



ICC AMERICAS



NewsFlash

April , 2006

Americas Region – Development Forum

The 4th Annual Americas Development Forum is scheduled for May 13-14 in Havana, Cuba. In addition to the Associates and Affiliates of the Americas sending delegates, the ICC Global Development Manager, Mr. Matthew Kennedy will also be in attendance.

Leona Ford and her committee, together with officials of INDER and other government officials, are busy finalizing the remaining details of what is expected to be a very productive conference.

World Cricket League Americas Division 2 Championship



Buenos Aires was host venue for Division 2 of the Americas Championship in April. Five countries - host Argentina (an Associate) and four Affiliates – Bahamas, Belize, Panama, and Suriname (the winner of Division 3) competed for the right to move on to the Division 1 Championship which will be played in Toronto in August. All of this is part of gaining the one remaining spot in Division 3 of the World Cricket League, scheduled to start in 2007.

The tournament for the most part was played under brilliant blue skies and comfortable temperatures. It was a study of contrasting styles with some countries still learning to adapt to a longer game of 50 overs, others applying a cavalier approach to their batting regardless of the circumstances of the game; and then there was the host, Argentina, displaying their vast international experience, their careful methodical approach in each and every innings. It was the reason why they made winning the tournament look so easy.

The Bahamas, who entered the final game against Argentina, was runner up and never offered a real challenge to more experienced hosts.

Panama by virtue of a four run victory over Suriname was third. It should be noted here that Suriname had tried on four occasions to fly to Buenos Aires; each time mechanical problems on the aircraft (the same plane) forced them back on land. The schedule was rearranged to the very last opportunity of including the 3rd Division Champions. The team finally arrived at the hotel at 0500 on Wednesday and were on a bus at 0800 to play four consecutive games of cricket.

Belize, who just two years ago seemed a potential challenger to the Bahamas as the best Affiliate, had a disappointing tournament, losing all their games and earning a demotion to Division 3 next time around.

Division 1 will be played in Toronto from August 21-26. Bermuda and Canada have already qualified for Division 1 of the WCL. USA will be joined by either Cayman Islands or Argentina in Division 3.



ARGENTINA

The 2005/06 cricket season in Argentina finished on a high with the National side winning the ICC Americas WCL Division 2 tournament which they hosted in Buenos Aires from April 2nd to 9th.

The Argentina side gained promotion into the Division 1 tournament which will be held in Toronto, Canada from August 20th to 27th. Argentina gained promotion with four comprehensive victories.

Domestic Cricket

The domestic season came to a close with the Belgrano Cavaliers concluding an excellent season with a third title. They managed to win the First Division Championship by gaining 2 points from their final rain affected match against the St. Albans Sharks to steer them 2 points clear of second-placed Lomas Eagles. The Hurlingham Hawks finished third with the St. Albans Sharks claiming the wooden spoon. Belgrano Cavaliers also managed to win the Robin Stuart Shield and the inaugural First Division 20/20 league which was imposed this past season.

The St. Albans second X1 concluded a good season, remaining undefeated to claim their second title of the season. They won the first ever Saturday Championship 20/20 league played in November/December 2005. St. Albans have now won the Second Division title for two years running with some promising young talent.

New Zealand Junior Team visits Argentina

The Auckland Volcanoes U14 team visited Argentina to conclude the junior section of the 2005/06 season. They played four matches with their fifth game suspended due to heavy rain. They remained unbeaten on their tour with good victories against the North U15s, South U15s, St. Albans College and St. Georges College.

Argentina Junior teams tour to Chile

The Argentina U13 and U15 teams departed to Santiago de Chile on April 27th for a 6 day visit which will include 3 games per team including the inaugural South American U15 Championship. The U13 team will compete for the Andes Cup which will mark the 3rd occasion that this match has been played. Look out for the results in next month's NewsFlash or click onto www.cricketargentina.com to check out the results, along with other exciting news in Argentina cricket.

Junior International Cricket Tournament

The Pampero Cricket Festival, a youth tournament held annually for junior cricket teams from around the world, is a dream opportunity for all young cricketers. The third festival will be held in Buenos Aires from December 9th to 16th, 2006.

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 splendour 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.

BAHAMAS

New Coach

Coach John Welch of Cambridge, England arrived in the Bahamas to take up duties as Cricket Development Officer and Coach. He will be implementing cricket in over 26 primary schools throughout Nassau. He began coaching with a group of 27 young boys from the Police Urban Renewal Project, Fort Charlotte area. The boys were excited about learning cricket and immediately started having fun. Some of them have never seen the game played before.



The Coach has also started an under 19 team with 20 young boys and under 15 with 25 boys.

The Bahamas is fast tracking its way towards the goal of attaining Associate status!

Stanford 20/20 Update

The Bahamas is in training and is geared up for its opening match against archrivals, Cayman Islands, July 11 in Antigua. *Coach Cuffy must be shaking in his training boots about the big hitters that we have lined up for him. He knows that in a 20/20 competition the Bahamas is like a Cobra – waiting to strike!*

(says Greg Taylor).

BERMUDA



Bermuda fireman **Roger Dill** will create history in Trinidad next week. The 48 year-old will become the first member of the ICC's Associate and Affiliate umpires panel to stand in a one-day international (ODI) during the upcoming tri-series between Zimbabwe, Bermuda and Canada. He will officiate alongside Emirates Elite Panel umpire Simon Taufel while former West Indies captain Clive Lloyd will act as match referee for the four matches starting on May 16.



The Belco Cup which started in 2003 will be played in June. The competition sees the top four teams in the premier division from the previous season compete in a Semi-final played on Saturday and the Final on Sunday. Southampton Rangers two time winners will be hoping to retain the cup and make it three out of four.

20-20 World Cricket Classic

Bermuda made it to the Final of the eight team 20-20 World Cricket Classic. After their upset victory by five runs over England, the host nation lost to South Africa by 97 runs. In the plate final the West Indies defeated Australia.

New website

www.bermudacrickboard.com

CANADA

Canadian Cricket loses one of its leaders

It is with tremendous love and sadness that we announce the sudden passing of Pravin Amin on Monday, April 3rd, 2006. Pravin was the President of the Quebec Cricket Federation and a member of the CCA Board of Directors.

Alberta to host Western U23 Tournament

The association will hold its 9th annual Western Canada u23/u25 tournament in Edmonton on the Victoria Day weekend, May 20th to 22nd. The event will take place at the Victoria Park and Millwoods Cricket ground. Teams from Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba and Saskatchewan are expected to participate. On conclusion, the awards ceremony will take place at Victoria Park.

Canada to host U19 World Cup

At the ICC Board meeting in Dubai on May 30th, Canada was awarded the U19 World Cup event to be held in 2012.

Canada off to Tri-Series

The Canadian team under its new head coach Andy Pick, travels to Trinidad & Tobago to participate in the tri-series tournament, which includes Bermuda and Zimbabwe. The tournament starts May 16th when Canada takes on Zimbabwe.

Women's Cricket

With the objectives of hosting another country's women's team in 2007 and the potential to represent the Americas in 2007/08 Women's World Cup Qualifying Tournament, women's cricket have a terrific opportunity to use this season to develop players skill and to draw more players into the sport.

The local women's team has recruited 9-12 new players for the upcoming season. A number of fine athletes and promising cricket players have been recruited to participate this season.. BC will run a self funded 2 day training camp May 21 & 22, 2006. This will likely be followed with another later this summer.

CHILE

Las Condes stroll to Cup victory

Las Condes became the first team to win the Metropolitan Cup for a second time, as they hammered a weakened La Dehesa side in the final of the competition's fifth edition. Having topped the table for much of the season, Paul Hollis' Las Condes were firm favourites to go on and claim the title, but few were expecting such a one-sided victory.

The Sixth Metropolitan Cup will start in October 2006 with the possibility of two more teams joining the competition.

ICC Course held for senior players

The first ICC Introduction to Cricket course was held for senior Metropolitan cricketers on Sunday April 2nd as players took advantage of a break in the fixture list to develop their coaching skills. The course ran for four hours and concentrated on the fundamental ideas behind Cricket Pinguino – the ACC's own version of "Kwik Cricket". There were also modules on umpiring and coaching principles which the newly qualified coaches will be putting into practice when school sessions start later this month.

The course was the seventh of its kind to have been run in Chile since February 2005, in which time over seventy participants have become Introductory Level coaches.

Hollis and Anglin honoured

Long serving committee members and senior players Paul Hollis and Jason Anglin were thanked for their hard work over the last four years at the ACC annual dinner held at the Dublin pub in Providencia on Saturday, April 8th. The pair have been key members of the ACC since their respective arrivals in Chile in 2002; both have captained Metropolitan Cup sides, represented Chile on numerous occasions, and kept the ACC accounts in check throughout their tenures as the Association's treasurer. Hollis also picked up the Best Batsman award for the season, with an impressive 470 runs in all 'first class' games.

FALKLAND ISLANDS

The Falkland Islands U17 team are preparing for a one week tour to Chile at Easter. Three or four matches are planned with confirmed matches against Santiago Schools X1, Chilean U17 X1 and ACC U17 X1, and a possible match in Valparaiso. Junior team coach, Derek Reeves, is very impressed with the level of enthusiasm and improvement in the team over the last 6 months.

The Falkland Cricket Association views this as a vital step in developing cricket within the islands. The most encouraging fact is that the majority are islanders rather than children of ex-pats. This means that we are developing the next generation of senior cricketers.

It is hoped that Grant Dugmore, RDO for the Americas, will be able to attend at least one of the matches.



Falkland Island U17 Team to tour Chile

PERU

The 2006 cricket season in Peru has been ground breaking. For the first time in the history of the country (after many years of playing cricket) we have made the move to form a Cricket Association and apply for Affiliate status with the ICC.

On March 5 we had an extraordinary meeting and elected a committee to head the newly formed Magdalena Cricket Club (MCC) in the suburb of the Lima Cricket Club ground where we play. On Tuesday March 14 the committee met with Grant Dugmore (Regional Development Officer for ICC Americas) at the Lima Cricket Club on his way to the Central American Cricket Championship, to discuss the steps we need to take for Affiliate status. Our application is close to completion and we hope to be on the verge of affiliation next season.

Other big news is that we have accepted the invitation by the other members of the founding group of the South American Championship (SAC) to host the SAC7 in Easter 2007. Preparations are already underway with confirmation from Brasil, Argentina and Chile.

The season itself was a huge success. We had 9 club games in Lima from February 5 until Easter. During Easter we played a tournament with a visiting team from Tacna (Peru) and also some players from Chile. The final game was an epic India/Pakistan vs Rest of World which resulted in a narrow victory to the India/Pakistan team. This game also saw perhaps the final game for Javed Iqbal (SAC 1999), possibly one of the finest cricketers ever to grace the club.

We also had another epic game to farewell the British Ambassador, Richard Ralph, on April 2nd. The annual Ambassador's X1 vs President's X1 was a close game with the Ambassador's team bringing home the bacon by just 4 runs.

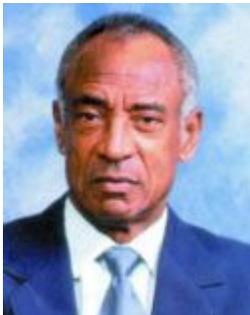
Excellent performers during the season were Gary Sargent (SAC 2004) who took an incredible 5 for 6 from 6 overs against the Tacna team at Easter. Atul Sharma also performed well with the ball all year. Kamlesh Jethani (SAC 2004) and Matt Finnigan (SAC 2004) were also prolific with the bat and although the numbers have not yet been finalized it seems that the enigmatic Vivian Ash (SAC 1995,1999,2000,2004) took the most catches for the season.



Ambassador's XI vs President's XI

USA

USACA Executive Meets



Ken Gordon, President, WICB

President of the West Indies Cricket Board, Mr. Ken Gordon, has pledged his fullest support to the continued efforts of the United States Cricket Association. Gordon expressed the sentiments during a closed-door meeting with USACA officials at the Las Palmas hotel in Fort Lauderdale, Florida on Saturday, April 22, 2006.

In addition to meeting with the USACA, Gordon also met with officials for the City of Lauderdale, including Mayor Richard Kaplan and commissioner Dale Holnes. One topic of discussion was the precedent setting state-of-the-art cricket stadium which is being built in the City, and is scheduled to be opened in September 2007.



Aerial view of the proposed stadium

USACA also welcomed the manager of the ICC Americas, Mr. Martin Vieira, and the president of the Canada Cricket Association, Mr. Banwarilal Sennik.

Mr. Gordon also gave USACA some advice on how they could raise on-going capital by taking advantage of the lucrative 20/20 cricket market. He told the group this should be one of the immediate short-term goals since, as most of us know, the American market must be geared to a faster-paced edition of the game if we expect to capture the attention of the average American public

Based on some initial discussions with the ICC with regards to USACA, Gordon said that the ICC is willing to look at some of USACA's new initiatives, and he will inform the ICC at next week's emergency meeting on how the two North American groups – Canada and the USA – are doing.



USACA Executive and Board in Ft.Lauderdale, Florida Front Row L to R: Martin Vieira, ICC Americas, Gladstone Dainty, President USACA, Ken Gordon , President WICB and Ben Sennik President CCA.

“Big Apple Games”

Officials from the United States of America Cricket Association (USACA) and the New York City Department of Education Public School Athletic League (PSAL) met Friday, May 5, 2006 to discuss an implementation plan for cricket in the New York City “Big Apple Games” schools program this summer.

Present at this meeting were Mr. Donald Douglas (Director PSAL), Ms. Lorna Austin (PSAL), Mr. Gladstone Dainty (president USACA), Mr. Paul Da Silva (secretary USACA) and Mr. Vish Lekhram (Cricket International).

The Big Apple Games is a summer recreational program designed as an extension of PSAL to accommodate children from grades 5 through 12 (middle to high school), which includes students with special needs. This year’s program will operate from Wednesday July 5 to Thursday, August 17, 2006. The Big Apple Games program will expand to include cricket in the summer of 2006 and will be played on Fridays. In addition, cricket is also slated to be a part of the PSAL program next Spring and will be played on Saturdays.

Cricket in the New York public schools will be a comprehensive program involving both boys and girls. A search is already underway for a “Commissioner of Cricket” as required by the New York City Board of Education. Over thirty thousand kids from the five boroughs of New York City currently participate in the Public Schools Athletic League. A cricket clinic is planned for May 19 to introduce cricket to kids of New York City schools.

More information and details on this new and exciting initiative will become available in the coming weeks.

North East Region

The North East Region held a cricket clinic on April 9 at the South Windsor High School. The game took root in Hartford in the 1940s, when West Indian immigrants came to work in the tobacco fields of Windsor. It remains today, with the Connecticut Cricket League and the southern Connecticut Cricket Association having 10 teams each, said Curtis Clarke, North East director of the U.S. Cricket Association. But Clarke, a native of Barbados, worries that there are not enough young faces. His own son, he said, prefers golf.

On Sunday, Ajodhi and Clarke brought in guest coaches – Hooper, who directs a youth program in Utah, and Linden Fraser, a New York cricketer associated with the International Cricket Council – to school the youths in the fundamentals of cricket.

City of Lauderhill’s night cricket series Finals Jamaica vs Guyana...again!

The 4th annual Lauderhill International Mayor’s Cricket Cup began Saturday, January 21st at the Lauderhill Sports Park. The participating teams included Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Barbados, Leewards, Windwards, Guyana, Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, and the Lauderhill team (America). The Final Championship was played on Saturday, May 6th at 7 p.m. between reigning co-champions...Jamaica and Guyana. Team Jamaica pictured below were crowned champions.

For scores and series information please log on to www.lauderhill-fl.gov



Tri-Series in Trinidad

Canada and Bermuda will join Zimbabwe in Trinidad for three ODIs as part of the two regional associates preparation for World Cup 2007.

The Canadian team will include two new faces - Geoff Barnett and Stewart Heaney. Both play their cricket overseas in Australia and New Zealand. The Canadian team will be skippered by Jon Davison. Bermuda will be skippered by their country’s male athlete of the year -Janeiro Tucker. The series will be played between May 16 and 20.

Our thanks to the following for their contributions this month:

Gary Savage (Argentina); Greg Taylor (Bahamas); Neil Speight (Bermuda); Calvin Clarke (Canada); Joseph Williams (Chile); Roger Diggle (Falkland Islands); Harry Hildebrand (Peru); Paul Da Silva, Curtis Clarke, Leslie Tropepe (USA).