



BeyondTheBoundary

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Program - Europe

OLYMPIC RECOGNITION ANNOUNCED BY ICC

The International Cricket Council has welcomed the decision by the International Olympic Committee's Executive Board to return cricket to the Olympic Movement after a gap of more than 100 years.

The IOC's decision to recognise the ICC and cricket for the first time since the sport featured in the 1900 Paris Olympiad will lead to closer collaboration between the ICC and IOC for the good of sport. It is also expected to enhance cricket's profile in territories where it is a developing sport.

"This is great news for cricket," said ICC President Ray Mali. "The Olympic Movement is instantly recognisable around the world and for cricket to be a part of that again has to be a good thing. The ICC and IOC share similar values, such as a spirit of fair play in a competitive but ultimately friendly environment. Cricket – like all sports – should be played hard but fair and I think the special atmosphere that surrounds the Olympic Games demonstrates all that is good about sport," said Mr Mali.

Mr Mali who, along with ICC Directors David Morgan and HRH Tunku Imran, met with IOC President Jacques Rogge in Lausanne in October this year added that IOC recognition had been part of the ICC's current Strategic Plan.

He said: "Our goal has been to become an international federation that is recognised by the IOC and we are pleased to have achieved this target. We want to play an active role in the Olympic Movement and we will be looking at ways in which we can work with the IOC for the benefit of cricket, sport and society in general. Cricket last featured in the Olympic Games in 1900. Maybe one day it will be right for cricket to return to the Olympic programme," he added.



Ireland to host the Inaugural ICC World Twenty20 Qualifier in Belfast

The International Cricket Council have announced the 2008 Associate schedule of international cricket, a highlight of which will be the staging of the inaugural ICC World Twenty20 Qualifier which will take place in Belfast at the start of August between the six ODI Associate teams, Bermuda, Canada, Ireland, Kenya, the Netherlands and Scotland.

The finalists from that event will join the 10 Full Members at the next ICC World Twenty20 which will be hosted by the England and Wales Cricket Board in 2009. Apart from the enormous attention that competing in such a high-profile event like that will bring, the two successful teams will also stand to gain US\$250,000 each for qualifying.

The three-day event will be staged at the Stormont ground in Belfast (pictured above) and will be a fiesta of cricket with three matches played each day.

"The inaugural ICC World Twenty20 in South Africa was a great success with two Associate teams, Kenya and Scotland, qualifying through the ICC

World Cricket League Division 1," said ICC Global Development Manager Matthew Kennedy.

"This event gives the top six Associates the opportunity to qualify for the 2009 World Twenty20 in that format of the game. It will also give cricket fans in Ireland a great opportunity to see some thrilling cricket in this, the shortest and newest form of the international game," he said.

But before all that, the 2008 schedule for the top Associates gets underway in January with the first ICC Intercontinental Cup fixture. This tournament gives the eight top Associates the opportunity to hone their skills in the four-day version of the game. Defending champion Ireland will be out to make sure it doesn't lose its grip on the title and will be hoping to make the final, which takes place in Dubai next November.

Meanwhile, there will be plenty of ODIs for all the top sides, with series in Kenya, Namibia, UAE, Scotland, Ireland and the Netherlands with some matches involving Full Members such as New Zealand and England.

"This schedule of matches for the top Associates has been developed and refined over the past six months," said Richard Done, ICC's High Performance Manager.

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CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE SELECTIONS

28 of Europe's most promising young cricketers will travel to La Manga Club, Spain between 7-12 April next year to take part in the tenth annual ICC European Centre of Excellence.

This is the third consecutive year that the five-day camp will be held at the world-class leisure resort located in Murcia, South-Eastern Spain. The club's cricket centre includes two pitches with artificial wickets and a four-bay artificial net facility.

The group of youngsters, all aged between 13 and 17, come from 14 European countries, including Europe's top three Associates, Ireland, the Netherlands and Scotland and lesser known Affiliate member countries, such as Cyprus, Spain and Switzerland.

The Centre of Excellence will be organised by ICC European Development Officer Richard Bedbrook, a recent addition to the ICC Europe team, who states that the idea behind it is, "to identify and select a crop of the most talented young cricketers in Europe at this age group and provide them with an opportunity to develop their talents through excellent coaching and support services in order for them to achieve their potential". He added "It is with great pleasure that we announce the names of the 28 cricketers and 14 leaders who will participate in this year's event, making this one of the largest camps yet, and we hope that all involved will benefit from the coaching and support on offer from the ICC Europe coaching team".

The 14 leaders are coaches or development officers with one coming from each of the participating country boards. These coaches will accompany the players on the camp offering further support, whilst at the same time they will take part in a separate coach education programme tailored to their needs as coaches within their own countries. The sessions for these participants include a series of seminars and presentations and the opportunity to work alongside and learn from the ICC Europe coaching team.

This team consists of five coaches who will lead sessions on batting, bowling, fielding and wicket keeping, with focus also being placed on physical conditioning, tactics and leadership. In addition to Bedbrook, the coaches include Centre of Excellence Director Richard O'Sullivan,

who has been involved with the initiative since it began in 1999 and Philip Hudson ICC European Development Officer - Performance who organised the camp for the previous four years. Both have extensive coaching experience at club, county and national level.

Working alongside Bedbrook, Hudson and O'Sullivan are two Europe-based coaches - Roland Lefebvre, who is national youth coach for the Netherlands Cricket Board (KNCB) and who's extensive cricket career saw him play first class county cricket in the UK and Australia and compete for the Netherlands in two World Cups, and Mickey Lund, Denmark's Cricket Development Officer and a current member of the Danish national side which competed last month in the ICC World Cricket League Division 2 in Namibia.

The ICC European Centre of Excellence has for the past ten years been an integral part of the ICC European Development Program and the results are starting to show with several of the graduates now playing for their national sides, including Daan van Bunge and Alexei Kervezee of the Netherlands, young players who have both broken through to the senior team.

A full list of participants can be found on www.ecc-cricket.com.



◀ Scene from the 2007 Centre of Excellence at La Manga



◀ European Women's Academy in Scotland in 2006

Top women cricketers set to benefit from European Academy

A selection of top young female cricketers from Europe's Associate and Affiliate member countries will take part in the second ICC European Women's cricket academy in La Manga, Spain during 12-17 April next year.

17 of Europe's most talented female cricketers between the ages of 16-21 will be working with an elite ICC Europe coaching team. The main focus for the team will be on preparing the participants for involvement in their country's national and club women's programmes next summer.

Richard Cox Warwickshire CCC Academy Director takes the role as Academy Director and will lead the coaching team which also includes Philip Hudson ICC European Development Officer - Performance, Richard Bedbrook ICC Europe Development Officer, Laura Newton England Women's team player and Paul Shaw ECB Regional Training Manager. Paul attended the ICC European Women's Championship this summer as coach to the England Women's Development XI which successfully won all three matches played against Europe's top three Associate sides.

In addition three of the four countries represented at the Academy - Ireland, Netherlands and Scotland, will send a national coach to accompany their participants on the academy in both a leadership and coaching role. Each of these three High Performance Program countries has 4-6 girls attending the academy who are already representing or hope to represent their country in the future.

The 4th country in attendance, Guernsey, is represented by 18 year-old Hannah Mechem who this year competed for Somerset CCC U19s and plays regular men's league cricket in Guernsey.

This year, the ICC European Women's Academy is gaining additional support from the ECB. The current England women's team head coach Mark Dobson and his assistant Vince Wells are hoping to attend the academy to offer up their coaching expertise and experience of International women's cricket to the players and their coaches.

EUROPEAN UMPIRES IN INTERNATIONALS

Two European umpires have been appointed by the ICC to officiate in top Associate International matches next year. Denmark's Niels Bagh and Germany's Paul Baldwin will travel to Sharjah and Kenya respectively to umpire in Intercontinental Cup matches in January 2008.

Bagh will umpire alongside Darrell Hair in two 4-day ICC Intercontinental matches and a one day match between UAE and Kenya in Sharjah and Baldwin will umpire alongside Russell Tiffin in an Intercontinental Cup match when Kenya take on Namibia in Kenya.

Bagh has recently returned from Namibia where he was officiating at the ICC World Cricket League Division 2 tournament in Windhoek. He has previously umpired in six Intercontinental Cup matches since his debut back in 2005. Last year he was named as one of the umpires on the ICC Europe Elite Umpire Panel and this summer he umpired at the ICC European U19 Division 1 World Cup Qualifier in Belfast, Ireland.

Since his appointment to the ICC Associate and Affiliate International Panel, Baldwin has stood in the ICC U19 Cricket World Cup in Sri Lanka (2006) and in the final the 2006/2007 ICC Intercontinental Cup in May this year when Ireland were the crowned champions over Canada. He has also umpired in five ODIs.

He will also be officiating at the U19 World Cup in Kuala Lumpur in Feb 2008.



Niels Bagh (left) in ODI mood at the 2006 ICC European Division I Championship



Paul Baldwin (right) stepping out for the 2006 U19 Division I event

ICC European Umpires Consultant Graham Cooper commented on the appointments saying, "This is excellent news for Niels and Paul, and just rewards for all their hard work. It will provide a great opportunity for them to expand their experience and bodes well for the future of European Umpiring."

He added "We are now starting to see the results of the European Umpire Education Program and these two are shining examples."

The ICC European Umpire Education Program was launched in 2001 and gives its members a structured education programme that allows prospective and experienced umpires the opportunity to develop their skills in an International arena.

15-18 Jan - UAE v Kenya

Darrell Hair & Niels Bagh

20 Jan - One day match UAE v Kenya

Darrell Hair & Niels Bagh

23-26 Jan - UAE v Namibia

Darrell Hair & Niels Bagh

30 Jan-2 Feb - Kenya v Namibia

Paul Baldwin & Russell Tiffin

▲ Above top left: Niels Bagh
Above bottom left: Paul Baldwin
Above right: Paul Baldwin in action

FIRST LEVEL 4 COACH FOR SCOTLAND

Andy Tennant, Cricket Scotland's newly-designated Head of Cricket, has become the first cricket coach in Scotland to acquire a Level 4 coaching qualification, after a course which lasted over two years.

Tennant, now in charge of all aspects of Cricket Scotland's ambitious development programme, has passed the final assessment of the England and Wales Elite Coaching Programme, currently the highest coaching qualification in world cricket. He is now one of around 60 Level 4 coaches worldwide, having achieved an 'outstanding' pass mark.

"The course lasted 27 months," said Tennant. "It consisted of 12 modules varying from 3-5 days in length. There were five assignments and a final assessment. The portfolio of supporting evidence about my coaching practice that I submitted for my final assessment was 17,000 words long!" He added, "I am delighted to have completed what has been an extremely long but rewarding journey. The ECB elite coaching programme is undoubtedly at the cutting edge of coaching and I am excited about using the knowledge and skills I have gained on the course to help Scottish cricket and our elite young cricketers to become even more competitive on the world stage."

▲ Scotland's Andy Tennant



NEWS IN BRIEF

A BUDDING BRADMAN IN GERMANY?

One of the well-known stories associated with Donald (Don) Bradman as a boy on an outlying farm is that he helped set himself up for future greatness by throwing a golf ball against a corrugated water tank and hitting the ball, as it came off at different angles, with a bat made from a gum-tree branch; self-help, then was the Bradman watchword. Jenek Ziems in Germany will not yet have heard of Don Bradman, but at age 10, he already knows about self-help. And cricket.

It all started with a kwik cricket set sent to his school, the 'Padagogium' Gymnasium in Schwerin by the DCB. Jenek tried out cricket and was immediately bitten by the cricket bug – he couldn't wait for the cricket lesson to come around each week. He also took on the role of disciple, explaining cricket laws and tactics to his school friends and urging them to join in. Six weeks later the chance for a league game came along followed an invitation to play for his school in the U15 division a week later.

And this is where self-help and Dad came in handy. Jenek, determined to hone his skills by constructing his own equipment: a piece of board and a sawn-off broom handle produced a bat and with an old tennis ball, away they went into the road. They didn't stop practising until bad-light stopped play.

It is a good sign for European cricket on the Continent when children are so keen on cricket that they are prepared to take the initiative, produce make-shift equipment and practise the game on their own, outside of organised sessions.



▲ Jenek Ziems with his home made practice bat

FINLAND RUNS INTRODUCTORY UMPIRE COURSE

A freezing Helsinki with temperatures averaging -6° greeted Denis Burns delivering the ICC European Introductory Course in Helsinki in November. Ten candidates were in excellent form and eager to raise questions and debate the Laws in forensic detail. There was a wealth of experience to support new umpires, including a member of the national squad, the Chairman of Finnish cricket, and Finland's first female umpire.

Whilst only six attendees took the examination, a number of experienced umpires, including a member of the ICC European Elite Panel, used the event as a refresher course and shared their knowledge and experience with junior colleagues. This is always an enjoyable and enriching aspect of introductory courses. Local umpires are able to speak from an informed perspective, giving key advice concerning local regulations.

The course was a highly organised and successful event. Finland plans to organise another course in early 2008. If the enthusiasm and commitment of those attending the November course carries into the next training event then Finland will harvest a fine crop of umpires to support their leagues.



▲ Denis Burns delivered an ICC European Introductory Course in Helsinki

GERMAN INDOOR LEAGUE UNDERWAY

The Schwerin indoor league is well underway again, this year with three divisions. In the 'A' division teams from Schwerin, Hamburg and a mixed Kiel/Hamburg/Schwerin team share the honours to date, each team having won one game and lost one. The 'B' division is made up of the Schwerin women's team, the Schwerin boys U15 team, a mixed youth team from Güstrow and the Buchholz youth team. 'C' division is made up of youth teams from the Padagogium School in Schwerin.

The organisers are particularly pleased to welcome the Güstrow team to the league for the first time. Cricket was unknown in Güstrow until this year, and as is so often the case with school cricket in Germany, things got underway with a kwik cricket set supplied by the DCB via the ICC European Development Program. Though the team has so far lost both its 'B' Division league games, the players showed great promise and enjoyed themselves enormously. An aspiration for the most talented of the Güstrow players is now to obtain a place in the planned Mecklenburg/Vorpommern state team.

Cricket development in Schwerin and the surrounding area is a shining example of how far cricket can progress from small beginnings, driven by volunteers with enthusiasm and dedication.



▲ Güstrow team in the Schwerin league

EUROPEAN 2008 CALENDAR

Dates	Event	Venue
18-Jan-08 - 20-Jan-08	National Coaches Conference	England
04-Feb-08	European Cricket Committee	Lord's
08-Feb-08 - 10-Feb-08	ICC European Indoor Championship	Finland
17-Feb-08 - 03Mar - 08	ICC U19 Cricket World Cup	Malaysia
18-Feb-08 - 24-Feb-08	ICC Women's World Cup Qualifier	South Africa
24-Feb-08 - 05-Mar-08	European Academy	India
13-Mar-08 - 15-Mar-08	European Governance & Administration Forum	Lord's
04 Apr-08 - 06 Apr-08	Referees & Umpires Training Seminar	Lord's
07-Apr-08 - 12-Apr-08	European Centre of Excellence	La Manga, Spain
09-Apr-08	ECC Board Meeting	Lord's
10-Apr-08	European Commercial Committee	Lord's
12-Apr-08 - 17-Apr-08	European Women's Academy	La Manga, Spain
09-May-08	ECC Board Meeting	Lord's
17-May-08	European Presidents' Day	Lord's
23-May-08 - 31-May-08	ICC WCL Division 5	Jersey
30-Jun-08	ECC AGM	Lord's
06-Jul-08 - 10-Jul-08	MCC Tour to Denmark	Denmark
14-Jul-08 - 17-Jul-08	ICC European U17 Division 1 Championship	Ireland
25-Jul-08 - 31-Jul-08	ICC European Division 1 Championship	Ireland
02-Aug-08 - 04-Aug-08	ICC World T20 Qualifier	Ireland
04-Aug-08 - 07-Aug-08	ICC European U15 Division 1 Championship	Jersey
05-Aug-08 - 07-Aug-08	ICC European U19 Division 1 Championship	Scotland
09-Aug-08 - 15-Aug-08	ICC European U17 Division 2 Championship	Germany
18-Aug-08 - 23-Aug-08	ICC European Division 2 Championship	Guernsey
26-Aug-08 - 28-Aug-08	ICC European 'A' Team Division 1 Championship	The Netherlands
25-Sep-08 - 26-Sep-08	European Cricket Committee	Lord's
04-Oct-08 - 11-Oct-08	ICC WCL Division 4	Tanzania
24-Oct-08	European Commercial Committee	Lord's
21-Nov-08	ECC Board Meeting	Lord's

See www.ecc-cricket.com for a full list of all European 2008 International fixtures

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