

Singhalese Sports Club



1899



The Saga of Singhalese Sports Club Cricket
THE TOUR OF MALAYSIA & THAILAND '93

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**MESSAGE FROM
PRESIDENT J.R. JAYEWARDENE
PRESIDENT OF THE SINGHALESE SPORTS CLUB**

The Singhalese Sports Club is the premier Sports Club in Sri Lanka. The Club was founded in 1899 when Sri Lanka was a Colony in the British Empire. The main sport introduced and promoted at that time was cricket. Today it has grown in size and stature and many other sports activities are available to members. Its cricket grounds are one of the most beautiful Cricket grounds in Asia.

Although among the Clubs the S.S.C. has produced the most number of Captains and the most number of Sri Lanka Cricketers for, the National side, the Club has undertaken only one overseas tour in the past. That was when S.S.Jayawickrema, the Captain of Ceylon lead the S.S.C. on a tour to India.

Therefore I am extremely happy that an overseas tour has been arranged to Malaysia and Thailand.

It is hoped that the players of the Club's touring team will get experience from this tour and also foster good relationships with fellow Cricketers in the regions they visit.

October 21, 1993.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J.R. Jayewardene', written in a cursive style.

J.R. JAYEWARDENE



**SINGHALESE SPORTS CLUB
TOURING TEAM TO MALAYSIA/THAILAND - 1993**

STANDING (LEFT TO RIGHT): U. FERNANDO, M. ATAPATTU, J. PATTIARATCHI, P. WIJETUNGA, K. WEERASINGHE, S. DODANWELA, M. MUNASINGHE, C. RANASINGHE, H. WICKRAMARATNE, M. PERERA, A. GUNAWARDENA, S. DE SILVA, N. FERNANDO.

SEATED (LEFT TO RIGHT): M. YUSUF (CRICKET MANAGER), R.J. DE SILVA (HONY. SECRETARY), T.M.S. SALDIN, R. JAYAWARDENA, M. HALANGODE (CAPT.), H.E.J.R. JAYWARDENE (PRESIDENT), D. RANATUNGA (V. CAPT.), S. AHANGAMA, L. PIERIS, A. ABEYGUNAWARDENA, M.J. DE ZOYSA (CHAIRMAN C.H.C.)

ON GROUND : H.N. GUNASEKARA
ABSENT : M. IFTHIRAR, A. COSTA

PREFACE

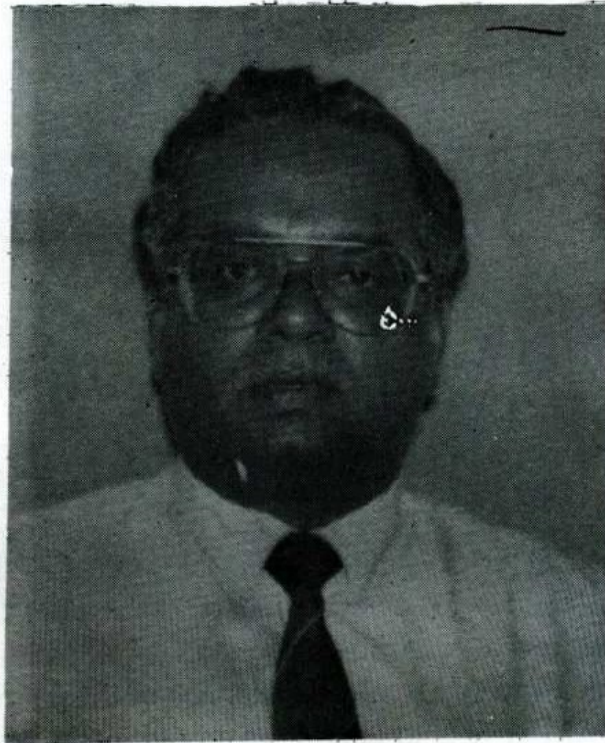
I was requested to write the cricket history of the Singhalese Sports Club by the Souvenir Committee to coincide with the Cricket teams tour of Malaya & Thailand. I have done my best to provide as much material as I could obtain. It has meant a fair amount of research, as the Club has no documents for reference. This needs correction & I would suggest that some of the younger members get together to produce a book worthy of a club that would be 100 years old in six years time.

The request to write this book revives a link with the Singhalese Sports Club. My father was a member of the Club in the 1920's and a member of the Champion Club team in 1925 under the captaincy of Dr C.H. Gunasekera. I myself was a student member of the club.

Many members have contributed interesting articles to this book. To them I owe a thank you. A special word of thanks to Messrs R.J. de Silva & Ajith Abeygunawardene for their help and guidance.

The best has been done, and any errors and omissions are regretted.

S.S. Perera



MESSAGE FROM R.J. DE SILVA, HONY. SECRETARY, SSC

It gives me great pleasure in issuing this message to the Souvenir connected with the Singhalese Sports Club's Cricket tour to Malaysia and Thailand, in November 1993.

The last cricket tour undertaken by the SSC was to India in 1946. On that occasion, Sargo Jayawickrema, captain of Sri Lanka, led the SSC side. It is therefore a historic occasion for the Club and the Boys are very enthusiastic and are looking forward to the tour.

The Club decided to reward the present team with this tour for winning the 1992/93 premier division I Cricket tournament for the P. Saravanamuttu Trophy and for becoming the six a side champions, last season. This champion side going on tour was efficiently led by Mahinda Halangoda last season despite several National Caps not being able to play for major part of the tournament due to commitments with the Sri Lanka side.

The present Sri Lanka Captain and a few other Sri Lanka Caps in the side will not be available for the Tour either, due to national commitments. However, quite a few in the touring team have represented the country in the recent past either at a Junior International level or at a Senior National level. The rest are potential Sri Lankan players.

The players will look forward to this tour with the objective of preparing for the next domestic season in Sri Lanka which will commence no sooner they return. While the players will no doubt enjoy the tour, they will also look forward to playing Cricket in a very competitive spirit. I am sure the SSC cricketers will uphold the Club's long established traditions of fine Sportsmanship, on and off the field.

In conclusion I wish to thank our hosts in Malaysia and Thailand for inviting us on this tour.

OFFICE BEARERS and EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1992/93

President of the Club
H.E. President J.R. Jayewardene

Hony Secretary
R.J. de Silva

Hony Treasurer
M.J. de Zoysa

Hony Asst Secretary
C.G. Jayasuriya

Hony Asst Treasurer
Anil E de Silva

Vice Presidents

1. Mr W.D.C. Abeygunawardena
2. Mr C.J.E. Anthonisz
3. Dr L.S. Attygalle
4. Mr D.R.L. Balasuriya
5. Mr Ronnie De Mel
6. Mr F.J. De Saram
7. Mr Ubhaya de Silva
8. Mr I.S. De Silva
9. Mr G.R.J. De Soysa
10. Mr H.K. Dharmadasa
11. Mr. W.T. Ellawela
12. Mr C.H. Gunasekera
13. Mr C.I. Gunasekera
14. Mr U.N. Gunasekera
15. Mr Dudley Gunasekera
16. Mr Gamini Jayasuriya
17. Mr Donald Kannangara
18. Dr Pandu Liyanage
19. Mr Daya Perera
20. Mr Hector Perera
21. Mr P.I. Pieris
22. Mr Justin Samarasekera
23. Mr Sarath Kodagoda
24. Mr Tilak S.W. Perera
25. Mr Ranjith Pandithage

Board of Trustees

Messrs G.R. J de Soysa, Daya Perera,
Justin Samarasekera, P.I. Peries and Ubaya de Silva:

Executive Committee

Kumar Abeyanayake
Ajith Abeygunawardene
Nihal Adhasuriya
C.R. de Silva
J.B.L. de Silva
Nalan Dissanayake
I.P. Gunawardene
P.N.W. Gunasekera
Sarath Kodagoda
Dr Pandu Liyanage
Ranjith Pandithage
A.L.S. Perera
Daya Perera
L. Thalaysingham
Ranjith Wettimuny

Executive Committee

U. Kodagoda
T.S.W. Perera
G. Mathew
A. Polonowita
G. Rajapakse
Ranjith Pandithage
Wng. Cdr. R.P. Samarasinghe
Anura Tennekoon
Ubaya de Silva
N. Adhasuriya
J.B.L. de Silva
Dr P. Liyanage
I.P. Gunawardene
D. Perera
Ranjith Wettimuny

1993/94

President of the Club
H.E. President J.R. Jayewardene

Hony Secretary
R J de Silva

Hony Treasurer
S. Kodagoda

Hony Asst Secretary
R. Eriyagama

Hony Asst Treasurer
A.E. de Silva

CRICKET - HOUSE COMMITTEE

Anura Tennekoon (Chairman)
M.J. de Zoysa
Mr. Rajasingham (Secretary)
Ajith Abeygunawardene
P.L.D. Kariyawasam

TOUR ORGANISING COMMITTEE

M.J. de Zoysa (Chairman)
Ajith Abeygunawardene (Secretary)
R.J. de Silva
Anura Tennekoon
P.L.D. Kariyawasam
Ranjith Pandithage
Ranjith Wettimuny
Mahinda Halangoda
Rochana Jayawardene
Nisal Senaratne
Mumtaz Yusuf
M.Rajasingham

SOUVENIR COMMITTEE

Ajith Abeygunawardene (Chairman)
Mahinda Halangoda (Secretary)
M. Rajasingham
Rochana Jayawardene
Mumtaz Yusuf
Prabodha Kariyawasam

FINANCE & FUND RAISING COMMITTEE

M.J. de Zoysa (Chairman)
Nisal Senaratne (Secretary)
R.J. de Silva
Ranjith Pandithage
Ranjith Wettimuny
Anura Tennekoon.



Sir Christopher Obeysekera
Former President

PEN SKETCHES OF SINGHALESE SPORTS CLUB TOURING TEAM (1993)

1) HALANGODE



- **Mahinda - (Captain)** - Born - 26.04.1961 - Diyatalawa. Educated at St. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia. Represented College from 1978 - 1981. (LHB/LM). Captain of St. Thomas'. Captain of Sinhalese Sports Club 1989 - 1993. (Team won Division I Trophy for 3 years (First Class matches). Vice Captain Sri Lanka A on Pakistan Tour (1991/92). Captain Sri Lanka A vs England A (1990/91), Sri Lanka won Limited

Over Series. Halangoda has the best bowling performance (match) in FC cricket with 15 wkts for 91 (8 for 64 & 7 for 27) vs Singha Sports Club. Halangoda shared a good partnership for the 9th wkt (109 runs) with R.G. Abeynaike for SSC vs Police SC (2 day).

2) RANATUNGA



- **Dhammika - (Vice Captain)** - Born - 12.10.1962. Colombo. Educated at Ananda College, Colombo. Represented College 1979 to 1981 (RHB). Played for Sinhalese SC from 1979. Is credited with highest score (241 runs) for SSC (vs) in a 2 day game beating S.S. Jayawickrema's 238 runs made in 1941. Played for Gampaha District in the National Tournament. Has played league cricket in England & Grade Cricket in Australia. Played in

Tests against Australia (1989/90). Represented Sri Lanka B against England in 3 Unofficial Tests (1986/87) & played for Board Presidents XI vs Pakistan (1985/86). Ranatunga (170) along with A. Gunawardene (96) hold the 1st wkt record (214 runs) in First Class matches since 1988 (- SSC vs Old Cambrians (1989/90)) in local cricket. He was associated with M.A.R. Samarasekera (133) in a 159 runs partnership for the 1st wkt against New South Wales (1989/90). His share was 56. RHB.

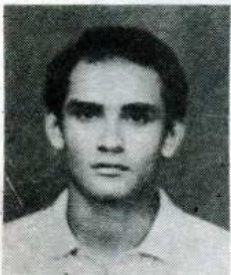
3) FERNANDO



- **Ungamandage Nisal Kumudusiri** - Born - 10.03.1970. Colombo educated at St. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia. Represented College from 1985 to 1989. Captain St. Thomas' 1989 (RHB & WK). Represented Sri Lanka vs England A (1990/91), vs Pakistan A, 2nd wkt record partnership - 272 runs for Western Province Suburbs vs Southern Province (1990/91) & the 3rd wkt record 240 runs for SSC vs Panadura.

His partner in the first partnership was S. Sooriyarchchi (148) - Fernando (148), in the 2nd it was A. Ranatunga (105) & Fernando (130).

4) ATAPATTU



- **Marvan Samson** - Born - 12.11.1970 - At Kalutara. Educated at Mahinda College, Galle & Ananda College, Colombo. (RHB & RLB Good field). Represented Ananda College from 1986 - 1990. Captain in 1989. Played for SSC from 1991. Represented Sri Lanka vs India (1990/91) playing in only Test. Captain of Sri Lanka Youth Team to Asia Youth Cup (1990/91 - Bangladesh). Captain SLBP XI vs Australia Cricket Academy (3 day). An

outstanding batsman in his last year at College.

5) WIJETUNGE



- **Piyal Kashyapa** - Born - 06.08.1971 - Kandy. Educated at St. Anthony's College, Kandy. RHB / LLB / Good field. Represented St. Anthony's College from 1985 to 1990. Has taken over 300 wickets in his College career with 96 wickets in the 1986/87 season. Represented Sri Lanka in the Asian Youth Cup in Bangladesh (1990/91). Toured South Africa with Sri Lanka U23 team. In 1992/93 has played for Sinhalese Sports Club in 1st Division

FC cricket since 1992. Represented Sri Lanka in Tests against South Africa (1993/94).

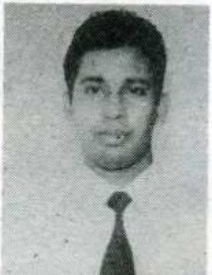
6) JAYAWARDENE



- **Rochana Sanjeevee** - Born - 12.05.1964. Educated at Royal College, Colombo. RHB / ROB - Good field. Was outstanding all rounder in Inter College Cricket. Had a fine performance of 145 runs & match bag of 9 wkts for 96 for Royal College vs St. Thomas College (1983). Represented Sri Lanka U19 vs Tamilnadu CA (1983); Sri Lanka vs Zimbabwe (Unofficial Test 1983). Toured Pakistan with Sri

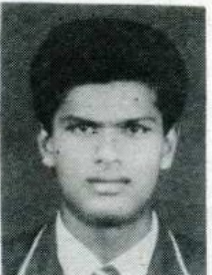
Lanka U23 team (1983/84). Represented Sri Lanka U23 vs Pakistan U23 in Ceylon (1985/86) & Sri Lanka Colts XI vs Pakistan (1986/87). Toured Hong Kong / Bangladesh (1986/87).

7) GUNAWARDENE



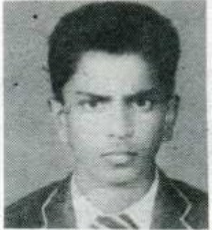
- **Aruna Alwis Wijesiri** - Born - 31.03.1969 Colombo. Educated at St. Thomas College, Mount Lavinia. Represented College from 1986 to 1988 RHB. Represented S.S.C. since 1988. Toured South Africa with Sri Lanka U23 team (1992/93). Scored 143 vs Western Province at Newlands. Has a partnership of 242 runs for 2nd wkt Gunawardene (133x) & Nisal Fernando (160) for SSC vs Sebastianites C & AC in First Class cricket (1990/91).

8) MUNASINGHE



- **Manjula** - Born - 10.12.1971. Educated at St. Anthonys College, Wattala. Represented his College from 1989 to 1992 (RHB & RFM). Captain in 1990/91. Represented Sri Lanka 'B' in Bangladesh (1992/93). Toured South Africa with Sri Lanka U23 team in 1992/93. Was in the Sri Lanka pool for Australia & New Zealand Tours (1992/93). Represented Sri Lanka Board Presidents XI vs Australian Cricket Academy (1993/94).

9) FERNANDO



- **Edirappulige Felician Mahinda, Upul** - Born - 08.06.1972 at Ragama. Educated at St. Anthonys College, Wattala. Represented his College from 1990/1992. RHB / WK. Toured England with Sri Lanka U19 team (1991/92). Toured Malaysia with Sri Lanka U20 team (1992/93). Captain of St. Anthonys College (1991/92). Has played for SSC since 1992.

10) **SALDIN**



- **Tuan Mohamed Sulaiman Saldin** - Born - 07.04.1956. Educated Royal College. Represented his College from 1972 - 1976. Captain (RHB / RM). Represented Sri Lanka U19 against Pakistan U19 (1979) in Ali Bhutto Trophy match. Represented SSC in First Division Tournament from 1973 to 1983 & played in Division 3. Saldin a fast scoring batsman holds two Sri Lanka records 9wkt 90 runs (in Limited Overs) for SSC vs Wattala CCB (1986)

& the 10th wkt partnership of 172 runs with Michael de Zoysa.

11) **PATTIARACHCHI**



- **Jagath** - RHB. Opening batsman. Played for Royal College (1974). On his debut against St. Thomas College scored 100 n.o. Has represented S.S.C. in P. Saravanamuttu Trophy. Pattiarachchi figured prominently in the FC batting averages in 1918/70 a playing for the S.S.C.

12) **WICKREMARATNI**



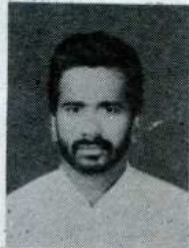
- **Ranasinghe, Pattikiri Koralalage Aruna Hemantha** - Born - 21.02.1971. Colombo. Educated at Ananda College, Colombo (LHB). Represented College 1988/90. Represented SSC (1990-1993). Represented Sri Lanka "A" against England "A" (1990/91) & Sri Lanka Board Presidents XI vs Australian Cricket Academy (1993/94). Represented Sri Lanka against South Africa (1993/1994).

13) **DE SILVA**



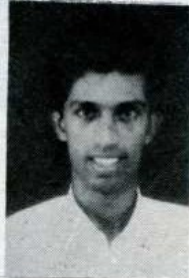
- **V. Shamal Ravindra** - Born - 21.03.1963. Colombo. Educated at St. Johns College, Nugegoda. Captain in 1981/82. Played for SSC since 1981. Captain SSC (Division II) 1991 - 1993 (RHB / LLB).

14) **AHANGAMA**



- **Franklyn Saliya** - Born - on 14.07.1959. Colombo. Educated at St. Thomas College, Mount Lavinia. Represented St. Thomas 1977/1979. LHB / RM. Good field. Represented Sri Lanka in Test vs India & Pakistan (1985). Took a wicket with 3rd delivery in First Over.

15) **DODANWELA**



- **Samantha** - Born - 15.09.1970 Kandy. Educated at Trinity College, Kandy. Represented College in 1990 - Captain Trinity College (RHB / RM) "A" Team. Toured Maldives with Trinity College U15 team. Represented Kandy Cricket Club in U23 Tournament (1990). Has played for SSC since 1992. Best bowling 8 wkts for 48 & 4 for 40 (12 wickets for 88) for SSC vs Peterson SC (Donovan Andree Division 2 Tournament).

15) **IFTHIKAR**



- **M.H.M.** - Born - 30.05.1971 - Colombo. Educated at St. Anthonys College, Wattala. Represented College from 1989 to 1991. Has played for SSC since 1991 (RHB / LLB).

16) **PERERA**



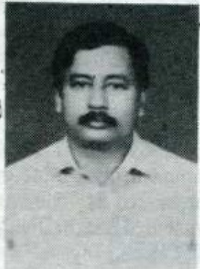
- **Mirihanage Manjula Nishantha** Born - 26.05.1972. Colombo. Educated at Ananda Sastralaya, Kotte (RHB / RM). Represented College from 1986 to 1989. Captain 1988 / 89. Represented SSC from 1988/89. Vice Captain SSC 2nd Division Team 1992/93.

17) **COSTA**



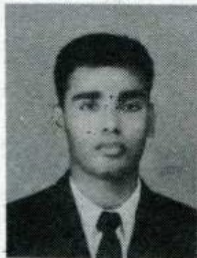
- **Pallewattege Asitha Vibuthi** - Born - 30.05.1970 Colombo. Educated at Ananda College, Colombo. (RHB / RLB) Played for Collège 1988, & for SSC since 1988. Won schools best bowlers award 1987.

18) **PEIRIS**



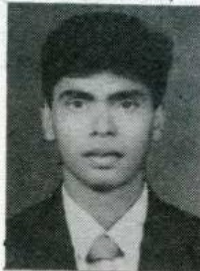
- **Malwattege Lal** - Born - 24.04.1956. Colombo. Educated at Nalanda College, Colombo. Represented College from 1972 to 1974 (LHB / RM). Represented Saracens Sports Club (1977 - 1980), Moratuwa Cricket Club (Division I - 1980/81). Captain Moratuwa SC. Division 1980. Played for SSC since 1982 (Division II) Captain SSC Division III (1991/1993).

19) **RANASINHE**



- **Arachige Chaminda Thusara** - Born - 09.03.1972 - Colombo. Educated at St. Johns Maha Vidyalaya, Nugegoda (RHB / RM). Represented College from 1987 to 1989. Captain 1988/89. Plays for SSC since 1991/92.

20) **WEERASINGHE**



- **Kushantha Kapila** - Born - 17.08.1971. Colombo. Educated at Thurstan College, Colombo. Represented College 1990/91 (RHB / ROB). Played for SSC (Division II) from 1990/91.

Room Attendant



- **Gunasekera - Hettiarachchige Nimal**
- Born - 04.06.1960. Employed as Groundsman & Dressing Room Attendant. Employee of the Club since 1978.

JAYASURIYA



- **Chullante Gnaninda** - Date of Birth : 6th June, 1947. Place of Birth : Colombo, Sri Lanka. School Attended : Isipatana Maha Vidyalaya, Colombo. Achievements : Represented the School at 1st XI Cricket 1963-66. Club : Div. I, II and III from 1975. Captained Div. III 1984/85. Committee Member 1984/85/86. Cricket Secretary 1985/86/87. Assistant Secretary 1991/92/93. Country : BCCSL Umpires' Advisory Committee 1991. BCCSL Finance Advisory Committee 1992 to date. Secretary-General The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce.

OFFICIALS

DE ZOYSA



- **Michael J.** - Born - 30.09.1946. Educated at St. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia (RHB / RM). Captain S.S.C. Division III team winning Trophy on 3 occasions. Cricket Secretary, Chairman Cricket House Committee from 1975 to date. Treasurer SSC 1987-1993. Asst. Secretary, Board of Control for Cricket (1980-1983). De Zoysa (63x) & T.M.S. Saldin (163) with 172 runs partnerships for the 10th hold the Ceylon record for the highest partnership in Sri Lanka cricket. (3 day match but not First Class) for the 10th wkt - SSC vs Bank of Ceylon (Maharaja Trophy 1978).

YUSUF



- Born - 01.06.1949. Educated at St. Thomas College, Gurutalawa & Zahira College, Colombo (RHB / ROB). College Colours at Cricket, Hockey & Squash. Captain Colts C.C. in "P Sara" Trophy. Played for SSC team which won the P. Saravanamuttu (1st Division) & Brown Trophy (Limited Overs) Tournaments. Represented SL Board Presidents XI vs New Zealand (1984) won in National Pool New Zealand tour. Played against SLBP XI vs Zimbabwe (1983/84). Toured England with Sri Lanka team (1984). Manager of Sri Lanka Team to England (1990), Cricket Manager Sri Lanka team to England (1991). Manager, Sri Lanka team to Sharjah (1990/91). Cricket Manager Sri Lanka 'A' (1990/91). National Selector (1989/1993). Cricket Manager Sinhalese Sports Club (1991/93) - Won Division I Tournaments. Who headed the National bowling averages (1982).

ABEYGUNAWARDENE

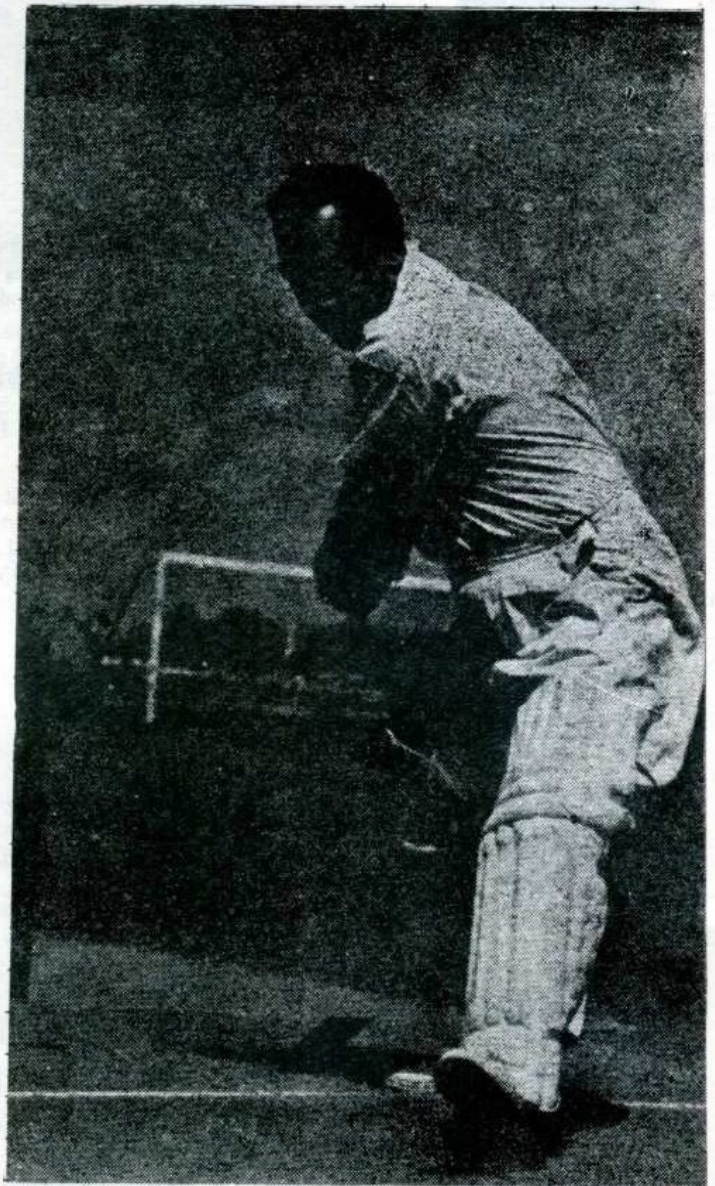


- **Ajit Nalindra Dias** - Born - 28.07.1954. Haputale. Educated at St. Thomas College, Mount Lavinia. (LHB / LLB). Represented St. Thomas College 1971 to 1973. Represented SSC in Division I, II & III from 1976 to 1993. Captain Division 3 (1982/83). Winners of Trophy. Asst. Secretary BCCSL (1991/92). Chairman Tournament Committee, BCCSL (1990/91). Outstanding left arm leg spin bowler in Inter College Cricket in 1971/73.

DE SILVA



- **Ruwanpura Jayapriya** - Born - 01.10.1948. Colombo. (RHB / ROB). A Lawyer by Profession. Educated at Royal College, Colombo. Played in College Team (1966/68). Captain "A" Team. Asst. Secretary SSC (1978-1988). Hony Secretary SSC (1988-1993/94). Member Executive Committee BCCSL. President Nationalised Services Sports Federation (1990/91). Member Executive Member of Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka. Represented University of Colombo (P. Saravanamuttu Trophy 1973/74).



His Excellency J.R. Jayewardene wields the willow

THE PRELUDE

EARLY 1899

Cricket Clubs in Ceylon were formed on ethnic lines. The Europeans, Malays, Burghers, Tamils, Moors, Parsees came into existence in the order mentioned. The Singhalese formed their Club, a few months prior to the formation of the Tamil Union C & A.C. These ethnic clubs did not mean the colossal confusion of today, crowds flocked to witness these clubs battle it out. There was complete harmony. The friendships forged in the class rooms were brought into the playing fields. Any—very few—instances of disapproval were mainly due to umpiring decisions.

Following the established pattern of clubs on ethnic lines the Singhalese formed their Club on 27th March 1899. In those early years the Colts Cricket Club had a reputation & were known as the “Invincible Colts CC”. Even the best English Cricketers in Ceylon the C C C were no match for the Colts whose members for many years were from the Burgher community. In March 1899 the Combined Colleges (which happened to be an all Sinhalese eleven) XI lost by one run to the Colts C.C. This great effort was the spur to form a Sinhalese Club. The combined Colleges XI was C.E. Perera (Capt), R. Wickramaasinghe, W.O. Nathanielsz (all Wesley College) F.L. Goonawardene, M.S. Goonaratne & D L de Saram (St Thomas College), H de. Silva & W Fernando (St. Josephs College), F.A. Obeysekera, E. Weerasuriya, D.B. Gunasekera (Royal College). In those days Royal College was at San Sebastian Hill Pettah, Wesley at Dam St Pettah, St. Josephs at Suduwella (now Maradana), St. Thomas at Mutuwal, C.E. Perera the finest School boy batsman was a member of the Colts CC and SSC.

The Convenor of the Meeting to form a club was H.J.V.I. Ekanayake of Wesley College, (Later a District Judge). Other names associated with the Inauguration of the Club are given later. One of the finest products of Wesley College – D.B. Jayatilleke then on the staff presided, later he was to be Principal of Ananda College, a member of the Legislative Council & was Knighted by his Majesty the King of England. The meeting was held at the Wesley College Hall Dam Street Pettah.

There was close affinity between the Royalists & Wesleyites & this was evident in the composition of the Singhalese Sports Club Cricket team in the early years.

It would be best if the full account of the Inaugural meeting reported in the Ceylon Standard of 28th March 1899 is reproduced.

A CLUB IS BORN

1899

THE CEYLON STANDARD -
28th MARCH 1899

WHEN THE CLUB WAS BORN

PURSUANT to advertisement, a meeting of Sinhalese gentlemen was held yesterday afternoon at the Wesley College Hall - the Hall of the Royal College not being available at the last moment - to consider the advisability of organizing a Sinhalese Sports Club. Among those present were : Messrs. D.B. Jayatilaka, W. Livera, F. Obeyesekera, H.J.V. Ekenayaka, M. Goonewardene, B. Don Pieris, T.D.M. Karunaratne, O.G. de Alwis, Francis de Silva, F.L. de Alwis, J.P.F. Dissanayake, F. Tirimanne, D. Goonewardene, A.E. Perera, A. Wijenaike, A. Kotalawala, C.W. Goonewardene, Philip de Silva, G.E.W. Abeysekere, D.F.H.R. Senanayake, C. Batuwantudawe, H.V. de Soysa, D.A. Jayatilleke, Henry de Silva, John F.X. Fernando, B.F. de Silva, E.D. Pieris, A.H. de Silva, M.S. Gooneratne, E.C.F. Ekanayake, G.A.C. Perera, D.W. Subasinghe, A.L. de S. Jayawardene, J.W. Amarasekera and J.E. Amarasinghe.

Mr. D.B. Jayatilaka was unanimously elected to the chair, and on the proposition of Mr. Vincent de Silva, seconded by Mr. W. de Livera. Mr. H.J.V.I. Ekanayeka was elected Secretary.

MR. EKENAYEKA EXPLAINS

The Secretary then, rising, said: Gentlemen, although it was I who convened the meeting, I must inform you that I did it not so much on my own initiative, but at the request of a large number - in fact the great majority - of young cricketers amongst us. I have to thank you for your ready response to my very short notice, gentlemen. The notice, I must state in justice to yourself, was unavoidably short, but I must infer that the project is favourably viewed by you, and that the want which we have met here to supply has been felt by you. Now, although the wording of my notice is distinctly that we are to meet

TO ORGANIZE A SPORTS CLUB

And although this would preclude any discussion on the advisability of having a Club at all, I wish to explain and amplify my meaning, so as to lay before you the full intention and object of my notice, so that you may fully and clearly understand my meaning, inasmuch as I was not able to explain it fully in a short advertisement. In the first place, I should like to correct the impression that the idea originated after the recent match against the Colts. There are people who think that the formation of this Club was thought of after the recent match. If any of you are able to recollect for a moment the now

DEFUNCT DRESS REFORM ASSOCIATION

You will also recollect that, when my opinion as to its aims and objects was sought, I told them in the plainest possible language that whatever results they might achieve would be much waste of time and trouble, for the simple reason that there was no organisation that would give effect to it, and that the creation of some organisation which would enable all classes to meet on common grounds, was "a consummation devoutly to be wished"; that is to say, that we should first try to form an organisation, which would be able to carry out resolutions. I asked them to devote their exuberant energies to some subject on which there could not be any important difference of opinion. In the matter of dress, of course, there is - and will always continue to be - much difference of opinion. For that reason I told them to select a point or subject on which there could not be much difference of opinion or feeling, and I suggest that such a common ground could be found

IN THE MATTER OF SPORT

That was about six months ago, and I am glad to say my words have not been without effect, and further, many lovers of cricket and sport will tell

you that I approached them on this subject a long time ago. Most of you here present are those to whom I have explained the object of this meeting. I am glad to think that those who have not come are those to whom I have not explained our object. This is a subject against which much can be said. I must, therefore, inform you that it is far from our purpose to create a rival club to any of the existing sporting clubs. There is no call - and absolutely no need - for a rival club. The leading clubs of the Island - the Colts, the Nondescripts and others, have set an example of true generosity and liberal mindedness, which is an essential of true sport and they have always been ready to acknowledge true cricket, wherever they found it, irrespective of class or creed. It might then be asked, why should there be

A CLUB FOR OURSELVES ALONE ?

It would be downright folly on our part to exclude ourselves from these existing institutions. It would in the plainest language be ingratitude, if we, who learned the game and who still depend on them for our tuition, so to speak, were to try to cut ourselves off from them. I should be very sorry to see the day when C.E. Perera should leave the Colts or when Mr. Oliver de Alwis should resign from the Nondescripts (Hear! Hear!) But in endeavouring to form a Sinhalese Sports Club, I was induced to do so by two strong reasons. Perhaps you will understand them when I tell you how I came to think of this club at all. It was in an Association of which I was a member we were talking about the causes of crime in the Island and someone stated that the real cause of crime among the natives was the want of sport. The only sport, it was stated, was gambling, and that was no sport at all but a diversion which only tended to lower morality. That was one of the causes of crime that set me thinking, and I began to think that if some active sport could be encouraged among the villagers, it would prove an incalculable boon on the country. Then, of course, it was pointed out to me that the country would not take to anything unless the towns took it up first, and that the towns must set the example, so I came to the conclusion that the existence of a Club among the Sinhalese

FOR ENCOURAGEMENT OF SPORT

would have a great ultimate good to the country. That was one reason. Another reason was that the creation of a Club like this would give us an opportunity of sinking all the petty differences that exist among us. And believe me, gentlemen, it is only on the Cricket field and the football field that we can sink all differences of caste and creed and class. I feel convinced - and I am sure the majority of the educated Sinhalese all over the Island will think with me - that the existence of a Club like this, where we Sinhalese can meet together on equal terms, would be a blessing (Applause). It is most desirable, therefore, for the moral and material progress of our race, that we should have such a Club, and it is quite possible for us to have our own Club without clashing with any of the existing Clubs. You will notice that, after all sports take but a secondary place, and that the first object of our meeting here today is to form an Association of some kind, and that the subject of sports - being the one subject against which there is least to say - is put prominently to the fore. The main object before us today is the formation of an Association or Club, and that is why I refrain from giving this Association a particular name. I leave it to you, gentlemen, to fix a suitable name because

A GREAT DEAL DEPENDS

on the name that you select (Applause). We must be careful to make it appear that we do not intend to create a rival Club - a Club whose members would not be allowed to join any other Club. Ours is meant to be a Club which will be able, when necessary, to send out a team of Sinhalese to meet any other Club. (Applause). The idea was brought prominently to my mind

sometime ago when it occurred to some of us to form a Sinhalese team to meet the Colts. It was then pointed out that, although one of our members was essentially on our side, he would not be able to play for us, simply because he was a member of the Colts, and that a member of a Club, however representative it might be, could not play against his club. It is therefore, very necessary for us to have a purely Sinhalese Club. I have taken the trouble to speak to you at such length, not because you want an explanation, but I feel conscious that there may be others who would like to hear more on the points. As far as the business itself before us is concerned, we have very little to do. I have not the least doubt that you are all agreed that a Club such as I have indicated can be formed, and it is desirable that it should be formed (Applause). The only question is, how can it be formed? I would suggest the appointment of

AN ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

a thoroughly representative organizing Committee consisting of members who are enthusiastic and anxious to carry out the scheme. We want a Committee of active members, who are convinced that a club is desirable, that it can be made a means of good to us all.

The CHAIRMAN thought the scheme a most laudable one to establish something like a rallying point where all Sinhalese could meet together on common ground. If they accepted the views set forth, they had only to propose a resolution to that effect - that an Association such as that indicated was desirable.

"CLUB FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF SPORTS"

Mr. Vincent Silva proposed: "That a Club for the Encouragement of Sports among the Sinhalese be formed".

Mr. G.E. Abeysekera seconded. Carried unanimously.

APPOINTMENT OF A COMMITTEE

Mr. Ekenayeka proposed the following Committee: Messrs. O.G. de Alwis, F. Obeysekere, H. Ellawalla, Francis de Silva, J.E. Amarasinghe, J.W. Amarasekera, D.B. Jayatilaka, Douglas de Saram, Felix de Alwis, C.E. Perera, Francis Jayasuriya, D.W. Subasinghe and H.J.V. Ekenayeka, - five to form a quorum with power to add to their number.

This was duly seconded, and carried.

Mr. A.F. Abeysekere proposed: "That this Committee do meet some day in the second week in May".

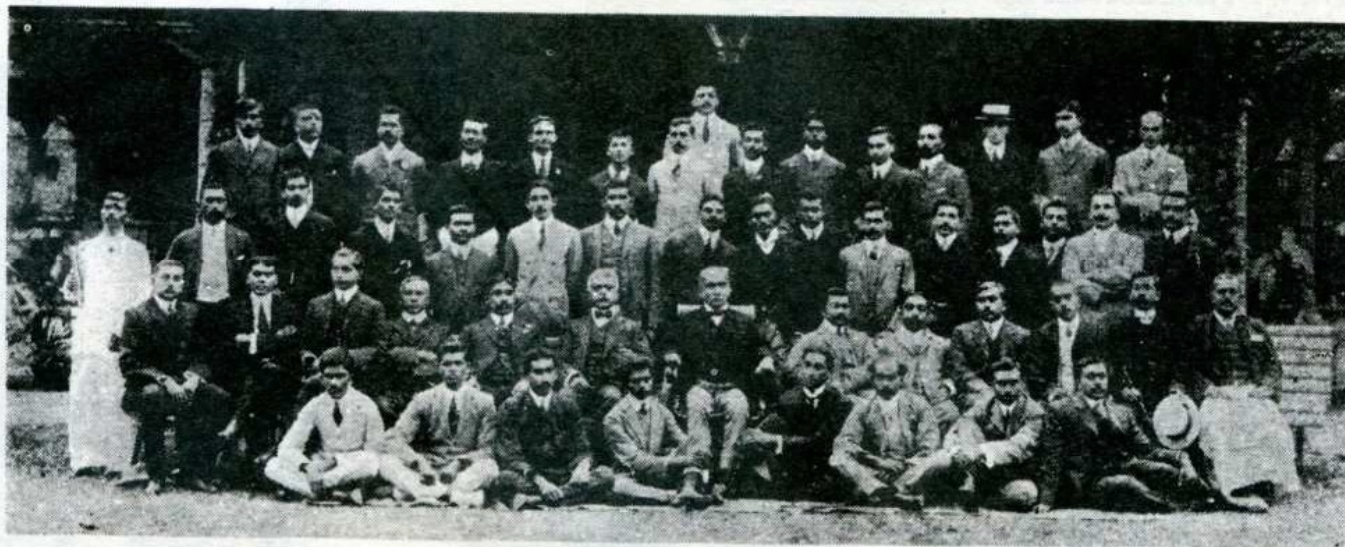
Mr. Gooneratne seconded - Carried.

The proceedings terminated with a very hearty vote of thanks to the Chair.

DATE OF INAUGURATION OF CLUB - 27th March 1899

There seems to be some confusion about the date of the formation of the S.S.C. S.P. Foenander, Ceylon's best known Cricket historian in his **History of the S.S.C. 1899 - 1952** says "on the 28th of March 1899 a meeting was held at Wesley College Hall". A very senior member of the S.S.C. Henry A. de Silva, in a 27 page pamphlet (meant only for private circulation) titled **SINGHALESE** (spelt in this manner then) **SPORTS CLUB - Memoirs & Comment - 1899 - 1940** writes - **INAUGURATION - On March 29, 1899** at Wesley College a meeting was held to "consider the advisability of organising a Sinhalese Sports Club". The report of the Inaugural meeting reproduced in this brochure is from the **CEYLON STANDARD** of 28th March 1899.

This means that the meeting was held on 27th March 1899 & not on the other dates mentioned.



OPENING OF NEW PAVILION, 1922: A DISTINGUISHED GROUP WITH
SIR S. C. OBEYSEKERA, THEN PRESIDENT, AS CENTRAL FIGURE.

THE STORY OF THE SINGHALESE SPORTS CLUB THE FIRST 50 YEARS

1900 – 1949

The Story of a Club

SSC

In 1900 the Club was able to obtain a lease of the land, adjoining the Colombo Museum. The large extent was covered with Cinamon shrubs & soil was sandy. Much labour & expense was needed to bring the land into a good cricket ground. When levelled out the out field was sandy & scoring of fours was difficult. Gradually the handicaps were overcome & a matting pitch laid out. A tent was pitched (where the Nomads CC Pavilion now stands) to serve as a pavilion on match days. Although a committee was appointed to collect funds for improving the grounds & building a Pavilion not much progress was made till about 1910.

The Handbook of Ceylon Cricket – Other Field Sports (1902) reports the scores of the first match played by the club. The scores are reproduced later. The Ceylon Annual mentioned reported B. Tennekoon having a match bag of 10 wickets for S.S.C. vs. Galle. The Ceylon Independent of 15.07.1901 – commenting on the magnificent performance of the Singhalese Sports Club in their first match” the SSC a new organisation has taken the cricket world by storm. Their first essay entitles them to an undisputed place amongst the First Class Clubs & its expectations are not hopelessly falsified. The Club is hopeful of giving the Colts much trouble in maintaining their rights to the style & dignity of the Premier Club”.

Not long after the SSC met the Colts CC in 1902 but were beaten by an Innings & 19 runs. The scores of the First match are reproduced. The C.C.C. / Colts CC or the NCC / Colts CC match held pride of place in local First Class Club Cricket, but with the formation of the SSC, the Colts CC / SSC match attracted much attention.

The First President of the Club was Sir Harry Dias, First Hony. Secretary H.J.V.I. Ekanayake, First Treasurer Phillip de Silva & First Cricket Captain - O.G. de Alwis. The Club attracted the best schoolboy players from Royal, St. Thomas, Wesley, St. Josephs & Trinity. There seems to have been close friendship between the Royal College cricketers & Wesley College cricketers at this time.

S.P. Foenander writing in history of Colombo Colts Cricket Club (1941) says “powerful though the SSC were in that first decade of their history they were never able to inflict a defeat on the Colts who were almost invincible in those days. It was not till 1913 SSC were able to defeat the Colts CC for the first time. It was a sensational finish when SSC won by 4 runs at the Racquet Court.

The scores of the First match played by the Singhalese Sports Club follows :

THE FIRST MATCH OF THE CLUB

SSC vs COLOMBO SPORTS CLUB

Played on Galle Face on July 14th 1901, and won by the S.S.C. by 189 runs on the 1st innings.

S.S.C.

Shelton de Saram	c Jackson b Gibson	21
A.E. Abeykoon	b Howarth	15
M.S. Gooneratne	b Gibson	7
D.L. de Saram	c F. de Saram b Gibson	132
O.G. de Alwis	c Howarth b Gibson	22
E. Weerasuriya	b Gibson	24
D.B. Gunasekera	c Sewell b Gibson	12
F.L. Gunawardena	not out	33
A.F. Tirimanne	c Gibson b Howarth	3
W.B. de Saram	not out	13
A.F. Molamure	to bat	0
	Extras	19
	*Total (for 8 wickets)	<u>303</u>

*Innings declared closed

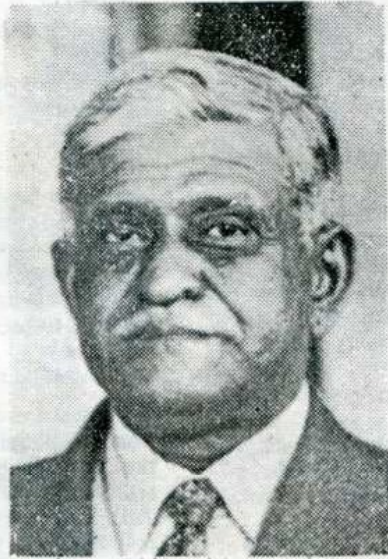
SPORTS CLUB

F.G. Tyrell	b Abeykoon	2
F. May	b D. de Saram	28
F.J. de Saram	b D. De Saram	14
H.E. Sewell	run out	7
G.H. Gibson	b Gunasekera	13
W.H. Howarth	b Molamure	10
Hon. R. Ponsonby	b Weerasoriya	2
W.H. Moor	b Weerasooriya	17
W.H. Jackson	not out	2
A. Leighton	b Gunasekera	0
A.D. Michie	b Gunasekera	4
	Extras	15
	Total	<u>114</u>

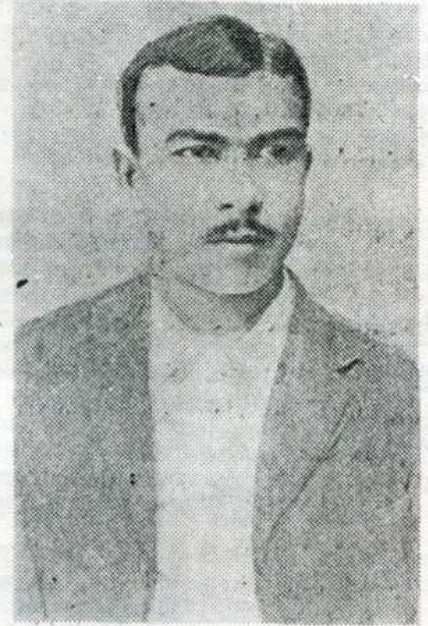
Some Founder Members



D.S. SENANAYAKE
First Prime Minister
of Ceylon 1947



Sir D. B. Jayatilaka
President at Inaugural meeting



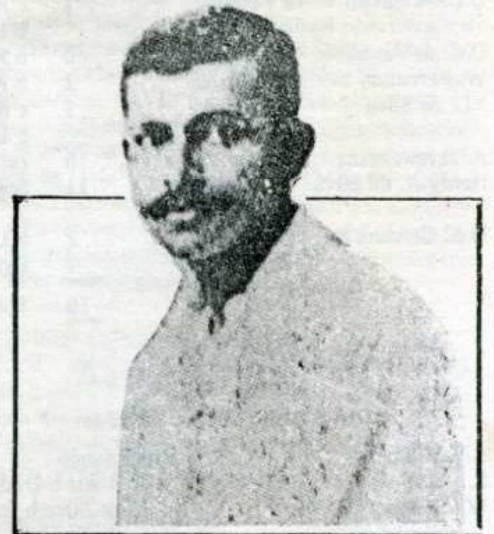
O. G. D'Alwis
The first Captain, as he was in the old days.



The Late Sir James Peiris
Former President



Sir Francis Molamure
Most brilliant fields in the First Decade



C.E. PERERA
Ceylons most
Elegant Right Hand
Batsman

BOWLING ANALYSIS

	S.S.C.			
	O.	M.	R.	W.
Howarth	23	3	103	2
Gibson	36	5	93	6
A.J.G. Field	8	2	23	0
Jackson	1	0	10	0
Moor	8	1	32	0
Michie	4	0	17	0
Leighton	1	0	6	0

SPORTS CLUB

	O.	M.	R.	W.
D.L. de Saram	13	1	30	2
*Abeykoon	10	2	24	1
de Alwis	5	1	7	0
**Molamure	8	2	8	1
Gunasekera	9	1	26	3
Weerasuriya	5	2	4	2

* Bowled 2 no balls.
** Bowled 1 no ball.

COLTS vs S.S.C.

Following are the scores in the first match played between the Colts C.C. and the Sinhalese Sports Club at the Racquet Court in 1902: Colts CC won by an innings & 19 runs. Captain - O.G. de Alwis (SSC) and Dr. A. Raffel (Colts CC).

SINHALESE S.C.

1st Innings		2nd Innings	
D.B. Gunasekera	c sub b Kelaart 2	b Kelaart	2
Andrew de Silva	b Ludovici 19	b Ludovici	10
Shelton de Saram	c & b Ludovici 4	b Ludovici	2
E. Weerasuriya	b Kelaart 14	c sub b Kelaart	6
D.L. de Saram	c Peglotte 1	c Peglotte	3
	b Ludovici	b Ludovici	
O.G. de Alwis	b Ludovici 0	b Kelaart	1
W. Fernando	b Ludovici 1	b Kelaart	1
J.L. de Silva	b Kelaart 1	c Rosayro	0
	b Ludovici	b Ludovici	
A. Jayewardene	not out 16	run out	1
Henry A. de Silva	c Pollocks 11	not out	10
	b Ludovici		
M.S. Gooneratne	run out 2	b Ludovici	0
Extras	7	Extras	10
Total	78	Total	50

COLTS C.C.

1st Innings	
A.T. Pollocks	b Fernando 4
E.A. Joseph	c de Alwis b D. de Saram 5
W. de Rosayro	c A. de Silva b D. de Saram 1
J. Ludovici	b D. de Saram 0
J.C. McHeyzer	b D. de Saram 3
Dr. A. Raffel	b Weerasuriya 55
W. de Fransz	c A. de Silva b D. de Saram 5
A.S. Peglotte	c J.L. de Silva b de Alwis 3
G. de Kretser	not out 34
D. Joseph	c A. de Silva b D. de Saram 24
T. Kelaart	b Fernando 7
Extras	6
Total	147

BOWLING ANALYSIS

SINHALESE S.C.

	1st Innings				2nd Innings			
	O.	M.	R.	W.	O.	M.	R.	W.
T. Kelaart	20	7	30	3	13	5	21	4
J. Ludovici	19.3	3	38	6	12	4	19	5

COLTS CC

1st Innings

	O.	M.	R.	W.
D.L. de Saram	14	2	45	6
W. Fernando	15	3	53	2
E. Weerasuriya	8	2	17	1
O.G. de Alwis	3	0	7	1
D.B. Gunasekera	4	0	19	0

The first scores of over 50 in the series between S.S.C. and Colts C.C. came from D.L. de Saram (SSC) who scored 92 in the second match in 1902. For the Colts CC skipper Dr. A. Raffel scored 55 in the first match of 1902. The score card show left arm bowlers taking 18 of the 20 wickets for Colts CC. Tommy Kelaart then dubbed as the "demon bowler" in local cricket is the only bowler to take 2000 wickets in Inter Club Cricket in Ceylon. The scores - SSC - were "all at sea" - 39 overs produced 78 runs & 25 overs produced 50 runs.

The team was Dr. W.H.A. Raffel (Capt.), W. de Rozairo, A.T. Pollocks, C.E. Perera, D. Joseph, J.C. McHeyzer (all of Colts C.C.), D.L. de Saram (Vice Captain), D.B. Gunasekera, E. Weerasuriya, A.F. Molamure, W.C. Boteju (all of S.S.C.), J.C. Weinmann, E. Ondatjie, L. Thomasz, C.S. Orr (all of the N.C.C.) and A.C. Amath (Malay C.C.). W. Parys was Manager and Dr. E.H. Ohlmus was Treasurer. F. Dadabhoy who helped when Elphinstone College came to Ceylon in 1903 worked hard to collect the necessary funds. The team travelled by ship the P. & O. "Oceana" to Bombay and the tour lasted from 10th February to 6th March. The team returned on the P. & O. Arcadia.

It was an extremely successful tour in the stronghold of Indian Cricket - Elphinstone College Past and Present were beaten by 4 wickets, the European Bombay Gymkhana match was drawn, the Muslim Islam Gymkhana beaten by an Innings and 30 runs and the Hindu Gymkhana match was drawn. This was the only match which the Ceylonese had to fight hard to survive. Elphinstone Club, a strong Parsee team had 7 who played in the Presidency match. The Ceylonese survived defeat, the last man coming in the last over of the day. The Ceylonese still required 14 runs to win. L.E. Thomasz lead the Ceylonese against Islam Gymkhana. The biggest disappointment of the tour was the failure of the great D.L. de Saram who scored only 13 runs in 5 innings.

The scores in brief -

- (1) Ceylonese - 108 and 114 for 6 - Elphinstone College Past & Present - 111 and 109 - Ceylonese won by 4 wkts.
- (2) Ceylonese - 194 and 315 for 8 (d) - Bombay Gymkhana - 262 and 49 for 1 - Drawn.
- (3) Ceylonese - 304 Islam Gymkhana - 139 and 83 - Ceylonese won by Ings & 82 runs
- (4) Ceylonese - 251 - Parsee Gymkhana - 89 and 132 - Ceylonese won by Ings & 30 runs.
- (5) Ceylonese - 177 and 143 for 7 - Hindu Gymkhana - 258 and 257 for 7 - Drawn.
- (6) Ceylonese - 217 and 133 for 9 - Elphinstone Club - 118 & 246 - Drawn.

The Ceylonese batting was first class. C.E. Perera was outstanding with 4 scores of over 50 runs and a total of 345 runs at 34.50. His most brilliant innings was 80 runs in 25 minutes with 15 fours against the Europeans. A.C. Amath, A.T. Pollock, M.D.B. Gunasekera, D. Joseph, E. Weerasuriya all batted well. D. Joseph was in great form - 55 wickets in 12 innings at

12.8. He performed the hat trick against Islam Gymkhana, (the First by a Ceylonese Overseas). Joseph was the best all-rounder. He scored 217 runs at 27.1. W. de Rozairo took 11 catches playing in only 3 matches. He hurt a finger (crushed in a deck chair on board ship) and could not play in the early matches. The fielding of C.E. Perera, A.F. Molamure, A.C. Amath, A.T. Pollocks and E. Weerasuriya has been described as brilliant. Some of the catches taken are described as "amazing", D.L. de Saram disappointed his many admirers. Ceylonese fielding for once failed. against Elphistone Club where the Ceylonese struggled. "All appeared to have buttered fingers" said an account. The Ceylonese played 6 matches won 3 drew 3.

The first century against the SSC was scored by W.F.O. Favrell (one of the best European cricketers in Ceylon) for the CCC. Lt. Faviell also had the honour of scoring the first century against the Colts CC while playing for the Worcester Regiment. Some phenomenal scoring was witnessed in the SSC vs CCC match when D.L. de Saram (110x) & F. de Saram (89x) put on 218 runs for the 2nd wkt in 80 minutes on the CCC Grounds. D.L. de Saram also recorded the highest score for the SSC when he scored 180 against Royal College.

FIRST OVERSEAS INVITATION TO A CEYLONESE PLAYER

S.S.C. can be proud of the fact that it was one of their members who received the first Invitation Overseas to a Ceylon player, to play in the Indian Trials in Bombay to select the Indian team to tour England. In December 1903. D.L. de Saram the Club captain was invited (along with Tommy Kelaart of Colts CC) by the Parsees to play in Bombay. de Saram played in 2 Trial matches for XI & XI scoring and XI vs XI scoring. E.H.D. Sewell former Essex county cricketer then in the Indian Army, and a well known cricket writer, wrote in his column to the Times of Ceylon that de Saram's performances made him a certainty for the Indian team. Unfortunately the tour was cancelled. J.D. Antia in his book **Elphistone College Tours (1913)** wrote "on the day of our arrival (i.e. Colombo), we commenced a match against the Singhalese Sports Club. The opponents had an excellent combination having amongst them Douglas d'Saram. He was an exact representation of our Indian Champion Major Mistry. This great player is the idol of Ceylonese crowds, who is pronounced as having no peer as an all-round Cricketer in the island". "He is no stranger to Bombay cricketers for he made a favourable impression by his all-round excellence during the "Test" matches held in connection with the proposed visit by the Indian team to England in 1903/04".

"The match (vs SSC) was characterised by the brilliant performance of d'Saram. In the 2nd innings the Singhalese fared badly at the start losing d'Saram & 2 others stalwarts for 24 only. With D.B. Gunasekera & A.F. Molamure batting well, the Singhalese got some runs. Fifty five minutes of play & a finish seemed out of the question. But nobody expected the "Elphs" to wind up so miserably & lost 5 wickets for 33.

The SSC team was A.F. Molamure, W.C. Boteju, E. Weerasooriya, C. Aluvihare, O.G. de Alwis, D. de Saram, D. Goonasekera, J. Halangoda, R. Ekanayake, J. de Silva & W. Fernando. Scores: SSC - 152 & 176 for 9 (d). Elphistone College - 171 & 33 for 5 wkts. J.D. Antia 5 for 49 & 3 for 58, C. Aluvihare - 15-1-44-6 and 10-5-5-2, D.B. Gunasekera - 22-7-33-3 & 5-2-6-1. Match drawn. Elphistone College met the Colts CC - described by Antia "as the pick of Ceylonese cricket talent". Elphistone College won by 4 runs in this 2-day match. It might be mentioned that J.D. Antia brought a strong team of Bombay Cricketers to Ceylon in 1926.

"D.L., E.R. & Fred de Saram, D.B. & E.I. Gunasekera & D.S. Senanayake decided to play first class Club Cricket only for the SSC & not for their old club the N.C.C., as the S.S.C. became more distinguished than in the past 3 years" (S.P. Foenander). This arrangement did not last very long. The statistics show the great C.E. Perera appearing for the SSC & for his old club Colts-CC. He scored the 2nd century for the club (S.S.C.) with 145 against Bambalapitiya Young Men's Athletics & Cricket Club (BYMACC). For the SSC old Josephian captain Andrew de Silva had scores 59 n.o. & 63 n.o. against Royal Garrison Artillery & Colts CC. C.E. Perera also scored 72 & 78 n.o. for the SSC against Railway CC & Sports Club. While A.F. Molamure, W.C. Boteju & A.W. Nathanielsz got half centuries for the S.S.C.

FIRST CEYLONSE TEAM ON OVERSEAS TOUR - 5 S.S.C. PLAYERS

The first Ceylonese team to go overseas went to Bombay in February 1906. The team's trip was sponsored by the Colts C.C. The centre of activity in Indian cricket had shifted from Calcutta to Bombay. Public subscription provided the ships fare. The team was billeted in a private bungalow in Bombay. The Singhalese S.C. had 5 of their best players - D.L. de Saram, D.B. Gunasekera, E. Weerasuriya, W.C. Boteju, A.F. Molamure (the best fieldsman in the island up to about 1909). The Bombay enthusiasts were very eager to see D.L. de Saram who had fine performances in the Indian Trials in 1903/04.

The S.S.C. played just six first class matches during the year 1907 winning two. D.B. Gunasekera who scored 231 runs at 23.00 was the leading S.S.C. batsman & E. Weerasuriya was next. The rest of them did hardly anything of note. In bowling W.C. Boteju took 27 wickets at 8.50. E.R. de Saram next with 13 wickets. D.B. Gunasekera with 25 with at 15.52 was the best all-rounder in minor matches. D.L. de Saram, D.B. Gunasekera, A.F. Molamure (2). 1907 was a sad year for all cricket fans. The passing away of a Legend in his life time C.E. Perera - The Greatest - was deeply regretted by the Ceylonese & Europeans alike. C.E. Perera was all grace in his strokes & D.L. de Saram made rapier like thrusts. The contrast in styles was admired by all - both styled legends in their lifetime. What is written below is a tribute to a great Ceylonese gentleman cricketer.

In the second month of 1907 All Ceylon, sportmen and fans were stricken with the sad news of the passing away of C.E. Perera - A LEGEND IN HIS LIFETIME. Born in 1880 he passed away on 27.02.1907 at the age of 27 - due to an attack of enteric fever. In this short span as a cricketer he endeared himself to all. A modest schoolboy, slim and wiry. Our writers went into raptures on this elegant right-hand batsman. "A born cricketer, cricket came naturally to him". "He was elegant and had a wide repertoire of strokes. "He had every stroke in the cricket book and he used all of them to entertain the spectators" (S.P. Foenander - SIXTY YEARS OF CEYLON CRICKET - 1924) Those in this little island compared him to the batting artistes in the West and East (R.C.N. Palareit, Jack Hobbs and Victor Trumper). It may be the Ceylonese were overestimating themselves, adulation being carried too far. I believe it was not so. Ceylon had to wait another 40 years to see the likes of C.E. Perera - that was M. Sathasivam also of Wesley (50 years ago) and a 30 years to witness a Roy Dias. Without coaching techniques Perera taught the Ceylonese the ART OF BATSMANSHIP. What has been written in Ceylon cricket books and newspapers is sufficient for us to imagine what Perera must have imparted in batting. I have an eyewitness on C.E. Perera, in my father who as a schoolboy, saw C.E. Perera in action. On the Bombay tour he had the following scores (all 2-day matches) 0 & 10, 9 & 80, 69, 54, 46 & 9, 63, 43 - 348 runs at 34. He was a brilliant fielder and a good off spin bowler. Perera hit the headlines in 1897 as a 17-year-old scoring 71 not out for Colts C.C. against Europeans. This was the BIG MATCH in the Ceylon cricket calendar then. "What a batsman. We shall never see the likes of him again" wrote one scribe who reported on the match. The sight of two 18-year-old Ceylonese J.A. Scharenguiel (38x) & C.E. Perera (7) opening the 2nd innings moved the local crowd greatly".

Wesley, then juveniles, in Inter College Cricket suffered 4 successive defeats at the hands of Royal - their earliest & friendliest rivals. Two of the defeats were by an innings. It was C.E. Perera's lion-hearted batting (97 not out) that brought Wesley a win by an Innings after 3 wkts had fallen for 2 runs. He was described "as faultless sharp eyed & with powerful wrists and a lithe wiry frame made his forward play spectacular".

In the next match in 1899 he scored 18 & 85. One comment said the spectators were treated to a splendid exposition of the game in both innings. He has a free & easy style. Wesley again won by an Innings against Royal.

Perera played club cricket for both Colts C.C. and S.S.C. In early February 1907 he was elected Cricket Captain of the S.S.C. He was never to captain the S.S.C. as he passed away at the end of the month. Prior to his election as captain in his last match before his death exactly 3 weeks earlier he had a match bag of 12 wickets for 45 runs for S.S.C. against Tamil Union C. & A.C.

Perera was a versatile sportsman, brilliant three-quarter at Rugby, a good tennis player and a good athlete. He was a member of the Ceylon Artillery Volunteers (later Ceylon Garrison Artillery) whom he represented at the other sports. Sergeant Perera was selected as a member of the Ceylon Military Contingent to King Edward's Coronation in 1902 in London but when he found he was given preference over a senior officer he declined to go. Someone who was eligible should not be displaced said Perera. Gentleman Perera played the game on and off the field maintaining the highest principles of sportsmanship. A newspaper report on his funeral said he was a Buddhist. He was given a military funeral, the coffin was draped with the Union Jack. His death was a great loss to Ceylon Cricket. Perera is the proudest product of Wesley College. His father was S.A.M. Perera and he had two brothers C.A. & C.V. The funeral took place at the General Cemetery, Mount Lavinia.

This item does not refer solely to the Club (S.S.C.) but to a member C.A. Perera whose brilliant batting was not far behind that of his great brother C.E. Perera. During the month of December 1908 C.A. Perera did some phenomenal scoring which I believe has not been matched in Sri Lanka, even with the extended hour of play & 3-day matches. C.A. Perera who played for Wesley College (he scored the first century in Inter College Cricket for Wesley College) had the following figures for runs scored in December - 5 M 6 / 2 No 146 HS 670 R 167.50 Av N.O. H.S. - 670 Runs - 114.00 Av. Perera was an employee in the Police Department.

December 4/5 - 112 - Police Dept S.C. vs Treasury
 11/12 - 122 - S.C.C. vs Tamil Union C. & A.C.
 18/19 - 120 - Police Sports Club vs Tamil Union C. & A.C.
 24/25 - 56x - Police Dept S.C. vs Customs Dept S.C.
 14x
 28/29 - 146 - S.S.C. vs Kandy S.C.

Another record for the Club came from D.L. de Saram playing for A.F. Molamure's XI and S. Thomas' College at Mutuwal scored twin centuries - 108 n.o. before lunch and 101x between tea and close. A century in a session. He also hit 22 sixes in the 2 innings and took

SINGHALESE SPORTS CLUB SPONSORS VISIT BY AUSTRALIANS

In 1909 the Singhalese Sports Club due to the energetic Hony. Secretary J.A.A. Mendis arranged for the Australian Team returning to Australia from England to play in Colombo during two weekends. The two batches of players helped by some ship's passengers played entertaining cricket in whole-day matches. The sponsor of the visits (the First Ceylonese Club to attempt such a venture) was Singhalese Sports Club. Both weekends the ship put into port of Colombo quite early in the morning & the matches commenced at 10 a.m. It was said that the ship's captain did not spare the expense of using extra coal to work the engine faster to catch up on time to get to Colombo on time with either the English or Australian teams. On some occasions the newspapers report that the ship's captain lead the visitors into the field. The ship's captain seemed all powerful.

The Ceylonese teams were selected by the Singhalese Sports Club & both teams were led by D.B. Goonasekera. For the first match the S.S.C. invited the finest European bowler to play club cricket in Ceylon - W.T. Greswell just arrived in Ceylon to learn tea planting, but he declined the invitation. In the first match Mr. A.J.R. de Soysa entertained the teams to lunch at the Galle Face Hotel. S.S.C. President Sir SC Obeysekera proposed to the health of the visiting team. Also present was Soloman Dias Bandaranaike. Manager F. Laver & Captain M.A. Noble in reply recalled the friendship with Solomon Dias Bandaranaike made 12 years earlier in London. At tea H.E. the Governor Sir Hugh Clifford arrived at the grounds (now the premises of Hotel Taj Samudra). J.H.A. Mendis thanked Mr. A.J.R. de Soysa for entertaining the two teams.

The Ceylonese Team (1st) - batting order - A.T. Pollocks, W. de Rosayro & T. Kelaart (Colts C.C.), D.B. Gunasekera (Capt.), R.E.S. Mendis, D.L. de Saram, E. Weerasuriya, A.F. Molamure, Fred de Saram (all S.S.C.), C. Horan (N.C.C.), A.C. Amath (Malay C.C.), W.T. Greswell (CC) was replaced. In the 2nd match C.A. Perera (SSC) replaced C.A. Horan. 1st M.A. Noble's Australians & 4 ship passengers - J.M. Bryan, Kent County Cricketers & B.C.N. Knight (formerly Ceylon) now on his way to Malaya for planting & J.B. Logan & 3 others. The Australians were M.A. Noble (Capt.), A. Cotter, A.J. Hopkins, F.J. Laver (Manager), W.W. Armstrong. Scores - Ceylonese XI - 110 - Australians - 68 & 125 for 3 in 16 Overs

and 50 minutes. In the 1st Innings Pollocks batted 2 hours for 38 runs Armstrong took 5 wks for 51. For the Ceylonese T. Kelaart 4 for 24 & R.E.S. Mendis 5 for 19 bowled well.

In the 2nd Innings Albert Cotter the Australian fast bowler gave a scintillating display scoring 61 runs in 4 overs & 15 minutes. He hit Horan (4,2,4) 14 runs, Mendis (4,4,6,4,4,2) 24 runs, 12 runs & Kelaart (11 runs) all in successive overs. More than this hitting, the fantastic catch that was taken by Molamure to dismiss Cotter was the highlight. The ball soared so high that Molamure ran from mid wicket to almost fine leg to take the catch. It is reported in the papers & related by an eyewitness 50 years ago.

In the 2nd match on 12th November the Australians were lead by P.A. MacAlister included W. Bardsley, A.J. Hopkins, V.S. Ramsford, W.J. Whitty, H. Carter, W.W. Carkeek & 4 ships passengers. Match commenced at 10 a.m. The Ceylonese batting first scored 183 for 5 wickets. The Australians scored 18 & 59 for 4 at close. Pollocks 54 again batted well. Amath too batted well to remain on 32 n.o. For the Australians wicket-keeper Carter scored 10 & T. Kelaart bowled an immaculate length to take 6 for 31 & 3 for 31. P.A. MacAlister distributed the prizes to the local players (1) A. silver cup by H.A. Gunasekera Ratemahattaya, Ratnapura, for the highest scorer - Pollocks (2) A bat by D.A. Perera & Co for the the best bowler - T. Kelaart, (3) A bat by Mudaliyar Harry Jayawardene of Tangalle to the best fieldsman - A.F. Molamure (4) A silver cup by E.L.F. de Soysa to the best all-rounder - R.E.S. Mendis - 22 & 3 for 31 (5) A silver cup presented by Mr. Mahawalatenne, R.M. Ratnapura - A.C. Amath (6) A bat by Moors Sports Club - A.T. Pollocks.

The match results for the 1st decade were

	P.	W.	L.	D.	T.
1899	-	-	-	-	-
1900	-	-	-	-	-
1901	1	-	1	0	0
1902	-	-	-	-	-
1903	-	-	-	-	-
1904	-	-	-	-	-
1905	9	2	2	5	-
1906	-	-	-	-	-
1907	6	2	3	1	7th
1908	6	2	3	1	11th
1909	-	-	-	-	-

The highlight of the 1910 season (year) was C.A. Perera's (114) First Century by an S.S.C. player against the Invincible Colts C.C. Only 3 out of 10 FC matches were won. C.A. Perera had 2 hundreds for Colts vs C.C.C. & for Police S.C. vs Kandy S.C. A.F. Molamure scored 134 vs Sports Club & F. de Saram 102 vs Malay C.C. D.L. de Saram headed the batting averages with 518 runs at 34.53 in 15 innings. Some of these for N.C.C. & C.A. Perera was 3rd with 563 runs at 33.11. In bowling R.E.S. Mendis was the best bowler for S.S.C. with 65 wickets at 9.09 & D.L. de Saram with 48 wickets was the best all-rounder. The Singhalese S.C. also made the record total by any club (324 for 8 wks (d) against Colts C.C).

In the 1911 season S.S.C. lost one match only. They beat the strong up-county planters teams D.A.C.C. & D.M.C.C. They met the Madras United C.C. who were on a short tour of Ceylon. S.S.C. 233 & 40 for 6 wks drew Madras United 107 & 169. S.S.C. were 4 runs short of victory in this 2 day match. Harry Samarasinghe 44 E. Weerasooriya 49 batted best. Albert de Alwis did extremely well to have a match bag of 9 for 89 (5 for 32 & 4/47) D.B. Gunasekera 5 for 30 shared the wicket with de Alwis in the 2nd Innings. R. Chary took 3 for four for the visitors in the 2nd innings - but no hat-trick.

D.L. de Saram, E.A. Gunasekera, A.B. Kannangara, C.A. Perera scored centuries for the club during the year. From 1912 first class club matches and mercantile & government services matches were played on Friday afternoon & Saturday. According to reports there had been much discussion about extending playing hours. Only 42 first class club matches were played during the year. S.S.C. were placed 3rd out of 10 clubs. C.C.C., Dimbula, N.C.C., Sports Club, Colts C.C., Bloomfield C. & A.C., Police S.C., Malay C.C., D.M.C.C. The best of the S.S.C. batsmen were E.R. de Saram (441 in at 31.50 - 4th in FC (Averages) & 6th in bowling with 38 wickets at 14.39. De Saram was one of the 4 best all-rounders in the island this year. The Club had not made progress in

providing a pavillion & amenities for members up to this. Only the grounds were available. There was no pavilion.

Again playing hours. "The Ceylon Sports Annual." (1914 Edition) commenting on the 1913 season (the year) moaned that anything more than 2 afternoons can be devoted to a match. As for players playing for 2 Clubs (S.S.C. & N.C.C. or Bloomfield C. & A.C. & Colts C.C.) etc. efforts to minimise this as far as possible, the S.S.C. has taken a step in this direction & among those who have decided in future to limit their services to one Club we may mention the de Sarams, A.C. Amath & one or two others" (). The S.S.C. won the FCC championship in 1913.

At this time Henry A. de Silva (who was a founder member & whose name appears in the first S.S.C./Colts C.C. score card was elected ground secretary. At this time collection of subscription was lax & the president & vice president paid for prizes & refreshments at function. The club was extremely lucky with the early office bearers Sir Harry Dias, Sir Christoffel Obeyesekere, Sir James Peiris, Mr. A.J.R. de Soysa headed the list of donors for the grounds & building fund. Mr. D.S. Senanayake (Hony. Secy.), John Kotelawala (later Sir), Co-Secretary, F.A. Obeyesekere, D.B. Gunasekera, H.M. Gunasekera (father of U.N.), D.L. de Saram, H.L. de Mel (later Sir), Henry A. de Silva, Stanley Obeyesekere, D.R. Wijewardene (father of Ranjit Wijewardene), D.H.P. Abeywardene & George E. de Silva got to work with L.H. de Alwis, Hony. Secy. of the Club. The Club was offered the lease of 8 acres of land at Bullers Road for a new cricket ground this did not materialise. So S.S.C. played at Victoria Park.

The first extended tour of Ceylon by an Australian team took place in January 1914 when Rev. E.F. Waddy's team of New South Wales Cricketers met 2 Ceylonese teams All Ceylon & two Up-Country European teams. This tour witnessed the first players boycott of a tour. "The Sydney Morning Herald" reported that D.L. de Saram & brother E.R. de Saram had presented a memorandum to the Committee of Colombo Clubs (organisers of the tour) that they were not available. So the idol of Ceylonese crowds did not play. The C.C.C. too boycotted the tour but not the Europeans - Up-Country. Finally however one C.C.C. player (J.C. Johnson) finally played. With all this boycotting the Ceylonese & All Ceylon teams put up a great performance against the State Cricketers who had 2 Test players & another who was 12th man for Australia in a Test (Rev. Waddy had also played for Warwickshire earlier). From the S.S.C. the players in the Ceylonese team were Albert de Alwis, F.A. Obeyesekere. There were no S.S.C. players in the All Ceylon team.

In August 1914 the outbreak of World War I, witnessed sport on a limited scale. The European community players, many of them went on overseas War Service, some Ceylonese too served in France. Some good European cricketers made the supreme sacrifice, some others wounded, were not at the best on their return to Ceylon. In spite of difficulties their Young Men's Indian Association from Madras made a tour of Ceylon. This tour was sponsored by Dr. John Rockwood. The team included the best known Madras is C. Ganapathy, C. Ramaswami & M. Venkataramanjalu & M. Baliah. In the game against SSC in December 1916 - S.S.C. lost on the 1st innings S.S.C. - 138 & 58 for 3 wickets - Y.M.I.A. - 159. For the S.S.C. F.W. Dias scored 29 & E.R. de Silva took 5 wickets for 40. (Later Principal of Richmond) Ganapathy bowled well to take 6 wickets for 40 & Ramaswami (later to represent India at Cricket & in the Davis Cup) scored 46 n.o.

In 1917 on 25th August the New Ground at Victoria Park was opened at 9.00 a.m. by Sir S.C. Obeyesekere in the presence of a large gathering Mr. C.P. Dias took strike against the bowling of Sir S.C. Obeyesekere. The veteran schoolmaster was bowled 3rd ball by Sir Obeyesekere. Frederick Dornhorst a leading Ceylonese lawyers was one of the umpires. The match was "Married vs Singles". Some of the "Singles" team were H.B. Kannangara, A.E. Weerasinghe, A.P. Wijetunge, E.R. de Saram, E.A. Gunasekera, F.W. Dias, A.J. Boteju, G.G. Perera, O.G. de Alwis, V.R. Gunasekera. Among those present were Sir S.C. Obeyesekere, H.L. de Mel, Hon. Dr. H.M. Fernando, Hon. G.S. Schneider, Major David Rockwood, F.R. Senanayake, A.St.V. Jayewardene, E.W. Jayewardene, Dr. C.A. Hewavitarne, Dr. E.V. Ratnam.

At the end of the day Hony. Secretary L.H. de Alwis announced that the Reception was due to the generosity of Mr. & Mrs. A.J.R. de Soysa & her two daughters who had come to their rescue. Mrs. de Soysa personally supervised all arrangements. The Hony. Secretary called for 3 cheers for Mrs. de Soysa & those present responded. The burden of laying out the

grounds were borne by D.S. Senanayake, D.B. Gunasekera, John Kotelawala & H.G. Dias Surveyor (who was made an Honorary Member) & Prince of Groundsmen Abdu. The total cost of laying out the grounds was Rs.12,000/-. Henry A. de Silva wrote that "all the cricket matches & matting etc. was stored in my father's house "Henley House" (now St. Bridget's Convent). The cadjan pavilion was razed to the ground during the 1918 Royal vs S. Thomas' match. All the materials & other equipment were destroyed.

To deviate I might mention that in 1908 the de Silva family with a team styled HENLEY HOUSE XI met St. Joseph's College at Darley Road. The team was - Henry A; Peter; Francis; Charles; John R; Henry; D.J.; Clovis; Aloysius; Michael & Cyril: St. Joseph's 257 beat Henley House 107 & 44 for 2 wickets on the 1st Innings. Of the brotherhood Andrew was captain St. Joseph's () Henry was First Captain of St. Joseph's (1898) & Francis (Captain of Royal - 1893 & 1894).

The review of Ceylon Cricket in 1922 compared the improvement in Ceylonese cricket & decline somewhat in the European standards. The presence of W.T. Greswell (Somerset) & V.F.S. Crawford (Surrey & Leicestershire) in Ceylon from 1910 to 1915. Writers mentioned was the cause of improvement of Ceylonese cricket. Around 1921 writers mentioned that "the Ceylonese batsman now stand up to European bowling with less funk than before & this came about due to Greswell's presence". Comments said that D.L. de Saram "was still the most dangerous batsman after 20 years of cricket". D.L. de Saram was one Ceylonese who took Greswell apart on many an occasion. One sixer recalled for a long time was de Saram batting at the C.C.C. pavilion end, hitting Greswell over the road far into the Racecourse premises - near the present National Archives building. S.S.C. were 5th in the FCC table in 1922. De Saram scored 545 run at 38.9 & M.K. Albert was 8th with 442 runs at 29.1. Albert de Alwis still shouldered the burden of bowling this year 47 wickets of 10.5. Dr. C.H. Gunasekera just back from his triumphs in England took 23 wickets at 17.0

The S.S.C. vs Tamil Union encounter in 1918 witnessed J.C.G. Rodrigo (100) & M.K. Albert (111) not out put on 211 for the 1st wkt in a match played on a Friday afternoon & Saturday & continued on the Saturday the following weekend.

Opening of the Sinhalese Sports Club pavilion (adjoining Colombo Museum. (Insert) picture of Sir C.C. Obeyesekere.

The main playing members in the second decade were D.L. de Saram, M.K. Albert, C.A. Perera, A. Rodrigo, Albert de Alwis, H.B. Kannangara, A.C.Z. Wijeratne, H.F. Goonawardene, F. de Saram, D.A. Wijewardene, H.W. Samarakoon, R.E.S. Mendis, F.W. Dias, S. Gunasekera, D.B. Gunasekera, L.I.M. Perera, E.A. Amarasekera, E. Weerasuriya, A.D.I. Seneviratne, D.M. Rajapakse, W.E. Perera. Except for L.J.M. Peiris, G.D.I. Seneviratne, D.M. Rajapakse, W.E. Perera the same old players of the first decade continued to play.

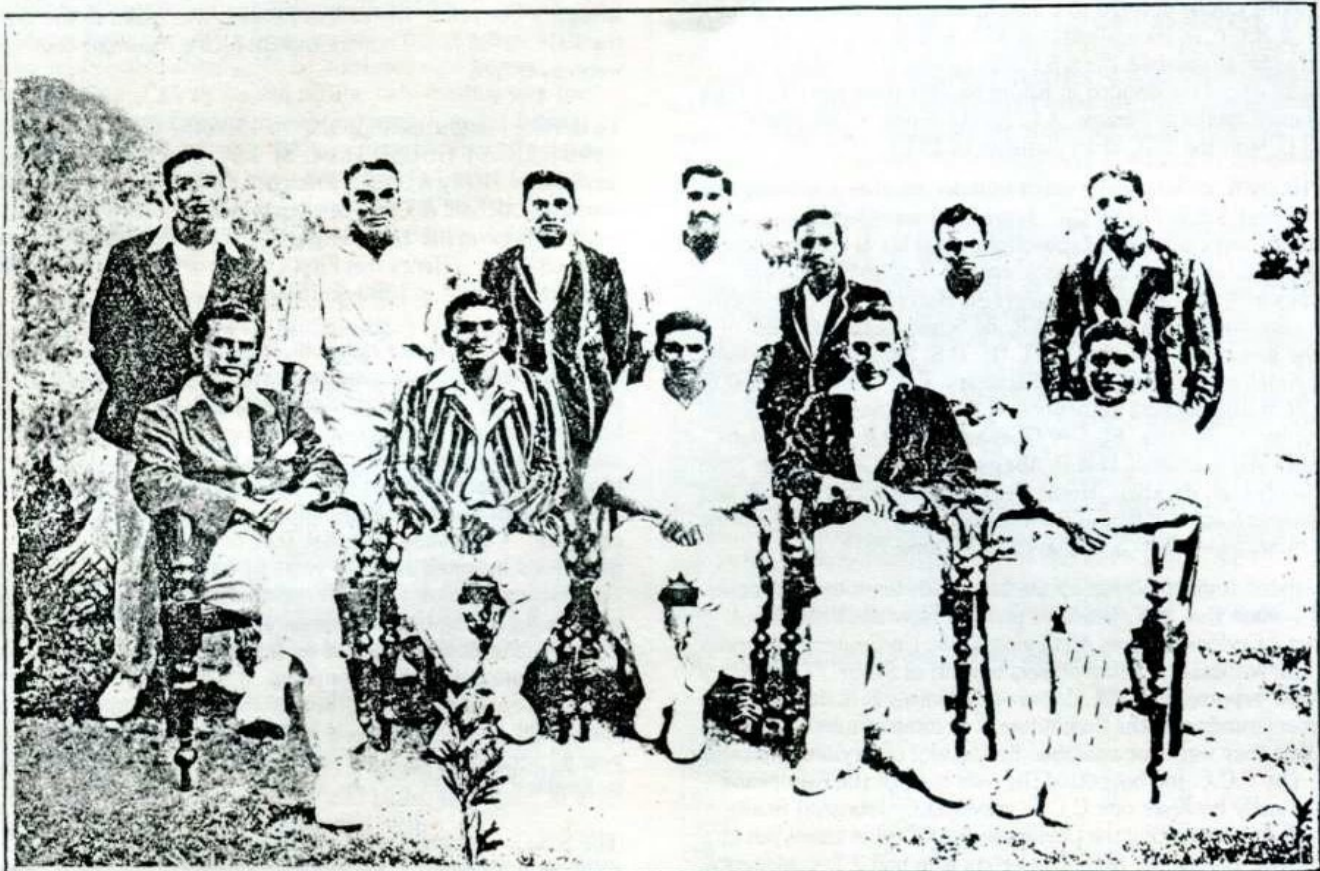
The playing record for the years 1910 - 1919 were

P W L D T A							P W L D T A											
1910	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1916					
1911	14	11	1	1	1	0	11/11						1917					
1912	10	7	2	1	0	1	2nd/10						1918					
1913	8	5	1	2	0	0	3rd/10						1919	no figures available				
1914	13	9	3	1	0	0	1											
1915	0	0	0	0	0	0												

The Ceylon Sports Annual reported that the S.S.C. had emerged even more forcefully. S.S.C. played just 5 matches but the improvement all round was noticeable. This was to be reflected few years later with Championship honours or with a higher place more often. M.K. Albert the Holy Cross College schoolboy was blossoming out to be the ideal opening batsman. He was the star in 1923 with 439 runs at 48.7 average to be 2nd in the 1st class club averages. Albert was to replace (D.L. de Saram now getting on in years) as the most prolific scorer. D.L. de Saram, Bernard Jayasuriya, E.I. Gunasekera, J.C.A. Rodrigo all batted well, while veterans Sammy Gunasekera & Albert de Alwis both slow left arm bowled best.

SINHALESE SPORTS CLUB XI

CLUB CHAMPIONS 1924

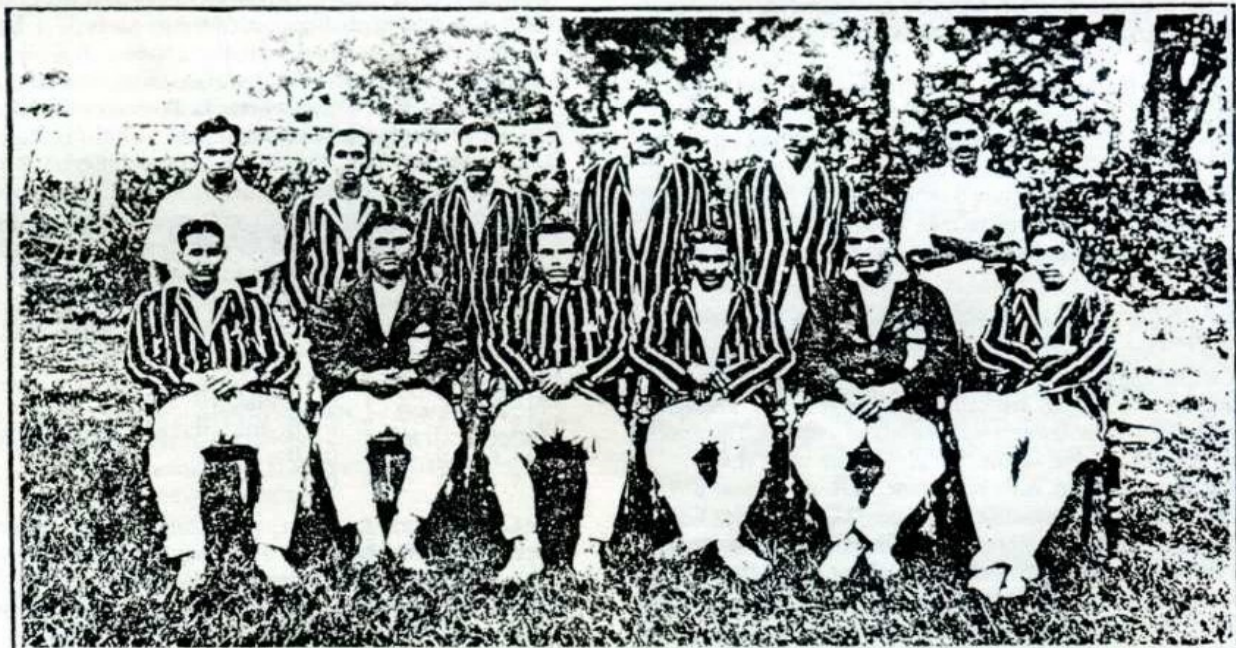


Back row : C. Wittatchy, D.A. Gunasekera, C.C. Senaratna, C. Abeysundera, L.D.S. Gunasekera, A.C.Z. Wijeyratna, H.F. Goonewardena.

Seated : H.B. Kannangara, D.B. Gunasekera, Dr. C.H. Gunasekera (Capt.), F. de Saram, M.K. Albert.

SINHALESE SPORTS CLUB TEAM

(CLUB CHAMPIONS OF 1925)



Standing : A.C.Z. Wijeyratna, L.D.S. Gunasekera, C.H. Wittatchy, C. Abeysundera, R.M.M. de Silva, G.G. Perera.

Seated : H.F. Gunewardena, M.K. Albert, H.B. Kannangara, Dr. C.H. Gunasekera, A. de Alwis, C.C. Senaratna.

The Championship came back to the S.S.C. after 10 years in 1924. A fine all-round team led by D.L. de Saram with M.K. Albert & Dr. C.H. Gunasekera doing well. Albert de Alwis & S. Gunasekera were the leading bowlers. Dr. C.H. Gunasekera scored 2 centuries - against Galle C.C. & Tamil Union C. & A.C.

Tragedy overtook S.S.C. many a time since the inauguration in 1899. At intervals some of the outstanding players passed away in the prime of their life. All of them succumbed to enteric. In August 1924 Ceylon's foremost wicket Alfred Aluvihare the old Trinitian passed away. Earlier C.E. Perera (1907), W.C. Boteju (1909), R.E.S. Mendis (1919), E.R. de Saram (1920) before they were 30 years of age.

The 1924 Champion team was D.L. de Saram (Capt.), Dr. C.H. Gunasekera, M.K. Albert, A.C.Z. Wijeratne, Bernard Jayasuriya, H.F. Goonawardene, A.W. Rodrigo, R.L. Kannangara, S. Gunasekera, A. de Alwis, C.C. Senaratne (wk) & A. Hettiarachi (wk). The Club lost 2 matches. The surprise of the year as the defeat of a strong S.S.C. team by S.P. Foenander's Combined Colleges XI by 57 runs. The other match lost was against Galle C.C. when S.S.C. fielded a weak team. D.L. de Saram scored the only century this year - 102 vs Colts C.C. Dr. C.H. Gunasekera led the team in D.L. de Saram's absence. He played in only 7 matches. Two newcomers schoolboys L.D.S. Gunasekera an all-rounder - batting, bowling, fielding & as wicket-keeper & H. Meedeniya a slow medium leg spinner showed much promise.

The Championship was won again in 1925 - The team led by Dr. C.H. Gunasekera included H.B. Kannangara, Albert de Alwis, M.K. Albert, H.F. Goonawardene, C.C. Senaratne, C.H. Wittachy, R.M.M. de Silva, H.E. Goonawardene, L.D.S. Gunasekera, A.C.Z. Wijeratne & G.G. Perera did not lose a single match out of 18. The old stars were missing but the batting was strong & bowling equally good. Galle C.C. & Richmond College player R.M.M. de Silva left arm slow medium was outstanding with 56 wickets at 9.3 & 77 in all matches including friendlies at 7.7. Newly inaugurated Panadura Sports Club surprised cricket fans defeating the S.S.C. by 48 runs. This was the first match played by Panadura S.C. M.K. Albert the most successful & distinguished, player made history in the Ceylonese vs Europeans scoring 175 in the 2-day match. Albert was 3rd in the F.C.C. batting averages with 689 runs (including the 175) at 49.2. C.C. Senaratne & A.C.Z. Wijeratne also batted well. R.M.M. de Silva was 1st in F.C.C. bowling averages. Next best being Dr. C.H. Gunasekera who was brilliant in field. "The S.S.C. had 7 of the best fieldsmen in the island" (S.P. Foenander) others being L.D.S. Gunasekera, H.F. Goonawardene, M.K. Albert, R.M.M. de Silva & H.B. Kannangara & A.C.Z. Wijeratne. C.C. Senaratne () & A.C.Z. Wijeratne () put on 230 runs for the 3rd wkt in an unfinished partnership against Galle C.C. For the first time in the history of the S.S.C. and member (R.M.M. de Silva) performed the hat-trick (against the Sports Club).

After 2 successful years S.S.C. had a slide down to 4th place in 1926. The leading batting average was 30.09 to the credit of Dr. C.H. Gunasekera & M.K. Albert (429 runs) made most runs. R.M.M. de Silva was best bowler with 38 wickets at 12.21 Av.

M.K. Albert with 686 at 49.00 was the leading run maker. Albert as opening bat & C.H. Wittachy (131) put on a record 230 runs for the 2nd wkt against Malay CC and veteran Sammy Gunasekera was 2nd in the first class bowling averages with 35 wickets.

The tally for the 3rd decade was

P	W	L	D	P	W	L	D	T	A
1920				1925	18	7	0	11	0 0 1st/11
1921				1926	14	3	1	10	- - 4th/10
1922	17	7	4	6	5th/14	1927	-	-	- - -
1923	18	5	4	9	7th/10	1928	19	8	- 11 0 0 4th/10
1924	15	3	1	6	1st/9	1929	-	-	- - -

The C.C.A. worked out a new points system & the highest percentage for clubs which play 10 matches & over.

The man who dominated Ceylon Cricket as a player and captain for 30 years - D.L. de Saram retired this year - with 28 centuries in all classes of cricket and 18 of these for the S.S.C. He was the chief century maker for the club (Albert had a lesser number of hundreds for the S.S.C.) till S.S. Jayawickrema and F.C. de Saram came on the scene. De Saram led the

Ceylonese against A.E. R. Gilligan's teams this year at the age of 48 years - he is the oldest to lead a Ceylon team in a FC match (not All Ceylon).

1928 saw M.K. Albert again the best club batsman - 3rd in F.C. averages with 752 runs at 53.7 while L.D.S. Gunasekera scored 758 runs at 39.8 and S. Gunasekera, still going strong was 2nd with 20 wkts at 9.00 this year. Sammy Gunasekera bowled unchanged twice with Dr. C.H. Gunasekera on both occasions. First against N.C.C., dismissed for 43 runs and C.C.C. who were dismissed for 53 runs in 28 overs. He took 7 for 7 vs N.C.C. and 7 for 37 vs C.C.C.

In 1929 M.K. Albert improved on his performances of the previous three years scoring 824 runs at 74.9. No Ceylon batsman had so high an average for as many runs in the F.C. batting averages since A.L. Gibson (D.A.C.C.) in 1913. 'Albert the Great' had reached the peak of his career which commenced at Holy Cross College, Kalutara, in 1912. In 1928, SSC were 4th in the table with 8 wins in 19 matches.

1930 saw Dr. C.H. Gunasekera head the F.C. batting averages with 293 at 58.6, while M.K. Albert scored 780 runs at 48.7 and in 1923 L.J.M. Peiris, the live-wire honary secretary, was elected as Treasurer of the Ceylon Cricket Association, the first from the S.S.C. to hold an administrative post in the governing body for cricket. In 1927 the great D.L. de Saram on his retirement from first class club cricket was honoured by being elected President of the C.C.A. In 1929 Major L.V. Gooneratne, another bustling personality (like L.J.M. Peiris) who was Hony. Secretary of the Club, were elected Hony. Secretary and Hony. Treasurer of the C.C.A. He was re-elected again in 1935. D.S. Senanayake (later Prime Minister) was elected President in 1931. In 1928 the South Indian Athletic Association - 225 beat S.S.C. 118 due to S. Saravanamuttu who played for the visitors and scored 100 while P. Yoganathan (53) and T.V. Sankaran (52) batted well for the visitors.

In 1928 the most famous opening pair in Ceylon's cricket history commenced operations. M.K. Albert (33 years) and L.D.S. Gunasekera (23 years of age). They reigned supreme till 1938 churning out century partnerships regularly in Saturday afternoon games.

The partnerships did not go into huge figures (between 100 and 150) as others had to have a turn before the tea interval in 3 hours play. This "firm" has 14 century partnerships for the 1st wkt. (11 of them for the S.S.C.) 3 for other wickets with the 10th wkt record.

Albert and L.D.S. ("Chippy") had other good partners when either of them were absent. Sam Abeysekera, a fine left hander, Robert Senanayake and W.L. Mendis between 1929 and 1938. Albert has 35 century partnerships in all and Gunasekera 37 from 1st to 10th wkt. Albert (176) and C.H. Wittachy (131) put on 290 for the 2nd wkt against Malay C.C. in 1927 (the Ceylon record till 1969) and the 10th wkt record of 134 (equalled record set in 1906) with Gunasekera against Sports Club in 1931 (beaten in 1974). A little more research and there will be additions to these partnerships by Albert and Gunasekera.

In 1930 talented new players entered the club ranks. S.S. Jayawickrema, F.C. de Saram, F.R. de Saram, W.L. Mendis, D.B. Gunasekera (jnr.), Robert Senanayake and D.S. Jayasundera, F.C. de Saram on his debut in F.C. Club cricket in January, 1930, scored 79 not out vs BRC and at the end of year played for Dr. John Rockwood's Public Schools XI against Maharaj Kumar of Vizianagram team and for the "Doctors" All Ceylon XI. S.S. Jayawickrema, D.S. Jayasundera, R. Senanayake and D.B. Gunasekera also played against the visitors.

Dr. C.H. Gunasekera was 1st in the batting averages with 293 at 58.6 and Albert with 780 runs at 48.7. In the S.S.C. vs Fathers and Sons match L.D.S. Gunasekera (108) and W.L. Mendis put on 160 runs for the 2nd wkt for the club. In 1931 S.S.C. were 3rd in the Club Championship winning 12 of the 25 matches, 5 were lost and 5 drawn. Dr. C.H. Gunasekera had the best year with the bat 502 runs at 41.8 (6th in FC) and Albert 408 at 40.8 (7th) Cecil Senaratne kept wickets well. In 3 successive innings against Notts, Galle and Nugegoda (then FC) 3 matches he allowed no byes. D.B. Gunasekera 101 not out and 3 for 2 (hat trick) against NCC became the first player in FC Club cricket in Ceylon to score a century and perform the hat trick in the same match. D.B. Gunasekera with 316 at 31.6; L.D.S. Gunasekera 660 runs at 30.3; Sam Abeysekera 319 at 24.00; J.W.S.R. Senaratne and brother C.C. with 315 and 389 runs batted well.

SOME SECOND GENERATION STALWARTS



Dr C.H. GUNASEKERA
(All Ceylon Captain)



L.D.S. GUNASEKERA
(All Ceylon Captain)



D.B. GUNASEKERA
(Singhalese S.C.)



D.S. JAYASUNDERA
(S.S.C.)
"The Demon"



F.C. de SARAM (in 1934)
(All Ceylon Captain)



A.H. GOONERATNE
(Singhalese S.C.)



M.O. GOONERATNE
(Ceylon's Best Leg Spin
Googly Bowler)



R.B. WIJESINGHE



The Club ranks were also strengthened by the migrations of some splendid players from Notts C. and A.C. - Sam Abeysekera, J.W.S.R. Senaratne, and D.S. Jayasundera who headed the bowling averages with 36 wkts. at 7.5. In 1932 S.S. Jayawickrema with 638 runs at 39.8 was 3rd in the F.C. batting averages, and H.B. Kannangara 27 wkts. at 10.00 and C.E. de Silva 18 wkts. at 10.2 bowled best. Kannangara took 4 for 0 in one over (no hat trick) against Sports Club. S.S. Jayawickrema was the hero in 1933 with 1017 runs at 59.8 the first 1000 runs in a year since S. Nagendra in 1922 for Tamil Union C & AC.

These 1000 runs included a brilliant 153 not out for Ceylon vs Europeans. Jayawickrema considered this his finest innings ever. It included 5 sixes and 11 fours. S.S.C. totalled 354 for 6 (d) the highest for the year against the strong team got together by Dr. John Rockwood in which Jayawickrema and W.L. Mendis put on 167 for the 2nd wkt. Jayawickrema took 26 wkts. to complete on all-round performance. D.S. Jayasundera was first in the FC bowling with 53 wkts. at 9.00 while D.B. Gunasekera took 34 wkts. at 15.00 D.B. Gunasekera was classed as the finest leg-spin googly bowler of the period and was an intelligent bowler.

Reference should be made to a unique match played in 1932 in the island. It was the first of its kind. S.S.C. met the "Professionals" (the groundsmen of the different clubs) Albert leading the S.S.C. scored 117 (re) and with L.D.S. (83) put on 164 for the 2nd wkt. Albert went on to take 5 for 31. Professionals were expected to give the S.S.C. (1st XI) batsmen a hard time as their job was bowling all evening at the nets. In this they failed but did well in batting. The professionals normal attire the "sarong" was discarded for this occasion and all donned trousers. The 'ground boys' as they were called came from 10 different clubs in Colombo. Only the wicket keeper was 'on loan' - he was the Notts C. & A.C. player V.E. Perera. Perera the sole survivor of this encounter passed away a few years ago. Always present when Royalists have a match as his grandson Sandesh Algama was the Royal skipper.

The professionals played barefooted. The "Pros" according to V.E. Perera was entertained right royally at tea and after close of play. The teams were S.S.C. M.K. Albert (117 re.) L.D.S. Gunasekera (83) Dr. C.H. Gunasekera (22) D.B. Gunasekera (12), J.W.S.R. Seneviratne (30x) C.C. Senaratne (9) Extras 9 Total 288 for 5 beat Professionals - V. E. Perera (18) P. Mohamed (0) D. Joseph (0) Dr. Perera (27), M.M. Ossener (27) R.H.D. Romiel (28) S. John (1) C. Perera (2) Yusuff (1) Haramanis (5x) S.T. Dias (0) Extras 7 Total 116. Bowling Romiel (2 for 57), Albert (5 for 31), Pelpol 1 for 7, J.W. Seneviratne (2 for 20), F.R. de Saram (2 for 5), V.E. Perera and D. Perera put on 31 runs for the 2nd wkt. A month later the professionals played against Tamil Union, the last of the series.

The "Albert & LDS" firm had 3 successive century partnerships for the 1st wkt. in 1934. SSC were 2nd in the championship with 9 wins in 24 matches and one loss and 14 drawn. SSC (151 for 6, d) thrashed Panadura who were dismissed for 28 runs with D.S. Jayasundera taking 10 wkts. for 14 - 9 being clean bowled. Like the fastest century this was the fastest 10 wkts. all collected in 45 minutes. Instances of one bowler dominating an innings are few. This year L.D.S. Gunasekera scored 160 runs out of a total of 217 for 6 against Royal College.

The next highest score was 27 by Sam Abeysekera "Zingari" wrote in the "Times" "Jayasundera the fast bowler came on splendidly as a hitter in the latter part of season". D.S. Jayasundera's deadly accuracy gave him 108 wkts. at 7.3. He took 10 wkts. once and 5 wkts. an over on 12 occasions. He was the successor to H.E. Poulter, but Poulter never dominated the scene as Jayasundera did for nearly 15 years. S.S.C. were club champions in 1935 - 12 wins and 5 draws in 17 matches.

"Veritas" wrote in the Daily News "youth has contributed its share to the present position of the club, and it is pleasing to see the club continue to give its younger members a place". Robert Senanayake, back from England and Sam Abeysekera opened the innings on occasions. D.S.E. Amerasinghe, W.L. Mendis, A.H. Gooneratne youngsters of ability did well. Robert Senanayake (opening) scored 101 not out against Panadura with B. Wijewardene (72) put on 161 for 4th wkt. when SSC declared at 225 for 7 (d). Panadura were routed for 34 with Wijewardene 7 for 9 and S.S. Jayawickrema 3 for 9 bowling unchanged in 12.3 overs. D.S. Jayasundera took 10 for 24 against Colts C.C. the first such performance against them. He clean bowled 8 batsmen, caught and bowled one and the other was lbw. Jayasundera finished with 112 wkts. at 8.09 this season. B. Wijewardene a fine fast medium left arm bowler took 10 wkts. 36 runs

against CRC. A brilliant bowler, Wijewardene faded out of cricket this year. The team in 1935 was R. Senanayake, W.L. Mendis, D.S.E. Amerasinghe, S.S. Jayawickrema, L.D.S. Gunasekera (Capt.), B.A. Wijewardene, B. Navaratne, F.H. de Saram, D.S. Jayasundera, H.S. Roberts, K. de Silva, L.M.A. Fernando, S.T. Abeysekera, T.B. Herat and D.C. Atapattu.

S.S.C. played 14 matches, won 6 and lost none in 1937. F.C. de Saram, back from England strengthened the batting. In his first innings he scored 40 against Malays and next weekend 200 not out against Tamil Union and put on 234 for 4th wkt. with A.H. Gooneratne (71). The Club scored 351 against University College and 351 against Notts. Sam Abeysekera (61) and Robert Senanayake (76) put on 149 for 4th wkt against D.M.C.C. at Darawella. F.C. de Saram made 4 centuries this season including one against Sir Julien Cahn's Team for the Club 2nd XI L.E. Dissanayake (135x) and H.S. Roberts (88x) put on 241 in an unbroken partnership for the 1st wkt. against the Municipality SC.

Minerva S.S.C. from Madras with 223 had the better of the S.S.C. who replied with 136 for 8. SSC beat Aligarh University. SSC 205 and 78 for 2 Aligarh 61 and 221. For the SSC Percy Perera off spinner took 6 for 45 and 3 for 37. Jayawickrema took 5 for 46 in the 2nd innings. Robert Senanayake scored 48 not out while D.D. Jayasinghe and W.L. Mendis put on the 78 runs to win. "Quick Silver" Mustaq Ali scored 32 and 101. Only once did the club suffer when the strong C.C.C. team scored 425 for 8 (d) with Clover, Brown and Brindley scoring centuries. Jayasundera was mastered at last.

The inauguration of the Daily News Trophy saw the spotlight go to the outstations for the first time. Kalutara were winners. S.S.C. came 3rd with only 3 wins in 11 matches and no losses. Captain L.D.S. Gunasekera topped the averages with 517 runs at 73.8 S.S. Jayawickrema 545 runs at 68.12 (5th) H.S. Roberts 360 runs at 45.80 (7th) F.C. de Saram 180 runs at 41.33 (9th) batted well. D.S. Jayasundera was 4th in the bowling at 40 wkts at 9.52. In the second tournament 1938/39 S.S.C. won the Trophy - 5 wins in 10 games and no losses. Dr. W.L. Mendis lead the batting with 206 runs at 41.20. L.D.S. Gunasekera 377 runs at 37.70 (3rd). C.I. Gunasekera 180 runs at 36.00 (4th) and H.S. Roberts 294 runs at 32.68. D.S. Jayasundera with 70 wkts at 5.65 was their best bowler.

An irate skipper "LDS" sent Dudley Senanayake (103x) and S.S. Jayawickrema (134x) to open the innings for turning up late. In 140 minutes they thrashed the Notts to put on 246 runs for the 1st wkt. Returning with broad grins on their faces, the two batsmen did not endear themselves much to the captain. They had had their own back. S.S.C. got their highest ever against Colts C.C. - 394 for 4 (d) this year. F.C. de Saram and S.S. Jayawickrema putting on 25.3 for the 3rd wkt. Jayasundera took 101 wkts. at 9.35. The Notts match was a "friendly".

	P	W	L	D	T	A
1930						
1931	25	12	5	5	0	31
1932						
1933						
1934	24	9	1	14	0	0
1935	17	12	0	5	0	0
1936						
1937	14	6	0	8	0	0
1938	11	3	0	6/2	0	11
1939	10	5	0	3/2	0	10

The Singhalese Sports Club won the 2nd Daily News Trophy (1938/39) & the 3rd (1939/40) - First P 10 - W 5 - L 0 - Won 1st - 3 & 12t - 2 & second P 9 - W 4 L 0 - D 5 Lead 1st In - 4. W.L. Mendis, L.D.S. Gunasekera, C.I. Gunasekera & H.S. Robert were - 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 6th in the batting averages while D. Jayasundera was 1st in the bowling. In the next Tournament S.S. Jayawickrema was 1st & Hector Perera 6th in the batting and D.S. Jayasundera 7th & S.S. Jayawickrema 10th in the bowling.

The 1940/41 tournament saw the introduction of the 8 ball over in First Class Club Cricket in Ceylon.

The 4th Daily News Trophy Tournament (1940/41) S.S.C. were 4th with the Youngest Club Saracens S.C. with a four year history winning the Trophy. The Ceylon tour of India saw many members of the S.S.C. team gain representative honours. Jayawickremas 200 made him only the 8th player in Ceylon to get a double hundred (includes all grades of cricket).

The Daily News Trophy Tournament matches were cut down to a whole day match was disposed of between September 1941 & February 1942. With Jayawickremas 200 against Tamil Union C & AC, he won the Macan Markar Trophy for the second successive year.

The S.S.C. had an excellent array of bowlers – the best any Club has had – S.S. Jayawickrema, A.H. Gooneratne, R.B. Wijesinghe, D.S. Jayasundera, C. Wijesinghe, D.E.M. Gunasekera (just out of school), M.O. Gooneratne, S. Illesinghe, L.E. de Zoysa, George Pereira, Percy Pereira, there were others too Gerry Gooneratne & Hector Pereira. All of them rendered yeoman service till the end of the decade. A correspondent writing to the newspapers that according to figures by him S.S. Jayawickrema had scored 6553 runs at 56.83 Av between 01.04.1941 & 01.09.45. All the bowlers referred to open between 1943 & 1950.

Most Clubs opened their door to all communities – the S.S.C. was the First to do so on 25.04.1946. The S.S.C. allowed lady members too for the first time. Tamil Union C & AC followed next. In April 1945 D.S. Jayasundera is reported as having claimed his 1000th wicket in First Class Club Cricket. It is a pity that war time restrictions prevented publication of

the full score cards of match & thereby this great bowler's total tally is not available. In 1947 S.S. Jayawickrema graciously withdrew his name from the contest for captaincy of the CCA team to Madras this enabled aspirants F.C. de Saram & M. Sathasivam to make way for B.R. Heyn.

The First Provincial Tournament in Ceylon Cricket got under way in 1947. Dr. C.H. Gunasekera was Chairman of the Organising Committee. 7 Zonal teams took part.

ONLY INSTANCE OF FOUR CENTURIES IN ONE INNINGS IN CEYLON

Date : 26th December 1947
Venue : Victoria Park
Captains : F.C. de Saram
Wicket Keepers :
Umpires :
Results :

Notes : S.S.C. – M. Rodrigo – 102 runs in 110 mts – 16 fours – 64 runs
 F.C. de Saram – 100 runs in 90 mts – 16 fours – 64 runs
 R.B. Wijesinghe – 101 runs in 93 mts – 9 fours – 36 runs
 C.I. Gunasekera – 104 runs in 104 mts – 4 sixes and 10 fours – 64 runs
 505 for 6 wkts in 215 mts (3 hrs 25 mts) off 72 overs at 7 runs an over

SINHALESE SPORTS CLUB

1st Innings

F.J. de Saram	st. Abeysekera	b Weerasinghe	79
M. Rodrigo	retired		102
F.C. de Saram	retired		100
R.B. Wijesinghe	retired		101
C.I. Gunasekera	retired		104
A.H. Gunaratne		b de Bruin	1
C.H. Gunasekera (Jnr)	not out		0
		Extras	18
		Total (for 6 wkts) (dec.)	<u>505</u>

Bowling

	O	M	R	W
K.M.T. Perera	15	2	95	0
C. Vandestaaten	11	1	48	0
K.M. Abeywardena	10	1	59	0
M.D. Perera	3	0	18	0
O.G. de Alwis	13	0	123	0
B. de Bruin	14.2	0	93	1
N. Weerasinghe	6	0	51	1

7 B 3

1st Innings

R. Abeysekera		b Wijesinghe	12
K.M.T. Perera	st Rodrigo	b Wijesinghe	3
W.L. de Alwis	ct C.I. Gunasekera	b de Zoysa	6
N. Weerasinghe		b de Zoysa	44
B. de Bruin	not out		14
O.G. de Alwis	ct V.K. Gunasekera	b Wijesinghe	3
K.M. Abeywardena		b Wijesinghe	4
G.A.W. de Alwis	st Rodrigo	b de Zoysa	4
C. Vanderstaaten	l.b.w.	b de Zoysa	0
M.D. Perera	ct V.K. Gunasekera	b Weerasinghe	1
T.C. Van Rooyen		b Weerasinghe	0
		Extras	17
		Total	<u>108</u>

Bowling

	O	M	R	W
A.H. Gunaratne	5	1	13	0
R.B. Wijesinghe	14	5	35	4
H.T. Gunasekera	4	2	13	0
L.E. de Zoysa	11	3	30	4
R.G.M. Weerasinghe	1.2	1	0	2

1948 witnessed the non participation of 9 S.S.C. players in matches against the Holkar Cricket Association. They were – F.C. de Saram, S.S. Jayawickrema, B. Navaratne, R.B. Wijesinghe, M. Rodrigo, M.O. Gooneratne, C.I. Gunasekera, L.E. de Zoysa & G. Gooneratne. Players 1, 2, 3, 4 & 7 received a suspension of one year from 10.04.48 by the C.C.A. On 20.10.1948 the C.C.A. decided to lift the suspension. The saddest story in the history of Ceylon cricket ended in time for the visit of the West Indies team. Otherwise virtually the whole all Ceylon team would have been spectators.

The decade ended happily inspite of early wartime frustrations and player problems.

The rehabilitation of Ceylon Cricket after war time conditions in 1947/48 progressed during 1948 with 23 teams taking part 8 of the bigger Club meeting each other & 15 meeting on a league basis in the 2nd Division. Playing hours for the Colombo Clubs were Saturday afternoon & whole Sunday & Galle CC had a concession of playing a whole Sunday, due to transport difficulties, mainly petrol rationing. The SSC proved a strong

SOME STALWARTS – AFTER WORLD WAR II



G. GOONASENA
(All Ceylon Captain)



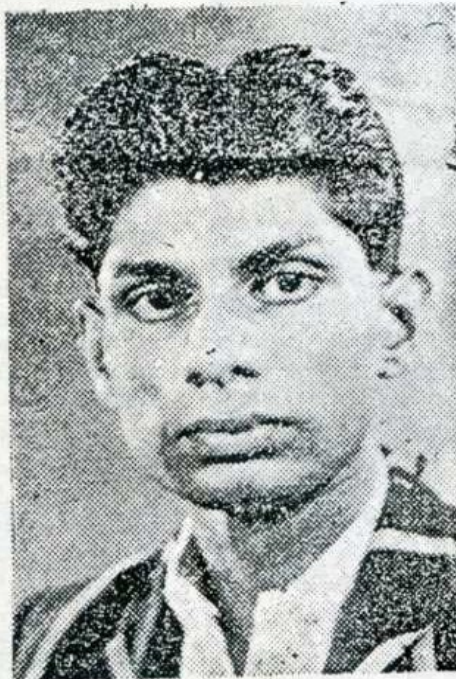
M. RODRIGO



F.G. DALPATHADO



H.S.M. PEIRIS



C.H. GUNASEKERA



L. RODRIGO



A.P.B. TENNEKOON
(All Ceylon Captain)



N. CHANMUGAM

team the Old hands F.C. de Saram, S.S. Jayawickrema, C.I. Gunasekera & G.R.J. de Soysa and some sparkling batting by newcomers M. Rodrigo, F.J. de Saram, R.B. Wijesinghe proved too good for the opponents. On the spot bowling by R.B. Wijesinghe. H.T. Gunasekera & F.G. Dalpathado with spinners L.E. de Zoysa & M.O. Gooneratne & George Pereira saw SSC emerge Champions in 1948./49. Dalpathado was described as a prospective All Ceylon speed merchant by Frank Ondatjie CCA Recorder. He bowled extremely well & Mahes Rodrigo made the highest score of the tournament 144 vs CCC when SSC registered the highest total with 314 for 4 (d).

The 1950s commenced with SSC fielding 2 teams 'A' & 'B' SSC retained their title & believe it or not L.E. de Zoysa headed the batting averages with an average of 58.50 - 7 In 5 No. 51 HS - 117 runs. R.B. Wijesinghe was 2nd with 316 runs at 52.66. He scored most runs. R.B. Wijesinghe was also the leading wicket taker with 39 wickets at 12.13. While L.E. de Zoysa took 30 wickets at 12.66. In the 2nd Division League Section SSC fielded "C" & "D" teams. So that the Club had 4 teams in First Class Club Cricket - being the only Club to field 4 teams in one tournament, to date. R.B. Wijesinghe scored 161 for SSC "A" against Tamil Union C & AC. L.E. de Zoysa performed the only hat trick of the season - against NCC. de Zoysa, G. Goonaseena & R.E.M. Weerasinghe bowled well. In the 1950's SSC led by F.C. de Saram fared well.

SCORES

S.S.C. 'B'

First Innings

B. Navaratne	c H.T. Gunasekera b Wijesinghe	8
P. Perera	b H.T. Gunasekera	21
D.D. Jayasinghe	b Wijesinghe	0
G. Gooneratne	c Wijesinghe b de Zoysa	19
S.S. Jayawickrama	b de Zoysa	67
H. Perera	c Rodrigo b de Zoysa	6
H.I. Fernando	b F.J. de Saram	9
H.S. Roberts	b Weerasinghe	1
F.G. Dalpathado	l.b.w. b Goonaseena	2
M.O. Gooneratne	c H.T. Gunasekera b Wijesinghe	14
F.R. de Saram	not out	2
	Extras	13
		<u>169</u>

Second Innings

B. Navaratne	c Wijesinghe b Gunasekera	30
P. Perera	b Gunasekera	27
D.D. Jayasinghe	c V. Perera b Goonaseena	18
G. Gooneratne	c C.I. Goonasekera b Gunasekera	17
H. Perera	c Wijesinghe b Weerasinghe	43
H.I. Fernando	n.o.	2
H.S. Roberts	n.o.	0
F.G. Dalpathado	c C.I. Gunasekera b de Zoysa	22
F.R. de Saram	c de Zoysa b Gunasekera	8
	For 7 dec.	<u>167</u>

Bowling

	O.	M.	R.	W.	O.	M.	R.	W.
F.J. de Saram	8	0	18	1	3	0	18	0
R.B. Wijesinghe	14	1	51	3	5	1	13	0
H.T. Gunasekera	7	2	14	1	13	3	47	4
R.E.M. Weerasinghe	12	5	27	1	5	1	21	1
L.E. de Zoysa	9	2	25	3	5	0	29	1
G. Goonaseena	10	1	21	1	11	1	38	1

S.S.C. 'A'

First Innings

F.J. de Saram	c Gooneratne b Dalpathado	32
M. Rodrigo	c Navaratne b F.R. de Saram	21
F.C. de Saram	c Gooneratne b H. Perera	80
C.I. Gunasekera	st Navaratne b de Saram	72
R.B. Wijesinghe	c Jayawickrama b P. Perera	39
L.E. de Soysa	c Fernando b H. Perera	18

H.T. Gunasekera	n.o.	3
V. Perera	did not bat	-
R.E.M. Weerasinghe	did not bat	-
G. Goonaseena	did not bat	-
	Extras	15
	Total for 7 wkts	<u>280</u>

Second Innings

F.J. de Saram	n.o.	32
M. Rodrigo	n.o.	29
	For no wickets	<u>61</u>

Bowling

	O.	M.	R.	W.	O.	M.	R.	W.
F.G. Dalpathado	24	7	69	1				
D.D. Jayasinghe	3	1	6	-	4	0	30	0
M.O. Gooneratne	15	0	77	0				
F.R. de Saram	10	2	53	2				
P. Perera	10.3	1	41	1	4	0	31	0
H. Perera	6	1	19	2				

In the 1960's new comers A. Polonowita, Stanley de Alwis bowled well while D.H. de Silva from Galle Lasantha Rodrigo, N. Kodituwakku as opening batsmen performed well. Kodituwakku earned a place against the West Indies in the Unofficial Test. Others who batted well were Sarath Samarasinghe, he was their keeper. Lalith Senanayake, Channa Gunasekera all figured prominently in the First Class Club averages. P.I. Peiris was the leading bowler. A new name that of Anura Tennekoon appeared. He headed the First Class Clubs batting averages in 1966/67 & scored his First century in local club cricket in 1967/68 against the BRC. The SSC blessed with many young talented cricket annexed Trophies regularly. They are listed elsewhere in this book. The SSC making their debut in the Donovan Andree Trophy emerged winners in 1968/69. This year Tennekoon was the leading run scorer with 646 runs in 18 Innings. Others to figure prominently were Neil Chanmugam, A.A.M. Opatha & M.L. Idroos who gained selection in 1964/65 for the Indian Tour as did Chanmugam.

In the 1960's schoolboy cricketers were prominent in the Club ranks. Sunil Wettimuny, Sriyantha Rajapakse, both were to gain national caps at the end of the decade. As was all rounder H.S.M. Peiris. In 1969/70 SSC emerged winners in the P. Saravanamuttu Trophy beating the BRC in the final match inspite of protest lodged by NCC that the match commenced without pitch being mowed on the morning of the third days play as required by the tournament rules of the Board of Control for Cricket. The dispute was referred to the MCC and finally were awarded the title. It is now forgotten that 3 day matches were first played in First Class Club Cricket in 1968/69. Dennis Chanmugam a right arm fast medium bowler was to emerge as a good prospect for the All Ceylon team. Throughout the 1960 Anura Tennekoon, Niel Chanmugam, Sunil Wettimuny, Dr. M.L. Idroos (leg spin bowler), Lasantha Rodrigo (opening batsman) H.S.M. Peiris, D. Juriansz, A.R.M. Opatha rendered yoemen service.

The 1970 saw a talented batsman Duleep Mendis represent St. Sebastians College, Moratuwa. As a 16 year old schoolboy he headed the batting averages in the Donovan Andree Tournament. A feat accomplished by a schoolboy in Ceylon Cricket for the first time. He scored a flashy 161 runs for Catamarans SC (Moratuwa) against SSC having scored his first century in club cricket in 1968/69. Mendis' feat was eclipsed by Aravinda de Silva of D.S. Senanayake Vidyalaya in 1980/81 when he scored almost a 1000 runs in the Daily News Trophy Tournament. In the early 1970 SSC regained 1st Divisions honours beating the rivals NCC after 2 years by Duleep Mendis was a member of the SSC at this time. This year he scored 100 not out in a First Division match against Nomads CC. The arrival of the Indian team saw Anura Tennekoon in peak form. His glorious centuries against India in the 2 Unofficial Tests earned him a gift of Rs.2500/- from the Board of Control for Cricket. The first time a national cricketer was honoured for his contribution to the game.

The mid 1970's saw SSC slide to 5th place in the 1st Division. In 1975/76 not one SSC name appeared in the first 20 in the batting averages & only R.G. Abeynaike with 63 wickets at 13.95 found a prominent place (6th) in the bowling averages. Again the old crew as in the 1960 did duty.

The new comers were Jagath Fernando an opening batsman & wicket keeper (lost to cricket due to Rugby and a brilliant Rugby player lost to both games due to a knee injury). Others who did well were the Wettimuny brothers Sunil & Mithra in 1975/76 who were associated in their first century partnership of 143 runs for the 1st wicket against BRC in 1975/76.

In the latter half of the year again schoolboys T.M.S. Saldin (Royal) & Prasanna Karunatileke (Ananda) performed well. Saldin became one of the few schoolboys to perform the hat trick in Club cricket & score a century. He did so against Galle CC in the Donovan Andree Tournament. SSC registered the highest total 404 for 9 (d) vs BRC in the Donovan Andree Tournament. Saldin was also associated in a 9th wkt partnership of 114 with K. Perera (42) against BRC. Sidat Wettimuny appeared in the ranks of the SSC. The Club under the inspired leadership of H.S.M. Peiris won the premier tournament in spite of many of the leading players doing duty for Sri Lanka. Some new names will interest readers. Prasanna Karunatileke, Mohan de Silva, Anura de Alwis, D.L.S. de Silva a good right arm fast medium bowler from Galle, who had represented Sri Lanka U19 team. De Silva a very promising bowler met an untimely death in a motor accident a few years later. H.S.M. Peiris came back virtually from retirement to lead the SSC to victory. In the Donovan Andree Trophy Tournament L.D. Gunasekera was the Clubs leading batsman with 310 runs at 62.00. Ajit Abeygunawardene, Prasad Kariyawasam & R.C. Abeynaike did well in bowling L.D. Gunasekera scored 160 runs against Moratuwa S.C. Jagath Pattiarachchi opening batsman was 4th in the batting average in 1978/79. Donvon Andree Tournament with 500 runs at an average of 45.5 & 2 centuries. Mohan Pethiyagoda a product of St. Anthony's College, Kandy was amongst the best bowlers. Other bowlers who figured prominently were S. Silva, N. Karunaratne, P. Paramanathan & Ajit Abeygunawardene all with an average below 21 runs per wicket. At the end of the decade M.J. de Zoysa appeared in the team. He along with T.M.S. Saldin was to establish a Sri Lanka 10th wicket record shortly after.

Duleep Mendis was 2nd in the batting averages in 1980/81 with over 600 runs at an average of 55 runs per innings. Roy Dias was the highest run getter with 749 runs & Mithra Wettimuny scored 669 runs, while Sidat scored 591 runs. Asantha de Mel emerging as one of the young pace bowlers, took most wickets while the Club acquired Guy de Alwis a good batsman & an excellent wicket keeper who went to earn a Test Cap, as did Asantha de Mel. Mithra Wettimuny scored 4 centuries in the season (1981/82). Arjuna & brother D. Ranatunga appeared in the team. While Michael de Zoysa with 37 wickets at 13.91 runs was the leading bowler in the Donovan Andree Tournament. Arjuna Ranatunga & Jeevaka Weerasinghe were associated in record partnership (records sections) for 252 runs. Old War horse Ranil Abeynaike still bowled well. A young fast medium Saliya Ahangama bowled well. After some years SSC won two trophies in 1982/83. The season new comer Kapila Jayasuriya (522 - 6th at 47.49 and 4 other SSC players appeared amongst the first 6 in the First Class Club batting averages. A new comer P. Udayaratne was 2nd in the bowling averages SSC players had 6 centuries & the Club had 3 totals of over 300 in 1982/83.

Repetition is not necessary, about S.S.C. players performances since Test status. Many of the Club performances are recorded in this book. Names of Test players have due prominence but those who represented the Sri Lanka A & B Team needs mention. Some of them are M.B. Halangoda who has lead the Club 1st XI successfully for the past 3 years. Others N. Fernando, A. Gunawardene, S. Anthonisz, H. Wickramaratne, C. Fernando, M. Munasinghe, M.M. Yusuf, R.S. Jayawardene, S. Ranatunga, N. Ranatunga.

All those mentioned represented Sri Lanka "A" or "B" or the Board President's XI. After Test status many improvements have been made at the venue. Pavilion extensions, practice pitches, an elaborate score-board, a Press Box & a separate TV & Radio Building and Terraces have been improved.

The Club has won all the major trophies - and that regularly - 55 trophies in all from 1938 to 1993. The first Daily News Trophy 8 times, the P. Saravanamuttu Trophy 12 times. Division III (Daily News Trophy - 4 times, Lakspray Trophy (Division I) - once, Raheman Hathy Trophy once, Delmege Trophy (Division II) once, Donovan Andree Trophy 7 times, Pure Beverages Trophy once. In Limited Overs Cricket, the Browns Trophy 11 times, the Bristol Trophy twice, the Honda Trophy & the Hatna Trophy.

The S.S.C. players who figured prominently overseas are Dr. C.H. Gunasekera (England), F.C. de Saram (England), Gamini Goonasena (England), P.I. Peiris (England). Goonasena captained Cambridge University & made the record score of 211 at Lords against Oxford in 1956. P.I. Peiris is the only Ceylonese to perform the hat trick in English First Class Cricket - he did so for Cambridge against D.R. Jardine's XI (1957). Peiris later served as selector & as President of the Board of Control for Cricket. Goonasena also played first class cricket in Australia for New South Wales.

Last but not least the Office Bearers - the President, Secretary & Members of Committees have helped to bring it up to the present position. They all need a hearty thank. President J.R. Jayawardene & Hony. Secretary R.J. de Silva and the present Committee carry on the great traditions of Club.

There will be more to be written, in a few years time, with a little more research. Here's hoping that the younger members will set their hearts on a good history of - PRIMUS INTER PARES of Sports Clubs in Sri Lanka in the Centenary year.

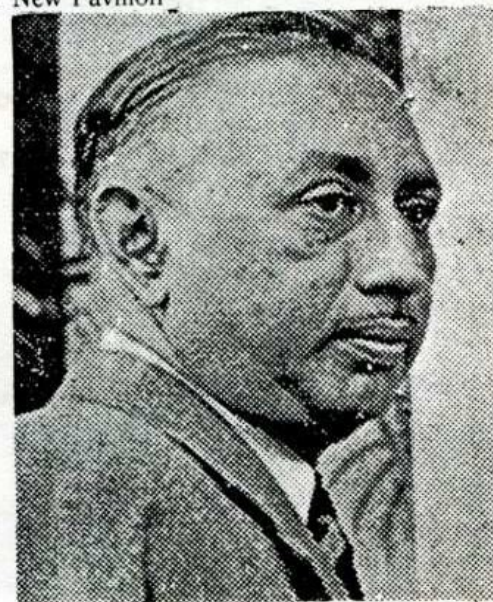
SOME PAST OFFICE-BEARERS



LEONARD PEIRIS

(Hony. Secretary)

He worked hard for New Pavilion



The late BERNARD JAYASURIYA

(Former Hony. Secretary)



SINGHALESE SPORTS CLUB

INTER-CLUB DIVISION I- P. SARAVANAMUTTU TROPHY CHAMPIONS 1992/1993

STANDING (LEFT TO RIGHT): K. PATHIRANA, U. FERNANDO, M. ATAPATTU, P. WIJETUNGA, K. WEERASINGHE, S. DODANWELA, M. MUNASINGHE, P. WICKRAMASINGHE, C. RANASINGHE, C. FERNANDO, H. WICKRAMARATNA, M. PERERA, A. GUNAWARDENA, S. DE SILVA, N. FERNANDO.

SEATED (LEFT TO RIGHT): M. RAJASINGHAM (SECRETARY C.H.C.), M. YUSUF (CRICKET-MANAGER), R. JAYAWARDENA, A. GURUSINGHE, M. HALANGODE (CAPT.), H.E. J.R. JAYWARDENE (PRESIDENT), D. RANATUNGA (V. CAPT.), S. AHANGAMA, A. RANATUNGA, R.J. DE SILVA (HONY. SECRETARY), M.J. DE ZOYSA (CHAIRMAN C.H.C.).

ON GROUND : H.N. GUNASEKARA.

ABSENT : M. IFTHIKAR, A. COSTA.

- Note:**
- 1928 - J.A. de Silva was a member of the S.S.C. when he played against Vizianagrams XI. He was a member of N.C.C. earlier.
 - 1938 - M.O. Gooneratne was a member of the N.C.C. In 1940 he toured India while playing for S.S.C.
 - 1950 - S. Jayasinghe was a member of the S.S.C. later he was a member of the N.C.C. & Nomads C.C.
 - 1937 - H.S. Roberts first played for Colts C.C. Toured India in 1940 while playing for S.S.C.
 - 1940 - G.J. de S. Gooneratne was a member of Saracens SC. In 1945 he was a member of the S.S.C.

Note - CEY - Ceylonese; J.D. Antias' XI - J.D. Antias Bombay Team; R.A.C. - Dr. Rockwoods Teams; W.E. Lucas' Bombay Team; Vizianagram - Maharajakumar of Vizianagrams Team; A.C. - All Ceylon; Ind: Un: Occ: Indian University Occasionals; Mah: Patialas - Maharaja of Patialas Australian Team; Sir Cahns - Sir Julien Cahns Team; C.B.P. - Ceylon Board Presidents XI; Ind. Un. - Indian Universities; S.B.I. State Bank of India; TN U25 - Tamilnadu Under 25:

	<u>Date of Birth</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Debut First Class</u>	<u>Debut Unofficial Tests</u>	<u>Debut Tests</u>
1)	02.02.1949	Wettimuny S.R. de S.	1982 S.L.B.P. - Eng.	1970 M.C.C.	
2)	25.08.1952	Mendis B.L.R.D.	1982 S.L.B.P. - Eng.	1972 M.C.C.	1982 England
3)	01.12.1963	Ranatunge A.	1982 S.L.B.P. - Eng.	-	1982 England
4)	18.10.1952	Dias R.L.	1975 CPB - Tamilnadu	-	1982 England
5)	09.05.1959	de Mel A.L.F.	1981 SL U 25 - TN U25	1981 Australia	1982 England
6)	12.08.1956	Wettimuny S.	1976 S.L.B.P. Palimla	1981 Australia	1982 England
7)	11.06.1951	Wettimuny M. de S.	1982 SL - Zimbabwe	1982 Zimbabwe	1983 NZ
8)	15.02.1960	de Alwis R.G.	1982 SL - Zimbabwe	1982 Zimbabwe	1983 NZ
9)	12.02.1952	Abeynaik R.G.	1973 M.C.A. - Pak U 25	1977 M.C.C.	1983 NZ
10)	12.05.1964	Jayawardene R.S.	1983 SL U 23 - Pak U 23	1983 Zimbabwe	-
11)	01.06.1949	Yusuff M.M.	1983 S.L.B.P. - NZ	-	-
12)	16.09.1966	Gurusinha A.P.	1985 SL U 23 Pak U 25	-	1985 Pakistan
13)	12.10.1962	Ranatunge D.	1985 SL - Pak U 25	-	1989 Australia
14)	14.09.1959	Ahangama F.S.	1985 S.L.B. Colts - India	-	1985 SL - India
15)	13.04.1963	Anthonisz S.L.	1986 S.L.B. - England 'B'	-	-
16)	02.08.1965	•Rajadurai B.E.A.	1988 SL - Warwickshire	-	-
17)	02.11.1964	Wijegunawardene K.I.W.	1988 SL 'B' vs Zimbabwe	-	-
18)	12.11.1968	Ratnayake N.L.K.	1989 SL - Tasmania	1988 SL in Zimbabwe	-
19)	26.04.1961	Halangoda M.B.	1989 SL 'A' - Pakistan	-	-
20)	21.04.1969	Ranatunge S.	1989 SL 'A' - Pakistan 'A'	-	-
21)	06.08.1971	Wijetunge P.K.	1990 SL - Glamorgan	-	1993 SL - South Africa
22)	23.11.1970	Atapattu M.S.	1990 SL - Glamorgan	-	1991 SL - India
23)	14.08.1971	Wickramasinghe G.P.	1990 -	-	1992 SL - Pakistan
24)		H. Wickramaratne	1991 SLA - Pakistan A	-	-

Note - R.L. Dias played for Colts CC, prior to representing S.S.C.
SLBP - Sri Lanka Board Presidents XI: Pak U 25 - Pakistan U 25.
G.P. Wickramasinghe represented Matara Sports Club on his debut in First Class Cricket.

SINGHALESE SPORTS CLUB PLAYERS IN ONE DAY AND LIMITED OVER INTERNATIONALS (1896-1965)

(Only First appearance given) (1969 - 1993)

<u>Date of Birth</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Whole Day Internationals First Appearance</u>	<u>One Day Internationals</u>
	1903	D.B. Gunasekera (Snr)	M.C.C. (a)	
24.05.1887	1911	F. de Saram	M.C.C.	
07.08.1890	1911	E.R. de Saram	M.C.C.	
15.10.1882	1911	D.L. de Saram	M.C.C.	
	1920	J.A. de Silva	M.C. (b)	
10.09.1895	1920	M.K. Albert	M.C.C.	
27.07.1894	1920	Dr. C.H. Gunasekera	M.C.C.	
	1920	A. Aluwihare	M.C.C.	
03.03.1893	1924	A.C.Z. Wijeratne	M.C.C.	
	1928	L.D.S. Gunasekera	M.C.C.	
	1932	D.B. Gunasekera	M.C.C.	
	1934	S.S. Jayawickrama	Australia	
	1935	W.L. Mendis	M.C.C.	
		F.R. de Saram	M.C.C.	
	1936	R.P. Senanayake	M.C.C.	
		A.H. Gooneratne	M.C.C.	
	1938	F.C. de Saram	Australia	
	1948	M. Rodrigo	Australia	
		C.I. Gunasekera	Australia	
		B. Navaratne	Australia	

1950	S. Jayasinghe	M.C.C. (c)	
	F.C. Dalpathado	M.C.C.	
1953	C.H. Gunasekera	Australia	
	R.B. Wijesinghe	Australia	
	P.I. Peiris	Australia	
1961	J.S. de Alwis	Australia	
1961	N.L.I. Rodrigo	Australia	
	A. Polonowita	Australia (d)	
1962	N. Chanmugam	M.C.C.	1973 M.C.C.
1965	N.S. Kodituwakku	M.C.C.	
1969	A.P.B. Tennekoon	M.C.C.	1969 M.C.C.
1969	H.S.M. Peris		1969 M.C.C.
	D.R. Chanmugam		1973 West Indies
	B.L.R.D. Mendis		1974 India
1974	S.R. de S. Wettimuny		1974 India
	R.L. Dias		1977 M.C.C.
	Sidat Wettimuny		1977 M.C.C.
	R.G. Abeynaike		1977 M.C.C.
	A.L.F. de Mel		1982 England
	A. Ranatunge		1982 England
	R.G. de Alwis		1983 New Zealand
			1984 NZ
1985	F.S. Ahangama		1985 India
1985	A.P. Gurusinha		1985 Pakistan
1989	D. Ranatunga		1990 - (AC)
1989	N.L.K. Ratnayake		1989 - (Sh)
1991	M.S. Atapattu		1991 India
1991	G.P. Wickremasinghe		1991 Pakistan (Sh)
1993	H. Wickramaratne		1993 South Africa

- Note -**
- (a) D.B. Gunasekera (Snr) was selected for All Ceylon vs MCC in 1903. The match was called off due to late arrival of ship
 - (b) J.A. de Silva first represented All Ceylon while a member of the NCC subsequently he was a member of the S.S.C. (1928 MCC)
 - (c) S. Jayasinghe later played for NCC and Nomads CC
 - (d) A Polonowita later played for Nomads CC

Note - A.C. - Asia Cup. SH - Sharjah - 18.

S.S.C. CAPTAINS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Tests</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Unofficial Tests</u>	<u>Other First Class Matches</u>	<u>Whole Day Int.</u>	<u>Limited Over</u>
B.L.R.D. Mendis (1982)		O.G. de Alwis (1899-1905)	Dr. C.H. Gunasekera (1932/33)	M.K. Albert (Dr. Rockwoods Ceylonese XI 1926)	D.L. de Saram (1920)	B.L.R.D. Mendis A. Ranatunga
A. Ranatunga (1989)		D.B. Gunasekera (1905-1914)	L.D.S. Gunasekera (1935)	D.L. de Saram (Ceylonese 1927)	Dr. C.H. Gunasekera (1926)	
		D.L. de Saram (1920-1925)	S.S. Jayawickrema (1940/41)	Dr. C.H. Gunasekera(a) (Dr. Rockwoods Ceylonese XI - 1929)	F.C. de Saram (1953)	
		Dr. C.H. Gunasekera (1925-1932)	F.C. de Saram (1949)	Dr. C.H. Gunasekera (Dr. Rockwoods All Ceylon XI 1929)	C.I. Gunasekera (1961)	
		M.K. Albert (1933-1935)	G. Goonasena (1956)	Dr. C.H. Gunasekera (Dr. Rockwood Ceylonese XI 1931)		
		L.D.S. Gunasekera (1935-1939)	C.I. Gunasekera (1962)	Dr. C.H. Gunasekera (Dr. Rockwood All Ceylon XI 1931)		
		S.S. Jayawickrema (1940-1950)		M.K. Albert (All Ceylon vs C.P. & Berar 1932/33)		
		F.C. de Saram (1950-1952)		S.S. Jayawickrema (a) (C.C.A. - 1945)		
		B. Navaratne (1953-1954)		F.C. de Saram (a) (C.C.A. 1953) (1)		
		C.I. Gunasekera (1955-1964)		F.C. de Saram (C.C.A. 1953) (2)		
		C.H. Gunasekera (1961-1962)				
		M. Wanigaratne (1964-1985)				

P.I. Peiris
(1966-1967)

H.S.M. Peiris
197

S.R. de S. Wettimuny
(1972-1974)

A.P.B. Tennekoon
(1977-1979)

B.L.R.D. Mendis
(1983-1984)

A. Ranatunga
(1985-1989)

M.B. Halangoda
(1989-1993)

F.C. de Saram
(C.C.A. 1954)

C.I. Gunasekera (a)
(C.C.A. - 1960)

C.I. Gunasekera
(CBP XI - 1961)

C.I. Gunasekera
(CBP XI - 1962)

P.I. Peiris
(CBP XI - 1967)

A.P.B. Tennekoon (a)
(CBP 1967)

H.S.M. Peiris
(SLBP - 1972)

S.R. de S. Wettimuny
(SLBP - 1973)

B.L.R.D. Mendis (a)
(SLBP - 1983)

A.Ranatunga



P.I. PIERIS

Cambridge Blue, and President. Board of Control for
Cricket in Sri Lanka in 1989/90.

UT denotes (1) 1932/33. All Ceylon to India; 1935 vs Maharaja of Patialas Australian team. 1940/41 - All Ceylon Team to India. 1949 vs West Indies; 1956 - vs All India; 1962 vs M.C.C.

OFC (2) 1926 vs to W.E. Lucas Bombay Team; 1927 vs M.C.C.; 1929 vs J.D. Antias Bombay Team; 1931 - Maharaja Kumar of Vizianagrams team; 1945 vs All India; 1953 - Madras and Pakistan Services; 1960 - Pakistan Eaglets; 1961 vs Madras; 1967 vs Madras; 1967 vs Hyderabad Blues; 1970 vs Madras; 1972 vs Tamilnadu; 1974 vs Tamilnadu; 1983 vs Tamilnadu.

U The No. of Unofficial Tests captained by the Undermentioned are given in brackets :
D.L. de Saram (0), Dr. C.H. Gunasekera (2), L.D.S. Gunasekera (2), S.S. Jayawickrema (5), F.C. de Saram (5), G. Goonasena (1), C.I. Gunasekera (1), A.P.B. Tennekoon (18).

Note (a) Players mentioend under other First Class matches led other teams too in subsequent years.

SOME PAST OFFICE BEARERS



B.E.R. COORAY
(Hony. Secretary)



R. M. M. de Silva
(Sinhalese Sports Club)

PRESIDENTS and PRIME MINISTERS

Some of Sri Lanka's Prime Ministers since Independence have been Cricketers of repute. The first was D.S. Senanayake (1947) an old Thomian. He was followed by Dudley Senanayake (1952-1960-1965) also an old Thomian. Next came Sir John Kotelawala (1952) an old

Royalist. All three of them played in the Big Match, D.S. in 1901-02, Dudley from 1927-29 and Sir John in 1914-15, and all of them played for the Singhalese Sports Club. Sir John and Dudley Senanayake later distinguished themselves in London Club Cricket.

PREMIER J.R. JAYEWARDENE ELEVATED TO HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT OF THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF SRI LANKA

PRESIDENT, SINGHALESE SPORTS CLUB

President, Mr J.R. Jayewardene outshone his predecessors having gained Colours in Three Sports - Cricket, Rugger and Football. Mr. Jayewardene captained Royal at Rugger, was Vice Captain of the Soccer team and played in the Cricket 'Big Match' in 1925.

Mr Jayewardene first appeared in the sports scene in 1922 at the age of 16, in the Royal College Football team - "the team lost all the school matches that year due to lack of experience", according to the College Magazine. The team was L.M. Anthonisz (G), V.E. Jayasundera and L.J.O. Wijesekera (B), M.C. Dias, L.D.S. Gunasekera and J.R. Jayewardene (H) G.L.S. Austin, D. Peterson, G. Seneratne (Captain) D.W.L. Lieversz, S.K.S. Gunasekera (F).

Mr Jayewardene took to Boxing too. In the Inter House meet for the Under 120 lbs. Title he was beaten by C.D.R. Bastian, who was later a Master at Royal College for nearly 30 years. Of his team mates L.D.S. Gunasekera captained All Ceylon at Cricket in 1935.

In 1923 Mr Jayewardene represented Royal at Rugger against Trinity College. Only two schools, Royal and Trinity, played rugger. Then, Trinity were as good as any leading Club team of that period. Trinitians in a class by themselves, beat Royal by 17 points to nil on the Royal College grounds on July 28, 1923.

The two teams were- ROYAL - D. Peterson; P.R.I. Dassanaiké, A.E. Bultjens, T.M.A. Wijesekera, D.W.L. Lieversz, W.P. Abayaratna (Captain), P.C.W. Peiris, J.R. Jayewardene, V. Jayasundera, L.J.O. Wijesekera, R. Rajaratnam, J. Kotelawala, C.E. Belleth, E.F. de Silva, J.W.E.O. Ebert.

TRINITY- R. Le Marchant Kisan Kongoli, L.C. de Mel, E. Schar-enguivel, V.C. Schokman, P.A. Bultjens (Captain), V. Suprayar, J.A. Piachaud, G. de Silva, Maung Vi, V. Ganesar, Dedigama, Bandaranaike, Sabaratnam, C.D. Bultjens (Referee-Prof Leigh Smith)

The Trinity team played without two of their stars A. Myanga and R. Aluvihare. A.E. Bultjens of Royal was Special Commissioner, Matara Town, and D.W.L. Lieversz represented All Ceylon in an Unofficial Cricket Test in 1935.

In 1924 the Royal College Magazine referring to the College Cricket Team said "J.R. Jayewardene is an excellent field, and he stands head and shoulders above the rest of them."

"The 1924 Football Team again lost many matches. The backs L.D.S. Gunasekera and J.R. Jayewardene were dependable" wrote the Editor of the College Magazine.

The team was N.S. Joseph (G), L.D.S. Gunasekera and J.R. Jayewardene (B), A.C. Abeywardene, V.E. Jayasundera and C.D.R. Bastian (H), H.F.S. de Silva, T.M.A. Wijesekera, D.W.L. Lieversz, P.C.W. Peiris and V.C. Bartholomeusz (F).

In Boxing (Over 120 lbs), Mr J.R. Jayewardene (Harvard) lost to W.L. Siebel (Marsh). The College Magazine reported: "Jayewardene though lacking practice, not having boxed for two years, gave Siebel a tough fight. A fourth round of one minute was ordered and Siebel only just won".

The 1924 Rugby encounter was decidedly one-sided, Trinity winning at Bogambara on August by 37 points to 3. The Trinitians crossed the

Royalist line 11 times. The final tally was 2 goals and 9 tries to one try. The Trinity team was D. Wyse, D. Pereira, C.D. Bultjens, M. Thang On, C. Bandaranaike, E. Aluvihare, P.A. Bultjens, Kisan Kongoli, F. Murray, G. Taylor, Bandaranaike, N.H. Perera, Yan Lin, Lindsay and Royal's team J. R. Jayewardene (captain), E.C. Paul, N.S. Joseph, H.F.S. de Silva and W. Ludovici, V. C. Bartholomeusz, D.W.L. Lieversz, F.R.C. Schrader, K.S. Nath, W.L. Siebel, E.F. Don, L.G. Pauliusz, B. Beling, A.J. Drieberg and K. Carron.

Mr Jayewardene was Vice Captain of the Football team and played in the Cricket team in 1925. His teammates were L.D.S. Gunasekera (captain), H.C. Dharmaratne, W. Ludovici, N.S. Joseph, W.J.P. Gunawardene, H. Meedeniya, H.E. Wijetunge, F.L. Goonawardene, D.W.L. Lieversz, C.L. Perera.

Mr Jayewardene started off well in the first match when Royal beat St. Benedict's in a day. A correspondent describing the day's play said "the best cricket of the afternoon was seen when F.L. Goonawardene (20) and J.R. Jayewardene (20) were in partnership. The former is a stylish left-hander with all the strokes round the wicket. He was easily the best batsman in the Royal College team. Jayewardene's innings was a lesson in the use of the straight bat and the way he went out to the pitched-up ball on the off, marks him as a batsman of the future."

For the rest of the season ill-health seems to have put a brake on his efforts scoring 0 against St. Anthony's, 2 not out against St. Joseph's when L.D.S. Gunasekera scored 194 out of Royal's total of 323. Mr Jayewardene scored 3 against Wesley, 0 and 8 not out against Trinity and 23 against Panadura Old Royalists.

The pen sketches prior to the Big Match described Mr Jayewardene thus: "A batsman who wields the straight bat is sound and reliable. As a fielder he is hard working and a sound change bowler"

The Royal College Magazine said of him: "J.R. Jayewardene is a splendid fielder in any position and a dependable bat, was very successful in the first match of the season. Has not been in good health since then. May prove a useful change bowler"

In the 'Big Match' he was bowled by C.S. Ratwatte for nought, in the Thomian second innings he took a good catch to dismiss F.L. Adihetty. Among the best known schoolboy cricketers of this period were N.M. Perera (Ananda), and S.T. Abeysekera, M. Kelaart and T.H. Kelaart (St. Joseph's) J.W. Aiyadurai (Trinity), L.A. Nonis (Wesley), A. P. Dias (St. Benedict's), G.R.S. Baie (St. Anthony's).

Mr Jayewardene kept up his interest in Cricket and was always present to witness International Cricket Teams play in Colombo. He served as President of the Board of Control for Cricket in Ceylon from 1952 to 1955.

So much for sporting activities. In Politics he was first elected a member of the State Council in 1943. After Independence in 1947 he was Minister of Finance & then Minister of Food and Agriculture. As Minister of State, he set in motion the Tourist Industry (1969) & later Leader of the House of Representatives.

Prime Minister J.R. Jayewardene became the First elected President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka in 1979 after the election in 1977. His Excellency born on 17th September 1906, passed out as a

Lawyer & gave up the profession to take to Politics. He took a keen interest in Buddhist activities and wrote a few books on Buddhism.

I believe His Excellency's biggest political achievement is his appeal to the United Nations Organisation in 1947 at San Francisco to have compassion on the Japanese people. This was after their all conquering attempts during World War II. He was the only personality in that assembly to make a plea on behalf of Japanese. That plea has paid dividends and Sri Lanka has benefited.

NOTE: G (Goal Keeper) (B) Full Back) – F (Forward).

DUDLEY SHELTON SENANAYAKE GREAT INNINGS

DUDLEY SHELTON SENANAYAKE born on 19th, June 1911, was educated at St. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia and Corpus Christi College Cambridge where he excelled in cricket, tennis and soccer. He was in the Thomian cricket team at the age of 18 in 1927. He represented his school again in 1928 and 29. In later years as a young man polo took his fancy and as the years went by he became a keen golfer.

Dudley Senanayake did not perform brilliantly in the three school seasons, but came out with flying colours in the Big Match. The Occasion seemed to have brought out the best in him.

In the 1927, Royal-Thomian match he scored 48 not out hitting 8 fours. In 1928 he was the opening batsman along with W. Goonawardene for a part of the season. He also played against the South Australian Schoolboys. St. Thomas' was the only school team to beat the visitors. That year too he came off against Royal scoring 25 runs in the first innings. With his captain Roy Hermon, the finest schoolboy cricketer at that time. Dudley put on 74 runs for the 5th wicket. In the 2nd innings he was bowled by S.S. Jayawickrama for 6.

In 1929 he scored 32 and 14 against Royal. With his brother Robert now President of the Board of Control for Cricket he put on 59 for the 3rd wicket in the 1st innings. In a spell of six overs, he was hit for 36 runs but got the vital wicket of F.C. de Saram who scored 72.

While in England he played regularly for the Indian Gymkhana. In 1932-33 he was up at Corpus Christi College Cambridge.

On his return to Ceylon, politics took his time but played occasionally for the Sinhalese Sports Club, for whom his father D.S. Senanayake, (Snr), played from 1904 to 1915.

There is an interesting story behind one of his centuries for the SSC.

His captain D.S. (Chippy), Gunasekera a disciplinarian on the cricket field found that Dudley Senanayake and Sargo Jayawickrama had turned up very late (at the last minute). As a punishment these two were asked to open the innings. They had not done so before. The captain expected them to be back before the new ball was worn out. Later Dudley roared with laughter saying: "We had our own back. We batted all afternoon."

Dudley Senanayake (103 not out) and S.S. Jayawickrama (134 not out), put on 246 runs in the unfinished partnership for the 1st wicket which ended with the tea interval. It was just 4 runs short of the Ceylon record for the 1st wicket established in 1879. The team at the receiving end were Notts C and AC.

Dudley took to politics early in life. He was a member of the State Council in the 1930s and in Parliament after Independence. He was Prime Minister on 3 occasions 1952 1960 and 1965. Dudley served as Minister of Agriculture for many years.

Dudley Senanayake is no more but he showed us that the lesson learnt on the sports field – accepting victory or defeat, can be taken in its stride in life later on.

He played with a straight bat and millions paid their respects to him at his funeral. His life's innings was short – but it was a hectic innings while it lasted.

Dudley hardly missed a visit of any MCC, Australian or other International cricket team to Ceylon. The Royal-Thomian match was "a must" in his list of appointments in March every year. He maintained his interest in the game he loved so much to the end.

SRI LANKA STAMPS AND S.S.C. CRICKET CONNECTION.

Three personalities connected with S.S.C. cricket depicted on Sri Lankan stamps were good College Cricketers who had to decide whether to play politics or cricket. After a short stint in Club Cricket all 3 became politicians. All 3 became Prime Ministers of our country. The fourth personality connected with the S.S.C. was an intellectual who won fame in the West in colonial times.

Hon. Sir James Peiris : Kt. M.A., L.L.B. – a

Was born in December 1856. Educated at Colombo Academy (1872-1878). Later Royal College won the English University Scholarship in 1878. Graduated from Cambridge (St. John's College). First Asian President of the Cambridge University Union. First elected, Vice President of the Legislative Council of Ceylon (19-) President, Sinhalese Sports Club (1928 to 1930). Sir James was member of the Legislative Council (1921-1924), Unofficial Member Legislative Council (1924-1931) for Colombo Town & Colombo Town (South). As one of the pioneers of University education in Ceylon, one of his last acts as MLC was to pilot a vote of Rs. 300,000/= for the Ceylon University in 1930.

Rt. Hon. Don Stephen Senanayake: P.C. – Born on

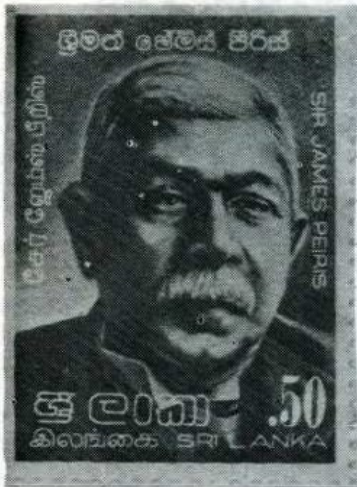
Educated at St. Thomas' College, Mutwal. Played in 1st XI in 1901 and 1902. A hard hitting right hand batsman and Wicket Keeper played for Nondescripts CC and Sinhalese Sports Club. Politics did not allow him much time after World War I to indulge in cricket. Was a Member of the Legislative Council from 1924 to 1930. Member of State Council 1931 to 1946 and First Prime Minister of Ceylon 1947-1952. Was Minister of Agriculture from 1931 to 1946. President, Sinhalese Sports Club 1931 to 1952 and President, Ceylon Cricket Association, (1931)

Rt. Hon Sir John Lionel Kotalawela. – KT: PC: K.B.E. : CH – Born on 4.4 1897

The 50 cts. Stamp was issued on 2.10.1982. Educated at Royal College, where he played in the 1st XI in 1914 and 1915, and subsequently played for Sinhalese Sports Club. He was at Christ College, Cambridge during the war years (1915-17). On his return to Ceylon he was one of those who worked hard for the SSC to have a good ground and collected funds for the new pavilion (1923). He continued playing for the S.S.C. till about 1928 when he decided politics was a better game. He was elected to the State Council in 1931 and was a member till 1946, serving as Minister of Agriculture and later Minister of Communications. From 1947 (after Independence) he served as Minister of Transport and was appointed Prime Minister in 1954 which office he held till 1956. He was Officer in Commanding (Col) of the Ceylon Light Infantry. (VOLUNTEER FORCE). He frequently indulged in polo. He was President of the Sinhalese Sports Club from 1953 to 1980. Sir John is the most decorated individual in Ceylon in addition to the British honours he was honoured by the governments of Italy, Japan, Thailand, Netherlands and Belgium. Sir John entertained Peter May's MCC team at his Kandawala home in 1958. He was a personality with a sense of humour.

Dudley Shelton Senanayake was appointed Prime Minister in March 1952. He resigned in September 1953.

He assumed the Prime Ministership on the sudden death of his father Rt. Hon. D.S. Senanayake. Dudley Senanayake was born on 19.06.1911 and educated at St. Thomas' College. He played in the team from 1927 to 1929. He represented the SSC in the mid 1930s on his return from England. He was the opening batsman & has a few century partnerships the most famous of which is the 246 runs (unbeaten) vs Notts C & A C in 1938 which was 5 runs short of the Ceylon record. It happened to be the tea interval and the captain decided to give the opponents of batting the last session. Dudley Senanayake entered the Legislature in 1931 & was Minister of Agriculture. After Independence he held the same portfolio, till he assumed the Office of Prime Minister. He became Prime Minister for a short time again in 1960 & for a third time in 1965 & held Office till 1970. While at St. Thomas' he won not only his colours for Cricket but also for Football & Athletics. Proceeding to Corpus Christi College Cambridge he obtained his M.A. He practised as a lawyer for a short time till he got involved in active politics. In London he played Cricket for the Indian Gymkhana Club, then fielding a strong team including some Indian Test Cricketers.



ROBERT SENANAYAKE

PRESIDENT, BOARD OF CONTROL FOR CRICKET IN SRI LANKA

Robert Senanayake born on 13th April, 1913 will be remembered amongst Sri Lanka Cricket fans with this trophy he offered and for managing cricket affairs when coffers were bare and Bank loans and overdrafts were necessary for overseas tours and when sponsorship was razor thin.

At 14 he performed like a seasoned veteran in January 1928 with a fine 33 not out against St. Peter's College, Adelaide. Set to make 153 runs to win St. Thomas' were 76 for 5 wks. With Roy Hermon (57), the Thomian Captain, Senanayake helped with a 83 run partnership. He bowled well taking 2 for 25 and 2 for 45.

Senanayake a correct right hand batsman (after his first year he was an opening batsman till he quit cricket in 1938) and a slow medium right arm bowler excelled in the slips. Against their arch rivals Royal, he scored 2 & 0 (1928). 46 & 2 (1929) and took 2 for 42. As captain in 1930 he scored 11 & 22 and took 3 for 48. In 1931 he scored 1 and 0 and took 1 for 43 and in 1932 he scored 2 and a fine 50 and he put on 55 runs for the 4th wicket with N.A. de S. Wijesekera, batting over 2 hours.

Senanayake has a Royal-Thomian record, being the only captain on either side to lose 3 successive matches. Against Zahira he scored 116 not out in 1930. At the end of the year, he played for Dr John Rockwood's Public Schools XI against Maharaja Kumar of Vizianagram team scoring 2 and 4. His opening partner was John Pulle. The Schools XI was D.B. Gunasekera (Royal), Robert Fernando, D.S. Jayasundera (St. Joseph's), F.C. de Saram, S.S. Jayawickrema (Royal), R. Senanayake & N.A. de S. Wijesekera (St. Thomas'), D.H.O. Melder (St. Benedict's), H.A. Carim (Zahira), S. A. Odayar (Trinity) & John Pulle (St. Joseph's). Vizianagram team included Jack Hobbs, Herbert Suttcliffe and C.K. Naidu.

At St. Thomas' he won his colours for Soccer and Tennis in addition to Cricket. He was Head Perfect in 1931, won the Victoria Gold Medal for the Best all round boy (1931), the F.L. Goonewardena Batting Prize (1932) and Stephen Memorial Prize for Bowling. In 1929 he tied for the championship at the Cadet Sports in Colombo with Royalists S.S. Jayawickrema and T.C.A. de Soysa.

While still at school he was playing in Club Cricket for the Sinhalese Sports Club in 1930. With C.C. Senaratne he put on 125 for the 2nd wicket against Police SC and in 1932 he put on 106 for the 1st wicket with L.D.S. Gunasekera also against the Police S.C.

Proceeding to England in 1933, he entered Corpus Christi College and played in Cambridge University trials. In the Freshmen's match he scored 4 and 2 for J.H. Humans XI vs D.R. Wilcox's XI.

In the Cambridge team captained by J.H. Human (MCC team to India 1933/34 - he played against All Ceylon) were Test players of the future - R.S. Grant (West Indies Capt.), K. Farnes (England), M. Jehangir Khan (India) (1933).

Senanayake was awarded his Crusaders colours and in 1935 he scored 5 and 1 for H.P. Dinwiddy team vs R.P. Nelson team and scored 25 and 13 not out for "Etceteras" in Perambulois. In the Cambridge team (captain G.W. Parker), J.H. Cameron (West Indies), N.W.D. Yardley (later England Capt.) W. Wooller (Glamorgan Captain and Welsh Rugby International), Jehangir Khan, S.C. Griffith (England and later Secretary, MCC) and P.A. Gibb (England). In the Oxford Team was F.C. de Saram. Senanayake passed as a graduate in Law.

On his return in 1935 he played for the SSC scoring 101 not out vs Panadura and 103 vs Notts C & AC. His opening partner was W.L. Mendis. On his good batting form he played his only International - the One day game against MCC in 1936. He scored 21 ct Duckworth b R.W.V. Robins. In 1937 he scored 48 against the Aligarh University. In 1938 he played for the SSC in the First Daily News Trophy Tournament.

Senanayake served as Hony. Secretary of the SSC for 2 years in the late 1930s, while his father D.S. Senanayake was President - the only Father-Son combination for these posts in the Club. At the outbreak of the war he joined the Ceylon Garrison Artillery as 2/Lt. and rose to the rank of Captain. He was appointed Officer Commanding Field Security Service, Ceylon Garrison Artillery (1st Coast Regiment) under British Army Command from 1942 and held this rank till the end of the War in 1945.

On the sudden death of Lt. Col. S. Saravanamuttu, President of the Board of Control for Cricket in 1957, Robert Senanayake was unanimously elected President in succession and held the post from 1957 to 1976, when the Sports Law was enacted to allow only a 2 year term for each office bearer. In 1958 he persuaded S.C. Griffith to give two One day games to Ceylon which was granted.

When he was elected President of the C.C.A. it was the first Father (D.S. Senanayake - 1931) and son President of the CCA. In 1965 during his tenure of office India sponsored and Ceylon was admitted as an associate member of the I.C.C. Senanayake could not achieve his ultimate goal, Full status which was achieved by Hon. Gamini Dissanayake in 1981. In 1976 he presided over the Asian Cricket Conference meeting in Colombo. Among those present were R.P. Mehra, President, Indian Board, A.H. Kardar of Pakistan and Gulam Ahmed, Secretary of the Indian Board.

A Quadrangular Tournament was started in 1960 with 2 day games between the Government, Mercantile and Nationalised Services and Rest. The Tournament was expanded with two other teams Central Provinces and Schools XI and he offered the **Robert Senanayake Trophy in 1965** with play being extended to 3 days. It was the first time 3 day games were played in a local tournament.

After the war he went into business and was appointed a Director of Freudenburg Ltd., a German firm with majority holdings in Ceylonese hands. As Chairman of the State Mortgage Bank, Hospital Lotteries Board, Director, Ceylon Theatres, Millers Ltd., the National Chamber of Commerce.

In 1952, Senanayake was elected an Honorary Life Member of the MCC the only Ceylonese to be so honoured.

Robert Senanayake passed away on 26th April 1986.

REMEMBERED YESTERDAY

- 1) Mudaliyar Vincent de Silva (reproduced by S.S.C Souvenir 195)
- 2) Quotes from Henry A de Silva's Sinhalese Sports Club

REMEMBERED YESTERDAYS

By MUDALIYAR VINCENT DE SILVA

PRIOR to the formation of the Sinhalese Sports Club in 1899 the oldest cricket clubs in Colombo were the Colts C.C. who had their home in the Racquet Court, Pettah, the C.C.C., the Nondescripts C.C., the Malay C.C., the Bloomfield C & A.C. and the Sports Club on Galle Face.

Matches were for years prior to the formation of the S.S.C., played between the Colts and other European clubs in the Island. The Schools, namely Royal, St. Thomas' and Wesley, had their clubs and in the nineties the combined colleges teams from these three Colleges commenced to play annually with the Colts. The latter club was considered the premier club of the Island with an unbeaten record, but in 1898 the Combined Colleges team who were all Sinhalese, beat the Colts on Request Court.

A large number was present to witness this match and on the very same day the question of forming a Sinhalese Sports Club was discussed late in the evening under a gas lamp in Dam Street, Small Pass, by a number of Sinhalese young men. The most prominent was Philip de Silva of Wasala Walauwa, Dam Street, an Old Royalist cricketer who had joined the Colts and resigned. The others who took part in those talks were H.J.V. Ekenayeka of Cotta, an advocate student, Harry Ellawala of Ratnapura and Mark Gooneratne of Galle, both Proctor Students who were at the time boarding at Mr. C.P. Dias' in Cramer's Lane, now known as Dias Place, Small Pass. When the proposal materialized, a subscription paper was taken round in order to buy the necessary materials. Many subscribed liberally including Mr. Frederick Dornhorst and other members of the Law Courts. The next step was holding a meeting in Wesley College Hall on 27th March 1899 at which Mr. C.P. Dias was invited to preside. In his absence Mr. (later Sir) Baron Jayatilaka, Principal of Ananda at the time, presided.

At a subsequent meeting Mr. Philip de Silva was elected Treasurer, E. Weerasooriya, Captain. O.G. de Alwis, I think came later as captain. Cricket practice commenced at Price Park, Small Pass, which was at the time partly a grass field. As most of the prime movers left the quarter soon afterwards, the club too shifted to its present site in the Cinnamon Gardens and a cadjan roof building was put up as a pavilion which was unfortunately totally destroyed by fire and all records were burnt. Later the present pavilion was built at much expense. I do not know who laid the foundation stone. The extension to the buildings and the billiard room were put up in 1938". (end of quote)

Quotes from SINGHALESE SPORTS CLUB Memoirs & Reminiscence

By Henry A de Silva

"Correct versions and to enlighten members in regard to the extent to which many sporting and generous ladies and gentlemen have helped the Club.

You gentlemen must not think I am out to boast about my share in shaping the Club's progress. I have done my best by the the Club, and it cannot be helped if in an account of the Club's history such frequent references are made to the work done by me and to the great services rendered by Mr. Leonard Peiris. Those who know both of us also know that neither Mr. Peiris nor I have given of our best with any expectation of reward or honour. You will be able to see for yourselves with whose influence most of the money too had come in.

I must say in all sincerity that all the work I did for the Club was done without any expectation of such honour as it has given me. I must say I have been treated well by the Club. It has made me a Life Member, the highest honour a Club can confer on a member, and the Club has elected me a Vice-President. But I do not take pride in such honours although I deeply appreciate such signs of recognition of devotion to the Club's interests. If I did take pride in these honours - being made a Life Member and Vice-President - I may have preferred to sit in some high chair cocking a leg up and smoking a fat cigar during festive occasions; what I did prefer to do on such occasions was to be helpful, even to the extent of carrying chairs for the comfort of guests and others. It is only selfless love for the Club and a determination to see the Sinhalese have a Club they can be proud of that impelled me to take so great an interest in the Club since its very inception.

Although that first meeting was held with the idea of collecting Rs. 100,000 no resolute efforts were made to carry out the idea until 22 years later. Somehow or other only faint efforts were made between 1899 and 1921. In 1916 at a meeting Mr. N.A. Wijesekera the first Building Secretary having resigned his office nobody was elected in his place but the following Building Committee was unanimously elected with power to select one from the Committee as the Building Secretary. The Committee was as follows: Messrs. D.H.P. Abeyawardena, Geo E. de Livera, F.A. Obeyesekere, D.S. Senanayake, D.B. Gunasekera, H.M. Gunasekera, D.L. de Saram, H.L. de Mel, Henry A de Silva, Stanley Obeyesekera, Chas de Silva, D.R. Wijewardene and the Hony. Secretary of the Club, Mr. L.H. de Alwis. It was resolved that the Building Committee should proceed with the work of the building and call in all or a percentage of the monies subscribed towards this purpose. Here we elected Mr. D.S. Senanayake as the Building Secretary and, at the request of Mr. D.S. Senanayake we elected Mr. J.L. Kotalawala as Co-Secretary to assist him. Mr. Kotalawala at this time must have been about 20 years old and just out of school.

After this the Committee again went to sleep for another good spell. In those days the club must have been suffering periodically from sleeping sickness. Previously, in 1912 or so, we had collected about Rs. 10,000 on paper. Here I will refer to the first subscriptions we received. I was asked by Messrs. F.R. Senanayake, D.S. Senanayake, D.B. Gunasekera, D.L. de Saram and Chas. de Silva to make an appointment for them with Mr. A.J.R. de Soysa, whom they had decided to approach as the best person to lead the list of subscriptions for the Grounds and Building Fund. I was also asked to be at Mr. De Soysa's house on their arrival. They got a handsome donation from Mr. De Soysa and his good example led others to subscribe liberally.

The committee having gone to sleep for another spell it was at the end of 1914 that efforts were made to collect monies subscribed. Mr. D.S. Senanayake phoned me, as I was holding Mr. A.J.R. de Soysa's Power of Attorney during his absence then from the Island, to ask if I could send an instalment from Mr. de Soysa's contribution. At the time of this request the copra market had gone down to between Rs. 15 and Rs. 20 per candy owing to the great war. I had previously wired to Mr. De Soysa to be careful about expenses as things were looking so gloomy but even without referring to him I sent Mr. Senanayake a cheque for Rs. 2000 on behalf of Mr. De Soysa's subscription. It is this time that Mr. Senanayake made a start with the laying out of the grounds and the grass wicket. This work took rather a long time to finish but it was well done and for that we must be thankful to him.

Credit should also be given to Messrs. D.B. Gunasekera, Charles de Silva and Lionel Kotalawala who gave Mr. Senanayake any help he needed, and we must not forget that "Prince of Groundsmen" Abdul who did much spade work. Laying out the ground cost in all about Rs. 12,000. Some may think the cost too much. I can say the area was a sandy one before the transformation. On August, 1917, in the presence of many members and guests the ground was declared open and the following participated in the

opening of the turf wicket: Sir S. C. Obeyesekere, Mr. C.P. Dias, O.B.E. and Mr. Frederick Dornhorst K.C. I may add just a few years before 1918, we had no pavilion. All the cricket material and the matting etc. were stored in my father's house, Henley House, now St. Bridget's Convent. It was in 1918 the cadjan roof pavilion caught fire and burnt to the ground at about 4 p.m. during the second day's play of the Royal-Thomian Match.

Now I come to the fortunate year for the Sinhalese Sports Club, the year 1921. It was in this year that Mr. Leonard Peiris was elected the Hony. Secretary of the Club. There was another candidate for the Secretaryship, Mr. Eric Gunasekera. Mr. Peiris was elected by a majority of one vote. We must thank our stars that Mr. Peiris was elected. I was not present at that meeting. Had I been there the majority would have been two votes. If Mr. Peiris had not been elected I am positive he would never again have consented even to his name being proposed for the secretaryship and the Club would have lost an ideal Secretary. I am also positive that if another had been elected secretary the Club would not have built a fine pavilion but may have built a shoddy one.

No other member would have received the co-operation won by Mr. Peiris. Some may think or say I am merely boosting Mr. Peiris. He does not need any boosting by me or by anybody else. His intelligence, refinement, high moral stature and organising capacity are well known among all who have had dealings with him.

Many years ago the Royal vs. St. Thomas's Cricket Match was played on various grounds and it was the Sinhalese Sports Club that gave these two outstanding institutions a "Home" for their big annual match; the S.S.C. grounds was the scene of the event for a number of years, and the event became all the more popular after the venue was made the S.S.C. grounds. For no valid reason the tradition was broken by St. Thomas's College which went elsewhere when it was their turn to choose the grounds.

This biggest of annual school cricket events is referred to by many as the Eton-Harrow match of Ceylon. The tradition of playing that greatest of English school's event on Lords' Grounds is still being carried on, and neither school would dream of breaking the tradition.

One year during the time of Warden Mc Pherson of St. Thomas's some pugilistic Old Thomians who had picked a quarrel with him sent the Sinhalese Sports Club a threat that when the Warden came into the S.S.C. Pavilion to witness the Royal-Thomian match they would throw him out. The S.S.C. spread the news that if such a thing were attempted it would not be the Warden who would be thrown out but those very Old Boys who made the threat. Many S.S.C. members were made "Special Constables" for the two days of the match, and no less a person than the late Champion Boxer Jayewardene was appointed the supervisor of enclosures. I can still picture him walking all over the grounds in that lordly fashion, like a soldier general. After making these arrangements the S.S.C. sent word to the Warden that he need fear none of those threats and invited him to witness the match on both days. He was present on both days and the threats of the pugilistic Old Thomians fizzled out like damp squibs. Not a single untoward incident disturbed the match.

I regret to state that despite all this manifestation of goodwill and the bonds of tradition and in spite of the S.S.C. going out of its way to see that Warden Mc Pherson suffered no insult from Old Boys of his own college, St. Thomas's left the S.S.C. grounds later when it was their turn to choose a ground. It is a funny world indeed when people's ingratitude is considered.

Owing to pressure of political or other work the Building Secretary, Mr. D.S. Senanayake left to his assistant Mr. Lionel Kotalawala the duties in connection with the building project. At the meeting at which Mr. Peiris was elected Hony. Secretary a report by Mr. Kotalawala about the building scheme was read. In the report Mr. Kotalawala had written: I have Rs. 1,000 in the Bank, being the subscription given by Mr. Henry A. Peiris of Rose Bank, Barnes Place, Colombo. May I return it as I don't think the Pavilion would ever come up."

Soon after Mr. Peiris was elected Hony. Secretary he called on me and said I must give him my full co-operation and that we should strive to build this pavilion as a monument in the name of the Sinhalese. In the Building Committee that was appointed those who may be referred to as sleeping partners were Sir S.C. Obeyesekere, Mr. (now Sir) L.W. A. de Soysa, Col. T.G. Jayewardene, Mr. (later Sir) H.L. de Mel, Mr. W.M. Rajapakse. Mr.

Stanley Obeyesekere and Mr. F.A. Obeyesekere. Other members of the committee were Messrs Leonard Peiris, J.L. Kotalawala, D.B. Gunasekera, L.H. de Alwis, D.S. Senanayake, Chas de Silva, Henry A. de Silva, H.M. Gunasekera, E.I. Gunasekera, J.R. Siri Chandrasekera, F.B. de Mel, D.H.P. Abeyawardena, G.D.I. Seneviratne and G.H. Wijeratne. All these gentlemen helped in many ways and we must be thankful to them. But the bulk of the task of collecting subscriptions was done by Messrs. Leonard Peiris, J.L. Kotalawala, E.I. Gunasekera and Henry A. de Silva.

GENEROUS LADIES

Before I forget I must say the ladies whom we approached for subscriptions were so sporting and generous as to give us handsome subscriptions. All of them deserve the Club's thanks. They are as follows: the late Mrs. H. Amarasuriya of Galle who gave Rs. 1000/-, the late Mrs. Domingo Dias of Panadura, Mrs. Alice Kotalawala and Mrs. H.J. Peiris of Colombo each of whom subscribed Rs. 500, other subscribers were Mrs. Henry A. Pieris (Rs. 250), Mrs. Francis Perera Abeyawardena of Galle (Rs. 250), Lady Peiris (Rs. 100), Mrs. Ada Peiris (Rs. 100), Mrs. Helena Wijewardene (Rs. 75), Mrs. Edmund Hewavitarne (Rs. 50), Mrs. Walter Peiris who was then Mrs. Siri Chandrasekera (Rs. 50).

Those good ladies very sportingly helped the Club but the Club is reluctant to make the sporting gesture of establishing a section for lady members. Mr. Leonard Peiris and I, called on Mr. F.R. Senanayake. We announced our mission. Like the good man he was, he very happily gave us Rs. 250 and said he was glad we went to him as he had earlier desired to help the Pavilion Building Fund. It was Mr. Leonard Peiris and I who went to Mr. Lionel Kotalawala's mother and got that handsome donation from her

While engaged in the collecting campaign each of us had his special argument to induce subscriptions. Mine, was that while the Sinhalese numbering at the time about three and a half millions had no sports club of their own; the European community though numbering only about ten thousand (men, women & children) had more than one well established sports club in Colombo. Also I pointed out that owing to this drawback the Sinhalese had no status in the field of sports in the eyes of the European community. The chief sports event, the Ceylonese - European cricket match, had been played for fourteen years on the European Club's ground at the Colombo Cricket Club because the Ceylonese had no suitable ground. The C.C.C. took the full "gate" profit for themselves, and it amounted to Rs. 3,500 at least each year. Worse still, no Ceylonese except the members playing in the team were allowed into the C.C.C. Pavilion. Even the wife of a player in the Ceylonese XI was not admitted into the pavilion and not a complementary ticket even to our President. This argument about the handicap of not having a sports club for the Sinhalese appealed to many and they subscribed liberally to our cause. When the Sinhalese Sports Club put up a pavilion and insisted that the Ceylonese-European match be played thereafter on the S.S.C. ground every other year. In 1925 this match was played on the S.S.C. Ground. Mr. Bernard Jayasuriya was the Secretary at that time. Much credit is due to him for its great success from every point of view. As Ground Secretary I gave him all the assistance that he needed. Mr. Jayasuriya will carry with him that honour of having been the Club Secretary during the time this memorable match was played for the first time in the history of Ceylon on a Ceylonese ground, happened to be on the Sinhalese Sports Club grounds. Mr. M.K. Albert made history in this match by scoring that record score of 175 runs. This match brought in a profit of Rs. 3500/-. Half of it was sent to the European Clubs and the other half was divided among the Ceylonese Clubs. The European spectators were put in temporary sheds built on the ground for the occasion and the pavilion was reserved for Ceylonese. The slogan 'Do unto others as they do unto you' is worth adopting at times when a lesson has to be taught.

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VINTAGE YEARS

By Lucien de Zoysa

I joined the S.S.C. as a school-boy member in 1933. Our ground was located at Victoria Park. Part of our old ground is now the Nomads ground. In those days, our ground was much larger. The boundary on the side of S. Bridget's Convent was just a few yards from the present dual carriage way, and roads ran right round the ground. Our groundsman was Abdul. If you asked him "How is the wicket, Abdul?" he would say "Good for cricket, Master. Good for batting, good for bowling." And so indeed it was, with a nice thin layer of grass on a good hard surface.

Dr. C.H. Gunasekara, whom I consider to be the father of modern Sri Lankan cricket, had handed over the captaincy to L.D.S. (Chippie) Gunasekara, but occasionally would play for the Club. Club games in those days were played on Saturday afternoons from 1.30 to 6 p.m. or light. I remember going to the Club in my early school days with my boots and sitting on the terraces, hoping I would be called upon to field for a little while as substitute for one of the giants who had left the field, or had not yet turned up. It was an anticipated thrill to walk on to that hallowed ground and be there with my heroes. The giants of those days were Dr. C.H. Gunasekara Chippie, Sargo Jayawickreme, M.K. Albert, D.S. Jayasundera, Blackham Wijewardene, Sam Abeysekera, Harry Kannangara.

Why I regard Dr. C.H. as the father of modern S. Lankan cricket is not only because he was the first Ceylonese to play in an English County side, champions at that, Middlesex, under 'Plum' Warner, but because it was he who coached and instructed our players on the theory, practice and techniques of the game. 'Chippie' Gunasekera took over from him as Club captain and as our coach at Royal College, he taught us more about the theory, practice and technicalities of the game than the M.C.C. book of cricket which was the cricketer's bible in those days.

I first played for the Club 1st XI under Chippie in 1937, as an opening batsman. Although I was doing well in that position, it was Chippie who turned me into a leg spinner. M.O. Gooneratne, our leg spinner had crooked his knee playing for All Ceylon against the Australians in 1938. He had chased a ball to save a boundary, had crashed into the fence and hurt his knee so badly that he would be out of cricket for a long time. Chippie told me that a cricket team was made up of several cogs. One important cog was a leg spinner, so if I wanted to stay in first class cricket, I should forget batting and concentrate on taking M.O's place. I used to bowl leg spin only at the nets, and Chippie had seen me at it. So, I practised hard at the nets and was able to fill the gap created by M.O's absence. I did that for over twenty years, and moved down from No. 1 to No. 11 in the batting order.

It was Chippie who was mainly responsible for extending Club games to Saturday afternoons and Sundays. In those days there were 8 Clubs in the first division. They were S.S.C., N.C.C., Tamil Union, Colts, B.R.C., Moors and Malays. Very early, the C.C.C. dropped out and the Bloomfield came into the first division. In those days, except for the N.C.C., and Colts, the

Clubs were strictly communal as the names implied. Each Club played against the others twice, once at home and once away. The season was from September to the end of March the next year. The Daily News offered a Trophy for the champions, and we won that so frequently that that wonderful philanthropist E.P.A. (Bogalla) Fernando sent us on a tour to India. Our Tour Party was Sargo Jayawickreme, Captain, Derrick de Saram, Harry Roberts, Ryle de Soysa, Hector Perera, R.B. Wijesinghe, Ben Navaratne, D.S. Jayasundera, George Pereira, Douggie Ranasinghe Fairlie Dalpathdo, Koo de Saram, A.H. (Kalay) Gooneratne and myself. C.I. was in the Army and couldn't go.

We did extremely well on that tour. We beat South India by an innings, had an honourable draw against Holkar, the Ranji Trophy Champions captained by Vijay Hazare with Derrick and Hector scoring centuries in our second innings, Derrick's second. We were the guests of the Gaekwar of Baroda, and after the game he entertained us to a fabulous dinner at his Palace. We went on to Bombay where we played against the Cricket Club of India, at the Brabourne Stadium, then the premier ground in India. The C.C.I. was captained by Vijay Merchant, the All India Captain and had four other All India players in that side. We got the better of them in first innings in a drawn game. Hector Perera scored his second century on that tour. After that game, we were entertained to drinks by Duleepsinghi, the famous nephew of the legendary Ranji, in his flat on the top floor of the Stadium. We won our last match at Poona, and returned home in triumph.

That tour overseas improved our standard so much that no Club was a match for us. We decided to split our team into two, fill the gaps with others and field two teams in the Tournament. The C.C.A. then the Governing Body objected to one Club entering two teams, but gave way to our logic that splitting our champion team into two would give the other Clubs a chance of winning the coveted Trophy. The joke was on the C.C.A. The S.S.C. 'A' captained by Derrick, met and defeated the S.S.C. 'B' captained by Sargo. In the photograph of the two teams hanging over the entrance to the dressing room of our new Club premises, there are 15 or more players who played for All Ceylon. That final was in the 47/48 Tournament.

In '48 and '49, the West Indies and Pakistan toured Ceylon. In the games against them, there were nine S.S.C. players who played for All Ceylon. Derrick de Saram, who had taken over the captaincy from Sargo, Sargo himself, Mahes Rodrigo, C.I. Gunasekera, R.B. Wijesinghe, Fairlie Dalpathado, Ben Navaratne and myself, and Koo de Saram. Though beaten by both visitors, we did well. Mahes scored a century against the West Indies, and also against Pakistan. Derrick, Sargo and C.I. scored over fifty. In passing it must be mentioned that in those days it was a tradition for the captain to nominate his successor who was elected without a contest. Dr. C.H. gave over to Chippie who gave over to Sargo who gave over to Derrick. After a few years, Derrick nominated Ben Navaratne as captain, and the next year C.I. took over the captaincy. Personally, I feel it is a pity that tradition has been abandoned and that the captaincy is now contested with lobbying for votes.

I'm not sure of the year, it was in the 40's, our Club was instrumental in changing the constitution for cricket from the Ceylon Cricket Association to the Board of Control. Due to dissatisfaction with the C.C.A., we had been pressing for a change. When the Ranji Trophy Champions, Holkar announced a visit to Ceylon, Chippie called a meeting of our cricketers and told them that we could bring the C.C.A. to its knees by boycotting the Holkar tour. Eight or nine of us were bound to be selected, and Chippie told us we must write in and say we were not available. We did, seven or eight of us were suspended. Holkar thrashed our second eleven. With the West Indies and Pakistan due to visit us, the C.C.A. caved in. They not only rescinded the suspension, but agreed to setting up the Board of Control.

To conclude, I'm sure that all 'oldies' join me in congratulating our cricketers on their performances, and wish them all success on their tour to Malaysia. Incidentally, this will not be our first tour to Malaysia. In 1937, Dr. C.H. Gunasekera took our team to Malaysia and was a sensational success there. I was invited to be a member of that team, but was refused permission to go by my father who said I should stay and study for the Matriculation. That, however is not relevant. Here's wishing our players as triumphant a tour this time too.

50 YEARS AT THE CLUB

C.H. GUNASEKARA

I was very happy to have been asked to contribute an article to this souvenir on my cricketing reminiscence at the S.S.C. This souvenir comes out as a result of a tour by the Singhalese Sports Club to Malaysia, Singapore & Thailand & for reasons of sentiment the thrill is greater in that there is a link because it was my father, who way back in 1938 took one of the early island teams to those parts in the name & style of "Dr. C.H. Gunasekara's Ceylon Cricket Tour".

Having consented to write, I scarce know where to begin so I may as well begin on a boastful note in mentioning that I am one of few who could claim to have represented the Club for the first time over 50 years ago & has remained an active member ever since. My father, who was one of the early pillars of this august institution saw to it that I was enrolled as a 12 year old junior member in 1943 in order to take part in the inaugural junior match against the under fifteeners of the Tamil Union. This was meant to be an annual feature but unfortunately it was scrapped after about 4 or 5 years. We were captained by Mahes Rodrigo & included such famous names like Gamini Goonaseena, Sena Perera, Valentine Gunasekara, S.P.F. Senaratna & a few years later Ian Pieris & Suneetha Jayawickrama. The Tamils had in their ranks the brothers David & Chandy Chanmugan, Raja Cooke, Sathi Wignarajah, Rudi Rasarathnam, Vishakan Krishnadasan & Vairavanathan amongst others.

We move on a few years later to my second year in the Royal College team when I received a letter from Derrick de Saram the Club Captain, saying that the Club was entering 2 teams for the Div. 1 Tournament for season 1947 - 48 & enquiring whether I was willing to represent one of the teams. I fairly jumped at the honour & thus had my initiation to Big Time Cricket (when College matches permitted) at the tender age of 16.

I was in the 'A' team captained by de Saram who had Mahes Rodrigo, 'Khoo' de Saram, Ivers Gunasekera, Bertie Wijesinghe. 'Kalay' Goonaratne, 'Thetha' Gunasekera & Gamini Goonaseena while the 'B' under 'Sargo' Jayawickrama had Ryle de Soysa, Ben Navaratna, Lucien de Zoysa, Fairlie Dalpathado, H.I. Fernando, M.O. Goonaratne, Gerry Gooneratne, Harry Roberts, Harry Gunasekara, Robert de Saram & Hector Perera. These 2 teams met in a historic Div. 1 final & as somebody was heard to say recently a team could be picked from the above to beat Sri Lanka's team of today.

The Club during this time was at Victoria Park nestling between St. Bridgets Convent on one side & the Art Gallery on the other. The Pavillion architecture was modest & becoming & the players emerged on to the playing area through an ivy covered tunnel between terraces on either side. It had history writ all over its walls & a romance all its own & the physical appearance was very different to its present condition presently housing the School of Aesthetic Studies. It boasted of a superb outfield together with the best turf wicket in the country tended lovingly by old Abdul & later his sons.

Many were the fantastic performances on these hallowed grounds the unbelievable score of 505 for 6 decl. (4 centurions all retired) scored in a small matter of 3 1/2 hrs, C.I. Gunasekera's hectic century in 37 mts, Sargo Jayawickrama's majestic centuries & double centuries as well as those of Sathasivam. I also recall a great fight back against the Tamil Union - the key match in the calander those days, later supplanted by the S.S.C. - N.C.C. clash. We emerged from the depths of 37 for 5 in excess of an all out score of 350. A fight back sparked off by a volatile 57 from "C.I." & taken up from there by an equally hectic but less turbulent, stroke filled century (163) from Bertie Wijesinghe culminating finally in a grand win. Then again in season 47/48 in only my second game for the Club against the Warblers, the first time I actually batted being the running partner to C.I. Gunasekara in a partnership of over a hundred runs in which my contribution was only 3. (I subsequently ended up with 39 when I finally got a chance to get to the strikers end after C.I.'s departure).

We continued enjoying our cricket at Victoria Park & we won the P. Sara Trophy in the last year we played there. I believe the grounds were on lease & at its expiry the Municipality stepped in which meant that we had to move out, which we did towards the end of 1952.

Though the sentiments were lost, the Club's rich cricketing heritage was successfully transferred to our new precincts. The last match on the old grounds was against Kelani Valley C.C. on a grey and sombre Sunday morning in October 1952, the 19th to be precise, and convincingly won. The first match on the new grounds was a 'friendly' against our rivals from across the fence the N.C.C., also a one day affair. In settings much akin to an English Village scene with marquee styl'e tents and home made cakes and buns for tea, James Perera set a bit of cricketing history in motion by bowling the first ball on the new turf. For some unknown reason - I like to believe it was a good one - I was given the second over from the far, or scoreboard end and would therefore like to feel that I too was a part of that history making, albeit in a second hand sort of way.

Much to the surprise of all, the first ever hit over the ropes was hoisted by bowler Lucian de Zoysa in the region of the present score board, and I believe C.I. Gunasekara who was batting at the time, threw away his innings in anger and frustration to H.I. Fernando, the classy Prince of Wales Prince of batsmen, fell the honour of putting together the first three figure innings, and yet again yours truly came out second best with the second century and second six on these grounds the following week.

However, there was mild satisfaction in that, that hundred (138 retired) before lunch stood as the ground record, until bettered by A.C.M. Lafir's unbeaten 191 seven years later. This in turn was surpassed by Anura Tennakoon's 198 not out - against the Colt's in 1969 and now stands to the credit of Dhammika Ranatunga who scored 241 against Sebastianites in 1987. The first wicket record also stands to this player who was associated with Mithra Wettimuny in a stand of 210 in 1982 to beat the 173 scored by Sarath Silva and his skipper as far back as 1960. Records are meant to be broken and no doubt todays performances would be improved upon as greater opportunities and facilities are made available to those who follow.

During the period I played Div. 1 Cricket which was 1950 - 51 to 1972 - 73 (on & off in the latter years), I reckon we won the Sara Trophy about 7 or 8 times, the toughest games being against the N.C.C. We had enthusiastic crowds of upto a thousand or more following us for there was tremendous appeal in watching players of the calibre of Jayawickrama, de Saram, Ben Navarathna & C.I. Gunasekera from our ranks & Sathasivam & Malcolm Spittle etc. from amongst the visitors.

The playing of the game has undergone changes from then to now and I am certain we enjoyed our cricket more in those far off days than they do today. Life was leisured & civil and the game itself was laced with elegant manners not touched by the ugly commercialism of today. We used to sit over a couple of bottles of beer at the end of a day's play and discuss with our visitors the day's proceedings with many a Cricketing yarn spun in between for good measure. The bonhomie and camaraderie was tremendous and a wonderful team spirit pervaded the atmosphere.

The Singhalese Sports Club, which is one of the prime Cricket Clubs in the country enjoys an illustrious & enviable past & it is hoped that it could look forward to an equally illustrious future in the years to come.

CHANNA GUNASEKARA.

THOSE WERE THE DAYS

BY ANURA TENNEKOON

In 1966 I had finished my school cricket career, and was undecided as to which club to represent. Having been a school cricketer of some promise a number of leading clubs were interested in my services. During this period the late Mr. Bennet Medonza invited me to his residence, and inquired as what my future cricketing plans were. When I told him that I was undecided he insisted that I join the S.S.C. if I were to progress in the game, and made me sign an application. To this day I am grateful to Mr. Medonza for having forced this decision on me, because the club has become a second home to me.

When I first started playing for the club I had the privilege of playing in the company of Sri Lanka Cricketing greats, like C.I. Gunasekera, P.I. Peiris, Bertie Wijesinghe & Lasantha Rodrigo, to name a few. Playing alongside them was an inspiration and education, which has served me well in my cricketing career.

In 1969 under the leadership of P.I. Pieris we went into the final game of the season against B.R.C. Captained by Dr. Buddy Reid. N.C.C. too were playing its final game, and the Sara Trophy was to be won by either the S.S.C. or the N.C.C. depending on which side accumulated more points in the final game. Being one and half day games, we were able to bowl out B.R.C. on the Saturday afternoon for a score around 180 runs. Came Sunday, and to our dismay heavy rain prevented the start of the game. Around 2 O'clock in the afternoon, the B.R.C. skipper very sportively agreed to start the game, sensing that the three hours play left in the prevailing conditions would also give his side a chance of victory. We went for these 180 runs in earnest and achieved it with 3 wickets to spare. On the adjoining ground N.C.C. were unable to persuade the opposition to commence play, leaving S.S.C. the worthy winners of the Trophy.

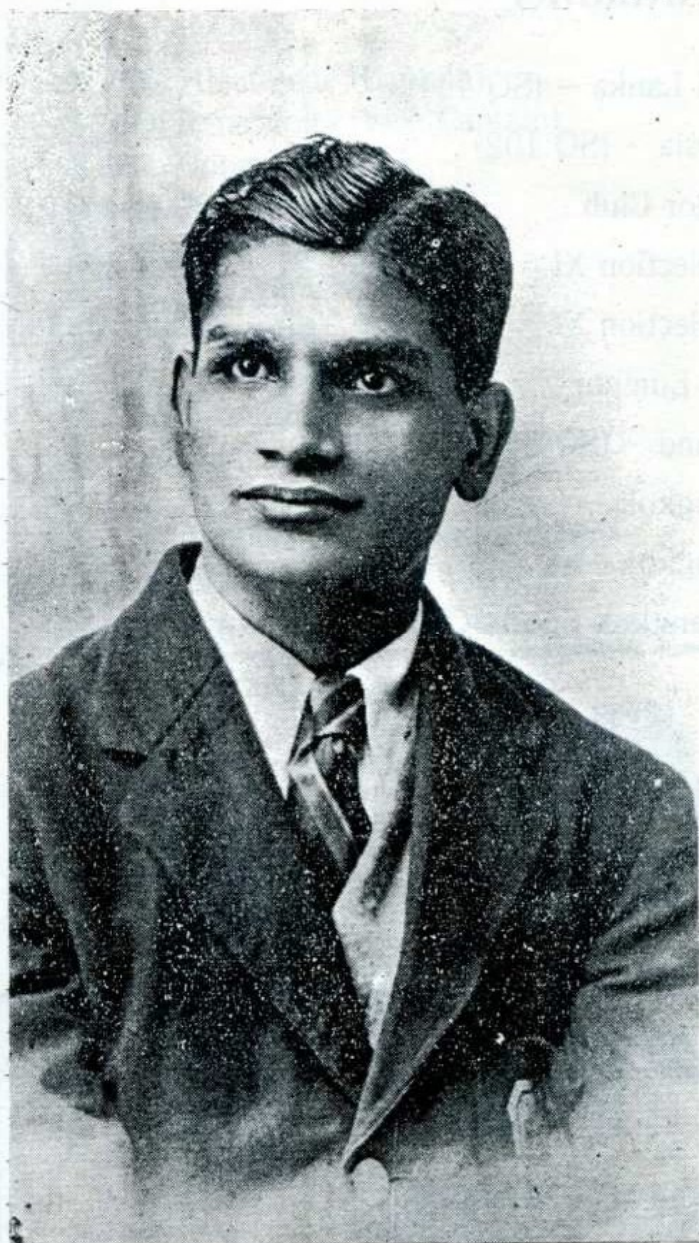
Our championship victories in those days were celebrated at the Club itself with members of the opposing team joining in. A Cocktail which would affect most seasoned drinkers was mixed and consumed late into the evening. Many a hidden talent in the field of singing and dancing came into focus on these occasions. Eventually the day came to a close with most members of the team taking a moonlit dip in the club pool.

I had the honour of leading the club in 1974 and 1975 seasons with some fine cricketers namely Mevan Pieris, Sunil Wettimuny, Sriyantha

Rajapakse & Jayantha Kudahetty in the side. During these seasons a game which stands out as memorable was one against the Air Force. We had won the game on the first innings and in order to gain additional points by winning outright we set the Air Force a target of a 150 runs in even time. The advantage of the game kept swinging from one side to another, until the Air Force was down to 8 wickets with 4 runs to score in poor light. The No. 9 batsman walks in and is unable to make contact with the first ball he receives. He promptly appeals for light which is upheld by the umpire and the game ends as a first innings win for S.S.C. We were under the impression that the new batsman had been under instructions to appeal for light. The jeers he received from his own team mates on his return to the dressing room puzzled us. It is over a beer afterwards that the offending batsman explained that he thought it was prestigious not to lose outright to the S.S.C.

If I were to recall most of the interesting incidents during my playing days of the club, writing a book would be more appropriate than an article. The days we played our cricket at the S.S.C. with those magnificent trees around the ground with the grassy but true pitches prepared by Perumal, will remain etched in my memory for ever. The camaraderie and the lasting friendships achieved during those years, perhaps would be befitting the title of this article.

PIONEER GREATS



ALFRED ALUVIHARE



D.L. DE SARAM

THE BEST OF THE S.S.C.

1900-1952

SEVEN STALWARTS

- 1) C.E. Perera
- 2) D.L. de Saram
- 3) Dr. C.H. Gunasekera
- 4) M.K. Albert & L.D.S. Gunasekera
- 5) S.S. Jayawickrema
- 6) F.C. de Saram
- 7) D.S. Jayasundera
- 8) B. Navaratne

C.E. PERERA – THE PRIDE OF CEYLON

The Pride of Wesley College and Ceylon and Prince of Schoolboy batsman – that was C.E. Perera whose cricket career was all too short. It spanned just 10 years (1897 – 1907). The labels tagged on to Perera were tagged on to such schoolboy stars Pat McCarthy (Royal) and M. Sathasivam (Wesley) almost 40 years later and still later to Michael Tissera (St. Thomas) and Roy Dias (St. Peters). Amongst C.E. Perera's contemporaries were J.A. Scharenguivel, D.L. de Saram & A.C. Ahmath (St. Thomas) and E. Weerasooriya and D.B. Gunasekera Snr. (Royal) – the schoolboy greats of that period.

Known as Amaradasa while at the Buddhist College (later Ananda College), he received coaching from J.C. McHeyzer the old Thomian and Colts player, then cricket Master at Buddhist College. On coming to Wesley he developed his talent. He was the most stylish batsman of the period. Just to mention that some other gifts were donated by Ananda later to St. Josephs (A.C.Z. Wijeratne, 1912 & D.S. Jayasundera, 1930/31).

Critics went into raptures describing Perera. "A cricketer in a thousand. A born cricketer. Cricket came naturally to him. He was a batsman of a high order." "Elegant, with a wide repertoire of strokes, he had everystroke in the cricket locker, and he used them all to entertain the spectators" (S.P. Foenander In *60 Years of Ceylon Cricket* 1924).

Tall & lean in build Perera was all grace in his batsmanship. Fleet of foot – "his footwork was exquisite in the mould of a Hobbs or a Trumper". He was compared to the great English Test player of that period – R.C.N. Palareit. In short, almost 90 years before modern coaching techniques were thought of Perera was to display the art of batsmanship.

Perera first hit the headlines with a classic 97 not out against Royal College in 1898 enabling Wesley to beat Royal (by an innings) for the first time, since the inaugural match in 1893. Wesley cricket developed fast when Price Park was opened. With W.V. Wijekoon the pair put on 105 for the 10th wicket – the first century partnership for the 10th wicket in Ceylon. This innings gained selection for the Colts CC (then representing the Ceylonese) against Capt. Ward-Jacksons European XI in 1898. Perera was the first Sinhalese to play for the Colts CC (*History of Colts CC S.P. Foenander 1944*). Along with Perera there was another schoolboy in the Colts team in J.A. Scharenguivel (St. Thomas). These two were the first schoolboys to play in the Ceylonese – European series which ended in 1933. Perera scored a brilliant 71 not out in a total of 198. With N.A. Pattermoott (40) they put on 83 runs for the 10th wicket – the record 10th wicket partnership for the series. After this innings one scribe wrote – "What a batsman, we shall never see the likes of him again". For Perera's effort M.N.D.P. de Silva gave him a cash gift of Rs.50/–, and Mr. D.P. Tampoe presented him with a bat.

As captain of Wesley in 1899 Perera scored 85 against Royal College and brought their second win over Royal. Selected to lead the Combined Colleges against the "Invincible" Colts he batted brilliantly to score 64 and 32, and the schoolboys lost to the Colts by just one run on the 1st Innings. The scores – Colleges XI 195 & 120: Colts 196 and 83 for 3. The Colleges XI had 10 Sinhalese members. Elated by their astounding performance (there was no team then to match the Invincible Colts then) they persuaded other leading Sinhalese personalities to form a Sinhalese Sports Club. 10 days after their great effort the SSC was formed on 27 March 1899. That was the era of Cricket Clubs on ethnic lines. The inaugural meeting to form the SSC was held in the Wesley College Hall, in Dam Street. (*Sinhalese Sports Club Souvenir 1952*).

A historic match was played on 5th & 6th July 1901 between Colts CC and "The Boer Prisoners of War". (The Boers are the first White South African team to have played coloured teams – first against Galle CC & now Colts CC). In the Colts total of 146 Perera going in at No.7 scored a brilliant 90 not out. In this match too Perera was associated in a 10th wicket partnership of 54. J. Forsythe No. 10 scoring 8. The Boer captain P.H. de Villiers had played for Western Province and a few others had played good class cricket in South Africa. In 1901 Perera was third in the Ceylon batting averages with 533 runs at 34.56. He had two partnerships – 204 for the 4th wicket & 193 for the 1st wicket. On both occasions he scored centuries. *The Handbook of Ceylon Cricket & Field Sports (1902)* describes Perera as "a pretty bat, with a fine wrist action & the finest batsmen Wesley College has turned out. During the last 2 years he had rare distinction of scoring 4 centuries in First Class (Club) cricket – a feat quite uncommon in Ceylon". Perera represented the Ceylonese from 1898 to 1903 and again in 1906.

From 1904 to 1907 Perera played for the SSC as well as the Colts. Selected to tour Bombay with the first Ceylonese team to go overseas, he was in great form against the cream of Indian Cricket – Europeans, Parsees, Hindus, Muslims and Elphinstone College. Starting with 0 & 10, he scored 9 & 80, 69, 54, 46 & 9, and 63 & 5 giving a total of 348 runs at 34.8. With Ahmath (79) Perera (80), put on 117 for the 4th wicket. His 80 came in 25 minutes with 15 fours. He took 5 catches on tour all described as "spectacular". The 117 run partnership also came in 25 minutes. His share 80!

Perera was one of the 5 best fieldsmen in Ceylon – others being A.F. Molamure, D.L. de Saram, E.R. de Saram, A.C. Ahmath & L. Thomasz (NCC) (*Handbook of Ceylon Cricket & Field Sports 1906*). He did not play much after his return from Bombay. In one of his last matches in February 1907 he had a match bag of 12 wickets for 45 runs for SSC against Tamil Union. He succumbed to Enteric fever and passed away in 1907 at the age of 27 on 27.02.1907.

That great cricket enthusiast and local government politician, J. Vincent Mendis, located Perera's grave at Galkissa Cemetery & persuaded the members of the Dehiwela-Mount Lavinia Urban Council of which he was Chairman to gift it to the Ceylon Cricket Association. In 1957 when P. Saravanamuttu was President & V.J.H. Gunasekera Hony. Secretary the CCA built a monument at the site (75 not out in *Maturing Ceylon – J. Vincent Mendis 19*). 1st March 1940 C.E. Perera's portrait was unveiled by P. Saravanamuttu President CCA at the Wesley College Pavilion. In the Wesley College Diamond Jubilee Number 1949. P.G. de Silva says Perera was one of national heroes of the game.

D.L. DE SARAM

Ceylon's greatest Sport Idol was the first of the locals to boycott a Tour with a memorandum to the organisers of Rev. E.F. Waddy's Team of New South Wales Cricketers in 1914.

In 1923 W. T. Greswell in an interview said this of de Saram. "If the players are understudying their popular idol D.L. de Saram they should continue to do so. No better model cricketer and sportsman ever donned flannels in Ceylon", and S.P. Foenunder said "de Saram is the most popular cricketer in the history of the game in Ceylon. For sheer power and stroke production he has never been surpassed and his presence in the cricket field has made him a cricket personality second to none in the history of the game in the island". Douglas de Saram born on 15/10/1882 was a lawyer by profession.

D.L. de Saram had a penchant for the hook stroke played with perfection. He drove beautifully into the covers - a left-hand batsman is a joy to watch. One hook stroke by de Saram was talked of freely even in the 1940s, one off the terror W. T. Greswell. De Saram was at the pavilion end of the C.C.C. ground, a perfectly timed "hook" sailed into what is now the premises of the Sri Lanka National Archives (then a part of the racecourse). If it was measured it would be in the region of 140 yds! De Saram was one Ceylonese prepared to take Greswell apart early in an innings. What confidence he gave the young Ceylonese in his team!

A dashing left-hand batsman, a right-arm fast medium bowler, a fine fieldsman, a tireless worker in the field, above all his leadership was of the highest quality. He could look at the European giants (there were always 5 or 6 County, English Internationals or University Blues in Ceylon at that time with the best pedigree) in the eye. His approach removed the underdog complex of the young Ceylonese in the era when Ceylonese cricket was becoming dominant.

Leadership came to him early at the age of 17 plus in 1900 - for 3 years he led S. Thomas' and in the final year Royal were beaten by an innings and 9 runs. The Royalists were happy that his scores were 0 & 21; 42; 29 & 3; 0 & 30; 24 & 28 and 9 runs, but his bowling performances made up for his low 5 scores - 4 for 14 and match bags of 4 for 48, 7 for 70, 8 for 91 and 10 for 97. I mentioned that no century is recorded against his name in school cricket, but he became the first schoolboy to score a century in FC Club Cricket - 105 for N.C.C. vs Sports Club (1900) followed by 132 for the S.S.C. vs Sports Club (1901) in their very first match. The Sports Club was a strong all-European team.

In 1906 he was in the first Ceylonese team to go overseas - (Bombay). It was not a very successful tour for de Saram. At a time when the Colts C.C. were invincible, in the heyday of Tommy Kelaart (1902-1910) de Saram scored 8 fifties against them - no one else matched de Saram. There were only 3 hundreds against the Colts during this period. His highest was 93. De Saram played regularly for N.C.C. too before throwing in his lot with the S.S.C. along with his N.C.C. team mates D.B. (Snr.) and E. I. Gunasekera and A. F. Molamure.

De Saram played for the Ceylonese against Europeans from 1905 to 1927 in 12 matches, captaining in 10 successive matches and 11 in all. He scored 435 runs in 19 innings at 24.16. He led the 2nd Ceylonese team to Bombay: (1919/20). He led the N.C.C. and S.S.C. and the Ceylonese against the M.C.C. (1927).

Long before the 1968 Selectors, the Selectors of 1927 were electing D.L. de Saram their Chairman of the Selection Committee (1927) as Captain of the Ceylonese against the M.C.C. The other selectors were Major F.R.R. Brooke and C.A. Horan. His selection was a unanimous decision. It was his last FC match for a Ceylon team. I believe it was a tribute to his services to Ceylon cricket for nearly 25 years. In the same year he was elected President of the Ceylon Cricket Association. He was 45 years old but his innings of 17 not out in the 2nd innings saved the Ceylonese from defeat and evoked high praise from the M.C.C. captain A.E.R. Gilligan.

Above all this, de Saram has some unique achievements - (1) along with Tommy Kelaart he is the only Ceylonese to be invited for Trials to select an Indian team to tour England (December 1903, Bombay). Unfortunately the tour was cancelled. He was considered a certainty. (2) He scored twin centuries (118x & 101x) on the same day (one before lunch, the second

between tea and close) for A.F. Molamure's XI vs S. Thomas' (1908). He shared in two century partnerships, took 5 for 39 with 4 wickets in an over for 0 runs. (3) He hit 22 sixes in this match 10 in the first innings and 12 in the second. (4) One record has lasted 65 years (1987) his 34 runs in an over off M. M. Jaldeen for S.S.C. vs Municipality (1912). This was equalled by A.J.D.N. Selvadurai for S. Thomas' vs Wesley (1927). (5) He holds the Ceylon record for throwing the Cricket Ball 118 yds. 1 ft. at the Chums Athletic Meet (1905). This event was a regular feature in the early A.A.A. Meets. He is about the first Ceylonese to get his name in Wisden (1912) - Birth's section.

De Saram acted as Selector in 1924 and 1927 and was the Royalist choice for Umpire in the Big Matches in 1923, 1931 and 1932. De Saram scored 27 centuries in his career - 10 of these in FC Club Cricket - all half Saturday affairs.

"Ceylon's Greatest Cricketer" was the "Observer" headline on his passing away on 28th December 1934 - he was only 52 years. Douglas as he was popularly known played for S. Thomas' at the age of 14 years 7 months. He was bigger in build than the average schoolboy. De Saram was held in awe by school cricketers from other schools. Strange that one of Ceylon's finest batsmen did not score a century for his school. Still other schoolboys feared his prodigious hitting. His hitting matched his build - it was big, many sixes, marked his innings.

The boycott both by DL & his brother E.R. weakened the All Ceylon team. The Sydney Morning Herald of 28th January 1914 reported (from our own correspondent) "Our first three matches are over. The first against a team fully representative, except for the de Saram brothers, who had signed a manifesto & were therefore pledged not to play against us"

Douglas de Saram looked at the English players square in the face, the no nonsense attitude gave his team confidence. The attitude helped in the development of the young Ceylonese cricketers of the time.

80 years later, they call this attitude the killer instinct.

DR. C.H. GUNASEKERA WAS THE FIRST CEYLONESE TO PLAY COUNTY CRICKET

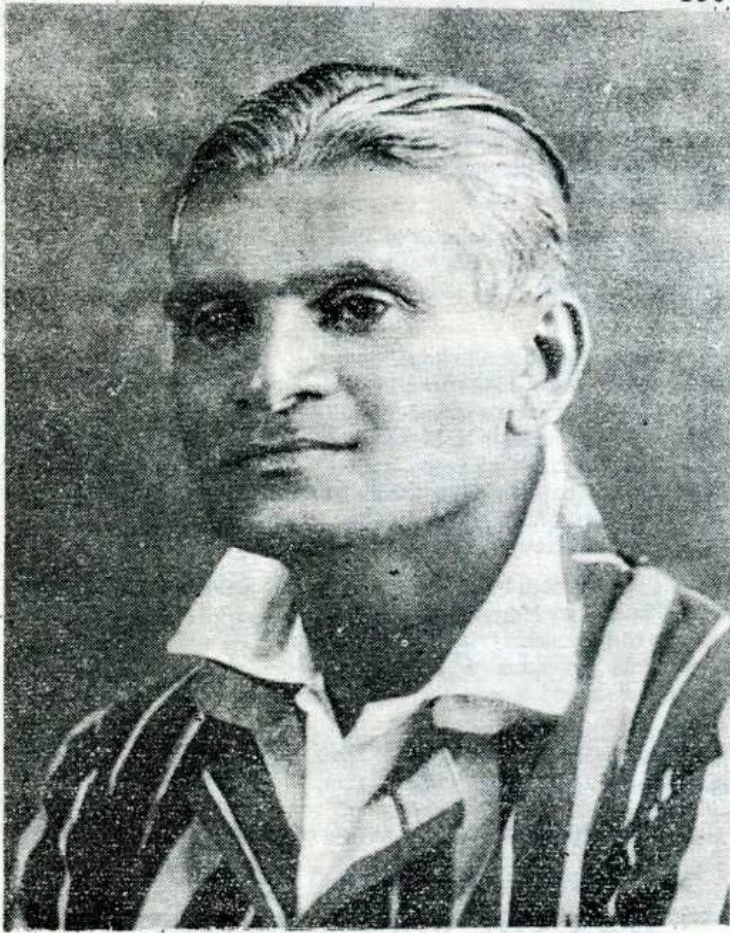
The First Ceylonese to play First Class Cricketer to obtain a County Cap was Dr. C. H. Gunasekera. Playing for Middlesex County C.C. on 2nd June 1919 he beat another Ceylonese S. G. A. Maartensz (Hampshire wicket-keeper) to the first place by a week. Maartensz playing his first match on 9th June 1919. "Dr. C.H." was Ceylon's best known cricketer overseas at that time - a landmark in Ceylon's cricket history.

Educated at Royal College, he represented his college from 1909 to 1912, captaining in his last year. The best all-rounder in his three years at Royal, he had some fine performances to his credit. In his first year he carried out his bat for 55 and was on the field while every ball was bowled during the two days against S. Thomas'; a match bag of 13 for 59 vs Wesley (1910); 106 out of 133 for 3 and 51 out of 96 vs Prince of Wales (1911); 125 and a 9th wicket partnership of 120 runs with E. D. de Kretser (17 n.o.) vs Wesley (1912) - still the best partnership for Royal for the 9th wicket.

These are a few of the best. Gunasekera played in the Combined Colleges XI against the leading clubs in 1911 and 1912. "The Ceylon Cricketers' Almanac" picked the best Colleges XI in 1911 as follows H.C. Gunasekera (he went as HC not CH while at College), E. Wanduragala and G. de Saram (S. Thomas'), O.A. Wright, E. Weinman, L. Jayamanne and A.C.Z. Wijeratne (St. Joseph's), G.G. Perera and R. de Saram (Royal) and H. Seneviratne and P. L. Pestonjee (Wesley). Gunasekera was at Clare College, Cambridge in 1913, where he played in the Trials. World War I intervened and when the Oxford-Cambridge match was resumed (1919), he was out of the University. But for the war he would have been Ceylon's First Cricket Blue at either Oxford or Cambridge.

He played regularly in club cricket for the Indian Gymkhana and "The Tropics". He had some fine performances to his credit in 1917 and 1918. With these he caught the eye of Captain P. F. Warner who invited him to play for Col. F.S. Jackson's XI against Warner's XI on 31/8/1918. This was his initiation into big cricket with big names such as H.W. Taylor

PAST STALWARTS
1900 - 1920



D.B. GUNASEKERA



R.E.S. MENDIS



E. WEERASURIYA



A. PERERA



E.R. DE SARAM

(Captain, South Africa), E. Hendren, J. W. H. T. Douglas (England Captain 2 years later), J. B. Hobbs, Hon. L.H. Tennyson (another England Captain), P. G. H. Fender, G. T. S. Stevens, N. Haig (three county captains later). He opened batting with Taylor scoring 5 and 1 and took no wickets. He played for the Gentlemen of the South vs Players of the South.

Warner invited him to play for Middlesex in 1919 mainly due to his brilliant fielding in the covers (second only to Hendren). He bowled right arm (a medium pace outswinger) and bowled a perfect length. As a free scoring right-hand batsman he was useful in the lower order. In a champion county team blessed with some of England's finest cricketers he was one of its best all-rounders. His fielding evoked high praise. In **PLUM WARNER'S LAST SEASON (1920)** by Ronald Mason the following comments appear "Hendren in addition to being one of the fastest runners, was the safest catcher in First Class Cricket and Gunasekera had a mercurial oriental brilliance which labelled him as among the outstanding fielders of the day", and again "Seymour (Kent) hit Stevens towards mid wicket boundary", and the vivid "Gunasekera taking off in a flash from deep square leg took a glorious catch going flat out at the level of his knees" - Later from another few lines, "it looks as if, this was the catch off his knees" - Gunasekera was the First Ceylonese to be elected a member of the M.C.C.

His figures for Middlesex in the three years 1919, 1920 and 1922 read 55 innings 11 n.o. 88 x 644 runs 14.6 av. and 75 wickets at 28.00. He scored 88 and 55 in the two games against Surrey in 1919. Returning to Ceylon on 13/9/1920, a month later he was representing All Ceylon against MCC. He was back in England in 1922 and played in County Matches. Back in Ceylon he played in eight consecutive One Day Internationals from 1920 to 1932.

His first class match in Ceylon was for Ceylonese vs MCC (1927). He led Ceylon on its First Official tour Overseas to India (1932/33) a very successful tour of 10 matches of which only one was lost. He led All Ceylon in five One-Day Games and in two Unofficial Tests. Gunasekera captained

Ceylon-India Combined (1934), a match MCC won by just 8 runs. He led his own team of Ceylonese cricketers to Malaya (1938). A strong team which had an easy passage in Malaya. D.S. Jayasundera was there to terrorise the Malaysians.

Gunasekera represented Ceylonese against Europeans on 12 occasions (5 as captain). His most brilliant performance in this series was in 1930 when he scored 37 and 77 n.o. and took 8 for 28 and 5 for 52, having a match bag of 13 wickets for 70 runs. In 1932 he took 9 wickets for 18 runs in 21.1 overs at Darrowella against the Europeans. In 1930 he scored 110 runs and took 4 for 37 and 5 for 14 for a Medical XI vs Lawyers XI (Ceylon's leading cricketers). He retired from first class cricket (1934) but turned out occasionally later.

Another unique performance came in 1935 playing for Indian University Occasionals (S. Wazir Ali as Captain) against All Ceylon scoring 73 and putting on 103 for the 7th wicket with H. N. Contractor (30). In 1940 Dr. Gunasekera (150) and S. S. Jayawickrema (235*) put on 261 runs for the 3rd wicket against Bloomfield C. & A.C. He was 46 years old then. In 1943 he scored 111 against Warblers SC.

During his heyday in Ceylon he was the island's finest cover point fielder. F.A. Waldock (CCC) later an All Ceylon Captain, ran a close second. On the retirement of these two in 1934 and 1936, L.D.S. Gunasekera and G.S. Hubert took over. Both were brilliant at cover point. "Dr. CH" captained Royal College, S.S.C., Ceylon Medical Corps (Military Competition), Government Services XI; Municipality; Ceylonese and All Ceylon. In 1924 and 1925 S.S.C. were club champions. Dr. Gunasekera has 22 centuries to his credit, 6 in English Club Cricket and 6 in First Class Club Cricket in Ceylon. For all the recognition he brought to his island for 60 years two things eluded him - the posts of President of the Sinhalese Sports Club and the Ceylon Cricket Association.

Dr. C.H. Gunasekera – played county cricket for Middlesex from 1919 to 1922

ALBERT AND GUNASEKERA – CEYLON'S MOST FAMOUS OPENING PAIR

The most famous pair of opening batsmen in Ceylon, Albert and Gunasekera were known to the smallest schoolboy of the 1930's. No opening pair in Ceylon has caught the imagination of the local cricket public since. For good performances over a long period Albert and Gunasekera takes first place.

The pair were dubbed Ceylon's "Hobbs and Sutcliffe". **THE CEYLON CRICKETERS COMPANION (1926)** (S.P. Foenander) says "Albert was, by universal consent the best batsman in Ceylon. He possessed the right sort of temperament for big cricket. No Ceylonese batsman is more popular with the local crowds than Albert". Mohottikankanange Albert born 10th – April 1895 hailed from Kalutara. From small beginnings he rose to be captain of All Ceylon.

He was discovered bowling at the nets at Kalutara Esplanade by that much respected Thomian and Sinhalese Sports Club Captain, who was the leading lawyer at Kalutara between 1910 and 1930 – O.G. de Alwis. He found employment for Albert in the Railway Department. He then moved to Colombo.

In 1916 and 1917 he represented Bloomfield C and AC. He hit the headlines with a 200-run partnership for the first wicket with J.C.G. Rodrigo for the S.S.C. in 1918.

Albert started at Holy Cross College captaining the team in 1915. His early scores for Kalutara Town Club were 183 and 265 (1920) (the second highest in any grade of cricket in Ceylon till 1957). Albert was a fine sportsman above all a team man. Although from humble beginnings, he taught others in the social ladder that they too could be gentlemen without an accent.

He used the mother tongue to great effect in club cricket in Ceylon and on the Indian tour of 1932–33. Where others were shy to use one's language, Albert revelled in it to the dismay of his opponents and to the joy of his long time partner L.D.S. Gunasekera.

This gentleman from the rural areas was elevated to the captaincy of the Sinhalese S.C. and he captained All Ceylon against Central Provinces and Berar (1932/33) in India when Edward Kelaart stood down as he was unwell.

Both Kelaart and Albert go down in Ceylon's Cricket History as two individuals who captained All Ceylon.

Albert achieved his elevation to leadership on merit. He was one of the few who did not have the silver spoon, but moved equally with the high and mighty and earned their respect.

L.D.S. Gunasekera his partner was a contrast. "Laurel" to Albert as "Hardy", but their opponents found the pair were no jokers. They meant business – business of making as many runs as possible. When "L.D.S." and Albert commenced their first partnership in 1928, Albert was 33 years and Gunasekera was 23 years. What perfect understanding they built up. "Come One" was a strident call. The young opening batsmen of today should see films of these two local heroes of yesteryear. Sunil Wettimuny and Bandula Warnapura performed well for Sri Lanka as opening batsmen; Dr. C. Balakrishnan and Dr. N. Gurusinghe for Bloomfield C & AC performed consistently but not over a long period as Albert and "L.D.S."

"L.D.S." popularly known as Chippy must vie with M. Rodrigo as the shortest player to represent Ceylon. Gunasekera, a left hand batsman was a dashing stroke maker who excelled in the cover drive and hook stroke.

Albert, was a self-made cricketer, a right hander and a dogged batsman, solid in defence, but not boring. He kept the scoreboard moving. He was not a stylist to be compared with C.E. Perera or C.T. Vangeyzel. A pair of supple wrists enabled him to make a delightful leg-glance. He excelled in the "square cut".

Not much has been written on M.K. Albert as a schoolboy but "L.D.S." scored his first hundred in 1923 against Wesley and scored a scintillating

194 in 190 minutes with 3 sixes and 28 fours against St. Joseph's (1925). The 2nd wkt. partnership produced 154 runs. D.W.L. Lieversz his partner provided just 25 runs! Albert has been recorded with a century for Holy Cross against Richmond in 1915. His first big hundred was 183 before lunch for Kalutara vs Kalutara Cricket and Sports Club (Planters) in 1918, at Kalutara.

In 1927 Maurice Tate commented on Albert "Unorthodox, they say, he is, but he gets the runs all right". His records in the Ceylonese-European Series are (1) 188 highest score on either side (2) highest aggregate of 735 (12 matches) on either side. Next best being W.T. Brindley 486 runs (13 matches) (3) 3 centuries (175 in 1925, 111 in 1927, 188 in 1929) (4) 1st wkt. partnership of 186 runs with "L.D.S." (1929) (5) 2nd wkt. partnership of 163 runs with R. Gibson (1929). "L.D.S." has 270 runs in 4 matches at 28.57, 95 on debut (1929) and shared in 1st wkt record. Albert's centuries came in 5 hrs 20 mts; 5 hrs 10 mts; and 4 hrs.

Albert was the most prolific scorer for the S.S.C. after D.L. de Saram. After Albert, S.S. Jayawickrema took over. Some of Alberts averages will be of interest. From 1917 to 1933 - 536 (33.60), 300 (33.33), 614 (43.8) 442 (29.32), 439 (48.1), 163 (27.3), 422 (32.4), 659 (49.20), 758 (39.8), 686 (49.0), 752 (53.7), 824 (74.9), 780 (48.7), 406 (40.8), 660 (41.2). Figures for 1919 and 1932 not available. He has scored over 10,000 runs for the S.S.C. Each year he played 10 to 19 innings and was 1st, 2nd or 3rd. Albert along with Wittachy held the Ceylon 2nd wkt. record of 290 runs till 1969, and Albert and "L.D.S." held the 10th wkt. record (jointly with C.H. Aste and L.A. Wright 1906) till 1973. Albert is one of the few in Ceylon to make twin centuries in a match (1930).

"L.D.S." was on the staff of Royal College from 1927 to 1930. His coaching produced some of the finest teams in the history of the College from 1928 to 1931. Royal played 25 matches won 15 lost 3. Some of "L.D.S." best figures from 1930 to 1933 are - 639 (35.5), 660 (41.2), 981 (33.6), 360 (20.0) and 517 (73.85) in 1938 when he lead S.S.C. to win the first Daily News Trophy Tournament in 1938.

"L.D.S." had no impressive figures against visiting teams, but in 3 innings though the runs were small in number, in 1935 against M.C.C. Patiala's Team and Indian University Occasionals were match saving efforts. In contrast Albert was a man for the big occasion his 51 out of 105 (1927), 72 out of 171 (1929), both against M.C.C. were outstanding. In

F.C. Cricket with foreign teams Albert has 636 runs at 25.40 and "L.D.S." 508 runs at 1938. Both Albert and "L.D.S." played as many innings (in their career) as our players now play in a year.

Albert has 32 centuries in his career and "L.D.S." has 16. In addition to their 14 century partnerships for the 1st wicket, Albert has 21 century partnerships with other players - making 35 in all. "L.D.S." has 23 century partnerships with other players making it 37 in all. Of these Albert has 17 and "L.D.S." 19 for the 1st wkt. Albert led Holy Cross, Railway, Government Services, S.S.C., Dr. John Rockwoods Ceylonese XI (1926), and All Ceylon. "L.D.S." led Royal College, S.S.C. and All Ceylon twice in Unofficial Tests. Albert made 3 overseas tours - to Bombay with Dr. Rockwoods Ceylonese team (1919), to India with All Ceylon (1932/33) and to Malaya with Dr. C.H. Gunasekera's Ceylonese team (1938). "L.D.S." also made the last 2 tours.

"L.D.S." born on 05.04.1905, was an astute captain a fine batsman, brilliant cover point, good leg spin googly bowler, and good wicket keeper. A book on coaching by "L.D.S." would have been good reading for young Sri Lanka Cricketers. Albert one of soundest batsman in Ceylon was a slow medium right arm spin bowler and safe in the outfield. Albert passed away on 04.09.1944. Holy Cross must be proud of this great sportsman.

Albert, as a sportsman, was mentioned by me when writing on C.T. Vangeysel. Another incident worth mentioning is when he declared the S.S.C. innings close against Sports Club in 1930 with his individual score at 99! Personal glory was immaterial Albert coached St. Josephs College for some years in the 1930's.

In 1963 I wrote an article for the Kalutara Town Club Centenary and mentioned that Albert and "L.D.S." had 11 century partnerships. More research since then has provided additional information. I believe there are a few more century partnerships to be credited to Albert and to "L.D.S." but the "fall of wickets" have not been recorded in some matches.

It is worth recording that it was L.D.S. who first proposed (seconded by R.L. Batholamuesz (N.C.C.)), the formation of a "Board of Control for Cricket" at the A.G.M. of the C.C.A. in April 1939. Due to wartime difficulties the proposal, though accepted, was postponed to the end of World War II.

The partnership by Albert and "LDS" are given.

CENTURY PARTNERSHIPS

Note - (3) 3 day (2) 2 day (1 1/2) 1 1/2 day (1) whole day (1/2) Saturday afternoon.

1929	1st wkt	186	M.K. Albert	(188)	and	L.D.S. Gunasekera	(95)	Ceylonese vs Europeans (3)
	1st wkt	143		(77)	and		(72)	S.S.C. vs Tamil Union (1)
1930	1st wkt	113		(99x)	and		(62)	S.S.C. vs Sports Club (1/2)
	1st wkt	120		(38)	and		(120x)	S.S.C. vs Colts CC (1/2)
	3rd wkt	118		(56)	and		(80)	S.S.C. vs Tamil Union (1/2)
23.03.1931	10th wkt	134		(45x)	and		(96)	S.S.C. vs Sports Club (1)
1932	1st wkt	144		(83)	and		(54)	S.S.C. vs P.J. Parsons XI(1)
	1st wkt	116		(71)	and		(87)	S.S.C. vs C.C.A. (1)
	1st wkt	117		(117)	and		(88)	S.S.C. vs Professionals (1)
1933								
1934	1st wkt	122		(72)	and		(71x)	S.S.C. vs Bloomfield (1)
	1st wkt	107		(87)	and		(45)	S.S.C. vs Notts C & AC (1)
	2nd wkt	139x		(102x)	and		(51x)	S.S.C. vs Moors SC (1)
05.01.1939	1st wkt	166		(84)	and		(99)	S.S.C. vs Tamil Union (1)
15.03.1938	1st wkt	153		(60)	and		(165x)	S.S.C. vs Malay CC (1)

M.K. ALBERT & OTHER PARTNERS

1915	1st wkt	121	M.K. Albert	(73)	and	M. Orr	(82)	Kalutara TC vs Panadura(1) CC - UYP
02.10.1917	4 wkt	175		(130)	and	A.P. Wijetunge	(263re)	Railway vs P.W.D. - GF(1)
.01.1917	2nd wkt	121		(74)	and	E.R. de Saram	(64)	S.S.C. vs Tamil Union
20.02.1918	2nd wkt	118		(183)	and	A.E. Ebert	(69)	Kalutara TC vs Kalutara (1) C & SC
	4th wkt	185		(183)	and	V.E. Ekanayake	(65x)	- do - (2)
	3rd wkt	220		(84)	and	A.P. Wijetunge	(142)	Railway Battalion vs CLI
	2nd wkt	211		(111)	and	J.C.G. Rodrigo	(100)	S.S.C. vs Tamil Union (3)
09.02.1925	1st wkt	110		(62)	and	F. de Saram	(80)	S.S.C. vs Notts C & AC (1/2)

02.09.1927	2nd wkt	290	(176)	and	C.H. Wittachchy	(131)	S.S.C. vs Malay C.C.	(1/2)
	8th wkt	128	(111)	and	S. Saravanamuttu	(78)	Ceylonese Europeans	(2)
1928	1st wkt	157	(69)	and	A.C.Z. Wijeratne	(82)	S.S.C. vs Galle	(1)
	2nd wkt	135	(116)	and	H.B. Kannangara	(34)	S.S.C. vs Tamil Union	(1)
1929	1st wkt	124	(116x)	and	R.P. Senanayake	()	S.S.C. vs Tamil Union	(1)
	2nd wkt	163	(188)	and	R. Gibson	(59)	Ceylonese vs Europeans	(2)
1931	1st wkt	128	(75)	and	Dr. C.H. Gunasekera	(70)	S.S.C. vs Nugegoda S.C.	(1/2)
	4th wkt	128	(86)	and	R.A. Crutchley	(53)	Railways vs Excise	(2)
1932	1st wkt	128	(66)	and	G.S. Hubert	(73)	All Ceylon vs Sind CF	(3)
	6th wkt	102	(102)	and	H.B. Kannangara	(60)	S.S.C. vs Galle	(1)
1933	2nd wkt	114	(60)	and	W.L. Mendis	(43)	S.S.C. vs C.C.C.	(1)
	2nd wkt	114	(67)	and	S.S. Jayawickrema	()	S.S.C. vs Panadura S.C.	(1)
1934	2nd wkt	120x	(51x)	and	S.S. Jayawickrema	(59)	S.S.C. vs C.C.C.	(1)

L.D.S. GUNASEKERA AND ANOTHER PARTNER

1923	5th wkt	104	L.D.S. Gunasekera	(80)	and	N.S. Joseph	(50)	Royal vs	(2)
1925	2nd wkt	154		(194)	and	D.W.L. Lieversz (Snr)	(25)	Royal vs St. Josephs	(2)
1927	3rd wkt	120		(72)	and	J.W. Ratnayake	(60)	Education vs Revenue & Audit	(2)
1928	5th wkt	128		(86)	and	B. Jayasuriya	(78)	S.S.C. vs D.A.C.C.	(1)
1929	1st wkt	104		(58)	and	Dr. C.H. Gunasekera	(44x)	S.S.C. vs N.C.C.	(1)
1930	1st wkt	178		(109)	and	F.C. de Saram	(69)	S.S.C. vs Malay C.C.	(1)
	1st wkt	117		(65)	and	F.C. de Saram	(65)	S.S.C. vs Malay C.C.	(1/2)
	3rd wkt	136		(110x)	and	H.B. Kannangara	(59)	S.S.C. vs Combined Colleges	(1)
1931	5th wkt	117		(107)	and	D.B. Gunasekera (Jnr)	(44)	S.S.C. vs C.R.C.	(1)
	1st wkt	100		(98)	and	M. Van Rooyen	(36)	Law College vs University	(2)
1932	1st wkt	106		(91)	and	R.P. Senanayake	(33)	S.S.C. vs Police SC	(1)
	2nd wkt	160		(108)	and	W.L. Mendis	(60)	S.S.C. vs Fathers & Sons	(1)
1932	1st wkt	102		(94)	and	N.A. de S. Wijesekera	(34)	Law College vs Medical	(2)
1934	1st wkt	157		(111x)	and	D.B. Gunasekera	(64)	S.S.C. vs N.C.C.	(1)
1936	6th wkt	120		(71x)	and	A.H. Gooneratne	(45)	S.S.C. vs C.R.C.	(1)
1936	3rd wkt	120		(58)	and	R.P. Senanayake	(65)	S.S.C. vs N.C.C.	(1 1/2)
19.02.1938	4th wkt	147		(138)	and	H.S. Roberts	(74)	S.S.C. vs C.R.C.	(1 1/2)
	3rd wkt	168		(165)	and	S.S. Jayawickrama	(101)	S.S.C. vs Malay C.C.	(1 1/2)
02.04.1939	2nd wkt	148		(88)	and	S.S. Jayawickrema	(69)	S.S.C. vs Moors S.C.	(1 1/2)
	2nd wkt	136		(42)	and	C.I. Gunasekera	(95)	S.S.C. vs Saracens SC	(1 1/2)
1940	4th wkt	112		(53)	and	I.D. Abeywardene	(71x)	S.S.C. vs H.B. Kannangara XI	(1)
1942	2nd wkt	217		(90)	and	M. Sathasivam	(115)	Rest vs Army	(2)
1949	1st wkt	100		(50)	and	G. Goonasena	(45)	S.S.C. vs Kalutara TC	(1 1/2)

M.K. Albert & L.D.S. Gunasekera – Century partnerships

–	1st wkt	–	11
–	2nd wkt	–	1
–	3rd wkt	–	1
–	10th wkt	–	1

14 partnerships

M.K. Albert & another partner – Century partnerships

–	1st wkt	–	6
–	2nd wkt	–	9
–	3rd wkt	–	1
–	4th wkt	–	3
–	6th wkt	–	1
–	8th wkt	–	1

21 partnerships (35)

L.D.S. Gunasekera & another partner – Century partnership

–	1st wkt	–	8
–	2nd wkt	–	5
–	3rd wkt	–	4
–	4th wkt	–	2
–	5th wkt	–	3
–	6th wkt	–	1

23 partnerships

S.S. JAYAWICKREMA

One of Ceylon's great run churning passed away on 15th February 1983 at the age of 72. Sagardaththa Sudhirukku Jayawickrema, popularly known as "Sargo" was one of Ceylon's finest batsmen. He can be classed as one of Ceylon's four best all rounders – others would be D.L. de Saram, Dr. C.H. Gunasekera and Edward Kelaart. Sargo was one of the most modest and popular players for nearly 30 years. (1930 – 1960).

Born on 10th January 1911, at Galle, commenced his voracious appetite for runs while at Royal College from 1927 to 1930. He captained Royal in his last year. A hard hitting right hand batsman he scored 103 against Trinity in 1929 at Asigiriya. He followed this with a sparkling 166 against Wesley in 1930, the highest by a Royalist against Wesley – till 1983. "Sargo" was an outstanding all rounder, in batting, bowling and fielding, he has some fine performance. In the slips he picked up many a catch with ease.

He led Royal against Presidency College, Madras, in September 1929 & crowned his school career with his appearance for Dr. John Rockwoods Public Schools XI against Maharaja Kumar of Vizianagarams team in December, 1930. He proved himself with a fine 48 out of a total of 121. He put on 54 runs for the 5th wkt. with reliable Robert Fernando (29). In the second innings he got a "duck". His long time team mate F.C. de Saram scored 31 n.o. in the 2nd innings out of a total of 70 for 8 wickets.

In Sargo's era matches were played over 5 1/2 hours or 1 1/2 days. Even 2 full days were rare. In this limited time he carved out runs. Weekend after weekend, he hit the headlines. He was scourge and despair of the opposing bowlers. Sunil Jayasinghe scored 286 runs for Bloomfield C & AC (in a 3 day) game in the Lakspray Trophy Tournament in 198 to beat the 1940/41 when Sargo scored 238 runs in a 1 1/2 day game for the SSC against Bloomfield C & AC in the Daily News Trophy Tournament. With veteran Dr. C.H. Gunasekera then on 50 years, who scored 150 runs, he put on 261 runs for the 3rd wkt. His 238 was the Sri Lanka record till Lafir scored 255 n.o. in 1978.

"Sargo" nearest rival F.C. de Saram, an accumulator of runs, were a contrast in styles. Their partnerships were many. In 1940/41 Sargo did something amazing – I believe the only captain to declare his innings closed when he was 199 for SSC against a powerful Ceylon Defence Force Team. "Sargo's" peak years were between 1938 & 1945. Sargo, de Saram and Sathasivam dominated the scene. Sargo 56 centuries in all classes of cricket is only second to de Saram's 60 centuries. Sathasivam had 36. In club matches only he had 30 centuries.

On overseas tours he performed well. As a 21 year old he dominated Ceylon batting on our First Tour of India scoring 584 runs at 53.99 with 2 Hundreds & 5 fifties. He dealt savegely with Amar Singh and Mohamed Nissar – then rated as the second best pair of fast bowlers in the world T.H. Kelaart (Panadura SC) related how 'Sargo' treated Nissar at Lahore. The first 3 deliveries he faced were despatched to the boundary. The faster Nissar bowled the harder, he was hit. This aggregate of 584 in India for Ceylon was exceeded by David Heyn in 1975/76. His 130 in 165 minutes was scintillating. It was a century in the unofficial test – his First Century in a First Class game and it was the First first class match on the new Ferozshah Kotla Grounds at Delhi. He scored an equally brilliant 138 for All Ceylon against Bengal CA at Calcutta – 1940/41. On this tour he was second to Gerry Gooneratne. On the 1932/33 tour "Sargo" was Gopalans 4th victim when Gopalan took 4 wickets in 4 consecutive balls.

Sargo played on Invitation in India in the Bombay Pentangular in 1937 along with F.C. de Saram. For the Rest vs Muslims, he scored 67 & 0. While de Saram scored 50 & 117. He again played for the Rest against Muslims in 1944 scoring 44 & 14. Along with Sathasivam he played in two wartime charity matches at Calcutta in January 1945. In the first game for J.N. Basu's XI he scored 123 with 4 sixes & 14 fours against C.K. Naidu's XI. In the next game he scored 0 & 41 for General Steuarts XI in Bengal Governors XI. In 1952 he played for Gopalans XI against P.E. Palia's XI in Gopalans Testimonial match at Chepauk scoring 3 & 25.

When Aligarh University a powerful combination, including Masud Salafuddin and Mustaq Ali visited Ceylon in 1937 he scored 68 n.o. for the CCA XI and for the SSC took 5 for 46 both 2 day games. Percy Perera was the star performer for the SSC with 6 for 45 & 3 for 39. For the Ceylonese lead by V.C. Schokman he scored 12 against Sir Julien Cahn's Team. In

1945 he scored a sparkling 80 runs, with the Indian fielders running helter skelter. His 80 runs was studded with 10 fours & put on 111 runs for the 4th wkt. with Robert Fernando (73).

In 1948 he was not available for the Holkar CA matches as there was a boycott of the matches by the SSC. When SSC toured India in 1946/47 he played against Madras, Baroda & the Cricket Club of India.

Sargo opened bowling regularly for the SSC. His partners were D.S. Jayasundera, Dr. C.H. Gunasekera & B.A. Wijewardene, 'Sargo' bowled a nagging length. He toured Malaya with Dr. C.H. Gunasekera's Ceylonese Team. In the unofficial test he scored 12 & 63. With L.D.S. Gunasekera he put on 111 runs for the 4th wkt. and proceeded to take 3 wickets for 18. He led the SSC to wins in the Daily News Trophy Tournament in 1938/39 and 1939/40. A right arm medium pace bowler he got vital wickets in his opening spell.

P. Saravanamuttu President of the CCA was one of the First to give employment to well known school cricketers and he had his Rubber Controllers Dept studded with stars, one was Jayawickrema. He played in the government services cricket competition.

He led All Ceylon in 5 Unofficial Tests between 1940 & 1950 and one other game Ceylon India Pakistan is Commonwealth Team in 1950/57 well past his best he had leadership thrust on him in the early 1950's. The logical choice F.C. de Saram, was undergoing military training in England & Sargo was elected to lead Ceylon in Pakistan – and mind you he was 14th choice-out of 16 players. He was 41 then. Who said today's selectors make mistakes? They were no better 40 years ago.

Sargo played in the last European – Ceylon encounter 1933. The Ceylonese scored 363 for 7 wickets in 305 minutes. In the 2 hours before lunch on the 2nd day the Ceylonese scored 188 runs. Sargo – 5 sixes, (4 of them in succession – 3 in one over of D.E. Kennedy), 11 fours and ran 5 threes (89 runs out of 153). His partner M. Kelaart (105) hit 10 fours and ran 8 threes (64 runs out of 105). The pair put on 156 run for the 4th wkt. The pair ran the Europeans off their feet. Newspaper accounts said: "the running between the wickets by this pair was the finest seen in Ceylon for many years" Sargo got to his century in 145 minutes and took 245 minutes for the final score. Sargo has told me that he considers this his finest innings. The Europeans totalled 156 & 147 for 5 in the 2nd Innings.

Another good innings was his 52 for CCA lead by B.R. Heyn against South India lead by C.P. Johnstone at Chepauk Madras. With batting artist Sathasivam scoring 215, with Jayawickrema they belted the local attack to put on nearly 150 runs for the 4th wkt. He has played in 6 one day internationals against MCC, Australia & New Zealand. He scored a fine 56 against Australia (1934) a brilliant 40 n.o. against MCC (1936). In 1936 he opened bowling against the MCC and took the wickets of W. Barber & Innes with successive deliveries.

In spite of 13 appearances for All Ceylon and 2 for Combined teams he has not got the fine figures posted by F.C. de Saram, C.I. Gunasekera, Anura Tennekoon, Michael Tissera, Duleep Mendis or Roy Dias. A mild "Sargo", a good leader, fine sportsman (in those days there was no staring at umpires or the very free use of four letter words) – it was a gentlemen's game a gentleman on and off the field will have his portrait in the gallery of Ceylons Cricket Greats. He captained Royal College, S.S.C., Government Services & All Ceylon.

Jayawickrema's 56 centuries and scores in some important matches

1929	- 103	- Royal vs Trinity
1930	- 128	- Royal vs SSC
	- 166	- Royal vs Wesley (c)
1931	- 133	- SSC vs Railway Institute Matale
1932/33	- 130	- All Ceylon vs All India (a)
1933	- 117	- SSC vs Dr. John Rockwoods XI (b)
	- 153*	- Ceylonese vs Europeans (b)
	- 149*	- SSC in Moors S.C.
	- 115	- SSC vs Royal College
	- 193*	- SSC vs Govt. Training College/Training
1934	- 104*	- SSC vs Tamil Union C. & A.C.
1935	- 142	- All Ceylon vs The Rest (b)
1936	- 100*	- Rubber Control Dept. vs Medical Dept.
1936	- 100	- SSC vs Professionals
	- 105	- SSC vs Kalutara

1937	- 67	- Rest vs Muslims (Bombay) (a)
1938	- 101*	- SSC vs Malay CC
	- 134	- SSC vs Notts C & AC
	- 127	- SSC vs Colts CC
	- 100*	- SSC vs Galle CC
	- 100	- SSC vs Prince of Wales College
1939	- 152	- SSC vs Saracens SC (c)
	- 103	- SSC vs NCC (c)
	- 115	- SSC vs Moors SC (c)
1940	- 155	- SSC vs Notts C & AC (c)
	- 171	- SSC vs NCC (c)
	- 100	- Rubber Control Dept. vs Tea Control Dept. (b)
	- 105	- SSC vs Prince of Wales College
	- 101	- SSC vs University College (c)
	- 138	- All Ceylon vs Bengal C.A. (a)
1941	- 199*	- SSC vs CDF
	- 238	- SSC vs Bloomfield C & AC (b)
	- 160	- SSC vs Governors XI (c)
	- 109*	- SSC vs Panadura SC (c)
1942	- 200*	- SSC vs Tamil Union C & AC (b)
	- 133	- SSC vs Saracens SC (c)
	- 102	- SSC vs Saracens SC (c)
1943	- 137	- SSC vs Colts CC (2)
	- 172	- Government Services vs Outstations (b)
1944	- 110	- SSC vs Tamil Union C & AC (c)
	- 145*	- Civilians A vs Civilians B (c)
	- 39	- Rest vs Muslims (Bombay) (a)
	- 14	- Rest Muslims (Bombay) (a)
1945	- 108	- SSC vs Tamil Union C & AC (c)
	- 102	- SSC vs Colts CC (c)
	- 123	- J.N. Basus XI vs CK Naidus XI (Calcutta) (b)(d)
	- 18	- J.N. Basus XI vs CK Naidus (Calcutta) (b)(d)
	- 0	- Bengal Governors XI vs General Steuarts XI (d)
	- 41	- Bengal Governors XI vs General Steuarts XI (d)
	- 115	- SSC vs Tamil Union C & AC (c)
	- 157	- SSC vs Tamil Union C & AC (b)
1946	- 135*	- SSC vs Warblers SC (c)
1947	- 116	- SSC vs Kurunegala Muslims (c)
	- 116*	- SSC vs Panadura
	- 152	- B.R. Heyns XI vs F.C. de Sarams XI (b)
	- 116	- SSC vs Tamil Union C & AC (b)
1948	- 149	- SSC vs Trichinopoly United (b)
1949	- 125	- SSC vs NCC (b)
	- 107re	- SSC vs Trinity College
	- 125	- SSC vs Moors SC (b)
1950	- 105*	- SSC vs Galle CC (b)
1951	- 90	- SSC vs Combined College (in 50 minutes)
1952	- 25*	- 1
1953	- 112	- SSC vs Colts CC (b)
1963	- 79	- SSC vs University (b)

(His last innings in club at the age of 52).

Centuries (a) First Class Matches (b) 2 day (c) 1 1/2 day. (b) Quadrangular (d) not First Class.

F.C. DE SARAM – FIRST CEYLONESE BLUE

Frederick Cecil de Saram, "Derrick", as he was popularly known is an illustrious product of Royal College. He came from an equally illustrious cricketing family. His father Fred de Saram an elegant left hander played for All Ceylon against the 1912 Australian in the one day game. His uncle, D.L. de Saram, the most famous of the de Sarams led All Ceylon against the MCC in 1922 and 1924 and played in the one day Internationals against Australia. Two other Uncles, Shelton de Saram who played in the Trials at Cambridge in 1906 represented All Ceylon in 1896, while E.R. de Saram represented All Ceylon against M.C.C. in 1911 and Australia in 1912. The 3 brothers D.L., F., and E.R., set a unique record by playing for All Ceylon against Australia in 1912, Fred and F.C. (father and son) representing All Ceylon at cricket is one of the few instances recorded in our cricket history.

Born on 5th September 1912, F.C. de Saram represented Royal College from 1928 to 1931, captaining in the last year and becoming the First Captain to score a century (140) in the 'Battle of the Blues' against St. Thomas' College. He made his debut in First Class Club Cricket locally in 18.01.1930 for the S.S.C. scoring 79 runs against B.R.C., then eleven months later in December at the age of 18 years and 3 months, Dr. Rockwood selected him for his Public Schools XI, Ceylonese XI and All Ceylon XI against the Maharaja of Kumar of Vizianagama's team which included the famous Jack Hobbes and Herbert Sutcliffe. For the Schools XI he scored 1 and 31 not out of 70 for 8 wickets; 37 and 77 not out for the Ceylonese XI and scored 0 for the All Ceylon XI. **The second and third games were First Class matches.** The opposition's bowling consisted of C.K. Naydu, Gulam Mohamed and P.E. Palia. At this stage everyone predicted a brilliant career for him as a batsman. All accounts of that period describing his fielding "as very poor". To quote from the Royal College magazine of 1928. "His time for the dash is almost 18 secs and perhaps the most pathetic sight in College cricket is to see him strike the long, lone trial for the ball speeding past short leg to the boundary, has developed into a googly bowler". "Dash" refers to 100 yds. Sprint event.

Proceeding to England in the Summer of June 1933, with the season half over he played for Hertfordshire in the Minor Counties competition. Wisden of 1933 says "Hertfordshire recorded 5 wins and rose from 11th position to 5th. The form of F.C. de Saram class batsman was the feature of the Summer. Joining the side after half the matches had been played, de Saram headed the batting averages with 479 runs including 2 centuries and an average of 68.00 the highest for Hertfordshire since the war". A 17 year old named Len Hutton playing for Yorkshire 2nd XI then, averaged 69.90.

Going up to Keble College, Oxford in 1934, he set the Parks on fire with some brilliant batting, this was immediately after the Pataudi (Snr) era. On his debut in First Class Cricket in England he scored a brilliant chanceless 176 with 3 sixes 1 five and 20 fours in 3 hours against Gloucestershire. An even better innings was his 208 for Oxford against a strong team got together by H.D. Leveson-Gower – the 208 was out of total of 337 and took 4 hours and 10 minutes and included 26 fours. In the second innings he scored 75 runs. To crown it all he scored 128 against the Australian going in at the fall of the second wicket, de Saram was last out-giving a chanceless and brilliant exhibition of straight driving, cutting hitting to leg, with 4 sixes and 18 fours. He treated H.I. Ebeling and C.V. Grimmett with scant respect.

Geoffrey Bolton in his "History of the Oxford Union C.C." says "de Saram made a great century against them treating Grimmett as few Englishmen did". Jack Hobbs in his "Fight for the Ashes" (1934) says "But de Saram's knock in the second innings was the star turn. He batted 3 hours and six minutes, hit 18 fours and had the supreme satisfaction of hitting four glorious sixers. Even Grimmett did not frighten him. But he frightened a lot of his colleagues for his average was 7 for 107 runs in the second innings in spite of de Saram. The second day also, one man monopolised – the scoring being this time more noticeably, in the case of Darlmg. I refer to de Saram who had a splendid innings of 128", a 100 runs in boundaries out of his 128.

Against Gloucestershire, with N.S. Mitchell Innes (107) he put on 273 runs for the 3rd wicket.

Mitchell Innes a brilliant batsman is one of the few Undergrads to represent England. He did so playing against South Africa in 1935. This season de Saram had 3 hundreds and eight scores of over 50 including 90 and 47 against Sussex.

For all his fine batting he failed against Cambridge University scoring 18 and 0. His century against Australia was only the second by an Undergrad – the other being F.B. Champain – 120 in 1899. He was 17th in the First Class averages with 12M-231-1 N, 0-208 H.S. – 1119R-50.86 Av. – all the runs were for Oxford. Since World War I only 2 other Oxford players A.M. Crawley (1928) and Nawab of Pataudi (Snr.) (1931) had scored over 1000 runs and this was his debut season.

After his brilliant innings against the Australians he was awarded his "BLUE" – the first Ceylonese to achieve this honour.

In 1934 he batted well for Hertfordshire and scored 437 runs at 48.55 with one century. Among his Oxford 'Trialists' was Sir de Villiers de Graff, later leader of the opposition in the South African Parliament. Of those in

the Oxford - Cambridge teams of 1934-35, his captain D.F. Walker, R.G. Tindall, F.G.H. Chalk, K. Farnes, R. de W. Winlaw made the supreme sacrifice in World War II - all while serving in the R.A.F.

Studies prevented de Saram from appearing frequently for Oxford in 1935, playing in only 7 matches he totalled 368 runs at 28.30. This time he had the satisfaction of being the highest scorer in the 'Battle of the Blues' with 85 in the 1st innings and 22 in the second. The history of the 'Oxford Union C.C. says "de Saram found little time for cricket. De Saram with A.P. Singleton (53) put on 72 runs for the 7th wicket. De Saram hooked and drove in great style and atoned for his failure of the previous year. Wisden said of his innings against Cambridge "The crowd of over 10,000 rose to him as he returned to the pavillion. He excelled with the drive, hook and pull". He batted for 2 1/2 hours and hit 9 fours and fell to J.H. Cameron (later West Indies) and in the 2nd innings to Jehangir Khan (later All-India) S.C. Griffith, Wilf Wooller, P.A. Gibbson, N.W.D. Yardley (later England Captain) were in the Cambridge team.

For Hertfordshire he set a record, in 1935 when his figures were 12 In n.o.: 182* ES. 904R - 90.4 Av with 5 centuries. His 904 and the average of 90s the 2nd highest in the Minor Counties Competition - the previous best was 1015 runs at 92.27 by N. Riches for Glamorgan in 1911. Wisden said "Hertfordshire experienced the most successful season in their history with 8 matches. F.C. de Saram stood out as the most brilliant batsman, playing 2 innings more than in 1934. He Oxford scoring 25 and 23; for the Minor Counties vs Oxford scoring 6 and 3; for Minor Counties vs All India scoring 86 and 1. The opening attack was Amar Singh & Mohamed Nissar followed by S. Banerjee, L. Amaranath, C.K. Nayadu and C.S. Nayadu.

During the 1933/36 seasons he bowled well for Hertfordshire in the Minor Counties games and took 30 wickets at 19.90.

Returning to Ceylon early in 1937 in his first innings on 7th January he scored 40 for S.S.C. against Malay C.C., and in the next innings a magnificent 200 against Tamil Union C. & A.C. From there on till 1957 (along with S.S. Jayawickrema his Royal College team mate and later All Ceylon Captain) dominated the Ceylon scene with their prolific scoring. Invited to Bombay to play for the Rest in the Pentangular Tournament he scored 102 and 50 on his debut in India against the Muslims at Brabourne Stadium and put on 105 for the 5th wicket with S.S. Jayawickrema (61) in the 2nd innings. In 1952 he scored 106 in M.J. Gopalans' Benefit match at Madras.

De Saram has 60 centuries to his credit in all classes of cricket the most by a Ceylonese cricketer, followed by S.S. Jayawickrema (58). He has a Unofficial Test century against Pakistan (118) in 1949. De Saram has led Ceylon in 5 Unofficial Tests against Pakistan, West Indies and M.C.C. in 1952 he led Ceylon - India - Pakistan and Australia combined against the M.C.C. in Colombo when M.C.C. received their severest beating in Ceylon. Three Australians, Neil Harvey, Keith Miller & Graeme Hole played for the combined team.

De Saram scored the first of his 60 centuries in 1930 and last in 1957. In 1951 while following an Official Training Course at Sandhurst he played for the M.C.C. against the Gentlemen of Ireland at Lords scoring 36 and 5, opening the innings with R. Aird, later the Secretary of the M.C.C.

F.C. de Saram's FC Career figures read : FC -

In England	- 23	- 44	- 1	- 208	- 1935-3
In India	- 2	- 4	- 106	- 343-1	
In Ceylon	- 21	- 35	- 170	- 1347-5	

De Saram a versatile sportsman captained Royal College at Cricket, Tennis and Rugby. While still at school along with his father Fred, won the Ceylon Doubles Championship in 1930 and again with his brother F.J. won the title in 1939 - 40 - 47 - 48 and 49. He was Runner-up in Tennis Singles Championship in 1939. A good Golfer, he has won many titles at the Havelock Golf Club but the Ceylon title has eluded him. He represented Ceylon at the World Golf Championship in Colorado, U.S.A. in 1972: In addition to his 'Blue' for Cricket at Oxford he has won 'Blues' for Tennis and Golf. In the Winter of 1935 de Saram was invited by the MCC to tour West Indies but declined the invitation due to studies.

De Saram was Hony. Secretary of the Board of Control for Cricket, from 1953 to 1955 when H.E. the President J.R. Jayewardene, was President of the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka. He was Chairman of the Selection Committee at various times between 1950 &

1965. He coached his old school Royal College in the late 1930's till the outbreak of the war and for about 10 years from 1965 to 1975.

One of Sri Lankas most illustrious cricketers & past All Ceylon Captain passed away on 11th April. It was just 2 months before that his friend and colleague also a former All Ceylon Captain, S.S. Jayawickrema passed away.

(Frederick Cecil) F.C. DE SARAM (63 Centuries)

1930	- 79x	- S.S.C.	vs BRC (debut in Club Cricket 18.12.30)
08.02.1930	- 187	- S.S.C.	vs Kelani Valley SC
1930	- 31 and 77x-	Dr. John Rockwoods All Ceylon XI vs Maharaja Kumar of Vizianagrams Team (a)	
1931	- 152	- Royal	vs Wesley
	- 140	- Royal	vs St. Thomas'
1933	- 106x	- Hertfordshire	vs Norfolk
	- 101	- Hertfordshire	vs Berkshire
1934	- 176	- Oxford	vs Gloucester (a) (b) 1
	- 208	- Oxford	vs H.D.G. Leveson Gowers' XI (a) 2
	- 128	- Oxford	vs Australia (a) 3
	- 0	- Minor Counties	vs Australia (a)
	2		
	- 175	- Hertfordshire	vs Buckinghamshire
1935	- 132x	- Bushey	vs Lye House
	- 165	- Hertfordshire	vs Bedfordshire
	- 106	- Bushey	vs Berkhamstead
	- 135	- Hertfordshire	vs Norfolk
	- 182x	- Hertfordshire	vs Bedfordshire
	- 141	- Hertfordshire	vs Buckinghamshire
	- 11	- Oxford	vs South Africa (a)
	- 120	- Oxford	vs Aldershot Command
1936	- 86	- Minor Counties	vs India (a)
	11		
	- 25 & 23	- Free Foresters	vs Oxford (a)
	- 85	- Leveson Gowers XI	vs Oxford (a)
	- 6 & 3	- Minor Counties	vs Oxford (a)
	- 108	- Hertfordshire	vs -
	- 109	- Oxford	vs Stragglers of Asia Authentics
1937	- 206	- S.S.C.	vs Tamil Union C & AC (2nd)
	- 40	- S.S.C.	vs Malay CC - 1st Match on returning from U.K.
	- 102	- S.S.C.	vs C.C.C.
	- 146	- Magpies	vs D.M.C.C. & D.A.C.C.
	- 102	- Ceylonese	vs Sir Julian Cahns XI (a) 4
	- 102	- Rest	vs Muslims (Bombay) (d) 5
1938	- 146	- S.S.C.	vs Colts C.C. (DN)
	- 127	- S.S.C.	vs N.C.C. (DN)
	- 115	- S.S.C.	vs Panadura SC (DN)
	- 102	- S.S.C.	vs C.C.C.
1939	- 152	- L.D.S.	vs G. Astes XI
		Gunasekera's XI	
1940	- 161	- S.S.C.	vs Tamil Union (DN)
20.01.1940	- 134	- S.S.C.	vs Notts C & A.C. (DN)
06.02.1940	- 133x	- de Saram's XI	vs Jayawickrema's XI vs Kalutara TC (DN) (d)
	- 121	- S.S.C.	
	- 134	- S.S.C.	vs Colts C.C. (DN) (d)
	- 103	- S.S.C.	vs Tamil Union C & A.C. (DN) (d)

1941	- 129	- S.S.C.	vs Colts C.C. (DN)
1941	- 114x	- S.S.C.	vs Madras University Union
1943	- 143	- C.D.F.	vs Government Services
1945	- 170	- S.S.C.	vs Madras C.A. (a) 6
	- 137	- S.S.C.	vs Baroda C.A. (a) 7
20.04.1945	- 125	- S.S.C.	vs St. Peters
1946	- 130	- S.S.C.	vs Sounders S.C. (Madras)
1947	- 104	- S.S.C.	vs Colts (DN)
	- 126	- de Saram's XI	vs Sathasivams XI
	- 108	- S.S.C.	vs B.R.C. (DN)
	- 100(re)	- S.S.C.	vs 7 B ¹
1948	- 101(re)	- S.S.C.	vs B.R.C. (DN)
1949	- x118	- Ceylon	vs Pakistan (a ²)
12.11.1949	- 125	- S.S.C.	vs -
1951	- 214x	- School of Artillery (Plymouth)	vs Coast Artillery (Plymouth)
	-	- M.C.C.	vs Ireland (2 day)
1952	- 161	- S.S.C.	vs Tamil Union
	- 106	- Gopalan's XII	vs Palias XII (Madras) (12 a side)
1953	- 101	- Combined Services	vs Government Services
	- 148	- C.C.A. (Ceylon Cricket Association)	vs Pakistan Services(a)
1954	- 131	- S.S.C.	vs Colts C.C.
1955	- 107	- S.S.C.	vs Tamil Union
	- 100	- S.S.C.	vs N.C.C.
1956	- 105	- S.S.C.	vs Moors S.C.
	- 108	- S.S.C.	vs B.R.C.
1957	- 105	- S.S.C.	vs Tamil Union
	- 147	- S.S.C.	vs Central Provinces C.A.
	- 155x	- S.S.C.	vs Tamil Union (Feb)
	- 156x	- S.S.C.	vs Tamil Union (Dec)
	- 101	- Magpies	vs D.M.C.C. & D.A.C.C.

Note - (a¹) First Class Overseas. (a²) First Class in Ceylon (b) Debut in First Class.

Centuries - First Class - 9. First Class Clubs - 37 (33 for SSC), Minor Counties (Hertfordshire) - 8; Inter College - 2.

TOTAL DOMINANCE by F.C. de SARAM & S.S. JAYAWICKREMA

The figures below are reproduced for the benefit of the present generation of S.S.C. cricketers. These two Captains - S.S.C. & All Ceylon amassed runs at will. It is well to remember all partnerships except those marked (a) were in 1 1/2 day or 2 day matches. How they managed so many runs in such a short time is subject for study. These matches that produced these partnerships also brought outright results all in the space of 10 hours or 12 hours. In the present era 18 hours of play cannot provide a result in local club cricket.

BEST PARTNERSHIPS - S.S. JAYAWICKREMA

Jayawickrema has nearly 50 partnerships of over 100 runs. Some of his best for 1st to 8th wkts. are given below :

1938 - **1st wkt** - 246 runs - Dudley Senanayake (103) - Jayawickrema (134) - SSC vs Notts.

1940 - **1st** - 148 runs - L.D.S. Gunasekera (88) & Jayawickrema (69) - SSC vs Moors.

1943 - **2nd wkt.** - 194 runs - R.A.K. Solomons (118) & Jayawickrema (172) - D.S. vs Outstations.

1941 - **3rd wkt.** - 261 runs - Dr. C.H. Gunasekera (150) & Jayawickrema (238*) vs Bloomfield.

1941 - 239 - runs - Percy Perera (113) & Jayawickrema (199*) vs CDF.

1938 - 253 runs - F.C. de Saram (146) & Jayawickrema (127) vs Colts.

1940 - 249 runs - F.C. de Saram (134) & Jayawickrema (155) vs Notts.

1938 - 168 runs - L.D.S. Gunasekera (165*) & Jayawickrema (101) vs Malays.

1933 - 167 runs - W.L. Mendis (140*) & Jayawickrema (117) vs Dr. Rockwoods XI.

1947 - 166 runs - C.I. Gunasekera (106) & Jayawickrema (82) - F.C. de Sarams XI vs - B.R. Heyns XI.

1933 - **4th wkt.** - 156 runs - Mervyn Kelaart (105) & Jayawickrema (153*) Ceylonese vs Europeans.

1945 - 149 runs - M. Sathasivam (215) & Jayawickrema (52) - CCA vs S. India (a).

1940 - **5th wkt.** - 175 runs - Hector Perera (71) & Jayawickrema (115*) - vs Moors S.C

1941 - **6th wkt.** - 154 runs - W.L. Mendis (46) & Jayawickrema (160) - SSC vs Governors XI.

1939 - **7th wkt.** - 175 runs - H.S. Roberts (71) & Jayawickrema (115*) - vs Moors S.C.

1935 - **8th wkt.** - 108 runs - H. Jayasundera (32) & Jayawickrema (142) - All Ceylon vs Rest.

The following partnerships were records for All Ceylon etc. in FC. match (ICC) at that particular time.

1940/41 - **3rd wkt.** - 150 runs - G. Gooneratne (44) & Jayawickrema (138) vs Bengal CA (a).

1945 - **4th wkt.** - 111 runs - Robert Fernando (73) & Jayawickrema (80) - CCA vs All India.

1946/47 - **4th wkt.** - 149 runs - M. Sathasivam (215) & Jayawickrema (52) - CCA vs S. India.

1932/33 - **5th wkt.** - 70 runs - N.S. Joseph (50) & Jayawickrema (24) - All Ceylon vs Bombay (Bombay). (a)

1938 - **5th wkt.** - 111 runs - L.D.S. Gunasekera () & Jayawickrema (63) - Dr. C.H. Gunasekera XI vs All Malaya Malaya (a).

1932/33 - **7th wkt.** - 110 runs - Edward Kelaart (56) & Jayawickrema (130) - All Ceylon vs All India (a).

1932/33 - **8th wkt.** - 76 runs - L.E. Bakelman (7) & Jayawickrema (79) - All Ceylon vs Northern India (a).

1932/33 - **9th wkt.** - 69 runs - H.E. Poulter (17) & Jayawickrema (130) - All Ceylon vs All India (a).

CENTURY ON DEBUT IN FC CRICKET

1932/33 - 130 - All Ceylon vs All India (Delhi) (a).

FC BATTING AVERAGES (ICC)

FC - 1932/50 - 36M - 62 1(8) - 6No - 138HS - 1517R - 27.93Av - 2/8 20ct.

Unofficial Tests - 15M - 29 - 1 - 2No - 130R - 482R - 17.85Av - 1/0 -

FC BOWLING AVERAGES (ICC)

FC - 522.40 - 139M - 1414R 42W - 38.68Av - 5/58 Best.

UT - 189 O 41M - 503R - 7W - 71.85Av - 2/55 Best.

BEST BOWLING - LOCAL

1941 - 8 for 8 - SSC vs University College (Daily News Trophy).

BEST PARTNERSHIPS – F.C. DE SARAM

de Saram too has nearly 50 partnerships of over 100 runs. Some of the best for 1st to 6th wkt are given below :

1930 – **1st wkt.** – 178 runs – F.C. de Saram (69) & L.D.S. Gunasekera (109) – S.S.C. vs Malay C.C.

1956 – – 148 runs – F.C. de Saram (77) & E.G. Waddilove (79x) – Magpies vs C.C.C.

1938 – **2nd wkt.** – 262 runs – F.C. de Saram (102) & Robert Fernando (134) – L.D.S. Gunasekera XI vs G. Astes XI.

1943 – – 194 runs – F.C. de Saram (148) & Robert Fernando (76) – Ceylon Defence Force vs Government Services.

1937 – 146 runs – F.C. de Saram (73) & W.L. Mendis (73x) – S.S.C. vs C.C.C.

1938 – **3rd wkt.** – 256 runs – F.C. de Saram (146) & S.S. Jayawickrema (127) vs Colts C.C.

1940 – 249 runs – F.C. de Saram (134) & S.S. Jayawickrema (155) – S.S.C. vs Notts C & A.C.

1947 – 248 – F.C. de Saram (156x) & B. Navaratne (99) – S.S.C. vs Tamil Union C & A.C.

1938 – 238 runs – F.C. de Saram (129) & H.S. Roberts (130) – S.S.C. vs N.C.C.

1960 – 165x runs – F.C. de Saram (80x) & Sarath Silva (66x) – S.S.C. vs Saracens S.C.

1946 – 162 – F.C. de Saram (137) & Hector Perera (95) – S.S.C. vs Baroda C.A.

1937 – **4th wkt.** – 234 runs – F.C. de Saram (200x) & A.H. Gooneratne (71) – S.S.C. vs Colts C.C.

1957 – 164 runs – F.C. de Saram (105) & H.I. Fernando (108x) – S.S.C. vs Tamil Union C & A.C.

5th wkt. – 181 runs – F.C. de Saram (118) & C.I. Gunasekera (120) – Ceylon vs Pakistan – 1949 (a).

1949 – **5th wkt.** – 106 runs – F.C. de Saram (94) & C.I. Gunasekera – All Ceylon vs West Indies (a).

1954 – **6th wkt.** – 184 runs – F.C. de Saram (148) & B. Classen (71) – C.C.A. vs Pakistan Services (a).

4th wkt – 121 runs – F.C. de Saram (102) & G.A. Pereira (35) – Ceylonese vs Sir Julien Cahns XI.

1946 – **3rd wkt.** – 144 runs – F.C. de Saram (137x) & Hector Perera (95) – S.S.C. vs C.C.I. (Bom.).

– 165 runs – F.C. de Saram (137x) – Hector Perera (109) – S.S.C. vs Baroda CA (a).

1949 – – 97 runs – F.C. de Saram (73) & M. Sathasivam (39) – Galle Combined vs West Indies.

1931 – **2nd wkt.** – 99 runs – F.C. de Saram (31) & M.K. Albert (66) – Dr. Rockwoods Ceylonese XI vs Vizianagams XI.

1931 – **9th wkt.** – 50 runs – F.C. de Saram – Dr. Rockwoods Public Schools XI vs Vizianagams Team.

1937 – **2nd wkt.** – 98 runs – F.C. de Saram (66) & W.I. Mendis (47) – All Ceylon vs Sir Julien Cahns Team (a).

FC BATTING AVERAGES – For All Ceylon

FC – 1931/52 – 21M – 35I(1)0 No. – 170HS 1347R 38.48Av – 5/100.3/50: 7ct.

In England

D.S. JAYASUNDERA

D.S. Jayasundera (St. Joseph's College, Notts C & AC, S.S.C., Gas Co., Rubber Control Dept. SC and Ceylon) who was born in 1911, was Ceylon's greatest fast bowler. Jayasundera, left his home in Induruwa in the Southern Province and came to Ananda College where he first played as a 14 year old. In 1930 he joined St. Joseph's College and turned out to be Ceylon's fastest and best bowler till 1945. A similar occurrence thirty years earlier was when A.C.Z. Wijeratne also from the same area in the Southern Province joined St. Joseph's after leaving Ananda, and blossomed out to be the finest left hand batsman of the period just prior to World War I. Jayasundera's phenomenal development was due to the paternal like interest in him by St. Joseph's College Coach Captain George Perera. To Jayasundera's last days he acknowledged gratefully all the guidance and help given by Captain Perera.

During his stay at St. Joseph's he was a terror among schoolboy batsmen. His speed far above that of the average schoolboy and his deadly accuracy gained him many victims. He was popularly known as "Jaya" to the school masters and his opponents named him "Val Hobbs": In 1931 Jayasundera was no balled 20 times in the 2nd innings for throwing by Umpires K.C. Visvanathan and B.J.H. Bahar in the Josephian - Zahira match. This is a Ceylon record – no Ceylon bowler has been called for throwing so many times since.

His best figures during his school career were :

	O	M	R	W	Av	
1930	–	–	–	–	–	–
1929	–	–	–	–	–	–
1930	180.1	67	338	37	9.18	St. Joseph's
1931	132.5	40	270	36	7.5	St. Joseph's
1932	142	39	298	35	8.23	St. Joseph's

Total

St. Joseph's lost only one match during his period. His teammates were : J. Pulle, R. Fernando.

On leaving school he found employment in the Gas Co. and played for Notts C & AC, in First Class Club Cricket. Notts C & AC was then the nursery for the Sinhalese Sports Club, for whom he gave devoted and loyal service under Dr. C.H. Gunasekera, L.D.S. Gunasekera and S.S. Jayawickrema till 1948. Jayasundera's first representative game was for Dr. John Rockwoods Public Schools XI vs Maharaja Kumar of Vizianagams Team in December 1930. It was an eventful entry into big cricket and in his first over he hit the world famous opening batsman Herbert Suttcliffe on the thumb. Suttcliffe had to go to hospital for attention and took no further part in the match.

Jayasundera has many a record in Ceylon Cricket – (1) His **12 Hat Tricks in Ceylon Cricket** – nearest rival being L.V. Jayaweera with 8 Hat Tricks (2) 7 of these **Hat Tricks in First Class Club Cricket** were : **1931** SSC vs Galle; **1935** – SSC vs Bloomfield C & AC; **1936** SSC vs Colts CC; **1945** SSC vs CRNVR; SSC vs Kalutara TC; **1941** SSC vs Malay CC; **1943** SSC vs CDF (3) **4 wickets in 4 balls** – Police vs Pri (4) **5 wickets in 5 balls** – Gas Co. vs Cumberbatch & Co. 1932 (4) He took 10 wickets in an innings 3 times of the feats of this Greswell and B. de Kretser.

BEST BOWLING DOUBLES

1936	– 14 wkts for 45	– S.S.C.	vs	Galle CC
1939	– 14 wkts for 67	– S.S.C.	vs	Colts C.C.
	– 13 wkts for 12	– S.S.C.	vs	Galle C.C.
	– 12 wkts for 23	– S.S.C.	vs	Saracens S.C.
	– 11 wkts for 37	– S.S.C.	vs	Panadura S.C.

10 WICKETS IN AN INNINGS

1933	– 10 wkts for 8	– Colombo Gas Co.	vs	Carson Cumberbatch & Co. (9)
1934	– 10 wkts for 14	– S.S.C.	vs	Panadura S.C. (9)
1935	– 10 wkts for 24	– S.S.C.	vs	Colts C.C. (8)

Best Bowling Feats - 8 Wickets & 9 Wickets :

Jayasundera has taken 5, 6 & 7 wickets 65 times during his career for Notts C, the SSC, Police Department, Colombo Gas Co., Rubber Control Department & Dr. John Rockwoods Teams & Trial Matches. The 65 times recorded by me is incomplete. Of the 65 instances 14 are 8 wkts & over. To cut the story short - the 8 wicket performances are given below, figures within brackets (8) denote number clean bowled in the 8 wkts. Except on two occasions others are in First Class Club matches.

1933	- 8 wkts for 8	- Gas Co.	vs	Cumberbatch & Co. (8)
1934	- 8 wkts for 28	- S.S.C.	vs	B.R.C.
	- 8 wkts for 15	- S.S.C.	vs	C.R.C. (8)
	- 8 wkts for 38	- S.S.C.	vs	Bloomfield C & A.C.
	- 8 wkts for 11	- S.S.C.	vs	Galle
1935	- 9 wkts for 31	- Rubber Control Dept.	vs	Post & Telegraph Dept.
1936	- 8 wkts for 28)	- S.S.C.	vs	Galle C.C. (13)
	- 6 wkts for 17)			
	- 8 wkts for 38	- S.S.C.	vs	Bloomfield C & A.C. (7)
	- 8 wkts for 28	- S.S.C.	vs	B.R.C. (4)
1937	-			
1938	- 8 wkts for 21	- S.S.C.	vs	C.C.C. (4)
	- 9 wkts for 21	- S.S.C.	vs	Kalutara TC (8)
	- 8 wkts for 28	- Rubber Control Dept.	vs	Rest (5)
	- 9 wkts for 23	- S.S.C.	vs	Colts C.C. (9)
	- 8 wkts for 52	- S.S.C.	vs	C.C.C. (7)

BOWLING UNCHANGED

1939	- D.S. Jayasundera (6 for 16) & C. Wijesinghe (4 for 22)	S.S.C. vs Moors for 39 runs.
	- D.S. Jayasundera (6 for 24) & B. Wijewardena (4 for 14)	S.S.C. vs Colts for - runs.
	- D.S. Jayasundera (7 for 13) & C. Wijesinghe (3 for 23)	S.S.C. vs Saracens for 40 runs in 16 overs.

(1) D.S. JAYASUNDERA - (12 HAT TRICKS)

HAT TRICKS	- 1931	- S.S.C.	vs	Galle C.C.
	- 1932	- Gas Co.	vs	Cumberbatch & Co.
	- 1935	- S.S.C.	vs	Colts C.C.
	- 1936	- S.S.C.	vs	Bloomfield
	- 1939	- S.S.C.	vs	Kalutara TC
	- 1940	- Rubber Control Dept.	vs	N.C.C. 'A' 7/13
	- 16/8/1941	- S.S.C.	vs	Railway
	- 20/12/1941	- S.S.C.	vs	Malay C.C. 6/8
	- 1943	- S.S.C.	vs	C.D.F.
	- 1945	- S.S.C.	vs	C.R.N.V.R.
	-	- Police	vs	Medical
	-	- Police	vs	Prisons
4 WKTS IN 4 BALLS	- 1945	- Police	vs	Prisons
5 WKTS IN 5 BALLS	- 1933	- Gas Co.	vs	Cumberbatch & Co.
10 WKTS	- 1933	- 10 for 8 - Gas Co.	vs	Judicial Dept.
	- 1934	- 10 for 14 - S.S.C.	vs	Panadura
	- 1935	- 10 for 24 - S.S.C.	vs	Colts

Jayasundera took 100 wickets a year, 6 times in First Class Club Cricket. His average from 1931 to 1941.

	O	M	R	W	Av
1931	132.5	40	276	36	7.5 - 1st
1932	211.1	55	513	54	9.5 - 1st
1933	-	-	479	53	9.0 - 1st
1934	331	92	788	108	7.3 - 1st
1935	211.1	55	513	54	9.5

1936	374	105	906	112	8.09
1937	-	-	893	109	8.20
1938	554	146	1248	157	7.8
1939	410.1	110	995	104	5.6
1940	-	-	382	70	5.6
1941	-	-	335	45	7.6
1942	-	-	-	405	-

Total	-	-	7328	905	
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The Club averages were rarely published during World War II after 1943. If these figures are available his tally would be about 1500 wkts. up to 1950.

Daily News Trophy Tournament

The first club cricket tournament in Ceylon was started in 1938 by the Ceylon Cricket Association. Jayasundera had some fine bowling performances in this tournament and helped his club the S.S.C. to win the Trophy 3 times. His figures given below have only been surpassed by F.W.E. Porritt (Kalutara SC) who took 25 wickets in the four Tournaments.

	O	M	R	W	Av
1938	166.2	44	381	40	9.52
1938/39	182.2	42	398	70	5.68
1939/40	136.1	34	314	28	11.21
1940/41	-	-	341	45	7.0
Total	-	-	1434	183	7.8

MALAYA - Jayasundera toured Malaya with : Dr. C.H. Gunasekera's Team in 1938. He was at his best. The Malaysians had no answer to his pace and accuracy. The figures below relate the story. Dr. Gunasekera's Team won all its matches mainly due to the deadly bowling of D.S. Jayasundera.

In the 4 matches he clean bowled 19 of his 23 victims.

vs Perak	14	3	17	1	(1)
vs FMS	9	3	8	4	(3)
	18	7	26	6	(4)
vs Penang	14	3	29	3	(3)
vs Neggri Sembilan - Did not play	-	-	-	-	
vs All Malaya	10.4	3	27	6	(6)
vs do	12	3	33	3	(2)
Total	72.4	22	140	23	Av - 6.8

INDIA - For the Ceylon Team his figures in matches other than 'Tests' were :

	O	M	R	W
1940/41 Madras	17	4	33	4
Bengal CA	20	3	42	2
	4	2	9	0
Baroda CA	24	4	76	2
	15	3	32	3
	13	3	26	2
South India	0	0	38	2
Total	93	19	256	15

1942 For Rubber Control Department SC	vs C.D. Parathasarathy's XI	8 for 10 (6)
	vs Mylapore SC	6 for 10 (6)
	vs Madras United Club	8 for 25 (5)
	vs South Indian Athletic Association	7 for 29 (4)

1942 At Madras Jayasundera was invited to play in a studded team designated the Governor's XI against Madras at Chepauk Grounds in aid of the Red Cross Fund. He took only 1 for 16 in 16 overs and 0 for 32 in 11 overs, but scored a hurricane 47 runs in 30 minutes, with H.P. Ward (54) he put on 99 runs for the 9th wicket.

1945 For the SSC - He did not have a successful tour. His figures were :

Madras	16	5	41	3
	8	1	33	1
Baroda	-	-	-	-
C.C.I.	16	0	69	1
	7	0	23	0

Total	47	6	166	5
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For other Ceylon Teams against visiting teams.

Jayasundera played for Galle Combined XI against M.C.C. bowled at a very fast pace and clean bowled opening batsman R.J. Gregory (Surrey) and H. Venty. He played again for Galle Combined XI against the Indian University Occasionals, when he had S. Banerjee l.b.w. in the first over. His other victims were S. Wazir Ali and V.M. Merchant.

His feats in these two matches were :

		O	M	R	W
1934	vs M.C.C.	6	1	11	2
1935	vs Indian Un: Occ:	23	4	58	3
Total		29	5	69	5

FOR CEYLON

For all his fantastic bowling performances in First Class Club Cricket - he represented Ceylon only 3 times. One will never know the reason why. Year after year from 1933 to 1939 he was Ceylon's leading fast bowler, but never gained recognition. He was 12th man for Ceylon against Maharaja of Patialas Australian Team in 1935 - vs MCC in 1935, vs Australia in 1938, and vs Australian Services in 1945. In 1938 Jayasundera who was 12th man was not called to replace M.O. Gooneratne who was a bowler and was injured a few minutes after play commenced. In 1934 he was 12th man against D.R. Jardines M.C.C. team, and only played because M.K. Albert refused to play on a Sunday.

His figures for Ceylon were :

		O	M	R	W
1934	vs M.C.C.	14	3	42	0
		2	0	9	0
1935	vs Indian Un: Occ:	17	5	40	0
1940/41	vs All India	14	1	50	2
Total		47	9	141	2

Jayasundera's graceful run up, and smooth follow through would have been an ideal model for our schoolboys. It's a pity that his talents were lost to Ceylon Cricket so early. He was a fine team man who practised regularly

with B. Wijewardena (Trinity) and A.H. Gooneratne (Royal), these bowlers formed a deadly opening combination for the SSC from 1935 to 1945. Jayasundera had a late inswing, and a vicious breakback. He made full use of the yoker. His accuracy has not been matched by any Ceylon bowler since. Only W.T. Greswell of an earlier era eclipsed Jayasundera's performances. Jayasundera died on 11th October 1964 at the early age of 64 years.

In all First Class matches (3 day) for Ceylon teams his figures are 1640 Overs 34M 433R 19 W at 22.8 Av.

BENEDICT NAVARATNE

In its long history the Singhalese Sports Club has had some Ceylon's best wicket keepers - E.I. Gunasekera, Alfred Aluvihare, Cecil Senaratne, Dr. W.L. Mendis and Ben Navaratne. Of these Alfred Aluvihare was termed the Prince of Wicket Keepers. He died very young - 27 years - Ben Navaratne outdid all those mentioned. He was in a class by himself. We write about great batsmen and great bowlers. Navaratne was the greatest for nearly 30 years in the 1930's & 1940's & mid 1950's.

Navaratne was mentioned as World Class - the first time such an appellation had been given to a cricketer from a lesser known school - Zahira College, Colombo. Not many from Zahira College has gained national honours in cricket. From 1937 to about 1957 Navaratne was outstanding. His name was (like Albert & L.D.S.) a household name. Superlatives were used to describe his wicket keeping. Normally batsmen are the personalities who receive such commendations. Navaratne received his crown from none other than the World's Greatest Batsman Don Bradman - when the Australian team played in Colombo in 1948 on its way to England. With his own Ron Saggas behind the stumps performing like a beaver the Great Don said "Navaratne was World Class".

In 1950 T.B. Marambe of the Times of Ceylon wrote a little book titled "PEN PICTURES OF OUR CRICKETERS". He described Navaratne thus - "He is a human dynamo, his gloves are always alive. His feet play around the wicket, poised on tip toe. He is offensive in stumping, standing up to the fast bowlers, stumps off the leg side & removing the bails on the slightest provocation. It is not the placing of the field only one should observe, he must be aware of the swoops to square leg. Navaratne pounced on any touch which went towards square leg. Navaratne was a man of prodigious energy, the hallmark of a great keeper" (Marambe).

Navaratne was built like a sturdy Rugby forward, although he was little & fleet-footed. Agility was his forte. In recent times after Navaratne, Russell Harmer, Dr. H.I.K. Fernando, Ranjit Fernando & Mahesh Gunatilleke had the attributes necessary to make a class keeper. How many of Sri Lanka's keepers of recent times would stand up to fast bowling?

Wicket keeping apart Navaratne was a gutty, reliable batsman at 6 or 7. Some of his best partnerships are recorded below. How Navaratne stood up to Fred Ridgeway, even after having his eyebrow ripped open, was one good instance that he could stand up & fight. He was a very fast runner between wickets. Navaratne's all round ability was an answer to a captain's prayer. A right hand batsman he smote them hard. He was one of Ceylon's greatest, I believe for over 30 years, up to 1957. That is since the days of Aluvihare's days, not forgetting V.C. Schokman & Major F.R.R. Brooke (C.C.C.). Born on-10.06.1919 "Ben" as he was popularly known passed away on 10.06.1979.

International matches were few & far between in Navaratne's day. A few good performances in the limited opportunities are given below :

Most dismissals

1950	- 5 dismissals	(2 ct & 3 st)	- All Ceylon vs Pakistan (1st innings)
1951	- 8 dismissals	(4 ct & 4 st)	- S. Coomaraswamy's XI vs R.B. Wijesinghe XI

No Byes

1952	- 0 (152)	All Ceylon vs M.C.C.	
1946	- 0 (83)	S.S.C. vs Madras	
1946	- 0 (273)	S.S.C. vs Cricket Club of India	
2nd wkt	- 154 ()	B. Navaratne (110) & R.B. Wijesinghe (95)	- S.S.C. vs Tamil Union C & AC - 1952
3rd wkt	- 248 runs	B. Navaratne (99) & F.C. de Saram (156x)	- S.S.C. vs Tamil Union C & AC - 1947
3rd wkt	- 180 runs	B. Navaratne (114x) & H.I. Fernando (131)	- S.S.C. vs Malay CC - 1957
3rd wkt	- 170 runs	B. Navaratne (57) & S.S. Jayawickrema (148)	- S.S.C. vs Trichinopoly United - 19

4th wkt	- 192 runs	B. Navaratne (178) & G. Gooneratne (100)	- S.S.C. vs Bloomfield C & AC	- 1950
5th wkt	- 167 runs	B. Navaratne (98) & P.I. Peiris (78)	- S.S.C. vs Colts CC	- 1957
10th wkt	- 98 runs	B. Navaratne (27) & R.B. Wijesinghe (161)	- S.S.C. vs Tamil Union	- 1951

"Ben" played in 9 Unofficial Tests (3 day). His career figures were 22M - 30In - 58HS - 380R - 17.77Av and 25ct & 10st (35). He served in the Ceylon Trade Commissioner's Office at Madras in the 1950. During this period he played for Madras C.C. "Navaratne the keeper showed the keeper he was in a superb attempt at a leg side stumping, so that the Australians quickly gathered that liberties could not be taken in the field" (Don Bradman 1948). He was really quick behind the stumps.

SOME S.S.C. STALWARTS 1940 - 1970

Couroy Ivers Gunasekera is another versatile sportsman as a fine all round Cricketer whose batting drew large crowds. He used the bat for the purpose it was meant. To hit the ball hard. He drives left fielding palms sore. His mighty sixes cleared the grounds. It was joy to the spectators. Some feel that C.I. was in Sinhala a "Pol Adi" batsman - the wild hitter, far from it. He was blessed with a quick eye and nimble feet and unless those strokes were perfectly timed, the ball would not have carried so far. How many others could do it? So why cast aspersions. Thinking of this type of batsman in Ceylon Cricket, how many can one count. In recent times there is Duleep Mendis. "C.I." was the scourge of local bowlers for nearly two decades. Practically every innings was studded with a couple of sixers. At the beginning of his career at Royal College in 1936 he had some old stagers like G.C. Roberts (Panadura) J.W. Aiyadurai (Colts CC) to match him.

"C.I." made his First Class debut rather late in life - at the age of 29 years - against West Indies (1948/49) with 11 and 72, then 71 and 22, the innings he would like to remember as his best would be the 135 runs for the star studded Commonwealth XI (Mankad, Gul Mohamed, Neil Harvey, Keith Miller, Graeme Hole, P. Umrigar and Fazal Mahmood) against MCC. When C.I. went in at the fall of the 3rd wicket at 170, Neil Harvey was well past 50 runs, but when Harvey was approaching his 100, C.I. was there too and Harvey made a gracious gesture, slowing down and allowing C.I. to get to his 100 first. The partnership finally added 207 runs, Harvey was 106. C.I. had scored at the rate of 4 runs an over off Ridgeway Shackleton. Alan Watkins and Tattersall.

Gunasekera has some good batting feats. In all classes of Cricket he scored 36 centuries. Of these 18 against First Class Clubs. Of these 15 for the SSC. His 212 against Madras C.A. 1959 in the Gopalan Trophy is the highest individual score in the series. His partnership with Lasantha Rodrigo (59) brought 136 for 4th wicket. The 100 runs came in 65 minutes. C.I. scored his 212 in 285 minutes. In those days they did not mark the number of deliveries. Of 212 runs 176 runs came on the first day and 100 runs in 140 minutes. He hit 32 fours and 1 six giving him over 60% of his runs in boundaries. In 1962 he scored 80 runs and had a match bag of 6 for 57 vs. Madras. He led the CCA Gopalan Trophy team from 1960 to 1963, immediately after Vernon Peiris. His series figures were 8 M 12 IN D No 212 HS - 496 R 41.33 Av and took 2 catches. In bowling 192 0 49 M 488 R 23 W 21.21 Av. C.I. led All Ceylon in whole day Internationals against Australia (1961) M.C.C. (1962) Australia (1964). In these matches he took 3 for 39, 2 for 29 and 1 for 11. In the 1953 match against Australia C.I. hit Hassett for a 6 and a four in one over out of his 16 runs.

C.I. treated some overseas Internationals. Harshly Lindsey Kline, (Australia) left arm (46446) 24 runs in one over and in 1962 Ray Illingworth (MCC) conceded (44444) 20 runs in an over. C.I. scored 76 runs and with Michael Tissera watching at the other end put on 101 runs in 60 minutes for the 5th wicket. He scored 50 runs in 45 minutes and 76 runs in 90 minutes with 2 sixers and 11 fours. Such hurricane hitting in these whistle stop games had not been seen since Z.W. Roberts (father of Michael Roberts) took the MCC bowling apart on Galle Face Grounds with 70 runs in against the MCC (1908). C.I. bowled out of the International scene with a 0 for the Board Presidents XI against MCC. C.I. was a very good leg spin googly bowler with many fine performances to his credit and a good field.

The CCA and the Board of Control for Cricket in Ceylon, (C.I. did not go to India in 1947) ignored C.I. from 1945 to 1947. His first match was a Whole Day International against Don Bradman's 1948 Australia when did

not bat. He was one of 6 SSC players who did not participate in the Holkar CA tour immediately after the Australian match. C.I. captained All Ceylon in 4 Unofficial Tests.

Prior to the partnership with Neil Harvey, C.I. Gunasekera curbed his natural instincts to save Ceylon. With 4 wickets down for 30 runs and with restraining influence of skipper F.C.de Saram (118) Gunasekera put on 181 runs for the 5th wicket. Another epic innings was when Ceylon 4 down for 112 and still 228 to stave off an innings defeat fought back with Mahes Rodrigo (135 c.o.b. after 5 1/2 hours) C.I. (72) put on 117 runs to the 5th wicket. It was a restrained innings - but had 10 fours. He confounded critics by handling the fury of Prior Jones and John Trim and the spin of Ferguson and Gomez. In the next unofficial Test he scored a scintillating 71 and 22 in the 2nd innings. There was a 106 run partnership with F.C.de Saram (94). So that the wild hitting claim is far from the truth.

In all F.C. match C.I.'s figures were 25 M - 39 In 1 NO 212 HS 1476 R 3844 AV with 3 centuries and 6 fifties. He took 19 catches. His bowling figures were 394 5 Ov 107 M 1384 R 59 W 23.45 Av. Best bowling 8 for 69 Vs. Pakistan Services, and match bag of 10 wickets for 147 runs. He had another 10 wicket bag for 154 vs. Mysore C.A. (1957/58).

Gunasekera born on 14.7.1920 in Colombo was as versatile a games player as was Vernon Prins. He excelled as a Tennis player winning the Ceylon Mixed Doubles Titles 5 times between 1948 and 1955 (with Miss D.G.E. Wijewardena) and was the Doubles Championship of Ceylon in 1948. He was good Athlete and excelled at Pole Vault while at school. C.I. comes from a Cricket family. His father was at Cambridge (St. Catheyines) in 1912 and played for the Sinhalese Sports Club. His uncles (V.R.; D.B. & C.H.) were at Cambridge prior to World War and C.H. Gunasekera missed his blue but became the first Ceylonese to play for an English County Middlesex 1919-1920 and 1922. Father and son C.I. played for Royal College. C.I. last played for S.S.C. at the age of 51.

Anura Punchi Banda Tennekoon Sri Lanka's Captain (from 1972 to 1979) was our most successful Captain. The captaincy was in a thrust on him, due to the absence from the Island of Michael Tissera. On being elected Captain Tennekoon was subjected to a barrage of criticism by one section of the media. A brilliant right hand batsman, useful left slow medium Bowler and one of the finest close in fielders, produced by Ceylon was in the limelight - a national hero, at the end 1974. But one section had forgotten that unassuming young leader carried Sri Lanka Cricket team on his shoulders.

Two successive hundreds against India in 1974 - the unofficial Tests, the first such performance by a Sri Lankan. Tennekoon became the first to reach 1000 runs (in 15) unofficial Tests, when he scored 101 against West Indies (1975) in 1974 he fought back with 169 n.o. & 131 in the two Test with India. He hardly received praise before leaving on a tour or received praise for his performance on his return. Sri Lankas overseas tours under his leadership was about the most successful in Ceylons Cricket history. There may not have been great victories but both Pakistan, India and West Indies found it difficult to steam roller Sri Lanka. Some did not appreciate the gentlemanly qualities in Tennekoon.

Tennekoon was a stylist. His on side play was joy to watch. Hardly lifted shot to long on, but hits between mid wicket and long on, where as good as his off drives. He was in full bloom when he scored 169 n.o. against India. Like Horatio as he held the bridge single handed, thwarting the pace and spin of the Indians. His 169 must have been his greatest innings.

On his debut against M.C.C. (1969) and against the India (1974) he scored Centuries. He was the First Sri Lanka Captain to score a century on his debut in Unofficial Test. He had lead Sri Lanka in 25 Unofficial Tests from 1974 to 1979. Tennekoon career figures read – batting 62 M 108 In 11 No 169 HS 3516 R – 32.5 Av with 5 hundreds and 21 fifties and he took 63 catches the most by a Sri Lankan. His 6 ct in the match against Pakistan Railway is the Sri Lanka record. His close in fielding was marvellous. The above figures do not include the Bangladesh (3 Unofficial Tests – not FC) and 2 matches for Mercantile CA and the Malaysian CA Match.

Anura has a Sri Lanka record in a 3 day game but not First Class. Along with Bandula Warnapura (294) and Tennekoon (221) put on 426 runs for the 2nd wicket against Malaysian CA at the Colombo Oval in 1972. In purely First matches Anura was Sri Lankas heaviest score until Test status with 3516 runs. He progressed thus 1000 runs after 20 matches, 2000 runs after 37 matches, 3000 runs after 53 matches and 4000 runs after 65 matches.

As a captain he has the best record by Sri Lanka 47 M (First Class) 10 wins 9 lost and 28 drawn.

He had the captaincy coming his way. He was heir to this title after Michael Tissera but why he retired prematurely after a very successful U.K. tour was a mystery. Born on 20.11.1946 he was only 33 years and still batting as well as ever. A leg injury was one excuse but there seemed to be more to it. With a leg injury he averaged over 50 innings for 491 runs on the 1979 tour and only 47 runs were scored before the injury. A man on one leg does well, as a man standing on two legs!

Whatever the hidden reason his retirement was a loss to Sri Lanka just prior to Test status. He made his debut for Ceylon in a whole day International while still at College, against M.J.K. Smiths MCC team in 1965. This was the last of the "Whistle Stop" games in Ceylon. Since his retirement he has gone as Manager of the Sri Lanka Team to Pakistan (1981/82) managed the Sri Lanka Young Cricketers to Australia and served as Selector.

Duleep Mendis has been given many names in his time and was labelled as the most exciting batsman in the newest Test playing countries around 1984.

Balappuwaduge Louis Rohan Mendis was born on 25.08.1952 at Moratuwa, a town 10 miles south of Colombo known for the exquisitely carved furniture. Mendis received his education first at St. Sebastians College, Moratuwa and then at St. Thomas' College, Mount Lavinia. He played for St. Sebastians at the early age of 15 years. Between 1968 and 1972 he scored 10 centuries in Inter College Cricket with 184 as his highest for St. Thomas' vs Royal College, Colombo.

While at College Mendis a right hand batsman, a good wicket keeper, a very good fieldsman at cover who threw in hard and fast represented Sri Lanka U19 against Australia Under 19 in 1972. He showed glimpses of what was to come playing in 3 Unofficial Tests (4 day) scoring 28 and 62, putting on 90 for the 2nd wicket in 95 minutes. In the 2nd he scored 85 putting on 117 runs for the 2nd wicket in 110 minutes. In the 3rd he scored 58 and put on 65 runs for the 2nd wicket. In all these efforts his opening partner was Bandula Warnapura – the opening batsman. While still at College Mendis made his debut (52) in First Class Cricket playing for Sri Lanka Board Presidents XI against Tamilnadu in the M.J. Gopalan Trophy match.

Mendis has had many adjectives used to describe his batting, "Aggressive", "Scintillating", "Swashbuckling", "Epic", "Magnificent Mendis", & many more. Mendis was no orthodox stylist. He was not a graceful stroke maker, but he used the bat for the purpose it was meant. The story of his batting is better related in figures. His figures for Sri Lanka starved of First Class competition, would have been more impressive had the opportunities been greater.

It is not possible to record the instances in detail giving the innings when his hitting spree took him to first place in Sri Lanka's cricket. As a dashing batsman he drove furiously through the covers, square cut and used the lofted shot to mid on. Practically in every one of his innings from his College days to the end of his career he hit at least one six. When he scored those twin centuries at Chepauk in both innings he hit a six to get to 100. It is not far wrong to say that in 90% of his innings 60% of his runs have come in boundaries. A few of them are mentioned later. Writers went

into raptures describing his batting. Stockily built with strong forearms and the gift of good eye sight all these he used to make batting worth while for the spectators. Only once in his career has Mendis been dropped from a First Class match – the 1st Unofficial Test against India in 1974. In the very next game played in Kandy and scored 74 & 82. He has a few records to his credit & is being mentioned before providing the statistics.

(1) First player to score twin centuries (105 & 105) in an Inaugural Test - (Sri Lanka vs India) only 2 others Don Bradman and Everton Weekes have scored twin hundreds against India.

(2) Scored 111 on his debut at Lords – Sri Lanka vs England.

(3) Has scored the fastest Test hundred for Sri Lanka (144 mts) vs England (Lords).

Mendis is one of the Sri Lankans to be invited to play for a World XI. He played against the West Indies in 1982/83, captaining the World XI in one game. He scored 10 (1st) & 41 in the 2nd match. In 1989/90 he played for a World XI against West Indies in Toronto, Canada scoring 65 runs. In India he has played on invitation for Hindustan Breweries against State Bank of India in the Morn-Ud-Dowla Gold Cup at Hyderabad in 1978 scoring 8 runs. He scored the First 100s for First Sri Lanka teams to England (Taunton) & in Australia vs Victoria.

Note– SLBP (Sri Lanka Board President XI). (2)(3x) 2 days and 3 days not First Class; MPS Sinhalese Sports Club Grounds, Maitland Place, U7 – Unofficial Tests.

Centuries – First Class (12)

1977/78	– 194	– SLBP vs Tamilnadu (Chepauk)
1982/83	– 189	– SLBP XI vs Tamilnadu (P. Saravanamuttu Stadium)
1975	– 144	– Sri Lanka vs East Africa – Taunton
1973/74	– 139x	– Sri Lanka vs Pakistan U19 – Multan
1985/86	– 124	– Sri Lanka vs India – Kandy
1988	– 124	– Sri Lanka vs Surrey – Oval
1979	– 112	– Sri Lanka vs Glamorgan – Swansea
1975/76	– 112	– Sri Lanka vs North Zone – New Delhi
1984	– 111	– Sri Lanka vs England – Lords
1982/83	– 105	– Sri Lanka vs India – Chepauk
	105	
1973/74	– 104	– SLBP XI vs Tamilnadu – P. Saravanamuttu Stadium
1983	– 101	– SL vs Club Cricket Conference – Sleaford

CENTURIES LIMITED OVER (1)

1973/74	– 106	– SLBP XI vs Tamilnadu – P. Saravanamuttu Stadium
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Best Batting Doubles

1977/78	– 194 & 36	– SLBP XI vs Tamilnadu
1984	– 111 & 94	– Sri Lanka vs England
1975	– 67 & 144	– Sri Lanka vs East Africa
1985/86	– 53 & 123	– Sri Lanka vs India

Other Centuries (not First Class)

1982/83	– 141	– Sri Lanka vs Victoria (2) – Melbourne
1972/73	– 122	– SLBP vs Malaysian CA (3x) – P. Saravanamuttu Stadium
1975	– 113	– Sri Lanka vs Denmark – Herning (2)
1979	– 105x	– Sri Lanka vs Leicestershire (L.O.)
1977/78	– 106	– Sri Lanka vs Bangladesh Board Presidents XI – Faridpur (2)
1976	– 126x	– Mercantile Cricket Association vs Hyderabad – Hyderabad
1983	– 101	– Sri Lanka vs Club Cricket Conference – Eddington

Century Partnerships

2nd wkt	– 183 runs	– Mendis (108) & Sunil Wettimury (100) – Sri Lanka vs Bangladesh – 1977/78 Board Presidents XI – Faridpur
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3rd wkt	- 153 runs	- Mendis (105) & R.L. Dias (60) vs India (Chepauk) - 1982/82(a)
	- 110 runs	- Mendis (105) & R.L. Dias (97) vs India
	- 146 runs	- Mendis (87) & Sidat Wettimuny (105) - SLBP vs Tamil Nadu
	-	- Mendis (50) & R.L. Dias (102x) - Sri Lanka vs Zimbabwe(a)
	- 148 runs	- Mendis (75) & P.D. Heyn (105) - SLBP vs TNCAP XI - Canterbury(a)
	- 100 runs	- Mendis (73) & A.P.B. Tennekoon (28) - Sri Lanka vs Kent - 1972/73(a)
4th wkt	- 113 runs	- Mendis (51x) & Tennekoon (54x) - SSC vs Tatas MPS - 1973/74 (2)(a)
	- 216 runs	- Mendis (124) & R.L. Dias (106) Sri Lanka vs India - Kandy - 1985/86(a)
	- 204 runs	- Mendis (194) & J. Paranathala (85) - SLBP vs Tamilnadu - Chepauk(a)
	- 176 runs	- Mendis (103) & R.S. Mahanama (80x) - Sri Lanka vs Indian Gymkhana (2)
	- 147 runs	- Mendis (112) & A.N. Ranasinghe (66) - Sri Lanka vs New Zealand - Osterley - 1983
	- 142 runs	- Mendis (60x) & R.L. Dias (80x) - Sri Lanka vs Glamorgan - Cardiff - 1983(a)
	- 129 runs	- Mendis (65) & R.L. Dias (88) - Sri Lanka vs Denmark - 1979
	- 129 runs	- Mendis (68) & R.L. Dias (78) - Sri Lanka vs Hampshire - Bournemouth - 1981(a)
	- 119 runs	- Mendis (64) & P.A. de Silva (75) - Sri Lanka vs Hampshire - Southampton - 1984(a)
	- 116x runs	- Mendis (78x) & J. Seneviratne (31x) - SLBP vs West Indies - (10) - Moratuwa - 1978/79(w)
	- 112 runs	- Mendis (75) & Sunil Wettimuny (69) - Sri Lanka vs West Indies - MPS - 1978/79(w)
	- 106 runs x	- Mendis (70x) & R.L. Dias (37x) - Sri Lanka vs Bangladesh (UT)

5th wkt	- 152 runs	- Mendis (73) & S.P. Pasqual (101x) - Sri Lanka vs Scotland - Eglinton - 1979
	- 150 runs	- Mendis (111) & Sidat Wettimuny (190) - Sri Lanka vs England - Lords - 1984(a)
	- 149 runs	- Mendis (189) & D.S. de Silva (43) - SLBP vs Tamilnadu - PS (1983/84)(a)
	- 139 runs	- Mendis (80) & P.A. de Silva (81) - Sri Lanka vs Australia (B&H) - Sydney - 1984/85(w)
6th wkt	- 108 runs	- Mendis (94) & S.A.R. Silva (102x) - Sri Lanka vs England - Lords - 1984(a)
	- 104 runs	- Mendis () & A. Ranatunga () - Sri Lanka vs England(a)

BIG HITTING

1975	- 1x6 & 1x5 & 9x4 (47)	- 75	- SL vs West Indies MPS
1975/76	- 1-x6 & 18x4 (78)	- 112	- SL vs North Zone
1982/83	- 1x6 & 1x5 & 17x4 (79)	- 111	- Sri Lanka vs India - Chepauk
1982/83	- 1x6 & 22x4 (94)	- 144	- Sri Lanka vs Victoria Melbourne (2)
1982/83	- 3x6 & 7x4 (46)	- 87	- SLBP vs Tamilnadu (LO) - P. Saravanamuttu
1983	- 4x6 & 30x4 (144)	- 183	- Sri Lanka vs Bedfordshire - Luton
1983	- 18x4 (72)	- 101	- Sri Lanka vs Club Cricket Conference - Hartford
1984	- 3x6 & 11x4 (62)	- 111	- Sri Lanka vs England Lords
	- 3x6 & 9x4 (54)	- 94	- do -
1988	- 4x6 & 14x6 (88)	- 124	- Sri Lanka vs Surrey - Oval

Wicket Keeping - 1976 - 7 dismissals in an innings - St. Thomas College vs Zahira College x
Mendis kept wickets in 4 FC matches - Tamilnadu (2) Punjab and Pakistan Railways.

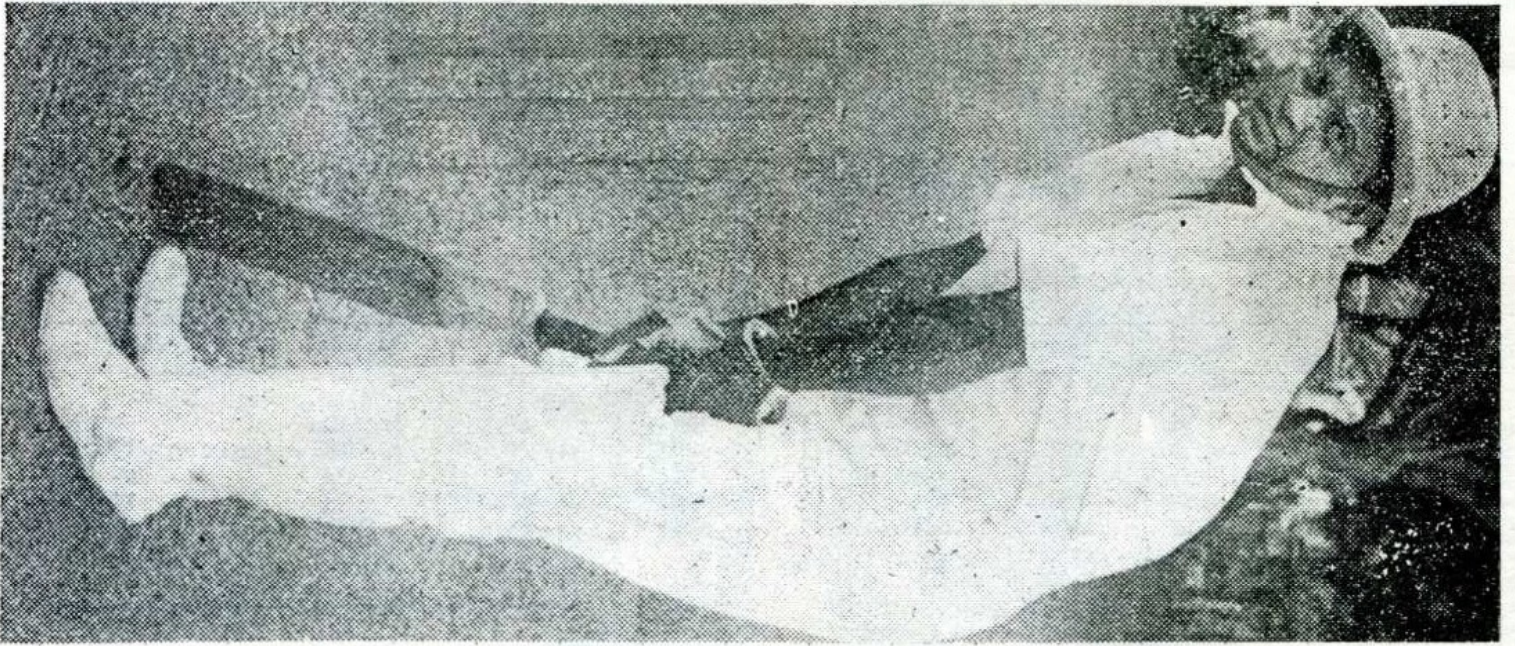
AVERAGES - Tests First Class Unofficial Tests (FC) :

		M	In	No	Hs	Total	Av	100/50	ct/st
1982-88	- Test	20	43(2)	1	124	1229	29.26	4/7	7/0
1972-81	- FC	39	63(6)	7	139	1965	32.75	3/13	17/0
1982-89	- FC	20	25(3)	2	124	713	31.00	1/7	1/0
1972-81	- UT	17	32(3)	1	144	852	27.48	1/4	10/0
1972-83	- GT	7	13(0)	0	194	731	56.23	3/1	1/1(wk) 4/0(f)
Total	- FC	109	176(14)	7	194	5490	32.48	12/32	40/1

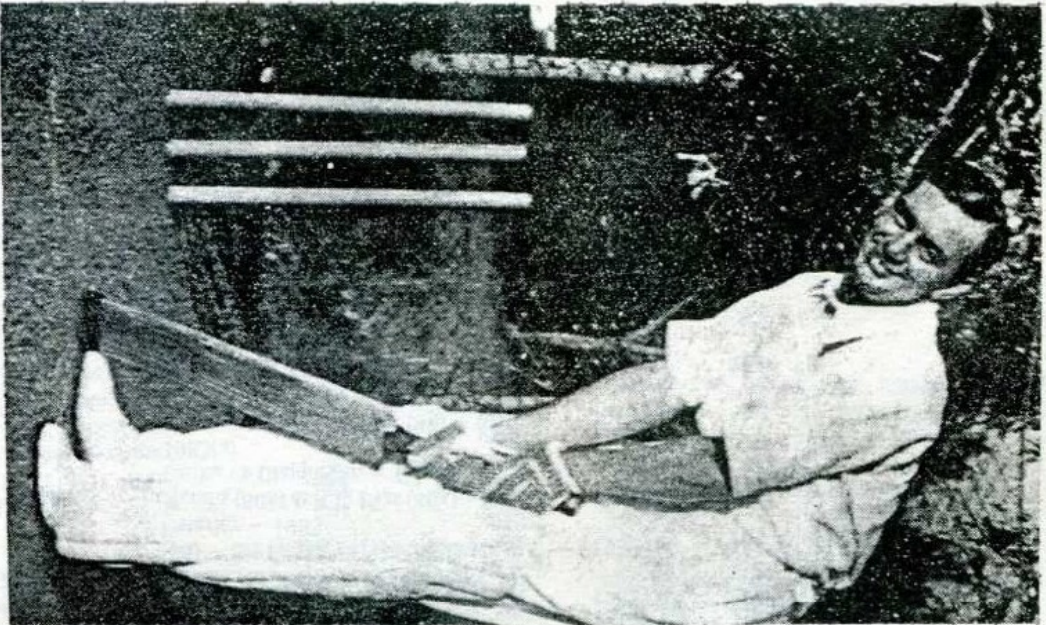
LIMITED OVERS

1982/88	- LOI	77	72(4)	7	80	1501	23.09	0/8	7/0
1982/81	- LOI	15	15(2)	0	75	378	25.20	0/2	3/0
1974/76	- LOI/GT	3	3(0)	1	106x	217	108.50	1/1	0/0
1979	- LOICC	5	5(0)	0	80	228	45.60	0/3	2/0
Total	- LOI	100	95(6)	8	80	2324	26.49	0/14	12/0

Note - (2) etc. after Innings denotes no. of "ducks" made; UT - Unofficial Tests; FC

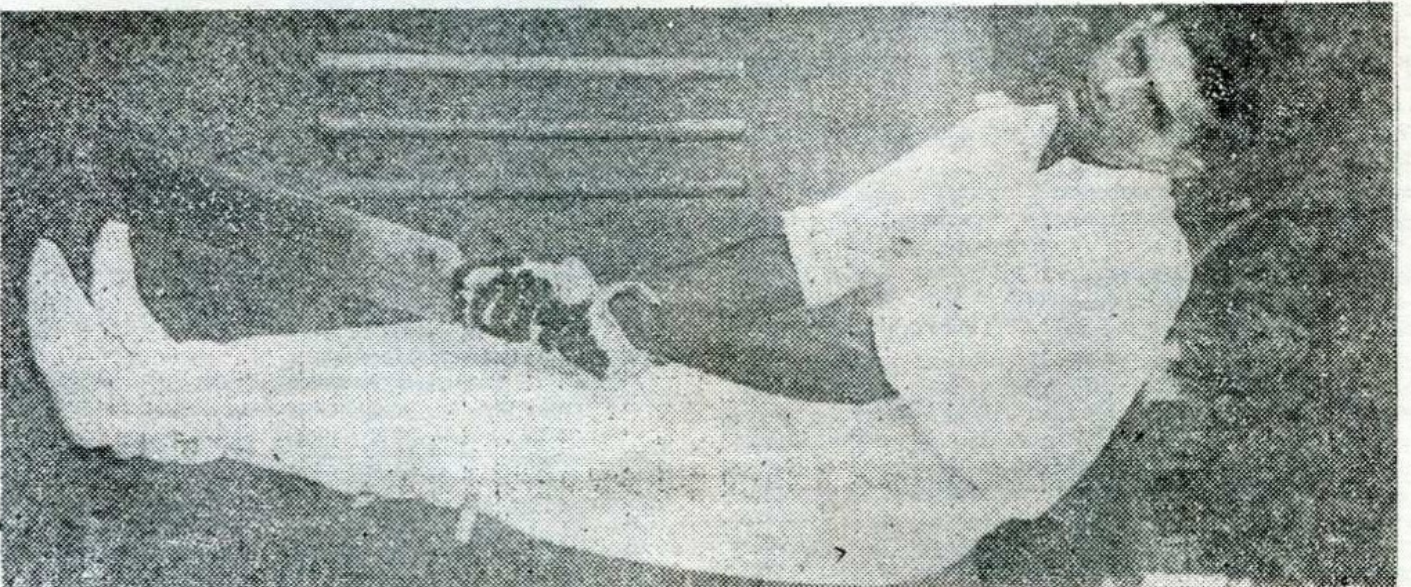


S.S. JAYAWICKREMA
(1940 / 44)



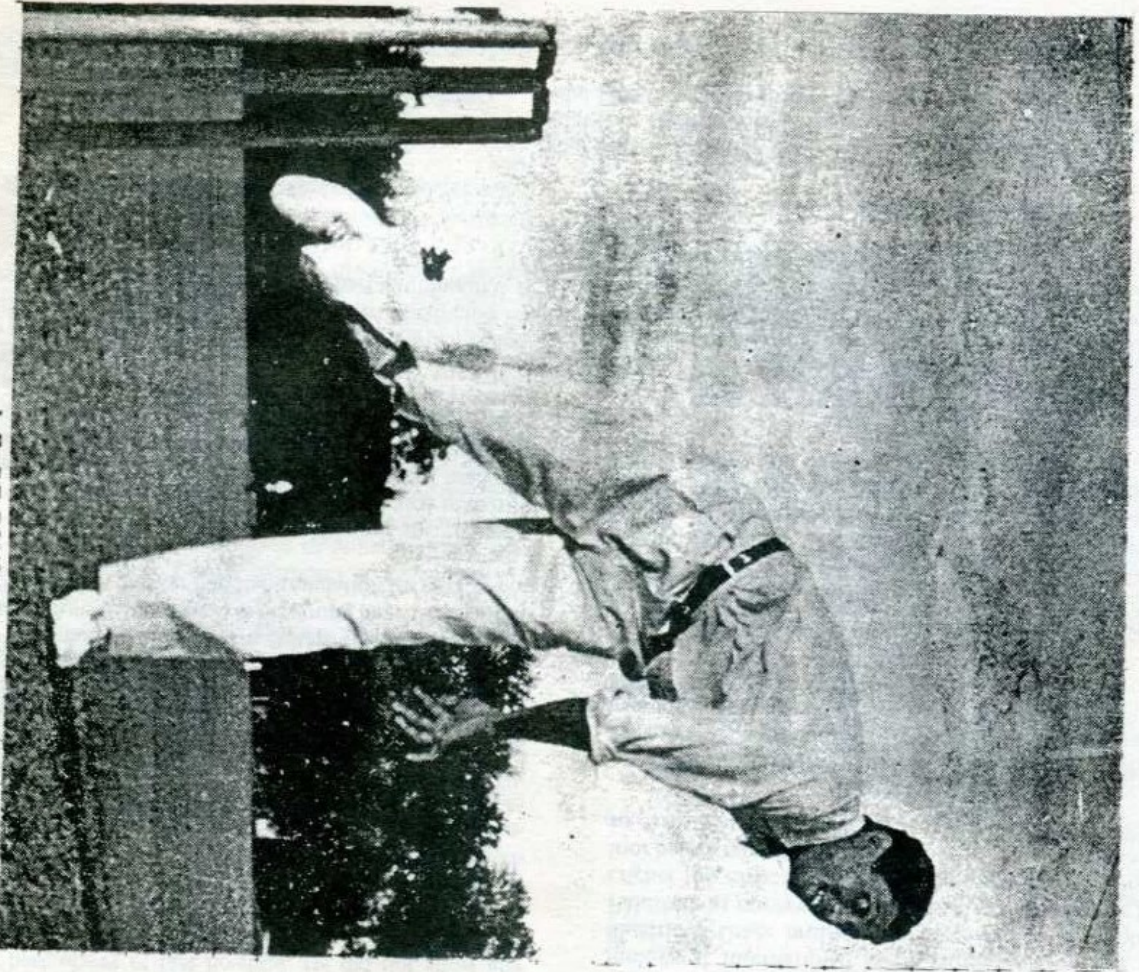
F.C. DE SARAM

THREE ALL CEYLON CAPTAINS



C.I. GUNASEKERA
(1962)

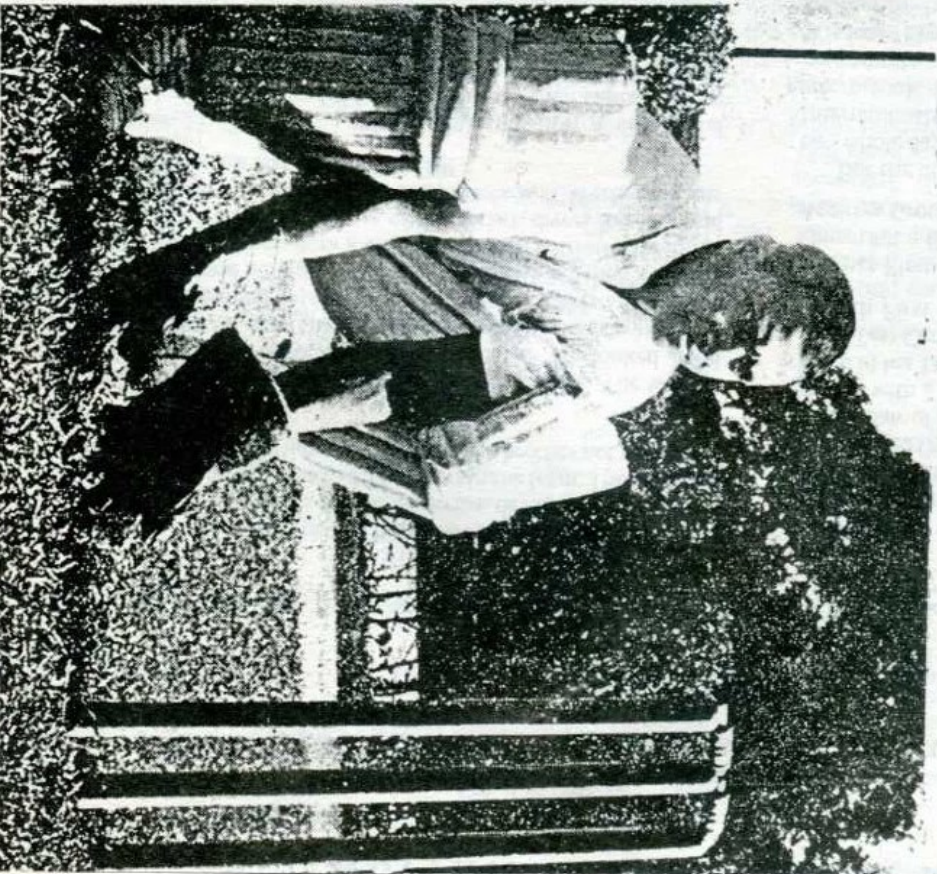
SECOND GENERATION STALWARTS



L. E. DE ZOYSA



D. S. JAYASUNDERE



BEN NAVARATNE

THE WETTIMUNY TRIO – SUNIL, MITHRA & SIDAT

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>College</u>	<u>F.C. Debut</u>	<u>Tests</u>	<u>Limited Overs</u>
Sunil Ramsay de Silva Wettimuny – RHB/OB/WK	02.02.1949	Colombo	Ananda	NCC (1970)	–	India (1973/74)
Mithra de Silva Wettimuny – RHB/RM	11.06.1951	Colombo	Ananda	Zimbabwe (1970)	New Zealand (1982/83)	Australia (1980/81)
Sidat Wettimuny – RHB/RM	12.08.1956	Colombo	Ananda	Pakistan (SLBP – 1975/76)	New Zealand (1982/83)	MCC (1976/77)

Instances of 3 brothers as opening batsmen for a particular club in Sri Lanka are rare. In the early years the Gunasekeras, de Sarams, Weinmans, Seneratnes, Kelaarts, de Kretsers had 3 brothers in the team. The NCC had 3 sets of brothers. So the Wettimuny trio & a fourth brother not so famous are an unique lot.

Sunil represented All Ceylon just after leaving College. The way he handled Geoff Arnold in particular was commented. He looked good Ceylon material. His off side strokes for one so slim had power. Sunil matured into a fine opening batsman. The 107 against Pakistan U25 saw his technique “build your innings quietly, take your time and then”! He was 27 at lunch to Bandula Warnapura’s 48. In the 2 hour session after lunch Sunil scattered the fielders cuts square of the wicket, drives to cover and the hooking of the visiting fast bowlers was a joy to watch. Wettimuny was 100 at tea & Warnapura was 58 – 73 to 10!

In this under 25 “Test” Sri Lanka vs Pakistan over 4 days Sunil Wettimuny was called on to lead Sri Lanka. He was then captain of the S.S.C. Wettimuny & Warnapura (154) put on 179 runs for the 1st wicket a new First Class record in Sri Lanka cricket. His 93 for the Sri Lanka Board Presidents XI took 270 minutes. In the Unofficial Test his 107 took 270 minutes (4 hours 30 minutes). He scored 21 runs in the 2nd innings. This match was lost by the Sri Lanka team after they dismissed Pakistan for 85 in the 1st innings!

That was just a beginning of the Sri Lankan opener for the next 10 years. He was Sri Lankas’ best player of fast bowling. He did not show any flinching. The Pakistan Tour three months later proved his worth, with Bandula Warnapura, who dug a heel & stayed, was to be his long time partner. Occasionally it was Gajan Pathmanathan & Ranjit Fernando at National level. At club level I believe it was Lasantha Fernando. In match after match Wettimuny & Warnapura registered the following partnerships – 2 century partnerships one with Warnapura. The partnerships in successive matches read 106, 104 (Pathmanathan) & 75, 68, 74 & 66, 72. For the 2nd wkt 68 & 3rd wkt 71. All these laid the foundation for the success of the Sri Lanka Novices against an experienced Pakistan team. His personal efforts read 65, 64, 121, 74 and 26, 52, 24. It all ended with 480 runs in 11 innings at 43.63. Seven successive partnerships out of 9 visits to the wicket. Wettimuny was aggressive & kept the bowlers at bay while his partners dug in. Anura Tennekoon & his young men had brought credit to Sri Lanka. Sunil & his partner had the foundation for Sri Lanka.

Then came the West Indies when he again proved himself against some fiery pace bowling. He got to his 1000th First Class run in this match – after 33 innings. It was only after the 40th innings that he got his First “duck”. His fine career record after 70 innings had just 3 ducks something to be proud of, for this consistent performer. Sunil was not very successful against the Indians (1974) & on the English tour of 1979. He was virtually pushed into the Board President XI against England (in 1981/82) unprepared. He was concentrating on flying career overseas when called. After this recall & failure and second chance may have been worthwhile for this very talented opener. It was sad to see him depart unhonoured & unsung.

Some of the brotherly partnerships in First Class Club cricket were :

1975/76	– 1st wkt	– 143 runs	– Sidat (62) & Mithra (110)	– S.S.C. vs B.R.C.
1976/77	– 1st wkt	– 131 runs	– Sidat (52) & Mithra (88)	– S.S.C. vs Nomads S.C.
1977/81	– 1st wkt	– 139 for 0 wkts	– Sidat (79x) & Mithra (55x)	– S.S.C. vs B.R.C.
(Mithra scored 55x and took 5 wkts for 36).				
1981	– 1st wkt	– 127 runs	– Sidat (82) & Mithra (91)	– vs Liberty S.C.

While he was still on the scene his brothers Sidat & Mithra were entering the International arena. Young Sidat just out of College in 1976 & the elder Mithra fairly late in life gained representative honours playing in a Limited Over International in 1981. Sidat made his debut in FC cricket with a pair of specs followed by a third duck in the 3rd innings & Mithra started with 1 run in his 1st Limited Over International vs Australia. Sidat failed in his 1st Test but on his debut against Pakistan became Sri Lankas First Test Centurion (157) & on the first tour of New Zealand scored his 1000th First Class run in his 37th innings & 23 matches. Sidat added another First when he carried out his bat for 63 in the 1st Test & then almost hit a first century for Sri Lanka (96) against Australia in 1983 at Asgiriya Grounds in the Inaugural Test.

But the innings that made Sidat famous was his 10 hours 42 minutes two whole day for his 190 runs on his debut at Lords. Few, are the famous Internationals who have scored a debut century at Lords. His Marathon effort took the Englishmen by surprise & surprised a few of his countrymen. Sidat became the First Sri Lankan to enter the ranks of Wisdens “Five Cricketers of the Year” (1985). Three years later he posted another Sri Lankan record – the highest score by a Sri Lankan overseas (227) against Indian Board of Control for Cricket - beating M. Sathasivams 215 runs made 40 years earlier.

When he opened batting with brother Mithra against Zimbabwe in 1982/83 he became the first Sri Lankan pair of brothers to open the innings at International level. Three months later the pair joined the illustrious Grace brothers (for England) & the Mohamed brothers (for Pakistan) as openers in Tests. Sidat too like brother Sunil quit first class cricket too early. Both Sunil, (two tours before retirement) & Sidat (one tour before retirement) were not at their best, but this was no reason to quit so early. Batsman can make a come back early. Unlike bowlers.

Mithra opened the innings with brother Sidat for the SSC and has many century partnerships for the 1st wkt & have figured high in the local averages each year. Mithra’s name first appears in the club averages in 1973/74

In 1977/78 Sidat & Mithra had the following partnerships for the 1st wkt in the P. Saravanamuttu Tournament – 55, 71, 77, 81, 86, 75, 60 – Sidat scored 514 runs at 42.00 & Mithra 553 runs at 42.52. In the 1981/82 Mithra scored 1095 runs in the 1st round & final scored matches. Mithra an Accountant by profession. I believe it was he who was responsible for sponsoring the U25 Tournament for the Honda Trophy which commenced in 1980.

The fourth of the brotherhood was Nimal who represented S.S.C. around 1983/84. A line on the Limited Over efforts. Sunil in his first 15 Limited Over Internationals (includes D.H. Robins XI) Sunil entered double figures in every innings with scores ranging from 14 to 69 including 4 over 50 runs. Nimal with D. Ranatunge shares the best 3rd wkt partnership (191 runs vs Negombo CC in a Lakspray Trophy 2 day match (1987).

In the International scene Sidat & Mithra had the following partnerships.

1982/83	- 1st wkt	- 10 runs	- Sidat (2) & Mithra (55)	- vs Zimbabwe (1)
		33 runs	- Sidat (12) & Mithra (18)	
1982/83	- 1st wkt	- 6 runs	- Sidat (5) & Mithra (5)	- vs Zimbabwe (2)
		0 runs	- Sidat (0) & Mithra (38)	- vs Zimbabwe
1982/83	- 1st wkt	- 49 runs	- Sidat (63x) & Mithra (7)	- vs New Zealand
		14 runs	- Sidat (17) & Mithra (5)	

The batting averages of the 3 brothers in first class cricket :

	M	In	NO	HS	Runs	AV	50/100	Bowling	Ct/St
S.R. de S. Wettimuny	40	70(4)	0	121	1770	20.3	/2	1/53	1510 211
(1970-1979)									
M. de S. Wettimuny	9	15	2	55	268	20.6	1/0		
Sidat Wettimuny	FC -	-							
	(T) 13	43	1	190	1221	29.07	2/6		
(1975/76 - 1986/87)	(W) 35	33	1	36x	786	24.56	0/3		

The Wettimuny brothers have some good Limited Overs partnerships with other partners in International matches. They are :

1st	- 170 runs	- Sidat Wettimuny (46) & B. Warnapura (106) vs Australia	- 1980/81 (a)
	- 101 runs	- Sidat Wettimuny (56) & E.R.N.S. Fernando (34) vs Australia	- 1983
2nd	- 170 runs	- Sidat Wettimuny (74) & R.L. Dias (102) vs India	- 1982/83 (a)
3rd wkt	- 162 runs	- S.R. de S. Wettimuny (53re) & L.R.D. Mendis (32re) vs Australia	- 1975
		- A.P.B. Tennekoon	
		- M.H. Tissera (52)	
4th wkt	- 112	- S.R. de S. Wettimuny (69) & L.R.D. Mendis (75) vs West Indies	- 1975
			- 1975

Note - In the World Cup - 1975 match Wettimuny & Mendis put on 66 runs. When Mendis retired hurt. Then Wettimuny & Tennekoon added 14 runs when Wettimuny retired hurt & then Tennekoon & Tissera added 82 runs. The 162 runs appeared as a record in One Day Internationals but was erased after a few years. Sunil suffered a severe injury to his right foot from a Jeff Thompson delivery & was in hospital, so was Mendis after being hit on the forehead. With all this "braining" Sri Lankan batsmen showed courage of a high order with 276 for 4 wickets the highest total for a team batting second in World Cup matches for some years.

The brothers Sunil & Sidat have a unique record - both scored the first Sri Lankan 100's against - Pakistan in 1973/74 Sunil vs Pakistan U23, in 1974 Sunil scored Sri Lankan First Century vs Pakistan. In 1982/83 Sidat scored Sri Lankan First Test Century that against Pakistan.

SRI LANKA TEST CAPTAIN

Arjuna Ranatunga - Sri Lanka's 3rd Test Captain, made a come back as the 5th Captain in 1992. Ranatunga a left hand batsman & right arm medium pace bowler was a schoolboy cricketer - who hit the first triple century in Sri Lanka schools cricket for Ananda College. In the same match Ranatunga had a match bag of 10 wickets a unique feat for a 16 year old. Very few schoolboys in cricket history have an achievement of this nature the age level. He lead his College team and made his debut in First Class Cricket at the age of 18 years & 6 months for the Sri Lanka Board President's XI against England 1981/82.

Ranatunga a cricketer with a paunch, has not let this physical encumbrance stand in the way of performances, that is not to say the paunch is advantageous. He is the most consistent Sri Lankan scorer since Test status was granted. He drives cleanly through the covers, hooks efficiently & plays the pull shot to mid with confidence. His consistency has to be admired. Through thick & thin, like Anura Tennekoon of a past era, Ranatunga defends like Horatius, to pull Sri Lanka away from humiliation.

Of Sri Lanka's 49 Tests Ranatunga has appeared in 45. He was shorn of the captaincy in 1990/91. Ranatunga has overcome this period & is back in front stage, in practically every International match. He has scored almost 2500 runs in Tests with the respectable average over 35. His runs included 3 Test hundreds & 20 fifties. In 125 Limited Over Internationals Ranatunga has scored over 3300 runs at an average bordering on 35 runs. In L.O. Internationals he has taken over 60 wickets at an average of 48 runs.

Ranatunga's domestic records are recorded elsewhere in this book. Born on 1st December 1963 he has played for the SSC since 1980 & lead them to victory in many tournaments. Ranatunga is a World Class batsman.



Arjuna Ranatunga

WHERE WOMEN ARE TABOO

By "FLYBYNIGHT"
OF
"The Sunday Observer"

If the Sinhalese Sports Club had never won a match, if it had never nurtured a single All Ceylon captain, it would still claim a large chapter in any serious history of Ceylon in the 20th century. For just one thing – the S.S.C. is one of those rare – too rare – places where the Deadlier Species is taboo. It is the last Male bastion against the sinister infiltration of Woman.

In the old days there were stacks of havens reserved for men only – the pub round the corner, the University, the prize fight, the driving seat, all these were exclusive male preserves. Women weren't allowed even at a relative's grave; they were expected to blow into their sari potas as they are wont to, in the privacy of their homes and were not allowed to interfere in the essentially manly business of burying the dead.

But now? All we have left is the S.S.C. The mere male can waft himself of an evening towards the club house without the slightest fear of encountering any sign of roistering feminine gender.

If there is anything that makes a man lose faith in the human race it is modern Club woman – this is the most venomous of the whole species, far more instantaneously fatal than other well known reptiles such as the mamba and the female hockey player.

But no Clubwoman can throw her avoirdupois around at the S.S.C. The atmosphere is strictly masculine. A sign at the entrance says "No Hobnails" – consider the maleness of the notice with its connotations of deep hairy chests, the thwack of well seasoned bats, memories of "Digger" Clerk's depredations and Jardine's pukka sahib snootiness.

You can wear anything you like – well, almost anything, but what is most important is that you can employ all the unladylike terms in your vocabulary. And breathes there a man with a soul so dead who hasn't acquired a vast volume of expletives in his lifetime?

Grouchy women who have failed to domesticate their husbands might imagine that it is alcohol that drives men to the club. Nonsense. It is the "maleness" of the company that takes us there. Only the boulder likes long doses of feminine company. The average man – and most men are average men – would perish without his quota of male companionship.

At the S.S.C. this masculine exclusiveness is rooted in tradition. A lady may not come to extract her spouse from a poker game. Even the servants take a dim view of it – and show it. No anxious wife may ring up to inquire when her man is coming home to roost – she is liable to be snubbed by the barman. Nice work.

The moment the S.S.C. relaxes its relentless defence of this tradition and admits the first woman member you'll find all sorts of convent girls, female athletes trained by Brant Little by Little Women with Higher Education and all sorts of weird creepy crawlies ruining the landscape. And what is more, you can write off Ceylon cricket as a thing of the past.

THE WETTIMUNY TRIO



SUNIL WETTIMUNY



M. (MITHRA) WETTIMUNY



S. (SIDATH) WETTIMUNY

SINGHALESE SPORTS CLUB

Athletics, National Titles in Other Sports & Double Internationals

ATHLETICS MEETS at the SINGHALESE SPORTS CLUB

Sinhalese Sports Club did much to foster other sports such as Athletics & Football. The few items I have been able to collect are listed below. Some famous names connected with SSC Cricket appear in the list below. Dr. C.H. Gunasekera, D.L. de Saram, E.I. Gunasekera, E.M. Karunaratne, L.A. Rajapakse (later Sir Lalitha & Minister), O.S. de Silva, Inspector General of Police were other outstanding club athletes, J.L. Kotelawala (later Sir John) was Prime Minister.

	<u>1920</u>	<u>1926</u>	<u>1909</u>
100 yds	Dr. C.H. Gunasekera - 10.3/5 sec. L.A. Rajapakse Peiris	O.S. de Silva - 10.4/5 sec P.C.W. Peiris Felix Perera	E.I. Gunasekera - 10.8 sec.
Throwing the Cricket Ball	A.W. Rodrigo - 92 yds Dr. C.H. Gunasekera	K.T. Wimalasekera J. de Silva C.F. Jayatilleke	
Long Jump	L.A. Rajapakse - 17 ft 7 1/4" A.W. Rodrigo Dr. C.H. Gunasekera	F. de Silva - 17 ft. 4" C.F. Jayatilleke P.C.W. Peiris	E.M. Karunaratne - 17 ft. 9"
Throwing the Hammer	D.L. de Sarem - 64 yds 6 ft. J.L. Kotelawala		
120 yds Hurdles	L.A. Rajapakse G. Ranawake E.I. Gunasekera	O.S. de Silva D.S. Senanayake C. Jayatilleke	W.W. Wickramasinghe - 20 secs
Quarter Mile (Open)	C.F. Jayatilleke - 56 3/5 sec T.R. Jansen	D.W.L. Lieversz - 56 2/5 sec C. Serasinghe E.W. Ranasinghe	A.E. Christoffelsz - 54 sec x
High Jump	Dr. C.H. Gunasekera - 4 ft. 9 L.A. Rajapakse K.D. Edward	O.S. de Silva Dr. C.H. Gunasekera C. Jayatilleke	E.M. Karunaratne - 5 ft. 5"
Quarter Mile	G. Ranawake - 59 sec L.A. Rajapakse A.W. Rodrigo	P.C.W. Peiris B. Amarasuriya Charles Jayatilleke	E.I. Gunasekera - 55 1/5 sec
One Mile	G. Ranawake - 5m 51 1/2 sec K.D. Edward V.R. Gunasekera		
Putting the Shot		J.W. Wijesinghe S.G. de Zoysa S.W. Dassanaikie	D.L. de Saram - 29 ft 9"
220 yds		O.S. de Silva F. de Silva P.C.W. Peiris	
Half Mile (Open)		W. de Alwis S.A.W. Mottau J. Woutersz	
Half Mile		D.S. Senanayake B. Amarasuriya Fred E. de Silva	
Championship	L.A. Rajapakse	O.S. de Silva	
Pillow Fight	G. Ranawake	J.W. Wijesinghe	

Judges Sir Solomon Dias Bandaranaike
 Lt. Col. T.Y. Wright
 E.L.F. de Soysa
 Lt. Col. T.G. Jayawardene
 Lt. Col. J.A. Symons
 Lt. Col. D. Rockwood

Time Keepers W.T. Greswell
 O.E. Goonatilleke
 D.L. de Saram

Starters Capt. L. Mc D. Robinson
 C.M. Young -
 D.B. Gunasekera

Sir S.C. Obeysekera presented the championship Gold Medal.

FOOTBALL

In 1925 the Club played against various teams - Dehiwela Football Club, Government Services, and Havelocks Sports Club. Some SSC teams given below include well known cricketers - L. de S. Siriwardene, C. Abeysundera & H.F. Goonawardene, J.W.S.R. Senaratne, H. Abeysundera, P.C.W. Peiris, Dr. C.H. Gunasekera, L.D.S. Gunasekera, F.L. Siriwardena, G.L. Jayawardene, C.H. Wittatchy, Also A. Hettiaratchi, A.W. Rodrigo, L.J.O. Wijesekera.

SSC/CEYLON OTHER SPORTS - NATIONAL TITLES

	<u>ATHLETICS</u>		<u>TENNIS</u>		<u>BOXING</u>		<u>GOLF</u>	
100 yds	1929	O.S. de Silva ¹	1919	E.R. de Saram - Singles	F.C. Jayawardene	1947	W.P. Fernando	
	1930	O.S. de Silva	1925	F. de Saram	()	1948	W.P. Fernando	
	1931	O.S. de Silva	1941	F.J. de Saram		1953	W.P. Fernando	
	1938	R.G.S. de S. Illesinghe ³	1947	F.J. de Saram				
220 yds	1930	O.S. de Silva	1950	F.J. de Saram				
	1931	O.S. de Silva	1919	E.R. de Saram - Doubles				
	1932	O.S. de Silva		& F. de Saram				
120 yds Hurdles	1927	O.S. de Silva		F. de Saram				
	1928	O.S. de Silva	1930	F. de Saram				
	1929	O.S. de Silva		F.C. de Saram				
	1930	O.S. de Silva	1924)	Dr. C.H. Gunasekera				
220 yds Hurdles	1931	O.S. de Silva	1925)	&				
	1932	O.S. de Silva	1926)	O.M.L. Pinto				
			1929)					
			1940)	F.C. de Saram				
Pole Vault	1941	D.E.M. Gunasekera ⁴ - 11f	1941)	&				
			1947)	F.J. de Saram				
Putt Shot	1926	) J.W. Wijesinghe - 37 ft	1948)				
	1927	)	1949)				
	1928)						
	1929	)	1950	F.J. de Saram			
	1930)		&				
	1931	)		N. de Costa			
			1952	C.I. Gunasekera				
				& L.P. Ernst				
Throwing the Javelin	1926	W.P.L. Abhayaratne	1928	Mixed Doubles Dr. C.H. Gunasekera & Mrs. W.B. Bartleet				
			1930	Dr. C.H. Gunasekera & Miss M. Brown				
			1941)	F.C. de Saram &				
			1946)	Miss S. Roberts				
			1947)	C.I. Gunasekera &				
			1948)	Mrs. D.G.E. Wijewardene				
			1952	C.I. Gunasekera				

Note - Athletics :

1921 - At the Inaugural A.A.A. Meet held on 20th Sept. 1921, 63 competitors participated, among them the following from the S.S.C. Dr. C.H. Gunasekera (Sinhalese SC), C.F.C. Jayewardene (Government Training College), D.L. de Saram (Sinhalese SC), G. Ranawake (Sinhalese SC), J.B.C. Rodrigo (Government Training College).

- (1) O.S. de Silva won his title while an undergraduate at University College. He held the Ceylon record for the first 2 events (1931).
- (2) **THROWING THE CRICKET BALL** was one of the events for many years at the AAA. D.L. de Saram with a throw of 118 yds 10 ins held the Ceylon record. The World Record at that time 1922 was held by R. Percival with 140 yds - 2 ft. de Saram performed the record at the Chum AC meet in 1908.
- (4) R.G.S. de S. Illesinghe (popularly known a Shirley) was a good right arm fast medium bowler & hard hitting right hand batsman. He was a versatile sportsman at St. Peter's College. He won his colours at Cricket, Rugby, Athletics & Tennis.
- (5) D.E.M. Gunasekera (popularly known as Desmond) a good right arm fast bowler & a good right hand batsman. Desmond had some amazing bowling performances till ill health put an end of this career in 1942. He won the National Pole Vault title in 1941 while still at Royal College. If not for his illness he may have been dubbed the "best of the Gunaskeras" - a "title" bestowed early this century by writers on his father E.I. Gunasekera. Desmond is still with us.

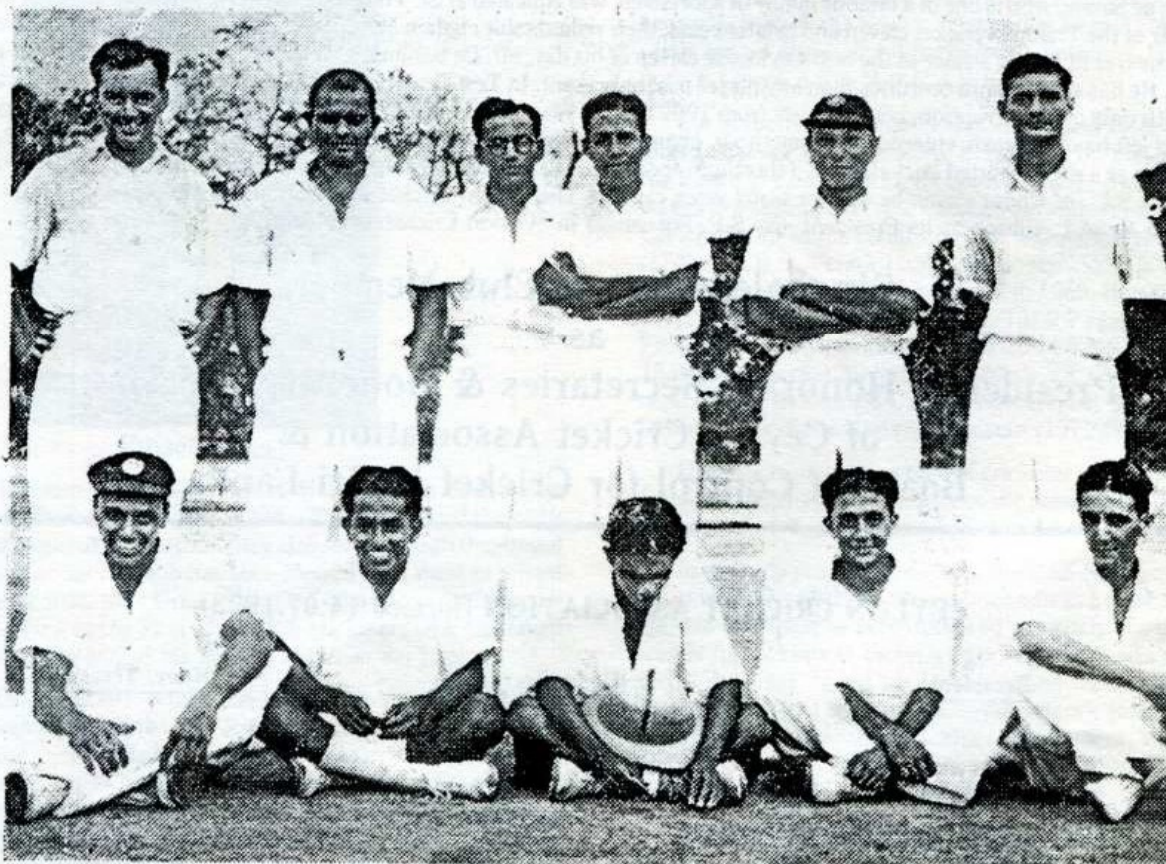
Golf - W.P. Fernando (1947) at 23 years of age was the youngest player to win the National title.

S.S.C./SRI LANKA - DOUBLE INTERNATIONALS

	<u>Cricket</u>	<u>Rugby</u>	<u>Tennis</u>	<u>Athletics</u>	<u>Hockey</u>
1) Dr. C.H. Gunasekera	1927 (MCC)	-	1933 (NZ)	-	-
2) F.C. de Saram	1937 (Sir Julian Cahns XI)	-	1950 (India)	-	-
3) R.B. Wijesinghe	1949 (Pakistan)	-	-	1940 (India)	-
4) M. Rodrigo	1949 (West Indies)	1950 (British Isles)	-	-	-
5) F.J. de Saram	1950 (Commonwealth)	-	1950 (India)	-	-
6) R.G. Abeynaike	1977 (M.C.C.)	-	-	1976 (India)	-

Note - Dr. C.H. Gunasekera captained Ceylon at Cricket (1934).
 F.C. de Saram captained Ceylon at Tennis (1950) - All India Championships
 R.B. Wijesinghe participated in Hop Step & Jump in Ceylon - Indian Athletics contest
 All instances first appearance.

ALL CEYLON TEAM Vs. AUSTRALIA (1948)



Standing (L. to R.) F.C. de Saram, S.S. Jayawickreme, S. Coomaraswamy, M. Sathasivam, B.R. Heyn, C.I. Gunasekera.

(On ground) B. Navaratne, H. Perera, M. Rodrigo, S. Nagendra, H.S. Oorloff.
 Five S.S.C. players selected to play against the Australians & 12th man from S.S.C.

OFFICE BEARERS of CEYLON CRICKET ASSOCIATION & BOARD OF CONTROL FOR CRICKET

1927 – 1993

FIRST SINGHALESE SPORTS CLUB MEMBER
AS
PRESIDENT OF THE CEYLON CRICKET ASSOCIATION (1927)

Mr. D.L. De SARAM

The greatest all round Ceylonese cricketer of the past half century is undoubtedly Mr. Douglas de Saram, whom the Ceylon Cricket Association has elected to be its President for the current year. Ceylon has in the past four decades produced a few cricketers of outstanding capability, and among them may be mentioned the names of Dr. Allan Raffel, Mr. T. Kelaart, Dr. J.A. Scharenguivel and the late Mr. C.E. Perera, but remarkable as have been the records of this famous quartet of Ceylonese not one of them won such distinction with bat and ball in Ceylon Cricket as the new President of the C.C.A. Born on October 15th, 1882, Mr. D.L. de Saram, who is one of a famous family of sportsmen, was educated at St. Thomas' College, that great nursery of famous cricketers of the past. As a member of the Thomian cricket eleven and in later years, their redoubtable captain Mr. de Saram established a great many records. While still a school boy cricketer he was fit to find a place in the best Ceylonese eleven of his day. Mr. De Saram's record in Ceylon club cricket is one of which any player might well be proud. He has scored more centuries than any player past or present. In Test Cricket he has established more than one rare record. He led the Ceylonese eleven, with only one interruption, continuously from 1909 till this year, when he had the honour of being Captain of the Ceylonese against the M.C.C. A magnificent left hand batsman, vigorous in his methods, charming in style and possessing an ideal temperament for big cricket, Mr. de Saram won for himself a reputation as a great-hearted cricketer and a thorough sportman. His greatest batting and bowling triumphs were gained for the Nondescripts C.C. and the Sinhalese S.C., of whose eleven he was for many years captain. The Ceylon Cricket Association has honoured itself in electing this popular sportsman to succeed Mr. A.L. Gibson as its President. (By S.P. Foenunder in "Ceylon Cricketers Almanack" – 1927).

Singhalese Sports Club Members
as
Presidents, Honorary Secretaries & Honorary Treasurers
of Ceylon Cricket Association &
Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka

CEYLON CRICKET ASSOCIATION (formed 14.07.1922)

	<u>President</u>	<u>Hony. Secretary</u>	<u>Hony. Treasurer</u>
1923	- -	-	D.L. de Saram
1924	- -	-	L.J.M. Peiris
1927	- D.L. de Saram	-	-
1929	- -	L.V. Gooneratne	L.V. Gooneratne
1931	- D.S. Senanayake	-	-
1935	- -	L.V. Gooneratne	L.V. Gooneratne
1939)		
-	) - -	B.E.R. Cooray	B.E.R. Cooray
1945)		
1948	) - -	-	B.E.R. Cooray
1949)		

1952	)	-	Hon. J.R. Jayewardene	-	-
-)	-	-	-	-
1955)	-	-	-	-
1953	)	-	-	-	Lt. Col. F.C. de Saram
1955)	-	-	-	-
1957	)	-	R.P. Senanayake	-	-
-)	-	-	-	-
1965)	-	-	-	-
1957)	-	-	-	-
-	)	-	-	-	V.J.H. Gunasekera
1961)	-	-	-	-

BOARD OF CONTROL FOR CRICKET (formed 1948)

1948/49	)	-	-	-	B.E.R. Cooray
1951/52)	-	-	-	-
1952)	-	-	-	-
-	)	-	Hon. J.R. Jayewardene	-	-
1955)	-	-	-	-
1953)	-	-	-	-
-	)	-	-	-	Lt. Col. F.C. de Saram
1955)	-	-	-	-
1957)	-	-	-	-
-	)	-	R.P. Senanayake	-	-
1966)	-	-	-	-
1957)	-	-	-	-
-	)	-	-	-	V.J.H. Gunasekera
1960)	-	-	-	-
1967/68)	-	-	-	-
-	)	-	R.P. Senanayake	-	-
1975/76)	-	-	-	-
1989/90	)	-	P. I. Peiris	-	-

CURATORS



Russell Hamer

Whether the batsmen and bowlers go to Heaven or in the reverse direction depends on the man behind the scene – Those who tend the pitch with loving care throughout the season. They also serve though they stand & wait. The Singhalese Sports Club has been blessed with some excellent personalities starting from the "Great Abdul". Today's curator, Russell Hamer is about the First of the First Class Club cricketers who has taken on a Curator's job at the end of his playing career in Sri Lanka.

The men behind the scene – they too have to be remembered. The Curator of the Singhalese Sports Club, Russell Percival Peter HAMER – born on 12.06.1947 excelled as a schoolboy at Wesley College not as a famous wicket keeper but as a good bowler. It is on record that in 1964 Russell & Mervyn Hamer shared all the spoils against Royal. No pair of brothers in Ceylon (as we were known) had dismissed all 10 batsmen in an innings. This record in Inter College Cricket or any other grade of cricket

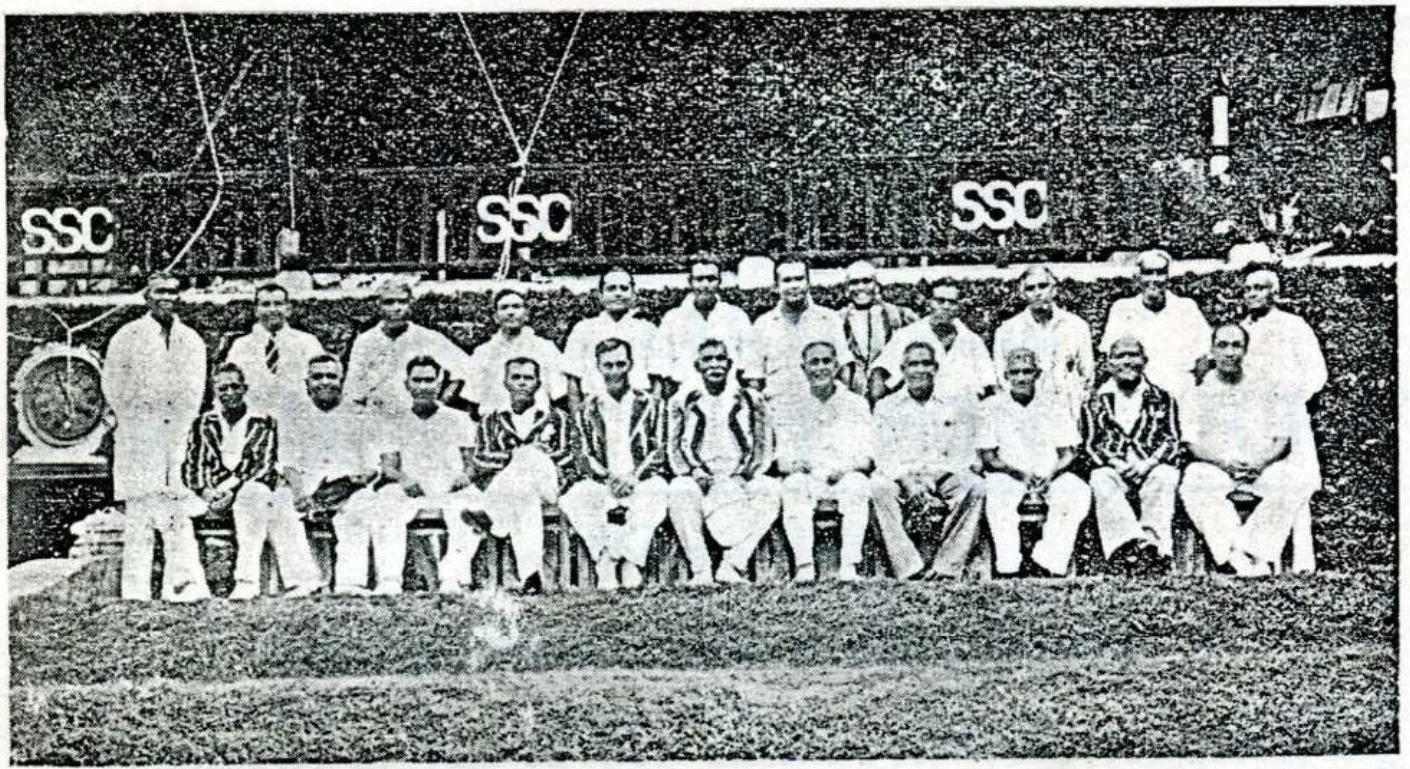
in Ceylon has not seen such a performance. Brother Mervyn was the wicket keeper & Russell the bowler. The wicket keeper created a Royal - Wesley series record dismissing 6 batsmen & allowed no byes. Russell's bowling figures were 6.5 0 1 M 9 R 4 W.

For some reason Russell Hamer decided to don the wicket keeping gloves & he made a good job of it. He made his first class debut in 1964 for the Board of Control U 27 XI against Madras (Gopalan Trophy Team). He was a hard hitting left hand batsman & brilliant wicket keeper. He has one Ceylon record to his credit, the 2nd wkt partnership of 297 runs. Hamer (174) & A.G.G. Perera (104) for Bloomfield C & AC vs BRC in the P. Saravanamuttu Trophy Tournament in 1969. Hamer played in 3 Unofficial Tests vs MCC & vs Pakistan (1972/73) & 2 against India in 1974/75. His First Class career figures are 15 M 26 In 0 No 52 HS (vs Madras) 383 R 15.9 Av – wicket keeping dismissals 29 (21ct & 8st). Hamer played regularly for Bloomfield C & AC. Hamer made 3 trips overseas all to India. Debut in Unofficial Tests vs Pakistan (1972/73).

Hamer a rumbustious type of cricketer who had a few 'jaw jaws' with Internationals has been Curator of the present grounds for some years. He has produced Test pitches which have received commendation.

In the early years from the time the old S.S.C. grounds was laid out with a turf in 1917 "ABDUL" the groundsman as a name mentioned frequently. He was an expert at preparation of the pitch. He knew his job. It was a wicket full of runs at Victoria Park. If ever he was asked how's the pitch today, he'd say "good for batting, good for bowling". Must have been better for bowling most of D.S. Jayasundera's amazing bowling feats were recorded on this ground. Blackhan Wijewardene, Kalay Gooneratne (fast), M.O. Gooneratne, George Perera, L.E. de Zoysa. Who used this batting wicket for bowling.

And lastly the SSC should remember Perumal who served the SSC at the new venue at Maitland Place for many years.



S.S.C. vs PARLIAMENT 1949 – *Standing left to right* : A.C. Ahmat (Umpire), Somawira Gunasekera (Hony. Secy.), A.E. Goonesinha, M.D. Banda, Albert Peris, M. Senanayake, Montague Jayewickreme, G.H. Wijeratne, V.A. Sugathadasa, C.C. Senaratne, J.B.C. Rodrigo, (Umpire).
Seated : E.B. Wikremanayake, E.A. Nugawela, L.A. Rajapakse, H.B. Kannangara, F.C. de Saram, D.S. Senanayake, Francis Molamure, J.L. Kotelawala, Dr. C.H. Gunasekera, B.E.R. Cooray, J.R. Jayewardene.



DAILY NEWS CUP FINAL 1947 – 48 : The S.S.C. "A" Team met the S.S.C. "B" Team, a memorable event in 1947-48.

Standing left to right are : M.O. Gooneratne, H.I. Fernando, F.G. Dalpathado, G. Gooneratne, D.D. Jayasinghe, Percy Perera, F.J. de Saram, R.E.M. Weerasinghe, H.T. Gunasekera, J. Halangoda, G. Gunasena, Victor Perera.

Seated : F.R. de Saram, B. Navaratne, H.S. Roberts, S.S. Jayawickreme, (Capt. "B" Team), F.C. de Saram, (Capt. "A" Team), R.B. Wijesinghe, L.E. de Zoysa, C.I. Gunasekera.

On Ground : Hector Perera, M. Rodrigo.

FIRST OVERSEAS CRICKET TOUR

by

SINGHALESE SPORTS CLUB

1945/46

to

India—Madras, Baroda, Bombay

FIRST OVERSEAS CRICKET TOUR BY THE SINGHALESE SPORTS CLUB

Ryle de Soysa remembers a Pleasant & Successful Tour

In 1945 after the War had ended, we were fortunate to entertain a Australian Services team who were returning to their country after serving with the Allied Forces in Europe.

This team had one game at the Tamil Union towards the latter part of that year and contained many young cricketers who had to achieve prominence in the Test arena but who had shown great potential in a series of games against English sides in a Summer which was celebrating victory over Nazi Germany. Outstanding amongst them were Lindsay Hassett who was to follow the one and only Don Bradman as the next captain of Australia, Keith Miller who hit a six over the pavilion at Lords during the course of their victory over the MCC side, Christofani who served as Trade Commissioner in Ceylon a few years after the visit of this team, Cecil Pepper, a magnificent spin bowler but a quite uncontrollable character and many others who achieved subsequent fame for their country. This visit was immediately followed by a tour from an Indian Test side containing the full cricketing strength of that country but were in Colombo only for a short period during which, to the best of my knowledge, they played three games, against the Ceylon Services team, the Board President's Eleven and finally a "Test" against All Ceylon.

At that time the Singhalese Sports Club was invincible under the guidance of Sargo Jayawickreme, Derrick de Saram and the incomparable master mind Chippie Gunasekera who acted as Coach, Manager and close friend of all the members of the team. His technical knowledge of cricket would have been unrivalled in any part of the world and I recall Pat McCarthy who had by then played for West Australia in Sheffield Shield matches against Lindwall and Miller at their best, stating that in all its experience no one had excelled in cricketing knowledge as much as Chippie Gunasekera. I am sure all of us who had the benefit of his coaching would endorse this opinion of his capabilities.

Perhaps due to the enthusiasm created by this Indian visit, staunch supporters of the Club set about arranging a tour in India by the SSC. In a very short time due to the friendly relations we had established with the Indian team and their officials whilst they were in Colombo, a short tour

involving four matches in approximately one month was arranged from mid December 1945 to the middle of January 1946. However the question of finance had to be faced and unknown to most of us "Bing" Wijeratne, a most popular member and supporter of cricket had already approached the late Sir Ernest Fernando, the Chairman of Bogala Graphite, to meet the expenses of the team on tour. Amongst many enthusiastic and, to use an expressive word, "die hard" supporters and Office Bearers of the Club, three personalities stand out clearly in my mind. They were Messrs. L.V. Goonaratne, whom many of us had known from our school days at Royal, a stern but much beloved Master for many years, and remembered by thousands in various walks of life; H.B. Kannangara, a popular cricketer of the past and a stalwart at the Colombo Municipality and "Bing" Wijeratne, persistent and untiring member of the SSC Second Eleven; the father of Ranjan, a hero in recent times, formed a trio of supporters par excellence. But for their persistence I doubt whether the tour would have been organised. This left the team under the Management of Bertie de Silva, to show their mettle against the might of experienced opponents with twenty years of Test Cricket behind them.

We travelled by train and crossed over to India as our first game was to take place in Madras. As far as I can recall, our side which included seven, possibly eight, members of the Club who played against India, felt confident that we would perform with much success on the tour. The opening match against Madras substantiated this anticipation as we had an easy victory over a side which contained two players who had recently visited Ceylon. One was Ram Singh, a spin bowler, and useful batsman, and a fast bowler who played on a few occasions for India with limited success.

There were two centuries on our side from our Captain, Sago Jayawickreme and Derrick de Saram and many other useful scores resulting in a total exceeding 400 runs and an eventual innings victory against the local side. Unfortunately our success was not appreciated by the home team's supporters and I seem to recall bottles and brick bats being thrown at our fielders on the boundaries. We were reasonably housed though not in the one outstanding hotel in the city at that time, but the fine spirit which prevailed amongst our players made all conditions acceptable amongst such enjoyable company.

We had many mirth-makers in our midst who kept the more staid participants in fits of laughter. Outstanding amongst them were Alex (Kale) Goonaratne, a massive individual who represented Ceylon on many occasions including the recent Test and who always led a life of gay abandon which was ably supported by Lucien de Zoysa, an incomparable raconteur with an endless fund of most improbable stories, a few of which

however were inclined to be somewhat true. The third of these Musketeers was our lanky Koo de Saram, whose quiet humour was in contrast to the extrovert expressions of his close companions. Alex would always recall his appearance against Bradman's team a few years later which was played at the Tamil Union grounds. The ground staff was then controlled by a groundswoman and by particularly inefficient action on the part of the staff and Umpires, the wickets had been fixed 20 yards apart. To the surprise of the early batsmen, the balls appeared to be over pitched and scoring was fairly easy. However the position was not realised until one of them, I believe it was Don Bradman, remarked to Sago Jayawickreme that however competent the bowling, there would never be a run out. Alex's moment of glory came with the total eclipse of Fingleton neck and crop with his first ball. I can even now hear him describing the perfection of his delivery.

We next embarked on a long Train journey in a carriage reserved for the team all the way to Baroda. The journey itself was tedious but the company with many potential Music Hall stars kept us thoroughly entertained. At that time the railway system was not so well coordinated but as we were visiting one of the most wealthy Indian States in the continent, we had much to anticipate. Our host and hostess were the Maharaja and Maharani of Baroda, the Maharani was the second wife of the Ruler, also known as the Gaekwar. He was a descendent from a strong and powerful father who at the Durbar or Grand Reception to the King Emperor and Queen refused to follow instructions to walk backwards, from their presence but instead turned his back on Royalty and walked to his seat with every sign of equality.

His son unfortunately did not maintain these high standards and had visited Ceylon to participate in the Tennis Championships in Nuwara Eliya. However his greatest interest was in the Sport of Kings or Horse Racing in England during which he won a Derby and another classic in the 30's.

We arrived in Baroda late in the evening and were entertained in a Palace some distance from the City with the dimensions and comforts of a five star hotel and after a hurried change of clothing, we were entertained to a sumptuous meal and unlimited liquid refreshments. I seem to remember Members of the Gaekwar's entourage in sparkling uniforms with wives in georgeous sarees. A band was playing and the food was in marked contrast to the meals on our train. I cannot recall whether we played cricket the very next day but it was enjoyable to listen to music and relax in good company.

The first innings of our game was not a success, perhaps due to the long train journey and the strain of the night's entertainment which had its effect on us. We were all out for a score in the region of 100 but we were successful in dismissing Baroda for a moderate total although their side included many outstanding Indian players including Vijay Hazare, a most dependable batsman and useful medium pace bowler with many outstanding test performances to his credit. During a subsequent tour of Australia he scored twin centuries in one Test and I shall remember him as a most gentle and refined person of sterling character. I was pleased to hear from Sunil Gavaskar during the recent Test on our grounds that Hazare is fit and well and he had met him only a few days before he arrived in Colombo. I would imagine that he is now in his 80's but being an individual of impeccable habits, should live for many years.

Our bowlers were performing very effectively with D.S. Jayasundera proving very effective on a matting wicket until Nimbalkar who kept wickets for them came and scored a rapid 90. In the second innings our batting flourished with Derrick de Saram and Hector Perera performing with great determination against another outstanding spin bowler, Amir Elahi who played in a number of tests for India but without the same success as some of their more renowned spin bowlers of later generations.

Whilst we were in Baroda, we were taken to the main Palace which was in the city and introduced to the Senior Maharani and shown the Stables and stud farm where a number of outstanding thoroughbreds belonging to the Aga Khan had been imported from England just before World War II began.

Baroda itself is renowned for the efficiency of the Government and the concern shown towards the people of the State unlike some of the princely States where the difference between the rich and the poor was very marked.

Our next destination was Bombay. This contest was to be the highlight of our cricketing challenge on this tour. We played at the Brabourne Stadium, at that time the finest ground in India but we found it

uncomfortable due to the elimination of the breeze by the height of the stands all round the grounds. We were lodged in Greens Hotel at the back of the Taj and though smaller in size and less pretentious was adequate for us as three full days of cricket took most of our time. The outstanding personality in the Bombay team was Vijay Merchant, the captain of India another charming personality, a successful textile manufacturer and one of the most outstanding batsmen of his time. Indian cricket only blossomed to its present heights after the 70's. Before the period of Gavaskar and his contemporaries, pace bowlers were their major weakness but since then they have become highly successful in all departments of the game but still lack an all-round pace attack. On our tour with D.S. Jayasundera, "Kalay" Goonaratne and Fairlie Dalpadado, we had a very useful trio of medium pace bowlers with Jayasundera with his speed and lift capable of outstanding performances. Our batting was our strength and this was proved once again when we followed up a good bowling performance, dismissing Bombay quite cheaply in the first innings. A major blow to our opponents was the early dismissal of Vijay Merchant by Jayasundera off a perfect off cutter at a lively pace. Our spinners were very effective, both George Pereira and Lucien de Zoysa presented many problems to their batsmen and only Merchant's brother, also a heavy scorer in Ranji Trophy cricket prevented a collapse. Lucien was as deceptive as ever, bowling with a pronounced leggie's action whilst coming off the pitch as straight as an arrow. In fact he almost missed a hat-trick of dropped catches of his bowling. Merchant Jnr. was playing with some aggression, and Lucien was bowling a good length when a simple chance was dropped at mid-on. The ball which followed was a repetition, the blow indential and the result the same. At the end of the over when mid on was taken to task he had a ready reply - "well, if he had repeated that stroke again, I guarantee I would have caught it".

Our batsmen were in great form on a good wicket. Koo, Sargo, Hector Perera, our brilliant cover point and hard hitting left hander and many others made many runs and when we finally declared, Bombay had a limited spell at the wickets for their second innings. We were now coming to the end of our tour and the New Year was being celebrated. I seem to remember a night of festivities in the Taj Hotel with large crowds bent on enjoying themselves, and finally the end of a successful display at the Stadium where we outplayed a strong side but without a victory.

The final stage of the journey was a visit to Poona to play the local State's side led by Prof. P.B. Deodhar. As his death has recently been announced at the age of 100, he would have been 52 when he faced us. Needless to say he was uncomfortable against fast bowling, but his Life's innings has been long and commendable. The visit was a definite anticlimax as no one was present to greet us at the railway station and the accommodation was quite appalling. Once again our side was far too efficient and powerful for the local team with the result that we did not require three days to beat the opposition but kept to the time table for the return journey to Colombo.

I have been asked for reminiscences of my cricketing days with the Club. Unfortunately, I ceased to play serious cricket from about 1950 as I became too involved in business matters. My activities required regular visits out of Colombo and as a result I could not keep up regular practice and justify my place in the side.

As I had the privilege of playing a great deal abroad, it is my opinion that as pure amateurs the standard of our cricket was highly competent. As we are all aware the great difference between cricket in those days and the present, is the marked improvement in all-round standard of fielding. This is essentially due to the high degree of fitness achieved by the majority of players who, as a result, are true athletes displaying both speed and stamina. Nevertheless we had in our side some outstanding fielders, especially Hector Perera who was extremely unfortunate never to be capped All Ceylon, Bertie Wijesinghe, Sargo Jayawickreme in the slips and of course the brilliant Ben Navaratne behind the stumps. Ben had always been a fitness fanatic and in his keenness he occasionally chased the ball to the boundary. He however had a habit of removing the bails at least three times in every over as he stood up to the stumps to medium fast bowlers such as Alex Goonaratne and at times even to D.S. Jayasundera. If he felt there was a chance of stumping he felt this was his duty. His tenor voice was very much in demand in addition to his wicket keeping prowess which kept him in the side for the Club and All Ceylon for many years. Many members of his family have now emigrated to Canada. He had a son who played for the Club before going abroad. In my opinion we had an excellent

all-round team when compared with our present day cricketers. I would state that they were more mature in their approach to the game. Most international sides would have been glad to have numbers 3, 4 and 5 as competent and as reliable as Derrick de Saram, Sargo Jayawickreme and M. Sathasivam assuming that they had the same experience in the sport as test players of other countries.

When we consider the performances of our outstanding players with their limited engagements against the strength of other nations the manner in which many of our batsmen succeeded in scoring heavily in the period after the Second World War, I am confident that their performances would have equalled, if not bettered, the results of the 80's and 90's. Needless to say they would have had to achieve the same standards of fitness in long periods spent in practice as the present day cricketers. Cricket played at that time gave us the greatest pleasure and the standards of sportsmanship far surpassed the exhibitions of today. There were no arguments with Umpires, no sledging and unfortunate decisions which went against the player were accepted as part of the game. Regrettably such standards have now to be enforced by governing bodies of national teams, over looked by the International authority governing the game at its highest level.



M. K. Albert and L. D. S. Gunasekera going out to open the innings.



The Souvenir Committee wishes to thank most sincerely Mr. Nisal Senaratne for his untiring efforts in organising the Musical Extravaganza to collect funds for the tour.



DUDLEY SENANAYAKE

Prime Minister of Ceylon
1952

SINHALESE SPORTS CLUB VS MADRAS CRICKET ASSOCIATION XI

DATE: 23rd, 24th, 26th December 1945.
VENUE: Chepauk Grounds, Madras.
CAPTAINS: F.C. de Saram (SSC) - C.P. Johnstone (Madras).
WICKET-KEEPERS: Ben Navaratne (SSC) - M.O. Sirinivasan (Madras).

UMPIRES:
RESULT: S.S.C. won by an Innings and 113 Runs.
TOSS WON BY:
NOTES: 1st day - SSC - 308 for 5; 2nd day - 381 & Madras 181; 3rd day - Madras 81; Match finished shortly after lunch.

S.S.C. 1ST INNINGS

G.R.J. de Soysa	ct & b Ramsingh	22
F.J. de Saram	b Rangachari	62
F.C. de Saram	ct Rangachari b Ramsingh	170
S.S. Jayawickrama	ct Sirinivasan b Ramsingh	6
A.H. Gooneratne	ct Johnstone b Kannan	27
R.B. Wijesinghe	ct & b Ramsingh	36
H. Perera	ct Ramsingh b Venkatesan	29
B. Navaratne	ct Sirinivasan b Venkatesan	4
L.E. de Zoysa	ct Salahuddin b Venkatesan	10
G. Pereira	ct Salahuddin b Ramsingh	1
D.S. Jayasundera	b Ramsingh	8
	Extras	6
TOTAL		381

FALL OF WKTS: 50, 128, 137, 192, 273, 354, 362 ... 381.

BOWLING

	O	M	R	W
M.J. Gopalan	8	2	25	0
Salahuddin	8	0	26	0
A.G. Ramsingh	43	5	124	5
C.R. Rangachari	29	5	94	1
N.J. Vankatesan	16.2	1	57	3
R.M. Perumal	5	0	20	0
K.S. Kannan	7	1	14	1
C.P. Johnstone	4	0	13	0

MADRAS CRICKET ASSOCIATION XI

1st Innings:		2nd Innings:		
C.P. Johnstone	ct Navaratne	90	b Jayasundera	33
	b Perera			
N. Siri	b Jayasundera	0	b Jayawickrama	13
A.G. Ramsingh	ct and b	1	st Navaratne	18
	Jayasundera		b Pereira	
M.V. Bobji	b de Zoysa	19	ct F.C. de Saram	2
			b Pereira	
M.J. Gopalan	b de Zoysa	0	b de Zoysa	8
K.S. Kannan	b de Zoysa	13	ct Gooneratne	1
			b Pereira	
N.J. Venkatesan	b de Zoysa	0	b de Zoysa	5
Salahuddin	b Jayasundera	33	b Pereira	1
C.R. Rangachari	b Pereira	0	ct F.J. de Saram	2
			b Pereira	
R.M. Perumal	not out	12	ct Navaratne	0
			b Jayawickrama	
M.O. Sirinivasan	ct Wijesinghe	2	not out	1
	b Pereira			
Extras		11	Extras	3
TOTAL		181	TOTAL	87

FALL OF WKTS:
 1ST: 9, 10, 56, 60, 94, 94, 163, 167, 167, 181.
 2ND: 26, 36, 58, 72, 75, 77, 79, 80, 85, 87.

BOWLING

	O	M	R	W	O	M	R	W
D.S. Jayasundera	16	5	41	3	8	1	33	1
S.S. Jayawickrema	7	1	16	0	6	1	8	2
R.B. Wijesinghe	2	0	5	0	-	-	-	-
L.E. de Zoysa	21	8	56	4	9	4	9	2
G. Pereira	17.5	6	42	3	15.4	7	19	5
Gooneratne	-	-	-	-	5	2	15	0

SINHALESE SPORTS CLUB VS BARODA CRICKET ASSOCIATION XI

DATE: 30th and 31st December, 1945 and 1st January, 1946.
VENUE: Baroda.
CAPTAINS: S.S. Jayawickrama (SSC) and V.S. Hazare (Baroda).
WICKET-KEEPERS: B. Navaratne (SSC) and R.B. Nimbalkar (Baroda).
UMPIRES:
RESULT: Drawn.
NOTES: 1st day - Baroda 294, SSC 83 & 66 for 2; 3rd day - SSC 305 for 4.

BARODA CRICKET ASSOCIATION - 1ST INNINGS

Yakub Sheik	b Jayawickrema	8
M.N. Raiji	run out	85
H.R. Adhikari	ct Jayawickrema b de Zoysa	55
Gul Mohamed		0
R.B. Nimbalkar	ct de Soysa b de Zoysa	61
Amir Elahi	ct de Saram b Pereira	15
V.S. Hazare	b Pereira	15
S.K. Vichare	b Pereira	15
Vivek Hazare		0
A. Patel	b de Zoysa	5
S.V. Patkar	not out	0
EXTRAS		13
TOTAL		294

Fall of wkts -

BOWLING

	O	M	R	W
Dalpathado	-	-	-	-
Jayawickrema	-	-	-	-
G. Pereira	30	10	70	3
de Zoysa	40.5	14	96	5

SINHALESE SPORTS CLUB

1st Innings:		2nd Innings:		
G.R.J. de Soysa	ct V.S. Hazare	9	ct Hazare b Patel	1
	b Patel			
D. Ranasinghe	ct Hazare b Patel	21	b Patel	3
F.C. de Saram	st Nimbalkar	1	not out	137
	b Elahi			
H. Perera	run out	2	b Gul Mohamed	95
S.S.	not out	34	ct Vivek Hazare	1
			b Patel	
Jayawickrama			not out	59
A.H. Gooneratne	b Hazare	6	did not bat	
H.S. Roberts	ct Patel b Elahi	6	did not bat	
B. Navaratne	ct Sheik b Elahi	2	did not bat	
L.E. de Zoysa	b Hazare	0	did not bat	
F.G. Dalpathado	run out	0	did not bat	
G. Pereira	ct Gul Mohamed	0	did not bat	
	b Elahi			
EXTRAS		2	EXTRAS	7
TOTAL		83	TOTAL FOR 4 WKTS	303

Fall of wkts -

BOWLING

	O	M	R	W	O	M	R	W
Hazare	16	3	34	2	-	-	-	-
Patel	14	4	17	2	-	-	-	3
Elahi	13	2	30	4	-	-	-	-
Gul Mohamed	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1

SINHALESE SPORTS CLUB

1st Innings:

2nd Innings:

F.J. de Saram	ct and b M.I. Merchant	58	b Dadyseth	15
G.R.J. de Zoysa	l.b.w. b V.M. Merchant	1	ct V.M. Merchant	6
F.C. de Saram	l.b.w. b Palia	0	b Anersey	17
H. Perera	b Ibrahim	109	ct Cohen	-
S.S. Jayawickrama	b V.M. Merchant	38	b Anersey	0
A.H. Gooneratne	ct V.M. Merchant	20	ct Rajji b Palia	47
R.B. Wijesinghe	b Johanputra	47	ct Cohen b Anersey	2
L.E. de Zoysa	b V.M. Merchant	50	run out	-
B. Navaratne	ct Cohen	34	did not bat	3
G. Pereira	b Anersey	11	not out	-
D.S. Jayasundera	not out	4	ct Cohen	-
Extras	b V.M. Merchant	7	b V.M. Merchant	0
TOTAL		379	TOTAL FOR 5 WKTS	90

SINHALESE SPORTS CLUB VS CRICKET CLUB OF INDIA

DATE: 4th, 5th, 6th January, 1946.
VENUE: Brabourne Stadium, Bombay.
CAPTAINS: S.S. Jayawickrema (SSC) and V.M. Merchant (CCI).
WICKET-KEEPERS: B. Navaratne (SSC) and M. Cohen (CCI).
UMPIRES: D.D. Bilimoria and V.M. Panlekar.
RESULT: Drawn.
NOTES: 1st day CCI 273, SSC 8 for 1; 2nd day SSC 335 for 7, 3rd day SSC 379 and CCI 260 for 4 and SSC 90 for 5.

R.B. Wijesinghe performed the hat-trick in C.C.I. 1st innings dismissing J.S. Lawyer, J.A. Dadyseth and M.I. Merchant. Last ball of 4th over and first two deliveries of 5th over.

FALL OF WKTS:

8, 11, 155, 191, 218, 244, 321, 340, 364 1, 33, 79, 80, 86

BOWLING

	O	M	R	W	O	M	R	W
Palia	35	8	71	1	4	0	18	1
V.M. Merchant	32	9	74	4	2	0	7	0
Johanputra	13	3	33	1	-	-	-	-
Rajji	29.2	2	124	1	-	-	-	-
Ibrahim	13	5	27	1	-	-	-	-
M.I. Merchant	6	0	24	1	2	0	15	0
Anersey	4	0	19	1	6	0	37	2
Dadyseth	-	-	-	-	3	0	13	2

CRICKET CLUB OF INDIA

	1st Innings:	2nd Innings:	
V.M. Merchant	l.b.w.	1	retired 101
K.C. Ibrahim	b Jayasundera	31	retired 102
P.E. Palia	ct Navaratne	25	did not bat -
U.M. Mercant	b de Zoysa	118	did not bat -
J.S. Lawyer	ct Jayasundera	0	ct Pereira 17
J.A. Dadyseth	b de Zoysa	0	ct V.M. Merchant 30
M.I. Merchant	b de Zoysa	0	did not bat -
M.M. Amersey	b de Zoysa	27	did not bat -
M.N. Rajji	l.b.w. b de Zoysa	66	not out 5
M. Cohen	not out	1	did not bat -
K.N. Johanputra	l.b.w. b de Zoysa	0	b H. Perera 5
Extras		4	Extras 0
TOTAL		273	TOTAL FOR 4 WKTS 260

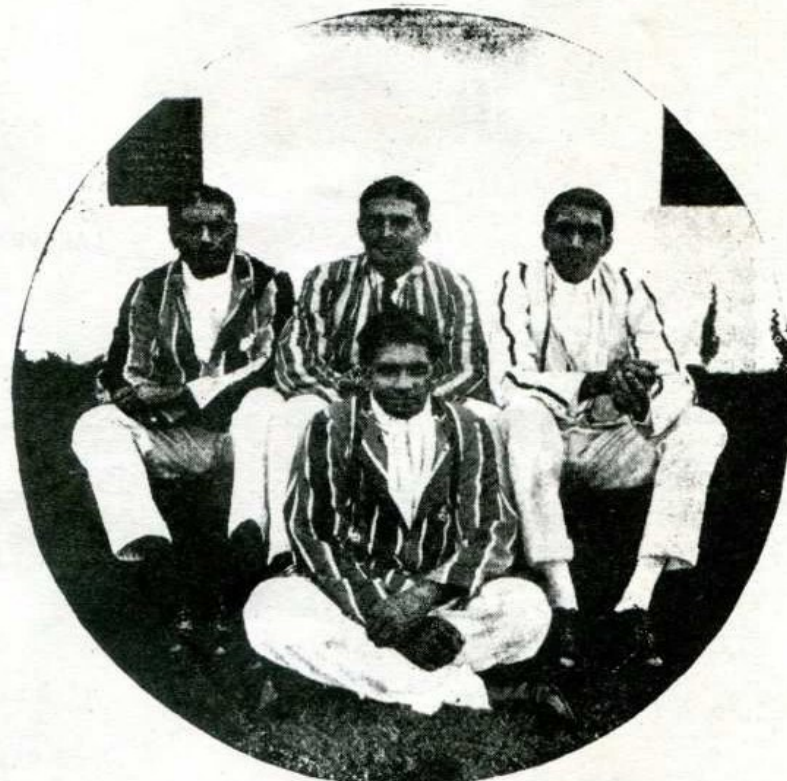
FALL OF WKTS:

4, 56, 63, 64, 68, 68, 134, 272, 272, 180, 205, 241, 252, 273:

BOWLING

	O	M	R	W	O	M	R	W
Jayasundera	16	0	69	1	7	0	23	0
Jayawickrema	4	1	21	0	6	2	21	0
de Zoysa	24	4	75	4	22	3	76	0
Wijesinghe	24	0	53	4	4	0	11	0
G. Pereira	10	0	34	0	10	1	60	1
F.J. de Saram	4	0	17	0	-	-	-	-
A.H. Gooneratne	-	-	-	-	2	1	7	1
G.R.J. de Zoysa	-	-	-	-	4	0	23	0
F.C. de Saram	-	-	-	-	3	0	33	0
H. Perera	-	-	-	-	3	0	17	1

A FAMOUS FAMILY OF CRICKETERS



Back Row :- E.I. GUNASEKERA, D.B. GUNASEKERA, V.R. GUNASEKERA.

Seated in Front :- C.H. GUNASEKERA

TROPHIES WON BY SINHALESE SPORTS CLUB

(1938/39 to 1992/93)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Div 1	Div 1	Div 2	Div 2	Div 3	Div 2	Div 2	L.O.			
Daily News	P. Saravanamuttu	Daily News	Donovan	Daily News	Raheman Hathy	Delmege	Broons	Bristol	Hatna	
1938										
1938/39	S.S.C.									
1939/40	S.S.C.									
1940/41	-									
1941/42	-									
1942/43	-									
1943/44	S.S.C.									
1944/45	S.S.C.									
1945/46	-									
1946/47	S.S.C.									
1947/48	S.S.C.									
1948/49	S.S.C.									
1949/50	S.S.C.									
1950/51	-									
1951/52	S.S.C.									
1952/53	S.S.C.	S.S.C.								
1953/54	-	S.S.C. 'B'								
1954/55										
1955/56		S.S.C. 'B'								
1956/57		S.S.C. 'B'								
1958/59	S.S.C.									
1959/60	S.S.C.									
1960/61										
1961/62	S.S.C.									
1962/63										
1963/64										
1964/65										
1965/66										
1966/67	S.S.C.									
1967/68			S.S.C.							
1968/69	S.S.C.									
1969/70	S.S.C.									
1970/71										
1971/72	S.S.C.						S.S.C.			
1972/73	S.S.C.						S.S.C.			
1973/74	S.S.C.		S.S.C.				S.S.C.			
1974/75	S.S.C.			S.S.C.			NT			
1975/76	-									
1976/77			S.S.C.				S.S.C.			
1977/78							S.S.C.			
LAKSPRAY - DIV I										
1978/79					S.S.C.		S.S.C.			
1980/81										
1981/82										
8	12	4	3	1	1	0	6	0	0	35
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
DN	Lakspray	DN2	Donovan 2	Daily News 3	Raheemat 2	Delmege	Brown	Bristol	Hatna	
1982/83			S.S.C.				S.S.C.			
1983/84	S.S.C.		S.S.C.				S.S.C.			
1984/85		S.S.C.	S.S.C.			S.S.C.	S.S.C.			
1985/86	S.S.C.		S.S.C.					S.S.C.		
1986/87	S.S.C.				S.S.C.	S.S.C.		S.S.C.		
1987/88										
1988/89	S.S.C.			S.S.C.			S.S.C.			
1989/90	S.S.C.					S.S.C.	S.S.C.			
P SARA (JB)										
1990/91	S.S.C.									S.S.C.
1991/92										
1992/93										
8	18	4	7	2	2	2	11	2	1	57



SINGHALESE SPORTS CLUB

INTER - CLUB SIX-A-SIDE CHAMPIONS 1992 / 1993

STANDING (LEFT TO RIGHT) : P. Wijetunga, H. Wickramaratne, C. Ranasinghe, P. Wickramasinghe, C. Fernando, M. Atapattu, U. Fernando,
 SEATED (LEFT TO RIGHT) : R.J. De Silva (Hony. Secretary), A. Ranatunga (Capt.), H.E. J.R. Jayewardene (President), A. Gurusinghe, M. Yusuf (Cricket Manager),
 ON GROUND : H.N. Gunasekera

S.S.C. PLAYERS - TEST AVERAGES 1982 - 1993

Name	Debut	Tests	I	No.	H.S	50's	100's	Total	Average	Catches	Overs-M	Runs	Wkts	Best 5 Wkts	Average
B.L.R.D. Mendis	vs E 1982	24	43	1	124	8	4	1329	31.64	9	-	-	-	-	-
R.L. Dias	vs E 1982	20	36	1	109	8	3	1285	36.71	7	4-0	16	-	-	-
Sidat Wettimuny	vs E 1982	23	43	1	190	6	2	1221	29.07	10	4-0	37	-	-	-
A.L.F. de Mel	vs E 1982	17	28	5	34	-	-	325	14.13	9	585.2-92	2180	59	6/109	3
A. Ranatunga	vs E 1982	45	17	4	135x	17	4	2583	36.38	20	330.2-94	874	14	2/17	62.43
M. de S. Wettimuny	vs NZ 1983	2	4	-	17	-	-	28	7.00	2	-	-	-	-	-
R.G. de Alwis	vs NZ 1983	11	19	-	28	-	-	152	9.00	21 & 25	-	-	-	-	-
F.S. Ahangama	vs I 1985	3	3	1	11	-	-	11	5.50	1	133.3-32	348	18	5/52	1
A.P. Gurusingha	vs P 1985	27	45	7	137	4	4	1500	39.47	21	178.4-37	509	18	2/7	28.28
D. Ranatunga	vs A 1989	2	3	-	45	-	-	87	29.00	-	-	-	-	-	-
M.S. Atapattu	vs I 1990	2	4	-	01	-	-	01	0.25	1	-	-	-	-	-
G.P. Wickramasingha	vs P 1991-2	8	11	2	21	-	-	88	9.78	5	281-55	857	21	5/73	1
P.K. Wijetunga	vs SA 1993	1	2	-	10	-	-	10	5.00	-	52-4	118	2	1/58	40.81
															59.00



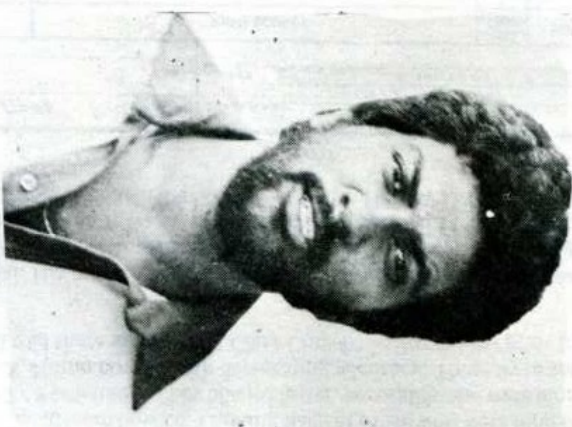
Duleep Mendis



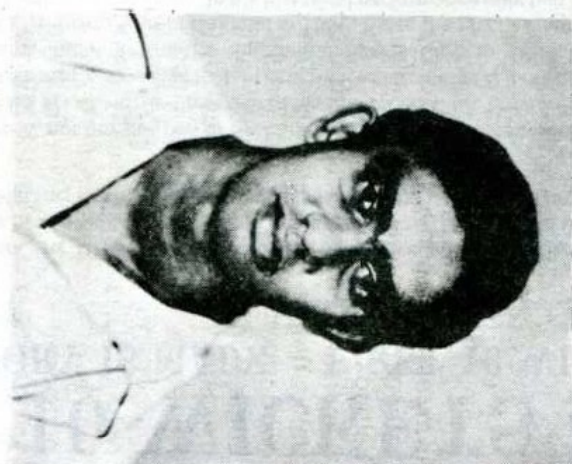
Asantha de Mel



SALIYA AHANGAMA



Guy de Alwis



Asanka Gurusinghe

S.S.C. / SRI LANKA – TEST RECORDS

Note – (a) Best for Sri Lanka (b) R.L. Dias later played for the C.C.C.

Highest Totals –

Lowest Totals –

Highest Individual	190 Sidat Wettimuny	vs India	1984	LO
Twin Centuries (Debut)	105/105 B.L.R.D. Mendis	vs India	1983	CHM (a)
Twin Centuries	105/105 B.L.R.D. Mendis 119/102 – A.P. Gurusinha	vs India vs New Zealand	1983 1991	CHM Ham
Best Batting Doubles	111 & 94 (205) – B.L.R.D. Mendis 190 + 13 (203) Sidat Wettimuny 53 + 135 (188) A. Ranatunga	vs India vs England vs Pakistan	1983 1984 1985	CHM LO PS
Debut Centuries	105 & 105 – L.R.D. Mendis	(1st Test vs India)		
Fastest 50's	50(97) in 49 mts R.L. Dias (b)	vs India	1983	CHM
Fastest 100's	100(111) in 144 mts B.L.R.D. Mendis	vs England	1984	LO
Fastest 200's	–			
Longest Innings	10 hrs 42 mts (190) Sidat Wettimuny	vs England	1984	LO
Best Bowling 1st Ings	5 for 52 F.S. Ahangama 6 for 109 A.L.F de Mel	vs India vs India	1985 1985	MPS KAR
Best Bowling 2nd Ings	8 for 124 – F.S. Ahangama	vs India	1983	
Slow Scoring	10 runs (1 hr 7 mts) Sidat Wettimuny	vs Pakistan	1985	MC
Most Runs in an Over	–			
Most Runs in a Day (Batsman)	143x (157) Sidat Wettimuny	vs Pakistan	1982	FAI
Most Runs in a Day (a Team)	–			
Carrying Out Bat	• 63 n.o. Sidat Wettimuny	vs New Zealand	1983	C.C.
Century & Duck	–			
Fielding 1st Innings	–			
Most Catches 2 Innings	–			
Wicket Keeping 1 Innings	–			
Dismissals 2 Innings	–			
Most Fours in an Innings	–			
Most Sixers in an Innings	4 – A. Ranatunga	vs India	1985	
Most sixers by a Batsman (Match)	6 – B.L.R.D. Mendis	vs England	1984	LO
Most Boundaries	4x6 & 11x4 – 62/111 B.L.R.D. Mendis	vs England	1984	LO
Highest Team aggregate	–			

Note – F.S. Ahangama took a wicket in the first over (4th delivery) 1st Test vs India – 1985

Best All Round Performance

Pair of Specs	0/0 R.G. de Alwis	vs India	1987	Cutt
	0/0 M.S. Atapattu	vs India	1991	Chan

Best Partnerships –

1st wkt	159 runs	Sidat Wettimuny (79) & J.R. Ratnayake (93)	vs India	1987	Kan (a)
2nd wkt	217 runs	Sidat Wettimuny (159) & R.L. Dias (90)	vs Pakistan	1982	Fai (a)
3rd wkt	163 runs	Sidat Wettimuny (65) & R. Dias (108)	vs NZ	1984	MC (a)
4th wkt	240 runs	A. Ranatunga (135) & A.P. Gurusinha (1)	vs Pakistan	1985	PS (a)
5th wkt	150 runs	Sidat Wettimuny (190) & B.L.R.D. Mendis (111)	vs England	1984	LO (a)
6th wkt	135 runs	B.L.R.D. Mendis (94) & S.A.R. Silva (102x)	vs England	1984	LO (a)
7th wkt)				
8th wkt)				
9th wkt	) none				
10th wkt)				

S.S.C. / SRI LANKA – OTHER FIRST CLASS MATCHES

Best Performances

Highest Totals	–			
Lowest Totals	–			
Highest Individual Scores	1987	221	Sidat Wettimuny	vs Indian B.P. Del
	1959	212	C.I. Gunasekera	CBP XI vs Madras CO
	1977	194	B.L.R.D. Mendis	S.L.B.P. XI vs Tamilnadu CA
	1983	189	B.L.R.D. Mendis	S.L.B.P. XI vs Tamilnadu CA PS
Twin Centuries	–			
Twin Fifties	1970	50 & 50	H.S.M. Peiris	C.B.P. XI vs Tamilnadu CA CHM
Best Batting Doubles	1975	194 & 36 (236)	B.L.R.D. Mendis	Ceylon B.P. XI vs Tamilnadu PS (a)
	1977	67 & 144 (211)	B.L.R.D. Mendis	Sri Lanka vs East Africa Tan
	1969	26 & 169x (195)	A.P.B. Tennekoon	Ceylon vs India MPS
	1949	120 & 30 (150)	C.I. Gunasekera	All Ceylon vs Pakistan CO
Debut 100's	1949	135x	M. Rodrigo	All Ceylon vs West Indies CO
Fastest 50's	1967	50(72) in 42 mts	N. Chanmugam	Ceylon vs West Indies CO
	1949	50(120) in 50 mts	C.I. Gunasekera	All Ceylon vs West Indies CO
Fastest 100's	1950	100(125) in 95 mts	S. Jayasinghe	All Ceylon vs Pakistan Un LAU
	1952	100(136) in 110 mts	C.I. Gunasekera	Commonwealth XI vs MCC PS
	1946	100(100) in 110 mts	Hector Perera	S.S.C. vs C.C.I. Bombay Bo
Fastest 200's	1959	200 (212) in 285 mts	C.I. Gunasekera	C.B.P. XI vs Madras CA CO
Longest Innings	–			
Best Bowling – 1 Innings	1956	7 wkts for 69	G. Goonasena	Ceylon vs India CO
	195	7 wkts for 63	C.I. Gunasekera	C.C.A. vs Mysore Ban
	1953	8 wkts for 69	C.I. Gunasekera	C.C.A. vs Pakistan Services CO
Best Bowling – 2 Innings	1966	10 wkts for 68	P.I. Peiris	Prime Ministers XI vs State Bank CO
	1953	10 wkts for 145	C.I. Gunasekera	C.C.A. vs Pakistan Services CO
Slow Scoring	–			
Most Runs in an Over	1984	23 runs	B.L.R.D. Mendis off N. Taylor	Sri Lanka vs Surrey
Most Runs in a Day (Batsman)	1959	176x	C.I. Gunasekera	C.B.P. XI vs Madras CA CO
Most Runs in a Day (a Team)	–			
Carrying Out Bat	1949	135x	M. Rodrigo	All Ceylon vs West Indies CO
Century & a Duck	1932/33	130 & 0	S.S. Jayawickrema	All Ceylon vs All India DEL
	1950	125 & 0	S. Jayasinghe	All Ceylon vs Pakistan Un. LAU
Fielding – 1 Innings	1974	4 ct	A.P.B. Tennekoon	Sri Lanka vs Pak. Railway Sah
Most catches	1974	6 ct	A.P.B. Tennekoon	Sri Lanka vs Pak. Railway Sah
2 Innings	–			
Wicket Keeping – 1 Innings	–			
Most dismissals	–			
Most Fours in an Innings	1987	35	Sidat Wettimuny	Sri Lanka vs India BP XI Del
	1959	32	C.I. Gunasekera	Ceylon BP XI vs Tamilnadu
Most Sixers in an Innings	–			
Most Boundaries in Match (Batsman)	1959	1x6 & 32x4 (134/212)	C.I. Gunasekera	CBP XI vs Madras CO
	1977	3x6 & 26x4 (122/194)	SLBP XI vs Tamilnadu	
		B.L.R.D. Mendis		
Most Sixers by a Batsman (Match) –	–			
Longest Innings	1986	8 hours 09 mts	Sidat Wettimuny (227)	Sri Lanka vs Indian BP XI GWA
	1974	7 hrs 42 mts	A.P.B. Tennekoon (169)	Sri Lanka vs India MPS
	1974	7 hrs 42 mts	Sidat Wettimuny (138)	Sri Lanka B vs England B MC
Best All Round Performances	1962	C.I. Gunasekera	80 & 6 for 54 (match) –	CCA vs Madras
	1970	H.S.M. Peiris	50 & 50 and 5 for 55 and (6/63)	CBP XI vs Madras CHM
	1960	P.I. Peiris	36 & 52 and 6 for 36	CBP XI vs State Bank of India CO

Pair of Specs	1949	0/0	M. Rodrigo	All Ceylon vs Pakistan	CO
	1976	0/0	Sidat Wettimuny	SL vs Pakistan	Asg
	1967	0/0	N. Chanmugam	SL vs India	
	1973	0/0	B.L.R.D. Mendis	SL vs MCC	Co
	1982	0/0	A. Ranatunga	SL vs Zimbabwe	

Best Partnerships

1st wkt					
2nd wkt					
3rd wkt	150 runs	S.S. Jayawickrema (138) & G. Gooneratne (44)		All Ceylon vs Bengal CA	CAL
4th wkt	204 runs	C.I. Gunasekera (135) & K.R. Miller (106)		Commonwealth vs MCC	CO
5th wkt	181 runs	F.C. de Saram (148) & C.I. Gunasekera (120)		Ceylon vs Pakistan 1949	
6th wkt					
7th wkt	110 runs	Dr. C.H. Gunasekera (50) & D.B. Gunasekera (79)		Dr Rockwoods Ceylon vs Vizionagram	
8th wkt	109 runs	R.B. Wijesinghe (72) & H.T. Gunasekera (37)		S.S.C. vs Pakistan 1949	
9th wkt					
10th wkt	110 runs	N. Chanmugam (72) & P.I. Peiris (46x)		Ceylon vs West Indies 1967	

Note - Many items which should be included here appear in other sections of this book.

S.S.C. - FIRST CLASS - BEST IN LOCAL TOURNAMENT (1988 - 1993)

Note (a) Best in Local First Class Cricket. (e) Equalled existing record.

Highest Totals	-				
	551 for 9 (d)	vs Tamil Union C & AC	(1991/92)		TFM (a)
	497 for 6 (d)	vs Rio SC	(1992/93)		MPS
Lowest Totals	-				
Highest Scores	238	A. Ranatunga	vs Sebastianites C & AC	1992/93	MPS (a)
	200x	A. Ranatunga	vs Sebastianites C & AC	1991/92	MPS
	170	D. Ranatunga	vs Old Cambrians SC	1989/90	MPS
Twin Centuries -					
Century in a Session	-				
Before Lunch	-				
Lunch & Tea	100 (201x))	A. Ranatunga	S.S.C. vs Sebastianites C & AC	1992/93	MPS
Tea & Close	101 (201x))				
Best Batting Doubles	200x & 76 (276)	A. Ranatunga	vs Sebastianites C & AC	1991/92	MPS (a)
	63 & 160 (223)	N. Fernando	vs Sebastianites SC	1990/91	MPS
Debut Centuries	-				
Century & a Duck	-				
Debut Twin Centuries	-				
Fastest 50's	A. Ranatunga 50(76) in	vs Sebastianites C & AC	1991/92		MPS (a)
	32 minutes				
Fastest 100's	A. Ranatunga 100 (101) in	vs Antonians SC	1991/92		MPS
	87 minutes & 62 deliveries				
Fastest 200's	A. Ranatunga 200x (201x) in	vs Sebastianites C & AC	1992/93		MPS (a)
	259 minutes				
Best Bowling 1 Innings	G.P. Wickremasinghe 10 wkts for 41	vs Kalutara YCC	1991/92		MPS (a)
	M.B. Halangoda 8 wkts for 64	vs Singha SC	1989/90		MPS
	M.B. Halangoda 15 wkts for 91 (8/64 & 7/27)	vs Singha SC	1989/90		EG (a)
2 Innings	G.P. Wickramasinghe 13 wkts for 87	vs Kalutara YCC	1991/92		MPS
	M.B. Halangoda 13 wkts for 5	vs Tamil Union C & AC	1990/91		PS
Slow Scoring	-				
Most Runs in an Over	F.S. Ahangama (6.666) 24 runs off W. Kumara	vs Singha SC	1990/91		MPS (a)
	N. Silva (6662) 20 runs off W. Silva	vs Sebastianites C & AC			
Most Runs in a Day (Batsman)	A. Ranatunga (201x)	vs Sebastianites C & AC	1992/93		MPS (a)
Most Runs in a Day (Team)	S.S.C. 441 for 3 wkts	vs Sebastianites C & AC	1992/93		MPS (a)

SOME S.S.C. RECORDS – Not First Class 1900 – 1993

Note – Many items that can be included in this list appear elsewhere in this book.

Lowest Totals	25	vs DMCC	
	26	SSC B vs Colts CC	1943
	31	vs Tamil Union C & AC	1960
			1944
Highest Totals	509	for 8 wkts (d)	
	506		vs Bloomfield C & AC 1941
	505	for 6 wkts (d)	vs Tamil Union C & AC 1952
	505	for 5 wkts (d)	vs 7 B 3 1947
			vs Liberty CC 1960
Highest Individual Scores	241	D. Ranatunga	vs Sebastianites C & AC 1985/86
	238	S.S. Jayawickrema	vs Bloomfield C & AC 1941
	210	C.I. Gunasekera	vs NCC 1954
	199x	S.S. Jayawickrema	vs Ceylon Defence Force 1941
	199	Sidat Wettimuny	vs – –
	182	F. Karunaratne	vs Silly Mid Offs 19
	198x	A.P.B. Tennekoon	vs Colts CC 1969
Best Batting Doubles	97 & 231	D. Ranatunga	vs Sebastianites C & AC 1985
	45 & 165	S.S. Jayawickrema Civilians B	vs Services B
Century on Debut	101x	U. de Silva	vs BRC 1954
Carrying Out Bat	46x	D.B. Gunasekera	vs DMCC 1911
	57x	T.A. Dep	vs Panadura SC
	63x	S.T. Abeysekera	vs Kalutara TC –
Last Man Top Scorer	10x	D.S. Senanayake (Snr)	vs – 1911
Century in a Season			
Before Lunch	138		
Lunch & Tea	200x (-)	F.C. de Saram	vs Tamil Union C & AC 1937
Most Runs in an Over	24 runs	S. de Alwis	vs Bloomfield C & AC 1958
	24 runs	C.I. Gunasekera	vs Panadura SC 1962
Century & Hat Trick	D.B. Gunasekera	101 & 3 for (xxx)	vs CCC 1931
	(Snr)		
	J.W.S.R. Senaratne	104x & 4 for 18(xxx)	vs CCC 1931
10 wickets in Innings	10 for 14	D.S. Jayasundera	vs Panadura SC 1934
	10 for 24	D.S. Jayasundera	vs Colts CC 1937
Best Bowling	9 for 3	D.E.M. Gunasekera	vs Warblew SC 1941
	9 for 5	B.A. Wijewardene	vs Kalutara TC 1941
	9 for 21	D.S. Jayasundera	vs Colts CC 1939
	9 for 23	D.S. Jayasundera	vs Kalutara TC 1939
	8 for 8	S.S. Jayawickrema	vs University College 1940
Best Bowling Doubles			
Best Partnerships – Many other partnership appear in other sections of this book.			
1st wkt	210 runs	D. Ranatunga & M. de S. Wettimuny	vs Sebastianites C & AC 1985
	318 runs	D. Ranatunga (241x) & S. Anthonisz (132)	vs Sebastianites C & AC 1985/86
	173 runs	C.H. Gunasekera (80) & Sarath Silva (98)	vs Moratuwa
	167 runs	C.H. Gunasekera (62) & S.R. de S. Wettimuny (80).	vs Saracens SC 1968
2nd wkt	154 runs	C.H. Gunasekera (51) & L. Rodrigo (73)	vs Moratuwa SC 1958
	154 runs	R.B. Wijesinghe (95) & B. Navaratne (111)	vs Tamil Union C & AC 1952
	218 runs	D.L. de Saram (110x) & F. de Saram (89x)	vs C.C.C. 1906
3rd wkt	290 runs	M. Rodrigo (165) & F. Karunaratne (182)	vs Silly Mid Offs SC
	241 runs	P.I. Peiris (131) & N. Kodituwakku (159)	vs – 19
	252 runs	A. Ranatunga (182) & J. Weerasinghe (81)	vs C.C.C. 19
	230 runs	A.C.Z. Wijeratne (101x) & C.C. Senaratne (136x)	vs Galle CC 1925
4th wkt	161 runs	Robert Senananayake (101x) & B.A. Wijewardene (72)	vs Panadura SC 1932
5th wkt			
6th wkt	120 runs	P.I. Peiris (67) & D. Juriensz (69)	SSC vs Madras CA 1972
	154 runs	S.S. Jayawickrema	SSC vs Governors XI 1941
7th wkt	–	–	–
8th wkt	148 runs	H.S.M. Peiris (62) & S.J. Rajapakse (95)	vs N.C.C. 1975

9th wkt	109 runs	R.G. Abeynaike (171) & M.B. Halangoda (51)	vs Police SC	1986
10th wkt	172 runs	M.J. de Zoysa (63x) & T.M.S. Saldin (167)	SSC vs Bank of Ceylon (3 day)	1978
	134 runs	M.K. Albert (45x) & L.D.S. Gunasekera (96)	vs Sports Club	1931
	124 runs	M. de Silva (58) & P. Paranawitharana (58)	vs Adastrians SC (DN)	1978
	104 runs	F.R. de Saram (54) & L.E. de Zoysa (51)	vs The Rest	1947

Fielding

1st Innings

2nd Innings

Wicket Keeping

1 Innings	8 dismissals	(7 ct & 1 st) J. Weerasinghe	vs Negombo SC	1986
	7 dismissals	(3 ct & 4 st) E.I. Gunasekera	vs D.M.C.C.	1908
2 Innings	11 dismissals	(-) R.G. de Alwis	vs Kandy SC	1985

Best All Round Performances

1911	D.B. Gunasekera	95 & 6 for 58	vs DACC	1911
1935	B.A. Wijewardene	72 and 7 for 9	vs Panadura SC	1935
1949	R.B. Wijesinghe	72 & (4/42 & 3/40) match bag 7 for 82	SSC vs Pakistan	1949



Sri Lanka batsman Duleep Mendis (right) arrived back at his hotel from hospital yesterday . . . without his shoes. He had left them at the Oval when he was carried away to hospital the previous day. But he and Sunil Wettimuny, also hit by Jeff Thomson, both smile after their hair-raising experience.

Picture: ERIC PIPER



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