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Israel Cricket Association



ISRAEL CRICKET ASSOCIATION

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ISRAEL  
CRICKET  
ANNUAL  
2004

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

2003 was once again a momentous year for Israeli cricket. Our U15 team won the ECC U15 2<sup>nd</sup> Division European Championships in France, and the ICA was awarded two ICC Development Awards (Europe).

Cricket continues to flourish in Israel, against all the odds. 500 senior cricketers and 1200 youth are gracing the playing fields of the Holy Land.

We are proud of our youth programme and the fulfillment of the goals set out in our strategic plan. Almost 100% of both our U17 and U13 teams which will be representing Israel this summer were born in Israel and are products of our own development programme. I wish also to note that this year, for the first time, a female player has been selected to the U13 team which will travel to Gibraltar.

On behalf of the ICA I wish to express my gratitude to *Barratts Shoes* for their continued support of cricket in Israel. The ICA is proud that all three national teams will be sporting the *Barratts* logo on their playing shirts at the European tournaments.

I wish to thank the BCF, the FCI, and the GCA for all the hard work they have put into hosting the tournaments Israel will be participating in this year. We look forward to hosting fellow ECC members in the not too distant future in Israel.

With my best wishes for three successful tournaments,

Stanley Perlman  
CHAIRMAN, ISRAEL CRICKET ASSOCIATION



# 2003 SEASON REVIEW

## Youth Development

The ICA was once again recognized for the great strides that have been made in developing the game amongst local youth, receiving a second ICC Award, this time for the Best Junior Development Initiative (Europe).

The U15 national team, captained by Danny Hotz, won all five of their matches at the ECC 2<sup>nd</sup> Division European Championships in France. Once again Israel proved their superiority over the other competing countries, winning each match by comfortable margins.

Youth cricket continues to be the jewel in the crown of the ICA. Activities in the Negev towns continue to go from strength to strength, there has been a rehabilitation of youth cricket in Ashdod and the enthusiasm and playing standards of the players in the schools and clubs in the central Tel Aviv areas are increasing continuously.

The biggest youth tournament to be staged in the history of Israeli cricket was hosted in March 2004, to coincide with the visit to Israel of the European Development Manager, Mr Richard Holdsworth. The tournament featured over 120 players. Apart from the tournament, during his visit, the first by an ECC official in many years, Mr Holdsworth held discussions with ICA officials on a range of topics affecting Israeli and European cricket, was presented a copy of the ICA's Strategic Plan, and conducted a coaching session with U13 players in Be'er Sheva.

Roland Lefebvre, ECC coach and captain of the Dutch team at the 2003 ICC World Cup, has made several visits to Israel over the past year, imparting his expertise onto local junior stars. Israel is truly fortunate to be able to enjoy the services of one of the finest coaches in Europe.

## Domestic League

Lions Lod continued their domination of local cricket, winning the league title for the fifth time in the last six years. They also completed the double, winning the ICA Cup as well. Young Ashdod won promotion from Division 2, edging out their city rivals Neve Yonatan on run rate, with Lod Cricket Club taking first place in Division 3.

Two new teams were welcomed into the league in 2003 - Diamond Cricket Club and the Negev Academy. Both performed admirably in their debut seasons - Diamond's finished second in Division 3 and the Negev Academy, for whom teenage spin twins Ronen Wasker (Junior Player of the Year) and Solomon Varsulkar shared 46 wickets, finishing first and second respectively on the Division 3 bowling averages, finished third.

## Umpiring

There is a continuous improvement in the standard of local umpires, due to the tremendous effort put in by Sammy Bamnolker and Eli Yaakov. A seminar, conducted by ECC umpire Ken Amos, was conducted in June 2004, attended by over twenty local umpires.

## Special Awards

Two special events were commemorated at the 2004 AGM. Firstly Mr. Geoffrey Davis, a great friend and supporter of Israel cricket, was presented with a special plaque in commemoration of his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. Secondly, the incumbent ICA Board of Directors, elected for a further term of office, celebrated ten years of management of local cricket.



## TURN LEFT AT THE END OF THE WORLD...CRICKET ON THE BIG SCREEN

The rich history of cricket in the Negev desert has made it's way to the big screen. *Turn left at the end of the world*, directed by Avi Neshet, was recently released to rave reviews in Israel.

The movie, set in the late 60's, tells the story of the immigration to Israel of a Jewish family from India, who are sent to a town in the desert, inhabited primarily by Moroccan immigrants who arrived a few years earlier. Inevitably there is a clash of cultures between the Indians, with their English Colonial hangover, and the French background of the Moroccans.

The story comes to a climax when it is heard that the English cricket team will be stopping in the Negev for a match, and the two groups have to work together to produce a team capable of taking on the English.

The ICA played it's part in the production of the film. Local cricketers were provided to act in the staging of the game which takes place in the movie, the lead Israeli actors were introduced to and coached in the game so as to get a better understanding of the roles they had to play, and assistance was given with regards equipment and costumes. ICA Chairman Stanley Perlman even stars in the film, playing the English ambassador who arrives to distribute equipment to the cricket enthusiasts in the desert.



## AND IN REALITY...CRICKET BLOOMS IN THE NEGEV DESERT

When David Ben Gurion, the first Prime Minister of the State of Israel, spoke about the need to “make the desert bloom”, it is unlikely he would have imagined cricket would be a sport to indeed bloom in the harsh desert conditions. In recent years however, this is indeed what has happened. Youngsters in the Negev towns of Be'er Sheva, Dimona and Yeruham have taken to the game and are achieving phenomenal success. Practices take place on basketball courts or on one the two fields in the area, which are essentially nothing more than empty patches of sand and rocks, although the astro turf pitches provide good batting wickets.

Many would melt having to stand in the field for hours in the hot desert sun, but the kids in the Negev can't get enough of it. However, the two hour ride to play in Tel Aviv is gleefully undertaken - at least in Tel Aviv there are proper nets and grass. The enthusiasm and commitment of the cricket lovers, young and old, in the Negev has reaped rich reward -



Practicing in the Be'er Sheva “nets”.



A junior cricket match being played in Dimona

- The ICA was awarded the 2002 global prize in the ICC / Flick Community Development Competition for the work that has been done in taking cricket to the children of the Negev.
- The Negev Academy team, comprising the best youngsters in the area, is currently enjoying it's second season in the senior league and pushing for promotion to Division 2.
- Of the 26 players selected for Israeli junior squads this year, no less than 18 live and play in the Negev.

# ISRAEL AT THE 2004 ECC EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS /

## ICC WORLD CUP QUALIFYING SERIES

ANTERP, BELGIUM

18 - 24 JULY

### ISRAEL SQUAD

Steven Shein (Captain)

Raymond Aston

Jacky Divekar

Sanjay Gupta

Herschel Gutman

Danny Hotz

Mahendra Jaiswar

Bension Kehimkar

Brett Kree

Darryl Kree

David Massil

Isaac Massil

Avi Talkar

Ezra Ben Yehuda (Manager)

Naor Gudker (Umpire)

Dr Dan Kiesel (Physiotherapist)

### ISRAEL FIXTURES

Sunday July 1 Gibraltar

Monday July 19 Germany

Wednesday July 20 Norway

Thursday July 21 Italy

Friday July 22 France

The ICA is proud to be associated with

**barratts**

Sponsor of the national squads to the 2004 European tournaments



### HOW THE ICC WORLD CUP QUALIFYING SERIES (WCQS) WORKS

The introduction of the ICC's WCQS structure has opened up the opportunity for almost all of cricket's developing nations to stake their claim and realise the dream of competing in the ICC Cricket World Cup.

The new five-year WCQS structure sets out a clearer and more defined path of regional qualifying tournaments feeding into a progression channel that leads to the ICC CWC 2007 in the West Indies.

The qualification series began in August 2003 with the European Cricket Council Trophy, and is set to climax with the ICC Trophy 2005 in Ireland.

The WCQS comprises three qualifying tournaments in Europe, two in Africa and the Americas and one qualifying event each in Asia and East Asia-Pacific. Teams from all regions will be aiming to qualify directly from their regional event for the ICC Trophy 2005 in Ireland.

Those that just miss out in regional qualifying (including the winner of the ECC 2<sup>nd</sup> Division European Championships) for the ICC Trophy will contest the WCQS Division Two event in Malaysia, to be held in January 2005, from which the top team will gain the final qualifying spot for the ICC Trophy.

The 12-team ICC Trophy represents the final qualifying hurdle, with the top five teams in this competition set to travel to the Caribbean to play against the ICC's 10 Full Member countries and Kenya.

# ISRAEL AT THE 2004 ECC U17 2<sup>nd</sup> DIVISION EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

BOLOGNA, ITALY

2 - 6 AUGUST

Gal Matz (Captain)	Michael Muche
Danny Hotz (Vice Captain)	Yaniv Razporker
Artur Arutinyan	Maor Shmuel
Raz Ben Zaken	Solomon Varsulkar
Adiel Chandgawkar	Ronen Waskar
Oren Chincholkar	
Yehuda Gordon	George Sheader (Manager)
Shai Hayun	Steven Shein (Coach)

Participating Nations

- Belgium
- France
- Germany
- Gibraltar
- Greece
- Israel
- Italy

# ISRAEL AT THE 2004 ECC U13 2<sup>nd</sup> DIVISION EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

GIBRALTAR

23 - 28 AUGUST

Barel Abutbol	Dima Koslovsky
Shachaf Baron	Roni Perlik
Guy Barsanti	Shlomi Pinto
Mikki Cohen	Gabi Schachat
Nir Dikerkar	Jordan Talkar
Levy Divekar	
Itamar Kehimkar	George Sheader (Manager)
Shlomi Korman	Steven Shein (Coach)

Participating Nations

- Belgium
- Gibraltar
- Israel
- Italy

# BUILDING A PARTNERSHIP - ICA's STRATEGIC PLAN 2004 - 2009

## 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 which upholds the traditions, integrity and spirit of cricket, and by using cricket as a tool for social benefit."

Sport is not a priority for the citizens of the State of Israel. Whilst Israel has produced numerous award winners in the fields of science, medicine, literature, economics and technology, sporting success has been less forthcoming. There are many reasons that can be given for this - a lack of funding from both the public and the corporate sector; a lack of space to build facilities; compulsory military duty for all citizens aged 18 - 21; a six-day work week leaving little time for recreational activities.

Cricket is far from being a mainstream sport in Israel. In fact, it would be fair to say the vast majority of the population has never even heard of the game. The problems listed above are true for all sports, but multiplied several times over for cricket. Proper cricket facilities require a relatively large area and by nature the game is time consuming. Space and time are both in short supply in Israel. If the big sports like soccer, basketball or tennis struggle to attract sponsorship, how much more so would cricket? Most other countries are sending their best young juniors to academies or season's abroad after school - Israelis will be conscripted into the army. This list of obstacles goes on and on.

It is a miracle that the game of cricket exists in Israel, and has done so since the days of the British Mandate, but then this is the land of miracles. However, the Israel Cricket Association is not intent with the mere existence of the game. The dream is to make the game flourish, such that Israel will become one of the leading Associate members of the International Cricket Council. This strategic plan - building a partnership - outlines how this dream can become a reality.



### STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

1

**BUILDING A FUTURE**  
Youth Development

2

**MORE THAN JUST CRICKET**  
Social Contribution

3

**A TEAM OF WINNERS**  
International Success

4

**OFF THE FIELD**  
Finances, Promotion and Relationships

## AN OVERVIEW OF ISRAEL CRICKET

Cricket is played in two major centers - the Central area and the Southern Negev. The central area stretches from Tel Aviv along the coast south to Ashdod, as well as east to the towns of Ra'anana, Petah Tikva, Lod and Ramle. The Negev includes Be'er Sheva, considered the gateway to the desert, as well as Dimona. Israel's domestic league consists of 16 teams divided into three divisions. League matches are played in the summer months from April - October. During the course of 2003, 87 senior games were played under the jurisdiction of the ICA. The main cricket facilities are at the Hadar Yosef Stadium in Tel Aviv, which includes two fields as well as a two-net practice facility. Astro-turf pitches are used in Ashdod, Be'er Sheva and Dimona.



## 1. YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

### STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

1. Introduce cricket to all Israeli youth
2. Develop and implement a player progression path
3. Recruit and properly train the best coaches available
4. Encourage and acknowledge volunteer assistance
5. Increase the role of club cricket in youth development



## 2. SOCIAL CONTRIBUTION

### STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

1. Finance activities in disadvantaged communities
2. Ease the absorption process of immigrant youth
3. Bridge social gaps
4. Educate according to the traditions and culture of the game
5. Provide a support structure for all players



## 3. INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS

### STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

1. Structuring of the domestic league
2. Implementation of an Elite Development Programme
3. Upgrading of umpiring Standards
4. Investment in infrastructure
5. Quality coaching
6. Participation in international competitions

## 4. FINANCE, PROMOTION AND RELATIONSHIPS

### STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

1. Attract funding - private donors, corporate sponsors, participation fees
2. Effective management
3. Marketing and promotion of cricket in Israel
4. Building solid relationships - ICC, ECC, cricket nations, suppliers, local councils, clubs
5. Develop into the global center for Jewish cricket

# 2003 ISRAEL STATISTICS

## DOMESTIC LEAGUE

### LEAGUE STANDINGS

DIVISION 1	DIVISION 2	DIVISION 3
1. Lions Lod	1. Young Ashdod	1. Lod Cricket Club
2. Ashdod A	2. Neve Yonatan	2. Diamond
3. Ra'anana	3. Ramle	3. Negev Academy
4. Be'er Sheva A	4. Dimona C	4. Dimona A
5. Tel Aviv	5. Lions Be'er Sheva	5. Kiryat Gat
		6. Petah Tikva

### LEADING BATTING AVERAGES

DIVISION 1	RUNS	AVERAGE
Mahendra Jaiswar	524	65.50
DIVISION 2		
Shai Penkar	308	51.33
DIVISION 3		
Rachamim Charikar	391	78.20

### LEADING BOWLING AVERAGES

DIVISION 1	WICKETS	AVERAGE
David Massil	27	11.37
DIVISION 2		
Benzie Kehimkar	19	10.53
DIVISION 3		
Ronen Waskar	25	11.72

## 2004 - 2005 ICA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHAIRMAN	Stanley Perlman
TREASURER	Ezra Ben Yehuda
SECRETARY	Naor Gudker
YOUTH DIRECTOR	George Sheader
UMPIRING DIRECTOR	Rafi Penkar
DIRECTORS	Harry Jonathan
	David Talkar
	Avner Waskar

## ISRAEL AT THE 2003 ECC U15 2<sup>nd</sup> DIVISION EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS ST. ASTIER, FRANCE

11.08.03 **ISRAEL 156** (O. Chincholkar 32) beat **FRANCE 131**  
(E. Yugadayev 4/25, R. Waskar 3/19) by 31 runs.

12.08.03 **ISRAEL 142/3** (R. Ben Zaken 55, S. Hayun 33) beat  
**GREECE 106** (R. Waskar 5/18) by 36 runs.

13.08.03 **ITALY 108** (E. Matz 3/13) lost to **ISRAEL 110/4**  
(D. Hotz 55\*) by 6 wickets.

15.08.03 **GERMANY 117** (R. Waskar 2/12) lost to **ISRAEL 121/4**  
(R. Ben Zaken 42, D. Hotz 35\*) by 6 wickets.

16.08.03 **BELGIUM 119** (M. Muche 2/18) lost to **ISRAEL 120/2**  
(S. Hayun 53\*, D. Hotz 42\*) by 8 wickets.

