



April 2005



AMERICAS REGION HOLDS SUCCESSFUL DEVELOPMENT FORUM

The third annual Development Forum of the Americas Region was held from April 29 to May 1 at the beautiful Hotel Bougainvillea, Santo Domingo de Heredia, Costa Rica.

Main highlights of the three-day conference were:

- Review of operations for the 2004/05 year ended March 31, 2005.
- Reports from the RDM Martin Vieira, GDM Matthew Kennedy, and representatives of the WICB, Michael Seepersaud and Ann Browne-John.
- Budgets, tournaments and other operational matters for 2005/06 were approved.
- A regional tournament structure for all Affiliate and Associate senior national teams was established. New groupings were established for the U15 age group.
- A regional umpiring structure consisting of three levels was agreed on by all members present.
- The region decided not to establish a separate body or advisory board at this time.
- During a workshop session on Sunday, countries put forward ideas for developing a strategic plan for the next three years.
- For the first time, all 15 member countries were represented.
- The group tentatively agreed to hold next year's forum in Cuba.





ARGENTINA

The 2004/05 Argentine season came to a close in April.

The First Division Championship was won by the St.Albans Sharks, two points ahead of the Belgrano Cavaliers. Lomas Eagles finished third.

It was left to Grant Dugmore and Hernan Pereyra to guide the St.Albans Sharks to a 3 wicket victory, thus claiming the 1st Division title for the first time since 99/00 season.

The Second Division North vs South was won by the South for the second consecutive year. South batting first made 147 all out with Facunda Duggan top scoring with 41 runs. Andres Madariya took 3 wickets and was the best of the North bowlers.

Andres Madariya rounded off an excellent day making 37 runs, but it was just not enough with the North getting bowled out for 128. Tomas Birnie was adjudged Man of the Match taking 4-14 in 5 overs.

First Division Averages

Grant Dugmore topped with batting averages (7 matches – 307 runs for an average of 76.25). Donny Forrester scored the most runs in the season with 532 at an average of 53 per innings. Pedro Bruno topped the bowlers taking 9/109 with an average of 12.11 Diego Lord (25 wickets – average 15.48) and Gary Savage (24 wickets – average 13.70) were the top wicket takers.

Second Division Averages

Chris Nino topped all batsmen with an average of 115 runs. Hernan Williams was top run scorer with 294 runs at an average of 42. Martin Whitelegg had the best average – 8.2 Tommy Birnie (16 wickets) shared the prize for most wickets taken with Agustin Casime (average 10).

Other News

Gary Savage (CEO) and Ricardo Lord (President) will attend the annual Americas Development Forum to be held in Costa Rica from April 28th to May 2nd.

The Argentina U13 squad is preparing for the visit of the Chilean U13 team in May. Chile will play three games during their short stay with an International match scheduled at the Hurlingham Club. The two countries will be playing for the Copa Transandena, which was won by the Argentina U13 team on their visit to Chile in 2004. They will also be playing two matches against the South and North schools.

There is also a planned visit from a South African Schools U14 team in June 2005.

The winter programs are running smoothly in most of the clubs with a junior winter indoor league planned for June.

The U19 squad is currently training for the Americas Championship, which is due to be held in August in Toronto, Canada. The final squad of 14 will be announced in the middle of May. Billy MacDermott (coach) and Christian Tunon (manager) will be leading the squad on their tour to Canada.

Baimax International Cup (Premiere League) March 4 – 11, 2006

There are few cricketing challenges that match the enjoyment and excitement of international competition at any level. The Baimax International Cup is thus the opportunity for your club or team to take part in a truly international event, against opposition from countries around the world – played in the amazing city of Buenos Aires, capital of the beautiful country of Argentina.

An international cricket tournament in South America – a once in a lifetime opportunity for all cricketers to fulfill a cricketing dream.

Places are limited, so book your place in the summer sun of Argentina and enjoy a cricketing experience second to none. For details, contact Christian Tunon – carcamanescricket@yahoo.com

Pampero Cricket Festival (Under 16) December 3 – 10, 2005

The Pampero Cricket Festival, a youth tournament held annually for junior cricket teams (Under 16) from around the world, is a dream opportunity for all young cricketers.

The tournament provides not only a wonderful opportunity to play in an international event against other young cricketers from different countries, but also the chance to sample the interesting cultural diversity that is the city of Buenos Aires and the country of Argentina. Experience the splendor of some of Argentina's finest schools and clubs, enjoy excellent international youth competition, and forge friendships and make memories that will last a lifetime.

Don't miss the international Pampero Cricket Festival in Buenos Aires, Argentina.



For details, contact Christian Tunon – carcamanescricket@yahoo.com

BERMUDA

Bermuda Cricket Board recently held their annual general meeting at the Warwick Workmen's Club. Marc Wetherhill took over the secretary's job from Charlotte Simons (Molly) who held the position since 1998. The 32-year old saluted his predecessor, Simons, for her sterling and tireless work, saying "I'd like to say Molly – Charlotte Simons – who I'm taking over from did an outstanding job and it's very big shoes to fill. Her devotion to the sport has been exemplary and she is well connected in the game. It will be difficult to succeed her but I will try my very best". Wetherhill was among a number of persons elected to new positions at the BCB.

Chief Executive Neil Speight explained the 2004 session was delayed because of various factors, including the Board's focus on bidding, albeit successfully, to host first-round matches in the 2007 Cricket World Cup as well as hosting of the Americas Championship last summer.

Gus Logie to announce national squad

New national coach Gus Logie declared May 14 as the date on which the 27-member national squad will be chopped to a final 14 for the all-important Cricket World Cup qualifier in Ireland in July. "In the next few weeks we will have some practice games and also skills-training sessions and, of course, elimination will be the order of the day", he said. "We're going to try and whittle the squad down to a possible 14 by May 14, which will give us time to work specifically with them in preparation for the ICC Trophy". Outlining some of the areas that will be looked at closely, he added that selectors will be relying on physiotherapist Daniel Morgan's assessment heavily to determine which players "will last" the duration of the rigorous tournament from which teams will qualify for the World Cup.

The 44-year old coach, who arrived in the island with the national squad on their return from the ten-day camp in Trinidad, noted that being here is "an opportunity for me to see all the players who are available for selection" as quite a number of potential selectees were unable to make the trip. Despite meager returns in their four matches – winning just one and performing below expectations – Logie said the Bermudians responded well to the camp and any adjustment they were asked to make.

In the upcoming practice games, the coach hopes to see "a different approach" by players, showing greater dedication to realizing team goals – whether batting, bowling or fielding. One player who has already earned Logie's praise is spin – bowling all-rounder Dwayne (Sluggo) Leverock. "I must admit I have to keep calling his name. This guy has truly been a revelation. He follows every instruction. He has been running, training, doing everything. He is really an inspiration to all the guys. I hope he continues and that some of the others take a leaf from his book".



Gus Logie ,Coach, Bermuda ICC Trophy 2005

BRAZIL

The 2005 domestic season schedule is now set, with five months of games beginning in June and ending with a four-day round robin tournament in Curitiba in November. In the meantime, here's a look at what's happening with our three local clubs.

Brasilia

In what maybe a first for any Latin American country, the University of Brasilia Physical Education Department is now offering an undergraduate course in cricket. The course is designed to show PE teachers in-training how to play kwik cricket and how to teach it to children. The aim is not only to introduce the game to more Brazilians, but also for these teachers to implement the sport at their own schools. Thirty-eight students are already enrolled for this optional credit course, which we trust will generate a basis for a state championship of kwik cricket, identifying talent for junior and senior grades of cricket. Brasilia are also looking to appoint a full time development officer, who should be in place by the end of July, with sponsorship helping to cover the costs. As well, the University's Olympic Centre has halfway finished a brand new ground and has allocated enough savannah land for two more grounds.

Curitiba

Thanks to ICC funding and sponsorship from Land Rover, Curitiba has hired a development officer on a six-month trial period. Londoner Paul Tobitt is now busy teaching cricket to students at four schools, and plans to stage an inter-school tournament later this year. After only a few weeks of exposure to cricket, teachers and kids alike are already totally enthusiastic about the teaching program. Paul will also be working closely with the all-Brazilian HSBC League in an effort to bring more Brazilians up to a senior level. Finally, Brazil Senior Development Officer Matt Featherstone was recently in town to conduct a coaching clinic at which seven players received their Brazilian Cricket Association certification.

Sao Paulo

Three teams – India A, India B and Rest of the World – will be competing for the Raj Cup this year. Matches will be held at the Club AB in Cotia, and at the Sao Paulo Athletic Club, which is Brazil's oldest and largest ground. In recent elections, Premanand Modapothala became the new President of the Sao Paulo Cricket Club. Finally, thanks to efforts made by former SPCC members, a team is being formed in Rio de Janeiro, with a match between the two sides scheduled to take place in Sao Paulo late August.

CANADA

Canadian Squad to ICC Trophy 2005

The Canadian squad will be under the watchful eye of the selectors from May 21 to 23 when they participate in the Victoria Day Festival hosted by the Ontario Cricket Association. The event will be the first full test outdoors for the squad as all of its preparation to date has been indoors.

Toronto Cricket Academy's 2nd Tour to England

Arrangements are now complete for the 2nd cricket tour to 'England for the Toronto Cricket Academy. The group of 15 players and six adults, including officials, will arrive in Manchester on August 1, 2005. Brian Hale, President of the TCA, will lead the group. Brian is a former Guyana U23 and Canadian national player. Many youngsters have attended his Academy and some have gone on to represent Canada (Ashish Bagai, the current Canadian wicket keeper who played in the last World Cup in South Africa, and Zubin Surkari who scored 140 against the UAE in the recent Intercontinental Cup).

The TCA were in England for their 1st tour in the "home" of cricket two years ago when they played all but one of their games in Devon with one in Somerset against Taunton CC. They went home with a creditable record – played 8, won 7 – the only loss coming against Ottery St. Mary CC, having beaten the very strong Sidmouth CC and Taunton CC Youth teams.

Amongst their ranks this time will be the outstanding 10-year old Nitish Kumar. Nitish is a highly talented youngster who has been playing in well above his age group for several years. Also with the team will be Aarsalan Quadir who represented Canada at the U15 level in the Cayman Islands last year.

U23 Western Canada Cup

The Alberta Cricket Association is hosting the U23 Western Canada Cup in Edmonton on the May long week-end (May 20-23). Team Alberta, B.C. Manitoba and Saskatchewan are taking part in the tournament.

T&DCA – Relief Appeal Cricket Festival

The Toronto & District Cricket Association (T&DCA) in Canada, the largest and longest operating league in North America, has entered its 84th successful year and is currently coordinating a "Relief Appeal Cricket Festival", which will be played on **Saturday, July 2, 2005** on the beautiful grounds at the

Maple Leaf Cricket club located in King Township, Ontario. The goal is to raise in excess of \$20,000 and all proceeds will go directly to World Vision International to aid the various countries affected by tsunamis, floods and hurricanes, some of whose citizens make up the T&DCA current membership of more than 1,700 registered players.

The T&DCA invites you and all cricket enthusiast friends of cricket and players to be a part of this one-time affair to assist those most in need.

Golf Tournament

The Canadian Cricket Association is holding a fund raising golf tournament on Monday, August 29. The event will take place at Cherrydowns Golf Course in Pickering, Ontario and will feature as its celebrity guest, **Kapil Dev**, former Indian test Captain. Kapil is a one-handicapper golfer. Participants willing to play in this event can visit our website for details –

www.canadiancricket.org

Special Achievement Award

Petra Pompey was the recipient of the “Syl Apps Special Achievement Award” recently at the 2005 Ontario Sport Awards. The Government of Ontario hands out this prestigious award annually to an individual in recognition of outstanding volunteer contribution in their field of amateur sport.

Petra began her volunteer involvement in cricket over 25 years ago, first as a player, then scorer and administrator. She has scored for many international games including the Sahara Cup 2001, ICC Trophy, the Intercontinental Cup, and the Red Stripe Bowl in Jamaica. She is currently Secretary of both the T&DCA and the Ontario Cricket Association.



CHILE

Providencia secure 2nd Division Title

Unbeaten Providencia became the winners of the inaugural Second Division competition last month. Vina del Mar finished a close second

ahead of their regional rivals Renaca and Chile U13s, defeating both teams comfortably in the closing stages of the tournament.

The Second Division was heralded as a big success by the ACC who see the tournament as an ideal initiative to bridge the gap between established expatriate sides and youth or development teams – an incredible 90% of players involved in the Second Division were Chilean nationals.

ACC announce partnership with Universidad Mayor

The ACC launched an exciting program with Universidad Mayor in March which will see over one hundred of its Physical Education students attend introductory coaching courses over the next six months. Rodrigo Grimalt, Director of Physical Education at the university, welcomed the ACC's proposal and has scheduled the first course to be run across the weekend of May 7th and 8th. Over twenty students have already signed up for the first course, which will be run by the NDO at the university's Estadio Mayor facilities.

The Grange hosts Lincoln International Academy

The honors were shared as The Grange School hosted four teams from Lincoln International on April 15th for a series of friendly fixtures. The teams, comprising pupils from 3rd to 6th grades, played one game of continuous cricket each at the stunning Grange School sports fields.

The school cricket season (first term) comes to an end this month and will restart in September, with six festivals scheduled to take place throughout the spring months.

Introductory Classes

Introductory sessions were held for some 380 pupils in two new Affiliate Member schools last month. Pupils from Colegio Pedro de Valdivia (Providencia) and Colegio Umbral de Curauma were invited to attend the introductory classes held by the NDO as both schools look to introduce cricket to their extra-curricular activities later in the year.

Introductory classes were also held at St. Peter's, an ACC Member School, for 100 students from 3rd to 6th grades. The sessions run by Gaston Arizaga, covered the basics of cricket and included a short game of continuous or pinguino cricket.

MEXICO

Easter is traditionally the busiest time of year for the MCA and this year was no exception. Just before Easter it was time for the annual visit of the Houston Memorial CC to Mexico.

Unfortunately the visitors team had been weakened by some last-minute desertions, but was bolstered by the inclusion of some of the MCA's veteran 'occasional' players, most of whom have been part of this fixture for large portions of the previous 26 years.

The Saturday fixture against the MCA 2nd XI was a closely fought affair that swung back and forth all afternoon. MCA batted first and after a shaky start, went on to reach 176 in the allotted 30 overs, thanks to solid middle-order batting. Houston's reply was always up with the run rate but at the cost of regular wickets, so that they reached their final over needing 9 runs, but with one wicket in hand. Four of these runs they got, but then lost their last wicket to hand victory to the MCA 2nd XI.

Sunday's game was more one-sided, as MCA 1st XI bowled out the Houston side for only 88 and then chased down this modest total in only 14 overs, to give MCA a two-day clean sweep for the first time anyone present could remember, and retaining the trophy won last year. We shall be taking a full team up to Houston in September when we expect a much tougher time hanging on to the silverware.

Sunday April 24th saw another regular fixture played – the annual ANZACs vs Rest-of-the-World game, always played to coincide with the international commemorations of ANZAC day. The Mexican antipodean contingent (with a little help from some friends from Pakistan) took on a cosmopolitan RoW team with players from the UK, India, Spain and Mexico all present. The RoW team batted first and knocked up a decent 154 in 30 overs, then followed that up with an excellent performance in the field. Not a single catch was dropped as the RoW dismissed the ANZACs for 96 to hang on to the trophy they won for the first time last year. As always, the game was accompanied by a lamb barbecue with all the trimmings, much appreciated by players and the many spectators along for the afternoon. The game was marked by 5 new members joining up on the day, a boost for the MCA in their drive to get more players involved here in Mexico.

The MCA Championship is reaching its conclusion, with three more fixtures to play in May to decide the eventual winners. Currently tied at the top are Tigres de Bengala and Reforma, who are scheduled to play each other in what should be a nail-biting final game of the

season – as long as the fast-approaching rainy season holds off until then.

TURKS & CAICOS

The Grand Turk Cricket Association 2005 series continues with the **Salina Brawlers** leading the competition.

Police finally earned some points when they defeated **Cable & Wireless** by eight wickets at the Parade in Grand Turk. After losing their first three games, the defending champions took advantage of a weakened Cable & Wireless unit to finally get a taste of victory. They reached 167 for two in 17.3 overs after restricting Cable & Wireless to 163 for five from the allotted 20 overs.

Once again it was Cable & Wireless captain Donovan Matthews who led the scoring after his side won the toss and chose to bat. The diminutive right-hander hit three sixes and six fours in 63 before he was run out in the final over. Howard Dickenson supported with an unbeaten 35, which included a six and four fours. Pacer T. St. Paul was Police's most successful bowler, claiming two wickets for 23 runs from four overs. Rohan Ash also claimed one for 16 from four.

Without their premier bowler Jeremy Jones, defending 163 was always going to be an uphill task for Cable & Wireless, however, they stuck to the task and Police were only able to reach their target in the 18th over. Brian Statia had given the Police a flying start, hitting a six and four fours in 29, but the run rate slowed down once he was dismissed by Kenneth Abrams.

Pascal Bacchus and Ash, although not scoring quickly, were able to edge their team towards the target before Bacchus was bowled by Matthews for 48, which included seven fours. Ash, who hit two sixes and three fours, was left unbeaten on 48 when A. Audain hit the winning run – a six over the pavilion off the bowling of Colin Gobin. Audain remained on 19 not out.

Police are now on eight points from four games, while Cable & Wireless remain on 16 from four. Salina Brawlers head the points standings with 24 from four games.

We thank the following for submitting articles and photos: Gary Savage (Argentina) Norman Baldwin (Brazil), Irvin Morris (England-TCA tour) Calvin Clarke, Petra Pompey, Raj Sidhu (Canada), Chris Wood (Mexico) Ralph Doughty (Turks & Caicos)