

# Country Snapshot

## Bermuda



### Bermuda Cricket Board of Control

#### History of Cricket in Bermuda

The earliest cricket match recorded in Bermuda is August 30, 1844, when the Garrison lost to another army team. By 1845, the Bermuda Cricket Club had been formed and the game was being played not only by British troops stationed there, but by locals. Philadelphia Zingari visited Bermuda in March 1891, playing the first international matches there, and the first Bermuda touring team, Hamilton Cricket Club, played in New York and Philadelphia in 1905. The cricketing strength of the island fell away after the First World War, with tours of poor quality sides taking place.

The only tour of significance in the inter-War period being that of Sir Julien Cahn's team in 1933 - the five matches they played being the subject of much discussion for several years afterwards. After the Second World War, enthusiasm for cricket gained ground and many tours have been undertaken both to and from Bermuda - the first Bermudian side visited England in 1960.

The highlight of the Bermuda season is the annual Cup Match, played between two of the island's leading clubs - Somerset and St. George's. The match was first played in 1902 and has now taken on a carnival atmosphere.



National Stadium in Hamilton, Bermuda

Alma 'Champ' Hunt was the best cricketer produced by the island. He had some success in a trial match in Trinidad in 1933 prior to the selection of the West Indian side to tour England the following season, but doubts were raised about his

#### Country Information

Membership Status:	Associate
National Body:	Bermuda Cricket Board of Control
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Website:	<a href="http://www.bermuda.cricket.org">www.bermuda.cricket.org</a>
Capital City:	Hamilton
Population:	62,472
Languages:	English
Climate:	Subtropical, gales in winter
Currency:	Bermudan dollar

#### Statistics

Total Playing Numbers:	2,025
Facilities:	10 Grounds
Qualified Coaches:	18
Qualified Umpires:	9

eligibility and in the end he was not chosen. He was later an outstanding professional with Aberdeenshire and played for Scotland.

Bermuda became an Associate member of the ICC in 1966 and it was their delegate, Alma Hunt, who first proposed that a competition be held among the Associate members. This proposal led to the first ICC Trophy in England in 1979. In the second ICC Trophy in 1982, Bermuda advanced to the final without losing a match, but unfortunately suffered defeat at the hands of Zimbabwe.

Domestic cricket is played on weekends as the sport is primarily looked upon as a recreational outlet. There are a total of 14 clubs involved in the premier league while a further 8 clubs are involved in what is known as the commercial league. The premier division currently plays only limited overs cricket although there have been seasons where both limited overs and open cricket were promoted.

In the early 1990's Bermuda took advantage of its proximity to the West Indies and hosted Test teams to the island after they completed Test matches in the Caribbean to play a series of limited overs games. In recent years, both the Australian and Indian Test teams have visited. From a coaching perspective Bermuda has employed the services of former West Indian Test players Andy Roberts, Sir Garfield Sobers and Michael



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Holding, N.C.A. certified coaches from England as well as former Australian captain Bobby Simpson and South African Test batsman, Daryll Cullinan.

The Bermuda Cricket Board of Control also promotes youth cricket. Youth cricket is generally played on Saturdays where play begins as early as 9.00 am and finishes around 7.30 pm. Major corporate sponsors underwrite youth cricket with significant sums allocated to cricket clinics held for youngsters between the ages of 7 and 14 during summer holidays. As a further incentive to the youngsters, Bermuda competes in the International Youth Tournament, a competition which includes England, Scotland, Ireland, Denmark, Holland and Canada. Bermuda hosted the tournament in 1985 and 1997 while achieving some success, being the inaugural winners in 1979 and securing the trophy once again in 1985.



Former Bermuda skipper Albert Steede (Picture by Lawrence Trott)

## International Cricket

Bermuda's involvement with the ICC begun literally at its conception, with the assistance of former BCBC president, the late Alma "Champ" Hunt. The first ICC team to leave the shores of Bermuda was led by Gladstone 'Sad' Brown, an opening batsman who also became the country's first ICC centurion scoring an even 100 against Malaysia in 1982. However, the most successful ICC team was the 1982 side which was led by former Barbadian international Colin Blades. That team was described by former England batsman Alan Oakman as "talented and uninhibited conveying their obvious enjoyment and love of the game to the spectators which made them exciting and pleasurable to watch."

Although always considered to be a major cricketing force amongst ICC Associate members, Bermuda's have varied over the years. Bermuda came close to qualifying for the World Cup in 1994 when they managed to get to the semi-finals.

## Cup Match

Without question the biggest sporting event in the Bermuda calendar is the annual Cup Match Classic. At the heart of this national festival is a cricket match played between club teams representing the west end of the island Somerset and the east end of the island St. George's.

The game was first played in 1902 to commemorate the abolition of slavery. It is played over a two-day public holiday in open format with two innings. Outstanding performances such as centuries, half-centuries and five wicket hauls are often well-rewarded with cash.

Over the years, fans have been treated to some exciting cricket during this two-day spectacle. The game has produced many local heroes who have turned in some great individual performances. One of the greatest captains in Cup Match and a local sporting hero was Calvin 'Bummy' Symonds who led his team to eight victories in his nine years as skipper. The man reputed to be the greatest bowler ever produced by the island was Clarence 'Tuppence' Parfitt, a left-arm medium to slow bowler who played for St. George's in the annual Cup Match. Parfitt not only had the ability to mesmerise local batsmen, but had the same effect on foreign opposition. Parfitt ended his Cup Match career in 1981, by which time he had taken an incredible 115 wickets.



Arnold Manders is one of only three batsmen who have scored two centuries in Cup Match. Although the match today is not as well attended as it was in days of old, it still attracts a big crowd. Bermudians who make their residence abroad usually return at Cup Match to enjoy the cricket and catch up with what is happening on the local scene. The folklore and traditions of Cup Match have been passed down through the generations and one imagines that the founders of the game would be proud to see the continuation of, what is in reality, important cultural touchstones for all Bermudians. There is nothing like Cup Match in Bermuda. Nothing like it in the world.

Source/photos: [www.bermuda.cricket.org](http://www.bermuda.cricket.org)

