

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

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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

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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."



PHOTO: AFP

International Cricket Council's communications chief James Fitzgerald addresses at 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



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 A1 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

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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 innings filled 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 Guptill? More importantly, what were Pakistan's openers thinking? Not much, if you go on the available evidence. When Guptill tossed the third delivery of the day outside off stump, there wasn't anything deceptive

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 Guptill couldn't do it again? Wrong. He flighted, 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 patting the full toss straight back to Guptill. Surprisingly, there was no visible reaction from Guptill 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

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 4-15, Tuffey 4-52)

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 Guptill 61
Butt c & b Guptill 66
Iqbal c Taylor b Martin 67

Yousuf c McCullum b O'Brien 89
U Akmal not out 48

Misbahul not out 4

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

Total: (For 4 wks 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
Southey	23	5	54	0
O'Brien	28	4	85	1
Tuffey	16	0	55	0
Vettori	39	16	60	0
Guptill	11	2	28	2

NZ book Champs Trophy berth

PTI, Saita

New Zealand qualified for next year's elite Champions Trophy after scoring a 4-2 win over Pakistan in the final of the Champions Challenge Hockey tournament here.

The summit clash between the two top ranked teams began on an aggressive note, with penalty-corner specialist Sohail Abbas scoring in seventh minute to put Pakistan ahead 1-0.

Black sticks replied with a penalty-corner conversion 10 minutes later with Ryan Archibald deflecting on the post.

In the 20th minute, New Zealand scored a sumptuous goal with Phillip Burrows, diving full length to deflect a cross from the left, giving his team a 2-1 lead.

Ashfaq

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true that we were unbeaten in the tournament," said the Maldives captain.

Ashfaq was called into the national team at the age of 17 after the 2003 SAFF Championship and the forward is now the nucleus of Maldives' play. Ashfaq had a single-handed contribution to give Maldives the SAFF Championship trophy in 2008 and subsequently he was adjudged the best player of that meet.

Ashfaq said the Maldives' capital, Male, was decked up in red on the match day with the final being televised by giant screens, as the football crazy nation took to the street with a self-belief that their team would retain the title.

"After going down to India, the players including me received a number of phone calls from home, giving us support," said Ashfaq, who has struck 40 goals in 21 domestic league matches he played so far.

Ashfaq also informed that a member of giants Mohammedan, Sabbir had offered him a chance to play club football in Bangladesh. However, he was more willing to play in Singapore as he has already received an offer from there.

Ashfaq might be seen again in Bangladesh during the SA Games to be held from January 29-February 9 next year and Maldives Hungarian coach Urbanyi Istvan hinted that his SA Game squad would include seven players from the senior team and Ashfaq may be there.

Djordjevic

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catching the eye.

"They are both very good players, and performed well for me (Churchill Brothers) in the I-League this season. They have a bright future," said Djordjevic, who also became the first foreign coach to win the I-League.

Djordjevic also believed that with proper management, Bangladesh football could definitely improve a lot.

"If you have professional managers working for the benefit of the game, then football is bound to improve," he said.

"Talented players from all over the country must believe that he can earn a spot in the national team. If you can manage everything properly, then development is a matter of time."

BFF president Kazi Salahuddin confirmed that a deal was far from done.

"We are still holding talks. At the moment, we are looking for some further references from the places he (Djordjevic) has worked before."

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Boutique

5 Suitcase

8 Unuttered

12 Lawrence

13 Id

14 Dangling

15 Dealer's

16 Scarlet

17 Misfortunes

18 Nativity

20 Get

22 E.T.'s

26 Grown-up

29 Churchill's

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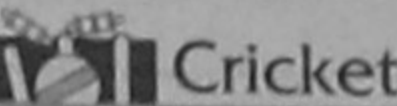
33 Mine, in

34 Dead

35 Stir-fry

36 Clumsy

Pacemen forego IPL for Eng



CRICINFO, undated

The England fast-bowling pair of Stuart Broad and James Anderson have decided not to participate in next year's IPL. England have a busy year ahead, culminating with the defence of the Ashes in Australia at the end of 2010, and the two have put their national commitments ahead of the money up for offer in the lucrative Twenty20 tournament, which will be hosted in India.

In a statement released by the pair's management agency, Broad -- who had declined to make himself available for the 2009 edition, stressed on the priority of staying fit to represent his country. "Whilst the chance to play in the IPL is potentially a great opportunity, my number one priority is, and always will be, to represent my country," he said. "The IPL is a tournament I would like to play in at some stage in the future but my international career is my

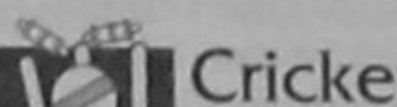
sole focus at this stage in my career."

Broad termed his international career as fulfillment of a "boyhood dream" and that the chance to tour Australia and retain the Ashes would be a "great honour". "There's a brilliant atmosphere and team spirit within the England dressing room, and I want to be an important member of a winning England team over the next few years," he said.

Anderson's reason for rejecting the IPL cash was similar to Broad's. "I am proud to be playing cricket for England and my international career is more important than anything which is why I have decided not to compete in the IPL in 2010," he said. "Taking on Australia next winter is going to be a huge challenge and one that I am fully committed to."

"I want to be an integral part of the first England cricket team to retain the Ashes since 1972 and I will be giving myself the best possible chance of achieving that by not playing in the IPL. The England cricket team has a busy schedule in 2010 and I'd like to be playing for England as much as possible."

Giggs wins BBC accolade



AFP, London

Manchester United winger Ryan Giggs crowned a memorable 2009 by being named the BBC Sports Personality of the Year on Sunday after topping a public vote.

Formula One world champion Jenson Button was runner-up in the poll and world heptathlon champion Jessica Ennis came third.

Wales international Giggs, 36, is the most decorated player in English football history and in May won a record 11th Premier League winners' medal.

He was only the fifth footballer to win the award in its 55-year history and the first since his former Manchester United teammate David Beckham in 2001.

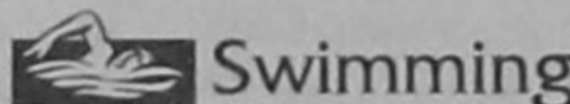
A visibly surprised Giggs, who received his award in front of an audience of 11,000 people at the Sheffield Arena in northern England, said: "It's a shock, it's a big shock."

"As if I wasn't nervous enough, my heroes Seb Coe and Michael Johnson are here," added Giggs, who joined United as a 16-year-old trainee in 1990.

"Honestly this is unbelievable. I have been lucky enough to win a lot of things in my career, playing with great players and under the greatest manager (Sir Alex Ferguson) that ever lived, and playing for the greatest club."

"This is up there with all of that. I grew up watching this TV programme and to see all the people who have won it and to be up there with

Trickett retires



AFP, Sydney

Australia's triple Olympic swimming champion Libby Trickett announced her retirement on Monday, four months after a disappointing World Championships.

The 24-year-old's decision had been widely expected after she took a break from the sport in September to consider her future.

"It's something that I've been thinking about for almost a year now, and after much consideration and speaking with my family and close friends I know that I am ready to move on to the next stage of my life and career," she said.

Trickett won the 100m butterfly and 4x100m medley relay at the Beijing Olympics, and the 4x100m freestyle relay in Athens.

Her refusal to wear controversial polycarbonate speed suits -- set to be banned from January 1 -- is believed to have cost her a title at this year's World Championships in Rome.

The eight-time world champion took home a silver and two bronze medals from Rome, the first world or Olympic meeting in five years where she did not win a gold.

Trickett described herself as "completely satisfied" with her career, despite never winning the Olympic 100m freestyle gold

even though she twice went to the Games the world record holder in that event.

In Athens in 2004 she missed the final and in 2008 in Beijing was beaten by a touch by Germany's Britta Steffen.

"People probably expect me to say an Olympic gold medal in 100m freestyle might be nice, but ultimately if I was to swim on, that would probably be the only reason for me to swim on," Trickett told reporters in Sydney.

"And I can't justify doing that for four years and then maybe walking away and not having achieved that."

"I've asked myself that question, 'Am I okay with not winning an Olympic gold medal in the 100m freestyle?' And the answer was: 'I am okay with that'. When you say that, that means you're ready to move on."

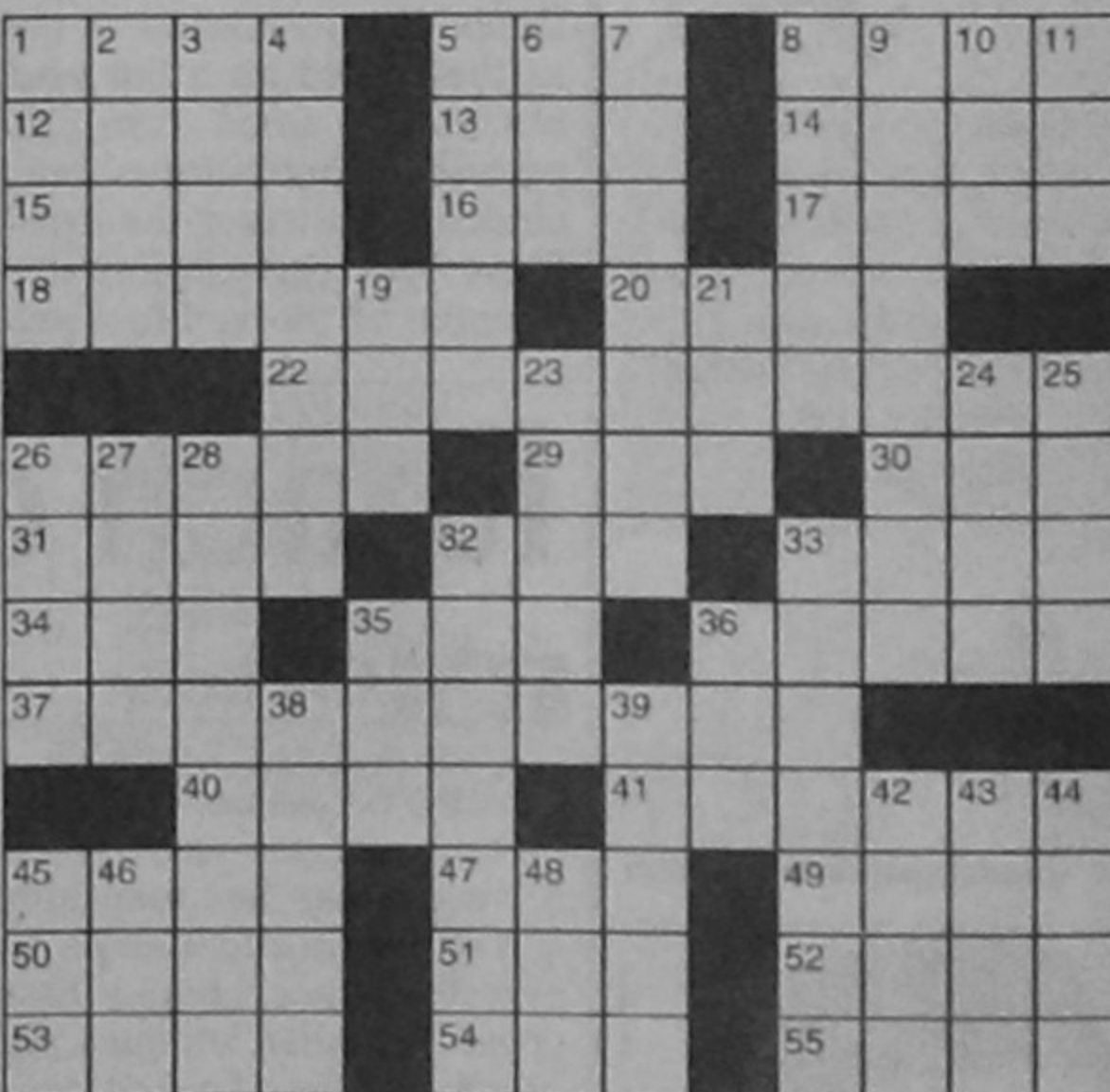
Trickett said she could never totally rule out returning to the sport but said "all I can do is what is right for me right now."

"I'm fairly sure I will never get back in the water because I have achieved everything that I've wanted," she said.

At her final competitive swim, in which she set a 100m short course world record of 51.01s in Hobart, Trickett proved she was still capable of swimming for her country.

And she said Monday she was retiring "at a great point for me" and looking forward to a career in the media.

"I don't feel like I was getting slower and don't feel like I was getting any less competitive at all," she said.



CRYPTOQUIP

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L J E A M Z U K M A B K O J X X
I Q S C Y W B U D S W U X W A S Q C .
Yesterday's Cryptquip: I HAVE A PECULIAR
HABIT OF POURING OUT BOTTLES OF HONEY.
YOU MIGHT SAY I'M IN A VISCOUS CYCLE.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: K equals Y