

THE COLTS ON TOUR – CEYLON AND INDIA

The Colts were the pioneers of tours to the hill country, and also Galle, Matale and Avisawella (Foenander 1924: 51-52). Following the example of the Colts other clubs such as the NCC and SSC. also toured the hill district. It must be kept in mind that travelling the hill country in those days was a slow and tedious exercise, and probably more complicated than travelling overseas today.

The Colts visited Radella and Nuwara Eliya in 1887 and had problems with the cold. In 1888 the Colts lost for the first time at Radella to a team of planters. In 1898 the Colts met a strong European XI at Nuwara Eliya and experienced one of their rare defeats. These games were probably played at the grounds of the Dimbulla Athletic and Cricket Club (DACC) founded in 1856.

In 1899, 1901, 1902 and 1903 the Colts visited Darrawella to meet the Dickoya Maskeliya Cricket Club (DMCC), founded in 1868. In this context Foenander speaks highly of two Colts stalwarts who haven't been captured in the narrative. To quote –

“On these visits to Hatton the Colts were always very hospitably entertained by the late T.C. van Rooyen, the well-known up-country lawyer, and also by the late Mr. Edwin Pate¹, whose coaching establishment was a very popular institution in the hill country. Whenever, the Colts visited Hatton they were provided, free of charge, by Mr. Pate with coaches to take them down to Darrawella and back.

A familiar figure in this connection was W.J. Webster, who was an employee in Mr. Edwin Pate's establishment and an experienced vet. Webster was an ardent votary of cricket, and worshipped at the “shrine” of the Colts for many years. In this connection the name of Mr. E.T.A Pate, eldest son of Edwin Pate, will also be remembered as a great supporter of the Colts at Hatton.”

The Pates and W.J. Webster didn't live in Colombo and their physical connection with the club was limited. But they demonstrate that physical distance from the club doesn't preclude one from worshipping at the “shrine” of the Colts.

¹ Edwin Ebenezer Pate (b. 1859) was the tenth of eleven children had by Ananias Pate (1824-1878) and Mary Poppleton (1822 – 1907). The granddaughter of the eldest child, Charles Henry, married the Colts stalwart Douglas Lieversz.

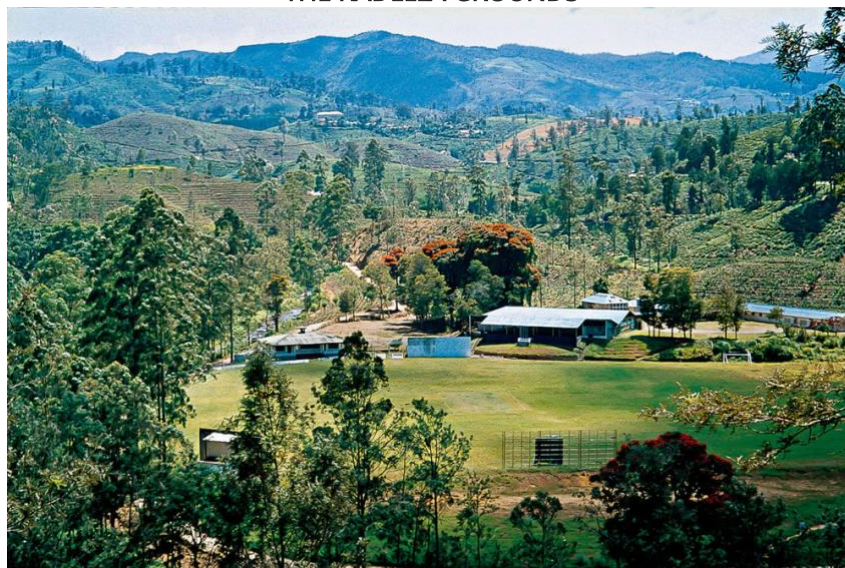
Picturesque grounds

David Colin-Thome has penned an article titled the history of tea and cricket in Sri Lanka (2003). In it he describes the Radella and Darrawella grounds. The inaugural cricket match between the DMCC and the DACC was held in 1870 at Darrawella. The DMCC hosted the emperor of Russia in 1891, Jack Hobbs in 1930, and an English team led by Douglas Jardine in 1934. An up-country team met Lord Hawkes's team in 1892 at the DACC.

THE DARRAWELLA GROUNDS



THE RADELLA GROUNDS



Courtesy of the history of Ceylon tea newsletter

THE RADELLA GROUNDS



Courtesy of google

Touring India

The Colts were also the pioneers amongst Ceylonese cricket clubs of tours abroad². In fact, even in the late forties and fifties they made trips to parts of India.

In 1905 the first Ceylonese side ever to tour India was accomplished by the initiative of Mr. J.C. McHeyzer, Dr. E.H. Ohlmus and Mr. F. Dadabhoy. While it wasn't a wholly Colts team the tour was a Colts club initiative.

The team was as follows –

Dr. A. Raffel (captain), J.C. McHeyzer, C.E. Perera, A.T. Pollocks, E. Weerasuriya, A.C. Amath, L. Thomasz, W. de Rozayro, D. Joseph and W.C. Boteju (Colts), D.L. de Saram, D.B. Gunasekera, J.C. Weinman, A.F. Molamure, E. Ondatje (NCC/SSC).

² [Until 1905 Ceylon teams that travelled abroad were sponsored by and were comprised predominantly of Europeans (Foenander 1924:105 -106). On a tour of the Straits which took place in 1890 the Europeans took along Tommy Kelaart and E. Christofelz of the Colts (Foenander 1924: 109-110). But the Ceylonese team that toured India in 1905 was sponsored by the Colts, not Europeans, although it wasn't an exclusively Colts team.

FAMOUS PLAYERS IN THE COLTS TEAM TO BOMBAY, 1905



L to R: D.B. Gunasekera, C.E. Perera, D. Joseph, T. Pollocks and E. Weerasuriya
Picture courtesy of S.P. Foenander

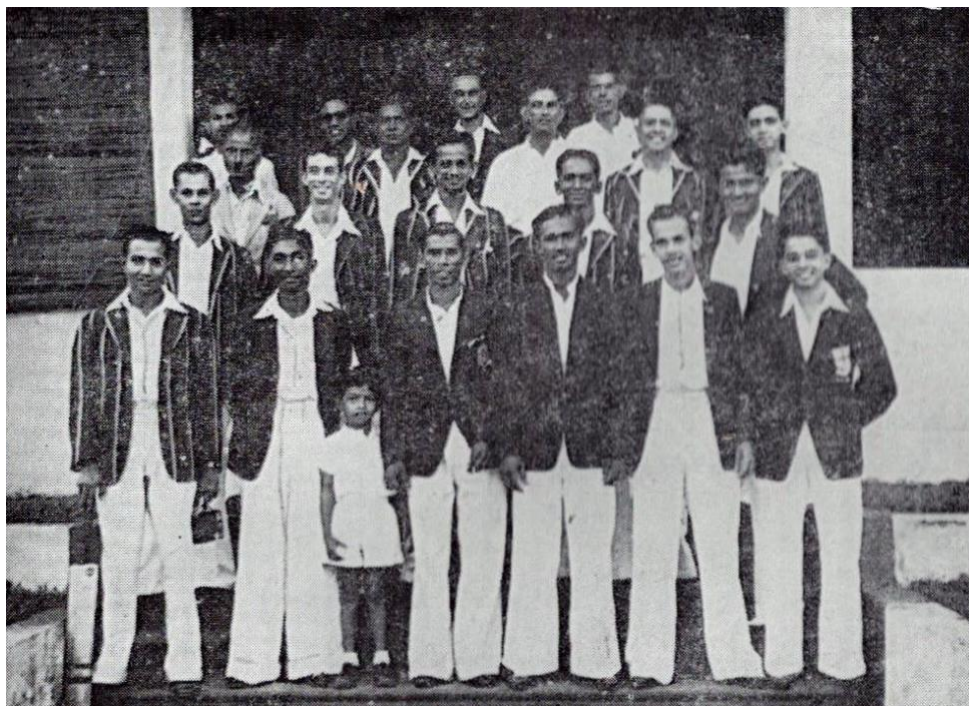
C.E. Perera later played for the S.S.C. E. Weerasuriya was playing for the S.S.C. in 1905 but joined the Colts in 1906.

D.B. Gunasekera was the father of the famous Barney Gunasekera, who played for Royal in 1929 and 1930 and in 1930 virtually singlehandedly defeated the Thomians by an innings with a great all-round performance. The chronicler played for Royal under Barney's son Ranjit in 1968.

The tour of Madras

The 1948 photograph shown below, taken at the club prior to departure, no longer contains cricketers who were both familiar with Racquet Court and remember what the Havelock Park club looked like in 1924. But it shows people who were associated with the Colts in the sixties, seventies and eighties, and whom the chronicler was familiar with, as club members or family friends.

COLTS TOURING TEAM TO MADRAS – 1948



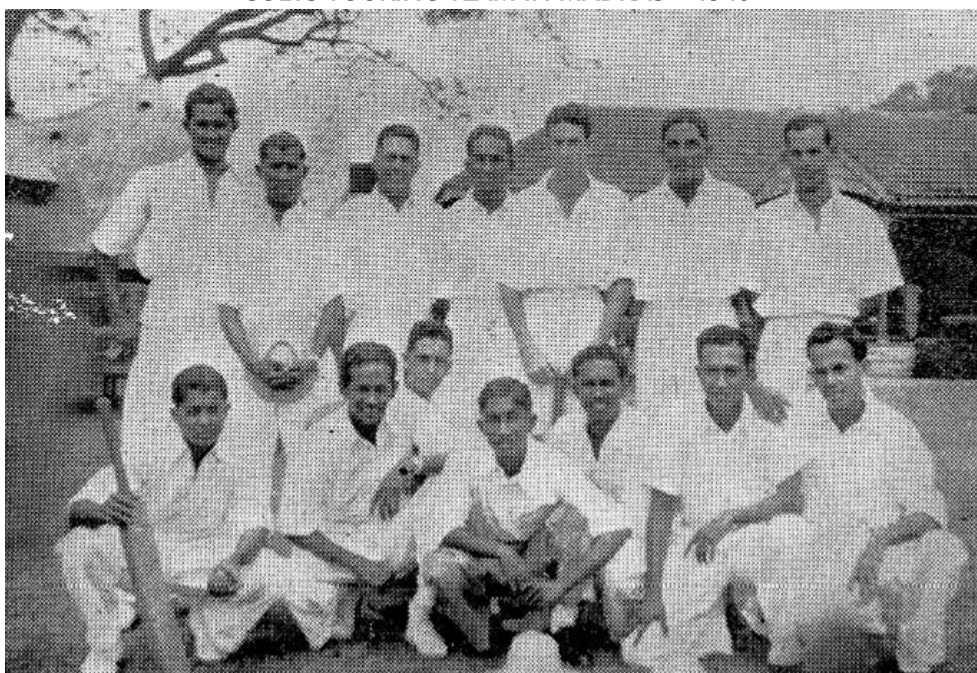
Front row: T.E. Jansz, H.L. de Silva, Darrell Lieversz (mascot), O.W. Kern, H. Perera, L. Heyzer, O. Mottau

Second row: G.P. Schoorman, H. Aldons, E.B. Nathanielsz, M. Chanmugan, M. Gauder, W. Jayatilleke

Third Row: Aiyappen (groundsman), Somapala (bar), M. Madanayake, J. Ariarartnam, V. Logan Smith, D.W.L. Lieversz, C. Pate

Courtesy of the centenary souvenir

COLTS TOURING TEAM IN MADRAS – 1948



Courtesy of Trevor Jansz

The picture above is likely to have been taken at a south Indian location. It did not come with a caption and the players have been identified with the aid of the captions to the picture of the team taken prior to leaving Colombo.

In the two pictures above are two stalwarts, Tita Nathanielsz and Doughie Lieversz, and a stalwart in the making, Trevor Jansz, who left the country in the mid-sixties. Mike Chanmugam, the coach of two victorious Donovan Andree sides in the seventies is in the pictures, along with Willie Jayatilleke.

Douglas Lieversz (1934-5, 1937-40, 1945, 1948), Willie Jayatilleke (1942-44, 47, 1949-50), Tita Nathanielsz (1951, 1953-56), Trevor Jansz (1952) and Mike Chanmugam (1958) all captained the club. Douglas Lieversz, Trevor Jansz and Tita Nathanielsz became life members.

The following account of the tour of South India appeared in the Times Weekender of 15th January 1949. The team played in Trichinopoly, Madras, Mysore and Bangalore, in that order.

TIMES, WEEK ENDING JANUARY 15, 1949.

COLTS CRICKETERS IMPRESSED ON INDIAN TOUR

Splendid bowling by E.B. Nathanielsz: 2 centurions

THE COLOMBO COLTS CRICKET TEAM UNDER THE CAPTAINCY OF DOUGLAS LIEVERSZ RETURNED TO COLOMBO ON JANUARY 5 AFTER A VERY SUCCESSFUL TOUR OF SOUTH INDIA.

The team played six matches, winning four of them, during the course of which G. P. Schoorman and O. W. Kern obtained centuries. The most pleasing feature of the trip, apart from these two ballings efforts, was the accurate and sustained bowling efforts of E. B. Nathanielsz who, backed up by resolute slip fielding, and admirably nursed by skipper Lieversz, captured 28 wickets during the tour.

Unfortunately a strained muscle incapacitated him during the last two games, but for which he should have brought home a much bigger "bag".

Hugh Aldons profited much, and after a slow start, was most difficult to dismiss during the latter games. It was pleasing to see him curb his 'suicide' tactics, and he has returned to Colombo a vastly improved batsman.

W. Jayatilke, as always, proved himself the sheet anchor of the side. A fighter to the last, he was most consistent in every game he played.

Owen Kern enhanced his reputation as an all-rounder and though laid low with a nasty attack of influenza, he

2 for 20 and O. W. Kern 2 for 8 shared the bowling honours. The Colts in reply were dismissed for 113, after being 3 for 83. Five of their batsmen failed to score, and R. M. Perumal, who kept a very accurate length, returned the figures of 5 for 27.

In their second knock the Pudukkottah batsmen found Nathanielsz more dangerous, but thanks to great-hearted batting by Perumal and the Rajah, were able to reach 189. Nathanielsz took 6 for 47, making a match total of 11 for 75.

SPORTING GESTURE

G. P. Schoorman, scored a grand 102 not out for the Colts in their second innings, and helped by W. Jayatilke (37) and O. W. Kern (not out 36) won the match by 3 wickets. The Rajah of Pudukkottah won the approval of all present when he sportingly allowed Schoorman to continue his innings when in sight of his century although the match had been decided.

Apart from the enjoyable game, the Colts will not easily forget the lavish hospitality meted out to them as the guests of the Rajah. Card tricks, songs, and excursions round the palace in the entertaining company of Nadu Dorai and Sinnai Dorai, helped to pass many a home-sick hour.

The team travelled to Madras for the next game against Eccentrics C.C.

By First Slip

saved the game on more than one occasion. It is to be hoped that he will be given a fair chance to prove his worth before the West Indies arrive in Ceylon.

The tour opened with a two-day fixture against the Rajah of Pudukkottah's team at Trichinopoly. The Colts fielded, and Nathanielsz and Chanmugan, who opened the attack, met with success with their first deliveries.

In spite of valiant efforts by the Rajah and Z. Fernandez, the home team were dismissed for 120 runs. E. B. Nathanielsz 5 for 28, Chanmugan



E. B. NATHANIELSZ



H. C. ALDONS

which was played on the Mauna grounds on Christmas Eve.

Here again the home team took first knock, and had lost 4 wickets for 100 before Kern and Nathanielsz warmed to their task and bundled the remaining batsmen for the addition of only 66 runs.

A. C. Ram Singh, the famous All-India left-hander, gave a sound and elegant display before being caught by Jansz for a grand 46. M. V. Prakash who opened the innings, also batted well for his 40. Owen Kern returned the splendid figures of 6 for 47, and Nathanielsz 4 for 57.

The Colts in reply found no difficulty in passing their opponents total, and won the game by four wickets. H. C. Aldons 43, W. Jayatilke 36, H. S. Oorloff 28, and O. W. Kern 32 not out batted best. K. T. Hannan was the best bowler, taking 3 for 72.

FIRST DEFEAT

On Christmas Day the tourists lost their first match, being decisively beaten by the Sounder C.C. on the M.U.C. ground at Madras. For the winners, B. C. Alva the South Zone all-rounder, was at his best taking 5 for 8.

The Sounders' batted first and were out for the poor total of 98, only four batsmen. Alva, (12), Vijayaraja (11), Shastry (21), and Venkatesan (16) entering double figures. The pace bowlers, Nathanielsz and Chanmugam bowled best taking 5 for 30, and 2 for 19 respectively.

On a crumbling wicket, the Colts were skittled out for 43, only Schoorman entering double figures. B. C. Alva 5 for 8, Kannan 3 for 14, and

Deenon 2 for 21, all bowled in grand form.

The same night the team left for Mysore by train, a journey which, although tiresome, had its just rewards. A trip to the Brindavan gardens at night, a bus tour of the city, and a visit to the zoo where a seven-foot guard greeted the team, made everyone forget that Christmas had come and gone.

The 'Garden City' was all agog for the impending visit of the Indian Premier, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, and the match did not attract the anticipated crowd.

The Mysore Combined XI, which consisted of some State players, in addition to Y. S. Ramaswamy, who visited Ceylon some time ago, were dismissed for 120. Nathanielsz again captured 5 wickets, while Lloyd Heyzer, playing in his first match on the tour, took 2 for 14. The Colts in reply failed by three runs to reach their opponents total. H. C. Aldons and Jayatilke batted with their customary consistency, while Schoorman was the only other to enter double figures. Lingiah bowled admirably to take 7 for 44.

OVER TO BANGALORE

From Mysore the team travelled on to Bangalore where they defeated the leading league team, the Bangalore cricketers by 75 runs.

Members of the team met many former Ceylon residents who very obligingly made their stay in Bangalore most enjoyable.

The match was played on the Central College ground which boasts of a very imposing pavilion, and an informative score board.

The Colts batted first in this game, and helped by brilliant running between the wickets totalled 166 runs in only 2 hours batting.

T. E. Jansz (28), and Schoorman (27) put on 56 for the first wicket, which was their best stand, for the tour. Aldons and Gauder took the total to 83 after Jayatilke had failed for once. Gauder played a very patient innings, while Chanmugam who came in later collected a hard-hit 26. Safidarasa 4 for 48, and Lieut. A. Gaud 2 for 57 bowled best.

After lunch the wicket showed signs of wear. This enabled H. S. Oorloff 5 for 30, and G. P. Schoorman 3 for 4, to run through the side for only 91 runs.

The team returned to Madras on December 31, for their last match of the tour against the 'Varsity Occasionals' which was played on January 1 and 2, on the Christian College ground at Thambram. The Occasionals had several Zonal players on their side, and after a very hard-fought game, the tourists won by 131 runs.

(Continued on page 12)



O. W. KERN

Courtesy of Trevor Jansz

Madras team tours Ceylon

During the 1954/5 season a team from Madras toured Ceylon. They almost lost outright in their game against the Colts. Bryan Claessen put in a strong all-round performance in that game with 66 runs and four wickets. B.W. Wimalaratne scored 50, while Nathanielsz and Schoorman shared the bowling honours. Three members of the team which beat the touring Madras team toured Madras in 1957.

Madras revisited - 1957

A photograph of the Colts team which toured India in 1957 has always hung on the walls of Trute³ Vanderwert's home. But until 16th June of 2014 the chronicler never felt the urge to study it and obtain a copy of it. He was also never driven to discuss the old club days with Trute and collect anecdotes and yarns to be used in a future narrative. But the trip to Sri Lanka changed everything because the sheer transformation of places associated with his youth gave clarity to the past by virtue of comparison. On his return he commenced to write about places which he never felt would affect him with immense nostalgia.

³ Trutand Vanderwert signed as "Trute" but was referred to as "Truti" and "Tuti". In the narrative he will be referred to as Trute as he would have wanted it to be.

COLOMBO COLTS CRICKET CLUB, TOUR OF INDIA 1957



Rear (L to R): C. Brohier, D. Amarasinghe, W. De Kretser, L. Ebert, T. De Silva, R. de Silva, G. Jayatunge, B. van Geyzel

Front (L to R): H. Gunatileke, H. Fernando, M. Pereira, E.B.Nathanielsz (Manager), V. Pattabhiraman (President, Madras Cricket Club), N. De La Harpe (captain), T. Vanderwert (vice captain), A. Fuard, M. Shararawadie

Courtesy of Laurie and Gail Robson

On the 16th of August 2014, Trute's son in law, Laurie Robson, pulled the above picture out of its frame and scanned it while the chronicler made notes of the names. Writing about the picture triggered the larger project he was to undertake.

What is striking about the team above is that, apart from Tita Nathanielsz, there is no one from the young side which toured Madras nine years prior and who were mentioned in the team review of 1948. Clearly, the split of 1951, which is discussed in the chapter to follow had an impact. But some of them may have retired, others may have dropped out of the game, and some may not have been available for this tour.

Mark Pereira, who passed away in 2012, was a keen and busy Colt and the chronicler recalls him being heavily involved in the second streams. He was made second XI vice-captain in 1959 and captain the next year. He once took the chronicler to field in a Daily News game played at an outstation venue in the early sixties. Sadly, the chronicler dropped a sitter at close in and depriving the club of the points it needed to get over the line. Mark Pereira migrated to Canada and then moved to Australia.

In the mid-fifties Mark Pereira opened the batting for the Colts. He also turned out for the Old Peterites Club and Colombo Commercials.

Trute and Abu Fuard were great mates. Once the Colts were playing NCC in a home game in the early sixties and the NCC supporters were spurring T.C.T. Edwards on with the chant "Go Eddie boy!" Not soon after Trute was mimicking the NCC contingent with cries of "Abu boy!"

When Norman de la Harpe claimed that there were difficult characters in the club he mentioned Tita. But I understand that he also made scathing remarks about Abu.

However, Trute was very scathing of Franklyn Burke after he left the Club following the 1962-3 season. Trute mentioned the assistance he had provided Burke which included getting him a pair of flannelled trousers. In all fairness to Burke his hands may have been tied after joining the Police force. His brother Ralston did play cricket for the Colts in the seventies.

Tita Nathanielsz is the most famous member of the touring team the chronicler was associated with. Although classed as manager of the 1957 touring team there is no doubt he played because he would then have then been in his fast-bowling prime.

Norman de la Harpe left for Australia in 1959 and Warrick de Kretser did the same in the following year. The latter was still at Wesley when he toured with the Colts. But he didn't play much cricket for the Colts because, when he left school in 1958, he forsook cricket for motor racing.

Bryan Claessen left for Australia in 1957 and Radley Claessen followed him in 1958. And this maybe the reason why they were not on the 1957 tour.

As with the 1948 Colts tourists there were many schoolboys in the 1957 touring team. De Kretser⁴ and Ebert (Wesley), Brian van Geyzel (St. Lawrence's) and D. Amerasinghe (Nalanda or Ananda). Many young cricketers played for the Colts while they were in school. This included the Claessen brothers who played under Derrick Mack at Wesley.

Tour games

The first game was played on 18th August at Madras, against the Alwarpet C.C., the first division 'A' Zone champions in Madras. The match ended in a draw. The team then left for Bangalore where they played two matches. One was against the Mysore State Cricket Association President's XI (August 20th) and the Bangalore United Cricket Club (August 21st).

The Colts returned to Madras to play a game against the Varsity Occasionals (23rd August) and a two-day game against the Madras Cricket Association Presidents XI (24th – 25th). The Colts then played Rajah of Pudukottais XI at Tiruchi and concluded the tour with a game against the Salem Cricket Club.

The Colts played seven games. It won two, lost two and drew the rest. The press clippings were sourced from Warwick de Kretser and Mark Pereira's scrapbook.

Madras

⁴ Bertram de Kretser was Warrick de Kretser's uncle and boarded with the latter's family at High Street, Wellawatte. Bertram de Kretser influenced his nephew to link up with the Colts rather than the neighboring BRC.

COLOMBO COLTS DRAW WITH ALWARPET C.C.

MADRAS, Aug. 19.
The Colombo Colts Cricket Club from Ceylon, playing their first match in the City, drew with the Alwarpet Cricket Club, the first division 'A' Zone champions, at the Marina yesterday. Alwarpet made 156 runs for six wickets before declaring and at close the Colts were 101 for four.

Alwarpet won the toss and had the first lease of the wicket. The ground, rendered soft by the previous night's rain, was on the slow side giving batsmen more time to watch the ball.

Balasubramaniam and Seshadri opened the innings to the bowling of La Harpe and De Kretser. The Colts met with an early success at eight when Sharwardie, at gully, held Seshadri off De Kretser. Alwarpet lost their second wicket at 21 when Balasubramaniam was caught behind the wicket by Van Gevel off Ebert.

Krishnamurthy and Subramaniam settled down for some quite cricket and playing carefully took the score to 56 when the latter played on to his wicket a delivery from La Harpe. Subramaniam made only 17, which included a lovely square pull for four. Rajagopal joined Krishnamurthy and after they had added 25 runs, the fourth wicket fell when Rajagopal edged La Harpe for Van Gevel to take another neat catch behind the wicket. At lunch, Alwarpet were 84 for four.

After the break, Krishnamurthy was the first to leave at 87 when he was caught at mid-wicket off Sharwardie. His patient 36 was well made and was marred by only one chance at 27. Nagarajan, the next batsman, did not stay long and Ramaswamy's knock was the best for the home side. He made some clean crisp strokes in front of the wicket and with Sarangapani had added 45 runs for the unbeaten seventh wicket when the declaration was made. Alwarpet made their 156 in about three hours.

The Colts left about 140 minutes commenced their knock through Perera and Amarasinghe. They lost both their opening batsmen at 26 and 35 respectively falling to the slow lee-breaks of Sarangapani when they stepped out only to be easily stunned by Balasubramaniam. Goo-nathilake, the left hander, did not stay long for he was caught in the slips by Sarangapani off the medium pacer Subramaniam at 45. Young Ebert played the sparkling cricket and with his easy footwork muddled every ball. With De Kretser he had added 48 runs before he was bowled by Prabhakar Rao for a neat 33. De Kretser gave him good support and remained unbeaten with 30, with the close score being 101 for four.

The visitors, who are the youngest Ceylon side ever to visit Madras, have in their ranks plenty of youngsters, who show considerable promise. They left last night for Ban-

Colts draw with Alwarpet

(P.T.I.-service)

MADRAS, Monday
The Colombo Colts Cricket Club from Ceylon who are on a fortnight tour of South India, drew with Alwarpet Cricket Club, First Division League Champions, in their opening one-day match here yesterday.

Batting first the local team collected 156 runs for the loss of six wickets in their first innings before declaring. The visitors replied with 101 for four at close.

For Alwarpet Cricket Club, P. K. Krishnamurthy (36) and A. K. Sarangapani (32 not out) were the main scorers. La Harpe and Sharwardie of Ceylon bagged two wickets each for 55 and 44 runs respectively.

For the Colts—L. I. Ebert contributed 33 while De Kretser remained unbeaten with 30.

The Colts left for Bangalore last night to play two matches there. They will return to Madras on August 22.

galore to play two matches there before returning to the City on Aug. 22.

The scores:
ALWARPET CRICKET CLUB 156 for 6 dec. (P. K. Krishnamurthy 36, A. K. Sarangapani 32 not out, M. Ramaswamy not out 28, La Harpe 2 for 55, Sharwardie 2 for 44).

COLOMBO COLTS C.C. 101 for 4: (L. Ebert 33, De Kretser not out 30, A. K. Sarangapani 2 for 38).

COLTS IN INDIA Opening match drawn

MADRAS, Monday.

THE Colombo Colts Cricket Club from Ceylon who are on a fortnight tour of South India, drew with Alwarpet Cricket Club, first division league champions, in their opening one-day match here yesterday.

Batting first, the local team collected 156 runs for the loss of six wickets in their first innings before declaring. The visitors replied with 101 for four at close.

For Alwarpet Cricket Club P. K. Krishnamurthy (36) and A. K. Sarangapani (32 not out) were the main scorers. La Harpe and Sharwardie of Ceylon bagged two wickets each for 55 and 44 runs respectively.

For the Colts, L. Ebert contributed 33, while de Kretser remained unbeaten with 30.

The Colts left for Bangalore last night to play two matches there. They will return to Madras on August 22.

Colombo Colts Draw With Alwarpet

MADRAS, Aug. 19.

The Colts Cricket Club from Colombo, who are on a short visit drew with the Alwarpet Cricket Club yesterday at the Marina. The local team made 156 for six to which the visitors replied with 101 for four.

The Alwarpet Cricket Club who had the first knock started badly, losing the wickets of Balasubramaniam and Seshadri at eight and 21 respectively, but Krishnamurthy and Subramaniam by some steady batting carried the score to 56. After this Rajagopal Yachendra who joined Krishnamurthy helped to raise the total to 81. After lunch the game brightened up a bit and the association of Sarangapani and Ramaswami yielded 45 runs for the unbroken seventh wicket. Alwarpet declared their innings closed shortly after 3 p.m.

Like the Alwarpet team, the Colts also had a bad start losing three wickets for 45 runs, but then ensued a bright stand between Ebert and de Kretser who carried the total to 101. Ebert was out last being bowled by Prabhakar for a neatly played 33.

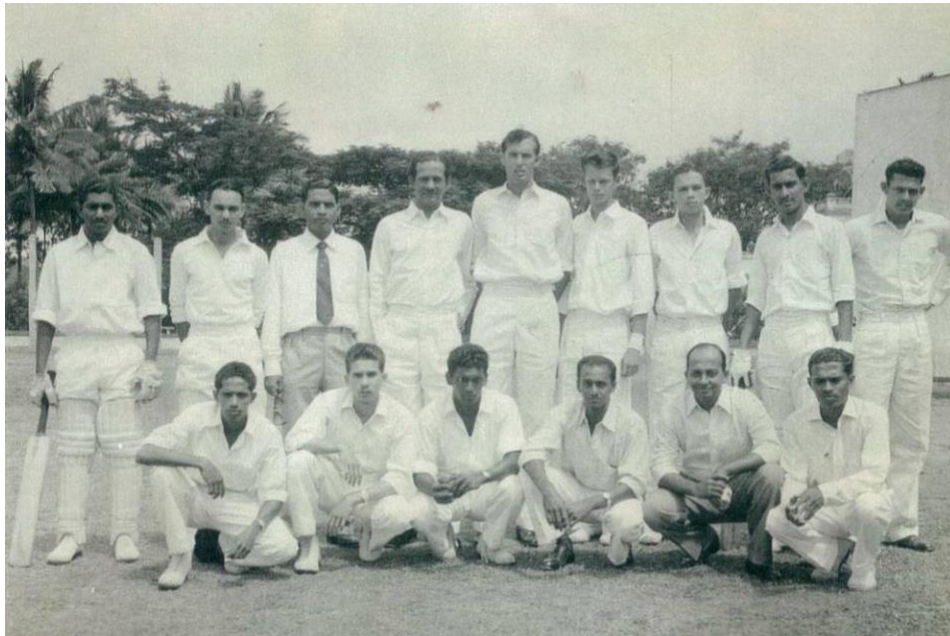
The scores: Alwarpet Cricket Club: 156 for six and dec. (P. K. Krishnamurthy 36, A. K. Sarangapani 32 not out, M. Ramaswami 28 not out, N. de Laharpe two for 55, Sharwardie two for 44) drew with Colts Cricket Club: 101 for four (L. Ebert 33, W. de Kretser 30 not out, A. K. Sarangapani two for 38).

The Colts Cricket Club left to-night for Bangalore to play two matches there. They will return to Madras on August 22 to play two more matches in the City. They leave for Tiruchi on August 26.

Bangalore

The following photograph was taken in Bangalore prior to the game against the Mysore State Association XI. It appeared in a local newspaper of 21st August and was reproduced in the Times of Ceylon of 26th August.

TEAM THAT PLAYED AGAINST THE MYSORE STATE ASSOCIATION XI



Standing L to R: D. Amerasinghe, Mark Pereira, T. de Silva, E.B. Nathanielsz, Norman de la Harpe, Warwick de Kretser, Lorenz Ebert, Abu Fuard, Carlyle Brohier

Crouching L to R: M. Shahrwadi, Brian Van Geyzel, Herman Fernando, George Jayatunga, Trute Vanderwert, R. de Silva

Courtesy of Warwick de Kretser

The Colts almost lost the game outright and never recovered from a poor start in its first innings. The scorecard tells it all. The Colts fared better the next day on the same ground and fell two runs short of victory when stumps were drawn. Nathanielsz took over the captaincy for the last game of the tour after de la Harpe had a dental problem and it was either in that game or in the game against the Bangalore United Cricket Club that he got a wicket with the first ball of the match.

The batsman didn't expect express pace to issue from a run up of four paces and didn't lift his bat up high enough. He was stunned to be clean bowled.

VERSUS MYSORE STATE ASSOCIATION XI

SCORE-BOARD		
COLOMBO COLTS C.C.		
(1st Innings): A. Fuard c & b M. R. Patel 2; A. Amarasinghe (run out) 2; M. Pereira c Vijayasaraty b Mahesh 3; L. Ebert c & b Mahesh 16; W. De Kresten c Y. B. Patel b Mahesh 0; M. S. Sharwadie c B. V. Rama Rao b Ganeshan 7; N. De La Harpe c Puttakemp-anna b Ganeshan 7; H. Fernando b Mahesh 1; R. De Silva c Mahesh b Ganeshan 0; C. Brohier st. Navinchandra b Ganeshan 15; B. Vangeyzal (not out) 4; Extras 10; Total 67.		
Fall of wickets: 1-2; 2-6; 3-16; 4-16; 5-25; 6-31; 7-32; 8-37; 9-47.		
BOWLING ANALYSIS: Y. B. Patel 6-4-5-0; M. R. Patel 11-6-17-1; K. L. Mahesh 10-6-4-4; Ganeshan 4-4-0-31-4.		
M.S.C.A. PRESIDENT'S XI (1st Innings): M. R. Patel c Amarasinghe b N. De La Harpe 94; B. V. Rama Rao b N. De La Harpe 3; V. R. Raghavendracharya c Fernando b N. De La Harpe 17; K. L. Mahesh c Vangeyzal b M. S. Sharwadie 2; R. V. Vijayasaraty c Fuard b N. De La Harpe 24; C. V. Bhara-dwaj b R. De Silva 12; H. S. Puttakempanna (not out) 13; Ganeshan (not out) 4; Extras 14; Total for 6 wkts. decl. 186.		
Fall of wickets: 1-4; 2-46; 3-49; 4-79; 5-130; 6-181.		
BOWLING ANALYSIS: N. De La Harpe 19-6-46-4; C. Brohier 2-0-6-0; H. Fernando 3-0-8-0; A. Fuard 14-2-57-0; M. S. Sharwadie 5-1-23-1; R. De Silva 5-0-32-1.		
COLOMBO COLTS C.C.: (2nd Innings): A. Fuard b Mahesh 12; D. Amarasinghe lbw Vijayasaraty 7; M. Pereira c Navinchandra b Vijayasaraty 20; L. Ebert b Vishendas 22; W. De Kresten (run out) 13; M. S. Sharwadie c Bhara-dwaj b Ganeshan 0; N. De La Harpe (not out) 7; H. Fernando b Vijayasaraty 4; C. Brohier (not out) 0; Extras 3; Total (for 7 wkts) 88.		
Fall of wickets: 1-17; 2-27; 3-46; 4-75; 5-77; 6-78; 7-88.		
BOWLING ANALYSIS: Y. B. Patel 5-1-17-0; M. R. Patel 1-0-4-0; K. L. Mahesh 1-0-8-1; G. V. Vishendas 9-2-24-1; R. V. Vijayasaraty 8-3-21-3; Ganeshan 7-0-11-0.		

Victory for Mysore State Assn. XI (FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

BANGALORE, Aug. 23.—The Colombo Colts Cricket Club, who were here on a short visit, played two matches, one against the Mysore State Cricket Association President's XI on August 20 and another with the Bangalore United Cricket Club the next day. The match with Mysore State Cricket Association President's XI resulted in defeat for the visitors, by 119 runs on first innings lead. The second game ended in a draw. A faultless innings of 94 by M. R. Patel and good bowling by K. L. Mahesh and Ganeshan, who claimed four wickets each for 4 and 31 runs respectively, was the feature of the first encounter which came off at the Central College grounds. The visitors, who had the first knock were skittled out for 67. The home team replied with 186 for six and declared in their second knock, the Colts made 88 for seven.

Playing on the St. Joseph's College new field, on August 21, time baulked the Colombo Colts of a win. When stumps were drawn for the day, they had only two runs to make with five wickets standing. An all-round performance by M. S. Sharwadie, who hit up 52 besides taking three wickets for 29 runs, highlighted the match.

The scores: Colombo Colts C.C.: 67 (K. L. Mahesh four for 4, Ganeshan four for 31), and 88 for seven (R. V. Vijayasaraty three for 21; M.S.C.A. President's XI: 186 for six and decl. (M. R. Patel 94, N. De La Harpe four for 46). Bangalore United Cricket Club: 171 for seven and declared (Salus Nazareth 58, Vivek Hazare 25, E. B. Nathanielsz three for 55, M. S. Sharwadie three for 59). Colombo Colts: 170 for five (L. Ebert 57 not out, M. S. Sharwadie 52, T. Vanderwert 43, V. R. Chander three for 44).

VERSUS BANGALORE UNITED CRICKET CLUB

COLOMBO

COLTS FALL SHY OF ONLY 2 RUNS FOR CERTAIN VICTORY

BANGALORE, Aug. 21.

IT was a case of "so near and yet so far" with the Colombo Colts when they met and drew with the Bangalore United Cricket Club in their one-day fixture at St. Joseph's New Field here today.

Batting first the B.U.C.C. had scored 171 runs for the loss of seven wickets, and the Lanka cricketers had hit up 170 for the loss of five wickets when stumps were drawn.

It was a pity that just one more over was not given to them. After all it was a question of just two runs, and considering that they had batted throughout in a drizzle, this gesture could have been made.

The BUCC total rose to its seemingly good height due to the splendid batting of Salus Nazareth who hit 58 runs. He and S. R. Ramanathan opened the innings and were concerned in a partnership of 64 runs in 54 minutes.

Vivek Hazare (25) and S. R. Ramanathan (24) were the next highest scorers. E. B. Nathanielsz was the best of the Ceylon trundlers, claiming three wickets for 55 runs with his medium-paced deliveries.

Batting second, though having won the toss, the visitors lost two early wickets, with pace bowler V. R. Chander doing the damage. Then a third-wicket stand between T. Vanderwert and L. Ebert retrieved the position for they hit 86 runs. Ebert who was missed before he opened his account and later again, was unbeaten with 57; while Vanderwert scored 43. Another good batting display came from M. S. Sharwadie who hit 52. He also claimed three wickets for 29 runs. They made five changes in the team that played here yesterday.

The scores were: BUCC: 171 for 7 wkts. decl. (Salus Nazareth 58, Vivek Hazare 25, S. R. Ramanathan 24; E. B. Nathanielsz 3 for 55, M. S. Sharwadie 3 for 59).

COLOMBO COLTS: 170 for 5 wkts. (L. Ebert 57 not out, M. S. Sharwadie 52, T. Vanderwert 43, V. R. Chander 3 for 44).

Madras

The photo below was probably taken at dinner party organised by V. Pattabiraman on the 23rd of August at Hotel Dasaprakash. It is the companion piece to photograph which appears at the beginning of the description of the tour and which held pride of place in Tuti Vanderwert's bedroom wall, next to his wedding photograph. Both photographs feature V. Pattabiraman. The team photograph was taken in Madras either before the team left for Bangalore from Madras or after it returned to Madras.

DINNER HOSTED BY THE MADRAS STATE CRICKET ASSOCIATION



Courtesy of Heather Pereira

Seated on the extreme right is Ram Singh, a former Indian test player. According to Wikipedia

“Amritsar Govindsingh Ram Singh (14 July 1910 – 11 August 1999) was an Indian first-class cricketer. An allrounder, he bowled slow left-arm orthodox and was a left-handed middle order batsman. His son A. G. Kripal Singh played Test cricket for India.

Ram Singh played for Madras and was just the second player in history to achieve the Ranji Trophy double of 1000 runs and 100 wickets. He took his best ever innings figures of 8 for 14 in a Madras Presidency Match, playing for the Indians against the Europeans.

He was a very much-loved cricket coach for the schoolboys of Sir M Venkatasubba Rao Boys School in T Nagar, Madras during the late 70s and the 80s. His dedication to the game and to the young budding cricketers was something which those who coached under him have kept very close to their cricketing hearts.”

Colts Club Draw with 'Varsity Occasionals

MADRAS, Aug. 24.
The Colts Cricket Club from Ceylon who returned to Madras after a short visit to Bangalore, drew with the 'Varsity Occasionals' at Tambaram yesterday. The local side made 190 for five and the visitors replied with 160 for six. The visitors play a two-day fixture with the M.C.A. President's XI to-day at Saidapet.

Batting first, the 'Varsity Occasionals' hit up a good score, thanks mainly to a splendid display by Kannayiram who made 71. His score included four 4's and a 6. P. K. Bellappa remained unbeaten with a neat 28, while Mohan Rao made 30 useful runs. Fuard was the successful bowler with three wickets for 31 runs. For Ceylon, L. Ebert was the top-scorer with 53 runs. This 17-year-old batsman who is in good form this season is their consistent scorer in this tour.

The scores:
'Varsity Occasionals: 190 for five and decl. (Kannayiram 71, Mohan Rao 30, Mohan Rai 27, Chinnadurai 25, Bellappa 28, not out, Fuard three for 31) drew with the Colts Cricket Club: 160 for six (L. Ebert 53, C. Brohier 30, not out, Kumar three for 35) at Tambaram.

CEYLON COLTS ALL OUT FOR 101

Good Reply By M.C.A. President's XI

MADRAS, Aug. 25.
The two-day cricket fixture between the Madras Cricket Association President's XI and the touring Colts Cricket Club from Ceylon commenced yesterday at the Y.M.C.A. College ground at Saidapet. Playing first the visitors were all out for 101 runs to which the local side replied with 116 runs for the loss of five wickets at stumps.

Fuard and Pereira, who opened the innings for the Ceylon team, made a cautious start and put on 35 runs for the first wicket. After this, wickets fell in quick succession and the visitors were 59 for eight wickets. Then Fernando and Jayathunga stopped the not temporarily adding 40 runs for the ninth wicket. Nasiruddin was the most successful bowler with four wickets for 18 runs, while Kumar proved a good foil by taking three wickets for 12 runs in just 8.4 overs, four of which were maidens.

The Madras team began rather badly losing the first wicket at seven and the second at 28. Then ensued a good stand between Sridhar and Mohan Rao who raised the score to 71. And for the addition of only two runs, two more wickets, those of Balakrishnan and Nasiruddin fell. However, with the coming of V. Sridhar, the Railway player, the game became more lively and at close both the Sridhars were unbeaten having taken the score from 73 to 116.

The scores:
Colts Cricket Club, Ceylon: 1st Innings: A. Fuard c Muruges b Kumar 24; M. Pereira lbw b Nasiruddin 13; M. Sharwadie c Sundaram b Nasiruddin 2; L. Ebert b Nasiruddin 8; D. Amarsingh run out 1; Kretser b Kumar 2; N. De La Harpe b Muruges 1; Gunatilleka c Sridhar b Muruges 4; H. Fernando c Sundaram b Kumar 27; Jayathunga b Nasiruddin 16; D. Silva (not out) 1. Total 101.
Bowling analysis: Mohan Rai 9-1-19-0; Sundaram 10-3-24-0; Nasiruddin 9-3-18-4; Kumar 8-4-12-3; Muruges 5-0-18-2.

M.C.A. President's XI: 1st Innings: T. Harihara Shastri c Sharwadie b De La Harpe 10; G. Ranganathan c Pereira b De La Harpe 5; G. Mohan Rao c Ebert b Sharwadie 43; A. R. Sridhar (not out) 34; M. Balakrishnan b Sharwadie 6; Nasiruddin b Sharwadie 2; V. Sridhar (not out) 20. Total (for five wkts.) 116.

Bowling analysis: De La Harpe 18-6-39-2; Ebert 4-1-19-0; Fernando 2-0-9-0; Sharwadie 10-2-31-3; Fuard 7-1-12-0; De Silva 2-0-4-0.

The Colts Cricket Club were entertained at a dinner party by Mr. V. Pattabiraman, Vice-President of the Madras Cricket Association, at Hotel Dasaprakash on August 23.

GOOD BOWLING BY V. V. KUMAR

M.C.A. PRESIDENT'S XI WIN BY TEN WICKETS

MADRAS, Aug. 26.
The Madras Cricket Association President's XI beat the Colts Cricket Club from Ceylon by ten wickets in the two-day fixture which ended yesterday at the Y.M.C.A. College ground, Saidapet. The visitors made 101 and 109 and the local side hit 197 and 16 for no loss.

The Madras team, who had made 116 for the loss of five wickets at the close of the first day's play in reply to the Colts' 101, were all out for 197 half an hour before lunch. A. R. Sridhar remained unbeaten with a well-played 67 runs, while V. Sridhar made a neat 31. After the latter's exit, the Madras wickets fell at regular intervals. Going in for the second time, he Colts again fared badly, especially against the spin bowling of Kumar, who returned the best analysis of six wickets for 25 runs. The schoolboy ricketer, Ebert, was the only batsman to play with any confidence. The Madras team hit up the required runs without any loss and with enough time to spare.

The scores:

Colts Cricket Club:—1st Innings: 101. Madras Cricket Association President's XI:—1st Innings: T. Harihara Shastri c Sharwadie b De La Harpe 10; G. Ranganathan c Pereira b De La Harpe 5; G. Mohan Rao c Ebert b Sharwadie 43; A. R. Sridhar (not out) 67; M. Balakrishnan b Sharwadie 6; Nazurudin b Sharwadie 2; V. Sridhar c & b De La Harpe 31; B. R. Mohan Rai (run out) 3; Muruges b Fuard 9; V. V. Kumar c Fernando b De La Harpe 17; P. R. Sundaram c Fernando b De La Harpe 5. Extras 5; Total 197.

Fall of wickets: 1-7, 2-23, 3-71, 4-71, 5-73, 6-136, 7-149, 8-168, 9-192.

Bowling analysis: De La Harpe 25-2-68-5; Ebert 4-1-9-0; Fernando 2-0-9-0; Sharwadie 20-3-53-3; Fuard 13-0-35-1; De Silva 5-0-8-0.

Colts C.C.—2nd Innings: D. Amarsinghe c Mohan Rai b Sundaram 6; A. Fuard c Mohan Rai b V. V. Kumar 27; M. Sharwadie c Muruges b Sundaram 2; L. Ebert b V. V. Kumar 19; M. Pereira c Ranganathan b Muruges 12; W. de Kretser c Mohan Rai b V. V. Kumar 11; H. Gunatilleke lbw. b Mohan Rai 11; G. Jayathunga b V. V. Kumar 2; H. Fernando (not out) 4; N. De La Harpe c Balakrishnan b V. V. Kumar 2; R. De Silva st. Ranganathan b V. V. Kumar 6. Extras 9; Total 109.

Fall of wickets: 1-8, 2-12, 3-47, 4-73, 5-73, 6-82, 7-93, 8-97, 9-99.

Bowling analysis: Mohan Rai 8-2-16-1; P. R. Sundaram 8-3-12-2; Nazurudin 7-3-17-0; M. R. Muruges 7-3-25-1; V. V. Kumar 14-3-25-6; M. Balakrishnan 3-1-5-0.

Madras Cricket Association—2nd Innings: T. Harihara Shastri (not out) 2; G. Ranganathan (not out) 10. Extras 4. Total (for no loss) 16.

Bowling analysis: De La Harpe 3-1-11-0; Sharwadie 2-1-1-0.

COLTS LOSE BY 10 WKTS.

MADRAS, Sunday.

MADRAS Cricket Association President's eleven defeated Colombo Colts cricket club by ten wickets in the two-day match which ended half an hour before time here today.

Scores:
Colombo Colts 101 and 109 (Fuard 27, V. V. Kumar six for 25).

M.C.A. President's Eleven: 197 (A. R. Sreedhar 67 not out, De La Harpe five for 68) and 16 for no loss.

Tiruchi

The following photograph consists of the Colts team and that of the Maharajah of Pudukottai's XI. Tita Nathanielsz captained the Colts team according to his position in the front row. This photo is quite striking because of the backdrop – a thatched roof building. Also, two of the Indian players have placed their “gal thoppis” (pith hats) between their feet.

COLTS VERSUS THE MAHARAJAH OF PUDDUKOTTAI'S XI



Courtesy of Heather Pereira

Ceylon Colts Beat Raja of Pudukottai's XI

TIRUCHI, Aug. 28.

The Colts Cricket Club, Ceylon, defeated the H.H. the Raja of Pudukottai's XI in a closely contested match, played to-day on Jamal Mohamed College grounds.

The scores: H.H. Raja of Pudukottai XI: 144 (D. Padmanabhan 39, Naduthorai 24, R. M. Perumal 35, T. N. G. Raju 24, Abu Fuard three for 23, C. Brohier three for 18, W. De Kretser two for 8). Colts Cricket Club, Ceylon: 145 (L. Ebert 36, M. S. Sherwadia 26, Chinnadorai three for 27, Krishnaswami two for 5, Kannayiram two for 35, R. T. Parthasarathy two for 19).—FOC.

The final game of tour was against the Salem XI. The game was lost by seven wickets.



The photos in the following two pages show the Colts cricketers in holiday mode. The two on the deck of a ship were taken in Bangalore.



Standing L to R: H. Fernando, H. Gunatilleke, T. de Silva, N. de la Harpe, M. Shamarwadie, W. de Kretser

Seated L to R: D. Amerasinghe, M. Pereira, R. de

Courtesy of Warwick de Kretser



L to R: M. Shahrwadie, Mark Pereira, D. Amerasinghe

Courtesy of Heather Pereira

ON BOARD A SHIP TO MADRAS



Back L to R: W. de Kretser, N. de la Harpe, H. Gunatilleke, M. Shamarwadie, M. Fernando
Front L to R: C. Brohier, T de Silva, M. Pereira, R de Silva, G. Jayatunga

Courtesy of Warwick de Kretser



Back: C. Brohier, Lennie Vaughan, Norman de La Harpe
Front: G. Jayatunga, T. Vanderwert, R. de Silva, Mark Pereira, M. Shahrwadie, T. de Silva, Jean Nathanielsz and Tita Nathanielsz

Courtesy of Heather Pereira

The Pattabhiraman connection

Douglas Lieversz was very friendly with Mr Pattibhiraman whom the chronicler visited when he was in Madras to sit for his London “A” levels in 1970. During the conversation he cited rumours about their being dissent at the Colts which he disapproved of. The chronicler didn’t let on that he was the instigator of the “call to arms” because in his view there was a lack of professionalism in the players’ attitude to the game and each other.

V. Pattabhiraman (honoured with life membership of the Colts) in his message to honour the club’s 100th anniversary refers to many of the Colts members he struck friendships with during the club’s tour of Madras in 1948 and 1957 which are represented by the two group photographs above. To quote -

“.. Sweet music in the names I used to know and magic when I heard them long ago. Names like A.E. Christoffelsz, J. Ariarethnam, Richard Wirasekera, Vernon Logan Smith, Frank Ondatji, A.V. Fernando, Hellings Ellawala, all of whom, alas, are no longer in our midst today; players like Hugh Aldons, Willie Jayatilleke, Pat Kelly, Brian Claessen, Norman La Harpe, Trevor Jansz, and Dr. E. Schokman and a host of others (including Clive Inman) who have migrated to distant lands in various pursuits and still in touch with the club – all of whom adorned the game playing for the Colts: giants of the recent past like Douglas Lieversz, Tita Nathanielsz and Bobby Schoorman who gave their best and literally ‘bled’ for the club for its welfare ..”

At least one mystery is solved. The chronicler was probably introduced to Hellings Ellawela by his father at the Colts in the mid-sixties which is how the chronicler immediately recognised him when he was offered a chair in the 1967 Royal Thomian. His grandson Arjun Dharmadasa remarked that his grandfather was pally with Tita. But the chronicler didn’t conclude from that remark that he was a member of the Colts.

Pattabhiraman’s observation is endorsed by Norman de la Harpe who also recalls Ellawela being an active social member. Arjun Dharmadasa said that Ellawela once organized a helicopter Christmas drop at the Colts.

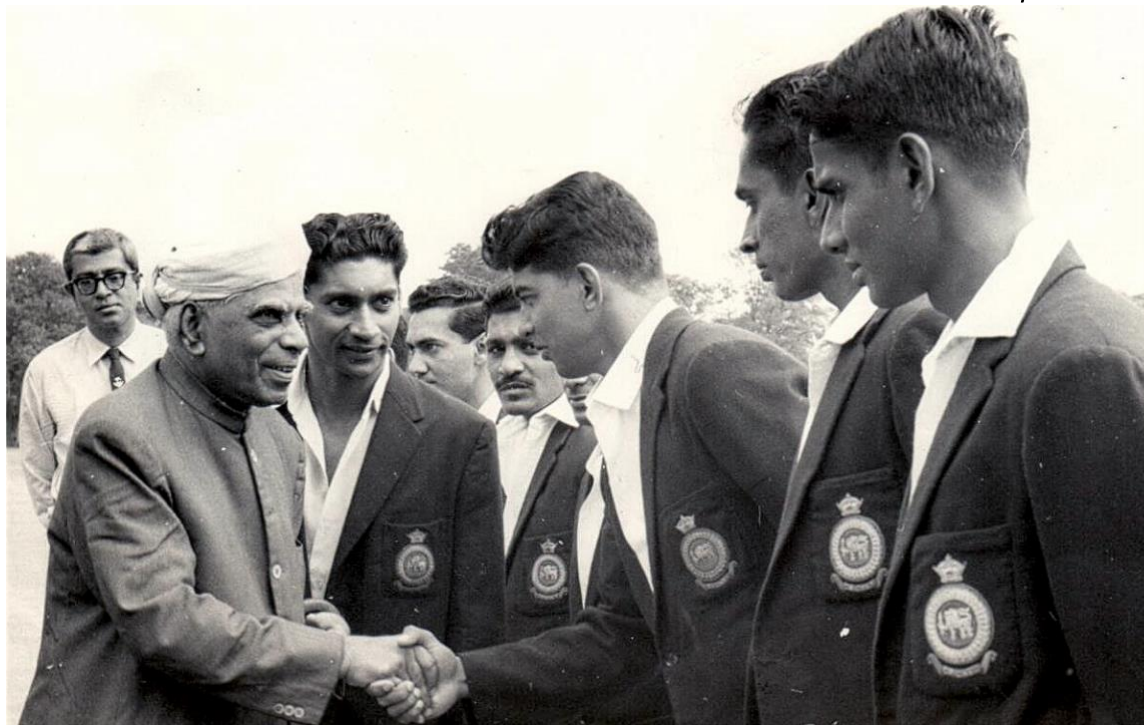
Pattabhiraman mentions Frank Ondatji which indicates that the latter was a Colt although in Foenander (1941) alludes to his links with the N.C.C. Ondatji states that the first Colts vs NCC game he ever witnessed took place in 1893 and although his greatest ambition was to be a member of the Colts XI, by the time he had finished schooling at Royal in 1903 he was already a member of the NCC.

Pattabhiraman continues –

“My memory goes back to 1948 when our club, the Varsity Occasionals paid their first visit to Ceylon, thanks to the sponsorship of the Colts. This was followed by more visits in 1949 and 1960 ... We are beholden to friends like Ariam, Duggie, Richard, Tita, Homi, and not to forget our very good friend – the one and only Donovan Andree, who helped Colts in a superb way to enlarge its Funds by staging carnivals. Colts have been good enough to return the visits on 2 occasions and a third visit is now long overdue”

Radley Claessen remarked on 4th March 2015 that Pattabhiraman was responsible for bringing cricketers such as C.K. Nayadu and Mushtaq Ali to Sri Lanka. On 7th February 2015, Norman de la Harpe, said that the Varsity Occasionals, consisting of test players such as Kripal Singh and Gopinath, toured Sri Lanka frequently. And one team they always played against was the Colts.

DARRELL LIEVERSZ BEING INTRODUCED TO THE CHIEF MINISTER OF MADRAS, 1964



Pattabhiraman is in the background, to the left of the chief minister
Courtesy of Darrell Lieversz

Tita Nathanielsz passed away in 2009. Michael Berman of Sydney recalled Tita opening bowling for Colts in the mid 1950s and bowling fast off about three strides. A match which stood out in his mind took place at Havelock Park against the Tamil Union which Sathasivam was playing for after being released from remand jail. A big crowd had come to see him bat but after Tita had him caught hooking the crowd emptied from the ground.

The captain of the 1957 touring team, Norman de La Harpe⁵, passed away in Queensland. Bad health prevented him from delivering the eulogy at Trute's funeral in 2012. (Curiously, the captain of 1957 according to the honour board in the club is D.B.C. Mack.)

⁵ Showing what a small world, it is, Norman and the chronicler's cousin Trevor (grandson of Colts stalwart Harry Ebert) were both taught to play the piano by a Mrs Pestomjee while they were both residing at Mt. Mary. He also remembers Constance Wilson, the chronicler's maternal aunt, Norman's father was in the railways and worked with Jerome Cruse (the chronicler's maternal grandfather) who was station superintendent, Fort railway station.

They always remained close friends in Australia and Trute nicknamed him “Kocka” in reference to his height. Warrick de Kretser and Lorenz Ebert are also domiciled in Australia. Lorenz Ebert’s whereabouts are unknown but de la Harpe and de Kretser have been very helpful and have supplied useful material and anecdotal information. The following pictures of Warwick de Kretser in Australia has been taken out Ed Rowlands’s memoir. Warwick’s wife was a Rowland.



Warwick de Kretser (extreme left) and wife Peggy with Vere, Cedric and Norma Rowlands at the latter’s Adelaide home



Warwick de Kretser with Warren Dickson and Ed Rowlands

Courtesy of Ed Rowlands