

## WALWIN STEADIES THE SHIP

**T**he chronicler's knowledge of the eighties is sketchy to say the least. It is hoped that by creating this chapter, the memories of those involved with the club at any point in the eighties will be triggered and enable this chapter to be fattened. The same is hoped for the chapters that describes the nighties and the two decades of the new millennium.

Again, the honour board is misleading. It states that Beverley Paul captained the Colts from 1980-82. But it has been confirmed by Paul and Kumar Ramanathan that the latter captained the club in the 1980-81 season. Paul has indicated that he captained the first team in the seasons following – 1981-82 and 1982-83, with Goonesena as his deputy in both seasons. The captaincy was handed to Carlton Bernardus for the 1983-84 season under controversial circumstances. Wirantha Fernando took over the captaincy in 1984 -85.

It is hoped that players and those in the know will clarify matters when the chapters are placed on the web. This is one of many reasons why the chronicler is keen on receiving feedback from concerned persons and those in the know and is not rushing into publication.

According to present knowledge The Colts had six captains in the eighties, with two players captaining for more than one season. They were Beverley Paul (2) and W. Fernando (4).

Year	Name	Season
1980	Kumar Ramanathan	1980-81
1981	Beverley Paul	1981-82
1982	Beverley Paul	1982-83
1983	Carlton Bernadus	1983 - 84
1984	W. Fernando	1984 - 85
1985	W. Fernando	1985 - 86
1986	W. Fernando	1986 - 87
1987	W. Fernando	1987 - 88
1988	R. Wickremaratne	1988 - 89
1989	A. Liyanage	1989 - 90

## **Walwin Goonetilleke**

Walwin Goonetilleke (1977-1982, 1984-88) was the President for most the decade. Mike Chanmugam was president in 1984 and G.M. Vasa was president in 1989.

Goonetilleke had the envious job of dealing with a player exodus and a move to take over the land that the Colts was located on. He is truly an unsung hero.

In a response to a query made by Trevor Jansz in 2004 Goonetilleke mentioned that the club had experienced fluctuating fortunes and always managed to keep its head above water. And he was one of the reasons why the club survived the bad times and has come out in a blaze of glory.

Goonetilleke handed over the reins to Goonasena (1990-1999) who paved the way for the Mathivanan (200-2013). Goonetilleke continued to hold many honorary positions within the club. Goonetilleke passed away in 2005 just before the revamping of the club house began in earnest. But he was involved in the club long enough to feel satisfied that the club was in good shape and had the potential to prosper.

The refurbished board room of the Colombo Colts Cricket Club, named after Walwin Goonetilleke, was ceremonially declared open by his widow Mrs. Doreen Goonetilleke on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018, under the patronage of the current president, the office bearers and executive committee members, along with the patron and vice patron of the club. Mrs. Clare de Silva, widow of the late Brian de Silva, was also in attendance.

The chronicler knew Walwin Goonetilleke but never spoke to him after leaving the country. His wife and the chronicler's mother worked together at the Canadian High Commission.

Although it was the chronicler's father<sup>1</sup> who brought Goonetilleke to the Colts, he had very little idea of the degree to which Goonetilleke had immersed himself in the affairs of the club and the extent to which he had dedicated himself to its upliftment.

The chronicler spoke to his widow in 2016 and she explained how Goonetilleke used to order drinks for players after a day's play and engage in banter. He truly loved cricket and the Colts.

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<sup>1</sup> When Eardley Lieversz Snr was having problems with Doddy Jayamane and Adrian Wijemane of the Employer's Federation, Goonetilleke wrote letters on Eardley Lieversz Snr's behalf who joked that the former had reached QC status. The recipients thought that George Chitty was behind the letters.

Goonetilleke was friendly with the Employers Federation crowd. They included Eardley Lieversz Snr, Ben Anandappa, Rajasooriya and one Speldewine. He was also in contact with planters such as Pan Dias and Gamini Jayawardene. They met at his place or at the Colts. It was Tita Nathanielsz who suggested that he put his hand up for the post of President.

He did a lot of free work for the club and jokingly referred to himself as being the charity commissioner. He wrote all the letters for the club and provided it with legal assistance. The chronicler believes that he wrote the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary publication. He was a born optimist who lived for the moment. He was a spendthrift and never had much money in reserve but brought up four children.

He was very friendly with club members such as M.W. Rajasingham and Lucky Heendeniya. Preethi Wijetilleke, A.B. Senaratne (Kalu Albert) and Uvais were other club members he was close to. He made his wife a life member when he was president.

He never made class distinctions. He bought everyone the best drink in the house, namely whiskey.

There are times when one wishes that a historical commenced earlier than it did because of the passing of those with the knowledge to benefit the researcher. The chronicler has found this to be the case with projects ranging from family history to local history. Walwin Goonetilleke would have been of immense benefit to the Colts chronicle. The chronicler would have loved to have had discussions with him.

### **Cricketing achievements**

The 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary publication summarises the eighties as follows –

“Our Division I team led by Beverley Paul brought home the Rahuman Hathy Trophy for the second time in the 1981/1982 season. Our successes in these tournaments provided the necessary motivation for our Division I team to re-establish itself and the 1985/86 season saw the second occasion on which the Colts had fought their way up the ladder in the Division I tournament to end the season as runner up for the trophy ....”

### **Sorting news clippings**

The chronicler’s understanding of how the club fared in cricket in the early eighties is based on news clippings provided by Kumar Ramanathan, many of which are not dated.

Roy Dias joined the Colts in 1972 and was with the club for eight seasons. He moved to the SSC in 1980 and to the CCC in 1988. If a game is described as Dias’s first game for the SSC or against his former club, one can assume that it took place in the 1980-81 season.

Any game that mentions Beverley Paul as captain clearly took place during the 1981-82 season. The last game for the 1982-83 season was the last game Paul played for the club, because of a change in employment which commenced the day after.

The photos are headlined by dates indicated by Ramanathan. He has provided two documents that contain news clippings, photos and comments.

Alston Mahadevan, who authored The history of Sri Lankan international cricket, provided useful corrections to match dates and club cricket organisational changes, that led to the restructuring of this chapter. Feedback such as this is invaluable when writing about seasons that haven't been accurately catalogued.

## The 1980-81 season

Ramanathan has discarded his keeping gloves in the game against Bloomfield. The article refers to the game as a Sara game although since 1976-77 Sara had been substituted with Robert Senanayake.

1980 - 81

### Kumar in top form

A chanceless knock of 78 runs by Kumar Ramanathan who later claimed two wickets cheaply paved the way for Colts to take the upper hand in their Division One cricket tournament match against Adastrians which began at Havelock Park yesterday.

Ramanathan who batted for 178 minutes hit a six and five boundaries.

#### Scores:

Colts: 192 (Kumar Ramanathan 79, Hiran Jayasundara 15, Bernard Rulach 33, Beverly Paul 23, Gamini Goonaseena 10, Carlton Bernadus 11, K. L. S. Sirisena 2 for 53, T. de Kauwe 3 for 41, Sarath Soysa 4 for 41, S. Banakaran 2 for 38).

Adastrians: 18 for two (Ajit Jayasekera 12 n.o., Kumar Ramanathan 2 for 4).

### Ramanathan—79 sparkles for Colts

Colts CC sent in to bat could muster only 192 runs in their 'Sara' match against the Adastrians begun at Havelock Park yesterday. The match started only at 11.15 a.m.

Kumar Ramanathan 79 batting aggressively and attractively kept the Colts batting together. He had 5 fours and a six and his fifty came in 133 mts.

The Airmen going in at 5.10 p.m. lost 2 for 18 at close. Both scalps were taken by Ramanathan.

Colts CC 192 off 71.3 overs; Kumar Ramanathan 79, B. Rulach 33, Bev. Paul 23, K. L. S. Sirisena 2 for 53, T. de Kauwe 3 for 41 Sarath Soysa 4 for 41, S. Bahakaran 2 for 38).

Adastrians 18 for 2 at close: Ajit Jayasekera 12 12 n.o. Kumar Ramanathan 2 for 4).

### Bloomfield on first innings

(By TREVINE RODRIGO)

Bloomfield settled for first innings points over Colts in their 'Sara' cricket encounter concluded at Reid Avenue yesterday.

The Bloomfielders who had secured first innings points by the close of the first day's play when they overhauled the Colts total of 141 scoring 142 for 6 took their score along to 248 for 9 declared. It was the breezy batting of Lalith Kaluperuma (55) who shared a whirlwind stand of 76 for the seventh wicket with D. L. S. de Silva (35) and an equally aggressive 35 not out by S. Illangaratnam that helped swell the Reid Avenue team's total.

Kumar Ramanathan 2 for 37, Ralston Burke 3 for 51 and Bernard Rulach 2 for 31 shared the wickets for Colts. Colts in their second turn hit up 211 for 7 by the close helped by half centuries by Kumar Ramanathan (52) and Ranjan de Silva (50) while Lanka Perera contributed a spicy 44.

Chief scores: Bloomfield 142 for 6 overnight 248 for 9 declared in 265 mts: (L. Kaluperuma 55, D. L. S. de Silva 35, S. Illangaratnam 35 not out, K. Ramanathan 2 for 37, R. Burke 3 for 51, B. Rulach 2 for 31).

Colts 141 and 211 for 7 at close in 280 minutes: (Srinath Silva 25, L. Perera 44, K. Ramanathan 52, R. de Silva 50, Hiran Jayasundera 11- Carlton Bernadus 12, A. Ranasinghe 2 for 28).

The game described below was Roy Dias's his first against his old club and Mevan Pieris is described as 34 years of age. He was born on 16<sup>th</sup> February 1946 and turned 34 in 1980. The game between the Colts and the SSC in which Ramanathan scored 160 not out is likely to have taken place on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> February 1981. Ramanathan also defied the NCC in a game which took place in the same season.

In the game against the SSC, apart from the skipper, W. Fernando, Goonasena, Bernardus and Paul are the other known players. J. Perera and M.F. Sherrifdeen are lesser identities to the chronicler although this may change with more information being revealed by stakeholders.

### 1980 - 81 SEASON

by **EDWARD MELDER**

FOUR centuries featured in the Sri Lanka Inter Club cricket tournament in the past two weekends.

The centurions were Roy Dias and Sidat Wettimuny of SSC, Sunil Jayasinghe of Bloomfield and prolific run-getter Nirmal Hettiaarachi.

Dias playing against his old club Colts stroked a 'ton while Wettimuny too got a hundred against the Colts.

The SSC ran up a massive 325 for three declared in this match. The Colts with some feeble batting collapsed for 71 with former Sri Lanka opening bowler Mevan Pieris taking 5-31.

Mevan, 34, still seems to be good enough to walk into a Sri Lanka side



*KUMAR Ramanathan, captain of Colts CC,*

and with the lack of genuine pace bowlers it will not be surprising to see him back in the side.

In the second innings the Colts, not to be outdone by the 1st innings showing, scored a fine 266 for seven.

This was mainly due to a brilliant fighting innings of 160 not out by skipper Kumar Ramanathan who batted

the whole length of the innings — 315 minutes — hitting one six and 20 fours.

Over the years Ramanathan has never had the opportunity of playing in a representative side although he has continuously been in the runs.

A very versatile cricketer, he used to keep wicket and was among the best in

the Island, but has now turned his hand to bowling medium pace with great success.



## Kumar's marathon salvage operation

Colts skipper Kumar Ramanathan — displaying his remarkable ability to stand and fight—carried out a marathon rescue operation to save his side from outright defeat in the Sara Trophy cricket tournament match against SSC at Maitland Place, yesterday.

Ramanathan, in his determined and gritty 315 minutes stay, which covered the entire length of the Colts second innings was undefeated with 160 runs which contained a six and 20 boundaries as his team reached 266 for seven after folding up for 71 in the first essay in reply to SSC's 325 for three declared.

SSC had completed its demolition work started on Saturday evening by bowling out the Colts for 71, despite a brief eighth wicket partnership of 32 between Beverley Paul and Gamini Goonasekera.

Following on 254 runs behind Ramanathan who opened the innings reached his first 50 in

83 minutes and his century in 209 minutes. Most importantly, he steadied the innings after watching opener Lanka Perera depart for his second 'duck' for the match off the second delivery of the innings.

Ramanathan gave just one chance at 158 when defeat had been averted.

For the SSC, evergreen Mevan Pieris bowled best with a haul of eight wickets for 96 for the match.

### Scores.

SSC: 325 for three dec.

Colts: 71 (Beverley Paul 20 n.o., Gamini Goonasekera 22, Mevan Pieris 5 for 31, Saliya Ahangama 2 for 25, Roger Wijesuriya 3 for 4) and 266 for seven (Kumar Ramanathan 160 n.o., Wirantha Fernando 24, Jagath Perera 13, Fazil Sherifdeen 14, Gamini Goonasekera 29, Mevan Pieris 3 for 65, Roger Wijesuriya 2 for 57, S. Parana-vitharana 2 for 60).

DAILY MIRROR, 16TH FEBRUARY 1981

## Ramanathan saves Colts from debacle

Colts skipper Kumar Ramanathan played a defiant innings of 160 saving them from an innings defeat against SSC in their Sara trophy cricket match concluded at Maitland Place yesterday.

Ramanathan opened the inn-

ings in their second essay after they had conceded first innings points and stayed at the crease till the close. Not only scoring an hero's innings, but moving the total along even past a deficit of 254 runs.

Ramanathan's innings lasted 315 minutes with twenty fours and a six. He was partnered by Wirantha Fernando for 59 runs for the second wicket in 69 minutes, also in 58 runs for the seventh wicket with Gamini Goonasekera in 68 minutes. Carlton Bernardus joined his skipper in an unbroken partnership of 46 runs for the eighth wicket.

Earlier, Colts were all out for 71 runs in their first innings after being 25 for six overnight. Roger Wijesuriya picked up three wickets while Mevan Pieris claimed the remaining wicket.

SSC — 325 for 3 declared.

COLTS—25 for 6 overnight.

71 all out.

(B. Paul 20 n.o. G. Goonasekera 22, H. S. M. Pieris 5 for 31, S. Ahangama 2 for 25, R. Wijesuriya 3 for 4) and 266 for 7 at close. (K. Ramanathan 160 n.o. W. Fernando 24, J. Perera 13, M. F. Sherrifdeen 14, G. Goonasekera 29, H. S. M. Pieris 3 for 65, R. Wijesuriya 2 for 57, S. Parana-vithana 2 for 60).

By T.B.R.

## 1980 - 81 SEASON

### Kumar defies NCC

Skipper Kumar Ramanathan with a mixture of caution and aggression halted a Colts batting debacle in their Sara Trophy cricket tournament match against the NCC at Maitland Place yesterday.

Kumar made 59 in 161 minutes with a six and four boundaries as Colts reached 146 in 236 minutes with Jerry Woutersz claiming the bowling spotlight in a 20 over spell.

When the NCC batted Ramanathan played his hand as pace bowler by dismissing Amal Silva for a duck off the first ball, but Lionel Fernando and

left hander Yohan Gunasekera took the NCC half way towards the victory mark without much cause for alarm before bad light and rain halted play 10 minutes from the end.

Scores: Colts: 146 (Lanka Perera 36, Kumar Ramanathan 59, Beverley... Paul 15, Gamini Goonaseena 10, Yohan Gunasekera 2 for 22, Sritharan Jeganathan 2 for 43, Jerry Woutersz 4 for 34).

NCC: 67 for two (Lionel Fernando 36, Yohan Gunasekera 24 n.o.)

### Colts CC get 146

Colts CC batting first were skittled out for 146 in their 'Sara' final round game against NCC begun at Maitland Place, yesterday.

NCC in reply were 67 for 2 at stumps when bad light and rain stopped play at 5.20 p.m.

COLTS 146: (K. Ramanathan 59, L. Perera 36, B. Paul 15, Yohan Gunasekera 2 for 22, S. Jeganathan 2 for 43, G. Woutersz 4 for 34).

NCC 67 for 2: (Lionel Fernando 36, Yohan Gunasekera 24 n.o.)

The following news clippings feature games against the Police and the Tamil Union. In both games Ramanathan is referred to as captain.

On the first day of the game against the Police Beverley Paul knocked up 177 not out. Paul hit up a century against the Tamil Union while Ramanathan fared well with ball as well as bat. The Tamil Union skipper is Gajan Pathmanathan who was in the country between 1978 and 1982. Between leaving Royal in 1972 and returning to Sri Lanka in 1978 he played cricket for both Oxford and Cambridge.

## BIG BEV BELTS COPS.

Sparkling centuries from Beverley Paul and Lanka Perera propelled the Colts to a mammoth 362 for two before bad light stopped play early in their Sara Trophy cricket tournament match against Police at Havelock Park yesterday.

The stocky Paul remained 177 not out with a six and 20 boundaries while Lanka Perera in his first century for the season had a six and 16 hits to

the ropes. The pair put on 174 runs for the first wicket.

Skipper Kumar Ramanathan with a sweetly timed 71 runs with 10 boundaries kept up the momentum in a second wicket liaison of 155 runs with Paul.

### SCORES

COLTS: 263 for two (Beverley Paul 177, not out, Lanka Perera 105, Kumar Ramana-

## PAUL PILOTS COLTS

A majestic century by Beverley Paul propelled the Colts to 258 against Tamil Union in a Sara Trophy match at Havelock Park yesterday.

Paul who opened the innings batted with much aggression during his 180 minutes stay and hit 11 boundaries.

Paul was associated in a second wicket partnership of 151 runs with all rounder Mumtaz Yusuf who made 39.

The innings was sustained by a fourth wicket partnership of 63 runs between skipper Kumar Ramanathan and Lanka Perera, but from 235 for five, the Colts lost their remaining wickets for

the addition of just 23 runs.

Tamil Union who were given an aggressive start by Skipper Gajan Pathmanathan and Wayne Jansz however lost both of them to the seam of Ramanathan and finished the day at 80 for two.

### SCORES:

Colts: 258 (Beverley Paul 109, Mumtaz Yusuf 39, Kumar Ramanathan 42, Lanka Perera 35, Rajive Benedict 4 for 79, Lakshman Aloysius 2 for 68, L. Munasinghe 4 for 20).

Tamil Union: 80 for two (Wayne Jansz 28, Gajan Pathmanathan 33, Kumar Ramanathan 2 for 13.—(012..)

## Colts hit winning trail

Colts ended their six-week stretch of defeats with a close 14 runs victory over the Tamil Union in a Sara Trophy match at Havelock Park yesterday.

Left-arm spinner Trevor Rajaratnam and skipper Kumar Ramanathan with his seam bowling broke through despite Rohan Jayasekera striking his seventh half-century for the season and Thusitha Rajapakse's 40. The pair added 57 runs for the fifth wicket.

The Tamil Union innings lasted 310 minutes and 78.2 overs.

Colts in their second innings were boosted by a sparkling 75

from Lanka Perera in 96 minutes with three sixes and nine boundaries as they declared at 115 for six in 125 minutes off 30.4 overs.

### SCORES:

Colts: 258 and 115 for six dec. (Lanka Perera 75, Fazal Sherifdeen 22, Rajive Benedict 2 for 42, Lakshman Aloysius 3 for 49).

Tamil Union: 244 (Gajan Pathmanathan 33, Wayne Jansz 28, Rohan Jayasekera 51, Upul Sumathipala 14, Thusitha Rajapakse 40, D Pathmanathan 19, T. Dane 18 n.o., Trevor Rajaratnam 4 for 47, Kumar Ramanathan 3 for 54, Beverley Kerner 1 for 32).—(012)

Interestingly, the Colts win against the Tamils ended a six-match defeat streak. It appears that the 1980-81 season was a bad one for the team.

### Ceramics

In 1981 Ramanathan did well for Ceramics. Lanka Perera was also in the side. The following clippings provide details of some of the outcomes.



# Sparkling century by Ramanathan

Half - centuries from Lanka Perera 74 (with 3 sixes, 6 fours) and Wirantha Fernando 54 (1 six, 4 fours) helped Ceramics to a first innings win over Wellawatte Spinning and Weaving Mills in a Nationalised Services 'A' Division league cricket match played at the NCC grounds.

In the Ceramics second innings of 166 for 1, Kumar Ramanathan hit a sparkling century (100 not out) in 85 minutes with four six-

es and seven fours. With S. B. Senanayake (60) he put on 162 for the first wicket. Ceramics 253

(Lanka Perera 74, Wirantha Fernando 54, Willie Caldera 49, Marian Cooray 33, Priyal Fernando 4 for 57, K. H. Nandasena 3 for 89) and 166 for 1 (K. Ramanathan 100 n.o., S. B. Senanayake, 60.)

Wellawatte Mills 172 (Pushpa de Silva, 67, K. H. Nandasena 26, Kapila de Silva 23, A. Weerasuriya 23, M. Samarasinghe 3 for 41, K. Ramanathan 3 for 48, S. B. Senanayake 2 for 18, C. Fernando 2 for 27.)

# KUMAR BANGS 108

Kumar Ramanathan starred for Ceylon Ceramic Corporation in their 27 run triumph over Bank of Ceylon in the Nationalised Services 'A' division cricket fixture at Havelock Park recently.

In Ceramics' second essay, Marian Cooray gave a batting exhibition racing to 52 off only 16 balls with nine fours and two sixes.

**SCORES:**  
Ceramics: 243 (Kumar Ramanathan 108, S. B. Senanayake 41 n.o., C. Fernando 28, S. Paranavitharana 7 for 31) and 174 for 4 (Marian Cooray 52, W. Fernando 44 n.o., K. Ramanathan 41 n.o.).  
Bank of Ceylon: 215 (S. Illangaratnam 48, L. Fonseka 32, R. Wijekulasuriya 28, C. Fernando 4 for 46, K. Ramanathan 3 for 39).

# 'Outright' for Ceramics

Ceylon Ceramics Corporation 'A' scored an outright victory over Janatha Estates Development Board (JEDB) in their 'A' division Nationalised Services cricket match played on the Colts ground recently.

This was the fifth successive victory for the Ceramics Corporation in the tourney.

**CHIEF SCORES:**  
J.E.D.B.: 91 (W. Ariyawansa 46 n.o., Kumar Ramanathan 3 for 37, S. B. Senanayake 2 for 20) and 92 (G. D. V. Perera 48, Kumar Ramanathan 4 for 31, S. Dalpathado 2 for 27).  
CERAMICS CORP.: 168 for six, (Kumar Ramanathan 35, M. I. Refai 28, C. Fernando 25, L. Perera 23, M. Cooray 23 n.o., G. D. V. Perera 4 for 40) and 18 for one.

# 5th success

Ceylon Ceramics Corporation 'A' scored their fifth successive victory in the Nationalised Services 'A' Division cricket tournament when they recorded an outright victory over Janatha Estate Development Board at the Cotts Club grounds last week. Kumar Ramanathan of Ceramics gave a good allround performance having a matchbag of 7

## The 1981-82 season

The following game took place during the 1981-82 season. The news clip refers to Bloomfield as the reigning champions. Bloomfield were first division champions in 1980-81 and retained the title in 1981-82.

# Despite Kumar's heroic 106 —Colts CC lose again

Despite a good knock of 106 by Kumar Ramanathan, the reigning champions Bloomfield defeated Colts on the first innings in their 'Sara' game at Colts grounds yesterday.

Ramanathan, who came in at the fall of the second wicket took 268 minutes to score his century. He had one six and ten fours.

Gamini Goonesena with 38 and Beverley Paul with 24, were the other batsmen to impress. Susantha Karunaratne bowled best to capture 3 for 68.

Bloomfield in their second essay rattled 121 for 1 in 73 minutes with Sunil Jayasinghe 26 (with 2 sixes and 3 fours), Sanath Kaluperuma 52 not out (7 fours) and Dr. Sarath Seneviratne 41 not out.

Bloomfield 282 and 121 for 1: (S Kaluperuma 52 not out, Sunil Jayasinghe 26, Sarath Seneviratne 41 not out).

Colts 233: P Paul 24, S. Kuthubdeen 10, K. Ramanathan 106, R. Wickremaratne 15, G.

A determined and defiant century by Kumar Ramanathan failed to tame the Bloomfield bowlers as the reigning champions snatched a 49-run first innings victory over the Colts in a premier division cricket tournament match at Havelock Park yesterday.

Ramanathan came out at 10.37 in the morning with the Colts poorly placed at 39 for two in reply to the Bloomfielders 282.

Four wickets fell for 92 and

then Ramanathan was joined by left-hander Gamini Goonesena in an innings reviving partnership of 78 runs for the fifth wicket in 87 minutes.

Ramanathan reached a chanceless century in 246 minutes, but after Goonesena's departure lacked any support from the other end.

Bloomfield in their second innings rattled up a carefree 121 for one in 19 overs with young Sanath Kaluperuma stroking 52 not out and Dr.

Sarath Seneviratne 41 not out.

## CHIEF SCORES

Bloomfield: 282 and 121 for one (Sunil Jayasinghe 26, Sanath Kaluperuma 52 n.o., Dr. Sarath Seneviratne 41 n.o.)

Colts: 233 (Beverley Paul 24, S. H. Kuthubdeen 10, Kumar Ramanathan 106, Rohitha Wickremaratne 15, Gamini Goonesena 38, Chanaka de Mel 10, Susantha Karunaratne 3 for 68, Bandula Warnapura 2 for 18, Lalith Kaluperuma 2 for 43).

The game versus the BRC was played on 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> March 1982. This was the last season played for the Robert Senanayake trophy. Lanka Perera's hurricane century probably took place during this season. What is common to both games are the big scores of Ramanathan and Lanka Perera.

26 – 28 MARCH 1982

**COLTS LIVE ON BRC GENEROSITY**

Colts, put into bat by neighbours BRC on the matting wicket at Havelock Park, ran up a formidable 259 for five before bad light stopped play yesterday.

Paceman Rajan Selvanayagam had given BRC an early boost by disposing off Beverley Paul and S. H. M. Kuthubdeen, but Lanka Perera led the revival with a vigorous 42 in 120 minutes with a six and two fours while Wirantha Fernando lent admirable support with an identical score made in 135 minutes with two sixes.

But it was the dashing stroke-maker Kumar Ramanathan who gave the Colts the upper hand with a splendid 63 made in 145 minutes with three sixes and five boundaries. He added 93 in 88 minutes for the fifth wicket with left-hander Harsha Deepal.

Angelo Leanage struck two sixes in fading light as the Colts chased runs with Deepal remaining 47 not out.

**SCORES:**  
Colts: 259 for five (Beverley Paul 10, S. H. M. Kuthubdeen, 11, Lanka Perera 42, Wirantha Fernando 42, Kumar Ramanathan 63, Harsha Deepal 47 n.o., Angelo Leanage 28 n.o., R. Selvanayagam 3 for 59).

**Scores:**  
NCC: 183 all out in 46 overs (Yohan Gunasekera 37, Ranjan Madugalle 30, Jerry Woutersz 20, Sritheran Jeganathan 12, Asoka de Silva 50, Kumar Ramanathan 2 for 24, Bernard Rulach 1 for 33, Ranjan de Silva 3 for 30, Gamini Goonesena 2 for 34, Ralston Burke 2 for 37).

Colts: 110 all out in 43.3 overs (Kumar Ramanathan 42, Roy Dias 20, Lanka Perera 10, Jerry Woutersz 2 for 18, Vinodhan John 3 for 24).

**Run Rate:**  
NCC 10 overs—31 runs; 20 overs—60 runs; 30 overs—89 runs; 40 overs—124 runs; 46 overs—183 runs.  
Colts: 100 overs—37 runs; 20 overs—51 runs; 30 overs—29 runs; 40 overs—101 runs; 43.3 overs—110 runs.

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**Lanka—fastest 100 in 109 mins**

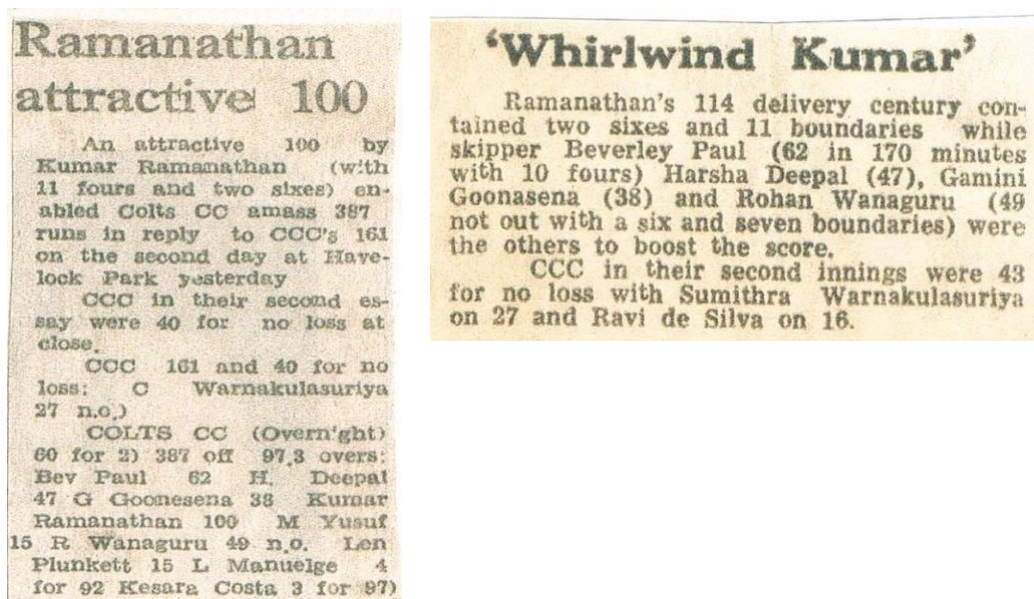
Colts opener Lanka Perera hit the fastest century of the season in 109 minutes against Panadura SC at Havelock Park. Perera hit 2 sixes and 13 fours in his 102 and with Kumar Ramanathan scoring 71 with 6 fours, Colts made 268 all out. 16-year-old right-arm spinner S. Thenuwara took 7 for 59. By the close Panadura were 107 for 4.

Colts 268 (Lanka Perera 102, H. Deepal 35, K. Ramanathan 71, N. Wijesuriya 2 for 43, S. Thenuwara 7 for 59) Panadura SC 107 for 4 at close (Lionel Fernando 37, Y. R. H. Costa 25, A. Gamage 3 for 30).

In the game against the CCC, in addition to Ramanathan, Deepal and Goonesena made contributions with the bat. Beverley Paul is referred to as skipper which dates the game to the early eighties. Kesara Costa is bowling for the CCC, and he played in the 1979 centenary Royal-Thomian. The Ravi de Silva playing for the CCC is the son of four times Colts captain Brian de Silva. Sumithra Warnakulasuriya of the CCC scored 197 in the 1980 Royal-Thomian and captained Royal in 1982. Interestingly, neither Tissera nor Hettiaratchy are in the CCC team.



## RAMANTHAN MAKES CENTURY AGAINST THE CCC



## Rahuman Hathy trophy winners - 1982

The Colts won the Rahuman Hathy trophy to finish off the 1981-82 season. Probably, Colts failed to make the top four of its group. It therefore qualified for the Rahuman Hathy trophy which it won. But the absence of Kumar Ramanathan in the photo is interesting. The question also needs to be asked whether, even prior to the Laxspray trophy, the Rahuman Hathy was a sub first division trophy?

The game described below was a Rahuman Hathy game against Liberty. The report says that this was the second time in successive weeks that the Colts went on the rampage.



# Paul & Ramanathan batter Liberty

Skipper Beverly Paul and Kumar Ramanathan picked up centuries as Colts caned the hapless Liberty bowlers for the entire day in their Raheman Hathy cricket fixture on the Colts ground yesterday.

Paul and Ramanathan made identical scores of 115 to power the Colts to a massive 414 for six at stumps. This was in reply to Liberty's score of 188.

This is the second time in successive weeks that the Colts batsmen went on the rampage. Paul set the pace by reaching his hundred in 260 minutes and had banged 14 fours when he was bowled by paceman Selvaratnam. Lanka Perera made a brisk 81 including 10 boundaries and two sixes as he posted 151 runs for the second wicket with his skipper. Ramanathan gathered his runs in a steady

## RAHEMAN HATHY TROPHY

clip with his entire innings lasting only 104 balls, a dozen of which he hit for boundaries. He also had a six during his 118 run liaison for the fifth wicket with all rounder Muntaz Yusuf (33).

### CHIEF SCORES

LIBERTY: 188.

COLTS: (Overnight 51 for no loss) 414 for 6 at stumps. (Beverly Paul 115, Ranjan Welgama 23, Lanka Perera 81, Kumar Ramanathan 115, S. Prasad Fernando 14, Muntaz Yusuf 33, Gamini Goonaseena 15 not out.)

### RAHUMAN HATHY TROPHY WINNERS, 1981-82



Standing L to R: Channa de Mel, Angelo Liyanage, Harsha Deepal, Beverly Kerner, S. Razik, S. H. U. Kuthubdeen, Oscar Wanigasekera, Susilough de S Wijeyeratne, ?

Seated L to R: M Rajasingham, Carlton Bernardus, Ranjith Samarasekera, Beverly Paul (captain), Walwin Goonetilleke (president), Gamini Goonesena, Lanka Perera, Wirantha Fernando, Michael Chanmugam (coach)

The front row consists of many Colts stalwarts. M. Rajasingham, Ranjith Samarasekera, Walwin Goonetilleke and Mike Chanmugam. In 2023 they are no longer around but they were there for the long haul and made an inestimable contribution to the club. They were indeed true-blue Colts. Without people like them the chronicler would probably have had no reason to put his heart and soul into delineating the club's legacy.

## The Lakspray trophy

Commencing in 1981-82 rather than in 1982-83 (according to the web), there were 16 teams playing division one cricket for the Lakspray Trophy, the main sponsor being Lakspray. The Sara Trophy was temporarily shelved. They played in two groups of eight teams, with the top four teams in each group then proceeding to play each other for the Lakspray Trophy and the bottom four teams in the two groups playing for the Rahuman Hathy Trophy. So, the Rahuman Hathy Trophy was a sub first division trophy. But its advent, in the seventies, preceded the Lakspray trophy.

Robert Senanayake Trophy	
1980-81	Bloomfield C & A.C.
Laxspray Trophy	
1981 - 82	Bloomfield C & A.C.
1982-83	Bloomfield C & A.C.
1983-84	<u>Sinhalese Sports Club</u>
1985-86	<u>Nondescripts Cricket Club</u>
1985-86	S.S.C. & N.C.C.
1986-87	<u>Sinhalese Sports Club</u>
1987-88	Colombo Cricket Club
1988-89	S.S.C. & N.C.C. (inaug. 1 <sup>st</sup> class)
1989-90	<u>Sinhalese Sports Club</u>
1990-91	<u>Sinhalese Sports Club</u>

The following game took place on the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 6<sup>th</sup> March 1982. It is referred to as a Laxspray trophy game. Hence, 1981-82 must be considered the first season under the auspices of the Laxspray trophy.

## Nomads on the hook

Nomads were 169 runs behind after being forced to follow on in their Lakspray Trophy cricket match against Colts continued at Havelock Park yesterday.

Kumar Ramanathan put Colts on a firm footing by completing his century. He hit two sixes and 17 fours to reach 124 runs. Colts were ultimately all out for 397 runs off 116 overs.

**COLTS 347 for 7 overnight 397. (Kumar Ramanathan 124,**

Mumtaz Yusuf 10, T. L. Fernando 2 for 86, Jayantha Amerasinghe 5 for 118).

**NOMADS 187: (Dinesh Rajaratnam 25, S. Aponso 28, Kapila Jayasooriya 26, T. L. Fernando 16, Leslie Piyasena 14, Deepai Madurapperuma 12, Jayantha Amerasinghe 34, Angelo Leanaige 4 for 42, Mumtaz Yusuf 2 for 38, Ranjit Samarasekera 3 for 36) and 64 for none at close. (Bernard Wijetunge 39 n.o., S. Aponso 12 n.o.)**



LAKSPRAY TROPHY

DESPITE LIMPING KUMAR'S SUPERB EFFORT —

# Champs crush Colts

Bloomfield snatched a nine-wicket victory with 11.3 overs to spare over the Colts yesterday to continue their stay at the top of the table in the Lakspray Trophy cricket championships.

Having taken a first innings lead of 203 runs in their match at Reid Avenue, Bloomfield then dismissed the Colts for 252 despite a gallant 72 by Kumar Ramanathan.

The Bloomfielders had continued their first innings for a further 55 minutes yesterday, adding 53 runs for the loss of three wickets before declaring at 390 for eight. Skipper Jayantha Seneviratne made 88 in 202 minutes with a six and 11 boundaries.

Colts facing the daunting deficit were given a 52-run start by skipper Beverley Paul and Angelo Leverage. But the advent of spinners Gulrez Ali (22-4-75-5), Oshadie Weerasinghe (9-2-34-2) and Gamini Perera saw wickets tumble at regular intervals.

The only period when the bat held away over the ball was when Kumar Ramanathan, who batted with a sore knee to score 72 in 90 minutes with a six and 11 boundaries off

35 deliveries, and Wirantha Fernando were at the wicket. The pair added 105 for the fifth wicket.

Bloomfield with a victory target of 49 runs in 15 minutes plus the 20 mandatory overs, began cautiously.

But Keerthi Ranasinghe, who made 156 in the first innings suddenly ventured out with a dazzling array of drives, taking 17 runs off an over from Carlton Bernadus and then hitting Mumtaz Yusuf for two successive sixes over long on to hoist the victory target.

Scores:

COLTS: 187 and 252 all out (Beverley Paul 32, Angelo Leverage 34, Wirantha Fernando 31, Kumar Ramanathan 72, Carlton Bernadus 22, S. de S. Wijeratne 19 n.o., Gulrez Ali 5 for 75, Oshadie Weerasinghe 9-2-34-2).

BLOOMFIELD: 390 for eight dec. (Keerthi Ranasinghe 156, Sanath Kaluperuma 21, Brendon Kuruppu 24, Devaka Mahanama 27, Jayantha Seneviratne 88, Oshadie Weerasinghe 25, Lalith Sagara 24 n.o., Kumar Ramanathan 3 for 61, Mumtaz Yusuf 3 for 114, Beverley Paul 2 for 46) and 55 for one (Keerthi Ranasinghe 36 n.o., Brendon Kuruppu 11 n.o.)

Sahabandu captured his thousandth first class wicket at the age of 42. He was born in 1940 which dates this match to 1982. Clearly, he is on the decline capturing a single wicket and conceding 114 runs. The Nomads also appear to be a shadow of its former self. Skipper Paul and Ramanathan did the bulk of the scoring.

LAKSPRAY TROPHY

# Sahabandu gets 1000th wicket

By Trevine Rodrigo

Evergreen Daya Sahabandu accomplished the greatest milestone by a Sri Lankan bowler but was made to pay a heavy price before he claimed his 1000th wicket in first class cricket against the Colts at Havelock Park yesterday.

The 42-year-old left arm seamer bowled three spells before eventually snatching his dream wicket — that of 19-year-old Colts batsman Harsha Deepal who was not even born when he began his illustrious career.

Deepal was stumped off Sahabandu's bowling shortly after lunch with Colts on 296 for four wickets during the bowler's 20th over at which stage he had conceded only 54 runs.

Sahabandu ended the day with figures of 1 for 114 from 35 overs as the Colts batsmen made merry against the Nomads attack.

Nomads skipper Jayantha Amerasinghe's gamble of inviting the Colts to bat when he won the toss failed to pay off as Colts rattled off 347 for seven by the close yesterday.

The Colts innings was boosted by some superb batting by skipper Beverly Paul who slammed 78 off 147 balls with nine fours in 198 minutes. This was followed by 49 with eight fours and a six by Lanka Perera, a hurricane 60 by Wirantha Fernando in 130 minutes with 10 fours and two sixes and Kumar Ramanathan's belligerent 97

not out in 188 minutes with 12 fours two sixes. Ramanathan was fortunate however to be dropped twice in his 60's off Daya Sahabandu, once at deep mid-wicket and again at first slip.

Jayantha Amerasinghe took the day's bowling honours with four for 98 off 38 overs.

CHIEF SCORES:

COLTS: 347 for 7 at close in 360 mts. off 104 overs (Beverly Paul 78, Angelo Leverage 18, Lanka Perera 49, Harsha Deepal 26, Wirantha Fernando 60, Kumar Ramanathan 97 not out, Carlton Bernadus 10, Jayantha Amerasinghe 4 for 98, Daya Sahabandu 1 for 114, T. L. Fernando 1 for 57).



Wirantha Fernando, Lanka Perera, Kumar Ramanathan, Beverley Paul and Harsha Deepal were in the top half of the national first division batting averages in mid 1982. They had better averages than the likes of Nirmal Hettiaratchy who was in the national side. When reference is made the final round matches one can assume that the averages refer to the 1981-82 season.

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## CRICKET AVERAGES

# Seven average over 50

By Archibald Pereira

Sri Lanka Skipper Bandula Warnapura headed the batting averages in the final round matches of the division one cricket tournament.

Warnapura was the only member of the Sri Lanka team, which toured Pakistan to finish in the first 35. Five others had averages of over 40 but aggregated less than 300 runs.

The first seven batsmen in the averages averaged over 50 runs per innings.

Batting: (Aggregate of 350 runs and above and an average of 30)

	In	No	HS	Total	Ave.	200's	100's	50's
Bandula Warnapura (Bloomfield)	5	0	220	393	79.60	1	1	2
Tim Boon (CCC)	8	2	204	434	72.33	1	1	1
Wirantha Fernando (Colts)	9	2	132*	434	64.55	0	2	3
Athula Samarasekera (Tamil Union)	16	1	192	569	57.93	0	2	7
Dhammika Ranatunga (SSC)	12	1	181	563	56.30	0	2	3
Lanka Perera (Colts)	14	2	102	642	53.50	0	1	5
S. H. A. Rahuman (Moors)	11	1	214	514	51.40	1	1	0
Flavian Aponso (Saracens)	14	3	140	548	48.81	0	2	4
Tissa Wijeratne (Kandy CC)	10	1	105*	447	49.66	0	1	3
Mithra Westimuny (SSC)	16	1	154	733	48.86	0	3	3
Kumar Ramanathan (Colts)	12	1	115	512	48.54	0	1	4
Patrick Van Dort (Nomads)	13	4	78*	409	45.44	0	0	2
Hemal Mendis (Saracens)	17	3	178	629	44.92	0	1	5
Beverley Paul (Colts)	9	0	115	404	44.88	0	2	2
Harsha Deepal (Colts)	13	3	94	447	44.70	0	0	3
Adel Hashim (NCC)	10	2	101*	350	43.75	0	1	3
Sanath Kaluperuma (Bloomfield)	14	2	87	508	42.33	0	0	4
Oscar Dassanayake (Galle CC)	12	2	79	400	40.00	0	0	3
Ranil Abeynaike (SSC)	16	2	93*	555	39.64	0	0	7
Jerry Woutersz (NCC)	10	1	108	351	39.00	0	1	0
Rohitha Costa (Panadura SC)	12	0	136	459	38.25	0	2	1
Rohan Jurangpathy (Air Force)	17	3	209*	530	37.85	1	1	0
Jayantha Paranathala (Police)	16	1	111*	564	37.60	0	1	3
Aruna de Silva (Galle CC)	14	1	197	486	37.58	0	1	2
Yohan Gunasekera (NCC)	12	0	74	447	37.25	0	0	4
Franklyn Burke (Police)	16	2	96*	520	37.14	0	0	4
Russel Hamer (Saracens)	11	1	120	384	36.40	0	1	2
Aziz Mubarak (Moors)	11	0	105	355	32.27	0	1	2
Nirmal Hettiaratchi (CCC)	16	0	100	515	32.18	0	1	4
Ajith Jayasekera (Air Force)	17	1	87	507	31.68	0	0	5
Sarath Wijeratne (Galle CC)	13	1	77	379	31.58	0	0	5
Shabbir Asgerally (Bloomfield)	14	2	68*	374	31.16	0	0	2
Derrick Jansen (Liberty)	14	1	72	404	31.07	0	0	3
Giulian Razick (Moors)	12	0	80	371	30.19	0	0	3
P. de S. Wijeratne (Sebastianites)	13	0	60	392	30.15	0	0	3

### Colts exodus

Beverley Paul played his last game for the club at the end of the 1982-83 season in which he captained the club first XI. He changed employment which got in the way of his cricket career.

Ramanathan claims that he played for the Saracens in the 1982-83 season. This was the season in which Paul captained for the second time. Ramanathan claims that he left the club following the appointment of Bernardus to the captaincy of the first team. Since, Paul captained the club in the 1982-83 season Ramanathan must have left at the end of that season and played for the Saracens in the 1983-84 season.



After the conclusion of the 1982-83 season the outgoing President Walwyn Goonetilleke called for an annual general meeting, which was attended by very few cricketers. Ranjit Samarasekera stood up and nominated Carlton Bernardus for the position of first division captain and the motion was seconded by Gamini Goonesena. Kumar Ramanathan objected on the grounds that the traditional practice of players selecting the captain was not being followed. His objection was overruled and Bernardus was endorsed as captain.

Wirantha Fernando was a former U19 national captain. In the 1981-82 season he came third in the first division batting averages and was in line to take over the captaincy in 1983-84.

Ramanathan organised a cricketers meeting at which the objection to Bernardus' appointment gained overwhelming support. But although this was conveyed to club committee the decision regarding the appointment stood.

Ramanathan felt that the Colts were strong, and many players were interested in throwing their lot in with the Colts. He therefore felt that with such a strong player list it was inevitable that Bernardus would not be able to retain his place in the first team. Ramanathan had defended Bernardus at selection meetings and was instrumental in the latter being picked on and off for the first team. But he was never able to find a permanent place in the first team.

Ramanathan provided the new President Mike Chanmugan and the new committee with various options. One was to hold a players meeting and give the players a voice, and follow it up with an emergency general meeting where the players' decision was acted upon. Another was to exclude the captain from the selection process. None of these was agreed upon by the then Colts cricket secretary.

Hence, Ramanathan<sup>2</sup> was left with little option but to leave the club. And he was followed by six other players, namely, Srinath Silva, Mumtaz Yusuf, Lanka Perera, Ransiri Pieris, Ralston Burke and Sarath Fernando.

Yusuf joined the SSC. Ramanathan played a season with the Saracens and received a payment for the first time. Paul retired.

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<sup>2</sup> Ramanathan adds that none of his actions and comments should be construed as a personal vendetta against Ranjit or Carlton. Over the years he kept in close touch with both and acknowledges their contribution to the club in many ways, and their loyalty to it.

One cannot blame Kumar and his fellow dissidents for leaving because the chronicler entertained similar thoughts in 1971 when the club captains reported him to the general committee. Not unlike Ramanathan he felt that he was acting on principle, in that instance he was opposed to persons being picked for teams without attending practice. He was rooting for talented and enthusiastic youngsters who were being denied the opportunity to prove themselves by seniors whose commitment to the game was suspect to say the least.

### **Aftermath**

But in cricket, as in life, there are no true villains. Villains can usually redeem themselves through good works. In the case of Colts those who left and those who stayed, never lost their love for the club. Those who left were disappointed that their views were not taken on board. Those whose actions triggered the exodus did not abandon the club in her hour need but worked to bring the club's cricket back to strength. This is no different to what took place in the early fifties.

As Ramanathan conceded years later the club exodus gave Bernadus the chance to build his own leadership method independent of interference. And Ramanathan expressed his pride in what Bernadus has achieved for the Colts and cricket in general. From the fifties onwards the club has been strengthened by individuals who have persevered amidst sporadic bouts of adversity.

Carlton is still with the club. Ranjit passed away in 2017 ending an association with the club exceeding 50 years. They are, and were, true Colts stalwarts, who saw the club through the hard times and can share credit for rebuilding the Colts. They had to pick up the pieces and recruit from scratch and within 10 years the club won her first premier competition.

After becoming captain in 1984 Bernadus had to carry the can with Gamini Goonasekera and a bunch of raw cricketers just out of school. But survive they did although lacking in finances.

Carlton brought Chaminda Vaas to the Club. And Ranjit was partly responsible for Nishantha Ranatunga joining the club. And Chaminda and Nishantha have made a huge difference to the club where its cricket and administration is concerned.

### **Finding replacements**

Gamini Goonasekera, Ranjit Samarasekera, Chanmugam the coach and Bernadus looked afar for fresh recruits. They came from Thurstan, Issipatana, St. Peter's, St. Joseph's, St. Thomas's, St. Anthony's, Prince of Wales, and Nalanda. Some of the players who arrived at the club were Oscar Wanigesekera and Harsha Deepal (Issipatana), Rupanath Wickremaratne (St. Sebastian's), Premalal Fernando (Prince of Wales), Dashantha Gunawardene (St. Anthony's). All the newcomers had played under 19 representative cricket.

### **From 1983-84 onwards**

Wirantha Fernando who captained the Colts in four Laxspray trophy competition games attended Prince of Wales' College, Moratuwa, captained the Combined Schools team in his youth. He represented the Sri Lanka Under-19 cricket team in a tour of Pakistan in 1976 and again in 1978, when the Australia Under-19 cricket team came to the island.

A right-handed middle-order batsman, Fernando played for the Colts Cricket Club throughout the 1980s. In the 1989/90 Lakspray Trophy, under the captaincy of Rupanath Wickramaratne, he scored his maiden first-class century, an innings of 111 against Moratuwa Sports Club at the Colts Cricket Club Ground. He was a politician and succumbed to his injuries following a mob attack in the Chilaw area which was a consequence of his car having an accident with two cyclists.

Wickramaratne handed the reigns over to Angelo Liyanage. An old Thomian, he played for the Colts in Laxspray Trophy (1988-89, 1989-90) and the Saravanamuttu trophy (1990-91). It was under his captaincy that Chaminda Vaas played in his first Sara game. (Vaas was brought to the Colts by Carlton Bernadus, his coach at St. Joseph's.)

### **Runners up**

Amidst the drama the club picked up the pieces and were first division runners up in the 1986–87 season. The Colts met the SSC in the final. The Colts totalled 304 after losing its 5<sup>th</sup> wicket at 143 and 8<sup>th</sup> at 207. In reply, the SSC went one better and overhauled the Colts total on the back of a 132 run ninth wicket stand. This would have been extremely frustrating, let alone disappointing, for the Colts. However, five seasons later the Colts again met the SCC in a first division final. Again, the game was extremely close but on this occasion the Colts were not to be denied.

**COLOMBO COLTS CRICKET CLUB  
LAXSPRAY TROPHY, DIVISON 1, RUNNER UP, 1986-87**



Standing L to R: Saman de Silva, Gamini Wickremasinghe, Riaz Farcy, Senarath Seneviratne, Dhasantha Gunawardena, Premlal Fernando, Priya de Mel, Rupanath Wickremaratne, Sujeewa Kamalasuriya, Sumith Fernando

Seated L to R: A.R. Farcy (cricket secretary), Oscar Wanigasekera, Gamini Goonesena, Walwin Goonetilleka (president), Wirantha Fernando (captain), Ranjith Samarasekera (coach/cricket chairman), Carlton Bernardus (vice-captain), Lanka Perera, M.W. Rajasingham (treasurer)

On ground L to R: Premasiri (assistant ground boy), H. Dharmadasa (head ground boy)

Absent: Dhammika Bulankulame

Courtesy of the Colts Cricket Club

### **The scorecard**

The scorecard was accessed through [Stats.acscricket.com](https://stats.acscricket.com). Unfortunately, there are huge gaps in the scorecard which makes it hard to determine which players influenced the outcome.



<b>Colts Cricket Club versus the Sinhalese Sports Club Lakspray Trophy 1986-87 final</b>	
Venue	Colombo Cricket Club Ground on 13 <sup>th</sup> , 14 <sup>th</sup> , 15 <sup>th</sup> February 1987 (3-day match)
Result	Match drawn (Sinhalese Sports Club won on first innings)
Umpires	KT Francis, DCC Perera
Close of play day 1 Colts Cricket Club (1) 296/8 (Seneviratne 66*, Gunawardena 30*; 95 overs)	
Close of play day 2 Sinhalese Sports Club (1) 278/7	

<b>Colts Cricket Club</b>				
<b>First innings</b>			<b>Second innings</b>	
DSG Bulankulame	c Udayaratne b Samaranayake	0	c Weerasinghe b Halangoda	01
AGD Wickremasinghe	run out	46	not out	64
MR Farcy	b Wettimuny	31	Retired hurt	05
*W Fernando	lbw b Gurusinha	30		
S de Silva	b Wettimuny	20	not out	35
R Wickremaratne	c Halangoda b A Ranatunga	23		
C Bernardus	c Gurusinha b Wettimuny	03		
S Seneviratne				
G Goonasena	c Weerasinghe b A Ranatunga	25		
D Gunawardena				
ODC Wanigasekera				
Total	(all out)	304		
Fall of wickets:			Fall of wickets	
1-0, 2-91, 3-96, 4-143, 5-143, 6-147, 7-178, 8-207, 9-?, 10-304			1-7	

<b>SSC bowling</b>									
<b>Colts 1<sup>st</sup> innings</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>Colts 2<sup>nd</sup> innings</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>W</b>
Samaranayake	?	?	?	?					
Wettimuny	?	?	?	?	Wettimuny	4	0	24	0
Gurusinha	?	?	?	?	Gurusinha	2	0	13	0
A Ranatunga	?	?	?	?	N Ranatunga	5	0	14	0
					Halangoda	10	3	27	1
					D Ranatunga	2	2	0	0
					Anthonisz	1	1	0	0
					Unknown	8	0	32	0

SSC		
First innings		
N Wettimuny		
AP Gurusinha		
D Ranatunga		
SL Anthonisz		
A Ranatunga		
WMJP Weerasinghe	b Wanigasekera	26
M B Halangoda	C Gunawardena b Goonasena	36
OAP Udayaratne	lbw b Wanigasekera	14
ADA Samaranayake	not out	0
Extras	(2b, 8 lb, 2 nb, 14 w)	26
Total	(all out)	336
Fall of wickets		
1-?, 2-?, 3-?, 4-?, 5-?, 6-?, 7-?, 8-192, 9-324, 10-336		

Colts bowling				
SSC 1 <sup>st</sup> innings	O	M	R	W
Wanigasekera	16.4	3	57	3
Seneviratne	5	1	34	1
Goonasena	41	8	97	4
Farcy	3	1	8	0
Wickremaratne	24	5	63	0
Gunawardena	9	0	58	0
Bulankulame	5	0	15	1

#### Notes

The full scores for this match are not available

MR Farcy retired hurt in the Colts Cricket Club second innings having scored 5 (team score 9/1

The 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary publication mentions this achievement but carries no further details. Not even a summary of the season. By way of contrast there are two whole chapters dedicated to the time the Colts was narrowly edged out of the first division premiership in 1962-63. These are based on the scrapbook of Richard Alles and Darrell Lieversz and comments made by the latter on the final game of the season. Hopefully there are people who can still recall the 1986-87 season and are able to provide details of the key players and provide an explanation of how the season panned out.

Interestingly, despite the team coming second the club felt that a team photo was worthy. By contrast no group photo was taken of the 1962-63 team.

## **Recent times**

The evolution of the club is one of concerned persons doing their bit to institute changes that may not be fully realised during their involvement in the club. For instance, the small changes which were the result Ramanathan's entreaties would have brought people to the club who otherwise wouldn't have. And some of these persons would themselves have instituted changes which attracted further individuals who made a difference. A few ripples triggered by dissenters turn into waves in the long term. The Colts is what it is today because throughout her history there were people who cared enough to cause a stir.

It is possible to draw a line connecting Kumar Ramanathan to Mathivalen. The former was instrumental in making the first XI a competitive force in the mid- seventies. By restoring the reputation of the club, he attracted good cricketers to the club which had a snowballing effect down the decades. When Mathivalen came to make large-scale infrastructure changes the club was deemed worthy because of the success it was enjoying in cricket thanks to the big names who brought this about.

## **A takeover stalled**

It now appears that the greatest threat to the Colts in the eighties came from external forces. Vimal Jayanetti has updated the chronicler on an incident which took place in the mid-eighties during the watch of Walwyn Goonetilleke.

About 1987-88 there was a strong move led by A. Polonowita and the Nawaloka Enterprise to take over all the Havelock Park clubs and convert them into one big sports complex. This move had the blessings of then powerful premier Premadasa.

In response, all three clubs rallied together and made a joint plea to President J.R. Jayawardena. Walwyn Goonetilleke from the Colts, Gamini Fernando from Havelocks and the BRC president (a Muslim) met with President JR at his residence.

Apparently, the Colts president wore his old college tie that day. The conversation regarding the matter at hand did not last 10 minutes with JR assuring that such a take -over would not take place while he was alive.

JR was more interested in talking about cricket and rugby, Royal and Trinity, than about the three clubs whose future was in jeopardy. For the first time in history the Colts, Havelocks and BRC members got together at gala dinner dance held at the Havelocks to celebrate this victory. The festivities went on till dawn.

I wonder whether Douglas Lieversz was in anyway involved in the overtures made to JR. There is no way in which JR would have allowed the club which his good friend from schooldays was associated with, to go under.

Walwyn Goonetilleke is arguably an unsung hero. Maybe his presence in the club kept the club from folding and triggered a renewal?

A cricketer who played alongside Polonowita in the national side, who only learnt about the incident in 2023, said he had lost all respect for Polonowita. F.C. de Saram once referred to Polonowita as Anuradhapura Polonnaruwa, poking fun at his name. While this was an expression of FC's class bias, any sympathy for Polonowita must be tempered by his dastardly plan which showed contempt for the interests of three clubs that had done so much to promote sport in the country, as well as demonstrating bureaucratic arrogance.

But the Colts didn't come out of the club totally unscathed. It lost the land where the former tennis courts were located on which residences for doctors now stands.

### **A time of transition**

For most of the eighties the Colts was seen through the lens of the Taverners and perceived as a drinking club<sup>3</sup>. The club was going through a hand to mouth existence. Finances were down and the nets were in a bad state. The Colts kept going in the premier league with great difficulty. Trevor Rajaratnam, Ranjit Samarasekera and Carlton Bernardus worked hard to keep the club on an even keel. Mike Chanmugam coached the team voluntarily.

In the late eighties (probably in 1987), Mike Chanmugam retired from the coaching role and was replaced by Ranjit Samarasekera. From 1987 onwards the gradual turnaround had become entrenched. And this bore results in the nineties.

The Colts became less of a drinking club and more of a family club. The club culture began to change. Cricketers drank a lot less. And facilities began to show improvement although no details of where the changes took place are available.

The opportunity arose for the club's cricketers to play for the national team. The administration was driven by the objective to motivate players to represent the country.

Carlton Bernardus retired from competitive cricket in 1989 and concentrated on coaching. In 1990 he was coaching St. Joseph's and brought Chaminda Vaas over to the club. Samarasekera saw the talent in him and gave him a break in the first team<sup>4</sup>. Bernadus also brought Jerome Fernando and Shayne Brohier (St. Peter's), Oril de Mel and Vivian Perera (St. Joseph's captains) and Harsha de Silva (St. Joseph's), to the club.

Samarasekera transformed the whole team. He brought in players of repute to the club. Sanjeeva and Nishan Ranatunga joined the club. Arjuna Ranatunga almost did. (Sanjeeva left after four years.)

Good outstation cricketers joined the club. Duleep Liyanage was from Kalutara and Eric Upashantha was from St. Anne's, Kurunegala. By the turn of the new decade the net was being cast wider than it did in the mid-eighties.

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<sup>3</sup> Many of those who underwrote this image are no longer alive. They were H.R. Jothipala, Ranjan Padmaperuma, Prithi Wijetilleke, Joachim Perera (a gangster), Hugh Gunasekera, Shuhaib and A.R. Farcy.

<sup>4</sup> If Vaas has been representing the Colts since the age of 13, he would have arrived at the Colts in 1987. If this is the case, it is unlikely that Bernardus brought him to the Colts.



## Club heroes

When there was a split in the club in the fifties people like Trevor Jansz, Owen Kreltzheim, Douglas Lieversz, Clarence Schoorman, H.R.V. Elders and A.V. Fernando, rebuilt the club. In the eighties, Walwin Goonetilleke, Mike Chanmugam, Trevor Rajaratnam, Ranjit Samarasekera, Gamini Goonesena and Carlton Bernardus played a similar role. Under difficult circumstances they collectively kept the club going in the first division.

It is hard to say when the club culture appreciably changed. The club was first division runners up in 1986–87 and this couldn't have been achieved by a team in disarray. Without a scorecard it is not possible to determine whether the new recruits in the wake of the exodus had something to do with this. But it is highly probable that by the late eighties a certain *elan*, self-belief and a new approach to tackling on field challenges was developing. Maybe there were more cricketers with that “in your face” mentality that was pioneered by Kumar Ramanathan.