

Up to earlier this year, women's cricket in Peru had been somewhat sporadic. This was due to lack of time, training facilities and continuity in terms of people interested in cricket (a problem which still continues). There had been women playing in some matches and last year there was an official match between two women's teams.

Earlier this year we accepted an invitation to attend the Regional Women's Cricket Tournament in Brazil (4-8 August) and *Cricket Peru* held a number of training sessions. On the basis of that, we put together a 14 member squad and trained over a period of 4 months. Despite the fact that we lost all our matches against the far better and longer-prepared sides of Brazil, Chile and Argentina, we acquitted ourselves with honour and our youngest player (and youngest ever in the tournament), 11 year old Jade Rodriguez, took the first ever international wicket for Peru and managed a total of 4 wickets in the tournament (the top wicket-taker having taken 5). She was also awarded a trophy as "Revelation of Cricket".

We are planning to build on this foundation by continuing regular training sessions for a national side as well as trying to incorporate girls' cricket in a number of school. We have received great support from *Cricket Peru*, but the problem continues to be lack of training facilities and, above all, the need for a dedicated coaching team. This is difficult to achieve because participation is largely voluntary and therefore fluctuates according to the availability of the individuals around their other commitments.

The commitment of both players and *Cricket Peru* is on a high at the moment after the tour (which, though subsidized by *Cricket Peru* required a large financial outlay from players as well) and we are anxious to build on that. We are also trying to develop regional networks. For example I have arranged for the Argentinean women's coach to give a skills training session to our team when she passes through Lima early next month.

Our goal, however, is to grow women's cricket here to the extent that we do not have to rely on individual goodwill and chance encounters to maintain a regular core of players and to spread enthusiasm for the game - particularly in schools.

20<sup>th</sup> Aug, 2011