



ICA'S CROSS BORDER CRICKET PROJECT WINS GLOBAL ICC AWARD



Israel were among the global winners of the Pepsi ICC Development Programme Annual Awards 2009, announced in late February, with the Israel Cricket Association awarded the prize in the Spirit of Cricket category for their Cross Border Cricket project. The project, the brainchild of ICA youth coach George Sheader, has been running for over 12 months, introducing young players in Bedouin towns in the Negev desert of the game, and then focusing on facilitating interaction between the Arabic-speaking Bedouin children and Hebrew-speaking Jewish children from other areas across Israel in which cricket is coached. ICA Chairman Stanley Perlman was naturally ecstatic upon hearing the news from the ICC.

"The ICA will continue to strive to use cricket to break down barriers and improve the lot of others. We are doing it in the Bedouin community and plan to expand the project to additional areas as well. We are proud that our efforts have received global recognition, and people around the world can know it is possible to challenge prejudice and social injustice, particularly here in Israel and specifically through the game of cricket".

"The ICA wishes to extend their congratulations to all those who have made this success possible, and in particular George Sheader who has done a magnificent job in developing cricket in the Negev for so many years, our partners in the Hura sports department and Cricket4Change in the UK who have offered assistance in many different ways", added Perlman.

ICC Regional Development Manager - Europe, Richard Holdsworth congratulated all winners, in particular those from Europe who won four of the eight awards on offer: "This a fantastic achievement for the Europe region, to win a record four awards at the Global awards proves how much excellent development work all the countries are doing and how far we have come".

This year's judging panel featured current ICC President David Morgan, alongside former ICC presidents Ehsan Mani, Malcolm Gray and Ray Mali. Keith Bradshaw, the Secretary and Chief Executive of Marylebone Cricket Club, completed the line-up.

This marks the second time the ICA has won an ICC Global Award, having won the Spirit of Cricket as well in the inaugural year of the awards in 2003.

The ICA has recently been held negotiations with the Peres Center for Peace to include children from Palestinian towns in the Hebron and Jerusalem areas, as well as including additional Israeli towns such as Yeruham and Jaffa, in the project, as of the new school year. In the meanwhile projects with the Bedouin community continue on an almost daily basis; a youth Negev league got underway over the recent Purim holiday involving teams from Hura, and two teams from Hura, partially sponsored by the ICA, joined two teams from Be'er Sheva in Eilat for the Ayelet Games earlier this month. Two teams from Hura enjoyed a day of cricket activities in Ra'anana Park in late March.



NEW BOARD ELECTED AT AGM

Stanley Perlman was re-elected Chairman of the ICA at the AGM held on March 27. The new board was also elected by the members:

- Stanley Perlman – Chairman
- Ezra Ben Yehuda
- Jacky Divekar
- Yonatan Oscar
- Rafi Penkar
- Isaac Samson
- Yossi Satamkar
- Steven Shein
- Joey Tal

*** BREAKING NEWS ***

MCC to tour Israel in 2011.

More details in next edition.

2009 AWARD WINNERS HONORED

The ICA recently hosted an awards evening in Ashdod, at which outstanding performers during the past season were honored:

- Dudi Silbowitz Division 1 Champions:** Ramla
- Ben Abrahams Division 2 Champions:** Kiryat Gat
- Twenty20 Champions:** Sri Lanka Jerusalem
- Best Batsmen Division 1:** Isaac Massil (Lions Lod); Daniel Hyman (Ra'anana 1)
- Best Bowlers Division 1:** Eliezer Samson (Ramla) Gerrit Grundling (Ra'anana 1)
- Best Batsmen Division 2:** Danuska (Sri Lanka Jerusalem) Gayan Gamage (Sri Lanka Jerusalem)
- Best Bowler Division 2:** Gershon Seymour (Ra'anana 2) Asher Penkar (Kiryat Gat)

2010 SEASON GETS UNDERWAY

The new league season opened Friday April 2 with Be'er Sheva hosting Ra'anana 1 in Division 1. The league format remains largely unchanged. A new team from Petah Tikva joins in Division 2, whilst the Negev Academy team has taken a break this year to allow their players to rather participate in the junior leagues, leaving the number of teams at 19. Division 1 consists of 8 clubs plus the Israel X1, playing in the league as preparation for the European Championships in Guernsey later this year, played on a round-robin basis before a second round of games, which will see the Israel X1 drop out, and the 8 clubs divided into groups of four based on their standings, carrying points forward and playing each other again to decide the champions. Division 2 consists of 10 teams, playing each other once, with the winners earning automatic promotion, and the second placed team entitled to a promotion play-off match against the team second from bottom in Division 1.

The Israel domestic league is played in a unique format. Although games are all of one-day duration with a maximum of 80 overs in a day, declarations can be made and unless the team batting second either reaches their target or is bowled out, the result is a draw. The objective of the format, introduced last year, is to create situations which allow for different approaches to batting, attacking or defensive as required, create situations which demand of bowlers to take wickets and not just focus on economy, and force both captains and players to think more when playing the game.

In addition to the league, a T20 tournament will also be played. The season is scheduled to finish in late October.

On the front foot *Excerpts from the 2010 2015 ICA Strategic Plan recently submitted to the ICC*

ICA Mission Statement

"To advance the game of cricket in Israel by:

- increasing participation and interest in the game,
- fostering success of national teams, and
- striving for commercial excellence

in a manner that upholds the traditions, integrity and spirit of cricket, and by using cricket as a tool for social upliftment".

Strategic Priorities

1. Youth Development - ensuring a sustainable future

- Introduce cricket to as many children by promotional visits to schools, holiday camps; set up weekly groups in different areas
- Develop and implement a player progression path
- Recruit and properly train the best coaches available, focusing on sport teachers who already have the required qualifications
- Encourage and acknowledge volunteer assistance, especially from parents – coaching, umpiring or providing transport
- Increase the awareness of clubs to the importance of youth development, providing incentives for them to become more involved

2. High Performance – raising playing standards, striving for improved results in the international arena

- Structuring of the domestic league to ensure players are allowed to maximize their skill development and competitiveness is sustained
- Implementation of Elite Development Programme allowing for a small group of players to receive one-on-one coaching and personal monitoring; best players to be sent abroad after completion of national service to play club cricket
- Improve umpiring standards by creating umpiring panels with members offered courses, monitored and provided feedback on their progress
- Infrastructure – continue to improve and increase the playing facilities and equipment available
- Coaching – provide courses to increase the knowledge and improve the standards of local coaches
- International Competition – beyond the European events, seek ways of hosting teams in Israel or sending elite teams abroad

3. Beyond the Boundary – contributing towards a better society

- Finance activities in disadvantaged communities
- Bridge social and ethnic gaps
- Educate according to the traditions and cultures of the game
- Provide a support structure for youth involved in cricket projects

4. Corporate Excellence - Management and relationships

- Attract funding to complement ICC grants
- Effective and efficient management
- Marketing and promotion of cricket in Israel
- Develop Israel into the global center for Jewish cricket

KIRYAT GAT WIN EILAT GAMES



For the third consecutive year, cricket featured in the Eilat Games, organized by Ayelet, the Federation for Non-Olympic Sports in Israel. Over 1800 sportsmen and women in more than 20 codes participate in the event. Three senior cricket teams – Kiryat Gat, Ra'anana and Eilat – played in a senior Twenty20 tournament, played

on the newly laid astro-turf pitch in Eilat, whilst junior cricket also featured for the first time, with two teams from Be'er Sheva schools, and two teams from Hura, competing. In the senior event, Kiryat Gat edged out Ra'anana by 7 runs in the opening game, Ra'anana comfortably beat Eilat by 7 wickets in match two, and despite scoring just 106 in the final match, Kiryat Gat won the trophy with a narrow 9-run win over Eilat.

In the junior section, Hura A, after winning all their games in the preliminaries, proved too strong for Ma'anit in the final with an emphatic 40 run victory. Afik grabbed 3rd spot by defeating Hura B in the play-off. Man of the Tournament Award went to Badar Alsayed for his consistently high level of play throughout the event, capped by a victory-sealing innings of 37* in the final.

