

Gibson ICC's head of media

PTI, Dubai

The International Cricket Council today appointed journalist-turned-sports administrator Colin Gibson as its Head of Media and Communications.

Gibson, who will take up his position on February 1 next year, is currently the Head of Corporate Communications at the England and Wales Cricket Board.

He has previously worked as Director of Communications at the Football Association in England.

Gibson was previously a sports journalist having held the position of chief sports writer for 'The Daily Telegraph' in London before becoming sports editor of 'The Sunday Telegraph' and 'Daily Mail' in London.

Commenting on his appointment, Gibson said, "I have thoroughly enjoyed my time with the ECB. I am now looking forward to working with some extremely talented people at the ICC as we take on the exciting challenges that lie ahead."

India-SL 1st

FROM PAGE 17

are not in a good position (to field the ball) there are very good chances you can injure yourself," he said. "If you get your basics right and are also practicing well there are very good chances you would field well and the injury list also goes down at the same time. It will take some time but will start to reflect soon."

As for the bowling, Dhoni felt the bowlers would need to concentrate most on bowling in the last ten overs of an innings. "Variation is important (but) at the same time you have to bowl good yorkers. That is the key. Whoever is a good death bowler has to have yorkers. We are improving and (have) done well in patches. To be a very good side we need to be consistent, especially in the last eight or ten overs."

India will welcome back Zaheer Khan and Harbhajan Singh, who were rested from the two Twenty20s. This will be Zaheer's first ODI appearance in ten months, following injury woes. "They are the most experienced bowlers we have got -- Zaheer in the fast bowling department and Harbhajan as a spinner," said Dhoni. "It is very important to get early breakthroughs with the new ball, but at the same time put pressure during the middle overs, from the 15th or 20th to 40th ... to not give easy singles and attack with your best spinner and look to get wickets. We have seen wickets are so good to bat on and the only way to stop (the) opposition from getting runs is to take wickets."

Roach

FROM PAGE 17

with the ground's reputation, but rather to know their limitations and play within them. However, it will be hard for the fast men to tone down their aggression if the WACA returns to its bouncy former self, which given the baking heat leading up to the match, is possible.

Australia are unsure if they will have Peter Siddle in their attack as he tries to prove his hamstring is fine, but Mitchell Johnson will enjoy a return to the venue of his brutal 8 for 61 against South Africa last year. It was the same match in which South Africa chased a near-record 414 to win and Haddin was looking forward to the prospect of batting on the WACA as well as keeping to some seriously fast bowling.

"It makes for a lot of fun for both," Haddin said. "Traditionally when you have had some great Tests here the bouncy wickets make for some very attractive shot play and it's good for the keepers, you get a good look at the ball and get to stand a long way back and see the ball flying through. It is one of those grounds that can be very hard to get in but once you're in it's one of the better places in the world to score."

West Indies' scoring could be heavily dependent on their most experienced player, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, who had scans after hurting his finger in Adelaide but is expected to take his place in Perth. The visitors can level the series with victory at the WACA after their strong showing in Adelaide, but Haddin said the result had not increased the pressure on the Australians.

"I am not viewing the West Indies any different than I did in Brisbane," Haddin said. "They put up a better display in Adelaide but the bottom line is Adelaide was a draw."



International Cricket Council's communications chief James Fitzgerald addresses a press briefing after the completion of the 2011 World Cup venue inspection tour in Colombo yesterday. Sri Lanka will host 12 matches in the tournament that will be co-hosted by Bangladesh and India.

Woods' future in clouds

Golf

AFP, Orlando

Gloom increased around scandal-tainted golf legend Tiger Woods on Monday after it was announced that his wife bought a new home in Sweden and more corporate sponsors severed ties.

Woods announced Friday he was taking an indefinite break from golf after admitting he had cheated on his wife.

Ten women, including a show club hostess, pancake restaurant waitress, porn star and cocktail waitress, have claimed to had sexual relationships with the 14-time winner of golf Majors.

His squeaky-clean image took a new blow on Sunday after a resident association in Sweden announced that Woods' wife, Elin Nordegren, had bought a beachfront estate on an island near Stockholm.

"Elin Nordegren bought a house on the island, it's true. She's the owner since December 1," Sten-Aake Johansson, head of Faaglaro island's residents association, told AFP.

There are around 140 properties on Faaglaro, 40 kilometres (25 miles) southeast of Stockholm. "The property consists of several houses, it's a renovated farm, on the water with a beach," Johansson said.

According to the Swedish Aftonbladet daily the 24,000-square-metre property with swimming pool was sold for 16 million crowns (1.5 million euros/2.2 million dollars).

Faaglaro, part of an archipelago of thousands of islands between Stockholm and the Baltic, is reached by boat from the port of Vaxholm, where the former supermodel grew up.

It was not immediately clear how Nordegren intended to use the property. She has not publicly commented on her husband's infidelities.

Woods, who has a son and daughter with Nordegren, said he wanted to work on being a better husband, father and person.

Lotus confirm Jarno, Heikki

AFP, Kuala Lumpur



Jarno Trulli of Italy and Finland's Heikki Kovalainen were unveiled Monday as drivers for the new Malaysian-backed Lotus team in its debut 2010 Formula One season.

The third driver for the team, run by Malaysian aviation mogul Tony Fernandes who founded budget carrier AirAsia, will be Malaysian Fairuz Fauzy who is shifting from Al Grand Prix.

"The appointment of Jarno, Heikki and Fairuz as our race drivers is a testament to the quality of our team, to our ambition and drive, and above all to our long-term vision of success in Formula One," Fernandes said.

The Lotus team beat off competition from BMW Sauber to be named in September as the 13th team to compete in next year's Formula One World Championship.

The new outfit is backed by a public-private partnership involving a string of top Malaysian entrepreneurs, as well as national

automaker Proton.

Trulli, a veteran driver who was with Toyota in the 2009 season, told a press conference that he hoped his long experience with multiple teams would be a boost for the fledgling outfit.

"We should not underestimate the task in hand. Formula One in 2010 is an exciting prospect with brand new teams, established manufacturers fighting back and of course other young teams looking to repeat their 2009 success," he said.

Kovalainen drove for McLaren Mercedes alongside Briton Lewis Hamilton in 2009, but his contract was not renewed.

"I believe that appointing two drivers with the experience Jarno and I have shows how determined the team is to go racing in a truly competitive way, and our pairing sends out a very strong message to our competitors," the Finn said.

Malaysian officials said Lotus was making good progress in getting its car ready for the 2010 season.

"Mid-January we are getting the build of the car ready and by mid-February the vehicle will be tested in the UK and will then be ready for shipping to Bahrain," said Lotus F1 Racing CEO, Riad Asmat.

"We have the first race in March 2010 in Bahrain, the second in Australia and the third in Malaysia."

Pakistan forge ahead

FROM PAGE 17

he should have been back, but he soldiered on. He was even dropped on 48 when he edged O'Brien straight to Ross Taylor, but he punctuated his nervy shots with a few extravagant cover drives. It was an innings in which he delighted and frustrated equally before he fell, guiding Martin to Taylor, who held on this time.

Umar Akmal walked in and played a breezy finish with cuts, pulls and a few plays and misses. It also contained the most audacious shot of the day -- a delightfully flamboyant and whippy bottom-hand-powered six over long-on off Darryl Tuffey. The afternoon, though, was a calm affair when compared with the events that preceded it.

It was a bizarre and fascinating little first session of play. What made Vettori open the bowling with Gupill? More importantly, what were Pakistan's openers thinking? Not much, if you go on the available evidence. When Gupill tossed the third delivery of the day outside off stump, a cocky kid, and a lingering suspense about what tomorrow might bring.

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in its trajectory. It was a gentle, perhaps a bit loopy, delivery that floated harmlessly outside off but Salman Butt scooped it back to the bowler. The bottom hand had kicked in too much and he couldn't keep the off drive down.

Batsmen do make mistakes and irregular bowlers do pick up lucky wickets, but surely Gupill couldn't do it again? Wrong. He floated, nay floated, a full toss in the seventh over of the day. Farhat, who seemed muddled after Butt's dismissal, moved down the track to try to snap out of the nightmarish start to the day but ended up putting the full toss straight back to Gupill. Surprisingly, there was no visible reaction from Gupill when he took the catch. Perhaps he was too shocked to be merely surprised.

It was a day that had everything: a comically manic start from the most unlikely source, a calm hand from a veteran, an edgy attempt to save a career, a cocky kid, and a lingering suspense about what tomorrow might bring.

Scoreboard at close on the fourth day of the third Test between New Zealand and Pakistan at McLean Park in Napier on Monday:

PAKISTAN: First innings 223

(Farhat 117 not out; O'Brien 4-52, Tuffey 4-52)

NEAR NEW ZEALAND: First innings 471 (McIntosh 74, Vettori 134, McCullum 89, Tuffey 80 not out; Asif 2-103, Kaneria 7-168)

PAKISTAN: Second innings (overnight 128-0)

Farhat c & b Gupill 61

Butt c & b Gupill 66

Iqbal c Taylor b Martin 67

Yousuf c McCullum b O'Brien 89

Afzal not out 48

Misbahul not out 4

Extras: (b-3, lb-2, nb-2, pen-5) 12

Total: (For 4 wkt in 141 overs) 347

To bat: K Akmal, Aamer, U Gul, Asif, Kaneria.

Fall of wickets: 1-129, 2-146, 3-274, 4-333.

Bowler O M R W

Martin 24 5 55 1

Southee 23 5 54 0

O'Brien 28 4 85 1

Tuffey 16 0 55 0

Vettori 39 16 60 0

Gupill 11 2 28 2

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