



07 Cricket Operations

Governing International Cricket

ICC's Cricket Operations department has been boosted significantly during the year. The appointment of David Richardson to the new position of General Manager - Cricket, and Chris Kelly as Umpires and Referees Manager, signalled both the ICC's intention to expand its cricket operations and to recruit talented and well-qualified ex-players.

Richardson has been recruited to steer the department forward in terms of cricketing matters and to provide the ICC's cricket operations with a far higher profile, so that the ICC is better equipped to undertake and fulfil its role in the governing of international cricket. His experience, as a practising lawyer and the cricketing knowledge gained from his 42 Tests and 122 one-day international appearances for South Africa in the 1990's, combine to make him an authoritative spokesman on cricket issues.

Clive Hitchcock remains as the Cricket Operations Manager. His experience with ICC will ensure that the day to day operation of the department runs smoothly.

During the year the Cricket Operations Department has been at the centre of considerable activity. The setting up of the Elite Panels of Umpires and Match Referees, an initiative supported by all countries, has been one of the most significant projects. Each of the eight elite panel umpires will be expected to stand in an average of 12 Tests and 15 one-day internationals per year - which equates to a maximum of 75 days out of 365. The members of both panels are contracted to the ICC on a full time basis.

With respect to the Elite Panels the Department's role is to

ensure that agreed policies are implemented correctly and consistently, and that the Panel members have the support and assistance essential to enable them to perform at the highest level. Chris Kelly's role as Umpires and Referees Manager is to manage the Elite Panels of umpires and match referees, and monitor the progress of the officials aiming to graduate from the second tier International Panel. One of the first priorities of this role is to formulate acceptable and consistent assessment procedures utilising a range of resources, including video and computer technology, to aid the development of match officials.

He will also work with all international and elite umpires, acting as both a mentor and sounding board in a bid to set and maintain new standards. Rest periods for the elite umpires is another important factor to be woven into the management procedures, as is the way in which the performance of those officials wanting to break into the elite panels is monitored and reviewed.

The new code of conduct and system of penalties has been a further initiative for which the Department was responsible. Launched in April 2002, the Code aims to produce far more consistency in the application of penalties so that players will, consequently, know where they stand. It will, in turn, strengthen the image of cricket as international cricketers come to respect the new code.

The Cricket Committee (Management) has been given an expanded role in 2001-02, and has increased its profile as a decision-making body whilst steering the implementation of the 10-year Tours Program first agreed in February 2001.

ICC Elite Panels of Umpires and Match Referees



ICC Referees Panel - Gundappa Viswanath (India), Wasim Raja (Pakistan), Clive Lloyd (West Indies), Mike Procter (South Africa), Ranjan Madugalle (Sri Lanka) - Chief Referee.



ICC Elite Umpires Panel - Asoka De Silva (Sri Lanka), Daryl Harper (Australia), David Shepherd (England), Dave Orchard (South Africa), Steve Bucknor (West Indies), Russell Tiffin (Zimbabwe), Srinivas Venkataraghavan (India), Rudi Koertzen (South Africa).

“The constant, high pressure demands of international cricket mean that umpiring at the highest level now has to be a full time profession, rather than a part time job. The eight men chosen to join the Elite Panel are all proven performers at Test level, who command the respect of the captains and players.”

ICC Chief Executive Officer - Malcolm Speed

Also active over the past 12 months has been the Cricket Committee (Playing), under Sunil Gavaskar's chairmanship. It has reviewed the code of conduct, the use of technology, and agreed new playing conditions, the introduction of one bouncer per over in one-day international cricket and the use of lights in Test matches.

A review group has been busy in recent months formulating a new policy to deal with bowlers reported for illegal actions. The groups brief was to look at the current system, deemed to be too long and complicated and with no standardised methods of testing or analysing, and to put together proposals to overhaul the whole process and set out standard assessment methods and levels of tolerance.

The use of technology in the game also falls within the Departments remit and it will be closely monitoring the Cricket Committee - Playing decision to trial the extended use of technology at the ICC Champions Trophy in September. At this stage it is important to stress that the use of more technology as an aid for umpires' decisions in addition to (and not instead of) the work being done to raise the overall standards of umpiring is only a trial. “It is essential to have a trial period for something like this, because the practicalities just cannot be imagined in the boardroom.” Said Richardson.

A thorough review of the existing formula applied to the ICC Test Championship is also imminent as are plans to introduce a new one-day championship to run alongside the Test ‘table’. The ICC considers it very important that it has competitions that are respected by everyone and generate widespread interest. To this end it is essential that the formats of each of these competitions are credible to players and public alike.

In addition to the team based ranking systems, the ICC is considering developing a system of individual rankings and a possible team fair play award.

On the field Clive Hitchcock was responsible for the running of the ICC Trophy tournament in Canada. This was a successful event, financed largely by the US\$ 2 million investment by ICC and won this time by Holland, but it is likely to be the last in its current format. The growth of this tournament in recent times (22 countries took part in Toronto despite the late withdrawal of both Italy and West Africa) means that a new, streamlined, regionalised format is likely to emerge when the next ICC Trophy is contested in 2005.

*Left: Holland win the ICC Trophy
Right: Floodlights in Mohali*

