

The interned British forces commenced playing cricket in their internment camp fifty miles north of Buenos Aires and so commenced cricket in Argentina!

The first reference to cricket was in 1806 by Major Alexander Gillespie, a Royal Marine's officer who was taken prisoner during a British capture of Buenos Aires. He writes in the paper *Gleanings*:

'The arrears due being settled at Esquina, and a repose of some days being allowed us, full pockets and vacant time revived the national diversions of horse racing and cricket, for which we always carried the material.'

In the meantime the success of the local forces led to an increase in self confidence and demands for autonomy and in turn the deposition of The Spanish Viceroy in 1810.

The next cricketing record of note was the foundation of the Buenos Aires Cricket Club in 1831 which even then contained some native born players who had been educated in England. The local paper recorded: "... a cricket club has been formed in Buenos Aires, and the members thereof have lately played some excellent games at that manly exercise. Some of the players might not feel ashamed to take up a bat, even by the side of the Men of Kent. At present, the Club consists of some 25 persons; some matches are in anticipation. The members are uniformly attired in flannel jackets and straw hats, bound with straw coloured ribbon. Among the players are some 'Hijos del pais', who have been educated in England."

For the next thirty years, there are intermittent records of games played at the Anglo Porteno C.C. and a club called Albion, founded in 1840. Both clubs appear to have merged into a reformed BACC about 1861. BACC played at Palermo from 1864 until 1948, when they came into conflict with Evita Peron who burnt down their pavilion – a story not recounted in *Evita!*

The spread of cricket in Argentina coincided with the spread of the railway system and the meat packing houses. The first railway line in Argentina was laid in the late 1850s by the British, using surplus equipment from the Crimean War. This led in 1891 to the foundation of the "North v South" matches. The South always had their headquarters in Buenos Aires. The North's headquarters were originally at Jujuy over one thousand miles North West of Buenos Aires. As the numbers of English in Argentina declined, the headquarters moved South to Rosario in 1920, only about 150 miles North West of Buenos Aires and later into Buenos Aires itself. The contest became between the three Southern Clubs (Lomas, Buenos Aires and Belgrano) v the three Northern Clubs (San Isidro, Pacifico and Rosario).

Cricket was governed originally by the Argentina Cricket Championship Committee founded in 1899 and reconstituted as the ACC in 1913, although until 1932 the North remained autonomous.

Tours by Argentina

From the mid 19th Century to the mid 20th Century, Argentina undertook perhaps the most intensive touring programme of any nation other than England with approximately 89 tours in 120 years, commencing by crossing the River Plate to

Uruguay in 1868 although there were only sporadic matches after World War One. Tours commenced to Brazil in 1888 (played since 1953 for the Norris trophy) and to Chile in 1893, crossing the Andes by mule and taking over three days to reach Santiago. In the 1980s trips commenced to Peru.

The most powerful side to visit England was the 1932 South American side, which comprised ten Argentineans, three Brazilians and two Chileans. The side won two of its six first class games. Most of the early Argentinean touring sides to England essentially involved teams of players on holiday playing local clubs. Then in the 1970s Argentina joined the ICC and its 1979 side took part in the ICC trophy, without success on the field but were enormously popular visitors. Argentina's participation in 1983 had to be abandoned because of the Falklands war but they came again in 1986.

Tours to Argentina

In the years immediately before and after World War One Argentinean cricket was at its height. Lord Hawke brought an MCC team in 1912 which struggled to win the three Test series 2:1. The team include Archie MacLaren whose first four visits to the crease all ended in ducks!

Pelham Warner's MCC team of 1926-7 contained then current Test players Gubby Allen and Jack ("Farmer") White, as well as the future UK Prime Minister Alec Douglas-Home (then Lord Dunglass). Again they won the series 2:1 with the Argentineans winning on a crumbling spinning wicket on the old Buenos Aires ground in Palermo. Argentinean born and educated cricketers were now beginning to pay a major role with the declining number of British expatriates, and were able to mount severe opposition to the major tours of Sir Julian Cahn in 1930 (which won one and lost two Test matches) and Theodore Brinkman's side in 1936-37 (which won two and lost one Test match).

After World War Two British influence waned in South America generally and the standard of play declined markedly. The MCC side of 1958-59 won both Test matches as did the 1964-65 side, generally defeating weak opposition by wide margins. In the 1960s and 1970s there were visits by a powerful New Zealand side and also by South Africa and Australia. Derek Robin's XI of 1979 was the last high class side to visit Argentina with seven international payers, winning the only Test Match.

Spanish is now the common language on the cricket field and many English cricketing terms have been translated into Spanish (Eg wicket, batsman and bowler). Buenos Aires remains the cricketing centre. Cricket in Argentina is played from October through to March in almost perfect climate and with excellent facilities. As the number of cricketers and cricket clubs are limited, they too often find themselves playing the same opponents and for this reason visiting touring sides from abroad are assured of a warm welcome.

PERU

Lima Cricket Club was founded in 1859 and cricket has been played in Lima, on and off, since then. The club moved to its present site with a cricket ground in Magdalena in the 1920s. The first match against a foreign team by a Peruvian team was against Sir Pelham Warner's MCC side on its way back from Australia via Chile and Peru in 1927. The former England captain, Freddie Brown, was born in Lima and his father took five wickets against the MCC.

Only internal cricket was played between the 1920s and the 1960s. Between 1967 and 1980 there was a surge of interest in the game, largely based on workers from British textile firms. As well as intense local competition, tours were arranged to Argentina three times, as well as to Colombia and Venezuela, and there were visits by teams from Argentina, Australia and England as well as the Derrick Robbins XI.

The 1980s proved to be another quiet time for cricket in Peru but it recovered in the early 1990s when the short, vibrant seasons in February and March raised interest. During Easter, 1995, a tournament was arranged in Lima between teams from Chile, Brazil and Peru. Chile won with Peru second and contact was re-established. The first South American Cricket Championship took place soon after, in December that year, featuring Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Peru. The Championship has taken place since then, at roughly two-year intervals, in Buenos Aires, Santiago – and Lima in 1999 and 2007 (at *Lima Cricket and Football Club* and *Markham College*).

The most recent South American Championship, the 8th, was held in Brazil for the first time, in April 2009, at the Sao Paulo Athletic Club.

In 2009, Peru successfully applied for Affiliate membership to the ICC. This injected new life and investment into Peruvian cricket. Peru is now part of a worldwide cricket league system, with the possibility, albeit unlikely, of qualifying for the World Cup. Currently Peru is in the ICC Americas Division III and ranked 75th in the world.

Peru Domestic

Peru has traditionally held an 8-10 week season at the Lima Cricket and Football Club (LCFC) from February until Easter. The Annual Easter tournament has often involved invited teams. The advantage of playing cricket in Peru is that play is never lost to rain.

The most important regular matches on the calendar were traditionally the British Ambassador's XI vs President of the LCFC XI and India/Pakistan vs Rest of the World.

In November 2006, a uniquely Peruvian cricket form, *Cricket Veloz*, was introduced to the cricketing calendar, and the *Chimu Adventures Cricket Veloz Trophy* has been hotly contested every year since. Originally designed as a four-team, indoor tournament, in 2009 it was rebranded as an outdoor 6-a-side festival, with great success, fitting nicely into the 150th Anniversary celebrations of the LCFC.

The *Cricket Peru National Twenty20 Tournament* began in 2007 and initially four Clubs fought it out for the Cup, now expanded to eight teams, with each of the four clubs fielding two sides.

CHILE

The earliest record of cricket in Chile dates back to 1829, in the coastal city of Valparaíso between the officers and men of two Royal Navy vessels, although regular cricket did not appear until the 1860s. The opening up of the nitrate industry by the British led to the foundation of cricket clubs in Valparaiso and Iquique, Regular matches were taking place between Valparaiso and Santiago in the 1870s. It was alleged that all the youngsters who came out from England would be kept in Valparaiso if good cricketers or otherwise sent to Santiago! At this time many of the nitrate pants could raise their own sides to play each other or combine in traditional 'Port v Pampas' matches in the port of Iquique.

Although no official first-class games have ever taken place in Chile, the first international fixture between Chile and Argentina came in 1893 when it reportedly took the Argentine side 'three and a half days to reach Santiago, crossing the Andes by mule'. Chile now possesses a rich history of international cricket, including three visits by the MCC, in 1960, 2001, and 2007 and a record in the South American Cricket Championship second only to Argentina.

The game's heyday in Chile was in the 1920s with regular matches between Concepcion, Santiago and Valparaiso. Pelham 'Plum' Warner captained a touring side against a Valparaíso XI, whilst the game was also played by St. Peters and The Grange School as fiercely as any schools in England. The standard of cricket in this era is highlighted by the success of one former St. Peter's student, Frederick 'Freddie' Brown who went on to successfully captain both Surrey and England in the 1950's.

After World War Two, interest waned as the number of British expatriates declined. Nevertheless, cricket was kept alive by the Prince of Wales Country Club throughout the 1960s at the very foot of the Andes with the snow capped peaks towering twenty thousand feet overhead and also occasionally at Vina del Mar.

In 2002, following the formation of the Asociación Chilena de Cricket (ACC), Chile was admitted as an affiliate member of the International Cricket Council and has since concentrated on junior development to ensure a healthy future for the game for years to come.

There are now over 2,000 children involved in all levels of junior cricket in Chile, with a competitive national team at U13, U15 and U19 levels.

The senior national team plays in Division 3 of the ICC Americas Championship, finishing second in the 2008 tournament, ahead of Belize, Peru and Brazil.

BRAZIL

Cricket in Brazil has a long history. It began in the mid-1800s in Rio de Janeiro, during a period when a substantial portion of the city's population was British or of British descent. By the early 1860s a number of cricket clubs were in operation, including the British CC, Artisan Amateurs CC, Rio British CC, Anglo-Brazilian CC and the British and American Club, although their playing facilities were limited to makeshift open spaces. Interestingly, Rio's Brazilian residents at the time had little or no interest in sport of any kind.

Beginning in 1860, as part of a much-needed beautification program for the city, Emperor Dom Pedro II created several new parks, including a large grassed area in front of his daughter Princess Isabel's house, on Rua Paysandu in the Laranjeiras district. Due to good relations between the British community and the Brazilian monarchy, this space eventually became the country's first proper cricket ground, and hosted cricket, tennis and bowls matches for many years. Princess Isabel and her father were frequent spectators, and often called upon to present trophies to the winners.

In 1872 George Cox formed the Rio Cricket Club, which soon began using the field as its home. In the early 1880s, George's son Oscar organized Brazil's first football games on this same ground. In 1889 Brazil became a Republic and Princess Isabel was forced to move from her residence. The cricket ground was taken over by the new government, and although the sport was allowed to continue for a time, a permanent facility was now required. In 1897 the newly-renamed Rio Cricket and Athletic Association purchased a large property in Niterói, on the other side of Guanabara Bay. A cricket ground was built and hosted its first match on June 19, 1898. Cricket would continue to be played on this ground for the next 97 years. As the local British population declined steadily through the 1970s and 1980s, however, cricket at the club faded away, and today the Rio Cricket ground is used exclusively for football.

During those early days of cricket in Rio de Janeiro, the sport was also springing up at British sports clubs elsewhere in the country, including: the São Paulo Athletic Club in São Paulo (founded in 1888); the Santos Athletic Club in São Paulo (1899); Clube Internacional de Cricket and Club de Cricket Victoria, both in Salvador, Bahia (both founded in 1899); and the British Country Club in Recife, Pernambuco (1920). Teams and grounds were also created at the British-owned Morro Velho mine just outside of Belo Horizonte in Minas Gerais (1887), and at the Frigorífico Anglo plant in Barretos, São Paulo (1913), where cricket was played until the mid-1990s. Cricket was also played at the Fazenda dos Ingleses in Caraguatuba, on the coast of São Paulo, from 1927 until the Second World War.

It was in São Paulo, however, where the sport really took hold, and the São Paulo Athletic Club (SPAC) remains the country's centre of cricket to this day. In 1894, Charles Miller, the Brazilian-born son of British parents, returned from his studies in England with a football and some cricket equipment, which he immediately used to introduce these sports to the locals. In 1888 the São Paulo Athletic Club was formed, and Charles was a key member, organizing São Paulo's first football and cricket matches at the club's ground in the Consolação district. Football, as we all know,

soon caught on, and Charles is known throughout the country as the father of Brazilian football. From 1928 to 1947 the club's cricket matches were held at a ground in Pirituba, before moving to the current site in Veleiros (Santo Amaro), which also houses a collection of Brazilian cricket memorabilia.

In 1922 the Brazil Cricket Association was formed. The member clubs were Rio Cricket, the Pernambuco Athletic Club, Santos Athletic Club, São Paulo Athletic Club and the Paysandu Cricket Club. The BCA helped continue the series of matches that had been held between these clubs for many years, as well as interstate and international games. In fact, matches between São Paulo and Rio began in 1878 and continued regularly until 1995.

In 1993, Brazil sent a national team to the first South American Championships, held in Peru, and has competed in every tournament since then. In 1999 in Curitiba, Paraná, British bank HSBC built a cricket ground at its staff sports facility, which is now home to three men's teams, while São Paulo has three men's teams as well

In 2000, the Brazilian Cricket Association was formed, and the national league commenced with three teams. By 2002, Brazil had achieved ICC Affiliate Member status, and junior development programs were underway in Curitiba, Brasília and São Paulo. The ABC's continuing goal is to grow the sport throughout the country, particularly among Brazilians themselves. Since joining the ICC, cricket in Brazil has grown steadily, thanks primarily to financial and technical support from the ICC.

International

Matches between Brazil and Argentina began in 1888, while Rio Cricket began a series of matches with Clube Atlético River Plate from Montevideo, Uruguay in 1902. The old Brazil Cricket Association continued to stage matches with Argentina for many years.

Cricket continued to be played to a good standard, with the national team hosting New Zealand in 1972 and the MCC in 1985. With the creation of the South American Championships (SAC) in 1995, Brazilian cricket entered its modern era. The national team has since participated in all eight SACs, hosting the event for the first time in April 2009 (SAC8). In other non-ICC international matches, Brazil has hosted the Chilean team twice (2000 and 2003), the Mexican team once (2009), and the MCC twice (1978 and 2007).

In 2006 Brazil qualified to join the ICC World League of Cricket, which is a pathway to the World Cup. Brazil competed in the inaugural ICC Americas Division 3 tournament in Suriname in 2006, as well as in Buenos Aires in 2008 and Santiago in 2009.

The next year was a big one: Brazil played against the MCC in São Paulo, an all-Brazilian women's team was formed, which played three games against Argentina in Curitiba, then the men's team competed in the second ICC World League of Cricket tournament, held in Buenos Aires,

As of October 2009, the national men's team record is 17 wins and 26 losses in their 43 matches since 1995

Brazil won its first ICC tournament at the Americas Division 3 championship in Santiago, Chile in October 2009. As a result of winning this event, Brazil has been promoted to Division 2 of the Americas WCL.

Historically, the national team has consisted solely of expatriates, but this is changing. In recent years, the number of Brazilian cricketers representing their country has steadily increased. The winning Brazil squad in Santiago, for example, included six Brazilian-born players.

Domestic Cricket in Brazil

The Brazil national league is made up of nine teams, which compete for the Commonwealth Ambassador's Trophy. The teams are as follows: Candangos, Brasília and Pakistan Plus from the state of Distrito Federal, the Sao Paulo Indians, SPAC and Sao Paulo from Sao Paulo state, while the state of Paraná is represented by Swadisht, Galha Azul and Parana.

Since 2000, Sao Paulo has won five league titles, while Brasília has won twice and Paraná once. Teams play 40-over a side matches from March to October. In November each year a Twenty20 tournament between the three state representative sides is held. This tournament rotates from year to year between the three major cities.

In addition to this competition, Saquarembo CC is a Sao Paulo-based group of former Brazil players which plays just a few exhibition matches a year against Rest of the World (SP).

But back to the Brazilian men's national league. Nine teams currently compete for the Commonwealth Ambassador's Trophy.

The teams are as follows: The Candangos, Brasília, and Pakistan Plus from the state of Distrito Federal, where lies the capital of Brasil, Brasília. The São Paulo Indians, SPAC and São Paulo will be representing São Paulo while the state of Paraná will be represented by Swadisht, Galha Azul and Paraná.

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In terms of grounds, the league plays at the following: São Paulo Athletic Club (São Paulo); Clube AB – HSBC (Curitiba) and the University of Brasilia / Esplanada (Brasília).

Domestic Development

With Brazil's entry into the ICC came the creation of junior development programs in Brasília, Sao Paulo and Curitiba.

In Brasília, a big breakthrough came when cricket was offered as an accredited PE course at the national University of Brasília. This led to the formation of the Candangos team, made up wholly of Brazilians. It also created interest amongst female students and resulted in the beginnings of women's cricket in Brasilia. In terms of junior development, there is a growing number of boys participating in regular training sessions and games, providing the core of a future Under 17s team.

In Sao Paulo, progress is being made through a working relationship between St Paul's School and SPAC (the Sao Paulo Athletic Club). Enthusiastic people are in place to develop children's cricket further in Sao Paulo.

In Curitiba the focus has been on teaching children aged 8-12. The Associação Brasileira de Cricket employed a local junior development officer/coach for three years, and the success of the program, which works with about 300 kids at four schools, was recognized by the ICC through the Volunteer of the Year Award presented to Norman Baldwin and to the program itself for Best Junior Development Program. This ongoing program provided the platform for a very successful Under 13s tournament held in July 2009 in Curitiba, played between Argentina, the eventual winners, Chile and Brazil.

In addition to these three main centres of cricket, there are promising signs of life in the northern city of Fortaleza, and most recently, in Rio de Janeiro, the original home of Brazilian cricket. Development programs are planned for these cities with a view towards increasing the number of teams in the domestic competition in the near future.

To help ensure the continuity and raise the level of the games, coaching, umpiring and scoring courses are being run throughout the year in all three cities, conducted by the coaches and umpires who have received ICC training. In terms of facility development, Brazil is a little behind some of the other countries in the region. In Curitiba, the HSBC ground is very scenic and has a net, but is too small for ICC tournaments. In Brasília, there is still a need for a proper sized, permanent ground, though the club does have two permanent nets at the Australian embassy. In Sao Paulo, where SAC8 was held, there have been a number of improvements at the full-size SPAC ground, including a new portable net.

The opening of Brazil's economy in the mid-1990s saw an influx of foreigners to Brazil, which rejuvenated the sport in São Paulo and saw British bank HSBC build a cricket ground in Curitiba. Additionally, a wicket was laid in a public park in Brasília, allowing the expatriate community there to form a local league (nets were also built at the Australian Embassy).

In 2004, cricket became part of the physical education curriculum at the University of Brasília, which resulted in the creation of the mostly-Brazilian Candangos side, and a

steady stream of new Brazilian players to the national team. By 2004, the national league boasted nine teams.

The make up of the teams is interesting. Happily, more Brazilians are now playing the game. So in Brasilia, for example, the Candangos team is almost totally made up of local players, with a few weathered ex-pats thrown in. In Curitiba and São Paulo, we are seeing a growth in participation by locals as well. So the league really is attracting Brazilians to the game. The other players are mostly ex-pats drawn from countries one would expect, such as Australia, Canada , Great Britain , India , New Zealand , Pakistan , South Africa and Sri Lanka .

NOTABLE DATES IN EARLY SOUTH AMERICAN CRICKET

ARGENTINA	
1806	British Military Expedition to River Plate – interned and started playing cricket
1831	First foundation of Buenos Aires Club
1863	Buenos Aires Club reformed
1867	T. Jackson scores first century (109*) for BACC
1864-93	Increase in British population –building railways and trading
Circa 1864	Leading Clubs in Buenos Aires founded
Circa 1864	Argentina send team to Uruguay
1866	First hat trick in Argentina
1866	First International Match in Argentina- Argentina beat Uruguay by 33 runs at Montevideo
1881	Reports of cricket in Spanish newspaper “La Tranca” refers to “Batador” and “Boleador”
1893	First double century – 249 by RW Rudd
1893-94	First double century partnership of 264 by J. R. Garrodd (116) and P. M. Rath (138) in Buenos Aires. J. R. Garrodd scores 1436 runs in season (record aggregate to this day) and P. M. Rath takes six wickets in six balls!
1894-95	J.R. Garrodd first to take 10 wickets in an innings
1897-98	Establishment of competitive cricket in Buenos Aires
1899	Establishment of Argentinian Cricket Championship Committee, reconstituted in 1913 as A.C.A.
1904	Establishment of second division cricket in Buenos Aires
1904-05	Establishment of Saturday competition
1912	First MCC tour under Lord Hawke- won 2; lost 1 of the representative matches
1912	Record third wicket partnership of 314 between A.C. MacLaren (172) and N. C. Tufnell (163*)
1918-19	First time one player makes two centuries in a match- 146 and 100* by C Holland
1921-22	Second wicket record partnership of 292* by B.H. Smythe (158*) and H.D. Witham (133*)
1924	First Argentinian side to tour England

1926-27	Second MCC Tour under Pelham Warner
1929-30	Touring team of Sir Julian Cahn
1932	Combined South American team tours UK
1937-38	Touring team of Sir Theodore Brinkman
1939	Record individual score of 256* by D. A. Ayling for North v South
1939-40	First wicket Record partnership of 292 between Cecil Ayling (226*) and Cyril Ayling (136) Fourth wicket Record partnership of 210 between R G Henderson (77) and C S Campbell (144)
1948	Record aggregate of 1495 runs for 31 wickets in North v South match (1000 runs exceeded in this game 15 times)
1958-59	Third MCC tour to Argentina under G.H. Doggart
1964-65	Fourth MCC tour to Argentina under A.C. Smith
1967-68	Team from Peru tours Argentina
1979	Derek Robins XI tour Argentina
1979	Argentina take part in first ICC Trophy
BRAZIL	
Circa 1864	First cricket clubs formed
1872	Rio Cricket Club formed
1888	Party of 18 tour Argentina
1908	Conde Salir Trophy instituted
1921-22	First official Test Match v Argentina
1922	Brazil Cricket Association formed
1927	Brazil score 534 v Argentina – record in Test matches
1989	Brasilia Cricket Club formed
2000	Brazil Cricket association formed
2000	Chile tour Brazil
2002	Brazil gain ICC Affiliate Member status
2007	MCC tour Brazil
2008	Brazil host eighth South America Cricket Championships
2009	Mexico tour Brazil
CHILE	
1818	Cricket first played at Valparaiso
1863	Valparaiso Cricket Club thought to be in existence- certainly in existence by 1869
1893	First match v Argentina in Chile
1918-19	A G Lawrie scores 300* in afternoon game in Valparaiso
1920-21	First of series of regular matches v Argentina
1930	Argentina score record 612-6 dec. v Chile
1960	First MCC tour to Chile
1970	New Zealand touring side visits Chile-Argentina- Brazil- Columbia
2002	Formation of Chilean Cricket Association
PERU	
1859	Foundation of Lima Cricket and Football Club
1927	Visit by MCC under Pelham Warner
1995	First South American Cricket Championship Peru-Argentina-Chile- Brazil
2006	<i>Cricket Veloz</i> introduced in Peru

2007	Cricket Peru National T20 Tournament founded
2009	Peru gain ICC Affiliate Member status
2009	Peru participate in eighth South America Championship in Brazil