



# *ICC Americas Region News Flash*

## *November, 2007*



- **Argentina gains valuable experience in Namibia**
- **Mexico captures Central America Championship**
- **Staff Conference outlines future of development program**



### **WORLD CRICKET LEAGUE – DIVISION 2**

Argentina, Americas Region only team in Division 2, found the going tough as they finished sixth, going winless for the entire tournament. Their record, however, was not without some positive accomplishments and indeed many thought their standard of play was improved from their surprising performance in the Division 3 appearance, where they surprised the world by finishing second. They were very competitive in games against Oman (lost by 18 runs) and Denmark (lost by 3 wickets).

Gary Savage (4/57 and 34 off 49 balls) was Man of the Match vs Oman, and Matias Paterlini 114\* versus Namibia was a record for an Argentine player in international cricket.

The valuable experience gained by these players appearing in both Divisions 2 and 3 of the World Cricket League will be a tremendous boost to cricket, not only in Argentina but all over the South American continent.

Final standings for Division 2 were (1) UAE (2) Oman (3) Namibia (4) Denmark (5) Uganda and (6) Argentina.

### **DEVELOPMENT DEPT. STAFF CONFERENCE**

The semi-annual Staff Conference of the Development Department was held recently in Namibia. RDMs and RDOs were trained to deliver better administration and governance courses to their regional members and were informed about pending changes to the funding and membership criteria, to become effective in 2009.

The year 2008 will be used to get all member countries ready for major changes in 2009. The theme for 2008 - “Get Ready” for 2009.

### **CENTRAL AMERICA CHAMPIONSHIP**

Host country, Mexico captured the second Central America Championship with wins over Costa Rica and El Salvador. Costa Rica defeated El Salvador to finish second. This tournament gives developing affiliates and new territories an opportunity to gain valuable experience and it is a stepping stone for the lowest ranked affiliates to the Americas Division 3 competition.



## AROUND the REGION

### ARGENTINA



#### 5<sup>th</sup> Carcamanes Cricket Festival

Don't miss the chance to experience the lovely game of cricket in South America – March 8 to 15, 2008. The Carcamanes Cricket Festival is played annually in Buenos Aires, Argentina and is a great event for teams and clubs of cricketers at least 40 years young. It is a fantastic and unique cricket festival with the opportunity to experience magical Buenos Aires and amazing Argentina.

For further information, contact [carcamanescricket@yahoo.com](mailto:carcamanescricket@yahoo.com).

### BAHAMAS

#### Bahamas Primary Schools

The Primary School tournament was set up with 4 pools and the winner of each pool went through to the Grand Final at the end of the week. The winners of the pools were Oaksfield PS, Columbus PS, Carmichael PS and EP Roberts PS. The eventual winners of the round robin Grand Final league were Columbus Primary School. It was a week of fantastic cricket and sportsmanship that had over 200 boys and girls playing competitive cricket. The tournament was such a success the Primary Schools are already planning another tournament for later in the school year.

In other youth news – the U16 hard ball league has finished its first round of matches with 3 teams tied at the top – East, South and Central. The game on Saturday sees South take on the North to see if the South can pull away at the top.

### BERMUDA

#### BCB announce U19 World Cup Squad

The BCB are pleased to announce players have been selected for the U19 World Cup training camp to be held in Trinidad and Tobago, December 12 – 23. This training camp will prepare the team for the U19 World Cup in Malaysia, February 2008. Bermuda will play in the group with England, Bangladesh and Ireland.

Whilst in Trinidad, the squad will take part in an intensive training regime. They will play four practice matches against Wanderers CC, Queen's Park CC, Preysal Sports Club and Powergen Sports Club. They will be meeting with and have guidance from Mr. Deryck Murray, President of the Trinidad and Tobago Cricket Board of Control and former West Indian national player. They will have regular practice sessions in the nets and on the field and will have the opportunity to train with former West Indian national players, Tony Gray and Bernard Julian. In the classroom, the team will focus on personal development, mental aspects of the game and will watch video analysis of themselves to see where they need to improve. Mr. Clinton Jeremiah, former army instructor, will be working on the team's overall physical fitness.



U19 Team in training

#### Professional Development Workshop

The BCB is pleased to announce that in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, a Professional Development Cricket Coaching Workshop for primary, middle and secondary school teachers is being held. On November 15, primary school physical education teachers from Government schools across the island took part in an introductory level course – “Coaching Cricket for Primary Teachers”. On November 16 “Coaching Cricket for Middle and Secondary Teachers” was offered.

The workshop was run by Cricket Development Director Arnold Manders, National Coach Gus Logie and National Team Captain Irving Romaine. They covered the basics in teaching fielding, batting, bowling, pitch set-up and scoring. The course was aimed at

- providing updated ideas for developing pupils cricket skills and tactical understanding
- providing skills training to primary school teachers to enable cricket to be introduced to young cricketers in a fun and enjoyable way
- providing teacher resources for teachers coaching cricket in the primary schools
- showing teachers how to promote different approaches to teaching and helping them to maximize the active involvement of all pupils.

#### UAE shocks Bermuda in Intercontinental Cup

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) pulled off a surprise ICC Intercontinental Cup win as Bermuda,

chasing 282 runs to win, was bundled out for 143 runs on the last of 4 scheduled days. The UAE won by 138 runs.

Bermuda had been in control of the match on the first two days, leading on first innings by 168 runs, but the UAE fought back with second innings centuries from Arshad Ali (185 runs) and Saqib Ali (142 runs). Bermuda, who made 311 runs in its first innings, then slumped to 33 runs for 5 wickets in its second innings and was unable to play out time to salvage a draw. Irfan Ahmed spearheaded the early breakthroughs and ended with 3 wickets for 35 runs. Four other UAE bowlers shared the second innings wickets.

UAE takes 14 points for the outright win and Bermuda 6 points for first innings lead.

## BRAZIL

Twenty20 Tourney in Sao Paulo  
November 16 and 17 saw the Brazilian Cricket Association stage its second interstate Twenty20 tournament, held at the SPAC ground in Sao Paulo. Given the large distances between Brazil's three cricket-playing cities, the event required a considerable amount of organization and travel. The all-Brazilian team from Brasilia drove twelve hours to get there, while the Parana side had it easy, only having to drive six hours! Each team played four matches, giving everyone plenty of opportunity to shine, particularly as this event was also being used as a chance to help select the Brazilian team that will travel to Buenos Aires early in 2008 for the ICC Division 3 World League of Cricket tournament. Sao Paulo and Parana tied for most wins, though the home side ended up as overall winners on run rate. Parana's players won the most individual awards however - Hammad Durrani as top scoring batsman, Rohit Khemani and Danish Qureshi for best bowling figures (these two shared 14 wickets, with Danish snaring 4, including a hat-trick, in one over alone). Also present were three of the

four Brazil players who took part in the recent South America X1 side that played in Buenos Aires, though Greigor Caisley (who injured himself batting against Argentina) had to be content with being a spectator and photographer (he took the group shot photo for this article).



All in all, a very successful series of games, and ample proof of the commitment required to stage events of this type in Brazil.

## CANADA

Ben Sennik has been re-elected President of the Canadian Cricket Association for another two year term. The elections took place at the association's annual general meeting held November 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> in Toronto. Other members forming the executive are Mohan (Mike) Kendall – 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Ravin Moorthy – 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Clifford Cox – 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President, Bill Siddiqui – Treasurer, and Calvin Clarke – General Secretary.

Cricket continues to spread in Canada, evidence of this is the acceptance by the Board of Directors of its newest Provincial member – Prince Edward Island Cricket Association.

It was announced at the AGM that Canada has committed to hosting the ICC U19 Cricket World Cup in 2012.

As announced at the AGM, the CCA has proposed to change its name to "Cricket Canada". To celebrate this change the Canadian Cricket Association is inviting creative and artistic members of the cricketering community to submit their designs for a suggested new logo. The logo should include our national symbol –

the Maple Leaf. Please send logo designs digitally by January 10, 2008 to Atul Ahuja, CEO at [atul.ahuja@telus.blackberry.net](mailto:atul.ahuja@telus.blackberry.net)

Cliff Cox, CCA's 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President, received the Paul Harris Fellowship award – the highest award offered by the Rotary Club. This award is for "Distinguished service to Sport, Theatre and Business in Canada" and is seldom given to a non-Rotarian.

Twenty school teachers received their Introduction to Cricket course at the Vradenburg Junior Public School on November 17. Ron Dipchand, Coaching Co-ordinator for CCA, conducted the course for schools which was organized by Versatility Promotions Inc. with the help of RBC Financial and ICC Americas.

## CAYMAN ISLANDS

### Cable & Wireless – 20/20 Champions

When Ainsley Hall played that winning stroke, it brought the curtains down on a glorious weekend of 20/20 cricket. Cayman 20/20 International which included three Cayman select teams - Money Express, Esso and eventual winners Cable & Wireless, and guest team Bahamas, played exciting cricket from Jimmy Powel Oval in West Bay to the Smith Road Oval in George Town. It was entertainment from the first ball with players extending themselves hitting sixes and fours, taking wickets, some breathtaking catches and turning ones into twos and sometimes threes.

It all came down to the last match on Sunday between Cable & Wireless Cayman and Bahamas. Esso Cayman defeated Money Express Cayman, setting up a grand finale. The crowds got their monies worth as Bahamas, having lost two previous matches but improving with each game, brought their A game to the Smith Road Oval. Rain interrupted the match and resulted in a reduction in overs to 18 each. Bahamas stroked their way to 102 runs and then put on a terrific performance in the field. Led by the brilliance of Dwight Weakley, the Bahamas team fought all the way. Not to be outdone, experienced

campaigner Ainsley Hall calmly led his Cable & Wireless team to victory.

The cricket association wishes to congratulate the organizing committee led by Tournament Coordinator Merta Day, volunteers, umpires, grounds men and most of all the players.

**20/20 is here to stay.**



## CHILE

### Schools Cup Nearing Climax

The Homework Club School Cricket League is entering its final stages, with Lincoln International Academy having already claimed their place in the final. The Group A winners were undefeated in their four fixtures and will now meet the winners of Group B before the end of November. In Group B it is Wenlock and Craighouse that are emerging as the front runners to reach the final, with the two schools meeting on November 21 in a 'winner takes all' encounter.

In total, 17 games of competitive hardball cricket will have been played by the time the competition comes to a conclusion at the end of the month, and the level of cricket on show has been spectacular. Particularly worthy of mention are Echaurren batsman Benjamin Gutierrez, who smashed 43 runs in their encounter with the International Country School and Lincoln International's Ignacio Dabed who has taken 5 wickets in 8 overs for just 17 runs.

The school league has provided Chilean junior cricket with the competition that was needed to encourage children to take the step up from 'Pinguino Cricket' to hardball cricket, and will ensure that the U13 national team members will have had a much greater exposure to that form of the game than in previous years.

### Chilean players represent South American X1

In early November, four members of the Chilean senior national team traveled to Buenos Aires, Argentina to play in a South American X1 as part of Argentina's preparation for the World Cricket League Division 2 competition being held in Namibia later in the month. John Fecci, Simon Shalders, Tim Messner and Guy Hooper were joined by players from Brazil and Argentina and played in four games of cricket, losing all four but holding their own and showing our cricketing neighbours that cricket is alive and well in Chile.

### La Reina & Santiago top the Metropolitan Cup Table

The 7<sup>th</sup> Metropolitan Cup has expanded from four teams to six teams this season and has provided some very entertaining cricket. Newcomers Estacion Central have been a bit slow finding their feet but improvement has been seen in every match. They tied their first match vs the Vina del Mar X1, lost their second match to the current cup holders La Reina, after ripping through the top and middle order early on in the match. Their third match vs last year's runner up Santiago was a competitive match with much improved bowling and batting, as two of the four 50s seen in the MetroCup to date have been posted by Estacion Central batsmen. Santiago, after two matches, trail La Reina who have played three matches by only 4 points on the table. La Reina travel to Vina del Mar this weekend to play in the first Metropolitan Cup match to be held outside of the Chilean capital. Las Condes take on Santiago at the Grange School while La Dehesa host Estacion Central at the Craighouse School. Be sure to check out the results at [www.cricketchile.cl](http://www.cricketchile.cl)

## COSTA RICA

The following team went to the second Central American Cricket Championship – R. Mathauda, A. Foster, H. Rogers, C. Prasad, B. Ashworth, B. Smith, F. Walker, M. Peart, D. Foster, S. Bryant, D. Crisp (Captain), T. Baker, Lofty, L. Benson.

There were some anxious moments at 4.30 a.m. on November 15 – neither

the Captain nor the airline ticket holder was present. However, all made it eventually. After checking in at the Best Western Maria Barbara, the team had its first sight of the ground at The Reforma Athletic Club. They were more than impressed and our thanks are due to the Mexico Cricket Association for providing such wonderful facilities for the second Central American Championship. The nets provided were used and the team retired to the hotel, where your correspondent was advised, they had a quiet team dinner (it was the noisiest Mariachi Bar they had been in).

### El Salvador v Costa Rica

In the game on November 16, everyone got a knock but the star was Ben Smith who made 102. With the help of some quick 20s and 30s, we reached 253 by the end of our innings. This proved too much for El Salvador, who were bowled out for 81. Chris Prasad, Mickey Pert, Herd Rogers and Ben Smith all bowled well.

### The British Embassy Friday night

Thanks to Katy Shrimpton, all teams were able to go to the Embassy that evening for drinks and good food, including really hot chilli. Katy works there and is social secretary for the Mexican Cricket Association. It was a good night and we hope to see the friends we made there in Costa Rica.

Saturday, November 17 was a rest day for Costa Rica. El Salvador played well but Mexico beat them, leaving us to play in the final on Sunday. F. Aribizu scored 53 not out for El Salvador and many of us wondered what would have happened if we had played as many nationals as they did.

### Mexico v Costa Rica

Mexico batted first and, at one stage, they were 40 for three. Chris Prasad was bowling well. He had two wickets when he pulled up with a thigh strain and was unable to complete the over. Danilo Foster kept wicket well as he had in the earlier match. He caught two catches and there was a brilliant catch by David Crisp above his head on the boundary. Ben Smith bowled a tight spell and we had them all out for 165 in 26 overs.

Most of our team had played in Belize two years ago and remembered the severe loss inflicted on us by Mexico. Now we had a real chance, but sadly, it was not to be. Tim Baker was stumped off a wide ball by their brilliant wicket keeper who also caught a great catch to dismiss Ben Smith. Barry Ashworth and Herd Rogers were run out. After that we were up against it. Chris Prasad batted well with a runner, but we were all out for 95 which looks worse than it was.

**Congratulations to Ben Smith for being awarded Man of the Championship for his all round performance with bat and ball (111 for one out and 11.2 overs for 27 runs and 4 wickets).**

It was a great trip and our thanks are due to those who worked so hard to ensure its success. It is difficult to single out people, but David Grant, Keith Foster and James Garrity were always there to welcome and help. They must be largely responsible for the success of the Championship. In addition, our thanks are due to The Taste of Britain, Hotel Bougainvillea, Hotel Club del Mar, Motores Britanicos and Chichis who were generous sponsors. Also of note is Roger Mathauda – without him we would never have got there.

## CUBA

### RDO visits Cuba

Grant Dugmore, Regional Development Officer visited Cuba in October and met with the Cuban Cricket Board's President, Leona Ford and Carlos Herrera, Technical Director. He was updated on their project with Caribbean Associations in Havana and Guantanamo, Casa del Caribe in Santiago de Cuba, and other anglo-caribbean communities for the Rescue of Cricket in Cuba as part of the Caribbean culture.



## Other News

Samantha Keyes from England, offered her service to the CCB in coaching players of the ACC during her six month Spanish studies in Havana. Samantha and Denis Byam, a sports student from St. Vincent, offered their assistance to INDER to coach a Cuban team to attend the Stanford 20/20 2008 Tournament.



## MEXICO

November has been a period of frantic activity for the MCA. On the 9<sup>th</sup> we saw Club Captain James Garrity leaving Mexico airport with a team of 13 hopeful players bound for Houston. This was to play the bi-annual fixture between Houston Memorial CC and MCA – hopeful, because Houston are very strong on their home patch. In almost 30 years of the fixture one could count on one hand the times that Mexico have returned with the trophy. After lots of fun and games in the famous (or should it be infamous) immigration, the team were finally released on the Friday evening. Had HMCC been in touch with the immigration authorities having heard that Mexico was this year presenting a stronger team than normal? Strange – it was Mexico's two fast bowlers who suffered the longest and most thorough interrogation.

The Saturday warm up game was a shambles for Mexico who were bundled out in less than 25 overs. Houston easily scored the runs needed. Was it jet lag? After all there is a full hour difference between Mexico and Houston time. Or was it a clever plot? It would appear it was the latter.

In an exciting game which saw Houston being allowed to score 204 for 8 from 40 overs, thanks to 7 dropped catches, MCA proceeded to build a score managing to lose 6

wickets and still needing 27 needed off 24 balls with Houston's opening bowlers in action. What a sport we love and play! Gagan Kurana batting number eight then hit 18 in one over off Houston's opening bowler to turn the game completely in Mexico's favour. The winning runs were scored with 11 balls remaining.



The winning team- Mexico

The following week (Nov.16 to 18) saw MCA proudly hosting the second Central American Championship. Unfortunately the previous first time hosts and winners Belize were unable to be present. Although this could not be an official ICC event due to eligibility issues, ICC Americas generously provided two first class umpires for the three day event. Kantilal Patel and Ashook Brijcoomar did a wonderful job and all the teams benefited from their experience and know how. They passed on a tremendous amount of tips and knowledge over the weekend.



Umpires supplied by ICC Americas

The two visiting teams from Costa Rica and El Salvador opened the tournament on the Friday. Both teams, being unaccustomed to batting on a turf wicket, especially at more than 7,000 feet above sea level. Many of the El Salvadorian players had been playing for only a year but their passion and potential were evident from the start. Everyone involved agreed it had been a wonderful weekend with the main winner being

the sport of cricket. This was a perfect example of what the sport is about. The sportsmanship from all sides were exemplary as was the standard of umpiring.

Thanks to the MCA administration for their organization with special mention for Mark del Aguilar who seemed to be everywhere at all times. Thanks also to Costa Rica and El Salvador teams for making the effort to participate.

To view over 100 photographs of the tournament, please click on the link <http://web.mac.com/dmilverton>. Thanks to Damian Milverton, Club Treasurer, for the wonderful photos.

For more information on results and individual scores please visit our website compiled by Mark Aguilar – <http://mexicocricket.googlepages.com/home>

To close out the month, the MCA are holding the opening round of the junior tournament. More about that in next month's news of MCA.

One piece of bad news for the MCA is that we are saying goodbye in December to Katy Shrimpton, our social secretary for the last two years. Katy has done some wonderful work for the club and will be sorely missed. Good luck for the future, Katy.

## PANAMA

The Panama Cricket Association reports that they have contacted teams and also juniors to start the 2007-08 season which begins at the end of December.

## NEW TERRITORIES

### El Salvador

The El Salvador cricket team just returned from its first ever forays into international cricket. Mexico hosted the second Central American Championship and after reigning champions Belize pulled out, a late offer was extended for us to take their place. We left for this tournament brimming with excitement and determination but a little short of

experience in the conditions we would play in. Our team would prove to be younger and far more national than our competitors. We put out 9 players who were born in the country they were representing while the other two teams put a total of 2 between them. Only 2 of our players had previously played at a level approaching what we would be up against.

The end result was a fantastic tournament with great performances and a steep learning curve. We played markedly better in our second game against a team who proved to be the eventual winners. By the second game most of us had doubled our total cricket playing experience at this level. We achieved 4 out of 6 targets – something to build on. We have enthusiasm and some kind donations with which nets and an artificial pitch can be purchased. With better training facilities and more experience we hope to improve and get to the standard where we are in a position to win some games.

## **ANNUAL AWARDS**

### **LAST CALL FOR NOMINATIONS- Closing date is December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2007**

The eight categories in the awards are:

- Best Overall Cricket Development Program
- Best Women's Cricket Initiative
- Best Junior Cricket Initiative
- Best Cricket Promotion and Marketing Program
- Best Spirit of Cricket initiative in partnership with UNAIDS
- Photo of the Year
- Volunteer of the Year
- Lifetime Service Award

Nominations to date:

Brazil 3

Chile 3

Canada 1

**This is our last NewsFlash before the Holidays so from your ICC Americas Team: Grant , Brandy, Vicki and Martin we wish you all the best for the season and coming year.**



*Feliz Navidad*

*Feliz Año Nuevo !*

*Feliz Natal*

*Feliz ano novo !*

*Joyeux Noël*

*Bonne année*

*Merry Christmas*

*Happy New Year*



*Our thanks to the following for their contributions:*

Christian Tunon (Argentina); John Welch (Bahamas); Fiona Holmes (Bermuda); Norman Baldwin (Brazil); Calvin Clarke and Eddie Norfolk (Canada); Theo Cuffy (Cayman Islands) Michael Meade (Chile); Philip Chesterman (Costa Rica); Leona Ford-Miller (Cuba); Keith Foster (Mexico); Irfan Tarajia (Panama); Andrew Murgatroyd (El Salvador).

Thanks to all of our member countries for a great year in the Americas.



Signed: Santa

Please submit brief articles and photos (jpeg) for publication to [admin@cricamericas.com](mailto:admin@cricamericas.com) by 25<sup>th</sup> each month.