

INFORMATION GAPS

Any work of history is bound to have sections which require more work due to the lack of information. The Colts history is no exception.

There are many information sources ranging from statistical to anecdotal. Statistical information is contained in scorebooks and the averages developed from them. Relevant statistical information may be included in annual reports.

S.P. Foenander lived in a different day and age. He probably attended every Colts game and made copious notes. He was his own recorder. I am not able to obtain the sort of statistical information Foenander had at his fingertips, because the club hasn't preserved scorebooks and yearly reports, and the yearly reports do not necessarily carry averages or a summary of the season.

However, in Foenander's time newspapers didn't necessarily provide the sort of cricket coverage that was prevalent in the post-independence period. Hence, I have benefitted from the scrapbooks of people like Richard Alles, Mark Pereira, Darrell Liversz and Kumar Ramanathan as well as the news clippings I preserved of the seasons I was involved in. I also retained cuttings of tributes made to S.P. Foenander when he passed away which went into the creation of an entire chapter. I also retained the newspaper tributes paid to the club stalwart A.V. Fernando on his passing.

Richard Alles's scrapbook of the games he played in covers about 13 years. Mark Pereira's scrapbook which the chronicler obtained access to, also covered a time I was too young to know of. Eddie Melder may have done something along similar lines but the scrapbook he kept went missing following his passing.

Kumar Ramanathan provided sufficient news clippings to develop a decent coverage of events on and off the field up to the early eighties. Hence, information is sparse only from the early eighties onwards.

Other Colts cricketers would have kept scrapbooks. However, identifying them and obtaining access to their memorabilia is not an easy task. The main disadvantage for me is that I have been out of the country since the club's centenary in 1973 and therefore lack a general knowledge of the club's recent developments on and off the field.

Memorabilia

Richard Kelaart gave me access to his paternal grandfather's cricketing memorabilia which is a virtual treasure trove of information relating to the early days of the Colts. Such information gave the narrative a vintage glow and beautifully illuminated it.

The internet

Foenander did not have access to the internet. He gathered information the old-fashioned way. A lot of the information pertaining to the infrastructure changes the club has undergone in recent times, which I was only made aware of in 2014, was obtained from the internet. And I have scoured the internet for descriptions and scorecards of significant games involving the Colts, particularly those associated with tournament finals.

A subjective and anecdotal approach

The shortcomings in statistical information have forced me to pursue a subjective approach to the Colts history and turn it into a biography that in many ways makes the narrative a more interesting read than one focused for the most part on statistics. Hence, a weakness has underwritten a strength.

Trevor Jansz, the Claessens and Kumar Ramanathan provided me with much information on the controversies involving the club which I added to the literature I have retained regarding the controversies I have instigated. This has given the club history a very human element which is the stuff of biography.

Improvements to the narrative

Given the size of my narrative, I can absorb fresh information and find appropriate places to lodge them. Photographs, news clippings and anecdotal information will be most welcome.

People underestimate the value of anecdotal information. But they are of inestimable value to the reader.

I would like both players and general members to describe their times at the club. Interesting incidents off the field will enhance the narrative. And I encourage players and former players to reminisce about memorable games and individual performances.

The nineties onwards

The nineties were an important decade in the club's playing history. I'd welcome first-hand accounts of events both on and off the field during this period. What were the significant factors behind the club's cricketing success and what financial pressures, if any, prevailed. What was the state of practice wickets? Did the infrastructure contribute to on-field success.

What were crucial factors in a season that led to a final victory? Who were the bowlers and batsmen who made a difference? What good captaincy decisions turned around crucial games?

Women's cricket

I have written extensively on women's cricket, particularly its beginnings at the Colts which spearheaded the growth in women's cricket in the country. I'd like to learn more about the current state of women's cricket at the club. In this regard getting in contact with the key figures currently associated with women's cricket at the club, and starting a conversation with them, will help improve chapter 5.

Hockey

The chapter on women's hockey is extremely brief and doesn't even ask questions. I would like to develop chapter 45 with the aid of a coach/manager with an extensive involvement in women's hockey and with a strong knowledge of all the issues associated with it. That person could write a summary of the topic which could generate research and questions on my part.

Finally, I would like to open a chapter on men's hockey. Apart from the fact that the club took out the Bacon trophy in 2000, I know very little about the history of men's hockey at the club. How competitive has the club been in hockey? Were they able to rival the BRC in men's hockey?

I would welcome statistics, photographs and impressionistic accounts of the impact hockey has had on the club's sporting heritage, activities and achievements. There is after all a strong connection between hockey and cricket, with many sportspersons excelling in both games.

Summary

I can add value to any information received through research and by linking similar information. Sometimes, fresh information may even generate fresh chapters. The Colts history is still very much a work in progress. When one has come this far there is a strong incentive to pursue thoroughness and push the narrative to greater heights.

Please send any information to my email address – elievers@bigpond.net.au