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ACF News



Chairman's Message Jagan Jagannathan

As we come to the close of the 2015 season, and we look forward to enjoying the holiday season, there is much for all of us at ACF to celebrate.

We had an exciting NACCL finals tournament in Orlando over the Columbus Day Weekend with the Massachusetts Patriots winning it all by beating the hosts FCC All-Stars in a hard-fought competitive final match. The tournament was graced by five legends of the game -- Lawrence Rowe, Alvin Kallicharran, Michael Holding, Colin Croft and Faoud Bacchus -- who were inspirational and charming at the tournament banquet, regaling the attendees with what it took the West Indies to be champions over two decades.

In November, the Cricket All-Stars tour of the US headed by Satchin Tendulkar and Shane Warne was attended by several ACF members and their friends who were provided with complimentary tickets, which the ACF and ACF leagues themselves received from the ICC.

The ICC organized a road-show to discuss the US Local Advisory Group's progress on a development strategy for US cricket, in which several of ACF's leagues, clubs and player members actively participated, in a positive, constructive and candid manner.

Finally, for the third year in a row, ACF's elections are underway for several open positions in its Board and AJ&C. It is being supervised by an independent and credentialed election auditor who will validate the results when the balloting concludes, and before it is announced.

2015 has been an eventful and exciting year for ACF and its members. We fully intend to build on the momentum into 2016 to continue to show ourselves and the world, that US cricket can operate for its membership, by its membership, in a professional, merit-based and rule-bound manner.

Season's Greetings to you and yours!

CAF Directors on ICC Town Hall meetings

Many ACF directors attended the eight Town Hall meetings held by the ICC across the United States, and appreciated the effort initiated by the ICC to put US cricket back on track. Below are some of the viewpoints expressed.

Shantha Suraweera – ACF Director (LA Town Hall meeting)

“It was a very constructive and informative meeting, attended by Southern California Cricket Association, Orange County Cricket Association and the Southern California Youth Cricket Academy. Having received high praise for its Chicago national Town Hall forum from many of those who attended, the ICC completed a number of Town Hall meetings across the USA, following up on its promise to reach out to local stakeholders. It is hoped that their efforts will lead to a better future for US cricket by recognizing a responsible, transparent, credible and dependable organization, and with good governance, as the National Governing Body for cricket capable of implementing any approved ICC proposed strategic plan.”

Mike Thomas – ACF Director & Treasurer

“After decades in the doldrums of mismanagement and scant attention, two things were immensely heartening to see on display in Chicago. One was to see ICC’s top operational management pledge their #1 development priority as U.S. cricket and the second was to see the unprecedented unity of purpose among the many attendees in expressing common themes and wishing to have a say in the future of U.S. cricket.

ACF’s Board was in full attendance, as its local managements have been with subsequent regional Town-Hall events. At last the unique characteristics - and anomalies - of cricket in America have been put on public display: a huge and sophisticated market, yet with few indigenous players of a sport not played in the nation’s schools; huge commercial potential, yet under-whelmed by lack-luster national teams; heady player potential, but strangled by lack of investment. For this ACF was formed. The strategies are clear. It just now needs appropriate governance that is competent, altruistic and truly representative of US cricket.”

John Aaron – ACF Director & Secretary (New York Town Hall Meeting)

“The New York Town Hall forum was attended by nearly 40 stakeholders, ICC Americas officials, and members of the LAG, with those in attendance endorsing the ICC’s efforts to revamp cricket in the USA through a strategic approach and approval of the ICC’s Dubai office. The emerging plan will include performance pathways for men, women and youth cricketers’ participation in ICC World Cup events by 2020.

ACF members Commonwealth and NYC Bangladesh Cricket Leagues were in attendance, as well as yours truly, ACF Director Avinash Gaje and Honorary Advisory Board member and ACF Constitution architect Stephen Rooke Esq. Those in attendance were invited to review the ICC’s four-pronged approach to the drafting of a development and growth strategy for US cricket and suggested initiatives for such.

The stakeholders present, applauded the recent ICC Americas combine held in Indianapolis and encouraged the ICC to support the replication of the model at USA regional levels.”



2015 ACF Election Results Announced.

John Aaron returns as a Director-at-Large representing Clubs and Player Members for a four-year term. Vishal Tiku joins the Board as the second Zonal Director for the West for a two-year term. Mahesh Allam and Vijay Panneerselvam join the Board as the two new Central Zonal Directors with two-year terms. Avinash Varma and Ernie Precious return to the Board as Zonal Directors of the East for two-year terms, and Anand Subramanian joins the AJ&C as the Hardball League Representative for a four-year term.

Congratulations to the elected officials

ACF is pleased to announce the results of its elections held in late November and early December as mandated by the ACF Constitution.

The electors and the election results were verified by Professor Gerald Singh, CPA, who acted as an Independent Election Auditor.



Get to know the ACF Board

Avinsh Varma – ACF Board of Directors



Avinash Varma is one of the founding members of the ACF and has been serving on the Board since its inception in 2012. In addition to his role as the ACF Vice Chairman, Avinash also serves as the Commissioner of the Newbery American Cricket Champions League (NACCL). The NACCL is ACF's flagship tournament and the only national domestic men's cricket tournament of its kind in the US. Avinash has been the President of the Washington Metro Cricket Board (WMCB), one of the founding leagues of ACF and he remains actively involved both as a player and administrator in the Washington, DC metro area. Avinash has been a leading fundraiser for the ACF since 2012. In his capacity as the NACCL Commissioner and Vice Chairman, he liaises with the members of the ACF Honorary Advisory Board and sponsors such as Newbery and Hammer Cricket.

Priya Singh – Member, ACF Advisory & Judiciary Committee (AJ&C)



Founder/President - Missouri Youth Cricket Association
Board Member - USYCA
Co Founder/Event Coordinator - National Youth Cricket League
Founder/Manager - Missouri Women's Cricket
Executive Board - Missouri Premier Hardball Cricket League
Executive Board - St. Louis Cricket League
Director/Member A&JC - American Cricket Federation

Priya has worked as a Systems Engineer at AT&T since 2001. She has two young children, both of whom are active youth cricketers.



ACF Hosts Successful 2015 Newbery American Cricket Champions Tournament

The 2015 edition of the American Cricket Federation's (ACF) Newbery American Cricket Champions League (NACCL) featuring eight divisional champions culminated in an exciting finale between the reigning champion Florida Cricket Conference All Stars and first time finalist Massachusetts State Cricket League Patriots.

Following matches at four cricket venues in Orlando, Florida over a three day period, and involving the following qualifying teams – Mid-Atlantic's Philadelphia Tigers, Florida's Florida All Stars, New York's NYBCL Jets, Ohio Valley's Midwest Chargers, New England Massachusetts' Patriots, Mid-Atlantic's WMCB Eagles, Southwest OCCA's Cougars and Florida's NFCL Thunder, the Massachusetts Patriots emerged as the challenger to the defending champion Florida All Stars.

It was a much-anticipated contest that lived up to its expectations, with the Patriots upsetting the reigning champion Florida All Stars. It was the icing on the cake of a terrific weekend of cricketing activities on and off the field. With five former West Indies Test stars in attendance, the 2015 edition of the ACF's national cricket league championship elevated the status of national cricket tournaments in the USA.

More than 200 guests, including the five Test cricket legends Michael Holding, Alvin Kallicharran, Lawrence Rowe, Colin Croft and Faood Bacchus, local politicians, businessmen, and ACF board members, attended the Banquet Dinner. Now in its fourth year, the ACF Newbery American Cricket Champions League has grown from four divisional contenders to eight divisional contenders.

The Florida Cricket Conference did a fantastic job organizing the logistics for the Orlando, Florida Fall classic, with the winner expected to meet the top Canadian league team in spring 2016, in Arizona

Visit <http://www.acfchampionsleague.org/> for more information.

Youth Cricket

Southern California Youth Cricket Academy (SCYCA) organized a youth cricket match involving four Under-13 youth cricket teams in Southern California on November 28, 2015. It was a perfect day for cricket, with two turf pitches prepared at the Foothill Ranch Community Park for the youth cricket extravaganza.

SoCal Cubs played against SoCal Warriors while SoCal Cougars took on SoCal Blasters. All players played hard and were well supported by enthusiastic parents. SoCal Warriors won by 6 wickets beating SoCal Cubs and SoCal Blasters beat SoCal Cougars by 49 runs. Visit <http://www.scycricketacademy.com/> "March Center" for match scores and results.



