

EUROPE'S FINEST SET FOR INDIA

ICC Europe has announced the names of 14 of Europe's finest young talents who will travel to India in February to take part in the ICC European Cricket Academy 2008.

It will be the first time that the academy has taken place outside of Europe as it relocates to the Cricket Club of India in Mumbai. The previous five academies have been held at Europe-based venues including Loughborough in England and more recently the excellent venue of La Manga Resort in Spain, and despite the tremendous success of these academies, a decision has been taken to further the player's education by a move to the sub-continent for the 2008 event.

The academy will be organised through the Mumbai-based Global Cricket School which has an extremely talented team of coaches in place, the majority of whom have worked with Indian national teams at junior and senior level. In addition to this, the European players will be accompanied by a highly qualified ICC Europe coaching team led by the ICC Regional Development Officer Philip Hudson. The team includes ECB's Head of Elite Coach Development Gordon Lord, former Ireland coach Adrian Birrell and Stuart Barnes, Assistant Coach Gloucestershire CCC.

The academy will take place from 24 February to 5 March and the programme will consist of five days of practice and three matches against a variety of opposition including an U-19 state side. The matches will take the form of one two-day and two one-day matches.

"We have decided to move this year's academy to India to further develop the player's skills in a tough environment that will test all involved," said Hudson.

"Holding the academy on the sub-continent will allow all players the opportunity to develop their game on different surfaces and in different conditions to what they have become accustomed to," he said.

"All of these young cricketers have the potential to play for their national teams in the near future and with many of our Associate and Affiliate sides participating more frequently on the international stage, it is essential that they learn to play on different types of surfaces."

The 14 participants, all aged between 18 and 22, come from six of Europe's 27 ICC Member countries – Gibraltar, Guernsey, Ireland, Israel, the Netherlands and Scotland. ICC Europe is funding places on the academy for 13 cricketers and an additional place has been made available, thanks to the support of the Global Cricket School, taking the total up to 14.

Twenty-year-old spinner Solomon Var-sulkar is the first Israeli to be selected to take part in an ICC academy. He has been selected for the event after producing phenomenal bowling performances for his country, including overall figures of 15-120 and 11-60 at the 2005 and 2007 ICC European U/19 Championships.

Commenting on what he hopes to gain from the opportunity Solomon said: "I know that there is still so much I need to learn about spin bowling and where better to learn than in India? Having lived in Israel since I was a small child

it would be a dream to go back to my roots and play on famous grounds in Mumbai."

Also on the list are four Irish players, all of whom played for their country in the 2006 ICC U/19 Cricket World Cup in Sri Lanka. The four are former MCC young cricketer Gary Kidd, full-time professional Gary Wilson who has recently signed a contract with Surrey, promising wicketkeeper-batsman Fintan McAllister and a graduate of the Middlesex academy, Andrew Poynter.

The selection includes three Scottish players, Richard Berrington, Andrew Hislop, who also all played in the 2006 U/19 CWC, and Scott Redhead.

Three players will also travel to the academy from the Netherlands. Bob Entrop, Timothy Gruijters and Maurits Jonkman have all performed for their country in ICC European Championships at all age groups up to under-23 and now aspire to play for their full national side with the ultimate goal of gaining professional county contracts. In doing so they will follow in the footsteps of Alexei Kervezee who is himself a graduate of the 2005 ICC European Academy and went on to sign a contract with Worcestershire CCC and compete for the Netherlands in the 2007 ICC Cricket World Cup.

Guernsey players Kris Mohernd and Blane Queripel, and 18 year old Kieron Ferrary of Gibraltar, whom have all competed in their countries national sides, are the final three Europeans to make up the 14.



◀ & ▼

Practice at the
Global Cricket
School



U19 WORLD CUP SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED

Defending champion Pakistan will get its ICC U/19 Cricket World Cup campaign underway by playing the host Malaysia on 17 February in Kuala Lumpur, the ICC have confirmed.

Pakistan is the only team to have won back-to-back titles at this level, having triumphed in 2004 and 2006 in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka respectively, and will now aim to make it a hat-trick as it goes into the event as top seed.

The winner from 2000 and beaten finalist last year, India, is seeded second, with Australia (winners in 1988 and 2002) seeded third and England (winners in 1998) fourth as those two sides were losing semi-finalists in 2006.

All four will be in action on the opening day on February 17 when Pakistan meets Malaysia at Johor Cricket Academy in Johor, India faces Papua New Guinea (PNG) at Kinrara Cricket Academy in Kuala Lumpur, Australia takes on Namibia at Penang Sports Club in Penang, and England faces Ireland at Selangor Turf Club in Kuala Lumpur.

All 16 teams will be battling for a place in the final on 2 March in Kuala Lumpur.

Besides the ICC's 10 Full members and hosts Malaysia, five qualifiers – Namibia (from the Africa Region), Nepal (from the Asia Region), Papua New Guinea (from the East Asia-Pacific Region), Ireland (from the Europe Region) and Bermuda (from the Americas Region) – will take part in the two-week long tournament.

The 16 teams have been divided into four groups with the top two teams progressing to the Super League quarter-finals while the two bottom teams from each group qualifying for the Plate Championship quarter-finals. The winners of the Super League quarter-finals will qualify for the semi-finals whereas the losing quarter-finalists will play in the Super



League play-offs.

The winners of the Plate Championship quarter-finals will play in the Plate Championship semi-finals while the beaten quarter-finalists will participate in the Plate Championship play-offs.

The ICC U/19 Cricket World Cup is a vital part of the ICC Development Program and provides a vehicle for the best young cricketers in the world to parade their skills.

Ireland is in Group D (to be based in Kuala Lumpur) which consists of England (4), Bangladesh (5), Bermuda (12), Ireland (13)

(brackets indicate seedings)

Ireland's match schedule in the group stage is as follows:

17 Feb – England v Ireland

20 Feb – Bangladesh v Ireland

21 Feb – Bermuda v Ireland

▲ The Lions of Norway at the La Manga Twenty/20

La Manga Twenty/20

On 27-29 October, eleven teams gathered at La Manga Club in Murcia, Spain to take part in the third 20/20 La Manga Cup. After introducing this new and exciting format of the game to Spain three years ago, the competition has gone from strength to strength. And thanks to the support of main sponsor the La Manga Club Resort, it looks as though 20/20 cricket is in Spain to stay.

The participants included a team from Ireland, three teams from Norway and teams from Barcelona, Aliquant, Malaga, and other Spanish destinations.

The tournament was a resounding success, finishing with a final between the last year's winners Siensen A and T20 new comers Barcelona CC.

Siensen won the toss and elected to bat, making 42 runs, but once the wickets started to fall the rest of the Siensen batsman had very little to offer and they suffered a collapse. Some fine bowling and catching from Barcelona restricted the score to 104 all out. Barcelona then took up the challenge with the bat but the first ball of the innings claimed their opener for 0. However from then on the Barcelona batsmen got to grips with the game and having lost only 5 wickets they cruised home safely to win the La Manga Cup for the first time.

◀ Ireland's winning U19 team at the European U19 Division 1 Championship 2007



MALTA HOLDS FIRST UMPIRE COURSE

Martin Llewelyn, Malta ACU&S, reports on the recent course.

From the 9th to 11th November Malta held its first Umpires Course funded by ICC Europe Annual Support Program funds.

The course was presented by Graham Cooper (ICC European Umpire Manager) with the maximum number of attendees allowed, for this course, 10. There was a considerable variation in the umpiring experience of the attendees.

All 10 attendees sat both parts of the examination at the end of the course.

The course content was well matched to the aims of the course – to provide basic competence at entry level umpiring. Knowledge of all the Laws required for day to day umpiring was covered. Some of the little used and therefore usually more complex laws were deliberately omitted. The place for the more detailed examination of those Laws is a more advanced course.

Along with the Laws actual umpiring situations were covered. Quite a bit of time was allocated to man management skills and it was very pleasing to see this included.

The examination format of multi choice questions and then one to one oral examination is I think a good one as it gives the examiner at least some opportunity to discover whether a candidate knows how to apply the Laws as well as knowing the theory of those Laws.

The screen pictures used to illustrate points were relevant and of a high quality. The course manual was a well produced run alongside document.

The course was well presented in as unhurried a manner as was possible given the volume of material to be covered. All attendees were encouraged to, and did, contribute at various stages and this was admirable. Given the volume of material, input from the attendees had of necessity to be controlled and matters raised not directly related to the immediate issue were dealt with in one of three ways namely:

- Deliberate deviation from the script and the point dealt with there and then.
- The point put to one side with the comment that this would be dealt



with later in the course (and it was).

c) The point put to one side with the comment that the particular point was outside of the remit of this course.

All sessions started on time which is a reflection of the professionalism of both the presenter and the attendees. All components of the course were dealt with without the need to curtail any section. The practical scoring session was not held due to the lack of time available.

The feedback I received from all the attendees was that they had enjoyed the course and felt that they would umpire better as a result of this course and with more confidence. The three more experienced umpires on this course all felt that they had benefited from this course, a sentiment I would agree with. In my opinion all attendees, whether or not they passed the examination, will have gained a great deal from this course.

I consider this an excellent course, which I would recommend to other countries wishing to raise basic umpiring standards and /or set some people on the route to umpiring at a high level.



▲
Malta's course attendees with course presenter Graham Cooper (4th in front row)

Denmark Holds Best Practice Coaching Seminar

On the 10-11 November the Danish House of Sports in Broendby, near Copenhagen, hosted the first ICC Europe and Danish Cricket 'Best Practice' Coaching Seminar. Over the weekend 12 coaches from a variety of backgrounds and varied levels of experience embarked on an intensive coaching/training program.

Course organiser Peter Drinnen (Queensland & ICC) and Ole 'Stan' Mortensen (Derbyshire & Denmark) were in charge of delivering this first Seminar outside of England.

The seminar was a real 'eye-opener' for all the coaches who took part and the response from the coaches has been extremely positive, so hopefully in the future more of these Seminars can take place throughout Europe.

By the end of the seminar all coaches demonstrated that they had improved their awareness of other important areas of the game that they may not have previously considered. In addition, they showed an improved understanding and ability to deliver the skills of the game to the players under their guidance. Indeed by attending this Best Practice Coaching Seminar some of the coaches have undoubtedly given themselves an improved chance of being fast tracked on to an ICC Europe Level 3 course sometime in the future.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ireland's find a fast bowler project

Padraic Flanagan has emerged as this year's winner of the 'Find a fast bowler' campaign introduced to Leinster cricket last season. Flanagan (11) who attends Star of the Sea National School in Sandymount was first introduced to the game through coaching visits made to the school over the past five years.

Merrion overseas professional Matthew Petrie selected Padraic as this year's winner when conducting several bowling clinics with the provinces most promising quicks. Petrie, who plays his cricket with Western Australia, spotted Padraic's potential commenting:

'At a series of bowling clinics held during July and August Padraic impressed with his athleticism, pace and control. He has progressed at a fast rate and we will monitor his progress through further bowling clinics next year. The opportunities for young Irish cricketers have never been better and it is hoped that Padraic can become a part of the Leinster and Irish youth sides playing programme in the years to come'.

Padraic will head the Leinster teams U'11 attack in the annual game v's Ulster at Armagh. He will train with the Leinster U'13's squad this Autumn/Winter. He also enjoys hurling and Gaelic football and his favourite Irish cricketer is Kenny Carroll.



▲ Matthew Petrie with Padraic Flanagan

Juniors stay sharp in Basel, Switzerland

Some 80 Swiss junior players and support staff assembled in Basel on November 4 to take part in the annual indoor tournament following yet another successful summer season for Switzerland's youth cricketers. The winter's inclement weather may be upon us yet again in Switzerland, but the Freis Gymnasium Hall provided cover for the enthusiastic youngsters all keen to keep their eye in for next season's packed international schedule.

Four teams of eight-a-side (two from Basel and two from Zurich) contested the under-11s tournament, displaying an enthusiastic spirit and no mean skill in all departments of the game. Two teams of under-9s combined from Zurich and Basel squads also punched above their weight on the day. Zurich Lions were declared winners having won all three of their 20 over matches and Basel 2 were runners-up.

The tournament was arranged by Basel youth head coach J Singh who was ably assisted by Zurich head coach and SCA Youth Development Officer Patrick Henderson. At the end of a highly enjoyable tournament each player was presented a medallion by Mr Ravindaran, President of Basel CC.



▲ Action at the Basel Indoor Tournament

Guernsey Coach Development Workshop

As part of the Guernsey Cricket Board's commitment to coach development, four of the ECB Coach Development Workshops were run over a weekend in Guernsey. The courses concentrated on video analysis for batters and bowlers, batting and coaching a team. In total 33 spaces were taken on the four courses.

The attendees were put through their paces by ECB Workshop Co-ordinator, Mervyn Jones from Sussex.

Cricket Development Manager, Jason Shambrook said, "Coach Education is an essential part of our development strategy and we were delighted with the response from our coaches. We were particularly looking to enhance the understanding of video analysis", said Shambrook.

A fifth course was also set up to encompass the "Sussex CCC Way" of coaching young players, delivered by Keith Greenfield, Academy Director of Sussex CCC, concentrated on the basic principles of cricket coaching that the county side use with their age group squads.

The Guernsey Cricket Board was able to run the weekend thanks to a grant received from ICC Europe's Annual Support Programme. "We are indebted to ICC Europe for their financial support not just in this venture but in many other initiatives", added Shambrook.



▲ Coach Development Workshop

RICHARD BEDBROOK JOINS EUROPE OFFICE

We are pleased to welcome Richard Bedbrook to the Europe Office team as ICC Regional Development Officer – Europe.

Richard was Community Cricket Coach for Surrey CCC, where he has been for the last year, having previously been Assistant Manager of the Surrey Cricket Centre. He has experience working in development and coaching and was coach to the Surrey U/14 team and lead coach for Surrey's specialist seam bowling programme. He has coached throughout Surrey's Centre of Excellence and girls emerging players programmes.

As well as being an ECB Level 3 coach, tutor and assessor, he is a qualified civil engineer, and is shortly to complete a Masters in Sport and Exercise Psychology. Richard was educated in Wiltshire, England, where he is currently captain of their Minor Counties senior team.

Richard will take over Philip Hudson's previous role. Philip has been promoted to Regional Development Officer - Performance, which he will commence in January. Further details on this will be circulated to member countries shortly. This staff re-structure will allow more support to Europe's member countries in key areas of coach development and junior and elite coaching.



ICC European Tournaments 2008

08/02/2008 - 10/02/2008	ICC European Indoor Championship	Finland
14/07/2008 - 17/07/2008	ICC European U17 Division 1	Ireland
25/07/2008 - 31/07/2008	ICC European Division 1	Ireland
04/08/2008 - 07/08/2008	ICC European U15 Division 1	Jersey
05/08/2008 - 07/08/2008	ICC European U19 Division 1	Scotland
09/08/2008 - 15/08/2008	ICC European U17 Division 2	Germany
18/08/2008 - 23/08/2008	ICC European Division 2	Guernsey
26/08/2008 - 28/08/2008	ICC European 'A' Division 1	The Netherlands

DATES FOR THE DIARY

22 Dec – 2 Jan

Europe Office closed for Xmas/New Year period

4 Feb

European Cricket Committee

8-10 Feb

ICC European Indoor Championship

17-22 Feb

Ireland's Group Stages at the U19 World Cup

24 Feb – 5 Mar

ICC European Academy in India

◀ Richard Bedbrook

Coming Up

Highlights of 2007 in European Cricket and a look forward at 2008

Full European Events Programme 2008

ECC Official Partners and Suppliers



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