played by the world's best."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Belgium's School Programme Finals

Belgium's successful 2006-2007 Cricket School Program reached its fitting conclusion recently with an Apotheoses Day on the ground of Mechelen Eagles CC at the beautiful Vrijbroek Park in Mechelen. No less than 19 schools took active part in this ambitious initiative since its start in 2006 - the aim to develop cricket in schools, targeting the 10-13 year old age group.

The final's day, blessed with ideal weather, saw 6 teams from 4 schools fight it out in a mini tournament for the Trophy which was last year won by BSGO De Wijze Eik from Mariakerke. After the preliminaries, the semi finals turned out to be hard-fought spectacular games, played however in the true spirit of the game and always in a very friendly atmosphere. In the first semi final, De Wijze Eik A (136/2 = 126) beat De Zonnebloem B (127/1 = 122) by 4 runs (minus 5 runs per wicket lost). In the second semi final, local team BSGO De Spreeuwen (133/0) beat De Zonnebloem A (118/3 = 103) by 30 runs.

Due to lack of time, (the school from Ghent was facing a long drive home) the two finalists agreed to share the second School Competition Trophy. Result: BSGO De Spreeuwen Mechelen and BSGO De Wijze Eik (Casierlaan) Mariakerke declared joint winners of the 2006-2007 School Cricket Trophy.

It can certainly be said that the level of cricket is certainly improving, thanks to the continuous efforts from national coach Fazil Mahmoud, some of the Level I coaches and many helping hands.



▲ Scheppersinstituut Mechelen & BSGO de Spreeuwen with Fazil Mahmoud (left) and teacher (right)

History made at the Columbus Oval in Spain

History was made on Saturday 5th May when Arran Brindle, of the Bears Cricket Club, became the first woman to captain a senior Men's cricket team in Spain and possibly Europe.

Arran, who has scored centuries for England Women and helped win the Ashes against Australia in 2005, also captains Louth Cricket Club in the Lincolnshire ECB Premier League – the first time a woman has captained an otherwise all male team at the highest level of amateur cricket played in England and Wales.

Winning the toss on both occasions over the weekend and electing to bat, Arran scored 57 runs for The Bears in a losing game against a strong Sporting Alfas CC Saturday side and 122 runs on the Sunday in a game the Bears won comfortably.

Arran has toured Spain with The Bears since 2002 and has coached the Juniors at the Columbus Oval. At the after match presentation Arran handed over a cheque from the Bears CC supporting Junior Cricket Development in Spain.



▲ Arran being congratulated by Alfás skipper Graham Howe after winning the toss

Victory for Swiss at International Festival

At the end of four days of intensive, exciting and, sometimes, rain-affected cricket, the Swiss team emerged triumphant at the Under 16s level, while Zurich Crickets were comfortable winners of the Under 13s group.

The Swiss U16s team started with a victory showing Marcus Gurtner completing the first ever century for a Swiss player at this level. Sunday's game between the Swiss side and Mullion of Cornwall, UK, saw Switzerland passed the total with 8 wickets and six overs to spare.

Mullion then got their tournament going with a fine display over a Zuoz side and Sunday ended with Switzerland completing a 5 wickets victory over Zuoz. Marcus Gurtner achieved the remarkable feat of remaining unbeaten throughout the tournament. Monday saw Mullion and Zuoz playing two 10-overs-a-side matches, winning one apiece. The final friendly on the Tuesday saw the Mullion and Swiss captains mix the teams, led by their Coaches.

Former England batsman and leg-spinner, Bob Barber was guest of honour, presenting the trophies and Jonathan Mailes (12) of Mullion was chosen as player of tournament by the three coaches after showing great promise for the future. The Swiss side will visit Mullion next year to continue this exciting new cricketing partnership.

► U13's in action



▼ Swiss U16 team with Coach Michael George and Bob Barber



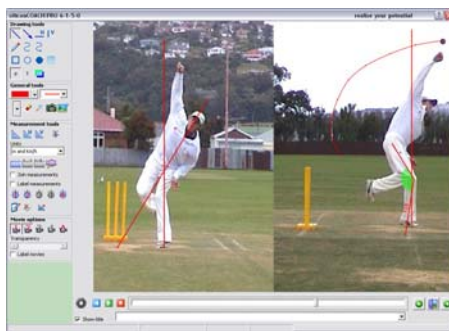
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