



## **Madrid Cricket Club brings Twenty20 cricket to Spain to celebrate the International Cricket Council's Catch the Spirit week**

### **Cricket España and MCC are playing a major role in promoting ICC's centenary year**

The Madrid Cricket Club (MCC) today announced that the 2nd Solidarity Twenty20 tournament, sponsored by La Manga Club and aimed at raising funds to support the work of Vicente Ferrer Foundation in Anantapur, India, will be staged at La Manga Club, Murcia, Southern Spain from 25 to 27 April

The event is part of the major global Catch the Spirit celebrations aimed at promoting the International Cricket Council (ICC) centenary, the great spirit of cricket and the wide appeal and diversity of the game.

Eight teams from Spain, the United Kingdom and the Netherlands will take part: Madrid Cricket Club, La Manga Cricket Club, Mojacar Cricket Club, Bank of England Cricket Club, Belsize Village Cricket Club, Milton Keynes Cricket Club, Amsterdam Cricket Club and The Hague Cricket Club.

The money raised from the tournament will go towards improving the lives of underprivileged people in Anantapur, India, where the Spanish NGO the Vicente Ferrer Foundation is based. Some funding will also be used for the development of cricket in Madrid.

Jonathan Woodward is the Vice President of the Madrid Cricket Club (MCC):

"We have often raised funds for the NGOs, but this year we decided to go further and hold a full-blown, eight-team tournament. The funds raised in aid of the Vicente Ferrer Foundation will help to set up a cricket school for over 1,200 children with visual and hearing impairments and

Match balls: **WestonWilliamson**

**Si!**

Water & Ice: Wine bar- Café - Bistro

Trophies:



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learning difficulties. The funds will provide specialised equipment to help them enjoy the sport so loved in their country. Other funds raised during the tournament will be used to develop cricket in Madrid. Our aim is to bring the sport we love to a wider audience and we want to encourage the Spanish to give it a try. We hope to purchase additional equipment to provide classes and practice sessions for beginners through to regular players.”

The club hosted the inaugural Solidarity Twenty20 tournament in Madrid in October 2007, raising over 2,000 euros for UNICEF. Thanks to its efforts, ICC Europe awarded the club its *ICC Development Programme Best Spirit of Cricket Initiative* for 2007 in Europe, the first time a Spanish club had taken a European award.

This year’s tournament will be held in La Manga Club Resort, which is the main sponsor of the event.

La Manga Managing Director Julio Delgado said: “We are delighted to host this event using our facilities at La Manga Club, the home of cricket in Spain, to raise funds for the Vicente Ferrer Foundation. We hope this will be the first of many cricket tournaments here.”

The event is one of two major events planned in Spain in 2009 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the game’s governing body. These events reaffirm the collective commitment to the values which are central to the game and the huge appeal of the sport across the globe.

Also sponsoring the event are local establishments the Q Bar and Si Bar, and architects and designers WestonWilliamson.

-ENDS-

#### Notes to Editors:

**Madrid Cricket Club** is one of the premier cricket clubs in Spain. Founded in 1975, it is the oldest club in the country. Madrid CC organises, runs and develops cricket in the Spanish capital and plays in the Spanish National Cricket League, finishing runners-up in 2007 and third in 2008. Madrid CC received the 2007 ICC Development Programme Best Spirit of Cricket

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Trophies:





Initiative in Europe Award for hosting the '1st Solidarity Twenty20 Cricket Tournament' in October 2007 to raise funds for UNICEF.

The **Vicente Ferrer Foundation** is a Spanish Development NGO operating in Anantapur, India. Taking a humanistic approach to development, the Foundation works to improve the life conditions of the poorest, most vulnerable and most disadvantaged people in the region, including children with disabilities ([www.fundacionvicenteferrer.org](http://www.fundacionvicenteferrer.org)).

**Cricket España** is the governing body for the sport in Spain. Founded in 1986, Cricket España now brings together 20 teams from many parts of the country. Its mission is to promote the sport, encourage youth participation, develop cricketing abilities, organise competitions and national teams and ensure the Spirit of Cricket prevails in the sport in Spain. Spain became an Affiliate Member of the ICC in 1992 ([www.icc-europe.org/SPAIN](http://www.icc-europe.org/SPAIN)).

More details are available on the Madrid CC website: [www.cricketinmadrid.com](http://www.cricketinmadrid.com).

**International Cricket Council:** The ICC is the international governing body for cricket. The ICC centenary is an opportunity to commemorate a century of international cricket and to embrace and celebrate the sport in all 104 Members countries. More details about the Catch the Spirit celebrations and ICC's centenary can be found at [www.catchthespirit.com](http://www.catchthespirit.com).

For further information, please contact:

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**Si!**

Water & Ice: Wine bar- Café - Bistro

Trophies:  **Q-bar**  
COCKTAIL BAR AND BISTRO

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