

From The Editor-in-Chief

It is my pleasure to present to you the third edition of this newsletter featuring cricket events that spanned the second quarter of the year.

In fulfilment of one of the criteria for sustaining its Associate membership status within the ICC, the NCF conducted the maiden National Women's Cricket Championship that featured four states: Edo, Imo, Lagos and Ogun women's teams.

Lagos State emerged the pioneer winners in a tournament that brought women's cricket into the spotlight at the national level.

Prior to the tournament, a Press Briefing was held by the NCF with Technical Director,

Okon Ukpong introducing the championship to the media. He also made note of another criterion that needs to be met immediately which is the appointment of a General Manager to run the Federation on a day-to-day basis.

The NCF also held the third module of the CAP course on financial management.

The U19 national team commenced its preparation for the CWCQ Africa Division 2 tournament to be held in Swaziland from July 26th to 31st.

The business end of the season in Lagos featured four tournament finals in the quarter which usually signals the end of the cricket season ahead of the rainy season.

GCIOB CC carted away the Super 4 trophy (50 overs); EDL Lagos Knockout trophy (40 overs) and the GTAssur T20 trophy (20 overs).

ILCC came back to win the the six-a-side tournament (10 overs) in the final tournament of the season.

The ICC Annual Conference held in Singapore and the second Vice-President, Soki Dakoru stood in for the NCF President at the event.

Finally the Lagos State Cricket Association held a clinic for the U18's in a bid to further the on-going cricket development of that age-grade.

- Kwesi Sagoe



The Wicket



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● Action at the final match between Lagos State and Ogun State at the maiden edition of the National Women's Cricket Championship held in Lagos from June 18-20, 2010.

NCF HOSTS MAIDEN EDITION OF NATIONAL WOMEN'S CRICKET CHAMPIONSHIP IN LAGOS

The maiden edition of the National Women Cricket Championship was held in Lagos from June 18-20, 2010. The tournament, organized by the Nigeria Cricket Federation (NCF) had in attendance, Edo, Lagos, Imo and Ogun States. Given the historic nature of the event, participants were excited as this was the opportunity they had patiently waited for, it was indeed a dream come true.

Within a week characterized with torrential rain, the opening game was played on Friday June 18, 2010 under very auspicious weather. Edo State won the toss and put in Imo State to field. Edo scored 114 runs for 9 wickets in 20 Overs. Chasing the score, Imo State put up 116 runs for 6 wickets, winning the game by 4 wickets.

The woman of the match was Onyedum Justina who scored 22runs in 17balls and took 2 wickets for 23runs.

The second game was between Lagos and Ogun States. Ogun won the toss and put in Lagos to bat. Lagos scored 111 runs in 20 Overs while Ogun state fell short of the score putting up 50 runs in 20 overs, thereby giving victory to Lagos by 61 runs.

On the final day, it was rain, rain, rain and this kept

everybody worried of the likelihood of an abandoned championship. The Tafawa Balewa Pitch was overwhelmed with water. Consequently, the day's play was moved to nearby King's College ground which was very suitable for the event. Imo won the toss and put in Lagos to bat. Lagos scored 104 runs for 9 wickets in 15 overs. While Imo State scored 55 runs all out thereby losing the game by 49 runs. However, Onyedum Justina was the woman of the match with a score of 11 runs not out and 2 wickets for 16 runs. Ogun State won the third place match by winning Edo State with 31 runs.

The highlights of the event were as follows:

BATSWOMEN OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP - Justina Onyedum from Imo State
BOWLER OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP - Faith Onwuaso from Imo State
WICKETKEEPER OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP - Azuka Onwujiobi from Lagos State
FIELDER OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP - Evan Ezirim from Imo State
CRICKETER OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP - Justina Onyedum from Imo State

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PRESS BRIEFING ON JUNE 18, 2010 AT THE BOARD ROOM OF THE FEDERATION BY MR OKON UKPONG, TECHNICAL DIRECTOR, NIGERIA CRICKET FEDERATION.

1. Introduction of the National Women Cricket Championship (19th -20th June, 2010).
2. ICC-ACA Cricket Administrators Programme (CAP) - Seminar titled: Financial Management (June 19, 2010).
3. Reconstruction of Liberty Stadium Cricket Pitch.#
4. The appointment of a GM for NCF.
5. Preparation of U-19 Team for the Regional Qualifier in Swaziland from July 25-30, 2010.



● Okon Ukpong, Technical Director, NCF.



● Group photographs of participants at the ICC-ACA Cricket Administrators Programme (CAP) on Financial Management held in Lagos.

NCF HOLDS ICC-ACA CRICKET ADMINISTRATORS PROGRAMME (CAP) FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT MODULE IN LAGOS

The Nigeria Cricket Federation (NCF), on Saturday, June 19, 2010, held an ICC-ACA Cricket Administrators Programme (CAP) on Financial Management. The one-day course was held at the Board room of the NCF, Tafawa Balewa Square, Lagos. The programme, which was facilitated by Mr. Okon Ukpung, Chairman of the Technical Committee of NCF and assessed by Mr. Patrick Okeke, Secretary- General of NCF, is designed by the International Cricket Council (ICC) to improve the practical skills of Cricket Administrators.

This module, which is the third in the series of courses organized by the NCF, emphasized the need for participants to understand the importance and roles of a Treasurer.

Participants were made to identify what a Financial System is and how it operates, to understand the role of account keeping tools and the purpose of Bank reconciliation statement, to understand the purpose of Monthly management accounts and how this culminates to Annual Report. The participants were also made to understand that Annual Report is made up of Income and Expenditure Statement and Balance Sheet statement and to understand the main steps in preparing a budget vis a- vis a Strategic plan.

Finally, participants developed a budget for their respective Clubs and States Associations for 2011. Participants were drawn from the various states in the country.

COURSE PARTICIPANTS

1. DAHIRU ENESI
2. GIDEON GAJERE
3. JOSEPH ESHUA
4. FREDERICK EDEOGHON
5. ABIOLA CADOSO BASTY
6. STEPHEN AJAYI
7. TELEMA DAREGOE
8. TONY AJAELU
9. OLOLADE AGBANA
10. KATE OSHO
11. CHIMERE EZEWAFOR
12. CHARLES OBASI
13. OLUSEYI SONDE
14. ENDURANCE OFEM
15. MICHAEL EGIETHUA
16. MAUREEN UBOCHI
17. ELIZABETH NWAGWU
18. KAYODE AJIBOLA
19. CYRIL MUSA



● Members of Nigeria Under -19 Cricket Team that represented the country at the Under -19 Africa World Cup qualifier in Zambia held in May 2009.

U-19 NATIONAL TEAM PREPARES FOR THE U-19 WORLD CUP REGIONAL QUALIFIER FROM JULY 25-30, 2010 IN SWAZILAND

In preparation for the forthcoming U-19 World Cup Regional Qualifier from July 25-30, 2010 in Swaziland, Nigeria's U-19 Cricket Team has undergone in the last two weeks in June, physical fitness and mental conditioning exercises for strength, endurance and flexibility.

According to Okon Ukpung, Chairman of the Technical Committee of the Nigeria Cricket Federation, the technical team has also planned a close camp for the players from July 5-14, 2010 in Lagos for more technical training. This would involve sharpening and perfecting techniques in skills such as Batting, Bowling and Fielding. Coach of the Under-19 Team, Sean Phillips has said that "the lads are in good spirit and the training programme is very much on course". The final phase of the preparation which entails acclimatization and strategy fine tuning would be in South Africa from July 16-24, 2010 prior to the departure of the team to Swaziland.

Other countries featuring in the tournament include Ghana, Rwanda, Gambia, Mozambique and host Swaziland.



● Wale Adeoye of GCIOB CC on the defensive during the Super 4 - final.

GCIOB LIFTS SUPER-4 CRICKET TROPHY

Ibeju Lekki Cricket Club's(ILCC) unbeaten run was finally brought to an end at the prestigious Tafawa Balewa Cricket Oval on Sunday, April 18, 2010, when the Iris Smart Technologies-sponsored Super Four final came to an end with Government College Ibadan Old Boys Cricket Club (GCIOBCC) winning by 33 runs.

GCIOBCC won the toss and chose to bat first, scoring 215 runs in 48.2 overs with the captain of the national team Wale Adeoye posting 44 runs, while Kunle Adegbola scored 42 runs and Ramit Gill had 34 runs to his name. Joseph Ogunlola (ILCC) took 4 wickets, Sean Phillips (ILCC), 2 catches, 2 wickets and 1 run-out while wicket keeper Ademola Onikoyi (ILCC) took 3 catches.

The hitherto unbeaten ILCC had it all to do in their innings as they crashed to 183 runs in 44.5 overs with Indian import Ramit Gill and Adeoye Wale (GCIOBCC) both taking 3 wickets each while Adegbola Kunle had 1 catch as GCIOBCC ended their opponent's 12-match winning streak.

The champions of the regular season going into that game looked unbeatable, untouchable, indomitable and insurmountable but had to bow to GCIOBCC who wanted it more.

The Super 4 final did not only witness great bowling and batting, some awards also went to some deserving cricketers who shone during the 2009/10 regular season. Below are the awardees.

2009/2010 SEASON AWARD WINNERS

Cricketer of the Series:	Endurance Ofem
Best Batsman Division 1:	Jide Bejide
Best Bowler Division 1:	Oris Oruye
Best Fielder Division 1:	Tope Olayinka
Best Wicketkeeper Division 1:	Ademola Onikoyi
Best Batsman Division 2:	Jay Ghosalkar

Cont'd on next page

Best Bowler Division 2:	Sheikh Asim
Best Fielder Division 1:	Toyosi Baines
Best Wicketkeeper Division 2:	Ricky Sharma
Most Improved Young Cricketer:	Seun Adeboro
Most Supportive Print Press:	Guardian Newspaper/Chris Okpara
Most Supportive Electronic Press:	Unplug Radio/Radio Nigeria
Division 2 Champions:	LAGOS ASIANS CC
Division 1 Champions:	IBEJU LEKKI 1 CC
Super 4 Championships:	GOVERNMENT COLLEGE IBADAN OLD BOYS CC
Umpire of the Series:	Kehinde Olanbiwonu



• Kwesi Sagoe, Managing Director EDL (left) and George Wiltshire, Chairman, LSCA (right) presenting the trophy to Seun Odeku, captain of GCIOB CC.

GOVERNMENT COLLEGE IBADAN OLD BOYS CRICKET CLUB CONFIRMS SUPREMACY OVER STAR STUDDED IBEJU LEKKI CRICKET CLUB

The popular saying that form is temporary & class is permanent was exactly what cricket enthusiasts in Nigeria witnessed at the 9th edition of Express Discount Knockout Series Final, on Sunday, April 24th, at the prestigious Tafawa Balewa Cricket oval which saw defending champion GCIOBCC retain their trophy by beating ILCC 1 by 21 runs to complete a back to back defeat of their biggest rivals.

The Seun Odeku led side won the toss and chose to bat first scoring 203 runs in 40 overs for loss of 9 wickets with Kunle Adegbola one of Nigeria's brightest prospects in Cricket posting 60 runs off 88 balls in 133 mins as he got support from his fellow team mates Ramit Gill & Tayo Okusanya who scored 38 runs and 32 runs respectively. Sean Phillips (ILCC) took 2 wickets for 18 runs in 3 overs while wicket keeper for Nigeria's Cricket National team Ademola Onikoyi accounted for 3 run-out in the first innings for ILCC 1.



• Cricket enthusiasts at the EDL Final.

Second Innings was left for Ibeju Lekki Cricket Club 1 to reach the 203 runs target set by their opponents but the duo of Adeoye Wale, Captain of Nigeria's Cricket National team and former player of the National team, Tayo Okusanya both took 4 wickets and 2 wickets respectively to reduce the champions of the regular season to 182 runs in 40 overs for loss of 9 wickets with Jide Bejide top scoring for his side with 49 runs while the duo of Sean Phillips and Seye Olympio both contributing 36 runs and 33 runs as they lost by 21 runs, their second loss in a week.

The back to back victories achieved by the Ibadan based team in both finals of Irish Smart Technologies Super 4 and the 9th EDL knockout series is a testament of the quality GCIOBCC parades as the in-form team in Nigerian cricket.

The final was not all about good bowling, great batting, fantastic wicket keeping and superb fielding as the T.B.S Oval also witnessed the presence of important dignitaries from all nooks and crannies of the country such as Managing Director, Express Discount Limited, Kwesi Sagoe who doubles as the President of Nigeria Cricket Federation; Chairman, Lagos State Cricket Association, Mr. George Wiltshire; Managing Director, Irish Smart Technologies, Mr. Yinka Fisher.

Others were Honourable Agboola Dabiri, Chairman, Lagos State Sports Council; Special Adviser to the Governor of Lagos State on Grassroot Sports, Prince Wale Oladunjoye and Mr Olowo, Board member Lagos State Sports Council on Cricket and some ex-cricketers were in attendance while deserving cricketers who stood out during the competition were also rewarded.

The list below contains categories of tournament awards:

- 1). Man of the final match: Tayo Okusanya (GCIOBCC)
- 2). Bowler of the series: Sanjeev Bansal (IPCC)
- 3). Fieldsman of the series: Seun Odeku (GCIOBCC)
- 4). Wicketkeeper of the series: Nilesh Rajput (IPCC)
- 5). Batsman of the series: Friday Udoh (FGCWOBCC)

The Cricketer of the series Award which went to Ramit Gill of GCIOBCC came with \$1,000 prize money.

GCIOBCC WINS GTASSUR 20 -20 TROPHY

Government College Ibadan Old Boys Cricket Club (GCIOBCC), at Tafawa Balewa Cricket Oval, on Sunday, May 9, 2010, defeated rivals, Ibeju Lekki Cricket Club (ILCC 1) by 3 wickets with 21 balls to spare at the 3rd Edition of GTASSUR 20/20 tournament.

The Seun Odeku led GCIOBCC won the toss and elected to field with their opponents ILCC 1 scoring 75 runs all out in 18.3 overs.



• Tosin Runsewe, Chief Client Officer GTAssur (left), presenting the GTAssur trophy to Seun Odeku, captain of the 2010 champions, GCIOB CC, flanked by George Wiltshire, Chairman, Lagos State Cricket Association (LSCA).

Femi Solebo topped the scorers chart for ILCC 1 by scoring 32 runs off 46 balls in 59 minutes to bring his total runs in the competition to 136 runs while other players such as Endurance Ofem, Ademola Onikoyi and Sean Phillips failed to come to the party owing to the superb bowling of GCIOBCC led by Captain Oluwaseun Odeku who had 2 wickets for 16 runs in 3.3 overs.

Former Ogun Rocks player who also doubles as the Wicketkeeper of Nigerian Cricket National team, Segun Olayinka was the hero of the Ibadan-based team in the second innings as he posted 39 runs off 51 balls in 74 minutes and was ably supported by Odeku's 11 runs not out as GCIOBCC recorded 76 runs in 16.3 overs for loss of 7 wickets while Sean Phillips and Joshua Ogunlola accounted for 2 wickets and 1 wicket respectively.

Both teams displayed good bowling, great batting, superb fielding in front of top dignitaries who were in attendance. They included Chairman Lagos State Cricket Association Mr. George Wiltshire, 1st Vice Chairman Lagos State Cricket Association Mr. Barnaby Ephraim, 2nd Vice Chairman Mr. Akin Denton, Board member Lagos State Sports Council on Cricket Otunba Segun Olowo, Managing Director Irish Smart Technologies, Mr. Yinka Fisher, and Chairman Ibeju Lekki Local Government Prince Bayo Balogun. Chief Client Officer of Guarantee Trust Assurance Plc, Mr. Tosin Runsewe and Chief Investment Officer Guarantee Trust Assurance Plc, Mr. Michael Oyebola were also present.



• Ibeju Lekki CC at drinks break during the final of the keenly contested Six-A- Side Cricket Championship which they won by defeating Lagos Indians CC.

IBEJU LEKKI WINS CRICKET SIX-A SIDE

Ibeju Lekki Cricket Club (ILCC 1) ended the cricket season on a high by defeating Lagos Asians Cricket Club (LACC 1) by 4 wickets with 12 balls to spare in the final of the 7th Lagos six-A-side tournament, held at the Tafawa Balewa Oval on Sunday, 23rd of May, 2010. The tournament was sponsored by Prince Bayo Balogun, Chairman of Ibeju Lekki Local Government.

The Captain Mathias led LACC 1 won the toss and elected to bat first as they posted 84 runs all out in 10 overs.

Vishal Sharma recorded the highest score for his side with 24 runs off 16 balls and was supported by Mathias who added 19 runs off 16 balls.

But the duo of Sean Phillips 2 overs, 17 runs for 1 wicket and Captain Ademola Onikoyi 2 overs, 18 runs for 1 wicket ensured the Asians didn't find their rhythm during the first innings.

The chairman of Lagos State Cricket Association Mr. George Wiltshire thanked all the sponsors for supporting Cricket all through the season with a charge to them not to rest on their oars.

Phillips was a tough nut to crack for LACC 1 as he scored 49 runs not out off 25 balls to win batsman of the series with 169 runs in 4 matches while Olympio Seyi added 15 runs off 8 balls to hand the champions of regular season the 6-aside trophy.

Despite Shrini Kumar's 2 overs, 25 runs for 1 wicket in LACC 1's second innings, it was not enough to stop the rampaging ILCC.

The Man of the Final Match was won by Sean Phillips (ILCC 1), Wicketkeeper of the Series award went to Bejide Jide, also (ILCC 1), the bowler of the series was won by Phillips (ILCC 1) Fieldsman of the series, by Onikoyi Ademola (ILCC 1), batsman of the series also Phillips 169 runs (ILCC 1), man of the Series, also Phillips (ILCC 1).

The chairman of Lagos State Cricket Association Mr. George Wiltshire thanked all the sponsors for supporting Cricket all through the season with a charge to them not to rest on their oars.

LSCA HOLDS UNDER 18 CRICKET CLINIC IN LAGOS

The Lagos State Cricket Association (LSCA) held a two- day Coaching Clinic for Under -18 students at the Tafawa Balewa Cricket Oval, Lagos from May 28-29, 2010. The clinic which was initially planned for 30 youngsters from schools across the State, had in attendance, 34 students.

The clinic, no doubt gave the students the opportunity to listen to Nigeria's youth coach, Sean Phillips and his assistant Endurance Ofem who took out time to assess the talents available and give useful tips to assist the lads in their on-going cricket development.

According to Coach Endurance Ofem, -"The coaching clinic re-awakened their keen interest in the game and the fact that there will be more playing opportunities for their age-group at the National Level is one advantage we have".

The coaches reported that more sponsorship was required to be able to put together more programmes of such nature from age group 13 to 19. They added that the lads showed amazing interest, calling for more coaching at the primary and secondary schools to help with the basics of the game.

It was indeed an enjoyable time and the boys at the end thanked the Lagos State Cricket Association for giving them the opportunity to benefit from the coaching clinic.

The Chairman of Lagos State Cricket Association, Mr George Wiltshire was on hand the first day to give the lads some encouraging words for the future.

The following players that attended the programme have been drafted into the list of players to be invited to the Nigeria U-18 trials:

1. Kunle Awosanmi
2. Varum Behani
3. Duru Kelechi
4. Ogungbade Idris
5. Ricky Teteh
6. Jamiu
7. Ntoka Ifeayin
8. Ope Awosanmi



• Under -18 Cricketers from Lagos State at a training session at the Tafawa Balewa Square, Lagos.