

WHEN HISTORY REPEATED ITSELF

If Brian de Silva maintained a scrapbook of the 1968-69 season it should be in his family's hands. His son can be contacted in this regard.

In the absence of detailed accounts of a cricket season one cannot do more than highlight incidents which stand out and are retained in the memory of individual players if not the entire team. Looking back such moments grip the reader more than pedestrian statistics.

The fixture card

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COLOMBO COLTS CRICKET CLUB

CRICKET FIXTURES

1968 / 1969

BOARD OF CONTROL FOR CRICKET IN CEYLON
DIVISION I.

DATE	OPPONENT	VENUE
<u>September, 1968</u>		
14th	C. C. C. (Friendly)	Havelock Park
20th & 21st	Bloomfield	" "
28th & 29th	Nomads	Municipal Grds.,
<u>October, 1968</u>		
5th & 6th	Moors	Braybrook Place
12th & 13th	Adastrians	Havelock Park
<u>November, 1968</u>		
11th & 12th	Bloomfield	Health Grds.
18th & 19th	Adastrians	" "
26th & 27th	S. S. C.	Havelock Park
<u>January, 1969</u>		
9th & 10th	Nomads	Havelock Park
17th & 18th	S. S. C.	Maitland Place
30th & Feb. 1st.	Moors	Havelock Park

DIVISION III — Group II

	Group II	
6.10.68	University	Thurstan Road
13.10.68	Borhas	St. Peter's
20.10.68	S. S. C.	Maitland Place
28.10.68	Badulla	Havelock Park
4.11.68	Galle	" "
19.11.68	Kegalle/Sabragamuwa C.C. (Friendly)	Kegalle
4.12.68	Kurana United	Havelock Park
11.12.68	Kandy	Kandy
	Group IV	
29.9.68	Bloomfield	Havelock Park
6.10.68	Phoenix	" "
20.10.68	Municipality	" "
12.11.68	Occassional	" "
18.12.68	Ratnapura	Ratnapura
9.1.69	D.M.C.C.	Darrawella
18.1.69	C.C.C.	Maitland Crescent
25.1.69	Mutuwal	St. Bendeicts
1.2.69	Saracens	Rifle Green

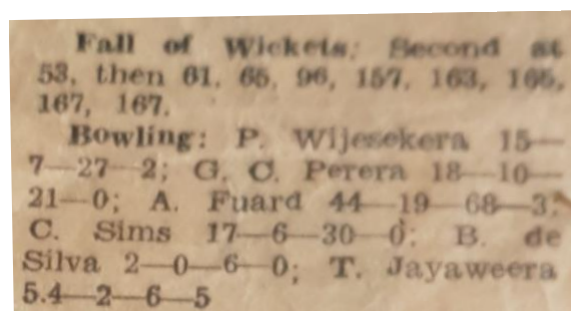
The hat-trick

Tissa Jayaweera recounts taking a hat-trick against the Adastrians while playing under Brian de Silva. From the fixture card above the return game against the Adastrians was played at the Health Grounds, Castle Street. From a damaged news clip in the hands of Tissa Jayaweera A.C.M. Lafir opened the batting for the Colts which makes this particular game a 1968-69 fixture. Lafir left the club in a huff when his appointment as captain for the 1969-70 season was nullified due to him not being a member long enough to be eligible for appointments to club posts. He never returned to the club.

The Airmen won the toss and elected to bat. Polycarp Wijesekera and G.C. Perera opened the bowling for Colts. Adastrians started well but Polycarp Wijesekera took two wickets and had the Adastrians at 53 for two wickets. Abu Fuard who bowled 44 economical overs for 68 runs took the next three wickets. But from this point, 96 for five wickets, a partnership of 61 runs was broken by Tissa Jayaweera.

The ball was thrown to Tissa in desperation. Brian de Silva even bowled two overs himself without success.

Adastrians lost the remaining 5 wickets for only 6 runs. Jayaweera had a match bag of 5 wickets which included a hat trick. His final bowling figures were 5.4 overs, 2 maidens, 6 runs, 5 wickets.



Fall of Wickets: Second at
53, then 61, 66, 96, 157, 163, 166,
167, 167.
Bowling: P. Wijesekera 15-
7-27-2; G. C. Perera 18-10-
21-0; A. Fuard 44-19-68-3;
C. Sims 17-6-30-0; B. de
Silva 2-0-6-0; T. Jayaweera
5.4-2-6-5

The Colts went on to take first innings points with two wickets remaining. Kumar Ramanathan (50) and Brian de Silva (36) were the main scorers. At the end of play Christopher Sims was 32 not out 32 and Jayaweera 7 not out.

The following represented the Colts in this game. ACM Lafir, Kumar Ramanathan, Darrell de Silva, Polycarp Wijesekera, M. Mahroof, C. Harridge, Brian de Silva, Abu Fuard, Christopher Sims, Tissa Jayaweera and G.C. Perera. Darrell Maye who was to captain the team the next year, was absent.

The repeat stumping

One of the joys of cricket literature is when writers capture the ironies, parallels and similarities of events over time. Cricket is a broad canvass with playing surfaces, locals, bowling types, deliveries, batting styles, catches, statistics and humorous incidents, enriching and colouring narratives. The duration of the game which often goes over days, creates drama with numerous acts and intermissions. Tissa Jayaweera observes an interesting parallel that ranges over a 14-to-15-year period from when he was a schoolboy spectator to a club player, the recollection of which, places the Colts narrative in the realm of great cricketing literature.

In 1955 as a teenager Tissa was watching an interschool cricket match, where his *alma mater* St Peter's was playing Ananda College Colombo at the St Peter's college grounds Bambalapitiya. St Peter's won the toss and elected to bat. St Peter's put up a formidable total to which Clive Inman contributed a scintillating score of 150 runs. Ananda College went into bat just after the tea interval. With four overs to close of play Ananda Captain Dhanasiri Weerasinghe was 96 not out and was 4 overs left before close of play but chose to play for the close rather than score the required four runs for a century.

The next day play resumed with Dhanasiri Weerasinghe was facing Peterite bowler Maurice Salgado (left arm medium pace) bowling from the canal end which was from where Tissa was positioned to take in the game.

Dhanasiri Weerasinghe completely missed the first ball he faced, which was pitched on a perfect length on middle and off stump. The ball moved away, missing the bat and the off stump and, in a flash, Brian de Silva took the bails off and stumped Dhanasiri, who was still four runs short of his century.

Several years later

On 20th and 21st September 1968, the Colts played Bloomfield at Havelock Park. Bloomfield won the toss and elected to bat. At the fall of first wicket the now Capt. Dhanasiri Weerasinghe walks into bat to face the left-arm spin of Tissa Jayaweera who was bowling from the Park road end. Brian de Silva was the wicket keeper. The first ball Dhanasiri faced was a perfectly pitched on the middle and off stumps. Dhanasiri moved forward to play, but the ball moved away completely missing the bat and off stump. In a flash Brian de Silva stumped Dhanasiri as he lifted his right foot slightly.

Separated by 15 years, incidents on different grounds and different bowlers but linked by similar deliveries, batsman and wicket keeper. Two brilliant stumpings by Brian de Silva. Now, if this isn't a great cricket story, nothing is.