



# Signals



The official umpiring newsletter of the European Cricket Council  
in association with the ICC Development Program  
www.ecc-cricket.com



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## Christmas special

**The ECC wishes all its umpires & scorers every happiness for the festive season**

Following the ECC Cricket Committee meeting and ECC Board meeting several new initiatives have been put in place to prepare us for the 2007 season.

Details of these can be found throughout this edition and although these decisions cannot be changed, if you have any questions please feel free to ask.

### The decision making process

All the decisions that have been made come from comments & suggestions put forward by players, coaches, managers, umpires, Tournament Referees and Tournament Organisers following this season's events. Everyone involved in our events has the right to air their opinions and these are taken up by the Cricket Committee. This two day meeting looked very carefully at all the suggestions and the final decisions were ratified by the Board.

### Courses for 2006-7

Courses already undertaken this winter:

**Switzerland** - ECC Introductory Course / exam. ECC—Tutor Ken Amos

**9** attendees—all of whom took the exam with **7** passes

**Denmark** - ECC GL6 Course / Exam. ECC Tutor—Denis Burns

**8** attendees—4 took the exam with **3** passes



If (snow)ball hits this, would it be a boundary?



A contender for 'Umpire hat of the year' Award



**ECC Office staff wish you all a very happy Christmas and every success in 2007**



### ▲ A face from the archives!!

Remember this face—yes, it's Diana Venter \*ex-Finland). As you may know Diana emigrated to New Zealand in 2004 has continued her umpiring in her new surroundings. Moreover, she has been appointed Secretary to the Auckland Cricket Umpires Association AND manager of the Auckland Women's Provincial side (called the Auckland Hearts). A busy life—and we wish Diana every happiness in her new roles.

### Courses for 2006-7

Courses booked for this coming winter:

**Switzerland** - ECC/ACU&S GL6 & Overseas Course / exam - March

**Israel**—ECC Intro Course and Exam - March/April

**Sweden**—ECC Introductory Course / exam

**France**—to be confirmed

If you would like to see your country on this list please contact your local umpire representative and ask for details.

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# European Umpire Panels New Panels to mirror ICC set up



### ICC European Umpires Panels

This is basically an extension of the ICC policy of introducing Panels that sit below the full ICC Elite Panel and ICC Associate & Affiliate International Panels. We will have in place, for 2007, two Panels—the ICC European Umpire Panel and the ICC European Elite Umpire Panel with the view to using these Panels to prepare our umpires for possible elevation to the Full ICC Panels.

### The ICC European Umpire Panel

This is the entry level Panel for European Umpires and is open to those umpires who fulfil the necessary criteria and who are nominated by their Country Board.

The criteria for inclusion onto the ICC European Umpire Panel are:

- attendance & exam success at ECC Introductory Umpire Course level (or an agreed equivalent)
- minimum field experience of at least **10** matches in **each** of the previous **3** seasons
- upper age limit of 65

To explain the rationale of these:

- it is essential that some indication of basic umpiring knowledge is present:
- it is vital that on-field experience has been gained over a period of time:
- an umpire who has not umpired regularly at home is not 'in form' and is not ready to stand in quality events:
- although it is recognised that the older umpire has experience and would do a very good job it has to be borne in mind that we are part of the ICC Development Program and as such should be developing the younger umpires:
- it was decided to follow the ICC policy of 65 being the 'retirement' age for ECC Championships:
- we hope that those older umpires will still continue to support the ECC by helping the younger ones in their own domestic cricket.

### The ICC European Elite Umpire Panel

This is the highest level that the ECC can offer and umpires on this Panel will have been promoted from the ICC European Panel. The ICC European Umpire & Referee Selection Committee (EURSC)\* will be responsible for promoting umpires to this level.

The criteria for inclusion onto the ICC European Elite Umpire Panel is:

- attendance & exam success at ECC/ACU&S Overseas Course (or an agreed equivalent) **OR**
- Full Umpire membership of the ACU&S (or an agreed equivalent)
- minimum field experience of **15** matches in each of the previous **5** years
- 2 years ECC/ICC Championship experience within the previous 6 years
- satisfactory ECC Boundary Assessments from an ECC Assessor, and/or report from Tournament Referee or Umpire Manager

Whilst not everyone will be happy with these Panels we feel that it is the best way to improve the quality of umpiring at our Championships and to prepare our umpires for ICC events and develop our umpires to achieve their full potential.

As from now **ALL** ECC Championships will be staffed by umpires **only** from these two Panels. This includes Championships such as the U13, 15, 17 1st Divisions where previously the host country has appointed the officials. These two Panels will be reviewed at the end of every season and that will provide the opportunity for countries to add/delete umpires from it.

\* The **EURSC** is: Richard Holdsworth (ICC Reg.Dev.Mgr) , Phil Hudson (ICC Reg.Dev.Officer), Graham Cooper (ICC Reg. Umpire Mgr) and David Jukes (ICC Reg.Referee Mgr.)



Unique gathering of all ICC Regional Development Managers—Europe, at the ECC 10th Anniversary Dinner held at Lord's in October 2006.  
Bottom left—Nigel Laughton:  
Middle—Richard Holdsworth: Right—Ian Stuart.

### ECC and the ECB OA

Many of you will have read about the new ECB Officials Association (ECB OA) and will be wondering how they fit in with the ECC.

### At present we are continuing with the ECC Introductory qualification followed by the ECC/ACU&S GL6.

We are, however, mindful that the ECB OA, once up and fully operational, will provide excellent education and qualifications for European Umpires. Many of you will not be aware of just how much support the ECB gives to the overall Development Program in terms of coaching and playing support. Without their support we would not be in such a healthy position. Now that they have opened the doors for umpire education (under the expert guidance of former ICC Umpire Manager, Chris Kelly) we feel that it makes sense to use their considerable resources.

We have a seat on their ECB OA steering committee and are able to have significant input into their policies for umpires.

At present our own Graham Cooper is preparing PowerPoint presentations of all 42 Laws for the ECB OA to issue in January 2007. This resource will prove invaluable in educating new umpires and is only the start of better things to come. Their resources, contacts and the influential name of the ECB will all contribute to increasing umpire education possibilities.

So, for the remainder of this winter we will be continuing with ACU&S qualifications—and these will be recognised by ECB—and once the ECB OA has set up its exam and qualification structure, we will be transferring over to them. Please be assured, that as far as the ICC European Panels are concerned we will accept qualifications from either source (ACU&S or ECB OA) and there will not be a need for anyone to re-sit an exam of the same level. Obviously, anyone wishing to sit an exam of the next level will be able to do so, provided they have a qualification (either ACU&S or ECB OA) at the preceding level.

If you wish to know more about the ECB OA may we suggest that you visit their website:

[www.ecb.co.uk](http://www.ecb.co.uk) and scroll to the bottom of page and click on:  
**ECB Officials Association**



Newest member of the ECC Office—Suse—modelling the new ECC Umpire hat!!