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ICC President sets international cricket agenda

In his first speech as ICC President at the ICC Cricket Business Forum on 19 June 2003, Ehsan Mani began by thanking his predecessor Malcolm Gray before outlining the roles and responsibilities of the organisation over the coming two years.

ON MALCOLM GRAY

“Under Malcolm’s stewardship, the ICC has been transformed from being a small, under-resourced and reactive body into the pro-active organisation it is today.

His leadership, focus and commitment have enabled the ICC to turn the tide in the battle against corruption and he has overseen the modernisation of the game’s governance by establishing much clearer roles for directors and management, making the organisation more professional and efficient.”

GOVERNANCE OF THE GAME

“The ICC must continue to be transparent in its dealings and fully accountable to all its stakeholders. It has adopted best practice policies for corporate governance and will continue to follow these.

The ICC and its members must work in harmony towards common goals that are in the best interest of the game of cricket.”

DEVELOPMENT OF THE GAME

“In this world, it’s not good enough for cricket to simply hold its ground - it must move forward. We now have 89 members and are aiming to increase this to 100 countries by 2005.

Between 2000 and 2007, the ICC has budgeted to spend more

than \$US 100 million on development of the game. Already, \$US 33 million of this has been allocated.”

INITIATIVES IN KENYA

“In Kenya we have a team seeking to graduate from One-Day International status to the Test arena.

Over the next two years the ICC will be investing more than \$US 1 million in Kenyan cricket to assist in initiatives such as high performance programs, development and strategic planning.”

INCREASED INVOLVEMENT OF PLAYERS

“We have put in place - through initiatives such as the Captain’s Meeting and the restructuring of the Cricket Committee - Playing - a mechanism that gives the players a direct voice in the game.

We will continue to find other constructive ways for the players’ views to be well represented within the ICC.”

RESPECT FOR CULTURAL DIVERSITY

“It is also essential that the operations of the ICC are underpinned by respect for the cultural diversity that exists within international cricket.

Any of us who fail to take proper account of this diversity will be doing a disservice to the game.

We are entrusted to protect the game internationally and we must be able to appreciate and accommodate the full range of cricket’s personality in order to do this.”



ICC President Ehsan Mani at the ICC Cricket Business Forum

■ ICC Chief Executive addresses player behaviour concerns



ICC Chief Executive Malcolm Speed used the ICC Cricket Business Forum 2003 to announce a review of the structure of international cricket and the provision of increased powers for umpires and the ICC Chief Executive to deal with Code of Conduct violations.

PLAYER BEHAVIOUR



Steps have been taken to deal with breaches of the ICC Code of Conduct

“Regrettably, a number of serious and well-publicised incidents have not been the subject of charges under the ICC Code of Conduct. Several steps have been taken in relation to this:

- First, the umpires, including third umpires, have again been instructed to lay charges where they believe that the Code has been breached.
- Second, we have further explained the Code by setting out in very clear every day language, descriptions of the type of behaviour that is unacceptable.
- Third, we have extended the period in which an umpire can lay a charge from two to 18 hours.

- Finally, the ICC Chief Executive has had the power to lay a charge within 24 hours of the close of play extended to five days.”

VOLUME AND STRUCTURE OF CRICKET

“My personal view is that we have come very close to reaching saturation point in terms of the volume of cricket.

In light of this concern it is timely that I announce a review of the way international cricket is programmed that was agreed by the ICC Board this week.

This review will take several months. After all it is not a task that you can complete quickly if it is to be done properly.

The review will provide a means by which a proper fact-based analysis of the international schedule can be undertaken, alternatives identified and critically examined.”

COMMERCIALISATION OF CRICKET



Revenues from the ICC Cricket World Cup 2003 helped the ICC distribute record amounts to members

“From this year’s ICC Cricket World Cup and last year’s ICC Champions Trophy the ICC has budgeted to pay more than \$US194 million to its members.

Compare this to 1999 when just \$US51 million was distributed from the World Cup in England.

As we have seen, in view of the GCC claim, some of this money is now at risk. Nevertheless, we will distribute record amounts to our members whatever the outcome of the current dispute.

This is one of the most pleasing aspects of the ICC’s achievements over the past 12 months.

The ICC is organisationally honest in stating that one of its key roles is to generate funding for its members. It is a key part of the ICC mission statement.

The critical issue here is that this is just one element of the ICC’s role.”

The full transcript of the speeches made by Ehsan Mani and Malcolm Speed at the ICC Cricket Business Forum 2003 are available on the ICC website, www.icc.cricket.org.

□ Windies preparations

Chris Dehring, Chief Executive of the ICC Cricket World Cup 2007 Organising Committee was invited to the ICC Cricket Business Forum to explain the planning process that is taking place in West Indies.

He promised that arrangements for the players would be paramount to the Organising Committee, focusing on ensuring a high standard of pitches, team facilities, travel and accommodation plans.

With respect to the process for the selection of venues, Mr Dehring said that commencing in October or November this year, a thorough tender process will begin in which each interested territory will bid to be an official CWC 2007 venue.

Presentations at the ICC Cricket Business Forum were delivered by Andrew Wildblood from TWI on broadcasting and challenging the cricket product, Karl Bistany from Octagon CSI on maintaining and increasing revenues and Chris Akers from Sports Resource Group provided a SWOT Analysis of world cricket. There was also a debate on technology in cricket with Simon Hughes and Dickie Bird.

Official ODI system is objective, fair and fact-based



India beat Kenya in the semi-final of the ICC Cricket World Cup 2003

The official ODI system provides an objective, fair and fact-based analysis of the performances of all teams, confirmed ICC Chief Executive Malcolm Speed after the ratings were updated at the end of July.

“The ICC ODI ratings assess the performances of a team over two years, not over two months,” he said.

“For example, India’s unchanged rating reflects the fact that while it enjoyed some success in key tournaments, it has also performed quite poorly at other times against teams that were ranked below it in the table.

“The updated ratings table published at the end of July indicates that there is little to separate the middle-ranking teams in world cricket.”

The support for the official ODI ratings system came after several commentators seemed unable to reconcile the inability of India to improve its ODI rating when the table was updated.

The developer of the official ratings system, David Kendix highlighted the point that the ratings reward consistency of performance.

“Given India’s indifferent performances against teams that were rated below it such as West Indies and New Zealand, it should be of no surprise that it has been unable to improve its rating,” said Mr Kendix.

“Equally, a number of other teams have recently produced improved performances against stronger sides and so seen their ratings improve.

Mr Kendix also highlighted that while overall winning percentages (wins as a proportion of matches played) was an easy statistic to quote, it was a crude way to assess a team’s performance.

“Some people have tried to use winning percentages to justify alternatives to the official rankings. Such an approach can be very misleading and fails to reflect fully teams’ relative performances.

“The reality is that, in assessing a team’s performance, it is critical to consider the strength of the opposition it has faced.

“In looking at the schedule over the past two years we can see that India has played against teams that were rated below it on a more regular basis than other sides.

“India’s schedule has pitted it against teams with a weighted average rating of just 94 points while England (107) and New Zealand (104) have been playing consistently against teams that were rated more highly than them.

Weighted average of opposition over past two years:

TEAM	WEIGHTED AVERAGE
Australia	105
England	107
India	94
New Zealand	105
Pakistan	101
South Africa	103
Sri-Lanka	104
West Indies	103

“Given that India has been playing consistently against ‘weaker’ opposition, it should be of no surprise that it needs to win more often against these teams in order to improve its rating.

“If, like Sri Lanka, you typically play opponents rated 104 and then win 50% of your matches, your own rating will be 104. But to achieve the same 104 rating while typically playing opponents rated 94, you would need to win 60% of the time.

“India’s win percentage has not exceeded that of other teams by the amount needed to offset the lower quality of its opposition.”

All the teams in the middle bracket have crucial series coming up which will be critical in determining positions on the official ODI table (see page 11 for the latest ODI table).



England’s opponents have had the highest weighted average

New terms of reference in fight against corruption



Lord Condon,
Chairman of the ACSU

From July 2003 international cricket's anti-corruption body has operated under updated terms of reference as the ICC Anti-Corruption and Security Unit (ACSU). Lord Paul Condon, the ACSU Chairman, explains the organisation's remit and structure.

“Cricket has come a long way in tackling the evils of corruption. It has had to grow up quickly, but it can never relax and become complacent. If it does, the problem will inevitably return.”

No one at the ICC is prepared to allow that to happen and the redefined role and direction of the ICC Anti-Corruption and Security Unit is a clear and powerful demonstration of that long-term commitment.

Corruption seriously threatened cricket's reputation and integrity. In the wake of match-fixing allegations and revelations about South Africa captain Hansie Cronje and the captains of other ICC Full Member countries, the ICC set up an operationally independent team, the Anti-Corruption Unit, to cleanse the game of corruption and protect the sport's reputation.

Today, the ICC can say with confidence that corruption has been suppressed to an 'irreducible minimum' level. Judicial and Board enquiries in several countries have resulted in life bans from the game for players, including some who captained their country, while others were suspended, fined or warned about their future conduct.

The ICC has implemented all 24 recommendations put forward in the 2001 Report on Corruption in International Cricket to help build the game's defences.

Today, every international cricketer receives education, advice and guidance about the pitfalls, dangers and penalties of being associated with corruption.

Even so, there can be no room for complacency. The worldwide market in illegal gaming has continued to grow as cricket's popularity has risen. More wagers, more money and more bookmakers add up to greater pressure on the game and those who play it. Turf wars between rival bookmakers have resulted in gangland killings. The unfortunate reality is that the potential for corruption and malpractice will be ever-present.

The organisation's first Terms of Reference covered the three year period up to the end

of the ICC Cricket World Cup 2003 in South Africa. Those original Terms have been reviewed and the organisation now has a wider role in the fight against corruption.

The new name reflects the ACSU's broader mandate to address both the prevention and investigation of corruption that it now fulfils.

The ACSU continues to operate from independent offices in central London. In addition to the Chairman and General Manager, there is a full time staff of five regional security managers (based in Australia, India, Pakistan, South Africa and the UK), two investigators, an intelligence officer and an administrator.”

The complete Terms of Reference of the ICC Anti-Corruption and Security Unit can be viewed on the ICC website at www.icc.cricket.org.

ANTI-CORRUPTION AND SECURITY UNIT TERMS OF REFERENCE:

- To assist the ICC Code of Conduct Commission and the Members of ICC in the eradication of conduct of a corrupt nature prejudicial to the interests of the game of cricket
- To provide a professional, permanent security infrastructure to act as a long-term deterrent to conduct of a corrupt nature prejudicial to the interests of the game of cricket



The ICC Champions Trophy 2002 was the first tournament attended by all Regional Security Managers

Withheld money returned to England, New Zealand and Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka and New Zealand have had withheld monies returned



In relation to the money withheld from India, the Board was not able to determine the likely maximum and as a result there was not the opportunity to return any monies at this stage.

IDI Chairman, Ehsan Mani, confirmed that IDI was the appropriate body to deal with the claim.

"IDI will not withhold members monies unless absolutely necessary. The nature of the claims allowed us to return money to three of our Boards," he said.

"In relation to the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), it is not possible at this stage to assess the likely maximum claim and all countries made the prudent financial decision to continue to withhold the BCCI's distribution at this stage.

"IDI is dealing with the claims made by GCC and the matters being disputed are contractual matters between IDI and GCC.

"On this basis, I have agreed with the BCCI President Jagmohan Dalmiya that the BCCI will not make any claims against GCC or initiate any investigations into its marketing activities at the present time".

Mr Mani also welcomed the comments by Mr Dalmiya that he would seek to meet with IDI to deal with the contractual issues that have arisen between the two bodies.

"I look forward to the chance to sit down with Mr Dalmiya to resolve the outstanding contractual issues and I welcome his comments to sort out these issues in this way," he said.

It is expected that the process of concluding matters relating to the GCC claim will take several months.

England, New Zealand and Sri Lanka will have some of the money withheld by the ICC after the ICC Cricket World Cup 2003 returned following a decision by the ICC's commercial arm in Monaco on 20 June 2003.

The decision came after the Board of ICC Development (International) Ltd (IDI) was briefed on the claim for compensation by its commercial partner, Global Cricket Corporation.

After examining the claim the Board was able to make an informed judgment on the likely maximum claims that would be made against these countries and it was apparent that these are unlikely to exceed the amounts held back.

MONIES RETURNED TO ICC MEMBERS:

- England - \$US 1.5m of \$US 3.5m
- New Zealand - \$US 0.5m of \$US 2.5m
- Sri Lanka - All of the \$US 0.5m

Official supplier deal with AJ Sports

The ICC has signed an official supplier agreement with AJ Sports Ltd that will cover all of the organisation's apparel needs.

The deal, which sees AJ Sports become Official Clothing Supplier to the ICC, will last for three years. AJ Sports will supply a range of apparel including on-field clothing for the Emirates Elite Panel of ICC Umpires and Referees and clothing for the ICC Development Program and its coaches.

The AJ Sports logo will be visible on the sleeves of all Emirates Elite and International Panel officials and on selected items of ICC staff clothing.

AJ Sports Ltd, an internationally renowned sports apparel company, has a long-standing association with international cricket and the ICC. It currently supplies team uniforms and equipment to three ICC Full Member teams and one Associate Member.

ICC Chief Executive Malcolm Speed welcomed the association. He said: "This is an important agreement for both the ICC and AJ Sports. As the ICC moves forward its people will be presented in a consistent uniform."

AJ Sports Ltd is the latest high profile company to join the ICC's Business Partner Program, which already includes Emirates Airline (Sponsor of the Elite Panel of ICC Umpires and Referees and Official Airline to the ICC) and Getty Images (Official Photographic Supplier to the ICC).



Malcolm Speed with AJ Sports directors at Lord's.

■ ICC will not compromise

Zimbabwe bowler Douglas Marillier appeals for lbw against Sri Lanka



The ICC will continue to have an open mind about innovations to aid umpires in the decision-making process but no steps will be taken to erode the basic philosophy that cricket is a game and human umpires are part of that game.

ICC Chief Executive Malcolm Speed recently acknowledged at the annual ICC Cricket Business Forum that the role of a cricket umpire is one of the hardest officiating tasks in international sport.

"Cricket is one of the most difficult games to umpire - and there are only two of them on the field," said Mr Speed.

"Technology will only be used in decision-making if it can provide conclusive answers"

Malcolm Speed

"Soccer has four on-field officials, basketball has three, rugby three, baseball four and amazingly, American football and Australian football have seven. All are far less complex than cricket."

He went on to suggest that it may be worthwhile introducing a third on-field official into the sport.

"This idea has not yet been subject to any scrutiny from the ICC but it warrants consideration," said Mr Speed

"The ICC's stance is that it wants to maintain the fabric of the game and

to achieve the best possible standard of umpiring.

"Technology will only be used in decision-making if it can provide conclusive answers, is practically feasible to introduce for all international cricket, will not have the effect of changing the essence of the way the game is played and will not compromise the role of the on-field umpires."

Mr Speed's comments are indicative of the ICC's conviction that a game played by humans should be judged by humans. Though the ICC remains committed to giving the on-field officials the maximum of support in their task and every effort will be made to improve standards, umpire error is accepted as being part of the game.

The Emirates Elite Panel of ICC Umpires was introduced in April 2002 and expanded to 11 members in March 2003. All decisions made by these officials are analysed on DVD and regular structured feedback is provided to the umpires.



The on-field umpire will remain the primary decision-maker

role of on-field umpires

Pitch markings

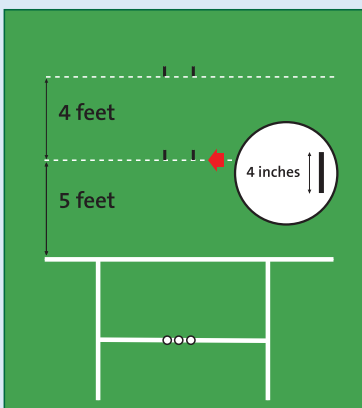


Fig 1- Elevated view

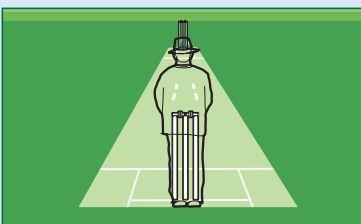


Fig 2- Umpire's view

Stump mic earpieces

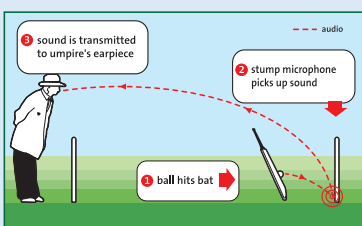


Fig 3



Australia's slip fielders appeal in unison

Over the coming months, the ICC will be conducting initial tests with two new innovations that may in the future be of assistance to these officials – pitch markings and stump microphone earpieces.

ICC General Manager – Cricket David Richardson explained that the pitch marking trial will use small markings on the pitch level with the outside of the stumps to see if it helps umpires assess whether the ball has pitched in line with the stumps for lbw decisions.

"Initial testing in practice conditions in England will focus on using two pairs of four inch markings five foot and nine foot from the popping crease," said Mr Richardson (see Fig 1).

"The success of the trial will depend on whether the lines help the umpire in lbw situations (see Fig 2) but we will also

consider whether there is any impact on either the batsman or bowler.

"We will not introduce any innovation that fundamentally changes the way the game is played.

"The advantage of using lines on the pitch rather than on a TV screen is that you can guarantee that they are in precisely the right place. It also keeps the decision-making process on the field of play."

The second trial, which will be of stump microphone earpieces, will take place in the South African domestic season.

"Stump microphone technology has been in place for a number of years and the purpose of this trial is to see whether it can be used to help umpires pick up on faint edges," said Mr Richardson.

"The umpires will wear an earpiece that picks up the audio from the stump microphone as the ball passes the batsman (see Fig 3). Our trial will enable us to assess whether its position closer to the action area will provide a clearly audible indication when there is the thinnest of nicks."

These innovations will only be included at full international level if the initial trials are a success.

ICC welcomes moves to resume cricketing ties between India and Pakistan

ICC President Ehsan Mani welcomed the resumption of cricketing ties between India and Pakistan at U-19 and "A" levels as a positive step along the path to resuming full cricketing contact.

"India and Pakistan on the cricket field is one of the world's great sporting rivalries," said Mr Mani.

"The announcement that these two powerful cricketing nations will again meet on the field, albeit at a level below

full international status, is a welcome step.

"When these two teams met in the ICC Cricket World Cup 2003 the passion that the match generated and its ability to have a positive impact on people in both nations was apparent.

"Cricket, like all sport, has the capacity to promote understanding and generate goodwill and I would urge the political leaders in both countries

to allow the game of cricket to assist in building relations between these two nations rather than being used for a political purpose."



India captain Sourav Ganguly shakes hands with Pakistan captain Waqar Younis before the CWC match between the sides.

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Around the regions

MALAWI

The U-17 Five Nations Tournament was successfully hosted by the Malawi Cricket Union (MCU), in Blantyre, under the guidance of Rizvaan Osman, Chief Executive of the MCU. The participating teams were Namibia, Zambia, Botswana, Malawi and Lesotho, with Namibia taking the trophy.



The victorious Namibian team

ZAMBIA

Harsha Yeju, a student at the International School in Lusaka, in conjunction with the Zambian Cricket Union's development department and local businesses, hosted a very successful Inter-Schools Tournament in Lusaka. The idea was initiated by Harsha as his grade 13 end of year project. The twelve team tournament was held from 24 - 26 June 2003 and was won by the Mumuni Basic School, which beat Licef School in the final.



The winning Mumuni Basic School

CAYMAN ISLANDS

The Cayman Islands Cricket Association hosted the Marylebone Cricket Club from 16 - 23 June as part of its Quincentennial celebrations (500 years).

The tour was a great success and brought about much needed practice against experienced opponents for the Cayman players. Even though the MCC won the four games played, the exposure and opportunity that the Cayman players gained will stand them in good stead for future international competitions. The MCC also gave a coaching session, which provided the opportunity to increase the participation and skills of the local cricketers. The tour concluded with a special reception hosted by the Governor of the Cayman Islands.

VANUATU

The Centurions, from Victoria, Australia, toured Vanuatu from 30 May - 9 June to coincide with the nation's 'Cricket Week' celebrations. The timing of the tour was impeccable, with the Centurions philosophy of 'promoting cricket' fitting in well with the 'Cricket Week' celebrations. The tour itinerary included numerous school clinics for children aged 9-14 years. The Centurions also assisted the Vanuatu Cricket Association (VCA) national squad with coaching sessions and match practice.

The scheduled matches included two against the VCA national squad and one against a President's XI. During each match the Centurions assisted the Vanuatu sides with game strategies, fielding placements and batting/bowling techniques. The tour proved a great success, not only in playing an important role in preparing the VCA team for the upcoming South Pacific Games, but also exposing the sport to hundreds of school children.

INDONESIA

ICC EAP Regional Development Officer, Tim Anderson, recently spent 10 days in Indonesia. During the visit he conducted several ICC Level 1 Coach Education

Courses, an Introductory Umpire Education Course (in Bali and Karawang) and several school visits. He also met with Indonesia Cricket Foundation representatives in Bali and Jakarta to discuss future developments and reported back that Indonesian cricket really has made tremendous progress since becoming an ICC Affiliate Member in 2001.



Junior cricket group from Jakarta

IRELAND

Following Scotland's recent successes against English county sides in the National Cricket League, it was Ireland's turn to taste success on 13 June, as they inflicted a crushing ten-wicket defeat on the Zimbabwe national team at the Civil Service ground at Stormont. After this sensational victory, Ireland posted a respectable total of 196 in the second match between the two sides, though Zimbabwe won comfortably by eight wickets.

Ireland's international commitments concluded with a match against South Africa on 18 June which ended in a 132 run defeat but earned the side praise from the visiting captain Graeme Smith. "I was pleasantly surprised by Ireland.



Ireland's Kyle McCallan bowls in the match against Zimbabwe

They were very professional and there are some good young cricketers who are clearly very proud to be playing for their country," said Smith.

GERMANY

Sunday 8 June saw Tegernsee CC take on Munich CC in Germany's first day/night game at 'The Point' in Tegernsee. Tegernsee CC is a club formed by teacher Wolfgang Albert and based, mainly, on the talents of children from the local grammar school along with a few enthusiastic 'ausländer'. Tegernsee's ground must rate as one of Europe's most beautiful, situated by the striking Lake Tegernsee, 700 metres above sea level in the German Alps. The ground-breaking experiment was a success and Tegernsee hopes to hold more day/night games in the future.



The Tegernsee CC ground at night

ASIAN CRICKET COUNCIL

The Asian Cricket Council has signed a three-year deal with Cricket Australia in order to assist in the development of coach education programs and regional cricket academies. The contract, signed in April 2003, concludes in April 2006.

That CA will assist the ACC in creating its own coaching education systems, so that the ACC can become self-sufficient in this area by the end of the contract term. The system is targeting increased participation levels in communities throughout the region.

New members

The ICC welcomed four new members at the Annual Conference in June 2003 boosting its total membership to 89 members.

Iran, Mozambique, Rwanda and Saudi Arabia were all admitted as new Affiliate Members of the ICC and total membership has been boosted to 89 by the separation of East and Central Africa which formerly comprised Malawi and Zambia. Malawi will now be an Affiliate Member while Zambia has earned Associate Member status in its own right.

"We now have 89 members and are aiming to increase this to 100 countries by 2005," Ehsan Mani

The ICC now has 10 Full Members, 27 Associate Members and 52 Affiliate Members.

ICC President Ehsan Mani welcomed the new countries to the fold.

"We now have 89 members and are aiming to increase this to 100 countries by 2005" said Mr Mani

"Between 2000 and 2007, the ICC has budgeted to spend more than \$US100 million on development of the game and has already allocated \$US33 million of it."

The ICC Annual Conference also heralded an increased role in the decision-making process for the ICC's Affiliate Members. For the first time, five representatives from the Affiliate countries were given observer status at the Associates meeting.

The Associate countries unanimously agreed to give the Affiliates voting rights at next year's meeting and their involvement will stretch to the very highest level as they have also been granted observer status at the Annual Conference.

All images by National Boards

Ehsan Mani succeeds Malcolm Gray

Ehsan Mani (left) and Malcolm Gray



Ehsan Mani officially took over from Malcolm Gray as ICC President at the ICC Annual Conference on Thursday 19 July.

Mr Mani, 58, a resident of the United Kingdom was nominated by the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) for the position.

INDIA AND SRI LANKA RECEIVE NEW TROPHIES



India and Sri Lanka initially had to share the trophy

When India and Sri Lanka shared the ICC Champions Trophy 2002 in Sri Lanka, they also had to share the trophy itself.

This was rectified at the ICC Annual Conference with the presentation of identically crafted trophies to the Presidents of the two countries, Jagmohan Dalmiya from India and Thilanga Sumathipala from Sri Lanka.

RANDOM BAT INSPECTION PROGRAM



All bats must comply with the law

The extension of the ICC's Random Bat Inspection Program (RBIP) has been approved.

The following action will be taken should a player be detected using an illegal bat:

- The manufacturer will be struck off the approved list;
- The manufacturer will therefore not be able to display its logo in ICC matches;
- The player will be charged with a Level 2 breach of the ICC Code of Conduct for conduct contrary to the spirit of the game.

ILLEGAL BOWLING ACTIONS

The ICC will conduct a review of the current process in relation to illegal bowling actions with a view to reducing it to a one-stage process with the reported player being immediately dealt with by the ICC's Bowling Review Group.

Should the review recommend this process, it would replace the current system which sees the player initially dealt with by his Home Board and only referred to the ICC's experts if there is a second report.

ICC Financial Forum

The ICC held its inaugural Financial Forum at Lord's in June this year during the 2003 Annual Conference week. This was the first time that the Chief Financial Officers of all the ICC Full Member countries had ever been invited to gather together under one roof to discuss the financial aspects of international cricket.

Arranged and lead by Faisal Hasnain, the Chief Financial Officer of the ICC, the Forum was attended by Kate Banozic (Australia), Brian Havill (England), Barry Thomas (West Indies), Diteko Modise (South Africa), Kerry Delaca (New Zealand), Kishore Rungta (India), A.J.M Muzammil (Sri Lanka), Afzal Ur Rahman (Bangladesh) and Habib Ur Rahman (Asian Cricket Council).

The Forum was formally opened by the then ICC President Malcolm Gray and also included a presentation from his successor Ehsan Mani. Some of the most interesting sessions were those where informal, relevant and frank discussions took place between the delegates on the relative financial structures within their Boards as well as the financial prospects and direction of the game in the future.

Many productive ideas emerged from this Forum, providing foundations that will be built on in sub-committees formed from the delegates.

The Financial Forum follows a successful Marketing Forum in 2002. The positive feedback from this year's event suggests that this will become a regular part of the ICC calendar.



The ICC Finance Forum in progress

Australia stays top of official Test and ODI tables after annual update

Australia remains top of the ICC Test and ODI tables after both were officially updated on 1 August.

In the ICC Test Championship Australia is still in a commanding position but its lead over second placed South Africa has been slightly reduced as the back-to-back heavy victories over South Africa in the 2001-02 season now carry a reduced weighting.

India was the only side to improve its position in the official Test table after the update, climbing from sixth to fifth at the expense of Sri Lanka.

New Zealand and England both saw their ratings improve by three points, strengthening their hold of third and fourth place respectively.

The ICC Test Championship and ICC ODI Championship ratings are refreshed every August to ensure that the tables continue to reflect the form of all competing countries.

This involves an overnight change in the tables without any new matches being played. Without this exercise, old results that have little remaining bearing on current form would still influence the rating of each country.

Australia's lead at the top of the ICC ODI table has been extended by four rating points.

The update process has caused unprecedented congestion in the middle of the table with only three ratings points separating the six teams from third to eighth.

England lost 12 of its 14 matches in the 12 months that have now been dropped from the calculation period. Its rating has therefore improved by four points to 107, good enough for third place.

The new ratings for West Indies and New Zealand also reflect improved performances this year with the combination of recent strong showings against higher ranked teams and the exclusion of out-of-date results from the calculations.

In the period August 2000 to July 2001, West Indies won just eight of 23 ODI's and New Zealand 12 of 36. West Indies therefore improved its rating by three points to 106 (106.130 to three decimal places) while New Zealand's rating increased by five, the largest improvement by any team, to 106 (105.955).

Which results count?

TEST CHAMPIONSHIP:

For the 12 months from August 1 2003, the ICC Test Championship table will reflect all Test series completed since August 2000, but with a weighting of 50% for series completed prior to August 2002 and a weighting of 100% for series completed between August 2002 until July 2004.

ODI CHAMPIONSHIP:

For the 12 months from August 1 2003, the ICC ODI Championship table will reflect all ODIs played since August 2001, but with a weighting of one third for matches played prior to August 2002, a two thirds for matches played in the past year and one for matches to be played between August 2003 and July 2004.

ICC Test Championship Table on 1st August 2003

Position (pre-update pos in brackets)	Rating	Rating Change
1 (1) Australia	129*	0
2 (2) South Africa	119	+4
3 (3) New Zealand	106	+3
4 (4) England	101	+3
5 (6) India	94	+3
6 (5) Sri Lanka	91	-6
7 (7) Pakistan	90	-1
8 (8) West Indies	83	+1
9 (9) Zimbabwe	58	0
10 (10) Bangladesh	2*	-2

* The ratings shown for Australia and Bangladesh were provisional at the time of going to print and may have changed to take account of the result of their current two Test series.

The ICC ODI Championship Table on 1st August 2003

Position (pre-update pos in brackets)	Rating	Rating Change
1 (1) Australia	134	+2
2 (2) South Africa	118	-2
3 (7) England	107	+4
4 (6) West Indies	106 (106.130)	+3
5 (8) New Zealand	106 (105.955)	+5
6 (4) Sri Lanka	105 (105.314)	-1
7 (3) Pakistan	105 (105.167)	-3
8 (5) India	104	0
9 (9) Zimbabwe	63	-3
10 (10) Kenya	28	0
11 (11) Bangladesh	3	-1

Developed by David Kendix. If ratings are equal, the ratings calculation is refined to three decimal places to determine the higher ranked team.

High performance support for Bangladesh



Bangladesh lost to Kenya at the ICC Cricket World Cup 2003

Q: WHERE DID PAKISTAN PLAY ITS FIRST HOME TEST MATCH AGAINST ITS GREAT RIVAL INDIA IN JANUARY 1955?

A: Dhaka, Bangladesh

For the record the match was drawn. It should be noted, of course, that Bangladesh, formerly East Pakistan, did not become an independent country until 1971 in which time Pakistan played six further Tests in Dhaka.

But what the above piece of trivia does illustrate is that there is a long tradition of international cricket in the ICC's newest Full Member country.

Bangladesh, the eighth most populated country in the world, became an ICC Full Member in 2000. Since then it has not performed as well as it was expected but this is not unprecedented.

New Zealand took 26 years to win its first Test match and Sri Lanka found the going tough at first yet won the ICC Cricket World Cup a little over a decade after earning Full Member status.

One of the challenges currently being tackled by the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), the Asian Cricket Council (ACC)

and the ICC is to accelerate the high performance development of the game in Bangladesh.

At the ICC Cricket Business Forum on 19 June, ICC President Ehsan Mani announced a series of measures focused on achieving this task.

"A high performance training centre will be set up at the Mirpur stadium; we will help in the running of specialist skills coaching camps using international coaches; and we will help facilitate the appointment of an international coach for the Bangladesh U/19 team," said Mr Mani.

These steps are being taken following a two-day visit to Bangladesh by ICC Development Manager Andrew Eade in May 2003. Mr Eade met with a wide range of cricket administrators in Bangladesh and identified key areas for improvement.

"As well as these measures it was also suggested that the BCB completes a strategic and operational plan through to 2005 together with, and aligned to, a budget and business plan for the coming year," added Mr Mani.

"The team will benefit from the appointment of the experienced former Australia player and Sri Lanka coach Dav Whatmore as the new national coach.

"We will also be reviewing the current international playing schedule for Bangladesh with a view to considering a reduction of fixtures from mid-2004."

These measures will be funded through the joint ICC/ACC Development Program with the release of funds on a project basis capped at US\$500,000 for the coming year.

Bangladesh's next home series is against England starting in October 2003 but its real opportunity to show that it is developing as a cricket nation will be the ICC U/19 Cricket World Cup which it will host in February and March 2004.

ICC U/19 Cricket World Cup

Australia will defend the ICC U/19 Cricket World Cup against 15 other nations in Bangladesh in February and March 2004.

The 16 teams will play 54 matches beginning with four groups of four. Each of the groups will be based in a different region of Bangladesh at a total of eight venues.

"The impact of this tournament will be significant," said the BCB's Host Tournament Director Roquibul Hassan.

"We are investing in the infrastructure of our venues to bring them up to international standard and hosting this tournament will help us develop our organising capability and cricket administration skills."



Mashrafe Mortaza of Bangladesh is bowled out by South Africa's Shaun Pollock in its recent home Test series

The top two teams in each group will progress to the Super League in Dhaka (eight teams in two groups) while the bottom two from each group will compete for the Plate Championship in Chittagong (eight teams in two groups).

The top two from each group will contest the semi-finals in each competition with both finals taking place in Dhaka.

"The hosting of this event will give our people a real sense of national pride," added Mr Hassan.

Cricket Quarterly

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