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ICC U/19 Cricket World Cup 2006 launched in Sri Lanka



ICC President says the event demonstrates the country's strength and resilience.

ICC President Ehsan Mani took the opportunity of the launch of the ICC U/19 Cricket World Cup (CWC) in Sri Lanka in late November to praise the island's strength and resilience in the wake of the devastating tsunami.

'In December 2004 Sri Lanka suffered a terrible tragedy yet one year on the country is preparing to welcome the best young cricketers in the world,' said Mr Mani ahead of the event that will take place in February.

'Sport cannot compensate for such a tragedy but the fact this tournament is set to take place in Sri Lanka sends a wonderfully positive message to the rest of the sporting world.

'It shows Sri Lanka is moving forward again and this ICC U/19 Cricket World Cup should prove the perfect stage to highlight all that is good about the island.'

16 teams will play 44 matches over 15 days at five different venues in Colombo, culminating in the final on Sunday 19 February at the R.Premadasa Stadium.

The tournament is Sri Lanka's third ICC event in the past six years, following on from a previous ICC U/19 CWC in 2000 and the ICC Champions Trophy in 2002.

'No other nation can match this feat and it is something that reflects the confidence the ICC has in Sri Lanka to host these important events,' said Mr Mani. ☺



Pakistan players celebrate beating West Indies in the final of the ICC U/19 Cricket World Cup 2004 in Bangladesh.

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'Sport cannot compensate for such a tragedy but the fact this tournament is set to take place in Sri Lanka sends a wonderfully positive message to the rest of the sporting world.'

Ehsan Mani (pictured left with Sri Lanka Cricket's Interim Committee Chairman Jayantha Dharmadasa)



Cricket unites in support of HIV/AIDS awareness

Women join men as awareness activities are undertaken for third successive year.



The world's best cricketers pledged their support to the global fight against HIV and AIDS on World AIDS Day 2005.

All players and officials participating in international cricket matches on or around World AIDS Day wore red ribbons as a sign of solidarity with the millions of people around the world living with HIV and AIDS.

For the first time the world's leading male cricketers were joined in this initiative by their female counterparts.

The captains of Pakistan and England both offered positive words of support for the fight against HIV and AIDS ahead of their decisive third Test match in Lahore.

'To fight against AIDS is the responsibility of every human being. By wearing red ribbons on World AIDS Day, we hope to create awareness of this terrible disease amongst all people and help to support the fight to eliminate it,' said Pakistan captain Inzamam-ul-Haq.

England captain Michael Vaughan added: 'We will be wearing red ribbons to try and raise awareness of AIDS and help in the fight against the disease worldwide.'

Australia's players also wore red ribbons in their opening one-day match against neighbours New Zealand and their captain Ricky Ponting echoed the comments of Inzamam and Vaughan.

'The Australian cricket team supports the ICC's campaign to raise awareness of HIV and AIDS which affects over 40 million people, many of them in cricket playing nations. Through awareness we hope many lives can be saved and a cure can be found,' said Ponting before the match.

The first female international cricketers to support this initiative were the participants in the second One-Day International between India and England at Lucknow.

England captain Charlotte Edwards explained why the England players wore red ribbons.



'Women's cricket has a pretty high profile in India so this was an important opportunity for us to help promote AIDS awareness here. We were delighted to be able to join our male counterparts in support of this essential campaign,' said Edwards.

ICC President Ehsan Mani praised the players for helping cricket to 'run out' AIDS.

'The ICC is delighted that for the third year in a row the cricket world has united in this common cause,' said Mr Mani.

'The spirit of cricket demands that we support UNAIDS in the fight against an epidemic that is prevalent in many of the major cricket-playing countries.'



▲ Players from both teams plus the match officials wore red ribbons during New Zealand's first One-Day International match against Australia.

◀ England bowlers Steve Harmison and Matthew Hoggard helped raise awareness during England's match against Pakistan.

Statistics on cricket and AIDS

Over 12 million people are living with HIV and AIDS in the 10 ICC Full Member countries.

In the time it takes to play a One-Day International match (seven hours) there will be over 2300 HIV/AIDS related deaths around the world.

In the time it takes to play a Test match (five days) there will be over 41,000 HIV/AIDS related deaths around the world.

Awareness-raising activities were undertaken at the following matches:

Thu 01 Dec - Lahore
Pakistan v England, 3rd Test, Day 3

Thu 01 Dec - Lucknow
India Women v England Women

Fri 02 Dec - Chennai
India v Sri Lanka, 1st Test, Day 1

Sat 03 Dec - Auckland (D/N)
New Zealand v Australia, 1st ODI



ICC reviews technology trial after Johnnie Walker Super Series



Report to be provided to ICC Cricket Committee in 2006.

The ICC is in the process of reviewing the results of a trial conducted during the Johnnie Walker Super Series to help it assess the future role that technology may play in the decision-making process in international cricket.

ICC General Manager - Cricket, David Richardson, said that a review of the results would be presented to the ICC Cricket Committee for consideration in 2006.

'Over recent years the ICC has been committed to trialling new technology and we have seen with the introduction of referrals for line decisions that it can have a role to play in helping umpires make correct decisions,' said Mr Richardson.

'But this does not necessarily mean that all available technology will automatically be introduced. The top umpires are already averaging over 94 per cent of correct decisions so we will only introduce additional technology if it can be shown to have a measurable positive impact on the level of correct decision-making.

'Before anything new is adopted we must be certain that it is practically feasible to introduce for all international cricket. In addition it must not lead to a change in the way that the game is played or compromise the integrity of the decision-making process.'



The Johnnie Walker Super Series trial allowed on-field umpires to 'consult' with the TV umpire on any aspect of any decision with the final decision remaining with the on-field umpire. The only exceptions to this were referrals for line decisions, which were dealt with by the TV umpire in the usual manner, and clean catches, where the existing process of referral only in instances where both umpires are unsighted was also retained.

Over the course of the three One-Day International matches and one-off Super Test in Australia there were a total of 23 consultations between the on-field officials and the TV umpire. In the same four matches there were 11 line decisions referred to the TV umpire.

The 23 consultations comprised one no-ball from a wicket-taking delivery,

▲ Simon Taufel undertakes TV umpire duties during the Johnnie Walker Super Series

six catches and 16 lbw decisions. The average time taken for these consultations was 80 seconds. This compares to an average of 56 seconds for run out and stumping referrals.

Simon Taufel from the Emirates Elite Panel of ICC Umpires was one of the officials who stood in the Johnnie Walker Super Series matches.

'It was a unique experience to have the 'safety net' of being able to consult on any aspect of a decision,' said Mr Taufel.

'I think we now understand that no system is perfect but I am sure that positives will be drawn from the trial. The challenge looking ahead will be to look at ways that we can balance the use of technology in the game in a way that adds value without compromising the role of the umpire.'

◀ Rudi Koertzen seeks a consultation with the TV umpire during the Johnnie Walker Super Test in Sydney.



Analysis of referrals and consultations at the Johnnie Walker Super Series

	Run out	St	ct	ct w/k	ct b/p	LBW	no ball	Totals
Referrals	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	11
Consultations	0	0	1	3	2	16	1	23
Av Time	56 sec	47 sec	84 sec	96 sec	100 sec	77 sec	39 sec	72 sec

The consultation trial applied for the Johnnie Walker Super Series only while the referral process applies to all international cricket.



News in brief

News in brief summarises the latest developments in international cricket and at the ICC.

Women's Committee approves standard playing conditions

The latest meeting of the International Cricket Council's Women's Committee agreed that for the first time every women's international match from November 2005 would take place under a universal set of playing conditions.

Previously, each country operated under its own set of conditions but the eight-person Committee decided on a change in policy as part of a drive towards standardisation throughout the women's game.

The meeting also agreed a universal Code of Conduct for players and officials and discussions took place on the possibility of replicating the policies of the men's game concerning suspect bowling actions and anti-doping policy.

The meeting was the second by the Women's Committee since the ICC took over the running of the women's game from the International Women's Cricket Council (IWCC) in April 2005.



▲ ICC Women's Committee delegates in Dubai: (l-r) Belinda Clark, Megan Smith (ICC Women's Project Officer), Betty Timmer (Chair), Gill McConway, Catherine Campbell, Ann Browne-John and Joan Edwards. (Not pictured: Matthew Kennedy, Shubhangi Kulkarni).

ICC Development Program Awards 2005

The nomination process for the fourth annual ICC Development Program Awards is now open.

Applicants from all 86 ICC Associate and Affiliate member countries can enter any of the nine awards categories before 31 January 2006. Entrants will be vying to join a list of proud winners from the last three years.

This year, cricket equipment manufacturer Kookaburra will join established awards partner Flicx International in rewarding the global winners.

Full details of the criteria, nomination process and an application form are available on the official ICC website at www.icc-cricket.com/development.



▲ The 'photo of the year' from the ICC Development Program Awards 2004.

ICC welcomes new staff

The International Cricket Council has recently recruited two new staff members with strong track records in the field of sport as its commercial lawyer and media manager. Experienced lawyer Richard Verow has joined the ICC's Commercial Department from UEFA where he fulfilled a similar role for three years while Brian Murgatroyd - who has served as media manager for the England and Wales Cricket Board and Cricket Australia - has joined the Corporate Affairs department as media manager.

Another recent addition to the ICC headquarters in Dubai is Sybil Fernandes who has filled the vacant post of event co-ordinator in the Commercial Department.



India wins Deaf World Cup

Hosts India won the Deaf World Cup on home soil in Lucknow, defeating England in the final by 81 runs.

The event, which is administered by the Deaf Cricket International Federation, was contested by nine national teams from 17 to 27 October.

Ahead of the tournament, ICC President Ehsan Mani said: 'The 2nd Deaf World Cup shows our game can touch individuals who may never even have heard the unmistakably magical sound of leather on willow. It proves once again that cricket is a game without boundaries.'

Earthquake relief fundraising in Sydney

The ICC helped the Australian Red Cross, on behalf of the international relief agency Red Cross/Red Crescent, to raise over \$AUD 1.5 million to help the victims of the Asian earthquake. The ICC Executive Board kick-started the campaign with a donation of US\$500,000 from the proceeds of the Johnnie Walker Super Series. Further funds were raised through a number of activities focused around the second day of the Super Test at Sydney Cricket Ground.

For the latest ICC news visit www.icc-cricket.com



ICC Awards 2005

A look back at October's gala ceremony in Sydney.



England's Andrew Flintoff and South Africa's Jacques Kallis shared the spoils at the second annual ICC Awards presented by Hyundai in association with FICA. Flintoff and Kallis were named as joint winners of the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy as Players of the Year after finishing tied when the votes of the 50-member Academy were counted. They received their award from Richie Benaud, the former Australia captain and member of the ICC voting Academy, and it completed a successful night for both men.

Flintoff was also named in both the Test and ODI Teams of the Year while Kallis won the Test Player of the Year Award, was included in the Test Team of the Year and named as twelfth man in the ODI Team of the Year.

Flintoff's success was part of a winning night for England. The England team won the Spirit of Cricket Award while Flintoff's team-mate Kevin Pietersen scooped two awards.

Pietersen won the Emerging Player of the Year Award and the ODI Player of the Year thanks to his barnstorming batting.



The Winners

Player of the Year (Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy)	Andrew Flintoff (England) and Jacques Kallis (South Africa)
Test Player of the Year	Jacques Kallis (South Africa)
ODI Player of the Year	Kevin Pietersen (England)
Emerging Player of the Year	Kevin Pietersen (England)
Umpire of the Year	Simon Taufel (Australia)
Spirit of Cricket Award	England

World Test XI (in batting order)

1 Virender Sehwag	(India)
2 Graeme Smith	(South Africa)
3 Ricky Ponting (c)	(Australia)
4 Jacques Kallis	(South Africa)
5 Brian Lara	(West Indies)
6 Inzamam-ul-Haq	(Pakistan)
7 Andrew Flintoff	(England)
8 Adam Gilchrist (wk)	(Australia)
9 Shane Warne	(Australia)
10 Chaminda Vaas	(Sri Lanka)
11 Glenn McGrath	(Australia)
12th man: Anil Kumble	(India)

World ODI XI (in batting order)

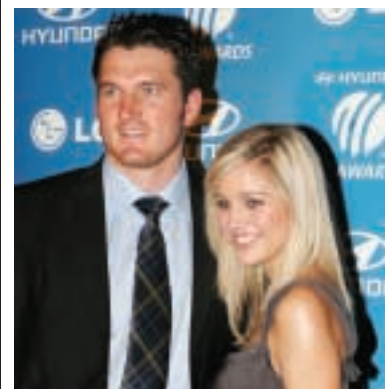
1 Marvan Atapattu (C)	(Sri Lanka)
2 Adam Gilchrist (WK)	(Australia)
3 Rahul Dravid	(India)
4 Kevin Pietersen	(England)
5 Inzamam-ul-Haq	(Pakistan)
6 Andrew Flintoff	(England)
7 Andrew Symonds	(Australia)
8 Daniel Vettori	(New Zealand)
9 Brett Lee	(Australia)
10 Naved-ul-Hasan	(Pakistan)
11 Glenn McGrath	(Australia)
12th man: Jacques Kallis	(South Africa)

▲▲ Jacques Kallis and Andrew Flintoff share a joke after being named as joint Players of the Year.

▲ The Test Team of the Year gathers on stage.

► Kevin Pietersen fields media questions after picking up two awards.

► Graeme Smith - who was named in the Test Team of the Year - arrives at the ceremony with girlfriend Minki van der Westhuizen.





Showcase for next generation of cricket talent in Sri Lanka



The sixth ICC U/19 Cricket World Cup will begin in Sri Lanka on 5 February 2006.

February 2006 is the month for cricket fans around the world to have a go at spotting the next generation of talent as the ICC U/19 Cricket World Cup takes place in Sri Lanka.

Starting on Sunday 5 February, 16 teams do battle in 44 matches over 15 days spread around five venues in the country's capital city, Colombo, for the honour of being called World Champions.

Past events have been graced by many of the world's current top players including Inzamam-ul-Haq, Sanath Jayasuriya, Brian Lara and Graeme Smith and part of the excitement of the event will come from spotting players who may graduate to senior level.

Pakistan are the defending champions having won the previous tournament, held in Bangladesh in 2004, when they beat the West Indies in the final.

This time the 10 ICC Full Member countries - Australia, Bangladesh, England, India, New Zealand, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, the West Indies and Zimbabwe - will be joined by six Associate members.

One of those six, the USA, is taking part in the tournament for the first time and is joined by Ireland, Namibia, Nepal, Scotland and Uganda.

The tournament's format sees the 16 teams divided into four groups with the top two sides in each group going through to quarter-finals, followed by semi-finals and a final, at the R.Premadasa Stadium on Sunday 19 February.

Losers of those quarter-finals have the consolation of a lower-place play-off while, for the bottom two sides of each group, there is a Plate Championship play-off to determine the minor placings.

The biennial event is returning to Sri Lanka for the second time, as the island nation also hosted the tournament in 2000. On that occasion India emerged as victors, beating Sri Lanka in the final.



▲ Pakistan won the 2004 ICC U/19 Cricket World Cup in Bangladesh.

▼ Mohammad Kaif featured in two ICC U/19 Cricket World Cups and helped India to victory the last time it was held in Sri Lanka in 2000.



The 2006 event completes an impressive hat-trick for Sri Lanka as it will be the third time in six years that it will host an ICC event, after 2000 and the ICC Champions Trophy in 2002.

As the tournament prepared to launch, in November 2005, the Sri Lanka Government gave it a welcome financial boost by granting all ICC events on the island tax exempt status.

The decision not only ensures more money will be available for the ICC to use to develop the game but also makes Sri Lanka an increasingly attractive option for future ICC events.

In addition to the 2000 and 2004 tournaments mentioned above, other previous ICC U/19 Cricket World Cups have been held in Australia (1988), South Africa (1998) and New Zealand (2002).

Past winners are Australia (1988 & 2002), England (1998), India (2000) and Pakistan (2004). ☛

→ Past masters

A look back at players that have taken part in previous ICC U/19 Cricket World Cups reads like a who's who of the game's elite.

Nasser Hussain and Michael Atherton (England), Brian Lara and Jimmy Adams (West Indies), Sanath Jayasuriya (Sri Lanka), Inzamam-ul-Haq (Pakistan), Graeme Smith (South

Africa) and Tatenda Taibu (Zimbabwe) have all gone on from the junior event to captain their sides on a regular basis.

And others, including Chris Cairns (New Zealand), Virender Sehwag (India) and Ramnaresh Sarwan (West Indies) have also captained their line-ups after U/19 experience. 🏏



▲ Brian Lara featured in the inaugural ICC U/19 event in Australia.

→ Repeat performers

One player to watch out for in Sri Lanka is Ireland's captain Eoin Morgan, a batting all-rounder.

The 19 year-old attended the ICC's Winter Training Camp in South Africa from October to December as part of his preparation for the ICC Cricket World Cup 2007 in the Caribbean and clearly has plenty of potential.

A left-handed batsman and right-arm medium-pace bowler, Dublin-born Morgan plays for English county Middlesex and made his first team debut in 2005.

He was a key member of the Ireland side that finished as runners-up in

the ICC Trophy in July 2005 and three months later made a brilliant 151 in the semi-final of the ICC Intercontinental Cup against the United Arab Emirates, a tournament Ireland went on to win.

This will be Morgan's second ICC U/19 Cricket World Cup as he played as a 17 year-old in Bangladesh in 2004, scoring 65 from 69 balls in the Plate Championship semi-final defeat to Australia.

Other players to have featured in two ICC U/19 Cricket World Cups in the past include Tatenda Taibu from Zimbabwe and India's Mohammad Kaif. 🏏

ICC U/19 WORLD CUP IN SRI LANKA - SCHEDULE

GROUP A	GROUP B	GROUP C	GROUP D
Pakistan	West Indies	India	England
New Zealand	South Africa	Sri Lanka	Zimbabwe
Bangladesh	Australia	Scotland	Ireland
Uganda	USA	Namibia	Nepal
JANUARY 2006			
Tuesday 31	Teams arrive in Colombo		
FEBRUARY 2006			
Wed 1	Practice matches		
Thu 2	Practice matches		
Fri 3	Practice matches		
Sat 4	Opening Ceremony		
Sun 5	Group A: New Zealand v Bangladesh Group B: South Africa v Australia Group C: Scotland v Sri Lanka Group D: Zimbabwe v Ireland		
Mon 6	Group A: Pakistan v Uganda Group B: West Indies v USA Group C: India v Namibia Group D: England v Nepal		
Tue 7	Group A: New Zealand v Uganda Group B: South Africa v USA Group C: Sri Lanka v Namibia Group D: Zimbabwe v Nepal		
Wed 8	Group A: Pakistan v Bangladesh Group B: West Indies v Australia Group C: India v Scotland Group D: England v Ireland		
Thu 9	Group A: Bangladesh v Uganda Group B: Australia v USA Group C: Scotland v Namibia Group D: Ireland v Nepal		
Fri 10	Group A: Pakistan v New Zealand Group B: West Indies v South Africa Group C: India v Sri Lanka Group D: England v Zimbabwe		
Sat 11	Super League quarter-final 1 Super League quarter-final 2 Super League quarter-final 3 Super League quarter-final 4		
Sun 12	Rest Day		
Mon 13	Reserve-day Super League quarter-finals		
Tue 14	Plate Championship quarter-final 1 Plate Championship quarter-final 2 Plate Championship quarter-final 3 Plate Championship quarter-final 4		
Wed 15	Super League semi-final 1 Super League lower place play-off semi-final 1 Plate Championship semi-final Plate Championship lower place play-off s-f 1		
Thu 16	Plate Championship semi-final 2 Super League lower place play-off semi-final 2 Reserve day - Super League semi-final 1 Reserve day - Plate Championship semi-final 1		
Fri 17	Super League semi-final 2 Reserve day - Plate Championship semi-final 2 Plate Championship lower place play-off s-f 2		
Sat 18	Plate Championship Final Reserve day - Super League semi-final 2 Super League lower place play-off Final Plate Championship lower place play-off Final		
Sun 19	Super League Final Reserve day - Plate Championship Final		
Mon 20	Reserve day - Super League Final		



Young stars benefit from inaugural ICC Winter Training Camp

Twenty-three players from Associate Member countries work on skills in Pretoria.



The build-up to the ICC Cricket World Cup 2007 moved up a gear for 23 players from six Associate member countries thanks to the ICC's first Winter Training Camp (WTC) in Pretoria, South Africa.

Players from Bermuda, Canada, the Netherlands, Ireland, Kenya and Scotland have felt the benefit from the 11-week residential camp running from mid-October to mid-December offering the attendees technical, tactical, physical and mental training.

The Camp, part of the ICC's High Performance Program (HPP) for the six Associate member countries heading to the Caribbean tournament, was held at the University of Pretoria's high performance centre.

Explaining the idea behind the WTC, The ICC's High Performance Manager, Richard Done said: 'As all of the six countries have similar needs in preparing for the ICC Cricket World Cup it made perfect sense to share coaching and training resources in this way.'

'The WTC was staffed by coaches with a wide experience of working with Associate member countries which meant all of them are aware of what is required to achieve success with these players.'

The coaches were led by Scotland coach Andy Moles and included former England fast bowler and bowling coach Bob Cottam and Mark Lane, who previously coached

with Moles in Kenya.

In addition to cricket-specific training, the WTC included work on physical fitness, nutrition, vision, psychology and recovery. Each of the other national coaches not already present was invited to attend for two weeks.

The camp was attended by eight players from Scotland, four each from Bermuda and Canada, three each from Ireland and Kenya and by one player from the Netherlands.

Scotland's additional numbers were based on the fact they had already planned to send players to South Africa before the WTC arrangements were confirmed, as well as Moles' presence to head up the program, a presence funded by Cricket Scotland.

The facilities available included the accommodation, turf grounds and nets, a modern gymnasium, swimming pool and recovery, sports science and sports medicine areas.

Players also had the chance to complete their Level Two coaching awards and two current players, Canada's John Davison and Clay Smith of Bermuda, were also involved as coaches.

The WTC was financed by a combination of the ICC High Performance Program budget, the \$500,000 preparation grant afforded to each Associate country after they qualified for the ICC Cricket World Cup and contributions from the countries. 🏏

▲ The players and coaches gather at the start of the Winter Training Camp in Pretoria together with ICC Vice-President Percy Sonn who launched the Camp.

▼ Fitness has been one of the key components of the Winter Training Camp.

Attendees at the Winter Training Camp

Bermuda

Jekon Edness, Jim West, Stephen Outerbridge & Azeem Pitcher

Canada

Qaiser Ali, Umar Bhatti, Kenneth Carto & Henry Osinde

Ireland

Trevor Britton, Kenneth Carroll & Eoin Morgan

Kenya

Nehemiah Ngoche, Alfred Luseno & Kalpesh Patel

Netherlands

Tom de Grooth

Scotland

Richard Berrington, Kasim Farid, Gordon Goudie, Ross Lyons, Dewald Nel, Qasim Sheikh, Fraser Watts & Sean Weeraratna





ICC Cricket World Cup countdown - Ireland profile



ICC Cricket World Cup
WEST INDIES 2007

In the second of six profiles focusing on cricket in the six Associate Member countries that have qualified for the next ICC Cricket World Cup, Irish journalist Ian Callendar profiles the sport in Ireland.

The hosting of the ICC Trophy in 2005 was a major turning point in cricket's fortunes in Ireland. It presented Ireland with its best ever chance to qualify for the ICC Cricket World Cup finals and the best players were all made available for the challenge.

It was not always thus. Historically there has been an uneasy alliance between club cricket and international cricket in Ireland. Club cricket is divided into four disparate areas - the Northern Cricket Union (the strongest numerically, based in and around Belfast), the North West Union (of Ireland, based in and around Derry), the Leinster Union (based primarily in Dublin) and the Munster Union (in the south of the country and the smallest of the four).

The Northern union consists of 40 clubs, whose First XI's play in four sections of 10, the North West Union has also a top division of 10 teams and 12 in the second while Leinster have two first division teams, an A-Division of seven and a B-Division of eight. Munster has just five teams in their Senior League.

The Celtic Tiger, which attracted overseas businesses to the Republic of Ireland at the beginning of the 1990s, is accepted as the reason why Leinster has in recent years begun to produce many of the best players. Adopted Irishmen such as Trent Johnston (captain of the winning ICC Intercontinental Cup squad in October), Jeremy Bray and Andre Botha (all born outside Ireland) have helped transform the international team on the field.

The last 12 months have been the most successful in Irish cricket history with ICC Cricket World Cup qualification followed by a sensational victory in the ICC Intercontinental Cup final. These achievements have given a tremendous lift to the profile of the sport in the country

Players to watch in 2007

Eoin Morgan - The 19 year old Dubliner made his county debut for Middlesex in 2005 and will captain his country at the ICC U/19 Cricket World Cup in Sri Lanka in February. He was Ireland's youngest ever player when he made his debut at 16 years and 344 days and the next day scored 71 in his second match. He scored his first century (151) against the UAE in the ICC Intercontinental Cup semi-final in Windhoek at No 3 and is set to follow in the footsteps of county colleague Ed Joyce by trying to qualify for England after the ICC Cricket World Cup.

Kyle McCallan - Ireland's most capped player (128 appearances) is bowling as well as ever. His off-spin literally turned the ICC Intercontinental Cup final against Kenya on the final morning and there seems little doubt he will still be his country's No 1 in March 2007 when he will be 31 years old. He is as committed as he was when making his debut in 1996 and has come back strongly after the lowest point of his career - leading Ireland to eighth place in the ICC Trophy 2001.

Jeremy Bray - The Australian-born Irishman managed to go through the first 11 matches of the 2005 season with only one score over 70 but the powerful left-handed opening batsman is the man for the big occasion. He scored 70 in the ICC Trophy final and finished the summer with 135 against Holland at Stormont. He was only warming up for Namibia, however, where he averaged 94.5 in the decisive ICC Intercontinental Cup matches with a best of 190 in the semi-final against UAE. He will relish taking on the world's best in the Caribbean.



▲ Kyle McCallan's experience will be an invaluable asset at the ICC Cricket World Cup.



▲ Andrew White celebrates hitting the winning six that propelled Ireland to the final of the ICC Trophy 2005 on home soil.

Key milestones

1792	The earliest recorded cricket match in Ireland between a Garrison XI and an all-Ireland side in Phoenix Park, Dublin.
1830	Phoenix Cricket Club formed - still playing in the Park 175 years later.
1855	First international played Ireland v Gentlemen of England.
1969	West Indians bowled out for 25 at Sion Mills.
1980	Ireland admitted to the Gillette Cup. Middlesex win first match at Lord's by five wickets after being 67 for five.
1993	Ireland get ICC Associate member status and following year take part in first ICC Trophy.
1996	Ireland win Triple Crown and European Championships.
1997	Ireland beat Middlesex at Clontarf in Benson & Hedges Cup, their first one-day win against county opposition.
2004	Ireland beat Surrey at Clontarf in May in the B&H Cup and in June defeat West Indians at Stormont.
2005	Ireland host ICC Trophy and reach ICC Cricket World Cup finals after finishing second. In October they beat Kenya in the final of the ICC Intercontinental Cup, the first major trophy for nine years.



ICC Intercontinental Cup round-up



Ireland claims title in second season of second-tier first class event.

The ICC Intercontinental Cup, the first-class tournament for non Test-playing countries, reached a thrilling climax in October with Ireland's victory over Kenya in the final in Windhoek, Namibia.

The Kenyans had appeared in complete control of the match after the first day, when they racked up 401-4 declared thanks to hundreds from captain Steve Tikolo and Hitesh Modi.

However, equally positive batting from Ireland, including a hundred from Niall O'Brien, together with an imaginative declaration by their captain Trent Johnston, helped restore the balance on day two.

And when Ireland's bowlers then produced an inspired display on the final morning, capturing the last five Kenya second innings wickets for just six runs, it left Johnston's side requiring 245 for victory, a target they reached with the loss of only four wickets.

Ireland's victory completed a magical year for them as 2005 also saw them qualify for the ICC Cricket World Cup 2007. And Ireland's success in Windhoek meant the ICC Intercontinental Cup remains in Europe after Scotland's success in 2004.

This year's tournament involved 15 matches among 12 teams covering four regions and spanning six months.

The top sides from each region contested the semi-finals which preceded the final in Windhoek, with Ireland easing past Asia group winners the United Arab Emirates (UAE) while Kenya, the Africa group winners, overcame the challenge of

the Americas qualifier Bermuda.

Ireland were worthy winners. They had five batsmen among the top ten run-scorers in the tournament, three centurions in Namibia - Jeremy Bray, Niall O'Brien and Eoin Morgan - and their attack was full of variety with off-spinners Andy White and Kyle McCallan sharing seven wickets during Kenya's second innings in the final.

Kenya's Tikolo was the tournament's leading scorer with 751 runs in four matches, including a career-best 220 in the semi-final and an unbeaten 177 in the final, while Bermuda, another side that has qualified for the ICC Cricket World Cup 2007, possessed left-arm spinner Dwayne Leverock, the leading wicket-taker with 18 wickets. The UAE were hamstrung by mass player unavailability for their semi-final and were unable to improve on their 2004 finish.

The purpose of the ICC Intercontinental Cup is to give Associate member countries greater exposure to the longer form of the game and hopefully improve their playing standards.



▲ The Ireland team celebrates its ICC Intercontinental Cup victory.

The format is intended to give batsmen the chance to learn how to build an innings and spend more time at the crease while, for bowlers, the longer game encourages them to get fitter and learn more skills as it requires them to dismiss players rather than simply restrict them from scoring. 🏏

Stop Press

For details of the new tournament format for 2006 visit www.intercontinentalcup.com

▼ Kenya's Steve Tikolo was the tournament's leading run scorer.

Semi-finals

23-25 October, Windhoek

Kenya 403 for 6 and 282 for 4 (Tony Suji 103*) drew with **Bermuda** 346 for 9 (Smith 126*, Romaine 56) (Kenya win on points)

Ireland 350 for 7 dec and 444 for 4 dec (Bray 190, O'Brien 176) drew with **UAE** 189 and 227 for 8 (Ali 59, Saleem 68, McCallan 3-32) (Ireland win on points)

Final

27-29 October, Windhoek:

Kenya 1st innings 401 for 6 dec (Tikolo 177*, Modi 106) and 156 all out (McCallan 4-34)

Ireland 1st innings 313 for 4 dec (Morgan 60, O'Brien 106*, Botha 78) and 245 for 4 (Joyce 48, Bray 64, Botha 43)

Result:

Ireland win by six wickets and win the ICC Intercontinental Cup 2005



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LG ICC Player Rankings



LG ICC Test player rankings (As at 1 December 2005)

Batting			Bowling		
1	Jacques Kallis	SA 894	1	Glenn McGrath	AUS 895
2	Ricky Ponting	AUS 884	2	M. Muralitharan	SL 871
3	Inzamam-ul-Haq	PAK 853	3	Shane Warne	AUS 860
4	Rahul Dravid	IND 851	4	Andrew Flintoff	ENG 806
5	Virender Sehwag	IND 835	5	Shaun Pollock	SA 787
6	Matthew Hayden	AUS 828	6	Makhaya Ntini	SA 784
7	Brian Lara	WI 816	7	Shoaib Akhtar	PAK 774
8	M. Trescothick	ENG 792	8	Chaminda Vaas	SL 770
9	S. Chanderpaul	WI 737	9	Irfan Pathan	IND 756
10	S.R. Tendulkar	IND 735	10	Andre Nel	SA 751



Jacques Kallis remains top of the Test batting rankings.

LG ICC ODI player rankings (As at 1 December 2005)

Batting			Bowling		
1	Adam Gilchrist	AUS 810	1	Glenn McGrath	AUS 842
2	Ricky Ponting	AUS 791	2	Brett Lee	AUS 805
3	Graeme Smith	SA 730	3	M. Muralitharan	SL 771
4	M. Trescothick	ENG 723	4	Makhaya Ntini	SA 726
5	Chris Gayle	WI 718	5	Shaun Pollock	SA 723
6	Rahul Dravid	IND 710	6	Naved ul Hassan	PAK 714
7	Mohammed Yousuf	PAK 709	7	Daniel Vettori	NZ 708
8	Kumar Sangakkara	SL 698	8	Steve Harmison	ENG 705
9	S.R. Tendulkar	IND 696	9	Chaminda Vaas	SL 697
10	Herchelle Gibbs	AUS 707	10	Irfan Pathan	IND 679



Kumar Sangakkara has replaced Sanath Jayasuriya as Sri Lanka's top ODI batsman

LG ICC Test Championship Table

(As on 1 December 2005)



Pos	Team	Rating	Rating change since 31 Aug 05	Rating change since 1 Dec 04
1 (1)	AUSTRALIA	127	-4	-3
2 (2)	ENGLAND	119	5	10
3 (3)	INDIA	112	1	4
4 (4)	SOUTH AFRICA	100	0	0
5 (5)	NEW ZEALAND	100	0	7
6 (6)	SRI LANKA	99	1	-4
7 (7)	PAKISTAN	95	0	-10
8 (8)	WEST INDIES	74	0	-1
9 (9)	ZIMBABWE	27	-1	-24
10 (10)	BANGLADESH	5	-1	5

31 August 2005 ratings in brackets.

Developed by David Kendix.

Recent Test series results

Jul-Sep	England v Australia	2-1
Sept	Sri Lanka v Bangladesh	2-0
Oct	Johnnie Walker Super Series	Aus win
Nov	Australia v West Indies	3-0

Ongoing/Forthcoming series

Nov-Dec	England v Pakistan	(3 Tests)
Dec-Jan	Australia v South Africa	(3 Tests)
Jan-Feb	India v Pakistan	(3 Tests)
Mar	Bangladesh v Sri Lanka	(2 Tests)

LG ICC ODI Championship Table

(As on 1 December 2005)



Pos	Team	Rating	Rating change since 31 Aug 05	Rating change since 1 Dec 04
1 (1)	AUSTRALIA	136	0	0
2 (5)	SOUTH AFRICA	118	7	17
3 (4)	PAKISTAN	116	0	7
4 (7)	INDIA	109	14	11
5 (2)	SRI LANKA	109	-12	-8
6 (6)	ENGLAND	109	0	0
7 (3)	NEW ZEALAND	108	-10	-12
8 (8)	WEST INDIES	90	0	-17
9 (9)	ZIMBABWE	44	-1	-14
10 (10)	BANGLADESH	14	-1	11

31 August 2005 ratings in brackets.

Developed by David Kendix.

Recent ODI series results

Aug-Sep	Videocon Triserries	SL Win
Oct	Johnnie Walker Super Series	Aus 3-0
Oct	Sri Lanka v Bangladesh	3-0
Oct-Nov	South Africa v New Zealand	5-0
Nov	India v South Africa	2-2

Ongoing/Forthcoming series

Nov-Dec	Australia v New Zealand	(3 ODIs)
Dec	England v Pakistan	(5 ODIs)
Jan-Feb	Australia, Sri Lanka, S.Africa	(15 ODIs)
Feb-Mar	Australia v South Africa	(5 ODIs)
Feb-Mar	New Zealand v West Indies	(5 ODIs)
Mar	Bangladesh v Sri Lanka	(3 ODIs)



ICC Cricket World Cup 2007 ticketing details announced in Jamaica



800,000 tickets to go on sale for cricket's biggest event in the West Indies in 2007.



More than 800,000 tickets will be made available for the 51 ICC Cricket World Cup 2007 matches to be staged in eight Caribbean countries from 13 March 2007.

Cricket fans will be able to apply for tickets through travel and tour operators from January 2006 with hospitality sales opening in February 2006.

The public ballot for individual match tickets as well as 'Follow a Path' and 'Venue' ticket combinations will open from 1 May to 31 July 2006. A ballot will then take place to determine the successful applicants who will be notified before the end of August.

The ticketing window will open again from 1 September to 30 November for

▲ Kensington Oval in Barbados, which is undergoing an extensive upgrade, will host the ICC Cricket World Cup final.

a second round of applications with the final remaining tickets going on sale from January 2007.

Individual ticket prices will begin at \$US 10, climbing to \$US 300 for the best seats at the final in Barbados. The four categories of ticket will comprise Categories 1-3 and a Party Stand option. The Party Stands will capture the unique flavour of Caribbean cricket with music, food and drinks included in a ticket price that won't necessarily include a reserved seat or shaded area.

To ensure widespread access to the live action, quotas have been allocated for Host Venue nationals, Caricom residents and international purchasers.

Tickets will go on sale to local and international fans at the same time as part of an equitable process that will allow only one application per person up to a maximum of four tickets per match.

Fans will be able to purchase tickets either on-line at www.cricketworldcup.com or in person from official ICC Cricket World Cup ticket centres ☎

Individual Ticket Prices

	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	Party Stand
	US\$	US\$	US\$	US\$
Warm-up Matches	20	15	10	40
Opening Ceremony	120	80	50	N/A
Opening Match	100	70	25	90
1st Round Type A*	90	55	25	80
1st Round Type B*	50	30	15	50
Super 8	100	75	25	90
Semi-finals	130	90	50	130
Finals	300	200	100	200

Ticket prices for 'Follow a Path' and 'Venue' ticket combinations are available on www.cricketworldcup.com

*Type A - 1st Round match in which Australia, England, West Indies or India competes.

*Type B - 1st Round match in which Australia, England, West Indies or India do not compete.

Cricket Quarterly



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