

STOLEN HISTORY

In 2015 the chronicler completed his second draft of the Colts history and sent numerous stakeholders each component chapter in instalments. The recipients included the current president and a patron the author played cricket for the Colts alongside with. This was intended to facilitate the assistance of the club and members in it.

But this never happened. There was very little communication between the club and the chronicler and in 2018 the chronicler learnt that one patron had been entrusted with producing the sesquicentennial commemorative publication.

On learning of this the chronicler sought assurance that his intellectual property would be protected. The club was very reticent regarding this matter and never confirmed that the chronicler's work had been passed on to the historian nominated by the club and that he would be credited with any of the material that was used in the publication.

The club's silence was confirmation that the chronicler's intellectual property was for the historian to use as he saw fit without any consultation with the chronicler. This matter is discussed in detail in the previous chapter. Hence, the chronicler was left with no option but wait for the commemorative publication to be released and examine it with a fine-tooth comb for evidence, if any, of blatant plagiarism. So far, the commemorative publication

Relocation

In the Daily News of 5th September 2022, the nominated historian wrote the following passage.

"In 1921 the Colts relocated at the present ground bordering Havelock Road and Park Road. Though the relocation was a significant change, the ground was far cry from the modern-day ground. Besides being uneven with sandy parking a hundred years ago, bordering the Havelock side was grass field when a big hit resulted in the ball landing on this field it took some time for it to be found. On the other side when Isipathana College is located today the land was then a coconut estate.":

It is likely that the writer carefully read Douglas Lieversz's contribution to the 1973 commemorative publication. But it is more probable that he read what the chronicler had written in his 2015 draft which went as follows.

In his message which appeared in the centenary souvenir D.W.L. Lieversz stated that in 1921

"The land opposite the Colts cricket grounds across Park Road was a grass field with not a building in sight. We used to spend hours searching for our cricket balls which used to be smote very regularly over the road into the surrounding tall grass fields. The land where today Isipathana college stands was a coconut estate."

He adds that from 1921 to when the pavilion was built, the clubhouse was a hut situated across the grounds where the present pavilion is. The ground was sandy and in need of grass.

The land now occupied by the Colts, the Burgher Recreation Club, and the Havelock Sports Club, was a rubber plantation at the turn of the century (Rambler 1999).

Likely scenarios

One of two things will happen when the official commemorative publication is released, and a copy read and closely studied by the chronicler. They are as follows.

If there are obvious signs of plagiarism, this chapter will be expanded to detail every instance of stolen intellectual property. If the chronicler is acknowledged as the source nothing more will be said unless there are some areas where the chronicler's intellectual property has been used but not acknowledged.

If no signs of plagiarism can be detected, this chapter and the one preceding it will be deleted. The matter will then be closed. This scenario is the one hoped for because the chronicler obtains little satisfaction from pursuing the matter.

As of October 2024, the club hasn't put out a commemorative publication. It cannot be determined if the project has been abandoned. An answer should include whether the Rs. 200,000 rupees allocated for the task has been returned?