



### ICC Americas – First Umpires Seminar

The Americas Development Program continues to move forward with their educational program to cover five basic elements of the game. This past month in Costa Rica, the first regional umpires seminar was held featuring a basic introductory course by our RDO Grant Dugmore. This was followed by a WICB level one course conducted by Guyana and W.I. umpire Mr. Clyde Duncan.

Eleven countries sent representatives to what was a demanding three-day course. ICC Americas plan to hold an advanced course early in 2006. The region's umpiring panels will be announced in December.



Above: Group from 11 countries of the Americas  
Below: Mr. Clyde Duncan, WICB course conductor.



### ICC Winter Training Camp

The players from Canada and Bermuda attending the WTC in South Africa will be eager to get home for the holidays. From all accounts, it has been a most successful and beneficial experience for the eight players from the Americas – ice baths and all!

### Central American Championship

ICC Americas in partnership with the Belize National Cricket Association will stage the first ever Central American Championship in March 2006. Countries in this region who are unable to field a competitive team for the regular Americas championship will now be able to gain valuable international experience at their current standard of play.

Costa Rica and Mexico have both confirmed while others to consider include Cuba and new territories such as Guatemala. The Belize National Cricket Association will act as host and also enter a team in the competition.

### ICC Headquarters

The Regional Development Manager of the Americas recently visited the new offices of the ICC in Dubai. His visit is part of the program to have all of the RDMs meet the new additions to the staff as well as to have meetings with various key department managers.

During the next few issues of our newsletter we will introduce you to some of our staff in Dubai. This month we start with our Global Development Team.

Pictured below L to R:

Megan Smith, Matthew Kennedy, Kate Lindley, Tim Anderson and Chris Briers



### Rapido Cricket covers the Region

With the introduction of Rapido cricket sets to Canada, the region is now covered from the South Pole.....



..... to the North Pole.



Each country of the region will receive 10 sets to be distributed to schools. Bermuda has ordered an additional 30 sets while Canada will distribute 50 sets.

The program, which is well established in Argentina, Chile and Brazil, is catching on in countries like Costa Rica, Mexico and the Bahamas. The Cayman Islands in addition to their Rapido sets have received a shipment of 30 Kiddie cricket sets from the WICB.



**RAPIDO** – the rapid growth of cricket in the Americas!



Greg Taylor, Bahamas receiving his first set of Rapido from Americas RDM, Martin Vieira

### West Indies Women's Cricket Star receives MBE

Nadine George, the first West Indies woman cricketer to score a hundred in a Test match, has been awarded the MBE (Member of the British Empire) medal for her contribution to sport. Ms. George, 37, was presented with her MBE by Prince Charles at a ceremony at Buckingham Palace in London in late October.



Ms. George, a left-handed batter, reached three figures in her first – and so far – only Test, against Pakistan in Karachi in March 2004. Her innings of 118 was the highest by a West Indies female batter in Tests, surpassing the 72 made by Beverly Browne against England in July 1979.

Ms. George, who works as a corporal of the Royal St. Lucia Police Force Marine Unit, has played for St. Lucia since 1999.

### AROUND THE REGION



### ARGENTINA

The Argentine season kicked off in November with the introduction of the new twenty/twenty leagues.

The Saturday Championship (Second Division) consists of eight teams divided into two groups. The Saturday Championship has also seen the introduction of two new teams. Bedes Grammar School and St. Georges College have performed well in their first season of senior cricket.

The final will be played December 3, 2005 between the winners of the Red Group, St. Albans and the Blue Group, Old Georgians.

The First Division twenty/twenty has been a great success with the addition of the St. Georges Knights and St. Albans Lowtacklers to the league.

There has been some exciting cricket played with some big scores recorded. There is a three way tie at the top of the table with Belgrano Cavaliers leading the table on net run rate. They are closely followed by St. Albans Sharks and the Hurlingham Hawks.

#### Schools Leagues

St. Georges College was crowned the champions of the Open Schools League with an exciting one wicket victory over St. Albans College.

The U15 Schools league was won by St. Albans College. St. Albans was closely followed by St. Georges College and Bedes Grammar who finished tied on points.

#### Club Junior Leagues

St. Albans won the Maurice Runnacles U15 championships comprehensively with an unbeaten record. This is the second consecutive year that St. Albans has won the trophy. Belgrano A.C. finished in second place with an exciting four run victory over Lomas A.C.

#### Pampero Tournament

The Second Pampero U16 tournament will kick off in Buenos Aires on December 4<sup>th</sup>. The Natal Midlands and Ligbron Academy will attend the tournament along with two local Argentina teams (North/South).

#### Senior Representative Cricket

The Argentina National squads have been involved in national trial matches throughout November, with national coach Hamish Barton happy with their progress as they prepare for the important visit from the South African Country Districts who arrive on December 7<sup>th</sup>.

### **BERMUDA**

The Bermuda Cricket Board and Cingular Wireless proudly crown the Champions of the Cingular Wireless Premier Division, Southampton Rangers, and the Cingular Wireless First Division, Somerset Cricket Club for the 2005 50-overs season. Earlier this year the two organizations reaffirmed the continuation of the groundbreaking 3-year sponsorship deal, originally signed with AT&T Wireless, that provides new trophies for both divisions as well as prize money to the top four clubs.

Cingular Wireless has extended their support of the domestic program by providing two new trophies and awards as incentives for players in each division. New to 2005, Cingular Wireless recognizes the Cingular Wireless Premier Division Player of the Year and the Cingular Wireless First Division Player

of the Year with a trophy, new cellular phone and a check for \$250 each. National Coach Gus Logie announced the selections for Player of the Year.

Cingular Wireless Premier Division Player of the Year **Lionel Cann**

Cingular Wireless First Division Player of the Year **Daniel Morgan**

### **BRAZIL**

The Brazilian domestic season had its final weekend of games November 12 – 14, and what a weekend it was. Six twenty/twenty matches between Brasilia, Sao Paulo and Parana at the scenic HSBC ground in Curitiba yielded over 1,800 runs, or an average of over 300 per game. Brasilia came into the final matches undefeated, and although losing once to each opponent, they managed enough wins and bonus scoring points to win the Ambassadors' Shield for the second time in three years.

ICC Americas Regional Development Officer Grant Dugmore was on hand for several of the games, and was even pressed into service as a substitute fielder for Brasilia. Grant also conducted a development forum the day before the games, and attended the Annual General Meeting of the Brazilian Cricket Association, in both cases making numerous valuable contributions to help the growth of cricket in Brazil.

Prior to play on the first day, over 50 schoolchildren – who have spent the past year playing Kwik Cricket – got their first taste of using proper junior cricket equipment, thanks to a special training session organized by Parana Junior Development Officer Paul Tobitt. Many of the visiting senior players pitched in to help coach the youngsters, who really appreciated getting advice from experienced players, and the chance to smash Paul to all parts of the ground!





As for the twenty/twenty games, it was three days of misery for the bowlers and scorers, but a paradise for batsmen from every team, who recorded several centuries and numerous other scores in the eighties and nineties. Balls were flying out of the ground every few deliveries, forcing spectators to constantly dive for cover. The only nailbiting finish to report involved Parana's sole victory of the season, courtesy of Brazilian Gil Rosa's smash to the boundary with only three balls remaining, with Brasilia bowler Chris Thompson on a hat-trick!

Great weather and great spirits prevailed throughout, and gave the selectors plenty to chew on as Brazil prepares to send a team to the Division 3 World Cup Qualifying Tourney in Suriname this coming February.

## CANADA

### CCA – AGM Results

At the annual general meeting of the Canadian Cricket Association held on November 26-27, 2005, Ben Sennik was re-elected President of the Association for another two-year term. Damian Jeganathan was elected the new Treasurer, replacing Traddie Simpson who has moved to take up residence in Bermuda. Also re-elected were Ramesh Jagaroo as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and Calvin Clarke, General Secretary. Anne Davis was elected Women's Coordinator.

The new Executive Board is: Ben Sennik (President), Howard Petrook (1<sup>st</sup> VP), Ramesh Jagoo (2<sup>nd</sup> VP), Clifford Cox (3<sup>rd</sup> VP), Damian Jaganathan (Treasurer) and Calvin Clarke (General Secretary).

Ontario Government hosts Canadian CWC Team  
November 28 was a great day for Canadian cricket when the World Cup bound Canadian team was hosted at Queen's Park in the Provincial Legislature. The team was recognized by the MPPs when they appeared in the Speaker's gallery. This was followed by a reception in the team's honour which was attended by the Honourable Dalton McGuinty (Premier of Ontario), Hon. Mike Colle MPP (Minister of Citizenship and Immigration), Hon. James Watson (Minister of Health and Promotion), and other Ministers and MPPs. Ben Sennik (President of the CCA) presented the Premier with a World Cup shirt and bat.



Other dignitaries in attendance included Consul Generals from cricket playing countries – England, India, Pakistan, South Africa, Antigua, Barbados and Bangladesh. Representatives of the Toronto Mayor's office were also in attendance. CCA officials Ben Sennik, Howard Petrook, Ramesh Jagoo, Calvin Clarke, Errol Townshend, Damian Jeganathan, Leroy Grey and Ken Patel also attended. Over 100 hundred members of the cricket community attended as well as members of the media.

All players and team officials in attendance received certificates of recognition and gifts presented by the Premier and the Ministers. Minister Colle recognized cricket as the fastest growing sport in Ontario and pledged to continue to champion cricket and encourage corporations to get involved with sponsorship of the sport in Ontario.

## CUBA

Lord Puttnam CBE, President of UNICEF, U.K and well known Olympic film producer, in company of Mr. John Dew, U.K Ambassador in Cuba, presented a donation of equipment (bats, pads and helmets) for three teams at the Sports Institute INDER on November 19<sup>th</sup>. A Cricket Exhibition was held on the occasion. The guests were impressed with the kids and youngsters and Lord Puttnam addressed the players. The Cuban Cricket Executive was present along with representatives of INDER Vilma Hichman and Atilio Cruz.

Before departing, Leona Ford (President of the Cuban Cricket Commission) expressed appreciation to the donor and guests on behalf of the CCC and players. "This will actually assist to guarantee the national U15 Qualifying tournament to be celebrated in February for the sub-regional to be held maybe in May, both in 2006".

The week's activities are for sure a boost for cricket in Cuba.

A British Sports Film Festival was held in Havana City at the Charles Chaplain Cinema, coordinated between British Council, Cinema Institute (ICAIC) and INDER. A cricket film was presented on Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. The organizers asked President of the CCC, Ms. Leona Ford, to make an introductory speech before the film, based on origins and introduction of cricket in Cuba. Ms. Ford gave a brief explanation of the spirit of the game and the role of ICC and affiliate member countries, especially of the Americas, which was very much appreciated by the British Council and the young audience.

This U.K initiative was another way of promoting the game in Cuba.



Young Cuban player in full gear before the Cuban flag and Union Jack.

## MEXICO

### Brian Gay Trophy

With only one fixture left to play, Mexico's pre-Christmas competition is still to be decided. The unbeaten Reforma team needed a victory in their final game against holders Tigres de Bengala to claim the trophy. For their part, the Tigres only hope of retaining their title was to beat Reforma comprehensively, as this would tie them at the top with their opponents with hopefully a better net run-rate.

Not surprisingly, the Tigres sprint finish has put them in pole position to retain their title, overhauling Reforma handsomely at the head of the table. They can only be caught by Aztecs, who play the final fixture of the BG trophy early December against MCCC. They will have to produce an equally explosive performance in order to have a chance of dethroning the Tigres.

### Inaugural MCA Fun Day

Saturday, November 26<sup>th</sup> was the date of the first MCA Fun Day, held at the club Campestre Golf Club in Morelos state. It was a historic day for the Association, as it was the first time in living memory that cricket has been played outside Mexico City, and almost certainly for the first time ever in Morelos.

The day started with an introduction to the rules, principles, and basic concepts of cricket for our local guests, which included an extended coaching session for the next generation of Mexican cricket superstars getting their first taste of the sport. Once the golfers had been evicted from the driving range and the Flick pitch laid down, the main event could begin – a 15 overs per side exhibition match between mixed teams of newcomers and old hands.

Next month we look forward to the conclusion of the Brian Gay Trophy, along with reports from our first Schools Coaching sessions.



## PANAMA

Bhattay Cricket Club was crowned champions of Copa Panama Cricket 2005. Team Captain Bashir Patel received the trophy at the presentation.



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

Gary Savage (Argentina); Neil Speight (Bermuda); Norman Baldwin (Brazil); Calvin Clarke (Canada); Leona Ford (Cuba); Chris Wood (Mexico); Ismael Patel (Panama).

### **Your ICC Americas team-**

**Martin , Grant , Vicki and Brandy extend to all NewsFlash readers our best wishes for a Happy Holiday season and a Prosperous New Year**

