

From The Editor-in-Chief

Welcome our readers to the 4th edition of this newsletter in a quarter which turned out to be quite a busy one for the NCF in which two regional events; the NWA All-Rounder Academy and the NWA U15 Boys tournament.

Cricket enthusiasts were happy to see the 2010/2011 Nigerian cricket season commence late in October with the NCF scheduling the ceremonial Season's Opening match on 31st October to formally herald the new season.

Nigeria's golden jubilee was marked by the Cricket Club of Abuja with a

match with a British High Commission XI in Abuja that also featured the Australian High Commissioner to Nigeria.

The NCF held trial matches and screened players for selection into the National U15 side that was to represent the country in the NWA U15 Boys tournament that held in December, 2010.

In a bid to increase coaching capacity, a Level 2 Coaching Course that attracted 10 participants nation-wide was held in Lagos in October, 2010.

In November, the NCF hosted a successful NWA All-Rounder Academy involving all the seven countries in the region in Lagos. Cameroun, Gambia, Ghana, Mali,

Morocco and Sierra Leone along with representatives of the hosts attended the programme.

NCF scheduled Introductory Cricket Courses in four centres; Nsukka, Birnin-Kebbi, Port Harcourt and Calabar in which the game was introduced to over 300 schoolboys and gamesmasters.

I hope you enjoy going through this edition of 'The Wicket' and wish all our readers a Merry Christmas and a fulfilling and exciting New Year!

- Kwesi Sagoe



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• Group photograph of members of Abuja Cricket Club and British High Commission XI

Abuja Cricket Club defeats British High Commission Cricket XI in a match to mark Nigeria's Golden Jubilee

Abuja Cricket Club on Sunday, 10th of October, defeated the British High Commission Cricket XI in a match organised by the Club to mark Nigeria's 50th Independence Anniversary by 3 Wickets.

The match that was played at the National Stadium Cricket oval saw the Abuja Cricket Club batting first and scoring 127 Runs for 7 Wickets in a 25 Overs match. The British High Commission XI scored 85 runs all out in 20 overs.

According to the President of the Cricket Club of Abuja, Emeka Onyeama, the essence of organising the friendly match with the British High Commission is to ensure that there is a cordial link between Nigeria and its colonial master.

While praising the British High Commission for its enthusiasm and approach to the game, the President stressed that the partnership would be sustained as the High Commission has assisted in the development of the game in the FCT.

The Australian High Commissioner, His Excellency, Ian McConville, was awarded the Best Batsman of the day for the 50 runs scored; while Dan Baker was awarded the Best fielder of the day for his two catches.

Mike Egiethua and Gbanga Iriya of the Abuja team jointly were awarded the Best Bowlers of the day for taking three wickets each.

Each of the Award winners got a bag of Rice sponsored by Olam Nigeria Limited, makers of Mama Royale and Mama Gold brands.

Voix Network Limited, a Telecommunication Industry also sponsored caps won by the two teams to celebrate the Independence.

The game covered by DSTV, NTA and other media houses was witnessed by many dignitaries including NCF Board Member, Ms Bimbo Olushola-Sowoolu and other sports enthusiasts.

A lot of side attractions by Red Bull makers who distributed free products, Olam Nigeria Limited and Voix Network Limited were witnessed by the Cricketers and members of their families.

2010/2011 CRICKET SEASON BEGINS IN NIGERIA

After spending six months without Cricket action the prestigious Tafawa Balewa Cricket Oval finally came alive on the 31st of October 2010 when Champions of the regular season BRFC took on Lagos Club Cricket Committee League selected XI in the 2010/2011 Cricket season's opening match.

The Sean Philips led side won the toss and chose to bat first with Femi Solebo and Ademola Onikoyi combining as opening batsmen to score 89 runs in 65 minutes. Ademola Onikoyi top-scored for BRFC with 96 runs off 88 balls in 115 minutes while Vice-Captain Endurance Ofem assisted with his bat by contributing 22 runs off 19 balls to bring the total runs amassed in the first innings to 178 runs for loss of 9 wickets in 30 overs.



• Prince Ademola Adeniji-Adele, Honourable Commissioner of Youth, Sports & Social Development, Lagos State, meeting the Officials and players. Behind is Kwesi Sagoe, Vice Chairman. ACA & President, NCF

Jay Ghosalkar a player for newly promoted Lagos Asians Cricket Club representing the selected side bowled 6 overs, conceding 31 runs for 4 wickets with Dayo Ogunbayo taking 3 wickets for 10 runs in 3 overs.

Second Innings began at a rather slow pace for the Club Cricket Committee League selected XI with the duo of Jay Ghosalkar and Taiwo Balogun playing as opening batsmen but failed to form the

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2010/2011 CRICKET SEASON BEGINS IN NIGERA

right partnership. Kunle Adegbola an all rounder for Government College Ibadan Old Boys Association posted 30 runs off 31 balls, Femi Oduyebo and Skipper Seun Odeku both contributed 21 runs and 18 runs respectively to total 124 runs for 10 wickets in 28.4 overs. Ademola Onikoyi, Wicketkeeper of BRFC had 3 dismissals to help his team defeat the selected side by 54 runs.

The carnival like atmosphere at the Cricket Oval was not all about Bowling, Batting, Fielding and Wicketkeeping but some important Dignitaries also graced the occasion notable amongst them are Honourable Commissioner for Youth, Sports and Social Development Prince Ademola Adeniji-Adele who also doubled as the Special Guest of Honour, Mrs Tayo Oreweme, Co-ordinator Assistant Director Lagos Liason Office of National Sports Commission who represented the Honourable Minister/Chairman National Sports Commission, Nigeria Cricket Federation President Kwesi Sagoe, General Manager Nigeria Cricket Federation George Wiltshire and the Executive Chairman of Ibeju-Lekki Local Government Prince Bayo Balogun.

Others are Professor Jide Bademosi, former Captain of Nigeria, Air Commodore Kola Falope (rtd), Former Board Member of defunct Nigeria Football Association, James Efekodo former Principal of King's College and White sands who was Team Manager of Lagos State in the 70's alongside ex-Cricketers, Cricket Enthusiasts, Sports Journalists & Representatives of Ibeju Lekki Local Government.

NIGERIA HOSTS ICC- ACC LEVEL 2 COACHING COURSE OCTOBER 15TH 17TH 2010

Nigeria hosted the ICC-ACA Level 2 Coaching Course for its cricket coaches selected from different parts of the country. The course commenced on Friday October 15th 2010 at 9.00 am with a welcome address by the General Manager of Nigeria Cricket Federation, Mr. George Wiltshire who represented the President of the Federation. He stressed the need for participants to make maximum benefit of the capacity building course in order to provide the necessary wings for our youngsters to fly.

The following participants attended the programme:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| 1. Mr Musibau Ajayi | Lagos |
| 2. Mr Oluwadolapo Gafar | Ogun |
| 3. Mr Oluwaseun Salako | Ogun |
| 4. Mr Emmanuel Okwudili | Lagos |
| 5. Mr Umaru Dan Asabe | Kebbi |
| 6. Mr Godwin Onoja | Kaduna |
| 7. Mr Enesi Dahiru Enesi | Kaduna |
| 8. Mr Blessing Okoro | Edo |
| 9. Mr Pakribo Telema-Daregoe | Abuja |
| 10. Mr Chinedu Smart Ikemefuna | Anambra |



● Group photograph of participants at the ICC-ACA Level 2 Coaching course held in Lagos.

The course module entailed, Batting, Bowling, Fielding and Wicket Keeping techniques with emphasis on drills for skills impartation. In addition, were courses in Sports Science and Physical preparation of players. Participants at the completion of the course understood the new method of coaching through drills. It was stressed that the drills must be continuous and repetitive in order to develop or correct faults in skills. They gained a practical understanding of science of cricket as it relates to movement of the body and how this enhances performance. They had a thorough understanding of the importance of the eyes {vision}and why attention must be given to vision along with the general physical preparation of players.

NIGERIA SELECTS FOR CLOSE CAMP 16 U-15 CRICKETERS FOR ICC-ACA NORTH-WEST AFRICA TOURNAMENT HOLDING IN NIGERIA FROM DECEMBER 11-14, 2010

In preparation for the U-15 ICC-ACA North-West Africa Tournament holding in Nigeria from December 11-14, 2010, the Nigeria Cricket Federation has selected 16 players for close camp in Ibadan, Oyo State. A National trial/screening of the U-15 players for the forthcoming tournament took place in Lagos between 28th-31st of October, 2010.

Twenty-four(24)players were invited with 10 from Lagos,10 from Ogun,2 from Anambra,1 from Rivers and 1 from Kaduna States. The trial took place with screening of the players birth certificates and international passport to make sure that no player is above the required age range approved for the competition.

A twenty- over game was played on the first day of trials. The second day game gave opportunity for additional 6 players who did not play the previous game to be seen.

At the end of the game 16 players were selected for the close camp scheduled for 18th, November, 2010 through to the competition date in Ibadan where 4 players would be dropped to pave way for 12 players that would represent the country.



● Group Photograph of members of Nigeria U15 and Officials

A twenty- over game was played on the first day of trials. The second day game gave opportunity for additional 6 players who did not play the previous game to be seen.

The names of the 16 players invited for the close camp are as follows.

1. AFEEZ OBISESAN
2. TESLIM OWOLABI
3. DANIEL AJEKUN
4. MOJEED ADIAMO
5. OLUMIDE ADELEKE
6. SAMUEL ADELEKE
7. SESAN ADEDEJI
8. AYOMIDE ADESINA
9. SAMSON EMMANUEL
10. KUNLE AWOSANMI
11. RILWAN OYENUGA
12. MUSTAPHA YUSUF
13. KELECHI DURU
14. HENRY OKO-JAJA
15. CHISOM ADAOGU
16. SEUN EKUNDAYO

This is made of 8 players from Ogun state, 6 players fom Lagos,1 from Anambra and 1 from Rivers.

The six North-West Africa countries taking part in the tournament are Nigeria,Ghana, Gambia, Sierra-Leone, Cameroun, Mali and Morocco.



NIGERIA HOSTS ICC/ACA ALL-ROUNDER ACADEMY IN LAGOS

• Participants, resource persons and Nigeria Cricket Federation Executives at the ICC/ACA All-Rounder Academy in Lagos.

Nigeria hosted the ACA-ICC 2010 All Rounder Academy from November 9-12, 2010 at the National Stadium, Surulere Lagos. The four-day programme was attended by cricketers from Mali, Cameroon, Gambia, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Morocco and host country Nigeria.

Declaring the Academy open, the Chief Operating Officer of Nigeria Cricket Federation, George Wiltshire said that the participants have a major responsibility to play as they are expected to take home and pass on to their colleagues, the skills and techniques taught by the resource persons, Messrs Okon Ukpong and Ewa Henshaw, who collectively have over 50 years experience in the game.

The participants discussed the ICC/ACA Development programme and the pathway for players. They were taken through various drills in Bowling, Batting, Fielding and Wicket keeping for skill develop and fault correction. Participants had net practise to rehearse the drills and in addition a 20-20 game. Furthermore, (Science of Cricket video) was shown on Biomechanics and Jolene Dippenaar's 'Eye at Peak' was presented on visual training along side some Eye Hand and Eye-Leg coordination drills.

Participants realised the emphasis on correct techniques through drills which must be practised regularly. They gained a practical understanding of the Science of Cricket, that is the movement of the body and how this enhances performance. They had a thorough understanding of the importance of the eyes (vision) and why attention must be given to vision along with the general physical preparation of players.

At the end of the course, Participants were request to assess the presentation and content of the programme with a view to identify future needs.

Name and country of All-Rounder Academy Participants:

1 JOSHUA AYANNAIKE	NIGERIA
2 ADEYEMI OYENUGA	NIGERIA
3 KELECHI DURU	NIGERIA
4 ADEDAYO OGUNBAYO	NIGERIA
5 OLUWANISOLA ANYIA	NIGERIA
6 GODWIN ONOJA	NIGERIA
7 BALOWA MANSARAY	S/LEONE
8 JACOB MANSARAY	S/LEONE
9 SULAIMAN TARAWALLY	S/LEONE
10 MICHEAL RADUL NGUEUDAM	CAMEROUN
11 TCHAKOU IDRIS	CAMEROUN
12 BERTRAND ONDOA	CAMEROUN
13 ZAKI ZAKARIA	MOROCCO
14 FS-SIH SOUFIANE	MOROCCO
15 BRAHIM BEKKOURI	MOROCCO
16 JOSEPH BADJAN	GAMBIA
17 ANDREH JARJU	GAMBIA
18 CLEMENT ATEAK	GHANA
19 VINCENT ATEAK	GHANA
20 PETER ANANYA	GHANA

SIERRA LEONE WINS ICC-ACA NORTH-WEST AFRICA U -15 BOYS CRICKET TOURNAMENT HELD IN IBADAN

Sierra Leone emerged the winner of the ICC-ACA North- West Africa U-15 Boys Tournament held in Ibadan between December 11-14, 2010.

At the end of the tournament which was originally scheduled for 4 days, but spilled over to 5 days, Sierra Leone was at the top of the points table with 10 points with a net run rate of 4.19. Ghana came 2nd with total points of 8 with a net run rate of 4.26. Nigeria came 3rd with 6 points and a net run rate of 0.86. Cameroon came 4th with 4 points and net run rate of -0.29.



• Action at the Liberty Stadium Cricket Oval, Ibadan during the ICC-ACA North-West Africa U15 Boys Cricket Tournament.

Gambia came 5th with 2 points and a net run rate of -2.10. While Morocco came 6th with 0 point and net run rate of -6.23.

Speaking at the presentation ceremony held after the final match, the Tournament Director, Okon Ukpong who is also the Chairman of the Technical Committee of Nigeria Cricket Federation, commended participants for playing the game in the true spirit and advised them to go back home and correct the mistakes made in order to perform better at future tournament.

George Wiltshire, Chief Operating Officer of Nigeria Cricket Federation who presented the trophy to the winners, thanked the participating countries for travelling to Nigeria during a very busy month of December and for putting up a good all round performance on the field of play. He expressed his appreciation to all the volunteers for their support and cooperation in making the tournament a remarkable success.

He thanked the the Zonal Director of the National Sports Commission, Steve Olarinoye for the use of the Liberty Stadium cricket oval and also the University of Ibadan authorities for the use of the University's cricket oval.

He said that Nigeria will be hosting the ICC-ACA U-17 Tournament in December, 2011 and looks forward to seeing the young cricketers come again and have a wonderful experience in Nigeria.

Success recorded at NCF Introductory Cricket Coaching Course in Nsukka, Kebbi, Portharcourt and Calabar

As part of efforts to expand the grassroots base for the game, the Nigeria Cricket Federation (NCF), in line with the development programme of the International Cricket Council and African Cricket Association, recently organized Cricket Introductory Courses in four states spread across the country.

The States are: Cross River, Rivers, Kebbi and Enugu states. The course, which was co-ordinated by Nigeria's international, Endurance Ofem, as expected, was indeed another success in trying to expand the grassroots development drive within the country. In Portharcourt, (25th-26th November), the first day of the course covered a high percentage of practical work ranging from Batting basic techniques to Fielding drills involving general introduction of batting, grip, stance, back lift and hitting the ball, catching, throwing and retrieving the ball.

Day two saw the involvement of students after the final practical work of the day in the bowling department. Over 70 kids were involved in the afternoon session of day two. Other areas of the course covered: Etiquettes of the game, Volunteerism, Handling and Planning a Coaching Session and Modified games.

The teachers indeed got involved in the coaching when the student arrived and did not do badly in trying to impact what they learnt within 2 days. The participating Schools



● *St. Cyprian's Special Science School, Nsukka in a group photograph with cricket instructors at the NCF Introductory Cricket Coaching Course.*

included: Government Comprehensive Secondary School, Baptist High School, Enitonna High School, Universal Primary Education Model primary School and Elizabeth Academy. Enitonna High School, Borikiri, was the course venue.

Tonye Timinadi, Head Coach of Rivers state was on ground to help with coaching and planning of the course. At the end of the course, basic equipment (bat shapes, Wickets and balls) were presented to the schools present. In Kebbi State, (25th-26th November), Coach Dan Asabe was on ground as course instructor. The turnout was quite impressive. Participants were taken through the basic techniques of batting, fielding and other key areas of coaching. The participating students were quite enthusiastic to learn the rudiment of the game.

The Kebbi state cricket association appreciated the co-operation given by the students and teachers for the programme. It also thanked the NCF for organizing the programme in the state and request that it should be spread to other local government. The course was held at Hope Waddel College Calabar on the 27th of November. Interest level was amazing as participants came from neighbouring Akwa Ibom State to participate.

The course gave way for the renewed efforts to see the game have a come back in Calabar and the Chairman of Cross River State Cricket Association, Mr. Maurice Inok was very pleased with the calibre of people in attendance. Teachers, students from University of Uyo and interested persons attended the course. Hope Waddel College and Access High School participated.

In Enugu, the Two-Day ICC/ACA/NCF Introductory Cricket Coaching Course which took place at the University of Nigeria Nsukka, Enugu State, over the weekend (25th -26th Nov.) ended with great success. The course which was attended by 27 participants and over 100 Secondary School Students/pupils of Primary Schools (who took part in the practical) was described by Ex-Nigeria International, Dr. Jacob Onyechi as motivating and wonderful.

During the Opening Ceremony, the Representative of the Vice Chancellor of University of Nigeria, Dr. Karl Okezie who declared the event open, in his opening speech, thanked

Nigeria Cricket Federation (NCF) for seeing the need to run the Introductory Cricket Coaching Course of this kind in the School environment. He said the University is interested in making sure that Cricket is played regularly at UNN and environs. While acknowledging the record of the school in the NUGA GAMES, He challenged NCF to initiate more competitions that would help spread the game and keep the students busy. Dr. Okezie, while tracing the history of the game in the country stressed that the colonial masters introduced the game in the Old Government Secondary Schools as a way of using it to culture the behaviour of students. However, he regretted that the absence of the game in many schools today is one of the factors that affect the students' civility.

While soliciting for continued support and assistants from the International Cricket Council (ICC), Africa Cricket Association (ACA) and Nigeria Cricket Federation (NCF), Dr. Okezie stressed that UNN does not joke with the game of Cricket; hence, the development of the Oval and support for the game to be played often in the University. The Vice Chancellor's rep who challenged the participants to imbibe all they would be thought for the speedy development of the game within University and environs, also appealed to NCF to ensure there is sustainability as the passion he has seen in the participants and the students (both males and females) are great.

In his welcome speech, Rev. Dr. Jacob Onyechi thanked NCF for promptly responding to the call to organise an Introductory Coaching Course at Nsukka. He went further to call on the Participants to always feel free and learn the basics as there would be a follow up visits and support from the University Cricket team and players who would provide technical coaching support. He promised the participants to call upon him whenever there is need as ICC/ACA/NCF are keen to making sure the game is spread to all crannies. The two Day course was ran by ICC Level 2 Coach, Emeka Igwilo on behalf of NCF. Igwilo was voluntarily and passionately supported by Olisa Egwuatu and Dr. Jacob Onyechi who contributed at intervals and when needed.

The course covered trainings on the areas of batting /fielding/bowling fundamentals, wicket keeping, umpiring and scoring, volunteerism, the spirit of the game etc Bat-shapes, Tennis Balls, Wickets and T-shirts from NCF were distributed to the Schools, Participants, Students and Pupils.

Among the Schools that sent participants included Community Secondary School, Nru, St. Cyprian's Special Science School, Community Secondary School (1) Ede-Oballa, Community Secondary School (11), Ede Oballa, University Staff School, UNN, University Secondary School, Queen of the Rosary Secondary School, Nsukka High School (Anglican Grammar School 1), Nsukka High School (Anglican Grammar School 11), St Teresa's College and Bishop Crowther Seminary, Awka who came from Anambra State. After the practical, a meeting between the participants, the Instructor and officials was held on how to move Cricket forward at Nsukka.

The ICC/ACA and NCF development strategy of expanding grass root cricket was discussed and participants were taken through the pathway of coaching development. Volunteerism, Planning a coaching session and modified games were also discussed.

Similar courses have been held in Kaduna, Edo, Ondo, Ekiti, Anambra within the past 4 years and it is our continuous efforts and responsibility to make sure we keep providing the platform for beginners. This simply explains the relationship between the Federation and teachers that we are trying to build along with parents and volunteers in our development drive.



● *Participants at the NCF Introductory Cricket Coaching Course held in Calabar.*