



NEWSFLASH NEWSFLASH

JUNE 2005

Americas Regional Umpiring Panels

At the recent Americas Region Development Forum held in Costa Rica, it was decided that the region would move forward with the implementation of Umpires Panels. This will involve the implementation of three Panels, at differing levels, but with the same objectives, of (1) providing opportunities for regional umpires, and (2) creating umpiring pathways through education and training.

In total, three Panels will be created. The top two Panels will be focused on the higher end of the scale, in other words, well qualified and experienced umpires, while the third Panel will be development orientated at the lower end of the scale.

All the Panels as such retain equal importance, as we strive to create pathways for umpires in the Americas region, from beginner to advanced level umpire.

Details were sent out to all member countries. The Elite and "A" Panels will be announced in July. Eight members of the Elite Panel will be invited to participate in the Americas U19 tournament.

Coaching Seminar

Plans for the 2005 Regional Coaching Seminar are well underway. The Mexican Cricket Association and the Reforma Athletic Club have both graciously agreed to host the event again this year, which most likely will be held in late September or early October.

Further details will be released shortly by the RDO, Grant Dugmore.



ARGENTINA

The month of June was a busy one for the local Association with the National U19 training hard in preparation for the U19 Americas Championship taking place in Toronto, Canada from August 7-14th. The final team was announced after the first warm up match against a local ACA Invitational team, which they won by 4 wickets, thanks to a fine all round performance from Gonzalo Rodriguez of Rosario Athletic Club.

Protearif U14 Tour

A group of 38 tourists (players, coaching staff and supporters) from the Protearif Laerskool toured Argentina in mid June where they played three matches against local composite teams. In their first match against a South Schools XI the locals got off to a good start reaching 167/7 in their allotted 30 overs. The visitors started their chase well reaching 34/2 off 8 overs before some good bowling restricted them to 67 all out, thus giving the South schools team a comprehensive victory of 100 runs.

In their second match against St. Georges College U15s, Protearif managed 77/9 in their allotted 20 overs. St. Georges U15s set off well in pursuit of the visitors total but some good bowling from the Protearif youngsters restricted the hosts to 55/5 which left them 22 runs to win off the final 6 overs. Thanks to some powerful hitting, the hosts had a comfortable victory of 5 wickets.

In their last match against a North Schools XI, the visitors managed to reach 119/6 in their allotted 20 overs and got their first victory on the tour by 6 runs. A fantastic match to finish off their tour.

Sad News

The ACA is sad to announce the passing of Peter Howard Rowe (1945-2005). Peter was a permanent contributor to the growth of cricket in Argentina, having played for Lomas and St. Albans. He was a qualified scorer and assisted

in many games such as the MCC visits and the North vs South matches. He will be sadly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

BELIZE

The Brilliant Cricket Club shocked Surprise Cricket Club with a 21 run victory in the first game of the Harrison Parks National Cricket competition semi-finals at the Lords Bank Grounds on June 11.

The Brilliant eleven won the toss and elected to bat first. Leading batsman Landis "Ciego" Wade hit 3 fours to score 23 runs before being bowled by Gareth Banner. Young Mykelt took a toll on the Brilliant batsmen as he delivered the ball that led to Brilliant's captain Lyle Tillett being caught out for a paltry ten runs. After a fine showing by Surprise's top bowler, Clarence "Giario" Anthony, Brilliant Eleven were all out for 121 runs.

Not much of a score to equal, the Surprise Eleven thought as they entered to bat, full of confidence until Oswald Gillett took the wind out their sails as he bowled lead batsman Calbert Banner for no runs. Brilliant's Lyle Tillett became the man of the match as he began to decimate the Surprise batsmen sending them their own surprise – all out for 96 runs.

In the other playoff match, Excellence scored 275 runs against Berlan who fell short of this score by 86 runs.

Both Brilliant and Excellence went on to win their second match against Surprise and Berlan respectively, to clinch their playoff spots. They now clash for the championship in a three-game series starting July 2.

BERMUDA

Battle to retain Catlin Cup

The BCB has announced that as part of their preparation for the ICC Trophy in Ireland this July, the Bermuda team will be defending the Catlin Cup that it captured last June against the visiting Lloyds team.

The National squad left Bermuda on June 19th to play a 5-day pre-ICC trophy tour in Sussex, England before traveling on to Belfast for 6 days prior to the actual tournament on July 1 against hosts Ireland.

The Catlin Cup will be the feature game of the 3 match tour. Bermuda will compete against a Lloyds team anxious for revenge on June 21st at the Bank of England ground in Roehampton, London. The match will be played with coloured clothing and the white cricket ball to replicate the match conditions the team will experience in Ireland in the tournament.



Belco Cup

Southampton Rangers Sports Club (pictured below) defeated St. David's County Cricket club by 133 runs to win the 2005 Belco Cup.



Regular League Season

The points table midway in June has Southampton Rangers undefeated with a 4-0 record leading the Premier Division by six points (1 victory) over rivals St. David's. In the First division, Warwick C.C. is also undefeated with a 5-0 record, a two-game lead over three teams, tied for second Devonshire Rec, Somerset C.C. and Leg Trappers.

Chris Foggo (St. David's) has scored the most runs to date (553) including two centuries while

the best average to date goes to Lionel Cann (Rangers) – an impressive 137.67.

From The Royal Gazette, Bermuda

Bermuda's best rarin' to go

If confidence and enthusiasm count for anything then Bermuda's cricket team are well on their way to achieving their ICC Trophy mission. Amid a heart-warming send-off by Government and the Bermuda Cricket Board, several players expressed the strong belief that they would return from Ireland having booked a place in the 2007 Cricket World Cup. Despite their varying experience at international level, 12 of the 14 team members assembled for the brief City Hall ceremony spoke in one accord when quizzed on the Island's prospects of finishing among the top five of the 12 nations contesting the decisive qualifier.

Carrot for the ICC Trophy Team

If Bermuda advances to the 2007 Cricket World Cup they can expect more incentives from Government.

Acknowledging that there was no incentive scheme here like other countries have, Sports Minister Dale Butler promised it was a topic that would be examined should the Island's cricketers be successful in their upcoming ICC Trophy campaign. "At the moment in Bermuda we don't have an incentive scheme like other countries have where they give athletes money or even land when they achieve major feats. If the team qualifies, then obviously Government would take into consideration what it can do next".

BRAZIL

Brasilia

National Development Officer Matt Featherstone was recently in Brasilia, where he reports that the cricket classes being taught by local players Vince Bastick and Ian Webster to University of Brasilia PE teachers are proving to be a big hit. Skill levels amongst the students are increasing dramatically and hopefully should result in an all-Brazilian team before long.

The Annual Ambassador's Match was held earlier this month in Brasilia, with Australian Ambassador John Sullivan's team beating a side led by his British counterpart Peter Collicot. The

Aussies lost three quick wickets before settling down, thanks to guest players Haike Manning (NZ) and Rubabal Islam (IN), who helped take the side to 203. While the Brits kept the scoreboard ticking over in reply, they also suffered a steady loss of wickets, before finally finishing at 137 all out. Paul Rennie (48) led the losing side with a splendid knock. All in all, a great day for cricket in Brasilia, a great win for the Aussies (and their imports!) and a fine send-off for John Sullivan, playing in his last game in Brazil.

Fortaleza

The tropical city of Fortaleza on Brazil's northern coast is not known for its cricket, but that is slowly changing. Local resident Valter Paulo discovered cricket a few years ago, and talked some friends into forming a team. With scant knowledge of the sport, Valter's all-Brazilian group has grown, and has since received equipment and coaching from former national team wicketkeeper John Milton. Matt Featherstone is planning to visit the players later this year to help them structure their games and improve their skills.

Curitiba

Local Development Officer Paul Tobitt will be conducting a schools tourney at the end of this month, with ICC Americas rep Grant Dugmore in attendance. The event is part of a larger plan to form a Brazil under-15 side. More info on this event next month.

EL SALVADOR

Andrew Murgatroyd reports that progress is being made in El Salvador with the introduction of cricket to the Santa Tecla School. His invitation to countries interested in visiting El Salvador to play cricket has been accepted by neighbouring Belize who plan to make the three hour bus trip to assist with the awareness of the game.

MEXICO

With the rainy season now in full spate, the Mexican cricket season closed in early June with a game between league champions Tigres de Bengala and a crack MCA Best-of-the-Rest XI. The Tigres won the toss and followed their usual game plan of trying to post a big total to give their strong bowling attack a chance to pressure

the opponents. And again it worked well, with the season's top batsman Tarun Sharma hitting his seventh 50 to lead the Tigres to an intimidating 170 off 30 overs, a total that could have been much lower had the BotR team held on to at least some of the 7 or 8 dropped catches.

The large total posted by the Tigres did just the job in encouraging their bowlers, who set about the BotR XI from the first over. Tight, controlled bowling left their opponents struggling at 30 for 1 off 10 overs, and a volley of wickets then followed to effectively end the contest by halfway through the innings. The middle and late order batsmen did their best, but the BotR innings pattered out at 122/9, handing victory to the title-winners after a performance worthy of the champions.

The day closed with the trophy presentations, with Tigres captain Umesh Matta collecting both the Brian Gay trophy and the Fison's MCA Championship trophy on behalf of his teammates. Thanks to all the players and members of the MCA for contributing to another successful season's cricket, and our thanks also to the ICC Americas for their support in this our inaugural season as members of the international cricketing community. We are currently preparing our fixture schedule for the year ahead, and extend a warm invitation to any of our fellow ICC Americas members who may be thinking of touring to consider Mexico in their schedule.



Our thanks to the following for their contributions this month: Gary Savage (Argentina); Elston Wade (Belize); Neil Speight (Bermuda); Norman Baldwin (Brazil); Chris Wood (Mexico).

