

From The Editor-in-Chief

With the elections into National Sporting Federations inclusive of the Nigeria Cricket Federation (NCF) completed in June 2009 and new Boards inaugurated in July, the task of steering the further development of the game in the country intensified as well as crafting a vision for the new tenor.

A new Board requires establishing an action plan for the 4-year tenure till 2013. So the new Board got off to a fresh start by setting a 6-point agenda at its first meeting in 2010. Five members of the Senior National team were also put on a one-year quasi-contract as NCF ambassadors and will make themselves available to the

Federation either as mentors or coaches.

The Cricket Club of Abuja held its inaugural Award Night which was highly successful and well attended by both expatriate and Nigerian cricket enthusiasts including the British High Commissioner to Nigeria, Bob Dewar.

The need to create better awareness about the activities of the NCF as well as propagate cricket news and activities continued to dominate the mind of the Board, therefore the continuous need to engage the media in the quarterly briefs.

The Calabar Cricket Club is revived and adds Cross Rivers State to the list of cricket outlets.

Finally two Cricket Administrator Programmes (CAP) on 'Community Cricket' in Abuja and 'Holding Effective Meetings' in Ibadan held during the quarter.

All these and other activities engaged the NCF during the quarter ended March 2010.

- Kwesi Sagoe



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Kwesi Sagoe
- President, NCF

NCF BOARD ESTABLISHES VISION 2013

The Board of the Nigeria Cricket Federation (NCF) rose from its meeting held recently in Kaduna agreeing on a 6-point agenda to drive its thrust till 2013 as follows:

- Rebranding the NCF into CRICKET NIGERIA in line with contemporary practice and to give it a private sector orientation.
- Introducing professionalism in NCF administration by the appointment of a General Manager (GM) to steer day-to-day activities.
- Intensification of grassroots and High Performance Programmes that will enable the measurement of Nigeria's standards of performance in relation to other ICC Associate Members.
- Conclusion of the turf wicket project in as many venues as possible within the Board's 4-year tenure.
- Integration of Women's' cricket into the NCF Programme.
- Establishment of a HALL OF FAME project to record for posterity the contributions of past players and administrators.

In 2006, under the first term of the Kwesi Sagoe-led Board, success had been largely driven with the focus on a 6-point agenda out of which five were successfully carried out which led to the return of structures like the National Secondary Schools Tournament sponsored by Dufil Prima Plc (Indomie); the return of the National Cricket Club Championship; increased sponsorships to meet the non-ICC income requirement set by the global cricket body, renovation of the National Secretariat. With the 6-point agenda for this tenure, the Board agreed it would be a rolling plan with a new item introduced once an item is successfully implemented so that there will always be 6 points on the table.

The achievements of the last Board led to Nigeria obtaining a global ICC ranking for Senior ODI Cricket at the 39th position at the last World Cricket League Division 7 (WCL 7) play-offs that took place in Guernsey in 2009.

The Board is focused on improving that ranking in 2011 when the WCL 7 resumes again.

NCF BOARD APPROVES TECHNICAL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The NCF Board at its meeting held recently at the Bayelsa Guest House in Abuja approved the following recommendations of its Technical Committee headed by Mr. Okon Ukpong:

- That Mr. Sean Phillips supported by Messrs. Seyi Sonde, Endurance Ofem and Danasabe Umar constitute the technical crew to prepare the Nigerian U-18 boys team for the North-West Africa U-18 boys Championship in Ghana in April, 2010.
- That the NCF Technical Committee be expanded to include representatives of NUGA, NICEGA, NIPOGA and SSFN.
- That the following serve as the zonal development centres:

South-West: Ibadan
South-East: Owerri
South-South: Warri
North-West: Kaduna
North-East: Maiduguri
North-Central: Abuja
- That an MOU be signed with Ogun State Cricket Association with respect to the turf wicket to be constructed at the MKO Abiola Stadium Cricket Oval detailing out the responsibilities of the NCF and the State Association.
- That apart from the turf wicket to be constructed in Abeokuta, repair/reconstruction be effected at the Adolo Grammar School in Benin and the Liberty Stadium cricket pitches because of camping facilities around these grounds that can be utilized for High Performance Programmes.

NCF HOLDS QUARTERLY PARLEY WITH THE MEDIA

The Nigeria Cricket Federation (NCF) on the 11th March, 2010 held its first quarterly media briefing with selected members of the press. The media briefing which had the NCF President, Kwesi Sagoe and the new Federation Secretary, Patrick Okeke in attendance also had the Vice-Chairman of the NCF Publicity Sub-Committee, and Chairman, Lagos State Cricket Association, George Wiltshire present.

Representatives of the media included The Guardian, Punch, Brilla FM, Compass, The Sun, Vanguard, FRCN, Silverbird TV, Rhythm 93.7FM, Metro FM, Unilag FM and NN24TV.

The President took the media through the activities of the Federation. The event was well attended and successful and the highlights are that a Guild of Cricket Reporters would be formed and the NCF would schedule a seminar on cricket reporting to further improve the quality of reporting on ground.

The media representatives pledged to assist the Federation in creating more awareness of the sport as well as the activities of the Federation.

The NCF President on his part thanked the media for the support they have given to the Federation in the past and urged them not to relent in their efforts to create the necessary awareness of the sport in the public mind.



• One of the beneficiaries of the NCF Welfare Support Scheme for National Team Players, Saheed Akolade Nigeria's medium pace bowler.

NCF QUARTERLY MEDIA BRIEF SNAPSHOTS

1. NCF's Season's Opening Match - 1st November, 2009.
2. Lagos League aligns with ODI standards by the use of coloured clothing and white balls. NCF Cricket Club Championships to be held in June will also follow suit.
3. Abuja Secondary Schools Cricket Fair (Intro Coaching Course).
4. Level O Umpiring Course in Kaduna.
5. Level 1 Coaching Course in Kaduna .
6. NWA All-Rounder Academy hosted by Nigeria in December 2009.
7. NCF first Board Meeting in 2010 held in Abuja 30th January, 2010.
 - Players Welfare Scheme for 5 ambassadors of the NCF.
 - Approves Technical Committee's recommendations.
 - Approves Vision 2013 (6 point Agenda) .
8. NCF holds CAP Course - Community Cricket Module for Northern States in Abuja.
9. NCF gets new Secretary from NSC - Patrick Okeke.
10. NCF to host CAP Course - Holding Meetings module in Ibadan - March 13/14, 2010.
11. NCF President's XI to tour Ghana over Easter to start the run-in to the next WCI7 tournament in 2011
12. NCF to hold introductory coaching course in the South-South Zone; specifically in Rivers State (Port Harcourt) and Cross-Rivers (Calabar).
13. Nigeria on stand-by along with Swaziland to host ICC U-18 WCQ Africa Division 2 tournament.
14. Formation of a cricket club in Calabar; Calabar Cricket Club.
15. Process under way for the commencement of an Abuja League with 3 teams.
16. In Sokoto State, land has been allocated to the State Cricket Association by the State Government to further the growth of the game in the State.
17. NCF to come into an MOU with Ogun State Cricket Association for the construction of a perimeter fence around the cricket oval at MKO Abiola Stadium, Abeokuta.

NCF APPROVES PLAYER SUPPORT SCHEME FOR NATIONAL TEAM PLAYERS

The Nigeria Cricket Federation (NCF) has announced the implementation of a welfare support scheme for members of the Senior National team to further motivate them to perform maximally during tournaments. The support package is effective from January 2010 and will be on an annual basis.

This the NCF announced is to commence psychological and motivational encouragement of beneficiaries as the countdown towards the World Cricket League Division 7(WCL 7) which will be played in 2011 looms large on the minds of Board members.

Towards this, three seasoned players who have contributed to the course of the National team over the last ten years and who are still in prime form to contest for positions in the run-in to the WCL 7 are on a monthly stipend of =N=30,000 to assist them in their educational pursuits. The three beneficiaries under this category are ENDURANCE OFEM, KUNLE ADEGBOLA and JOSHUA OGUNLOLA.

All the three beneficiaries are university undergraduates and the support scheme will be particularly useful to them.

Another category of two players SAHEED AKOLADE and JIDE BEJIDE are being supported with a monthly stipend of =N=20,000 being two of the most junior members of the team that campaigned in Guernsey last year and secured Nigeria's first time ICC global ODI ranking of 39th for Senior teams.

This support scheme meant to place the players on a quasi-contract with the NCF will also allow the National body use the players for various roles as ambassadors, mentors and coaches during the period of the contract.

The process is in alignment with contemporary practice in the cricket world and is one of the items allowed under Associate Members' budgets by the ICC.

NCF HOLDS CRICKET ADMINISTRATION PROGRAMME (CAP)

The Nigeria Cricket Federation held a 2 day Cricket Administration Programme at the Jubilee Conference Centre, Ibadan, Oyo State from 12th to 13th March, 2010 .

The programme was facilitated by Mr. Okon Ukpong, NCF board member and ACA CAP Instructor. Participants were drawn from Lagos, Ogun, Ibadan, Kaduna, Ondo, Kebbi and Sokoto States.

Day one, basically called "Community Cricket, was structured along the lines of helping participants understand the need for proper organization in forming new clubs and setting up committees for proper and effective management and tournament organization.

The course covered the following:

1. Understanding the need for organization.
2. Forming a new Club or Committee.
3. Organizing a tournament.

Day two covered "Effective Meeting". It was centred on preparing, organizing, setting up and running an effective meeting. This is to help develop a clear cut way of calling and running meetings in other for meetings to be result oriented.

Cont'd on next page

The following were discussed:

1. Characteristics of meetings.
2. Meeting types and procedures.
3. Meeting processes.

It was expected that participants will go back to their various states and deliver as required and when called upon to do so by any authority. It was unanimously agreed that proper structures and understanding procedures will enhance:

1. Community Cricket Development.
2. Volunteer based expansion.
3. Sponsorship drives made easier.
4. Parent involvement in Sports or Cricket programmes.
5. Overall development of youths.

The course was applauded by participants and they urged the Nigeria Cricket Federation and various State Authorities to make sure such courses reach the various stakeholders which include Club owners, State Chairmen, Secretaries, intending Administrators etc. This will no doubt create a proper understanding of organizational structures which will in turn help the game develop in the country.

Earlier, the Nigeria Cricket Federation (NCF) held a Cricket Administration and Programme (CAP) training for the northern states at the Bayelsa State Guest House in Abuja on Friday January 29, 2010.

The CAP training is a technical education programme to arm cricket administrators including state and local clubs administrators with the wherewithal to run the game either at the state or their club levels.

Nigeria's CAP Representative, Okon Ukpong who also doubles as the NCF's Technical Committee Chairman facilitate the programme alongside Roland Ilube, a former Nigerian international.

The states covered by the training are Kaduna, Kebbi, Niger, Sokoto, Kwara, Kano, Borno, Adamawa and FCT.

The programme is one of the technical education courses required to be run in the NCF's calendar in alignment with ICC-Africa's direction.



● Nigeria's National team players jubilating after they won one of their matches at the ICC WCL (Division 7) held in Guernsey in 2009.

REPORT OF THE NATIONAL TEAM TRIAL MATCHES ON MARCH 27-28, 2010 AT TAFAWA BALEWA SQUARE, LAGOS

The Technical Committee of the Federation met on March 20, 2010 to select a list of 26 players for trials preparatory to the tour of Ghana by the National team.

Though the tour was put off due to unforeseen epidemic in Ghana, the trials continued as scheduled.

It was decided at the meeting that the contract players should be rested at the first phase of the trials to avail us the opportunity to see the new invitees.

Of the 26 players invited the South-South zone, North-Central and Abuja were to provide 4 players each and 1 player respectively. 9 players of those that went to WCL, 7 were joined by 8 (eight) invited players for the trials. Please see list.

After the 2-day exercise, 17 players were selected for the next phase of the trial. They are as follows in their areas of specialization:

BOWLERS - MEDIUM PACE	BATSMEN	WICKET KEEPERS
ETIOGU CHIBUKE	UDOH FRIDAY	ONIKOYI ADEMOLA
AKOLADE SAHEED	PROSPER MGBANWA	OLAYINKA SEGUN
OLYMPIO SEYE	BEJIDE JIDE	GAFFAR DOLAPO
CHUKWU JAMES	ONWUZULIKE OSITA	FIELDERS
GASHION YUSUF	OLAYINKA SEGUN	ONWUZULIKE OSITA
BEJIDE JIDE	ONIKOYI ADEMOLA	GOWON EMMANUEL
GOWON EMMANUEL	GAFFAR DOLAPO	BEJIDE JIDE
OYEDE LEKE	OKWUDILI EMMANUEL	OYEDE LEKE
BOWLER - SPINNERS	ADEOYE ADEWALE	
ONWUZULIKE OSITA	GASHION YUSUF	
	JOSEPH MOSES	

For the next phase of the trial exercise, the following additional players were invited namely:

- OGUNLOLA JOSHUA
- ADEGBOLA KUNLE
- OFEM ENDURANCE
- SEUN ODEKU
- HARUNA THOMAS
- DAIRU ENESI
- OBASI CHARLES
- EZENWAFOR CHIMERE
- ASIM
- JAY
- RICKY



NCF AND UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS SIGN MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON PERIMETER FENCING OF CRICKET OVAL

The Nigeria Cricket Federation (NCF) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the University of Lagos on Perimeter Fencing of the Cricket Oval of the University.

The NCF, before the signing of the MOU, in previous discussions with the Chairman of the University of Lagos Sport Council Dr. Adebayo, had sought to adopt the University Cricket Oval as one of its venues for international engagements.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) spelt out that:

- (i) The cricket oval be solely dedicated for playing cricket.
- (ii) The University Cricket Oval be in addition to use by University of Lagos Cricket Club be available for use by the Club Cricket Committee (CCC), Lagos State Cricket Association (LSCA) and the NCF for cricket.
- (iii) Towards (ii) above, the NCF is committed to constructing a perimeter fence around the cricket oval as discussed and approved with the University to control the other uses to which the oval is put and which results in the deterioration of the facility.
- (iv) It is the hope of the NCF that with (ii) above, the University authorities will regrass the oval to make it a lush cricket oval once more.
- (v) The LSCA and NCF will continue to support the aspirations of the University of Lagos Cricket Club in terms of technical and other support to enable it retain its pride of place among Nigerian Universities as far as cricket is concerned.
- (vi) In the medium-term, the NCF will in addition to the cricket event at the NUGA games establish its own Universities Championship to sustain the game at tertiary level.

Meanwhile, certain renovation work have already been carried out at the oval by the Club Cricket Committee (CCC) in terms of repairing the playing strip in the middle which was developing cracks as well as some repairs of the stands.

The President of the Nigeria Cricket Federation (NCF), Mr. Kwesi Sagoe stated that the arrangement with the University is in the hope of ensuring that cricket remains as part of the sporting tradition of the University and allows it host international cricket engagements.



• Club Cricket action in Nigeria.

CALABAR CRICKET CLUB REVIVED

Following the invitation extended to Cross Rivers State at the last NCF Annual General Meeting in Kaduna and the attendance of its representative, Mr. Maurice Inok, the Calabar Cricket Club is being revived. The club which has attracted a membership of 35 cricketers in the city uses the Hope Waddell training Institution in Calabar as its base and has Sir Emmanuel O'Neill, KSJ as its Head of Technical Matters.

Club members had their first practice session on Sunday 14th March, 2010. The fledgling club has requested for the support of the NCF in terms of equipment to enable it take off appropriately.

The intention is that the formation of the club will provide the necessary impetus for the constitution of a Cross Rivers State Cricket Association in the not too distant future.

In a letter of request written by the club to Mr. Kwesi Sagoe, President of the NCF, it stated in part that " we have taken the Cricket pitch at Hope Waddell Training Institution, Calabar, as the Club's playing home for now. We have commenced work on the pitch (mowing, marking, rolling/compacting etc.). We will soon commence work on setting up the Practice nets and Boards shortly. It is important to note that Hope Waddell is the home of Cricket in Nigeria, if our records prove right (13th June 1904, when the Institution's team played against the crew of HMS Thistle, a British Royal Navy ship. The school won by 106 - 22). As a take-off strategy, we are using collapsible canopies as a make-shift pavilion. We should be knocking for the first time since 1980, on Sunday 14th March, 2010.

This indeed is a great-come back for the game in Calabar, and Cross River State in general as we expect that the students will be fully involved and can start their training with the club as their mentor.

We therefore count on your support as we will continue to give you updates on our activities, so as to join other states and clubs continue and encourage the game in Nigeria".



• Guests at the Cricket Club of Abuja Award Dinner.

CRICKET CLUB ABUJA HOSTS INAUGURAL DINNER

The Cricket Club Abuja held its inaugural awards dinner on March 13th at the Hilton Abuja in aid of the Schools Development Initiative. The gala evening was attended by nearly 200 guests including the British High Commissioner, Mr. Bob Dewar.

Other notable guests attendees included the President of the Nigerian Cricket Federation (NCF), Mr. Kwesi Sagoe who presented the award to CCA Player of the Year Mr Uche Obidike, Mr. George Wiltshire the

Chairman of the Lagos State Cricket Association (LSCA) and Mr. Tunde Akinleye, Chairman Lagos Club Cricket Committee (CCC).

The evening was supported amongst others by the Hilton Abuja, the Nigerian Cricket Federation, Olam Nigeria, Bwari Pottery, Qaisar Ventures, Africa Investment Publishing, Mr George Wiltshire and Mr Olayinka Fisher and raised a significant amount of funds for the Schools Grassroots development project begun by CCA and NCF in December last year. As a result a full-time schools development officer has been appointed by CCA who will lead the coaching and development in secondary schools across the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

Mr. Richard Pembroke, organizer of the evening and founder of the schools development project said ' We were delighted by the support of this event from the British, Indian and Nigerian cricket loving communities across Nigeria. In particular the ongoing support of the NCF for both the dinner and the schools project has created a momentum that continues to grow. We believe an additional 2000 children will be exposed to cricket this year as a result of the proceeds of this dinner'.

The evening started with a cocktail reception, followed by an address by the CCA President Mr Emeka Onyeama and the British High Commissioner Mr Bob Dewar. Guests then enjoyed a lavish dinner followed by a sports quiz and the awards. Mr Sagoe of the NCF made the final address and oversaw the presentation of the awards to Player of the Year Mr Uche Obidike, Most Improved player Mr Mike Micah, unsung heroes Mr. Mike Egiethua and Mr Peter Yakubu

ANAMBRA HOSTS 14TH HOWZAT NATIONAL JUNIOR CRICKET SUPER LEAGUE FOR PHILIP ASIODU TROPHY

Anambra State Cricket Association, in March 2010, in conjunction with the Bishop Crowther Seminary, Awka hosted the 14th Edition of the HOWZAT competition. The opening ceremony of the competition started with a march past by the 5 participating teams, after which oath taking by the captains of the schools was done.

The 5 schools that participated in the competition included the defending champions Bishop Crowther Seminary, Awka, Anambra State, Regal Secondary School, Nri, Anambra State, Comprehensive High School, Aiyetoro, Ogun State, Community High School, Surulere, Lagos State and Obele Community High School, Surulere, Lagos State

Final results: 1st Comprehensive High School, Aiyetoro, Ogun State, 2nd Obele Community High School, Surulere, Lagos State, 3rd Bishop Crowther Seminary, Awka, Anambra State, 4th Community High School, Surulere, Lagos State and 5th Regal Secondary School, Nri, Anambra State.

Awardees :

1. Man of the Match - Ganiu Adeleke (Comprehensive High School, Aiyetoro),
2. Fielder of the Series - Joshua Ayannaik (Community High School, Surulere)
3. Wicketkeeper of the Series - Nathaniel Akinosi (Comprehensive High School, Aiyetoro)
4. Bowler of the Series - Nnamdi Iheanacho (Obele Community High School, Surulere)
5. Batsman of the Series - Taiwo Odeyemi (Obele Community High School, Surulere)
6. Man of the Series - Kelechi Duru (Obele Community High School, Surulere)



• Captain of the winning school, Comprehensive High school, Aiyetoro receiving the Philip Asiodu trophy from Mr . Umeh, representative of the Commissioner of Sports, Anambra State.

The competition that took place at St. Paul's University Oval had in attendance: Proprietor of Bishop Crowther Seminary The Most Rev, M.S.C Anikwenwa OFR, Principal, Bishop Crowther Seminary Sir Victor Obidike, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Sports and Youth Development, Anambra State, Members of the Anambra State Cricket Association and others. Among the media coverage included Silver Bird, Awka, Rhythm Awka, Unilag F.M, LTV, Galaxy TV, Anambra Broadcasting Service Etc.

Worthy to mention is that Silver Bird Television was giving an on the spot report as the game was going on.

The Chairman of the Anambra State Cricket Association, Barrister Chuma Anosike threw his weight behind the hosting right when things wanted to fall apart as a result of the death of Mr. Obiora Odinye, congratulated the teams for the beautiful game and discipline exhibited in the competition.

The Association also held the Arch Bishop M. S. C. Anikwenwa cup in March, 2010. Bishop Crowther Seminary Awka in the finals defeated Regal Secondary school Nri by 7 wickets. After the competition, there was a coaching course to teach the students ways to improve their batting and bowling skills.

ANAMBRA STATE CRICKET ASSOCIATION LOSES A COACH

One of the volunteer coaches that nurtured Cricket development in Anambra State, Mr Obiora Odinye died on Wednesday 3rd of March 2010 in Awka, Anambra State after brief illness. Mr Odinye who worked as secretary of Anambra State Cricket Association, after retirement continued to show his love for the game by volunteering to assist in introducing the game in many schools.

The chairman of the Anambra State Cricket Association, Barrister Chuma Anosike described the death as shocking. He went ahead and fulfilled his promise of sponsoring the edition of the HOWZAT National Secondary School Cricket Championship for PHILIP ASIODU Cup successfully held in Awka, to honour the late patriot.



Late Obiora Odinye

The President of Nigeria Cricket Federation, Kwesi Sagoe on behalf of NCF and all Cricket enthusiasts has commiserated with Anambra State Cricket Association on the death of one of the Association's Volunteer coaches, Late Mr. Obiora Odinye.

The Family of the late Odinye expressed their happiness on the way the Nigeria Cricket family honoured their father. The remains of the Late Odinye has since been buried on 16th April 2010.