

*The New Season...
News & Events
A Leaf from the Past
MCC in Indore
Unsung Heroes of Indore Cricket
Reminiscence...*



Bhopal

Gwalior

Ujjain

Jabalpur

Rewa

N'puram

Sagar

Indore

Big RUN's

Year 1 | Issue 4

The MPCA Newsletter

December 2012

APPROACHING THE NEW SEASON...

Our Boy's U/22 team played a series of matches at Cape Town (South Africa) against Boland, Western Province Academy, Western Province XI and North Western District XI.

This tour, from 8th to 30th September 2012, provided quality match practice to our boy's just ahead of the BCCI season. The series was evenly balanced with MP winning a match (outright), losing a match (outright) and two games ending in a draw.

Satyam Choudhary emerged as the highest scorer (185 runs / 5 innings), while Anand Bais scored 175 runs in 5 innings. Amongst the bowlers, Vijeet Rana claimed 13 wickets for 182 runs in 6 innings that he played. Nikhil Sawke, Anurag Singh and Ankit Sharma took 9 wickets each.

The players have earned a respect for themselves and MPCA with their dedicated performance and excellent conduct throughout the tour.



President's Message...

I am extremely grateful to each one of you for the overwhelming support and confidence reposed in our team in the recently held elections.

We have achieved a lot in the last two years! I take immense pride in stating that it was a result of the dedicated work done by various committees in coordination with the Divisional Associations. It is not possible to achieve any

result unless all those who are at the helm of affairs, either at the Divisional level or at the State level, work in unison and tandem. I take this opportunity to compliment all of them for their contribution.

Though we are very elated with the result, we are aware of the added responsibility and challenges we have to face in the coming years. We assure you that we will leave no stone unturned to continue our efforts, in all possible manners, to take our Association to greater heights.

These are challenging and exciting times. We have to keep evaluating what change is good for us and for the game and accordingly we need to adapt ourselves. The game has become very competitive and has spread to all corners of the State. It has been observed that new talents are emerging from small towns. It will be our endeavour to tap this talent at the right time and help it grow to its full potential. Keeping the above objective in mind we will make all efforts to provide better infrastructure and other facilities to enable youngsters to avail of the opportunity to play the game in an atmosphere conducive for good cricket.

Our U-19 and Senior teams have undertaken the tour of Sri Lanka while our U/22 side went to South Africa to play practice matches. Such tours have given good exposure to our players and help them prepare for the gruelling season ahead. This is our investment for the future and will certainly help develop a competitive yet collaborative team spirit among the players.

The new cricket season has commenced and we will have the opportunity to witness lot of cricket being played at various venues and one of them will be Sagar where our ground has recently received the requisite BCCI approval.

In life, improvement should be a continuous goal. I, therefore, look forward to your valuable suggestion so as to achieve our common objective.

Wishing each one of you a very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

A Big Thank You

Jyotiraditya M. Scindia

President



Congratulations !!!



Devendra Bundela, captain of the Madhya Pradesh Ranji team, was applauded by MPCA for his maiden appearance in the 100th Ranji Trophy match for Madhya Pradesh, when he played against Bengal at Holkar Stadium (24th ~ 27th November 2012). He is the only player from MP to achieve this feat so far. MPCA honoured Devendra with a Silver plaque at the august hands of Mr. Sanjay Jagdale, Hon. Secretary – BCCI.



Naman Ojha and Jalaj Saxena were selected in the India 'A' team for the away series against New Zealand.



Ishwar Pandey and Jalaj Saxena were selected in the Central Zone team for the Duleep Trophy Tournament 2012/13.



BCCI honoured Satyam Choudhary with the 'M A Chidambaram Trophy' for being the best player in the U/22 Tournament during the last season – 2011/12.



Udit Birla secured berth in the India 'A' team for the NKP Salve - Challengers Trophy for the season 2012-13.



Curator of Holkar Stadium, Samandar Singh Chouhan, successfully cleared the BCCI course for curators and is co-opted as member of the Grounds & Pitches Committee of the BCCI.



BCCI has appointed Vasu Gangwani as the Liaison Manager for the England Team visiting India for the home series.

OBITUARIES



Kailashchandra Trivedi

A long time member of MPCA, Kailashchandra alias Bachubhai Trivedi left us on 27 October 2012. With his resourceful contribution to various social organizations, he was a respected figure in the social circles of Indore...



Raja Ali

Former MP batsman left us for heavenly abode in Bhopal on 21st of October 2012. In a tragic incidence, this prolific batsman succumbed to a massive cardiac attack at a young age of 37...

MPCA and all Associates of MPCA express deepest condolences on the sad demise of the above individuals. May the departed soul rest in peace.

NEWS & EVENTS...



The Annual General Body Meeting of MPCA was held on 26th August 2012 at Holkar Stadium, Indore. The President, Mr. Jyotiraditya M Scindia, addressed the house on the series of inter linked activities that were conducted by the Association during the past couple of years. He expressed how these activities were oriented towards enhancing the facilities and strengthening the pathways for further development of the game in the State. The meeting also took note of the biennial elections of MPCA for the term 2012-2014. The new Managing Committee took charge of the affairs of the Association during the conclusion of the meeting. The Managing Committee expressed sincere thanks to all those who extended support and cooperation for the smooth conduct of the AGM.

Pre-Season Practice Matches

- i. While our Boy's U/22 side was touring abroad, their juniors – U/19 team displayed fantastic performance in the All India Invitation Tournament for the 'Dhru Pandove Trophy'. We reached the finals of this prestigious tournament after defeating Himachal Pradesh, Mumbai and Kerala. We lost the finals to Punjab.
- ii. Our senior players participated in the All India Invitation Tournament for the 'J P Atrey Trophy' at Punjab. Here also, we reached the finals after facing quality opposition from various corporate teams across India. We lost the finals to the Reliance Team.
- iii. Continuing with the efforts for providing match practice to the women's team, we played 5 limited over games against Baroda at Baroda. Our team thrashed the hosts in all 5 games.



MPCA conducted a basic education course for the coaches from District places who are committed towards the game and are extending their efforts for development of players from these areas. More than 70 coaches across the state attended the course, held in two batches under the guidance of our Academy faculty.

NEWS & EVENTS...



The Super League and finals of the All India Women's Tournament (Limited overs) was played at Rewa and Indore from 17th November onwards. This was followed by the Inter Zone tournament for the Women's Limited Overs Tournament.

Railways emerged as the winners of the All India Tournament. Awards were given the hands of Mr. Sanjay Jagdale (Hon. Secretary, BCCI) and Mr. Mukteshwar Singh (Director of Emerald Heights School)

MPCA's ground at Sagar is all set to host the BCCI matches. After approval from the Board, MP U/16 team played against Chhatisgrah and will play against Rajasthan at the new ground. It is a big boost for the development of cricket in Sagar. The officials of Sagar Division have shown eagerness organize the matches to the best of satisfaction.

MPCA continues to receive sponsorship for the apparels for the State teams. World renowned brand 'PUMA' is providing best quality sportswear to all our State teams. Also, 'OAKLEY', best amongst the sports eyewear brands, will provide 'Oakley' sunglasses to our Men's / boy's teams for the season 2012/13.



Umpires exam for the State Panel was held in September 2012. Fifteen candidates, scoring more than 85% marks, have cleared this exam. These new umpires will officiate in the Inter Divisional Tournaments and based upon their performance the best performing candidates would be inducted on the State Panel.



Sanjay Jagdale reminiscing the memories of olden days...



MPCA presenting memento to the Chief Guest



Sandeep Patil and Jyotiraditya M. Scindia cut the inaugural ribbon



Display of photographs at the 'A W Kanmadikar' conference hall



Jyotiraditya M. Scindia occupies his cabin in the new building



The Main Entrance



The inauguration of the new administrative office of MPCA, christened as the 'Madhavrao Scindia Administrative Block', was held on 29th November 2012 at the Holkar Stadium, at the hands of Mr. Sandeep Patil, former Test Cricketer of India.



The Trophy shelf

Mr. Sanjay Jagdale, Hon. Secretary of BCCI, was the Guest of Honour while Mr. Jyotiraditya M Scindia, President of MPCA, presided the event.

Mr. Jagdale and Mr. Patil reminisced the efforts taken by Shri. Madhavrao Scindia for the betterment of the players, infrastructure and resources under the ambit of MPCA, which in turn created a robust environment for the game to blossom.

Mr. Jyotiraditya M Scindia acknowledged MPCA's affection towards his father and expressed gratitude on behalf of the Scindia family.

The new unit also houses the conference hall which is dedicated in the fond memory of Late A W Kanmadikar for his diligent contribution to MPCA and BCCI for a long period.

NEWS & EVENTS...

SCHEDULE OF THE INTER DIVISIONAL TOURNAMENT 2012/13

TOURNAMENT : HIRALAL GAEKWAD TROPHY QUALIFYING --- (BOY'S U-18 MULTI-DAY)

Match	Team 1	Team 2	Date/s	Venue
1	BHEL	Gwalior	28 - 30 Dec. 2012	Gwalior
2	Chambal	Narmadapuram	28 - 30 Dec. 2012	Narmadapuram
3	Ujjain	Indore	28 - 30 Dec. 2012	Ujjain
4	Shahdol	Jabalpur	28 - 30 Dec. 2012	Jabalpur

LEAGUE PHASE GROUP 'A'

Date/s	Match	Host / Venue
2 - 4 Jan. 2013	Bhopal Versus Winner of Ujjain / Indore	Bhopal / BHEL
2 - 4 Jan. 2013	Rest Of Mp Versus Winner of BHEL / Gwalior	Bhopal / BHEL
6 - 8 Jan. 2013	Bhopal Versus Winner of BHEL / Gwalior	Bhopal / BHEL
6 - 8 Jan. 2013	Rest Of Mp Versus Winner of Ujjain / Indore	Bhopal / BHEL
10 - 12 Jan. 2013	Bhopal Versus Rest of Mp	Bhopal / BHEL
10 - 12 Jan. 2013	Winner of BHEL / Gwalior Versus Winner Of Ujjain / Indore	Bhopal / BHEL

GROUP 'B'

Date/s	Match	Host / Venue
2 - 4 Jan. 2013	Rewa Versus Winner of Shahdol / Jabalpur	Rewa
2 - 4 Jan. 2013	Sagar Versus Winner of Chambal / N'puram	Rewa
6 - 8 Jan. 2013	Rewa Versus Winner of Chambal / N'puram	Rewa
6 - 8 Jan. 2013	Sagar Versus Winner of Shahdol / Jabalpur	Rewa
10 - 12 Jan. 2013	Rewa Versus Sagar	Rewa
10 - 12 Jan. 2013	Winner of Chambal / N'puram Versus Winner of Shahdol / Jabalpur	Rewa

SEMI FINALS

15 - 17 Jan. 2013	Top Team From Group 'a' Versus Second Team From Group 'b'	Rewa
15 - 17 Jan. 2013	Top Team From Group 'b' Versus Second Team From Group 'a'	Rewa

FINALS

19 - 22 Jan. 2013	Winner Of Sf 1 Versus Winner Of Sf 2	Rewa
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TOURNAMENT : M Y MEMORIAL TROPHY QUALIFYING --- (MEN'S SENIOR MULTI-DAY)

Match	Team 1	Team 2	Date/s	Host
1	Ujjain	Narmadapuram	3 - 5 Jan. 2013	Ujjain
2	Chambal	BHEL	3 - 5 Jan. 2013	BHEL
3	Rewa	Shahdol	3 - 5 Jan. 2013	Rewa
4	Bhopal	Jabalpur	3 - 5 Jan. 2013	Jabalpur

LEAGUE PHASE GROUP 'A'

Date/s	Match	Host / Venue
8 - 10 Jan. 2013	Indore Versus Winner Of Chambal / BHEL	Walior
8 - 10 Jan. 2013	Gwalior Versus Winner Of Bhopal / Jabalpur	Gwalior
12 - 14 Jan. 2013	Indore Versus Winner Of Bhopal / Jabalpur	Gwalior
12 - 14 Jan. 2013	Gwalior Versus Winner Of Chambal / BHEL	Gwalior
16 - 18 Jan. 2013	Indore Versus Gwalior	Gwalior
16 - 18 Jan. 2013	Winner Of Bhopal / Jabalpur Versus Winner Of Chambal / BHEL	Gwalior

GROUP 'B'

Date/s	Match	Host / Venue
8 - 10 Jan. 2013	Rest of MP Versus Winner of Rewa / Shahdol	Indore
8 - 10 Jan. 2013	Sagar Versus Winner of Ujjain / N'puram	Indore
12 - 14 Jan. 2013	Rest of MP Versus Winner of Ujjain / N'puram	Indore
12 - 14 Jan. 2013	Sagar Versus Winner of Rewa / Shahdol	Indore
16 - 18 Jan. 2013	Rest of MP Versus Sagar	Indore
16 - 18 Jan. 2013	Winner of Rewa / Shahdol Versus Winner of Ujjain / N'puram	Indore

SEMI FINALS

21 - 23 Jan. 2013	Top Team From Group 'a' Versus Second Team From Group 'b'	Indore
21 - 23 Jan. 2013	Top Team From Group 'b' Versus Second Team From Group 'a'	Indore

FINALS

25 - 28 Jan. 2013	Winner Of Sf 1 Versus Winner Of Sf 2	Indore
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MPCA's Domestic Season – The Inter Divisional Tournaments started from the third week of November onwards. Chambal and Shahdol are the two new teams for the tournaments across all age groups. The Managing Committee has decided to introduce a new tournament for the season. This would be a multi-day tournament for the U/17 boy's, to be played during summer vacations. Emphasising on the importance of playing for longer duration, it is also decided to hold the finals of the multi-day tournaments over 4 days.

The Managing Committee has decided to initiate cash reward for the winners / runners up of the Inter Divisional Tournaments.

'Lifetime Performance Award : It is also decided to honour the individuals for their diligent services to the game and MPCA. This award would carry a cash reward of Rupees One Lac.

A LEAF FROM THE PAST

There was a time when Indore was known more for Cricket rather than for its numerous cotton Mills and Namkeens. It is a very interesting story as to how cricket came to Indore and took pride of place among all the other things the city was known for.

Though cricket was played at Mhow and at Residency ground (Indore) during 1850s, it remained confined to wards of local Maharajas and the Britishers. The Daly College was set up in 1864 for children of princely states and had cricket ground of their own. It was the local Parsi Club, established in 1890, that started giving opportunity to local players. However, playing the game was costly affair and was mostly patronized by local Maharajas and the British army men.

The growing interest in the game by the young Yeshwantrao Holkar prompted Maharaja Tukojirao to form a team to enable his son play the game. The Palace officials were part of the team. Thus the Yeshwant Cricket Club was established in 1916 at a ground where the present GSTI is situated. Tukojirao took keen interest in the game with sole intention of seeing Yeshwantrao pick up the finer points of the game. He brought Alexander Stewart Kennedy of Hampshire and Bernard James Bosanke, the pioneer leg spin googly bowler from Oxford (UK) to coach the young Yeshwantrao. Not happy with the progress, Tukojirao brought Pyare Khan (from Jaipur), Balsara, (a medium pace bowler from Bombay), S.M.Joshi and J.G.Navle who used to play for Hindus in the Triangular tournament in Bombay to strengthened the team. Thus began the inflow of prominent players to Indore.

Since the Daly College had its cricket team consisting of members of royal families, they often played matches at their ground with Europeans. The first match involving prominent players between Holkar XI and Barwani XI was played at Chimanbaug ground in 1913. However, not content with the progress, Tukojirao invited C.K.Nayudu from Nagpur in 1924 to strengthened Yeshwant CC team. By this time, there were 4 teams namely Yeshwant CC, Officers Club, (located near Gandhi Hall), Ladies Club, (located at the present Bal Vinay Mandir HS), and the Residency Club, which was opened for Europeans only. The matches became more frequent.

The then Home Minister of the State, Mr. Abdul Rashid, was in charge of the Yeshwant CC team and the players were given 5 to 6 cricket bats of Gunn & Moore Autograph make and their shirts and trousers used to be stitched at the famous tailors M/s. Esquith & Lords (Bombay) and Rankin's, of Calcutta. The



Tukojirao Holkar



Yeshwantrao Holkar

members of the team were employed with the State. The only job was to play cricket. The team used to practice with Dukes ball and travel by special train all across India to play cricket.

In 1931 Yeshwantrao took over the command of the Holkar State and laid the foundation of the present Yeshwant Club. This gave tremendous impetus to local cricket and led to emergence of new teams such as Loyal Club, Holkar College and Maharaja Shivajirao HS, in addition to Daly College. The matches produced many good players in Rana Bhimsingh of Jobat, Col. Shivpratap Singh of Dewas, Rao Raja Bhalbhadra Singh of Raghogarh. There were good coaches in SG Salters of Daly College, Shri Babu Miyan and RM Nivsarkar of Shivaji HS and produced fine players in SR Kale, Mehmood Hussain Zaidi, Balkrishna Holkar, Babu Kakerde, DK Bande RS Zinsiwale, Sriram Matkar and Laxmikant Naneria to name a few.

Yashwantrao was instrumental in formation of Holkar team in 1940. He passed on the reins of running the show to his trusted ADC Col. C. K. Nayudu. "CK" build the Holkar team by getting B. B. Nimbalkar, C. T. Sarwate, Khandu Rangnekar, Hiralal Gaekwad, Arjun Nayudu, Kamal Bhandarkar and S. Dhanwade to Indore. The local stalwarts in S. Mushtaq Ali, MM Jagdale, JN Bhaya, Ramesh Pratap Singh and NR Nivsarkar made the team formidable to reckon with, and rest is the history.

The Holkar team participated in the Ranji Trophy tournament for 14 continuous years, from 1941 to 1954, reaching the finals on 10 occasions and winning the coveted trophy on 4 occasions. Twice the team lost in the semi-final. Truly this is an enviable record.

Maharaja Tukojirao did everything possible to sustain the interest of young Yeshwantrao in the game and he must be given full credit for having laid the foundation of the game in the city. Maharaja Yeshwantrao Holkar, like his father Maharaja Tukojirao, remained true patron of the game and was responsible for giving place of prominence to Indore on the cricket map of the world. He invited foreign teams to Indore to play matches at Yeshwant Club. It may be pertinent to mention that the tradition has been continued to this day by Usharaje Holkar and Satish Malhotra. The Stadium in Indore is aptly named "Holkar Stadium" in recognition and an acknowledgment of the contribution of Holkars to the game.

(Vijay Nayudu in association with Shri Manoharsingh Dhakad)

MCC IN INDORE

Very few towns in India can boast of hosting the MCC team on 6 occasions during their visit to the country. This speaks about pride of place the city had among the visiting teams in those days. No wonder the word "Indore" was synonymous with "Cricket" thanks to the legends of the game this city has produced.

16th. / 17th. Jan'1934: The match was played at Daly College ground between MCC, led by Walters in the absence of D.R. Jardine, and Central India XI, led by Col. C.K.Nayudu. The Central India team was formed just few days before the match by inducting 6 players from Indore, 3 from Alirajpur and one each from Mhow and Dhar. Capt. Taidi, principal of Daly College was the Secretary. The team arrived from Bhopal in 7/8 cars and were put up at State Guest House located at Palasia, residence of Seth Bhandari "Nandanvan". As the team was being felicitated, a tremor was felt due to minor earthquake. This did not affect the staging of match at Daly College ground, where wooden galleries were constructed for people to sit and was the match.

Around 15,000 spectators had come to witness the

match. MCC won the toss and elected to bat. They were all out for 157 runs with Walters (54) and Langridge (37) were the main run getters. Col. CK Nayudu took 6 wkts for 34 runs. Central India team did not do better and soon they lost all their main batsmen. The match is remembered for the slow batting of Yarde who played for 5 hrs. and 24 minutes to score 24 runs. The match ended as tie in dramatic fashion. The Central India was 154 for 9 wkts with last over to bowl and 3 runs short of MCC total. They got a leg bye from the 2nd ball. Then Terrant and Sajjan Singh scored one run each to equal the MCC score. The crowd was cheering for winning run with two balls to spare. Sajjan Singh got carried away and stepped out to hit the ball from Langridge; missed and was bowled. The crowd was very disappointed and Sajjan Singh was booed where ever he was cited in the town. It became difficult for him to freely move around in the city.

It was an unofficial visit of MCC team to Indore. The team was given a gala dinner at Baxibaug residence of State Prime minister, with Sir Siremal Bafna being

TEAM FOR THE FIRST MATCH



Sitting in first row (left to right) : Iliyet, Coronal Sajjan Singh, Vajir Ali, Walters (Captain), Coronal Nayudu (Captain), Human, J. N. Bhaya & Langrij
 Second Row (left to right): Major Mumtaj, Mustak, Meriyat, Leftinent Tarent, Townsend, C. S. Nayudu, Michel & Jagdale
 Third Row (left to right) : Ishtak, Bekwell, Kutubuddin, Barnet, Firojudin, Gregri, Yerde & Clarck.

the host and ably supported by Sardar Jadhav, Mamasahab Gawde, M. Jagdale and Raobahadur Dr. Mahadev Prithvinath.

Dec. 1951-52: The second time the MCC team visited the city under the captainship of Nigel Howard to play 3 day match with Holkar team at Yashwant Club ground. Holkars made 281 with handsome contribution from CT Sarwate, Mushtaq Ali and Col. Nayudu. MCC replied with 329, JD Robinson scored 113 runs. Holkars scored 191 for 5 wkts in the second inning and the match ended in a draw. The match was remembered for JN Bhaya whose fielding was appreciated by the visiting team as well as the crowd.

9th. 10th. 11th. Dec'1972: The third time MCC team visited Indore to play the match was against Central Zone at Nehru Stadium. MCC team was led by Tony Lewis while Hanumant Singh led the Central Zone team. MCC batted first and scored 261 for 9 with opener Berywood scoring 117 runs. Kailash Gattani and Sanjay Jagdale took 3 wkts each. Central Zone replied by scoring 255 for 3 wkts with Suryaveer Singh scoring 102 and Salim Durrani scoring strokeful 81 runs with 16 boundaries. MCC scored 209 for 4 wkts in the 2nd inning with Mike Denies (44) and Keith Filature (56) were the main run getters for them. In the last inning Central Zone score 111 for 4 wkts and the match ended in a draw.

5th. 6th. 7th February 1977: The match between Ranji Trophy winners (Bombay) and the visiting MCC team was played at Nehru Stadium. MCC was led by Mike Brearly while the Bombay team was led by Sunil Gavaskar. MCC won the toss and batted first to score 308 for 4 wkts. Bob Woolmer (60), Mike Brearly (79), Keith Filature (65 n.o.) & Derek Randall (61 n.o.) were the main scorers. Bombay replied with 201 for 7 wkts with Vijay Mohan Raj (76) as the top scorer. MCC scored 112 for 2 wkts in the 2nd. inning to which

Bombay replied with 97 for 5 wkts and the match ended in draw.

22nd, 23rd, 24th January 1982: The match was played between Central Zone and the visiting MCC at Nehru Stadium. The match is remembered for Ian Botham's hurricane inning of 122 runs in 55 minutes with the help of 7 sixes and 16 fours. His second 50 runs came in just 20 balls. MCC scored 436 for 7 wkts with Mike Gatting (111) and Ian Botham (122) scoring centuries. Central Zone replied with 311, thanks to useful contribution of Vedraj (59) and Aslam Ali (48) as the main batsmen failed to get going. MCC scored 210 for 1 wkts in the 2nd. inning with Jeff Cook (104 n.o.) and Christ Towsery (81 n. o.) being the main contributor in the drawn game.

15.4.2006: The first ever ODI match was played at newly built Holkar Stadium between England and India. AJ Strauss was the captain of England team while Rahul Dravid led India. England won the toss and elected to bat and scored 288 runs in the stipulated 50 over. Kevin Peterson (64), Collinwood (64) and GD John (54) were the main scorers for the visiting team. S. Shrisant took 6 for 55 on a fiery wicket. India replied with 289 for 3 wkts, thanks to hectic knock by Robin Uthapa (81 n.o.), Rahul Dravid (69), Suresh Raina (53) and Yuvraj Singh (63 n. o.)

This was the debut ODI for Robin Uthapa. The stadium and the wicket received lot of accolades and compliments from both the teams and the media who covered the game.

The present England series has revived lot of nostalgic memories of the past and the association of Indore with England.

(Vijay Nayudu in association with Shri Manohar Singh Dhakad)

UNSUNG HEROS OF INDORE CRICKET

By Vijay Nayudu

Ram Atre (64): belongs to a family who loved the game from bottom of their heart. His father, late Shri. B.N.Atry, affectionately called "Babuji" was instrumental in formation of cricket team at State Bank of Indore in early 50s by giving jobs to promising cricketers of the town and also looking after them as their father figure. It is no wonder that his son Ram took to the game and went on to play for Divisional team before getting into administration of the game at the Divisional level as Jt. Secretary and Vice President and later with Vijay Cricket Club, Indore for the last over 30 years or so.



It is often seen that many former players get in to administration of the game to draw some thing out of the game rather than to give back what they have received from the game. Ram Atre after having obtained Post Graduate and Law degree worked with State Bank of Indore for over 38 years and superannuated at very senior level. He belongs to a rare breed, like his father, who believed in giving all what they have to the game without expecting any thing in return. Soft spoken and humble, Ram believes in doing things quietly with sole purpose of getting immense pleasure in watching his wards performing well in the local tournaments.

Vijay Cricket Club was established in 1958 by Vijay Badjatia who was a club level player with lots of passion for the game. He was ably supported by Suresh Kothari and Prof. Kailas Agarwal. The Club started at MJ Cloth market compound before moving to Vaishnav ground. Ram Atre joined the club in 1970 as a player and later began coaching the youngsters from 1985. Later the Club moved to Dashara Maidan, now known as Rajeev Gandhi Maidan. Ram Atre was ably supported by late Ajit Verma who was a promising left arm medium pace bowler-turned coach.

In the earlier days, cricket was confined to Chimanbaug / Central Gymkhana area before some local Clubs began to surface in other parts of the city post 1970s. Since there was no funding, the Clubs used to survive on their internal strength. Vijay CC was no exception but has been fortunate to be in safe hands, thanks to persons like Ajit Verma and Ram Atre who without any outside help managed to function, thanks

to annual summer camps where over 200 kids turn up for coaching at a nominal fees of Rs.150/- or so. However it was not possible to meet all the expenses of preparing the wickets and provide all the equipments for playing cricket. The involvement of Shri Sajjan Singh Verma, Hon'ble MP, helped the Club get some finance to develop 4 grass wickets for practice and playing matches.

As the facilities began to improve, the Club began to show tremendous progress in unearthing promising players. The Club has produced over 10 Ranji players over the years and prominent among them have been Sachin Dhoolpure, Amar Kokje and among the current promising players in Rajat Patidar, Saransh Jain, Aryansh Yadav and Abhishekh Tomar to name a few.

Vijay CC (apart from CCI) has become a role model for all the other Clubs who are trying to get back the lost glory of Indore cricket. The Club has become a nursery ground for producing quality players on regular basis and credit for this must go to Ram Atre and his team of dedicated club officials who spend their own hard earned money to run the club so that local kids are given an opportunity to show their talents. Their selfless commitment and passion for the game is worth emulation. They are truly the unsung heroes of Indore cricket.

REMINISCENCE...

By Prof. S. P. Chaturvedi

Dr. Vishnu Dixit, was popularly known as 'Chunaat' in local cricket circle. He was a right arm wrist spinner and bowled googly leg break and faster one's with effect. He was really dangerous on his day on matting wicket because most of cricket those days was played of coir or jute matting. He was highly talented but equally unpredictable. When he bowled at his best he was unplayable but that was very rare, on most occasions he was satisfied on spinning the ball caring little on line and length. If someone told him why so many boundaries in one over, his reply used to be "see how much I turn the ball" this was his tragic flaw. That is why his performance remained so limited and confined to a couple of Ranju Trophy matches.

I have seen him dragging the set kripal singh out of the crease against madras at the YC ground, but his success remained limited because of his arrogant attitude. He was also a solid defensive batsman of lower order and against Bengal I saw him playing a long innings against CS Nayudu, he almost frustrated the legendary CS that day putting his left foot forward and defending the ball coming on to the stumps and leaving all outgoing ball as if trying to prove that it was difficult to get him out.

In local matches he created havoc against all teams be it an inter college or an inter club match because that much spin was rare for players. Even his short pitch balls got him wickets in local matches. And some batsman he treated as his rabbits and got them out at will. He was a good cardiologist and was famous in

medical circles as an efficient doctor. But even there he worked on whims, unfortunately he did not have a heavy life at home and so he got frustrated. He was one of those rare people who never succeed in whatever they do be it home or outside home.

Undoubtedly he was an awe-inspiring bowler whom even good batsman feared to face. He could do almost anything on his day. But because he was extremely talkative he lost the effect which his bowling could have caused. Those days Indore had a real privilege of four outstanding right arm leg spinners like CS Nayudu, Dhanwade, Chandu Sarwate and Vishnu Dixit and only three could play in the first XI, this was another reason why he lost most of the opportunities. But those who have seen him bowled and have played against him would never forget what a great bowler he was in the 60's.

Cricket Laughs...



Contest 3 : No response received.

You can send your feedback to BIGRUNJS C/o Madhya Pradesh Cricket Association, Holkar Stadium, Race Course Road Indore or e-mail bigrunjs.mPCA@gmail.com

Editorial Board : Prof. S.P. Chaturvedi, Vijay Nayudu, Dr. Ashok Kumat, Capt. Manohar Sharma, Rohit Pandit, Rajiv Risodkar & Mahaveer Singh Arya.

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