





BeyondTheBoundary



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CROATIA TRIUMPH AT DIVISION 3

The ICC European Division 3 Championship took place in Antwerp from 19th-25th August and involved 8 teams each playing a total of five 50-over games.

After the group stages Croatia and the Isle of Man were top of their groups, with Spain and Malta coming second respectively. Croatia overcame Malta, and Spain beat the Isle of Man in the semi-finals to secure places in the final.

After all the frustrations of a week of bad weather, the tournament got the final it deserved as Croatia held their nerve to beat Spain and take the Championship by a margin of just four runs.

On a dank and misty morning at the Royal Brussels CC ground near Waterloo, Croatian captain John Vujnovich won the toss and elected to bat. He then opened and remained at the crease for all but one over of Croatian innings as he reached 88 off 148 balls as his side finished on 220 for five.

Spain began their reply purposefully, evidently determined to chase down this relatively imposing total, reaching 118 for one by the 27th over. From there the wickets began to fall, but with four overs left the Spanish needed just 15 to win with four wickets in hand. Two quick wickets left Spain on 208 for eight with three overs left. Jeff Grzinich dismissed Phil Beal with

the total on 211, and two balls into the final over, with five still needed, last man Sam Lupson was caught by Craig Sinovich, and the Croatian celebrations began.

Elsewhere, at Mechelen, the Isle of Man completed a six-wicket victory over Malta to take third place. The Maltese batsmen reached 164 thanks to a solid 63 from Frank Spiteri. Manx seamer Scott Pearce claimed 4-35. The Isle of Man passed their total in the 46th over, thanks to a 53-ball

48 from Oliver Webster.

Meanwhile hosts Belgium claimed fifth place after beating Portugal by 38 runs at Rumst. Shaheryar Butt made 81, including two fours and seven sixes and Javed Iqbal contributing 38 to the Belgian 196-run total. Portugals Muhammad Mirza took 5-30. Despite a determined 59 from Tariq Aziz Portugal were all out for 158 with ten balls left.

In the battle of the relegated sides in Gent, Pelawatha Janaka took 5-24 as Cyprus dismissed Finland for 135. The Cypriots gradually overhauled this target, opener Anil Nair making 45 as they completed a two-wicket win.

By taking the title, Croatia earned the right to play off against Israel for a place in Division 2 next season

◀ John Vujnovich receives his Player of the Tournament Award from Philip Hudson



Croatia celebrate



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JERSEY DOMINATE U23 DIVISION 2

Jersey followed up its victory at the European Under 19 Division 2 Championship, with a win over France in the final of the Under 23 tournament in Guernsey.

The tournament spread over 4 days saw six teams each play three 50 over matches. Jersey came top of the preliminary round Group A ahead of Gibraltar and Germany and France finished top of Group B above Guernsey and Italy.

Champions Jersey were not troubled by France in the final, winning by seven wickets. Put into bat, the French were bowled out for 80 with only one batsman, Ali Sarfraz reaching double figures with 18.

The islanders then needed just 16.2 overs to knock off the runs, the loss of opener Sam Dewhurst for 34 fell just two runs short of their target, deprived Jersey of an even more emphatic margin of victory. Winning captain Pete Gough and his off-spin twin Danny Blasco took eight of the France wickets.

Tournament hosts Guernsey missed out on a place in the final to eventual runners-up France. In the group stages, both sides produced victories over Italy, but the crunch match between the two sides did not produce a result due to bad weather. France qualified for the final against Jersey on run-rate, leaving a disappointed Guernsey to play off for third place against Gibraltar.

The hosts won the play-off at College Field by seven wickets, with 12 balls to spare as 15 year old Tim Ravenscroft enjoyed a good all-round game, following up his three wickets of off spin for 20 runs with an undefeated 58. Gibraltar made 184 for nine in their 50 overs Guernsey reached the target with 2 overs to spare for the loss of just 3 wickets.

In the 5th/6th play-off Italy were bowled out by Germany for 59, the lowest total of the week.

Germany won the toss and had no hesitation in batting, with Thivakaran Aritharan top scoring with 35 out of 187. In reply only one Italy batsman, Gayashan De Silva, reached double figures as the Italians lost their last six wickets for 17 runs, Aritharan taking four for 11.

The player of the tournament was Iain Latin for his two half centuries, while Luca Moscatellini of Italy was the leading wicket-taker with seven. There was a small measure of consolation for Guernsey who received the ICC Europe Spirit of Cricket Award, as judged by the six umpires.



◀ Jersey v France



◀ David Piesing, Chairman of the Guernsey Cricket Board, presents Iain Latin (Gibraltar) with the Player of the Tournament Award



◀ Tournament Referee Steve Tovey presents Ben Wylie, Captain of Ireland U13, with the U13 Trophy

Ireland continue to dominate at U13 but Denmark have the last laugh

In his presentation speech, Tournament Referee Steve Tovey said that this U13 tournament was one of the best he had participated in, as it contained some great cricket, two exciting matches, perfect sunny weather and 52 young players who enjoyed playing on and off the field on the small island of Mors in Denmark in the picturesque town of Nykobing.

The first days play saw Ireland beat the Netherlands by 7 wickets with David Barr's 50 helping the Irish get their target of 104. Denmark beat Scotland by just 2 wickets as they finished on 186-8.

On day two Scotland beat the Netherlands by 6 wickets with R McLean making 50 for Scotland and Ireland beat Denmark by 7 wickets – Ben Wylie reaching an impressive 71.

The final day saw the Ireland Scotland crunch match – and it was a thriller with Ireland beating Scotland by just 1 wicket. Scotland made 141-9 from their 40 overs and Ireland reached the target in the 37th over with just one wicket remaining. Scotland took defeat with raised heads and this won them the Spirit of Cricket award.

Denmark on the other pitch put the Dutch into bat and this ploy paid off as, the Netherlands were suddenly 6 for 3 and did not manage more than 86 runs in total. So the Danes in their reply took their time, going for safety first. Needing only one to win the Danes had a rush of blood and lost 2 unnecessary wickets before victory was secured. No one could remember the last time a Danish youth team had won two matches in the same tournament. It was also a Dane that was chosen in being Player of the Tournament in Saad Ahmed.

So Ireland, who have remained U13 Champions since 2000, continue their dominance at this age group, but a second place finish for the Danes shows that efforts to develop the youth program in Denmark are beginning to pay off.

SCOTLAND CLINCH U17 DIVISION 1 TITLE

The Under 17 Division 1 Championship took place from 7th-13th August in Dundee, Scotland and, for the first time since the tournaments inception in 1999, the matches were played over two days as opposed to the traditional one day format.

Ireland, winners for the past two years, were looking to make it a hat-trick but Scotland on home soil, and as three times winners, went all out to thwart their attempt and indeed Scotland clinched the title in a thrilling final-day encounter against the Irish.

After rain wiped out the entire first days proceedings, a 60 over per side contest was played, with points being awarded for wickets taken and runs scored. After both sides drew against Denmark and Netherlands, Scotland went into the game with a two point lead over Ireland, and in the final analysis, that was to prove crucial.

Batting first, Ireland were soon in trouble at 52 for 3. A fourth wicket stand of 103 between James Shannon and Andrew Balbirnie put the Irish in a commanding position at 155 for 3, but dramatic collapse however saw the Scots dismiss Ireland for just 233 in 59.1 overs - that increased their overall lead to 3 points.

In reply Scotland knew that they held the upper hand, and opted for a safety first approach, knowing that as long as they weren't bowled out, the victory would almost certainly be their's.

Marc Petrie with 35 from 77 balls, and Matthew Parker 25 from 71 set the tone, content to play sensible cricket, before Parker ran himself out and panic set in. The Irish were desperate for wickets, and set attacking fields in an attempt to force the win. Robert Smith took 2 for 3 in 7 overs, and Eddie Richardson 2 for 21 off 10.

With the last over starting, Scotland led by a point, but a 9th wicket for Ireland would secure an invaluable point. Craig Morrison and Michael Leask held on and finished on 125 for 8 - clinching the championship by a single point.

In the other match the Netherlands got the better of the draw against

Denmark thanks to a bizarre declaration. The Dutch set a target of 190 for the Danes who replied reaching a score of 152 for 8, at which point the Danes were ahead on bonus points and elected to declare their inning closed to save them losing a further wicket in the last two overs. In doing so they forgot that the Netherlands would get the 10 points up for grabs for a first innings lead and therefore they ended up with 5 points as against the Dutch with 14 and took bottom spot in the table.



◀ Philip Hudson presents Tim Gruijters with the award for Player of the Tournament, U17 1st Division



◀ Marc Petrie of Scotland U17

▼ Netherlands bat at the Women's Championship



England prove too good at the European Women's Championship

An ECB Development XI had no trouble in producing 3 victories against Ireland, the Netherlands and Scotland to finish top of the table at the European Women's Championship in Deventer.

A first-day 151-run victory over the Netherlands in which captain Jenni Halstead made 112 was followed by a second-day 69-run win over Ireland. Having already accounted for these two sides the ECB XI had virtually made certain of retaining the European title, and they dispatched Scotland with clinical efficiency for just 87 to win by nine wickets and ensure a clean sweep.

The Irish came second and were easily the strongest of the three Associate sides. Their first day 8 wicket win over Scotland The Irish put up a decent fight against the England and with the ECB Development side at their were hopes for a shock defeat, but the English girls proved they had strength in depth and held out to make the

Ireland's final game was an official ODI against hosts the Netherlands, who bowled the Irish out for 179. Spinner Annemarie Tanke finished with five for 40, her best figures in 25 ODIs.

This effort had given the Dutch batsmen a chance of recording their second victory over Ireland in 15 ODIs, but to do so they needed a good start. However, after Heather Whelan had removed both openers for just 9 runs, and The Netherlands went on to score just 36 runs with the bat in 29.5 overs; helped by 20 wides, The Netherlands managed to reach 56 before they were all out.

Leg-spinner Ciara Metcalfe was the most successful of the Irish bowlers with five for 18 (also her first five-wicket haul in ODIs).

So the ECB Development XI finished European Women's champions, while Ireland took the three-team Women's World Cup first-round qualifier, with The Netherlands in second place.

GUERNSEY TAKES ITS FIRST ICC TITLE

A win for Guernsey over Jersey in the final of the European U15 Division 2 Championship secured the island its first ever ICC title in La Manga on Saturday.

Jersey, having already taken gold in both the U19 and U23 Division 2 Championships was looking to add the U15 medals to its growing collection, but could not overcome the 180-run target set by its closest rival Guernsey, despite the side lacking star player Tim Ravenscroft who was in England scoring a century for Hampshire CCC U17s.

The two sides had remained the strongest through out the competition with each winning all four group matches against the other 8 teams in the competition. With the two islands being such close neighbours, the intense rivalry that such proximity brings gave the encounter an added spice, but one that did not detract from the excellent spirit in which a thoroughly competitive match was played at a truly impressive standard.

Winning the toss, Jersey captain Tim de la Haye invited Guernsey to bat, a decision that paid instant dividends as Guernsey's openers had both fallen at 32-2, but then followed the crux of the match, a championship-winning stand of 93 between Adam Hindle (48) and Thomas Kirk (29). The Guernsey batsmen went on to post 189-7 in their 35 overs. A target of 190 was not impassible, but would require Jersey's "key men" to produce some solid batting. However with Jersey's openers Aidan McGuire and Bradley Rimeur removed for 1 and 7 respectively, and No. 3 Joseph Mayes making only 11, it was down



to skipper Tim de la Haye to chase down the increasingly daunting target. However the captain found himself at the crease with a lower middle-order who had had little time to bat over the past six days, and had even less time to adapt to their current situation, which showed as not one could reach double figures. Jersey had to accept second place and batted through the remaining overs to finish 120-9, 69 runs short.

Meanwhile on the second pitch, the match for 3rd place saw the Isle of Man beat Spain by 7 wickets, clearing the target of 137 in 28.3 overs for the loss of 3 wickets. Belgium took 5th place, beating Italy by 6 wickets and in the 7th/8th place play-off Germany beat Cyprus by 19 runs. In the match for 9th and 10th positions, Gibraltar beat France by 89 runs to take 9th place leaving France to claim the wooden spoon, but there was some consolation as the French took the MCC Spirit of Cricket Award.

Guernsey, the deserved winners, are continuing recent success for the GCB who won the ICC Development Annual Award for the Best Development Program in 2006, and the victory here certainly proves that cricket development on the island is at its strongest yet. Both Guernsey and Jersey, who also won two ICC Development Program Annual Awards in 2006, are shining examples of the development that is taking place throughout cricketing circles in Europe.

▲ Guernsey U15 with the trophy

Women's World Cup Qualifier Schedule

Lahore, Pakistan
17-25 November 2007

Pool A – South Africa, The Netherlands, Bermuda, Papua New Guinea
Pool B – Ireland, Pakistan, Zimbabwe, Scotland

19 November
The Netherlands v PNG
Bermuda v South Africa
Ireland v Pakistan
Zimbabwe v Scotland

20 November
South Africa v PNG
The Netherlands v Bermuda
Ireland v Scotland
Pakistan v Zimbabwe

22 November
South Africa v The Netherlands
Bermuda v PNG
Pakistan v Scotland
Zimbabwe v Ireland

Finals & Play-offs to be held on 25th November.

◆ Roger Knight OBE, Chairman of the European Cricket Council, presents Thomas Kirk (Guernsey) with the player of the tournament award



IRELAND'S EMPHATIC WIN OVER BERMUDA

Ireland made an emphatic statement in the ICC Intercontinental Cup recently with a clinical victory over Bermuda in Dublin.

Trent Johnston's team has held this title since 2005 and is clearly keen to make it three in a row as its players seem to have adapted best to the rigours of multi-day cricket.

David Langford-Smith, who was injured in the final of the ICC Intercontinental Cup 2006/07 in May, was back in top form this week, taking five wickets in the second innings and seven in the match as Ireland won by an innings and 146 runs.

Langford-Smith removed five of the top six Bermuda batsmen in that second innings and ended with figures of 5-45. He also managed to take the wicket of form batsman Steven Outerbridge twice in the match to finish with overall figures of 7-94 in what were ideal conditions for batting.

This outright win puts Ireland second on the ICC Intercontinental Cup 2007-08 table with 29 points, five behind leader the Netherlands. But Johnston's men have one game in hand over the Dutch and will feel in control of their own destiny at this stage. Canada and Scotland are next, level on 26 points although Canada has played a game fewer than the Scots, whose campaign so far has been dogged by inclement weather.

The final of the ICC Intercontinental Cup 2007/08 will take place in November 2008 at a venue yet to be decided.

For a full scorecard from the Ireland v Bermuda match plus scores from all other ICC Intercontinental Cup matches go to:

<http://www.icc-cricket.com/icc/events/intercontinental/>



Photos: Deryck Vincent



ICC INTERCONTINENTAL CUP 2007-08

'Slogging the Slav's' book winner announced!

Charles Blommaert of Belgium was first out of the hat and correctly answered that CB Fry was the former England captain who nearly became King of Albania.

A copy of 'Slogging the Slavs' will be winging its way to Charles very shortly.

Congratulations!

Left to right:
Ireland's David Langford-Smith
Alex Cusack of Ireland dives to catch Bermuda's James Celestine

Coming Up

Scotland at the Twenty/20 World Cup

News from Czech Cricket

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