



## THE FUTURE OF CRICKET WILL CONTROVERSY REIGN?

The British have had one of the lengthiest contemporary periods of imperial power. They operated with the unshakeable conviction of white superiority and the stated belief of their mission of civilising colonial outposts. They would see themselves as harbingers of higher values of white civilisation to culturally inferior natives in the colonies. This narrow assumption was used to legitimise and justify oppression and domination by the heavy hand of imperial rule.

"I say, old chap, lets teach the natives some cricket, shall we?" Thus was made the foundation for yet another aspect of a profoundly patronising attitude towards the



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heathen natives, who, it was imagined, might provide the colonial masters with some friendly and subservient entertainment. So, the rules of cricket were taught, along with how to pronounce English names correctly when appealing. In all fairness, the British would allow the game to be played in a manner becoming of "cultured gentlemen", the natives scrambling to learn everything that brought them as close to the white sahib as possible.

In far away Australia, no such arrangement was made with the natives, who were regarded a "sub-human" species and therefore unworthy of survival. One of the most striking undertakings of what we now know as "ethnic cleansing" ensued in earnest, to great effect. Token representations were however made, to send a cricket team of natives on a "tour" of the mother country.

The British legacy is not just significant because it obviously and most unremarkably

provided the dominant paradigm against which other, particularly colonised societies are evaluated. The cultural domain issues such as the spirit in which cricket is played, are appraised usually with negative outcomes for those viewed as "found wanting". It is also significant as it encompasses a particular approach to how colonial institutions (such as cricket administration) are managed.

While the status quo established by the colonialists dissolved through the struggles for independence and economic prosperity, and Britain opened its doors to the flavours of the East, Australia adopted a rather different approach to how it controlled and managed the "young new country". As with many aspects of governance, so in cricket, a policy of inclusion and exclusion prevailed through the years. Hence we do not see any Nassers, Panesars or Mahmouids in an Australian team.

Leaving such policies aside, Australia continued to believe in local heroes laying down the law to foreigners. This could explain the Australian boss of the ICC "sticking by his mate" in the face of adversity. Experiencing the brunt of behaviour espousing cultural superiority by a long line of officials had prompted virulent anti-white campaigns by adjudicators such as Pakistan's Shakoora Rana (in present day parlance a cricketering "terrorist"), whereas Darrell Hair would be the equivalent of a US defence secretary striving to usher in democracy to the far frontiers. The ICC chief could well play UN secretary general and mouth US policy in sombre terms.

Let us now examine some umpiring and administrative controversies of the past. The author of an autobiography in which he described the arm action of one of the greatest bowlers of all time as "diabolical", (having tried his best to discredit the unassuming and simple genius at every turn) was umpiring a game between the ex-colonialists and part of a former colony, when a

brilliant delivery unseated the Englishman's bails. Hair promptly inspected the ball and ruled it had been tampered with. He also went as far as to breach protocol and requested the batsman to choose a replacement ball.

One thing led to another, and the "victimized" team was awarded compensation after a historic turn of events. A month or so later, the ICC cleared the ball-tampering allegation but penalised the captain for bad behaviour. It must be noted here that in an international match, nearly thirty powerful cameras are trained on players' every move, as they are fitted with high tech lenses that can distinguish the colour of the umpires' nose hairs if necessary. So, any tampering would easily have been

recorded.

It would seem rather unfortunate that the other adjudicator on the day (ie the silent partner) seemed well out of his depth and quite dependent on Hair, although they do have equal powers at any given time. He would be the present day equivalent of a former US secretary of state who made a claim of preposterous proportions at the UN just before all was set for the Iraq invasion, on the express instructions of his masters.

The system of native administration where carefully selected leaders partial to the hierarchical hegemony were maintained in power to serve colonial interests has gradually given way to a new power base centred not in London but in South Asia as far as cricket is concerned. The "indirect rule" of British colonialism, where power was exercised on behalf of the Crown, often intensifying differences between natives of diverse origins in a form of insidious "neo-colonialism" has now submitted to a new status quo, where political 'enemies' have closed ranks and united in cricket.

Therefore we have often seen India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka voting together, with intermittent support from Zimbabwe, South Africa and the West Indies. This had left Hair and others like him on the outer, with weak cries of foul by Australia, England and New Zealand voting along partisan lines. The western media, an all-powerful tool of western geo-political aspirations has yet to learn that in cricket, the spectators in fact see most of the proceedings on the field, unlike in sanitised foreign war coverage where paradigms have been deliberately skewed to make accurate judgments virtually impossible. Lets hope the future of cricket sees truth, justice and fairness so the best team wins.

## ප්‍රශ්න අපේක්ෂා - ළමාකර ධර්මය

### මෙන්න අද ප්‍රශ්න

#### අතමැතිතුමා කුඩු වෙළඳුමට සම්බන්ධ යයි කෙළ උරුමය කොහොත කරන්නේ

- 1 ඒ කරුණය ලොකො නොදන්නේයයි සිතාගෙනය
- 2 කුඩුටලට තින තබා රට යනමට ගන්නට ඇති බලවත් ඕනෑකමටය
- 3 අතමැති පන්නා දමන්නට ලොකො බාරු දුන් කොන්ත්‍රාත්තුව ඉටු කරන්නටය
- 4 පාර්ලිමේන්තුවේ සිටින එකම කුඩු ඇමතිවරයා අතමැති යයි වරදවා වටහාගෙනය

#### භද්‍රීනා සේමමල මැතිවරණයට ඉදිරිපත් කරන්නට ගුළුපිටිය සාරසෙන්නේ

- 1 කාන්තා අයිතිවාසිකම් ආරක්ෂා කරදෙන්නටය
- 2 කෙහෙල්ලියට පාඩමක් උගන්වන්නටය
- 3 පව්වට සටනක් දෙන්නටය
- 4 හදිනා තරම්වත් දුක්ඛ අපේක්ෂාවෙන් එම පක්ෂයේ හැකි බැවිනි

#### කෝමිටිය සභාදරයක් රකිමින් මහත්තයාත් අතර වෙනසක් හඳුනා ප්‍රකාශ කිරීමේ

- 1 දෙන්නාම වයස්ගත බැවිනි
- 2 දෙන්නාම මොන උප්පරවැට්ටියක් යොදා හෝ පක්ෂ නායකත්වයේ එල්ලී සිටින බැවිනි
- 3 දෙන්නාම අදාක්ෂ කටයුතු කරන්නේ බැවිනි
- 4 මේ සියල්ලම නිසාය

#### මෙලිනාට්‍රා වලින් එක්තරා ඇමතිකු මුදල් සහ කාර්යාල අර්ථ දැක්වීමේ හේතු බවට රහස්ථ රාමනායක පාර්ලිමේන්තුවේදී කළ හෙළිදරව්වෙන් පසු සිදුවන්නට තිබුණේ

- 1 ප්‍රකාශිතවනවා වනාම අදාල ඇමතිවරයා පන්නා දැමීමය
- 2 ප්‍රකාශිතවනවා අදාල ඇමතිවරයා සමග හෝ පානය කරමින් රහස්ථව මලොකු කිරීමය
- 3 අදාල ඇමතිවරයා ඉල්ලා අස්වීමය
- 4 පන්නාව රහස්ථවත් කතාව අසා සතුටු සිතින් නින්දට යාමය

#### මුළුත ප්‍රකාශිතවරණයට ආණ්ඩුවෙන් ඉදිරිපත් කලහැකි සුදුසුම අපේක්ෂකයා වන්නේ

- 1 මිනිසුන්ම වේදනා දෙකකින්ම ආශ්චර්යමත් ලෙස නිදහස ලත් ප්‍රාචීනලමේ මැතිතුමාය
- 2 කුඩු කන්වේතරයන් ජේරාගන්නට ගිය බවට වේදනා ලත් ජයරත්න මැතිතුමාය
- 3 හාරත ලක්ෂමත් වෙඩි තබා මැරූ බවට වේදනා ලබා සිටිය දුම්රිද මැතිතුමාය
- 4 අවිනිසාකත්වයේ ප්‍රතිමූර්තිකය වත් මර්වින් මැතිතුමාය

#### අවවාදයයි

නිවැරදි පිළිතුරු සොයාගන්නාතෝ ළමා යහලුවාට පමණක් කියන්න

ප්‍රශ්න පත්තරේ ලිව්වේ මද්ද පුතා

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