

ICC Media Releases

ICC Development Program announces regional award winners for 2003

The ICC Development Program announced the regional winners of the 2003 Annual Awards. The award winners are spread out over 20 cricket-playing countries across the globe stretching from Mozambique to Thailand to the Cayman Islands. This is the second successive year of the Annual Awards program, and the first time all five regions have taken part.

The winners were selected by the five regional head offices and have now been forwarded for consideration for the Global Awards in their relevant categories, which will be announced on February 2, 2004. ICC Chief Executive Malcolm Speed congratulated all of the award winners on their achievements. "It is thanks to the commitment and dedication of so many unheralded people that cricket continues to grow outside the 10 Full Member countries," said Mr. Speed. "I commend all of the award winners for their enthusiasm for the sport and I hope that these awards will inspire others to follow their example."

The Development Program Annual Awards promote excellence in cricket development and recognize exceptional performance and service to the game in the ICC's Associate and Affiliate Member countries. Nominees in 2003 came from a range of levels – country, club, association, team, school and individual – highlighting the positive impact cricket is making on the lives of players from culturally diverse communities.

Americas Region winners are listed below. Each regional award winner will receive an ICC plaque, a certificate of recognition and a letter of appreciation from ICC Chief Executive, Malcolm Speed. The global winners will receive an ICC trophy.

In the Americas we received a total of 42 nominations in the eight categories. Congratulations to the following and good luck in the Global Awards contest.

AMERICAS:

Group Awards:

Best Overall Cricket Development Program	GUANTANAMO PROVINCE DEVELOPMENT	(CUBA)
Best Junior Development Initiative	US CRICKET ACADEMY	(USA)
Best Women's Cricket Initiative	ARGENTINE CRICKET ASSOCIATION	(ARGENTINA)
Best Cricket Promotional Program	SAO PAULO CRICKET ASSOCIATION	(BRAZIL)
Flicx Community Development Award	BCB SUMMER CLINICS	(BERMUDA)
Best Spirit of Cricket Initiative	CAYMAN CRICKET WEEK	(CAYMAN ISLANDS)

Individual Awards

Volunteer of the Year	TIM MESSNER	(CHILE)
Lifetime Service Award	JACK KYLE	(CANADA)

Twelve Countries register Bid Committees for ICC Cricket World Cup 2007

ICC Cricket World Cup West Indies (WI) 2007 Inc. has registered 12 official bid committees for the Host Venue Selection Tender which will determine the countries to host matches in the ICC Cricket World Cup 2007. Included in the 12 are 3 Americas Region Associates – Bermuda, Cayman Islands and the U.S.A.

ICC Appoints New Global Manager

We in the Americas welcome Matthew Kennedy as ICC’s new Global Development Manager. Matthew, currently RDM for the East-Asia Pacific region, will take up his new position in London effective January 15, 2004.



To Matthew and his family – best wishes from the Americas. We look forward to working with you in developing cricket in our region.



BCB secures World-Class Exercise Specialist for Training Squad

The BCB announced that the National senior training squad is to undergo a full fitness evaluation and assessment by Dr. Samuel Headley. Dr. Headley is one of the world’s top exercise physiologists and specializes in the physiological analysis of cricket players. Dr. Headley is a Professor of Exercise Science at Springfield College. He is currently retained by the West Indies Cricket Board and has been working with the Test team for over 3 years. During his visit Dr. Headley will put each member of the training squad through a full range of fitness tests and screening that will provide objective feedback to their current levels of fitness.

Reggie Pearman, President of the Bermuda Cricket Board, commented, “The appointment of Dr. Headley

to the National squad team is another stepping stone to success for our squad. The BCB continue to provide all the opportunity and support for our players to be at their best when it counts. It is vital that the players and the public understand that compliance to the post-season work is a crucial factor in our future success. I look forward to seeing the results, but also to see a renewed sense of commitment and genuine desire to improve during the winter training program.”



Bermuda’s Senior Squad training supervised by Mark Harper (National Coach)



5-year sponsor for South African Cricket Academy

The BCB announced that they have secured an annual place for a young Bermudian cricketer to attend the prestigious University of Port Elizabeth (UPE) International Cricket Academy in South Africa for the next 5 years commencing in 2004. The UPE cricket academy has established itself as one of the leading institutions through which talented young cricketers are able to develop to their full potential.

Neil Speight, Treasurer of the Bermuda Cricket Board, commented, “We are excited and proud to be able to announce this new partnership. On one hand, we have secured an annual place at one of the world’s premium cricketing learning establishments, and at the same time we have found a generous and committed sponsor. We are happy to be able to offer this opportunity to young developing cricketers as part of our elite player development strategy. The Board are especially pleased that the sponsor has

been able to see the value in a 5-year continuous program that allows the Board to plan ahead with the knowledge that one of the building blocks for elite player development is in place.”

Brazil

A Brief History of Cricket in Brazil

Cricket in Brazil began in the British community in Niteroi in 1872. It is said that the emperor Dom Pedro II was a keen spectator of the sport in Rio.

Charles Miller was a keen cricketer and in 1882 brought cricket equipment back from England. He started cricket in Sao Paulo introducing the sport at the British Club, SPAC, where it is still played today. International cricket games between Argentina and Brazil began in 1888. The sport was taken to the interior of southern Brazil by the British railway workers. It was copied by young Brazilian boys who called it “bat” or “taco”. It is still played today on the streets and beaches in Brazil’s south by young Brazilians. It is almost impossible to describe the game of cricket to a Brazilian who has never seen the sport. The best description is to say, “taco para gente grande”.

The cricket season in Brazil is one of the longest in the world. It begins in early March and goes through to mid December. Brazil’s dry and warm winters make it a perfect climate to play cricket nearly all year round. Today the Brazilian national team participates in the South American championship, which is held every two years. In December 2002 Brazil came third behind Argentina and Chile. Brazil hopes to host the 2006 South American championship.

In 2001 the Brazilian Cricket Association (ABC) was formed. It is responsible for:

- The national team.
- Relations with other cricketing nations in the Americas (mostly Argentina and Chile).
- Development of cricket in Brazil.
- Bringing Brazilians into the sport.

The ABC’s biggest objective is to make a bridge between taco/bat and the more formal version of the game to bring more Brazilian youngsters into the sport. They hope to introduce the sport to young Brazilians through the schools and weekend coaching camps and sessions.

Cricket is played in three states in Brazil – Brasilia, Sao Paulo and Curitiba. It is also hoped that cricket in Rio will be revived in the near future. The three

states play in an annual interstate competition, playing against each other twice (home and away). In Curitiba this year HSBC bank held a popular and very successful inter bank tournament. Eight separate teams, mostly made up of Brazilians, participated in a simplified version of the game. The competition was played over several months. Similar ideas are planned in Curitiba, Sao Paulo and Brasilia in 2004.

Cayman Islands

Barbados Masters visit Cayman Islands

The game of glorious uncertainties was greatly emphasized with the recent visit of the Barbados Masters team to the Cayman Islands from November 26th to December 3rd. Led by one of the West Indian great fast bowlers “Big Bird” Joel Garner and including former test player Thelston Payne and former regional player Winslow Ashby, the masters joined with domicile Bajans in celebrating their Independence Day on November 30th with two matches.

Match 1 – Barbados Masters against Cayman Barbadians at Jimmy Powell Oval

Batting first, the Barbados Masters led by Winslow Ashby (52) totaled 131 runs in the allotted 30 overs. It seemed like easy sailing as the Masters reduced the Cayman Barbadians to 72 for 9, but Pearson Best had other ideas. Allowing his last partner Phillip Hackett the luxury of facing only one delivery, Pearson powered his way to a masterly 79 n.o. taking his team to an unexpected victory. Phillip had the pleasure of displaying his all round abilities as he had earlier picked up two wickets.

Barbados Masters – 131 for 7 in 30 overs

Winslow Ashby 52

Phillip Hackett 2 for 16, Stephen Best 2 for 20

Cayman Barbadians – 132 for 9 in 26.5 overs

Pearson Best 79 n.o.

Cayman Barbadians won by one wicket

Match 2 – Barbados Masters against Cayman Select at Smith Road Oval

Barbados Masters strengthened their team for their Independence Day match by including players from the Cayman Islands in Pearson Best and Harcourt Wason. The Cayman Select included a mixture of masters, seniors and outstanding youth players. Pearson Best (55 n.o) and former W.I. test player Thelston Payne (48 n.o) led the Masters to 188 for 4 in 30 overs. This pair had an unbeaten partnership of 120 runs. Earlier, bowling extremely well, young Omar Bryan (3 for 23) placed the Cayman Select in an interesting position reducing the Masters to 68 for 4, but the others were unable to stop the flow of runs. Only Saheed Mohammed (73) had any answer for the Barbados Masters bowling as the Cayman Select could only get to 128 for 7 wickets before the overs

ran out. Joel Garner turned back the hands of time picking up 3 wickets for only 9 runs and led the Masters to a celebration victory by 60 runs. Joel can still put that ball on a spot.

Happy Birthday Barbados!

Barbados Masters – 188 for 4 in 30 overs

Pearson Best 55 n.o., Thelston Payne 48 n.o.

Omar Bryan 3 for 23

Cayman Select – 128 for 7 in 30 overs

Saheed Mohammed 73

Joel Garner 3 for 9

Barbados Masters won by 60 runs

Chile

New Clubs

Last month saw the formation of no less than three new senior clubs in as many days, as dreams of a second division in Chile start to become more of a reality. The three new clubs will all make a welcome addition to the growing number of teams wishing to play at a less competitive level of cricket.

Grange School in Argentina

On November 26th, twenty five students from The Grange School, accompanied by coaches Adam Baynes and Karen Watson, traveled to Buenos Aires to take part in the school's second ever cricket tour to Argentina. The two teams (twelve boys and thirteen girls) have both been training hard all term and their dedication was rewarded as they proved to their Argentine counterparts that school cricket in Chile is very much alive.

The Brazilian Job

Towards the end of November the Brazilian Cricket Association played host to a Chilean XI in Curitiba. The Chilean team, which included a few younger players as well as Guillermo Rivera (a Chilean playing in only his third game of cricket), did well to restrict a strong Brazilian batting line in the two games, but only managed to take advantage of the low score in the second match, winning the HSBC cup in the process. In addition, the social side of the tour was first-rate and leaves the Chilean Cricket Association with a tough act to follow for the South American Cricket Championships in 2004.

Gaston works his magic in Chile

Gaston Arizaga took time out from his busy schedule in Argentina to visit Chile in mid November and share his experience as a Spanish speaking coach with clubs and schools across Vina del Mar and Santiago. In total he spent time in five schools, introducing the sport in Bradford School and reintroducing it to St. Peter's School in Vina, a school which was once considered *the* cricketing school in Chile. He also managed to host a coaching session in Vina for members of staff at St. Peter's, as

well as various employees of Gasvalpo, who make up Vina del Mar Cricket Club. Gaston also visited schools where cricket is a more established sport and was able to offer the students an alternative view on the game, sharing his thoughts on being a native cricketer of a non test playing nation.

Young Guns

The Chilean U16 side showed their Vina elders that youth isn't necessarily a synonym for innocence as they claimed victory in a spirited game held at The Grange early last month. The Vina teams did themselves proud and demonstrated how far they have come in the last six months, but struggled against the pace of the young Chilean bowlers.

Grange Festival

After weeks of planning and organizing, The Grange School Cricket Festival finally took place at the start of November, and to great acclaim. As publicized, it was the first time in over fifty years that two schools from Chile had played against one another as teams from The Grange, Craighouse and Nido de Aguilas all competed in the memorable event. Once more, the emphasis of the day was not on winning or losing, as all the children were aware of the significance of the festival and were proud to be part of Chilean cricketing history.

Colombia

The first scheduled game for 2004 is on Sunday, January 25th.

Canada

Brockton Point Cricket Ground

The Crown Jewel of the Vancouver Parks system is Stanley Park. Nestled in a corner of that Park is a crown jewel of a worldwide system of private and public parks devoted to cricket, Brockton Point. Brockton Point Cricket ground is a well-known destination site for all touring cricket sides. The 1975 Australian Test Side, the M.C.C., Kent C.C., Yorkshire C.C., Queensland, and the Derrick Robins XI are just a few of the sides that have played at this beautiful setting alongside Vancouver's harbour and mountains.

Great players such as Sir Everton Weekes, Sir Donald Bradman, Freddie Trueman, Geoffrey Boycott, Jeff Thomson, Greg and Ian Chappell, Alan Knott, Khan Mohammed, Desmond Haynes and Alan Border have played in Vancouver at this beautiful setting for cricket.

Here is an exact quote from a letter of Sir Don Bradman to the President of the BCCA in 1948: "I have said on many occasions, and I am glad to repeat that, in my opinion, the Brockton Point ground is the prettiest upon which it has been my pleasure to play. It is a really magnificent setting, and I wish that some of our more important games such as test matches, could be played under these ideal circumstances."

Brockton Point is a testimonial to a group of visionary and energetic young men who built Brockton Point between 1889 and 1892 because they were addicted to cricket. Moreover they laid the foundation of a Vancouver Parks system devoted to cricket that followed.



Brockton Point, Vancouver, British Columbia

Canada U19 continues to train hard for the upcoming World Cup in Bangladesh. With temperatures around -10 degrees C the only place to be is indoors !



The team was announced as Umar Bhatti (Capt), Simon Upton, Durand Soraine, Trevin Bastiampillai, Gavin Bastiampillai, Muhammed Qazi, Ryan Lall, Kenneth Carto, Soham Anjaria, Karun Jethi, Shaheed Keshvani, Adam Baksh, Kunal Patel and Aabid Keshvani.. Patrick Christian (Manager) Franklyn Dennis (Coach)



Mexico has formally applied and will be considered at the ICC June Meetings for Affiliate status.

If successful it will bring the number of Affiliates in the Americas to ten and complete the North American map in ICC blue. The three countries Canada, USA and Mexico have a combined population of 430 million ! Think of the possibilities!

WELCOME & GOOD LUCKMEXICO

U.S.A.

Utah's Rich Cricketing Diversity – as reported by Steven Hooper, President of UCA

"The state of Utah and our history are unique in all the United States. Our state was founded in 1847 by stalwart pioneers who came west seeking religious freedom and carved out of this once harsh and barren climate a flourishing metropolis. You could say they truly made the desert blossom like a rose! Early missionaries were sent out into the surrounding territories and even as far east as the British Isles and Europe, and as far west as the land down under, parts of Asia and India. The south pacific was particularly blessed with eager converts, many who were anxious to return to Utah, the home of their newfound faith.

In the late 1800s, cricket clubs sprang up in almost every settlement around Utah as immigrant pioneers from around the world sought out diversions from the backbreaking struggle to make this place their home.

Today, all that is left of these bygone clubs is a Polynesian league that is thriving and boasts six men's teams and three women's teams, with twenty players per team!. Each Saturday for several months in the summer these teams meet at a local park where a cement pitch has been poured, and play a fun and fascinating style of cricket unique to the south pacific islanders. Their bats are longer and more in the shape of a triangular club, with a smaller ball made from the rubber trees that populate their islands. The ball is hit many times 40' to 60' or higher in the air with fielders scrabbling to catch it. Bowling technique is very good and the batting tends to be a bit more baseball-like than good cricket form but with the island music blaring and the BBQ cooking, these folks know how to enjoy their cricket!"

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