



*ICC Americas*



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*NewsFlash*

*January 2006*

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### Development Awards

The region received a record number of awards for 2005, with Photo of the Year category the most popular.

Region winners will be announced at the end of February and will go on to compete for the Global Awards, to be announced at the end of March.

This year, Global Award winners will receive prizes provided by Kookaburra and Flicx.

Good luck, and thank you to all who supported the nominations.

### Americas Championship

The 2006 Americas Championship takes on a new format with more countries participating in three divisions.

Division 3 will kick off in Suriname on February 15<sup>th</sup> when the host country will compete with Turks & Caicos, Brazil and Chile for the right to advance to Division 2. Turks & Caicos finished one notch ahead of Suriname in the last Affiliates tournament, and for Brazil and Chile it is their first tournament with ICC eligible players. It is hoped that the heavy rains and flooding which caused much concern will continue to hold off and allow this tournament (which promises to be a close contest) to be played without interruption.

Division 2 is set for Buenos Aires April 2 to 9. The winner of Division 3 will join host Argentina, Panama, Belize and the Bahamas to compete for the fifth and final position in Division 1.

Bermuda, Canada, USA and Cayman Islands, together with the winner of Division 2, will play in Toronto August 21 to 27. One spot is up for grabs to the World Cricket League Division 3. With Bermuda and Canada already in Division 1 and the USA scheduled for Division 3, it means Cayman Islands and the winner of Division 2 will compete for the final place.

A Central American Championship will be hosted by Belize National Cricket Association in March. This tournament will allow all other developing countries to test their skills at the International level, Costa Rica, Mexico, El Salvador will join with Belize "A" in this contest.

### U19 World Cup

Early results from the U19 WC indicates that our region representative Team USA has posted some respectable totals but no victories to date. Having lost all three games in the Round Robin, Team USA must now look forward to the plate round where the opposition may not be as tough as the three test playing countries they encountered in the toughest division of the draw.

## ICC Intercontinental Cup 2006

The two groups and schedule are as follows:

<u>Group A</u>		<u>Group B</u>
Ireland		Kenya
Scotland		Bermuda
United Arab Emirates		Canada
Namibia or Nepal		Netherlands
<u>Dates</u>	<u>Match</u>	<u>Venue</u>
Mar.23/06	Namibia v Nepal	Namibia
Mar. 28/06	Kenya v Holland	Kenya
May 12/06	Scotland v Namibia/Nepal	Scotland
May 18/06	Ireland v Namibia/Nepal	Ireland
July 29/06	Canada v Kenya	Canada
Aug.12/06	Canada v Bermuda	Canada
Aug.17/06	Scotland v Ireland	Scotland
Nov. 9/06	Kenya v Bermuda	Kenya
Nov. 21/06	Holland v Bermuda	South Africa
Dec. 5/06	Holland v Canada	South Africa
Jan. 31/07	UAE v Scotland	Sharjah UAE
Feb. 9/07	UAE v Ireland	Abu Dhabi UAE
tba (Nov/06)	UAE v Namibia/Nepal	Namibia/Nepal
tba (Mar/07)	final	tba

### Stanford Starts Spreading His US \$28 Million Cricket Dollars

Bermuda, the Bahamas, Jamaica and the Cayman Islands are the first countries to receive the initial drawdown of US \$100,000 each as Stanford 20/20 tournament creator Allen Stanford begins his visits and dissemination of funds to the 19 Caribbean nations participating in his US \$1.5 million jackpot competition this summer.

On Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, the Stanford party consisting of Stanford and the four countries' "adopted" legends – Lance Gibbs (Bermuda), Ian Bishop (Bahamas), Andy Roberts (Jamaica) and Richie Richardson (Cayman Islands) – traveled on Stanford's private jet, stopping in each country just long enough to present the cheques at each country's airport to enthusiastic welcoming parties which included government officials and members of the local cricket associations. Mr. Stanford stated that he wanted to personally present each country with their cheque.

The whirlwind tour concluded with an overnight stay in Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands where the group participated in a press conference and

were guests at a dinner hosted by the Ministry of Sports. The Minister of Sports, Hon. Alden McLaughlin, announced the government's own commitment to invest in that country's cricket program to the tune of US \$600,000, a decision that Stanford welcomed.

Stanford also revealed details of a meeting he had just days before with WICB head Ken Gordon and confirmed that the governing body for cricket in the region had come on board fully endorsing the Stanford 20/20, and furthermore would be placing it on the calendar of events for the year. "I've known Ken for a long time and I think he understands that everything we are doing, all of this US \$28 million investment, helps the efforts of the WICB".

Acknowledging the comparisons to the late Kerry Packer that have inevitably arisen, Stanford believes that his goals are a bit different from the media mogul's. "Packer was way ahead of his time but his interests were purely commercial, to sell television time" explained Stanford. "My drive is to improve cricket so that we are winners again. When cricket rises, the Caribbean rises, our economy rises. When

cricket is in the trough, the Caribbean is in the pits too. When West Indies cricket is good, we look good too. I've been in the Caribbean long enough to fall in love with cricket, and I'm not happy with it right now and I want to improve it".

This US \$100,000 will go a long way towards doing just that but ultimately it is just a drop in the bucket, a small percentage of the whopping US \$28 million overall investment that Stanford has committed to grassroots cricket in the Caribbean, which includes over US \$6 million just to prepare each country for the tournament. Undoubtedly the money sown into the sport of cricket by Stanford over a one-year period will benefit the Caribbean region for generations to come.

For more information about the Stanford 20/20 Tournament, contact organizers Kelly Holding by email at [info@stanford2020.com](mailto:info@stanford2020.com) or log on to [www.Stanford2020.com](http://www.Stanford2020.com)



## ARGENTINA

The Argentine Cricket Association would like to wish all the countries in the Americas Region a Happy New Year. We wish you all the best for 2006!

This year marks an historic occasion for Argentine cricket as it celebrates its 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The first match was played by the British soldiers in October 1806 in San Antonio de Areco.

The celebrations have officially been kicked off with the arrival of the MCC team in January. The 2006 MCC team includes some big name players and will be captained by former England cricketer Mike Gatting. The team also includes players such as Andy Flower (former Zimbabwean Test Cricketer), Richard Dawson (England and Yorkshire) and Anthony McGrath (England and Yorkshire). The matches will be umpired by former Test umpire, George Sharp.

The MCC will be in Argentina for two weeks and will play 6 matches. They started their tour with two comfortable victories over the North and South respectively.

The remainder of their tour schedule looks as follows:

January 31 - ACA Presidents X1 vs MCC at Hurlingham  
February 2 - Argentina vs MCC at Hurlingham  
February 4 - Argentina vs MCC at Corimayo  
February 5 - Argentina vs MCC at Virrey del Pino

### Max Challenge League

The first tournament of 2006 was comfortably won by St. Albans Sharks who were undefeated in the three rounds of the Max Challenge league. The matches, comprising two innings of twelve overs each, were played between the four major first division clubs. St. Albans Sharks defeated Lomas Eagles in an outright victory to secure full points in their final match while Hurlingham Hawks finished second and tied with the Lomas Eagles.

## BAHAMAS



New logo for the Bahamas. With the help of ICC Americas graphics expert (Grant) the logo for the BCA was given a face lift. Watch out Theo these will look sharp on their blazers for the next coin toss.

### Stanford's 20/20 Tournament Cheque Presentation



(Photo: Kelly Holding)

Mr. Colin Deane, President of the Bahamas Cricket Association thanked Mr. Stanford for giving the Bahamas the opportunity to participate in the Stanford 20/20 Tournament and for the monies that were donated. He assured Mr. Stanford that the monies would be put to good use.

#### Training

The Bahamas National team is in training for the ICC Americas Division 2 Tournament slated for Argentina in April 2006. The Bahamas has high hopes for winning the tournament and advancing to the Division 1 Championship.

## BERMUDA



Press conference at the Grotto Bay, Bermuda  
(Photo: Kelly Holding)

BCB President, Mr. Reginald Pearman after being presented with a cheque from Mr. Allen Stanford stated, "I am particularly pleased to note that Mr. Stanford has backed up his intention to improve the grassroots of cricket in all the islands and, with the oversight and support of our legend, Mr. Lance Gibbs, I am confident that significant positive change can be made through this investment in Bermuda cricket".

#### Hi-tech Boost For Stats Star Lorenzo

Bermuda cricket stats supreme Lorenzo Tucker left for India last night for a week-long training course devoted to new computer software which has revolutionized the way the game is analyzed. The XL Capital employee, who scores full-time in the summer for Warwick Workmen's Club, has been working on and off with the national side since 2004 and has now been asked by national coach Gus Logie to assume the role on a more permanent basis. His job will entail considerably more than making entries in an old-fashioned scorebook. In Chennai, as part of an International Cricket Council funded program,

he will learn to operate a sophisticated new database which, with the help of a camera rigged directly behind the bowler's arm, is capable of logging in minute detail every ball bowled and every shot played.

Meru Sport's analysis software system is used extensively at Test and One-Day International level and is now slowly being adopted by those in the lower echelons of the world game such as Bermuda, Scotland and Ireland.

#### Fill-in Skipper Janeiro Rarin' To Go

Janeiro Tucker can hardly wait to pad up and get back out in the middle. The explosive Southampton Rangers and Somerset Cup Match skipper is about to captain Bermuda on a 13-day tour of Dubai where they will play five friendly matches against the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Tucker captained Bermuda to victory over UAE last July at the ICC Trophy in Ireland to begin the Island's historical push to World Cup qualification after Smith – plagued by a knee injury in the lead-up to the tournament – pulled a hamstring against hosts Ireland in the first match. The Southampton Rangers stalwart was also at the helm of the team during last April's training camp in Trinidad and during two friendlies against Namibia last October on the African continent.

## BRAZIL

#### Brazil Prepares for ICC Tourney in Suriname

The Brazilian national side is busy preparing to compete in the ICC's new World League of Cricket Division 3 World Cup Qualifying Tournament in Paramaribo, Suriname, slated for February 13-17. Unlike most of the other countries in the region, Brazil's three principal cricket centres are geographically far apart, which makes training and organizing a difficult task. In spite of this, players from Brasilia have been getting in plenty of net practice at the excellent facilities on the grounds of the Australian Embassy, while those from Curitiba have been out training at the HSBC ground. However, the full squad won't get the chance to be together as a team until they arrive in Suriname.

A more detailed report of Brazil's performance in the tourney will appear next month.

## CAYMAN ISLANDS



(Photo: Kelly Holding)

Mr. Allen Stanford presented a cheque to Cayman Islands Cricket Association's President, Mr. Courtney Myles, who said "The Stanford 20/20 is about inclusion. It's about recognizing countries like the Cayman Islands and the Bahamas which might not be considered traditional cricketing nations, and we are grateful to Mr. Stanford for his vision and his efforts to embrace everyone".

## CHILE

### Chile All Set For Surinam

Although the ACC are remaining tight-lipped about the final squad of players which has been selected to travel to Surinam for the ICC WCQS Division 3 Tournament, national captain Guy Hooper was upbeat when he spoke with OTB about Chile's chances of victory. Although still unconfirmed, it is widely believed that right arm quick Tim Messner will be leading the bowling attack, having served his seven years of married life in Chile. Other players likely to feature are Santiago skipper and batting ace Simon Shalders, one of Chile's more prolific 'deemed nationals', and Chilean born Mario Pavez – feared on the Metro Cup circuit for his devastatingly accurate throw.

When asked about his own form with the bat, Hooper remained unassuming. "I've had a couple of good scores this season (his 121 for Chile against an ACC X1 being the highlight) but we'll have to see what the conditions are like in Surinam".

Whatever the make up of the squad, Chile will be hoping to make their mark on the international stage with their first appearance in an ICC eligibility tournament.

## MEXICO

After a Christmas break, the MCA's premier competition of the season got off to an explosive start. Fresh from retaining the Brian Gay Trophy, the Tigres de Bengala started their campaign to retain the Championship trophy with a devastating victory over Aztecs, who must have fancied their chances to grab a victory after they hit 168 off their 25 overs. The Tigres were given the perfect start to their reply by number 3 Rishi who retired on 52 having faced just over half that number of deliveries. Such momentum proved unstoppable and the reigning champs powered their way towards the target which they reached in just 19 overs. It seems that the other three teams will have a real battle to separate the Tigres from their trophies this season.

### Rapido Cricket Sets

The development of cricket in Mexico received a big boost in January with the arrival of 10 Rapido cricket sets, thanks to the generosity of ICC Americas. One of these sets was immediately dispatched to the Lancaster School in Mexico City, where it was handed over to the teaching staff by MCA President Lincoln Clarke, assisted by ICC liaison officer Keith Foster and development coordinator Brian Gay. Before the handover, all three took time to show an enthralled group of pupils the rudiments of the game, and the children wasted no time in putting their new skills to the test. Thanks to the headmaster and staff of Lancaster School for including cricket as part of their school activities. We look forward to working closely together in developing future homegrown cricketing talent.



Impressive start to Mexico's school program at the Lancaster School as President Lincoln Clarke of the MCA introduces Rapido cricket to over 200 students.



Over 200 school children introduced to cricket.

## TURKS & CAICOS

### Police Win Sun Newspaper Cricket Competition

Police recovered from a dreadful start to emerge winners of the Sun Newspaper's cricket competition final played yesterday at the Downtown Ball Park in Providenciales.

After winning the toss and batting against Caribbean Cavaliers, Police slumped to 14 for four before a recovery was launched by Terrence Thomas and Elliot Browne. Browne was eventually dismissed for 32 but Thomas remained unbeaten on 58 alongside Ira Baptiste who slammed a whirlwind 35 which included five sixes. Police finally reached 171 for six when their 25 overs expired.

When Cavaliers replied, Austin Francis hit three fours and four sixes in a blistering 49, but despite contributions of 15 each from Glen Campbell and Vincent Rodrigues, and 13 from Williams, they could only reach 154 all out in 24.1 overs.

Editor of the Sun Newspaper Hayden Boyce presented the winner's trophy to Police's captain Ebbon Caesar. He also awarded Baptiste and Sutton \$200.00 for scoring the most runs (141) and taking the most wickets (15) in the tournament.

Meanwhile, preparation for the ICC Affiliates Tournament in Suriname continues with practice sessions at the Ball Park. Sessions run from 6.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m. on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

## EL SALVADOR

Andrew Murgatroyd reports from El Salvador that the second of three matches between "Dhesi's Desperados" and "Murgatroyd's Maniacs" was played on January 21.

The Maniacs were victorious and observers stated the quality of play, while far from the pros, was a noticeable improvement over game one. A third game is scheduled for late January.

All this is part of El Salvador's preparation for the first ever Central American Championship to be held in Belize in March.



## USA

Cricket is alive in Lauderhill, Florida as the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Mayor's International Cricket Cup gets underway. Teams with names representing the major cricket nations of the world will play from January 21 to the final on May 6. All games are played at the Lauderhill Sports Complex on Saturday evenings under lights.

Lauderhill also promotes a Saturday evening program for boys and girls 7 to 12 years old. "Jumpstart Cricket" teaches kids teamwork and discipline while offering lots of fun and exercise. For more information, contact Peter Mason (cricket coach) – [peter@jumpstartcricket.com](mailto:peter@jumpstartcricket.com)

Mayor Richard Kaplan believes that if you build it, they will come. Central Broward Regional Park may be a field of dreams for cricket players in South Florida – the only stadium of its kind in the USA. While work on the park was slowed by Hurricane Wilma, city officials hope to have it completed by this time next year.

*Our thanks to the following for their contributions this month:*

Gary Savage (Argentina); Greg Taylor (Bahamas); Neil Speight (Bermuda); Norman Baldwin (Brazil); Joseph Williams (Chile); Chris Wood (Mexico); Michael Pereira (Turks & Caicos); Andrew Murgatroyd (El Salvador); Leslie Tropepe (USA).