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NEW PUBLICATION HITS RECORD HEIGHTS

Welcome to the 2nd issue of **Signals**—and I hope you find it of continued interest. **Issue 1** was a sell out with original copies commanding high prices on the second-hand market. In fact, copies for auction on E-bay were going for thousands of pounds - then I woke up!!

Nevertheless, comments received from you seem to indicate that this is a good idea and so we offer you **Issue 2**—enjoy.



Paul Baldwin & Tony Hill (NZ) at the InterContinental Cup Semis in Namibia

Picture courtesy of: Paul Baldwin

ECC Umpires selected for U19 World Cup Finals in Sri Lanka February 2006

An early Christmas present was sent to Trevor Henry and Paul Baldwin in the form of a ticket to the **ICC U19 World Cup Finals** - not just a ticket to go but a chance to officiate in at least 6 matches each. This follows their appointment in early 2005 to the ICC Associate and Affiliate Panel.

Both have officiated in ICC Intercontinental Cup matches during the summer and Paul was also selected to stand in the semi-finals of this event which meant travelling all the way to Namibia. A full report of his adventures can be found on our website.

We wish them both every success in Sri Lanka with the whole credibility of European umpiring resting on their shoulders - so, no pressure then!



Trevor Henry Paul Baldwin
Picture by Barry Chambers & Graham Cooper

Fact file #1

Did you know that since 2002 the number of active umpires in Europe has increased by **76%**. The 2002 the ICC Survey figures indicated that there were 508 umpires whereas the 2005 figures show a figure of **897**.

This %age increase is the biggest growth area in the whole of the European Development Programme.

ECC field jacket/blouson

Following on from the introduction of the ECC field shirt in 2004 we have designed a blouson that can be worn on colder days. The design complements that of the shirt and is a welcome addition to our range of field wear - those in Dundee in 2005 will vouch for that!!

The picture below shows the basic design we have chosen and ours will feature the ICC Development Program logo and the ECC logo.



It is hoped that these will be available for purchase at the ECC Umpires Seminar in April. For those not attending this Seminar arrangements have yet to be finalised as to how umpires may obtain one. The cost will be in the region of €35-45.



I've heard of putting sawdust out but really...

Fact file #2

320 umpires have attended an ECC training course since 2001.

Fact file #3

67 umpires have received ECC Boundary Assessments since 2001.

ECC Championships - new names to conjure with

Following the ICC restructuring of world cricket leagues we have re-named some of our Championships to reflect these changes and to give the uninitiated a fighting chance of understanding the new structure. We therefore now run the following events at senior level:

European Championship Divisions: 1, 2, 3 (was Affiliates), 4, 5 (both spawned from the Representative Championship). The other events retain the names that we have all come to know and love — with each one clearly indicating what level/age they are for. Also, Tournament Directors are now known as Tournament Referees.

Heard the one about the umpire who was standing at square leg and a funeral passed by. He took off his hat and bowed his head. The square leg fielder commented: 'That's very thoughtful of you.' 'Well', came the reply 'She was a good and faithful wife'.

ECC Championships 2006

You will know by now that the final date for nominations to our Championships has passed and we are very pleased to announce that we had **110** nominations from **84** umpires. This is by far the highest number we have ever received and truly reflects your interest in the ECC and for extending your umpiring experience. This does, however, have a downside - we do not have 110 spaces available. This inevitably means that many of you will not receive a favourable response to your hoped for selection. Whilst you will be disappointed please do not take it too personally. The ECC Umpire Selection Panel thought long and hard about the selections and had to be guided by several criteria. Amongst these were: the level of play expected at the event: the level of experience needed by the umpires to cater for this level of play: the need to give newer umpires the chance to get international experience: the need to get the balance, between having less experienced umpires working with more experienced ones; and keeping within the Championship budgets (yes, I'm afraid money does tend to rule these things).

The selections will be issued very soon and I hope that you will take any disappointment on the chin and come back next year to try again. Experience in all levels of cricket is vital and there is nothing so important as actually doing the job - so go out there and umpire as much as you can - wherever you can - and with whatever players are willing to have you.

ECC Championship Umpires' Seminar

We are extremely pleased to announce that this event is now confirmed and will take place in **Antwerp** on **April 7th - 9th 2006**. Places are by **invitation only** and the invitations will be sent out to all umpires who have been selected for our 2006 summer Championships - this includes all 1st Division events at all levels.

Those already committed to present are: Richard Holdsworth, John Holder, Ken Amos, Dennis Stones, Ray Holyer, Paul Baldwin and yours truly (sorry about the last one, but I have to do something towards the event). Amongst topics to be covered are: ECC Regulations for 2006 (there are a few changes): Field craft inc. people management: Spirit of Cricket: Dress code and body language. Again, we apologise if you are not able to be included - but there are only 50 places.

Courses for 2006

An ECC/ACU&S GL6 Course has already been run in **Holland** where Ray Holyer held court and put 16 candidates through their paces. All 16 took the exam with the vast majority passing.

Further Courses arranged/proposed for 2006 include:

France	- ECC/ACU&S GL6 - Dennis Stones
Norway	- ECC Introductory - Ray Holyer
Hellas	- ECC Course - Ken Amos
Denmark	- ECC Introductory & ECC/ACU&S GL6 - Denis Burns
Guernsey	- Umpires' Seminar - Graham Cooper

ECC European Indoor Championship 2006

With 8 teams fully signed up and raring to go, arrangements for the 2006 Indoor Championships at Lord's are well underway. The 9 umpires who are going to ensure fair play are:

Ray Holyer - Umpire Manager
John Holder - ECC
Ken Amos - ECC
Richard Smith - Germany



Portugal in action in the 2005 Championship

Hazel Smarius (and baby) - Holland
Simon van de Vlekkert - Holland
Franco Esposito - Italy
Jari Schabel - Finland
Tim Krarup Jensen - Denmark

These were selected from **26** nominations and the result is a blend of experience and the not so experienced. Not only will the umpires be umpiring at the 'home of cricket' (albeit indoors) but they will be able to sample the true atmosphere of this famous venue when they go on a specially arranged tour of the ground. We wish them every enjoyment and success.

Oh - why the 'and baby' after Hazel's name? Well, just after receiving her selection Hazel contacted us to tell us that she had just found out that she is pregnant and would we still accept her as an umpire. No problem, we said, and so Hazel becomes the first ever European umpire to officiate whilst expecting a baby!!



No TV umpire needed here much to Sanjeev's relief

Picture: Cricket Europe



Anthony Boxall, Torsten Orhoj & Stephen Harrison at the 2005 Indoors

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