

CEYLONESE VERSUS EUROPEANS

The games between Ceylonese and European teams were labelled test matches by S.P. Foenander. Between 1887 and 1902 the Colts represented the Ceylonese in games (tests) against the Europeans. From 1902 onwards the team of indigenes was titled Ceylonese. This reflected the emergence of quality players from all ethnic groups.

Between 1887 and 1902 the Colts only lost a single game. Between 1905 and 1925 the Ceylonese lost thrice. The last time the Europeans won was in 1913.

Until 1925 at least, the Colts and Ceylonese teams were dominant against the Europeans. Although the Ceylonese teams still had a strong burgher representation, burghers were scattered across clubs from the BRC to the NCC.

CEYLON VERSUS THE EUROPEANS

RESULTS OF MATCHES.		
1887—1925		
Europeans.	Ceylonese	Result.
1887 95—176	96—93 for 9	Drawn.
1888 69—95	107—66 for	Colts won by 5 wkts.
1893 55—140	46—157	Colts won by 9 runs.
1893 89—49	191	Colts won by an innings and 53 runs.
1895 96—13	92—19 for 0 wkts.	Colts won by 10 wkts.
1896 45—61	113—	Colts won by an innings and 7 runs.
1898 170—110	198—86 for 2 wkts.	Colts won by 8 wkts.
1899 93—109	98—88	Europeans won by 36 runs.
1900 126—161	for 8 wkts. 185—180.	Drawn.
1901 97—121	217—2 for 0 wkts.	Colts won by 10 wkts.
1902 95—97	144—50 for 1 wkt.	Colts won by 9 wkts.
1905 154—167	182—142 for 6 wkts.	Ceylonese won by 4 wkts.
1910 82—154	182—57 for 3 wkts.	Ceylonese won by 7 wkts.
1911 281—102	163—175	Europeans won by 42 runs.
1912 184—74	for 7 wkts. 70—186	Europeans won by 3 wkts.
1913 247—98	217—94	Europeans won by 34 runs.
1914 122—118	203—41 for 7 wkts.	Ceylonese won by 3 wkts.
1920 197—28	287—	Ceylonese won by an innings and 62 runs.
1921 126—91	221—	Ceylonese won by an innings and 4 runs.
1922 135—136	181—92 for 5 wkts.	Ceylonese won by 5 wkts.
1923 192—109	217—111	Ceylonese won by 27 runs.
1924 76—139	189—27 for 5	Ceylonese won by 5 wkts.
1925 213 and for no wkts.	400 for 8 wkts.	Drawn.
Number played 22, Ceylonese won 15, Europeans won 4, Drawn 3.		

Courtesy of Foenander 1926

The Colts versus the Europeans

The inaugural game between the Colts and a European XI took place in 1887 at Galle Face. S.P. Foenander has summarised the games between the two teams (1924: 157 – 168). In 1887 the European team even had retired archaeologist H.C.P. Bell and George Vanderspar, a person of Dutch descent but who had been educated in England. Also included were Ashley Walker, a master at Royal College and F.L. Shand, a famous old Harrow left hand bowler. The Colts team was as follows -

“They were led by Dr. Edgar de Krestser Other members of the team were Ernest H. Joseph, then recently arrived from England where he had won his cricket and rugby colours at Bath College, the brothers Edward and Jillah Weinman, the latter then a schoolboy and perhaps the youngest Ceylonese cricketer, who ever played in a local test match, the brothers Collin (sic) and Banda Kelaart, Oswald Van-Hoff, the champion wicket keeper of his time, W. de Fransz, Charles Heyn, a wily bowler of the round arm type and a dogged stone-waller, known as the Bannerman of Ceylon, C. Wilkins, a distinguished old Thomian cricketer and Patrick Thomasz.”

The Colts narrowly avoided defeat. E. Weinman was the most successful bowler for the Colts (10 – 105), while Wilkins and J. “Banda” Kelaart fared the best with the bat.

The following year the Colts defied all expectations by beating a star-studded English team by 5 wickets at the Galle Face on the back of strong bowling by Colvin Kelaart (10 – 59) who clean bowled all his victims. Wilkins, Heyn and de Fransz also bowled well. The Colts fielding was commendable. E. Ohlmus and Michael Thomasz starred with the bat.

Against Lord Hawke’s XI

In 1892 The Colts lost to the visiting Lord Hawke’s team by 100 runs (Foenander 1941: 33 – 34). The Colts bowlers fared well but C. Heseltine and F.S. Jackson were more than a handful for the Colts batsmen. Heseltine represented Hampshire and the Marylebone Cricket Club. F.S. Jackson played in twenty test matches for England and represented Cambridge University and Yorkshire. The following scorecard gives an idea of the Colts cricketers of the time.

Following are the full scores of the match played on the Barrack Square on November 14 and 15, 1892, and won by Lord Hawke’s team by 120 runs :—

LORD HAWKE’S TEAM			
<i>1st Innings</i>		<i>2nd Innings</i>	
J. H. J. Hornsby, c Raffel, b T. Kelaart	41	b T. Kelaart ...	14
C. W. Wright, b C. Kelaart	0	b T. Kelaart ...	16
H. F. Wright, c T. Kelaart, b C. Kelaart	7	b Raffel ...	2
A. J. L. Hill, c de Fransz, b Raffel	7	c de Fransz, b Raffel	3
F. S. Jackson, b Raffel	0	c Ohlmus, b Robertson	37
J. S. Robinson, c C. Kelaart, b T. Kelaart	9	c Robertson, b T. Kelaart	20
J. A. Gibbs, b T. Kelaart	1	run out	3
M. F. Maclean, c & b Raffel	0	run out	5
G. A. Foljambe, not out	7	b T. Kelaart	2
C. Heseltine, b T. Kelaart	0	b T. Kelaart	1
F. L. Shand, b Raffel	2	not out	0
Extras	7	Extras	4
Total	81	Total	107
			33

COLTS C. C.									
1st Innings					2nd Innings				
P. Thomasz, b Jackson	...	...	3	lbw, b Jackson	...	6			
L. Thomasz, b Heseltine	...	...	1	b Jackson	...	14			
E. H. Ohlmüs, c Hornsby, b Heseltine	...	...	4	run out	...	0			
C. O. Weinman, c & b Jackson	...	...	0	b Heseltine	...	0			
M. Thomasz, b Heseltine	...	...	4	c C. W. Wright, b Jackson	...	0			
J. Kelaart not out	...	...	10	c C. W. Wright, b Jackson	...	4			
D. Robertson, b Jackson	...	...	0	b Heseltine	...	0			
W. de Fransch, c Heseltine, b Jackson	...	...	0	b Jackson	...	3			
A. Raffel, b Heseltine	...	...	0	c Robinson, b Maclean	...	7			
C. Kelaart, b Heseltine	...	...	0	not out	...	1			
T. Kelaart, b Heseltine	...	...	2	lbw, b Maclean	...	0			
Extras	...	...	0	Extras	...	13			
Total	...	...	24	Total	...	44			

BOWLING ANALYSES										
LORD HAWKE'S TEAM										
1st Innings					2nd Innings					
	O.	M.	R.	W.		O.	M.	R.	W.	
C. Kelaart	...	10	2	12	2	...	2	0	7	0
T. Kelaart	...	16	4	34	4	...	17	4	37	5
A. Raffel	...	10	5	28	4	...	9	0	31	2
W. de Fransch	...	—	—	—	—	...	4	0	9	0
D. Robertson	...	—	—	—	—	...	6	1	19	1

COLTS C. C.										
1st Innings					2nd Innings					
	O.	M.	R.	W.		O.	M.	R.	W.	
C. Heseltine	...	11	5	15	6	...	13	8	9	0
F. S. Jackson	...	10	7	7	4	...	11	5	18	4
M. F. Maclean	...	—	—	—	—	...	2	1	4	2

Courtesy of Foenander 1941

The debut of Tommy Kelaart and Alan Raffel

No statistics are available for the years 1899 to 1892, but in 1893 the Colts beat Colonel Churchill's European team by nine runs at Barrack Square. The Colts were dismissed for 47 runs in the first innings but scored 157 in the second innings. E. Weinman batted best for the Colts. Of greatest significance was that T. Kelaart and A. Raffel made their debut for the club, with the former capturing 13 for 73.

In the same year a game was played at Kandy and E. Weinman scored the first half century by a Colt in a representative game. After winning by an innings the Colts had cemented its reputation.

The game against Stoddart's XI

In 1894 Raffel captured 14 for 87 against an English team led by Stoddart that played Australia in 1894-5 (Mahadevan 2020: 12 -13, Foenander 1924: 16). His figures in the first innings were 9-43. It is a feat that will never be equaled by a Sri Lankan bowler against England.

The Ceylon team had five non-Europeans in it. In addition to Raffel and Kelaart, it had L. Thomasz, and E.H. Thomas, and E.H. Joseph, all probably belonging to the Colts. L. Thomasz, E.H. Thomasz and A. Raffel top scored for the Ceylon XI.

ENGLAND IN CEYLON, 1894



A. E. Stoddart

The English team to tour Australia in 1894 was captained by the Middlesex batsman, Andrew Stoddart. "For the first time the authorities in Melbourne and Sydney joined forces to promote an English team to Australia," Peter Wynne-Thomas wrote in *England on Tour*.

The team sailed from Tilbury on 21 September in the Orient steamship *Ophir* and arrived at Colombo on 16 October. David Firth wrote in the Ashes tour book *Stoddy's Mission*: "Landed at six in the morning, they were playing a local XVIII at

10 o'clock".

Stoddart's team played at the Barrack Square Grounds in Colombo on 16 October 1894. A. E. Stoddart's XIII batting first collapsed for only 76 runs in their first innings. The great feature of the match was the low scoring due to the splendid bowling of the Colombo Colts cricketers, Tommy Kelaart and Allan Raffel. Albert Ward who opened the batting scored an unbeaten 24 runs. Raffel had the remarkable figures of nine for 43 in 18 overs. Kelaart took two wickets for 17 runs in 13 overs.



Dr. Allan Raffel



Andrew Stoddart's side which visited Australia in 1894. Back row: Bobby Peel, Tom Richardson, Albert Ward, Walter Humphreys, Thoms (umpire). Centre: Bill Lockwood, Hylton Phillipson, Andrew Stoddart, Francis Ford, Bill Brockwell. Front: Archie MacLaren, Johnny Briggs, Jack Brown.

At the conclusion of the match, Andrew Stoddart remarked to George Vanderspar that "he thought favourably of them (Allan Raffel and Tommy Kelaart) and they were quite up to County form," S. P. Foenander wrote in his book *Sixty Years of Ceylon Cricket*.

A. Ward not out	24
W. H. Lockwood b Raffel	2
J. T. Brown b Raffel	0
*A. E. Stoddart b Raffel	3
W. Brockwell c Thomas b Kelaart	4
A. C. MacLaren b Raffel	15
B. G. J. Ford c Morris b Raffel	0
H. Briggs c Sattler b Rogers	10
L. H. Gay b Raffel	0
H. Phillipson b Raffel	0
W. A. Humphreys c Price b Raffel	2
T. Richardson c Vanderspar b Kelaart	9
Extras	7
Total	76
Bowling	O M R W
Kelaart	13 5 17 2
Raffel	18 4 43 9
Biggs	5 2 9 1

Ceylon XVIII fared poorly to be dismissed for only 58. Raffel top scored with 12 runs. Lieut. Guggisberg from Singapore played as a member of the Colombo Club and opened the batting for Ceylon. David Firth wrote in *Stoddy's Mission* that "by 1 o'clock (liffin time) Mr Vanderspar's local team were 23 for the loss of three wickets - to be all out for 58 by 4 o'clock".



Johnny Briggs and Bill Lockwood

L. Thomas c Stoddart b Peel	10
Lieut. Guggisberg c Briggs b Richardson	1
N. Monckton b Peel	0
C. S. V. Morrison b Lockwood	3
E. H. Thomas c Richardson b Lockwood	11
*George Vanderspar c Peel b Briggs	1
Corporal Price b Lockwood	0
A. C. Rogers b Lockwood	0
E. H. Joseph run out	0
Lieut. Young c Humphreys b Briggs	5
Lieut. Loring b Lockwood	1
T. P. Simpson b Briggs	0
Private Sattler b Briggs	11
R. Menden c Lockwood b Humphreys	2
A. Raffel c Ward b Briggs	12
W. T. Kelaart b Richardson	0
G. L. Taylor c Richardson b Briggs	0
Dr. Murray not out	0
Extras	1
Total	58
Bowling	O M R W
Richardson	9 4 17 2
Peel	6 3 9 2
Briggs	14 9 6 6
Lockwood	9 5 10 5
Humphreys	3 0 15 1

A. E. Stoddart's XIII scored 88 for the loss of eight wickets in their second innings. Ward was unbeaten again with 29 runs. Archie MacLaren with 18 runs and Hylton Phillipson with 12 runs were the only batsmen to enter double figures. Raffel bowled Stoddart for the second time and finished with five wickets for 44 runs in 17 overs. Kelaart took one wicket for 20 runs in 12 overs.

H. Phillipson b Kelaart	12
R. Peel c Sattler b Raffel	2
J. T. Brown b Raffel	6
*A. E. Stoddart b Raffel	1
W. Brockwell b Raffel	7
A. C. MacLaren c Rogers b Raffel	18
B. G. J. Ford c and b Rogers	2
A. Ward not out	29
J. Briggs run out	1
L. H. Gay not out	3
Extras	7
Total (8 wickets)	88
Bowling	O M R W
Raffel	17 2 44 5
Kelaart	12 3 20 1
Biggs	6 0 17 1

Courtesy of Mahadevan 2020

Vanderspar's horror run

In the game of 1895 played at the Galle face the Europeans were dismissed for 13 runs in their second innings, on a matting wicket, although studded with many famous names, who made their reputation in county cricket, Cambridge University and the M.C.C. It included L.H. Gay, a dual international, who played in one test for England against Australia, in 1894.

In the European second innings T. Kelaart took 4 for 5, while W. de Fransz took 3 for 8.

In 1896 George Vanderspar suffered his second defeat as captain, when the Colts won in Kandy by an innings. W. de Fransz distinguished himself with the bat (47) and ball (8 for 42) while Tommy Kelaart captured 7 for 17 in the second innings.

The emergence of C.E. Perera

In 1898, at the Galle Face, the Colts chasing 170 were 7 down for 70 when C.E. Perera, a Wesley schoolboy, scored 71 and featured in a last wicket partnership of 83 with N.A. Patternott. The Colts made a winning target of 86 in 50 minutes easily, thanks to the batting of J.A. Scharenguivel, also a schoolboy, and L. Thomasz.

Flag lowered

In 1899 the Colts flag was lowered at Nuwara Eliya, with the game probably being played at the Radella grounds. The Europeans took many catches to dismiss the Colts batsmen. The famous planter T.Y. Wright was in the European team. The next year, also at Nuwara Eliya, the Colts had the better of a drawn game. The left-arm J. Ludovici, took 9 for 79. In 1900 and 1901 J.C. McHeyzer scored half centuries. In 1901 E.A. Joseph (9 – 55) and Raffel 46, along with J.C. McHeyzer, enabled the Colts to win by ten wickets.

From Colts to Ceylonese

The final test match played by the Colts, in 1902, saw them win by 9 wickets with W. de Rozayro scoring 32 out of a required fifty run winning target. J.C. MacHeyzer captained the first Ceylonese team in 1905.

Until 1903 not a single batsman had scored a century against the Colts which is testimony to the strength of their bowling. Even though they lost to Lord Hawke's XI, their bowling and fielding evoked the admiration of F.S. Jackson.

In 1910, after a lapse of five years, the encounter recommenced with the Ceylonese team consisting of six Nondescripts, four Colts and one member of the S.S.C. In 1911 The Europeans put on a first wicket partnership of 110 with Crawford going on to score 140. A.C. Amath and T. Kelaart were in the Ceylonese side, but the latter had passed his prime. In 1921, Edward Kelaart, the son of Colvin, made his debut and took eight wickets in two innings at the cost of 38 runs.

1925

In 1925 the C.C.C was the only European club was in the competition. Yet, out of the ten cricketers of the year, five were Englishman, namely, Rev. Godwyn Edward Piper Parmenter, George A. Wright, Hamish Sinclair, Douglas A. Wright and Thomas Cuming. The Ceylonese were M.K. Albert, R.M.M. de Silva, Bertram de Kretser, S. Nagendra, and F.C.W. Van Geyzel. Bertram de Kretser was a Colt, and Van Geyzel, the son of a Colt.

For the most part the Europeans played against each other, and the European cricketers were concentrated in the plantation districts. And they played fewer games than the Ceylonese clubs. The CCC was the only Colombo based club. The CCC had a traditional game against the Up Country, and Dickoya played Dimbulla once a year. European teams also toured India.

Major C.B. Rubie (Foenander 1926: 33 – 34) looked back on cricket from 1911 to 1914. Although he mentions his favourite Ceylonese cricketers¹ what is striking about the article are the large number of European cricketers who are mentioned. Even though the Ceylonese were proving to be too much for the Europeans during this time, European cricket seemed to be a world unto its own, centered in the up-country and bolstered by exclusive membership rules to the major clubs.

Mobility constraints

The Colts and then the Ceylonese had the upper hand because the Europeans were scattered around the planting districts and not able to play against each other on a regular basis and practice. For instance, in the nineteen sixties, Darrell Liewersz was unable to continue his international cricket career after taking up planting. He lacked match practice and the ability to train at the nets.

Up to the first quarter of the twentieth century and much beyond, a captain probably had to rustle up a European team from Colombo and the plantation districts at a time when transport was primitive. Even in the nineteen sixties when the up-country cricket team played in Colombo, they were often short of players and Royal cricketers were called upon to field whenever a game took place at the adjoining varsity mat.

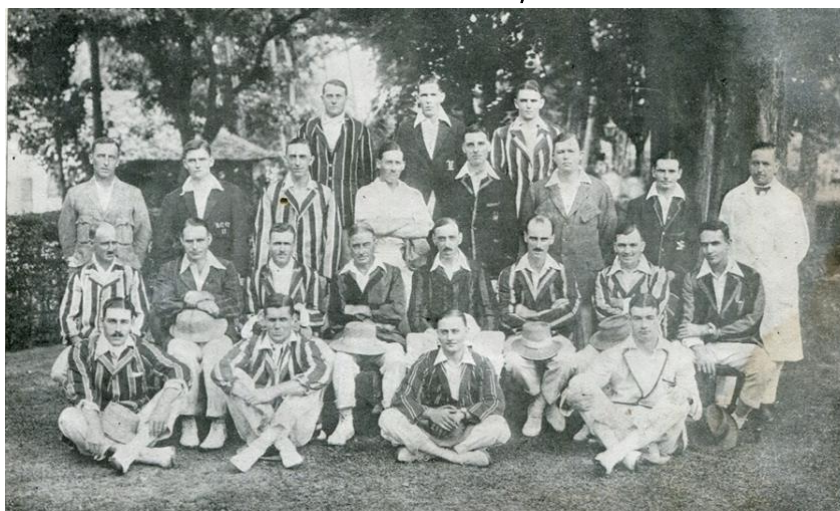
Finally, although a cricketer had talent and a good record, for that player to produce his best, he had to be currently competitive. Credentials were of little use if the player was not in current form. Therefore, the rampant Colts succumbed to Lord Hawke's team in 1892. They were up against a touring team that had played recent tests against other countries, including South Africa, and consisted of players who had been picked on form and whose form had been sustained through competitive cricket.

The cream of European cricketers

The picture below features the best of the European cricketers and includes the five of them who were named cricketers of the year.

¹ The Ceylonese cricketers mentioned are D.L. de Saram and his brothers, E.R. de Saram, Cecil Horan, V.S. de Kretser, E.J. Melder, A.C. Amath and W. Rozayro. The last three mentioned are Colts cricketers. V.S. de Kretser started off the Colts and moved to the BRC. In 1912 he scored a century at Radella against a DACC side led by A.L. Gibson. This was the first century scored by a Colts cricketer against an up-country XI. In 1929 Carl van Geyzel emulated Melder's example at Radella.

CCC VS UP COUNTRY, 1925



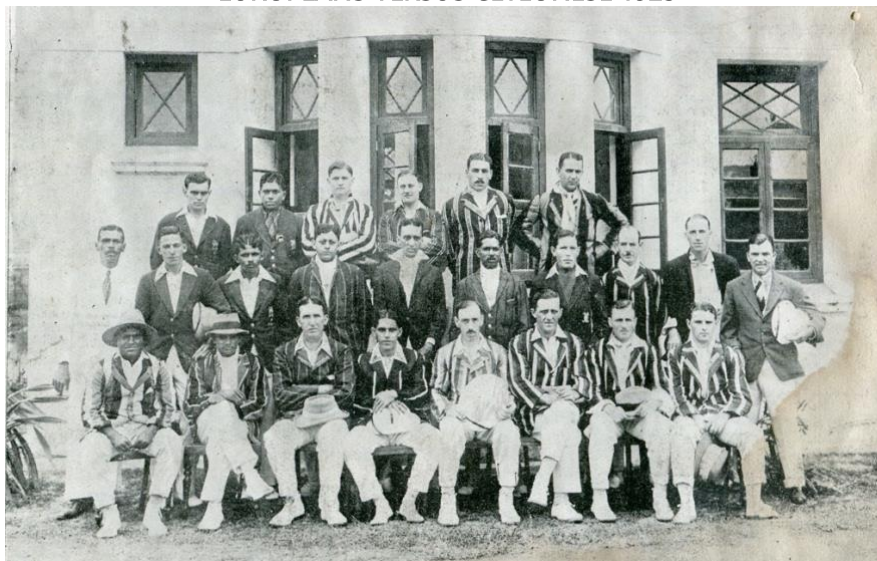
Back row: Rev. **G.E.P. Parmenter**, **E.H.L. Sinclair**, F.A. Waldock
 Standing 2nd row: R. Marrs, A.E. Blair, H.J. Hutchings, A.S.P. Parmenter,
 Dr. A.H. Price, R.P. Gaddum, L.C. A. Leefe, R.E. Southwood (umpire)
 Seated: Dr. L. Nicholls, P.R. May, **T. Cuming**, A.L. Gibson (Capt.),
 Major F.R.R. Brooke (Capt.), T.B. Hankey, W.S. Flindall, **D.A. Wright**
 On the ground: E.P. Wedlake-Lewis, **G.A. Wright**, W.R.N. Philps, C.G.C. Kerr
 Courtesy of Foenander 1926

In 1925 Major Brooke topped the batting averages. A.L. Gibson succeeded Dr. Raffel as president of the Ceylon Cricket Association in 1926. Most of his best batting achievements were made playing for Dimbulla and up-country teams. All the Europeans picked as five of the ten cricketers of the year 1926, are in the photo. But only three of them represented the Europeans against the Ceylonese. Rev. Parmenter and George Wright were not picked or weren't available.

Rev. Parmenter was a left-arm medium pace bowler who played for Dimbulla and Dickoya. He was 16th in the bowling averages. George Wright came 7th in the batting averages and scored a century in the Colombo-Upcountry match.

Hamish Sinclair came 21st in the batting averages but was expected to do well when he was acclimatised to the conditions. Douglas Wright came 21st in the batting averages. He scored a century against Dickoya, whose bowling wasn't necessarily strong. Finally, Thomas Cuming came 9th in the batting averages. His century was made against Dimbulla. A century against either Dimbulla or Dickoya, or a combined up-country team, must surely be less of an achievement than a century against a Colombo club.

EUROPEANS VERSUS CEYLONESE 1925



Back row: V. Shockman, P. Maralande, A.E. Blair, W.R.N. Phillips, E.P.W. Lewis, D.A. Wright
 Middle row: F. Ondatje (Umpire), E. Kelaart, A.H.R. Joseph, F.C.W. Van Geyzel, F. de Saram, S. Perimpanyagam, E.H.L. Sinclair, A.N. Hutt, W.T. Brindley, W.S. Findall (Umpire)
 Seated: M.K. Albert, Dr. C.H. Gunasekera, C. Horan, V.S. de Kretser (Capt.), F.R.R. Brooke (Capt.), W.T. Greswell, T. Cuming, F.A. Waldock
 Courtesy of Foenander 1926

Not a competitive unit

Despite some of the cricketers having county cricket experience, they were no match for the Ceylonese. The five European cricketers of the year were probably the result of a quota system where honours were evenly distributed.

It appears that many of the Europeans had established reputations prior to arrival coming to Ceylon. And in Ceylon the batsmen made big scores against up-country teams and school teams. It is rather significant that the C.C.C. came 8th in the competition and Dimbulla and Dickoya were not represented because they played too few games.

The Ceylonese had the better of the game against the Europeans in 1925. The Europeans scored 213 and in reply the Ceylonese scored 400 for 8 wickets with M.K. Albert scoring 175.

Greswell (1889-1971) however played a lot of cricket in Ceylon after arriving in 1909. He represented Somerset, on and off, from 1908 to 1930. A medium paced right armer, Greswell was the first Englishman to take a thousand wickets in Ceylon, and captured 232 wickets in 1911, the year that the Europeans beat the Ceylonese. He played in the European teams that beat the Ceylonese thrice in a row, 1911 – 1913. Refer appendix V for more details on this remarkable cricketer.

Not a Colt amongst the Ceylonese

The captain of the Ceylonese is V.S. de Kretser who started off at the Colts but moved to the BRC. Thirty-eight years after the entire Ceylonese team consisted of Colts cricketers the Colts no longer has a cricketer in the Ceylonese team. Yet, in 1925 the Colts narrowly lost the club championship to the SSC. It still had the glamour and prestige to attract cricketers such as Douglas Lieversz who led Royal to victory over St. Thomas' in 1926.