



ENGLAND'S DISABLED CRICKETERS AT THE PALACE

Disabled cricket was recognised at the highest level in February when members of the England Disabled teams who had represented their country in recent overseas tours, were invited to a reception at Buckingham Palace.

The reception was to mark the presentation of honours to the England Men's and Women's sides that had won the Ashes in 2005.

A leading player from each of the England Blind, Deaf and Learning Difficulties teams together with the Team Manager from each side were presented to Her Majesty the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.

The Deaf team, who reached the final of the Deaf Cricket World Cup in India in November, were represented by skipper Umesh Valjee and Team Manager, Jeff Levick, together with the team's interpreter/signer Sula Gleeson. Sula interpreted as the Queen spoke to Umesh about the success in India.

Nathan Foy, the World's top scoring Blind batsman, represented England Blind cricket along with Steve Peyman, Team Manager.

Roger Fuggle, ECB Disability Consultant who presented the players and managers to the Queen mentioned that the England Blind team had paved the way for the other

sides when they won the Ashes in 2004!! He also introduced Her Majesty to Huey, Nathan's guide dog, which led to interesting discussions about the behaviour of the Royal corgis, labrador and spaniels!

Lee Jay, who skippered the England Learning Difficulties team on the first ever international series in South Africa, and Ian Martin, Team Manager were next in line to meet Her Majesty. Lee's achievement was also recognised with a full page spread about him in his local newspaper.

After the presentations, the players and managers, together with their partners, mingled with all the England Test team members in the Picture Gallery and many of them had a further opportunity to speak to the Queen and the Duke.

Amongst the other guests was Tessa Jowell, Secretary of State, who spent time discussing Disability Cricket with Roger Fuggle, Nathan Foy and Steve Peyman. She has agreed to attend one of the games against Pakistan in the Summer if her diary allows.

David Collier, ECB Chief Executive, was instrumental in ensuring that Disability Cricket was represented at the Palace Reception. Our thanks go to him for what proved a very memorable experience.



ENGLAND'S DISABLED CRICKETERS TAKE ON THE WORLD!!

The winter of 2005/6 saw the heaviest schedule of international cricket for players with disabilities ever!

- The England Deaf squad were in India for the Deaf Cricket World Cup.
- The England Blind team travelled to Sri Lanka in January after their tour to Pakistan had to be cancelled.
- The first ever international series for cricketers with learning difficulties between England, South Africa and Australia took place in South Africa .

The England Deaf Squad travelled to Lucknow for the Deaf Cricket World Cup which took place from 14th -28th November. Nine teams took part: - England - Australia -India - Pakistan - Sri Lanka - Nepal -Bangladesh - New Zealand and South Africa.

The format was a round robin of matches involving the nine teams in four venues around Lucknow. Semi-Finals were followed next day by the final which took place in front of a crowd of about 5,000 at the K.D.Singh Babu Stadium on 27th November .

In the semi-finals, India beat Pakistan and England were delighted to beat Australia, the first time the Aussies had been beaten in 19 internationals. The England team had played 10 matches in 11 days, a very intense schedule.

The newly formed Deaf Cricket

International Federation [DCIF] organised the series.

Fresh from their Ashes triumph in 2004, the England Blind cricket team were preparing to take on the World Blind Cricket champions, Pakistan, on their home territory in November.

However, the earthquake in Islamabad coupled with security worries led to the cancellation of the tour. Working quickly, a replacement tour to Sri Lanka was organised for January. The England team won the three match series 2-1 with some fine batting displays, especially by Rory Field.

England are now ranked third in the world by the World Blind Cricket Council [after the Ashes win] and are looking forward to the Blind Cricket World Cup in Pakistan, in December 2006.

Further good news for Blind Cricketers was that the World Blind Cricket Council [WBCC] has been recognised by the ICC.

Finally, Cricketers with learning difficulties were given a boost when ECB received an invitation via Dr. Geoff Smedley of UK Sports Association for People with Learning Disability to send an England team to play South Africa and Australia in a Tri-Nations tournament in Cape Province in November.

Cricket for the Intellectually Impaired is more advanced in Australia and South Africa than it is in the UK so it was a major task for coaches Bobby Denning and Ian Powell to select and prepare a squad to take part.

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However a squad of 14 players plus tour manager, Peter Edmondson, team manager, Ian Martin and Physio, Kate Peckham left UK for Cape Town on 7th November after hearing a morale boosting speech from David Collier, ECB Chief Executive and receiving a signed letter of encouragement from Michael Vaughan.

Many of the players in the England team were new to hard ball cricket and they struggled in their early matches but by the final game they gave the Australians a good competitive match. All involved will treasure their memories of this first ever international series.

England hope to host the second Tri-nations series in 2007.

In all these overseas tours, ECB has been very supportive with funding and thanks go to Hugh Morris, Director of Cricket and his colleagues for all their help.



The England Learning Difficulties team at Boland Park Stadium, South Africa

HONOURS BOARD

THE ENGLAND SQUADS

DEAF

UMESH VALJEE [C], MIKE O'MAHONEY, PAUL ALLEN, STEFAN PICHOWSKI, CHRIS HUGHES BEN YOUNG, NICHOLAS DOYLE, PETER WOOD, STEPHEN GEORGE, ED DE LUCY, JAMES DIXON, MATTHEW EVERETT, MOHAMMED FAROOQ, DARRELL SYKES, SIMON LYCETT

COACH - RON YOUNG

PHYSIO - HELEN ASHTON

TOUR MANAGER - MARTIN REDSHAW

TEAM MANAGER - JEFF LEVICK

INTERPRETER - SULA GLEESON

BLIND

KERYN SEAL, HEINDRICH SWANEPOEL (C), BRYN REYNOLDS, MILES NORTHWOOD, ANDY POWERS, SAM MURRAY, ANDY DALBY-WELSH, RORY FIELD, NATHAN FOY, HOWARD GREENHILL, MATT DEAN, MARK PICKUP, DAVE TOWNLY, LUKE SUGG, DAN FIELD

COACH - ANDY SELLINS

COACH - MIKEY THOMPSON

TEAM MANAGER - STEVE PEYMAN

LEARNING DIFFICULTIES

LEE JAY [C], RONNIE ABBOTT, AMAR AZIZ, BILAL ALI, IKLAQ AHMED, PETER BROWN, IAN CRUMPLIN, ALLUN HUGHES, IDRIS SAEED, MARK O'BRIAN, DOUGLAS RANDALL, JONATHAN SIMPSON, JOHN TAYLOR, DANNY WEST

COACH - BOBBY DENNING

COACH - IAN POWELL

TOUR MANAGER - PETER EDMONDSON

TEAM MANAGER - IAN MARTIN

PHYSIO - KATE PECKHAM



CHANGES AT ECB

Following the appointment of David Collier as Chief Executive of ECB, a number of changes have taken place with major implications for the way the game is managed.

ECB has launched its Strategic Plan, "Building Partnerships" covering the years 2005-2009 which lays out clear and measurable goals. To deliver these goals ECB developed a strategy based on four key pillars: -

- Improving the way the game is led through Effective Leadership and Governance
- Building a Vibrant Domestic Game
- Enthusing participation and following, especially among young people
- Developing Successful England Teams

To succeed in these goals, ECB will build partnerships with stakeholders in cricket ranging from the County Boards to ICC, the Cricket Foundation to the Lords Taverners and with clubs, schools, parents, Sport England and the Government.

Within the objectives is the intent to encourage the expansion of Women's and Disabilities Cricket.

ECB's guiding vision remains to develop cricket from playground to test arena.

There are now three departments within ECB where previously there were six.

These are: -

- Cricket Department - Director - Hugh Morris [who is also Deputy Chief Executive]
- Finance Department - Director - Brian Havill
- Commercial Department - Director - John Perera

The changes in the ECB structure mentioned above meant changes in the role of the Development Department and, as a consequence, Keith Pont, Director of

Development for the past 7 years resigned from ECB.

A former Essex All rounder, Keith's First Class career spanned seventeen years (1970-1986) and included 10,000 runs and 200 wickets in all competitions, in an Essex side that won nine trophies in seven years through the early Eighties.

Keith was instrumental in setting up, in 1999, the ECB Disabilities Sub-Group to create a focus for the development of the disabled game. He involved British Blind Sport, British Deaf Sports Council, B.A.C.D., Special Olympics and E.F.D.S in the first ever Committee for disabled cricket in the governing body. A year later C.F.P.D. was invited to join the Sub-Group.

As Chairman of the ECB Disabilities Sub-Group, Keith Pont significantly raised the profile of disabilities cricket.

Everyone involved in Disabled Cricket was sorry to see Keith Pont's departure and we all wish him well in the future.

He has been replaced by Peter Ackerley, former ECB National Development Manager (Strategy), who has been appointed Head of Development in the cricket department.

We wish Peter every success in his role and look forward to working with him to further develop cricket for people with disabilities.



Peter Ackerley

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PROGRAMME FOR 2006

Blind/V.I. Cricket - There will be two leagues of 5 clubs each in 2006. All 10 clubs will compete in the BBS Knock-out cup.

The England Blind team play in the World Cup in December 2006 and hope to host a tour by Pakistan in May as preparation, provided funding is available.

Deaf /H.I. Cricket - The Pakistanis will be sending a side to England for a Test Match and ODI series in August. The England Cricket Association for the Deaf [ECAD] will be running a domestic competition involving 6 teams in 2006 [4 in 2005] and there was the possibility of a one-day 20-20 competition. An Indoor Deaf Cricket tournament is planned for Headingley

Physical and Learning Disabilities Cricket

The British Association for Cricketers with Disabilities [B.A.C.D.] will be running the County Championship again but 8 sides have elected to play hard ball cricket. There will be two competitions, 8 sides in the hard ball competition and 5 in the Incrediball competition.

Regional tournaments with the hard ball are being considered and B.A.C.D. will continue to support local and regional club tournaments such as Taunton, Dorset, Sundorne and the Indoor County Tournament in the Winter.

The Cricket Federation for People with Disabilities [C.F.P.D.] will be organising the following fixtures :-

March 13th - England v Wales -Lords Indoor School

April 30th - England A v Wales A - Old Trafford

June 11th - South v North - Brit Oval

July 16th - Midlands v Mid Wales - Luctonians

July 20th - Junior Tournament - Edgbaston

July 23rd - Wales V England - Newport

September 17th - Chester games

Matches between East Midlands & West Midlands, and between South East and South West are planned but not yet confirmed.

COACHING AND COACH EDUCATION STRATEGY

The Plan for Cricket discussed in Section 2 includes a strategy for Coaching and Coach Education for the next five years.

There are three themes to the Coaching and Coach Education Strategy for Cricketers with Disabilities : -

- Increasing the number of qualified cricket coaches who have the additional skills to coach people with visual, hearing, physical or learning disabilities. The target for this theme is to have a minimum of 2 coaches or 1/2 % of the Coach Award membership in each County [whichever is the greater] qualified to coach cricketers with disabilities by 2009. Target numbers for each County will be published and monitored.

A workshop module with supporting manual was launched in November 2003.

- Increasing and improving the resources available to support coaching of cricketers with disabilities " from playground to test arena".



The aim here is to develop and deliver high quality coaching aids in CD Rom, video or audio format for each disability area i.e. visual, hearing, physical or learning - each to be supported by appropriate textbooks - all to meet minimum quality standards set by ECB

Coach Education Department - all to be available by 2009.

- Increasing the number of qualified cricket coaches who, themselves, have a disability. The target for this theme is to have 50 qualified cricket coaches nationally by 2009.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL 2005

The final of the 7th B.A.C.D. / E.C.B. County Championship for cricketers with physical and learning difficulties took place at the Hampshire Rosebowl on September 11th. The Rosebowl, home of Hampshire Cricket, is one of the country's newest and most prestigious grounds. Finalists were Warwickshire and Cheshire. Warwickshire were the winners by 9 wickets.

THE TEAMS

Cheshire

Chris Edwards, John Mulcahy
Mark O'Brian, Mike Edwards
Matthew Lasham, Ron Abbott
Shaun Stephenson, Peter Mcghee
David Quaife, Marcus Quaife
Mark Thoburn, Paul Burt
Guy Williams, David Coutts
Manager - Keith Beggs

Warwickshire

Dan Holder, Roland Venables
Idris Saeed, Neil Wright
Adam Markham, Sam Wyles
Javid Azziz, Omar Azziz
Liam Brothwood, Ikhlq Ahmed
Muzammil Mir, Michael Haden
Rory Phelan, Kamran Mohammed
Manager - Margaret Goodall



Photo by R. Wootton

County Championship Winners - Warwickshire

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B.A.C.D /C.F.P.D. MERGER

Meetings have taken place attended by representatives of the British Association for Cricketers with Disabilities [B.A.C.D.] and the Cricket Federation for People with Disabilities [C.F.P.D.] to try to bring the two organisations closer together in managing and developing cricket for people with physical and learning difficulties. The meeting included players representatives and organisers of the game in the Counties.

The meetings agreed that there should be one organisation to represent the interests of these cricketers and that the way forward was to set up regional boards to manage the game.

There would be 5 Regional Boards, North, Midlands, London/East, South/West and Wales to match the overall structure of cricket. Membership of the Regional Boards would include B.A.C.D/C.F.P.D. representatives plus, most importantly, player representatives and County organisers along with other Sports Partners. The regions would work under the umbrella of the ECB Disabilities Management Committee.

This regional structure is seen as the logical way forward for the management of all Disability Cricket and representatives of Blind/V.I. and Deaf / H.I. cricketers are now involved in the discussions.

TABLE CRICKET FINALS [June 21st 2005]

Once again 8 teams battled it out at the finals of the Table Cricket tournament at the indoor school at Lords.

All 8 teams had done extremely well to have reached the finals by winning their regional heats.

Teams at the final are listed below. Victoria School from Poole were winners once again and the final order after the finals was: -

1. Victoria School - Poole
2. Bruntcliffe High School - Leeds
3. Penn Hall School - Woverhampton
4. Mere Oaks School -Wigan
5. Fountaindale School - Nottingham
6. National Star Centre - Cheltenham
7. Valence School - Kent
8. Marjoire McClure School - Chislehurst

A team to represent England has been selected to introduce Table Cricket to

Australia and the members of that team are

Gareth Keegan - Bruntcliffe

Kate Foley - Victoria

Martin Hemsall - Fountaindale

Peter Tagger - Mere Oaks

Scott Lloyd - Penn Hall

Tom Clement -Ma. McClure

Dan Stevens - Valence

Lavinai Loft - Nat'l Star



Table cricket Finals

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