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At the toss for the Final in the Deaf ICC T20 World Cup - India vs Sri Lanka (L→R): Sodumo Abongile (SA), Indian Captain, Imran Sheikh, Stefan Picowski (Deaf ICC Chairman), Sri Lanka Captain, Gamidu Malcolm, Chris Grant and Third Umpire, Senat Nandiweera (SL) (See article p 6.)
Law 43

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Greetings to Law 43 readers for 2019. January is always a busy month for many Umpires and Scorers, Club Volunteers, Cricket Victoria Match Officials, Groundsmen and the many parents who provide transport, as it is the main time for what this season has been called the Youth Premier League. It has been a pleasure to observe some of Australia’s future cricketing talent. Indeed, given the current state of Australia’s “batting resources”, as measured by our performances in three Test Matches against the visiting Indians, how desperately we need to find new batting talent!

In this issue, in addition to the usual “words of wisdom” and news from our President and the CV Umpire & Coach Education Manager, I trust you will enjoy reading about Chris Grant’s experiences in umpiring at the ICC T20 World Cup for Deaf cricketers. It seems such a pity that the number of participating teams at such a wonderful event should be influenced by “international politics”.

Chris has also sent me an article published by the CA Match Officials Team, from which, with permission, I have extracted the details of the recent T20 milestone achievements for John Ward and Geoff Joshua and my thanks to Phil Gillespie for initially sending me the picture of the Certificate Presentation to John Ward, taken at the time of John’s 50th by one of the CA Match Officials Team at Meticon Stadium on the Gold Coast.

The article concerning Heat Exhaustion and Heat Strokes, sent to me by Alan McCarthy, is a timely reminder as February approaches, that, as match officials, we must adhere to the heat policies within the various tournaments in which we are involved. Alan is again thanked for another Book Review, this time not a review of a cricket book but one which I trust you find interesting. Again, I’d like to remind readers, that I should look forward to receiving your own contributions to this regular column, “Macca’s Book Review.”

The article entitled “Honouring Basil D’Oliveira: A life measured in far more than runs”, written by Oliver Brown and originally published in The Telegraph, is a reminder of that terrible period in the history of cricket when the racist politics of South Africa dictated the sporting activities by a significant number of that country’s citizens. The concluding paragraph of the article draws a most interesting comparison between the persona no grata, John Vorster and the great Basil D’Oliveira.

As Easter, 2019 approaches, I felt it was time to remind particularly some of our newer members and, hopefully, potential members of our 2019 Crockett Shield team, of the planning for the time between now and Easter Saturday, with yet another column entitled “The 2019 Crockett Shield Mission Continues”.

Finally, along with the “back-page” VCAUSA Calendar, I have made a comment on one peculiar situation which currently can occur in some Youth Premier League Matches, and which really needs to be corrected by the statement of a precise playing condition, in the future.

Trevor Finlayson

Two Significant Premier Cricket Milestones

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Happy New Year to all our members and readers. Following our 2-1 series loss to India we can only hope that against Sri Lanka we find players with the grit and determination to sell their wickets dearly and bowl to a plan before the winter campaign for “The Ashes”. Our own search is on for players for the Easter exchange 2019 Crockett Shield and Butler Trophy defence. Players can make themselves available by contacting Gerry Schembri, Tony Ventura or John Richards. To be eligible for selection a player must be a member of the VCAUSA and committed to the cause of the Easter exchange which started in 1931. Being committed to the cause includes attending functions and getting to know our SACUSA colleagues – fostering relationships is an important part of the event. The Butler Trophy family event requires as many participants as possible to give us the best chance to retain the trophy – while the specific challenge is a closely guarded secret – we need men, women and children of all ages involved.

In December, I met with Umpire and Coach Education Manager, Jason Leonard-Scott, to discuss issues including communication, Adelaide and New Zealand exchanges, Training and Development nights and promotion of the Easter exchange. Some of the discussion points were identified by our Committee of Management and some by members who have raised queries with a member of the Committee. As always, Jason was open to receiving feedback and suggestions. These meetings are held in pre-, mid- and post-season to ensure that the VCAUSA and CV are working together in the interests of umpires and scorers.

On Tuesday, 18th December, Gaurav Bawa and I had the pleasure of presenting the Cameron medal for the 2017-18 scorer of the year to Casey South Melbourne’s 1st XI scorer Billy Lincoln at a Super Slam match. We had not been able to present the award in person at our Presentation dinner. Billy was humbled by the award and expressed his thanks to the VCAUSA and all the scorers and umpires with whom he has worked over the years.

“May cricket continue to flourish and spread its wings. The world can only be richer for it.” Sir Donald Bradman

Alan McCarthy

CRICKET IN THE OLYMPICS

Cricket made its solitary appearance in the Olympic Games in Paris in 1900. The competition consisted of just one match, played between Britain (represented by the Devon and Somerset Wanderers CC) and France, made up of staff from the British Embassy in Paris. Not surprisingly, perhaps, Britain won by 158 runs although none of the players was aware of the game’s Olympic status until some months later.

Good Morning and welcome to my contribution to the January edition of Law 43. The month of January is traditionally a busy one and the 2019 version has certainly been no exception. Premier Cricket resuming from the holiday hiatus and a large volume of Youth Premier League matches across all five age groups have stretched our resources beyond the limit. Three T/20 games in a day of 38-degree heat isn’t ideal at all, but four of our team stood up where nobody else was available…a Herculean effort! I am sincerely thankful to everyone who has stood in the YPL this season and would also like to thank those external umpires for stepping up and filling the void at times. Darrell Holt has helped us out of a jam by arranging some of ‘his’ NWMCA at late notice, but with a minimum of fuss. Again, thank you to all involved.

The Honour Roll for YPL Grand Final umpires in season 2018/19 is as follows:

- Under 18 Male: Holt & Frampton
- Under 17 Female: Sheahan & Muthugounder
- Under 16 Male: Bomford & Medina
- Under 14 Male: Hall & Turner
- Under 14 Female: Fishley & Diamond-Smith

I was able to spend a couple of days in Shepparton, observing and coaching our umpires at the Australian Country Cricket Championships. The grounds I saw were magnificent, though one pitch in particular made for interesting going. A very strong group of umpires from across the country stood in the championships and I was delighted with the performances of Lisa McCabe and former Premier Cricket umpire Peter Williams throughout a week marked with extreme temperatures and high game pressure. The high standard of Victorian umpires was again reflected on the National stage when Peter was appointed to a Men’s Semi-final and Lisa’s exceptional performances at the tournament saw her appointed to the Women’s Grand Final… sensational effort!

Our New Zealand exchange umpires have spent a week immersed in a wide variety of Premier Cricket experiences: Men’s 1sts 50-over matches, Super Slam T/20 and YPL fixtures, combined with a couple of tickets to the Stars vs Hurricanes BBL match and a delightful VCAUSA dinner. Certainly a full agenda, and we even managed to give Matthew and Vinit a couple of days off in between.

Matt Robertson is in Christchurch at the moment and Mark Malmberg will venture to Auckland in April to complete the exchange. Many thanks to Doug Cowie (AKL) and Antony Scott (CHC) for their ongoing commitment to the development of umpires on both sides of ‘the ditch’. It is certainly a highlight for all umpires.

My intention was to send the Mid-Season reports out through MOS. Unfortunately, I have faced more than a few issues with the ‘mail merge’ and the wrong report being allocated to recipients, to the point where I’ve printed individual copies and placed them in envelopes to be collected at the T & D on Thursday night (24/1). Apologies for any inconvenience this may have caused.

We are approaching the ‘business’ end of the season where the games are seemingly more important to teams and players. Please maintain your standards and those we agreed upon as a team at SinS. But most importantly…

See them well!

Jason Leonard-Scott
I was extremely fortunate to be invited to attend the Deaf ICC T20 World Cup which was held in New Delhi, India. I had some experience in Deaf Cricket, having previously umpired in the National Inclusion Cricket Championships in Geelong. The tournament was played between India, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Nepal and Australia. Pakistan and Bangladesh were due to compete but faced entry issues and were forced to abandon the tournament. Afghanistan and England were thought to be entrants, however they indicated they would not be competing, well in advance. Cricket Australia did an enormous amount of work and committed a significant level of investment to enter a side. Australian teams had previously competed in World events in 2005 and 1996. There were two current Australian players who played at those events.

I joined the Australian Team as the umpiring representative. Prior to the tournament, each country was advised to provide an umpire to officiate in the tournament. I was humbled and eternally thankful to be appointed.

Deaf Cricket in Australia is not limited to the National Inclusion Cricket Championships conducted annually by Cricket Australia. However most of the Australian representatives play Premier or Club Cricket. Melbourne has an all-deaf side that plays in the Eastern Cricket Association. For those who have umpired deaf cricket, it is a different experience for umpires. For one, the games are largely quiet affairs with players communicating in both sign and body language. Body language is particularly important for people who are deaf or hard of hearing and this is particularly crucial on the cricket field. But the lack of noise on the cricket ground does not detract from the ultra-competitiveness of these players.

For a number of the younger players in the Australian squad, this tournament was the first time they had set foot outside of their own country and to tour a place like India was an eye-opener. Things such as large crowds, people staring, the food and bottled water, took some time for players to adjust to. Some of these issues are enough to be confronting for those of us without hearing difficulties but for the players on the tour, I can’t imagine how they felt. When thinking about sharing my experiences here, I wanted to talk more broadly about cricket as a means for inclusion instead of giving you a game-by-game summary.

The first piece of context I was to receive was early on. The team had a training session and warm-up match on consecutive days and a number of challenges came out of those sessions. The most vexed issue was the issue of hearing aids for the players. Deaf ICC rules stipulate that no player, at any time during a match can have a hearing aid on them. Not all players have hearing aids, not all players are familiar with speech, sign language or lip reading so they all must communicate in various ways. The questions for the team around training and warm-up matches were around when to take off hearing aids to replicate tournament conditions. Coaching and support staff all had differing opinions, each as valid as the next. Some wanted to be able to communicate with players verbally right up to game time and some wanted tournament conditions, which meant net sessions were conducted without aids.

The next piece of reality came when we were fortunate enough to visit one of the largest deaf schools in New Delhi. This is where some of greatest communicators in the group were on show. Before departing for India, I had learned that there are over 200 different sign languages throughout the
world. In fact, the South African interpreter was fluent in four or five different languages alone, but more on that later. I also learned that each sign language is quite different from the next. However, that short time spent with these children was one of the highlights of the entire trip. The game of cricket united everyone who was there that afternoon, Australian, Indian, hearing or deaf. The bats and balls broke out and off everyone went. A fine example of the game at its inclusive best. A keen observer noted with interest that not one of the kids had any sort of hearing aid. The location of the school was also notable as it backed on to the Delhi Cricket Ground into which we all ducked for a peak at.

By midway through that first week, preparations were being ramped up for the tournament. The support staff did an incredible job of creating the elite athlete environment of a professional cricket tour. The players were keeping statistics on weight loss and gain, sleep patterns and wellness as well as recovery sessions in the particularly chilly swimming pool. All such information was provided to the team doctor and physio to keep the players healthy. The players for their part were largely engaged with the professional athlete routine. Cricket Australia went to great lengths to cover this tour as a good news story for the game with access to a tour media manager for the duration. I would encourage everyone to search for Deaf T20 World Cup through Cricket Australia’s official media channels (as well as looking for some “off-broadway” material). Within the first day or so of this material being published, some 11,000 views had been registered and recruitment of deaf cricketers had begun unwittingly. Two deaf cricketers immediately discovered that they could play deaf cricket having not previously known about the concept.

While the little successes of the tour were being recognised along the way, the challenges also became apparent. Individual player-management is part and parcel of any sporting team and this was no different. The added dimension here is the use of sign-language interpreters in meetings of a confidential and sensitive nature. As previously mentioned, body language is all-important within the deaf community and some things can be lost in translation, so to speak. The players were finding out what it means to be an athlete in the professional environment and were grappling with some negative commentary on social media. The blanket rule from the media manager was simple, do not engage.

The day before the opening ceremony, we were lucky enough to visit the ancient city of Agra which is of course the location of the Taj Mahal. Words can’t really describe it so I’ll let the picture tell the story. Our journey to Agra would take us through some extremely poor areas of India and the sight of abject poverty is always a tough one wherever you go.

With another warm-up match and net session under their belts, the players were better prepared than any other side, the home team excepted. I was fortunate enough to officiate in the three warm-up matches, to get my own preparation sorted. With preparation in mind, I attended the pre-tournament umpire briefing where I met the umpires from South Africa, Sri Lanka, and India. The South African umpire had played 70 First-Class Matches and is in their umpiring pathway. The Sri Lankan had 100 First-Class Matches under his belt as an umpire. The first item of business at the meeting was the official announcement that Pakistan and Bangladesh were not granted entry into India and therefore would not be participating, a disappointing outcome. The draw and thus umpire appointments had to be adjusted with a new format adopted. Each team would play each other once in the first group stage, with the top three playing off in a finals series to determine the finalists.
The tournament Opening Ceremony provided an Indian flavour in sight, sound and taste. One interesting observation to be made was that the use of sound limited accessibility for the people we were there to celebrate, the deaf community.

With the reduction in the number of competing teams, the tournament started a day later, meaning a full round of official warm-up matches took place. This gave us the opportunity to view the other nations. I officiated the Sri Lanka vs South Africa Match. It also gave us a chance to sample how the tournament would run. Things I was (and am still) unused to include the surrounds and sounds of the set-up. A PA system with music and commentary going out to all at the ground, made things difficult to hear and concentrate on, particularly when the commentary made errors in ball-counts. The other potential issue facing the players and umpires would be the East-West-facing wickets.

The early winter sun in Delhi sets at around 4.30pm, right at the climax of our afternoon matches. Our first Pool M atch between India and South Africa provided a valuable lesson in backing your team-mate no matter what. A waist-high full-toss no-ball call swung the match in the favour of the hosts. We were quickly confronted by the South African team management post-match and they let us know, in no uncertain terms, what they thought of the decision (which of course was the correct one). I’ll put my hand up here as an inexperienced umpire, I stayed silent, more in shock than anything else. On reflection, it would’ve been better to show my team mate solidarity and suggest they leave our area immediately.

The team from Nepal travelled by bus from Kathmandu to New Delhi. The 1,100-kilometer journey took 24 hours. I marveled at the team’s resilience and enthusiasm. Cricket in Nepal is very much in the development phase and the fact that they have been able to produce a deaf and hard-of-hearing side speaks volumes to Nepal’s commitment to the game. Clear underdogs, Nepal’s previous match against Sri Lanka was short-lived. Against a rampaging host, they fought as hard in the last over as they had done in the first. Later that afternoon, we watched from the sidelines the match of the tournament. Australia defeated South Africa in a Super-Over. This was the team’s best result for the tournament and was thoroughly celebrated.

The tournament rolled into the Super 3’s stage with Sri Lanka, India and South Africa fighting it out for a place in the Final. Australia played Nepal in the 4th-Place Play-off. Sri Lanka went undefeated in the Super 3’s while India played South Africa in a virtual Semi-Final. It was a gripping contest with India finally prevailing in the last over despite several changes in the balance of power. Throughout the tournament, South Africa did themselves no favours dropping around 15 catches. So outside an India vs Australia Final, the organisers would’ve been hoping for India vs Sri Lanka. The Aussies did me the biggest favour by not qualifying for the final, meaning I would be on-field.

The Final was played in front of an estimated crowd of 500, easily the biggest crowd I’ve been in front of. The match itself was somewhat of an anti-climax, with Sri Lanka winning easily, but the fanfare around it was fantastic. Each of the competing teams was in attendance and raced to each other to swap shirts, hats and any other bits of memorabilia. Brett Lee was on-hand to present the trophy to all the winners and best performers. His entourage and followers could be
spotted from hundreds of meters away. Of the teams, the Australians were the most talented on a raw basis. Their side was full of potential that didn’t quite click. The South Africans were the most competitive, never throwing in the towel. Nepal were the most resilient, always having a crack. India were the most exciting, quickest bowlers, biggest hitters but the biggest ‘chokers’, throwing away a couple of matches. The Sri Lankans were, by some distance, the best and deserved winners.

Overall, the trip was a wonderful experience. I’m extremely grateful to Cricket Australia for their logistical efforts and, above all, the opportunity. CA backed this tournament when other nations did not and it is a great reflection on their efforts to invest in inclusion cricket. A game that provides such opportunity for social inclusion should be encouraged. On a personal note, I believe umpiring deaf (and other disability) cricket provides all umpires with great learning opportunities. For me, it teaches patience, empathy and humility and is a great advertisement for the National Inclusion Cricket Championships - a tournament well worth being involved with.

Chris Grant

MEET THE FINAL NEW PANEL MEMBER FOR SEASON 2018-19

Eli Hayes: Cricket has always been a big part of my life. My first bat was a rounders bat when I was around 2.5 years old. My father would come home from work absolutely stuffed but would always throw a few to me in the backyard before dinner. The cover drive was my favourite shot back then and it still is today. I played cricket in a team from the age of 9 through to the age of 32.

I spent my first 27 years living in the Dandenong Ranges from Tecoma to Cockatoo. I played junior cricket for Emerald and some senior cricket for Aura Vale Cricket Club. I played a little bit of rep cricket as a junior but never really had the drive to play at my best. Almost all of my senior cricket was played at the Bentleigh Cricket Club. I played in a premiership there and was lucky to play alongside and learn some valuable skills from Peter Roach, Chris Street and Christian Seisun.

I have been married to Carly since 2010 but we have known each other since 1992 as we were in the same class at High School. What started as a dislike of each other has grown into the happy marriage it is today. We have two daughters, Georgie is 4 and April is 2.5. They are very head strong young ladies already so I know I will have my hands full in the years to come.

I thought I would give umpiring a try as I missed being involved but between work and family, couldn't justify the time required to play at my best. I started umpiring at the DDCA last season and really enjoyed it so I thought I'd try to join the Premier panel to see what I can achieve. I am very happy to have made the panel and have really enjoyed the cricket and learning from some experienced umpires.

MORE QUOTABLE QUOTES

“Personally, I am always willing to learn, although I do not always like being taught.”

“It is a fine thing to be honest, but it is also very important to be right.”

“It is better to be making the news than taking it, to be an actor rather than a critic.”

“An appeaser us one who feeds a crocodile – hoping it will eat him last.”

CA MATCH OFFICIALS REACH MILESTONES

Two VCAUSA members who are Cricket Australia National Umpire Panel members, John Ward and Geoff Joshua, together with CA National Panel Umpire, Simon Fry, have all surpassed the 50-Match milestone in Domestic T20 Cricket. All three umpires officiated in the former State-based KFC Big Bash and are now officiating in the 8th Season of the KFC BBL.

John Ward stood in his 50th Australian Domestic T20 Match in the fixture between the Brisbane Heat and Hobart Hurricanes at Metricon Stadium on the Gold Coast. Ward debuted in the shortest format back in the 2006 match between Victoria and South Australia at the Junction Oval, alongside Gerard Abood. The following season, Ward officiated in the Final between Victoria and Tasmania at the MCG. Ward again officiated in the Final, this time 2010/11, between South Australia and New South Wales. Ward was appointed on-field to the inaugural Final of the current day BBL between the Perth Scorchers and Sydney Sixers at the WACA. Ward got to travel the World with his umpiring, making the long trek to officiate in the Caribbean Premier League in 2015, appearing in the Final of that tournament between Trinidad & Tobago and Barbados. (See “John Ward in the West Indies”, Law 43, Vol. 22, No. 3, p. 11.) Ward has also stood at the highest level in the shortest format, debuting in the T20 International match between Australia and the West Indies in 2013. In total, Ward has officiated on-field four Australian Domestic T20 Finals and is the second Australian umpire to reach this milestone.

Geoff Joshua recently stood in his 50th Australian Domestic T20 Match in the fixture between the Adelaide Strikers and Melbourne Renegades at the Adelaide Oval. Joshua made his Domestic T20 debut in the match between Victoria and South Australia at the MCG alongside fellow Victorian John Ward in 2009. Joshua’s first BBL Match was between the Hobart Hurricanes and Sydney Sixers at Bellerive Oval in Hobart. His on-field colleague that day was Simon Fry. Joshua was appointed to the 2014/15 Semi-Final between the Perth Scorchers and Melbourne Stars at the WACA Ground in Perth and went on to stand in the next two Semi-Finals in 2015/16 and 2016/17. Joshua has officiated as 3rd Umpire to two other Semi-Finals in 2012/13 and again in 2013/14 and has also been appointed to two Finals as 3rd Umpire, first in 2015/16 and again in 2017/18. Joshua becomes the third Australian Umpire to stand on-field in 50 Domestic T20 Matches.

Simon Fry stood in his 50th Australian Domestic T20 Match in the fixture between the Hobart Hurricanes and the Sydney Thunder at Blundstone Arena in Hobart.

(Text taken from a Cricket Australia publication written by Chris Grant, CA Cricket Officials Administration Officer. Photographs courtesy of CA Match Officials Team)
HEAT EXHAUSTION AND HEAT STROKE – SYMPTOMS AND TREATMENT

During the recent Rosedale Bushfire in East Gippsland, the Country Fire Authority provided information to the public about Heat Exhaustion and Heat Stroke. We umpire on hot days and Heat Exhaustion, if left untreated, can lead to potentially life-threatening Heat Stroke.

To treat the symptoms of Heat Exhaustion –
1. Move the patient to a cool place with circulating air.
2. Help the patient to sit or lie down in a comfortable position.
3. Remove unnecessary clothing from the patient and loosen any tight clothing.
4. Sponge the patient with cold water.
5. Give the patient cool water to drink.
6. Seek medical aid if the patient vomits or does not recover quickly.

Remember – DRSABCD:
Danger
Response
Send for help
Airway
Breathing
CPR
Defibrillation

Sources – Country Fire Authority & St. John Ambulance Victoria

Alan McCarthy
HONOURING BASIL D’OLIVEIRA: A LIFE MEASURED IN FAR MORE THAN RUNS

In a modest ceremony at an 18th century guildhall overnight, Basil D’Oliveira was posthumously honoured with the Freedom of the City of Worcester.

His son, Shaun, just three years old when D’Oliveira – nicknamed Dolly – became an unwitting political football at the nadir of apartheid, was chosen to collect the award on his behalf. It is safe to say that the man himself, who died in 2011, would have loved the gesture. Both son Damian and grandson Brett have since followed his lead in representing Worcestershire, while the family name adorns a stand at the county’s New Road ground. The occasion offered a suitably elegant acknowledgement of a battle that he fought with serene dignity.

Fifty years have passed since the D’Oliveira affair of 1968, when the Cape Coloured cricketer’s initial non-selection for a tour of South Africa served as a catalyst for his homeland’s exile from Test cricket for 22 years. But the distance of a half-century should blind nobody to the significance of his struggle. A man whose sole ambition was to use his cricketing talent, carried, until his dying day, a lump on his head from where he had been struck by a white policeman’s baton. And yet he ended up precipitating the demise of a loathsome regime. Although D’Oliveira was barred by racial injustice from realising his full gifts – he was 34 when he first played for England in 1966, one year older that the retired [Sir] Alastair Cook is now – his latest recognition in Worcester teaches us that his was a life measured in far more than runs.

There is much talk these days about being on the right side of history. It is a glib phrase, which paints progress as inevitable, rather than acknowledging history as a shifting battlefield on which every advance is hard-earned. During his career, D’Oliveira could scarcely have known that his personal predicament would stir such far-reaching change. For all that he saw the dehumanising effects of apartheid rule – where ambitious young cricketers were subject to the race-based “pencil test” to determine their fitness to play, finding themselves rejected if the pencil became stuck in curly hair – he had no guarantees of beating the system.

Even when he was called up to represent the Marylebone Cricket Club in South Africa, Prime Minister B.J. Vorster ranted at a rally in Bloemfontein that a non-white’s presence would not be tolerated. “This is not the team of the MCC, but a team of the anti-apartheid movement,” he thundered. D’Oliveira’s abiding quest to practise his trade back in his home country remained unfulfilled.

To illustrate why the D’Oliveira Affair still matters, it is worth juxtaposing the all-rounder’s changing place in history with that of Vorster. While D’Oliveira professed to have no hatred of white men, perceiving cricket only as his route to betterment, Vorster very much did have a problem with non-whites. Imprisoned during the Second World War as a Nazi sympathiser, he adhered to apartheid with the utmost strictness as a politician, overseeing Nelson Mandela’s sentence to life imprisonment at the Rivonia trial. His racism was matched only by his cynicism, as he tried to characterise South Africa, a land where nobody with a hint of “colour” was permitted any nearer to a cricket pitch than an enclosed cage, as “the happiest police state in the world”.

Basil D’Oliveira (Image courtesy of “The Independent”)
In the short term, Vorster believed he had won his row with the MCC, whipping up the advocates of apartheid with a vicious diatribe about why banning the touring party was a vital statement of principle. Only time would show how spectacularly he had lost. The MCC’s decision to abandon the tour cemented South Africa’s sporting isolation, given it had been frozen out of the Olympics since 1964. And where Vorster’s stock would steadily fall, culminating in his resignation in 1978 amid corruption charges, D’Oliveira’s inexorably rose, with his five centuries and 44 Test caps for one of England’s most successful teams, sealing his status as a folk hero.

Not for nothing would D’Oliveira ultimately invite comparisons with Jesse Owens, as a figure whose poise and integrity in the face of oppression would stand as enduring inspiration. As Ali Bacher, the former head of South African cricket put it: “He showed conclusively that black people, handed the same opportunity as whites, had the ability and potential to become international stars.” His story transcended the ephemera of sport.

Indeed, his biographer Peter Oborne argues that the 158 D’Oliveira scored against Australia at The Oval, to help draw the 1968 Ashes just as he was savagely attacked by Vorster and his cronies, was cricket’s single most important innings. “No other innings in Test history,” he writes, “has done anything like so much good.” Those words are salutary today, as D’Oliveira’s achievements are inscribed for posterity with a Worcestershire plaque. In South Africa, a certain John Vorster is all but airbrushed from the record, a persona non grata whose name is even removed from a building in Stellenbosch University, his alma mater. The contrast signifies a just resolution. To invoke a line from Martin Luther King, assassinated in Memphis in the same year the D’Oliveira Affair erupted: “The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice.” A timeless sentiment, to be sure, and yet D’Oliveira’s sacrifice stands as a precious reminder that this same arc does not bend by itself.

(Original article by Oliver Brown, “The Telegraph”, London (13th September, 2018) and reproduced with formal permission.)

‘ORDINARY’ UMPIRING MISSES MULTIPLE FOOT-FAULT NO-BALLS

Sri Lankan left-arm wrist-spinner Lakshan Sandakan overstepped the popping crease in delivering almost half of his 30 deliveries before lunch on day three of his side’s third Test against England in Colombo on Sunday, according to an analysis by broadcaster ‘Sky Sports’. England batsman Ben Stokes was ‘dismissed’ three times in his innings, once in actual fact and twice reprieved because Sandakan had overstepped, the latter two occasions seeing him recalled after third umpire Marais Erasmus checked the replay in accordance with normal practice.

Long-time ‘London Telegraph’ journalist and ‘Wisden’ editor Scyld Berry pointed out that Sandakan was bowling from the end at which Indian umpire Sundarum Ravi stood and described his performance in terms of no-ball calls as “ordinary”. “Ravi has the habit of standing about six feet behind the stumps for spinners”, wrote Berry in The Telegraph, something he said “does not facilitate decision-making”.

The first reprieve occurred when Stokes, on 22, drove Sandakan straight to extra-cover, and walked off, only for Erasmus to indicate to Ravi he should be recalled. The second reprieve came when he edged Sandakan to slip, again to be recalled, however, he did not make much of his two reprieves, being caught at long-on for 42 off bowler Dilruwan Perera.

England vice-captain Jos Buttler told the BBC after the day’s play that no-ball calls should be taken away from on-field umpires. "I'd like to see the third umpire call them”, said Buttler, "He could watch (continued on p. 15)
THE 2019 CROCKETT SHIELD MISSION CONTINUES

While Easter, 2019 (19th to 22nd April) and the next Crockett Shield encounter between our VCAUSA team and a team representing SACUSA, does seem some time in the future, it is urgent for those VCAUSA members aspiring to be selected for this most important match, that you have the dates for both the planned practice sessions and practice match entered into your diaries. Practice sessions have been booked for the indoor practice centre at CityPower and will be from 7:00 to 9:00 pm on the following Wednesdays: 6th, 20th and 27th March and 3rd and 10th April. A practice match has been planned for Monday, 11th March, vs Mount Waverley Vets. The venue for this practice match has yet to be decided and will depend on finals commitments for Mount Waverley CC teams.

While regular, Law 43 readers would have already seen a number of items concerning both the history of this important biennial cricket fixture and some history of Bob Crockett himself (see for example, “The RM Crockett Shield” – Chris Allan (Law 43, Vol. 23, No. 5, 2016-2017 season, p 12) and “Why was the Crockett Shield Inevitable?” – Kristen Thomas (Law 43, Vol. 23, No. 7, 2016-2017 season, pp 9-11)), it seems an appropriate time to remind newer members and hence some forthcoming players, about some of this history.

Where else would be better to study the history of Bob Crockett than at Cricket Willow in Daylesford, the home of the Tonetti family, where Crockett memorabilia and the Crockett Shield are on display. The accompanying pictures (courtesy of Chris Allan) give you a glimpse into this history. But if you would like to read more, why not visit Cricket Willow yourself (time permitting)?

You can be assured that the Tonettis hope that the VCAUSA success in winning recent Crockett Shield matches will continue into 2019, so that the “coveted Crockett Shield” can continue as part of their memorabilia display.

Ed.

The Ares 3 crew have landed on Mars after a journey of 124 days from Earth, to expand the horizons of humanity. All supplies have been sent in 14 previous unmanned missions. Six days into a 31-day mission on the planet surface, a 175 km/h sand storm rips the communications dish out of the ground, severs an antenna array and astronaut Mark Watney, the botanist on the crew, has been speared with the antennae travelling through his protective suit and skin “like a bullet through butter.” The rest of the crew have evacuated to the Hermes spacecraft believing that Watney is dead.

Watney survived because the antenna stops at his pelvis and the hole in his suit is plugged by the antenna and the congealed blood from his wound. However, he is now stranded on Mars, with no way to communicate with Hermes or Earth, in a space Habitat (Hab) designed to last 31 days. In addition, if the oxygenator breaks down he suffocates, if the water reclaimer breaks down he dies of thirst, if the Hab breaches he explodes, eventually he starves to death.

Watney adapts and uses his skills to survive by growing potatoes in Martian soil aided by human waste, working out a communication method with Earth using signs and keeping himself amused listening to the rest of the crew’s disco music and watching episodes of Happy Days. No wonder he can’t wait to leave! As Watney says, “I need to ask myself, ‘What would an Apollo astronaut do? He’d drink three whiskey sours, drive his Corvette to the launchpad, then fly to the moon in a command module smaller than my Rover. Man, those guys were cool.’” What he decides to do is not panic, use science to figure things out and hope that NASA can arrange a rescue mission.

NASA turns to the Chinese Space Agency for help and accepts the mutiny of the Hermes crew who unanimously decide to return to Mars in mid-flight. Watney helps himself by cannibalising Rover parts and races against time and storms to be in position to blast off from the surface to rendezvous with the Hermes. Plenty of plans go astray and need rethinking along the way especially when Watney rolls the Rover in a crater.

Throughout, Watney’s spirit and sense of humour shine through. When he is stuck in the Rover after it rolls on its side he comments, “I got bounced around a lot, but I am a well-honed machine in times of crisis. As soon as the Rover toppled, I curled into a ball and cowered. That’s the kind of action hero I am.”

When thinking about the cost of his rescue and whether one life is worth the expense, he muses, “…they did it because every human being has a basic instinct to help each other out. It might not seem that way sometimes, but it’s true.”

Alan McCarthy

‘Ordinary’ Umpiring Misses Multiple Foot-Fault No Balls (cont’d)

TV and then communicate to the on-field umpire”. He then referred to a trial the International Cricket Council (ICC) conducted in England’s home One-Day series against Pakistan in 2016, where responsibility for adjudicating front-foot no-balls was given to the third umpire. However, during the trial period only 0.3 per cent of deliveries were no-balls and, given the significant cost of the technology required, the ICC decided against full implementation.

(from Playing the Game, No. 2654-13281 26th November, 2018)
The ongoing VCAUSA calendar for 2018-19, as far as is known at this stage is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, 24 January, 2019, 7:00 pm</td>
<td>VCAUSA BBQ at 6:00 pm &amp; CV T&amp;D at 7:00 pm</td>
<td>CV CityPower Centre, St Kilda</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 19 February, 2019, 7:00 pm</td>
<td>CV T&amp;D</td>
<td>CV CityPower Centre, St Kilda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 5 March, 2019, 7:00 pm</td>
<td>CV T&amp;D (Finals Umpires only)</td>
<td>CV CityPower Centre, St Kilda</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, 11 March, 2019 (Labour Day)</td>
<td>Social Cricket Match</td>
<td>VCAUSA vs Mount Waverley Vets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 12 March, 2019, 7:30 pm</td>
<td>CoM Meeting</td>
<td>Venue to be confirmed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 20 March, 2019, 7:00 – 9:00 pm</td>
<td>Crockett Shield Cricket Practice</td>
<td>CityPower Indoor Nets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 27 March, 2019, 7:00 – 9:00 pm</td>
<td>Crockett Shield Cricket Practice</td>
<td>CityPower Indoor Nets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 3 April, 2019, 7:00 – 9:00 pm</td>
<td>Crockett Shield Cricket Practice</td>
<td>CityPower Indoor Nets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 10 April, 2019, 7:00 – 9:00 pm</td>
<td>Crockett Shield Cricket Practice</td>
<td>CityPower Indoor Nets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 – 22 April, 2019</td>
<td>Easter Exchange with SACUSA, Melbourne</td>
<td>Includes Crockett Shield Match (Saturday) and Butler Trophy (Sunday)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, 17 May, 2019</td>
<td>VCAUSA Annual Dinner &amp; Presentation Night</td>
<td>Venuto Club, Bulleen</td>
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**WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF?**

Imagine you are umpiring a Youth T20 match for which one playing condition is that there should be a maximum of nine balls in an over for overs 1 to 19, but that a fee hit should be awarded to the batting side following any no-ball. The bowler from your end has already had two “illegal deliveries” (wides or no-balls) and has a further no-ball on the ninth delivery. Should you award the batting side its deserved “free hit”? If so, when, and if not, why not?

Such a situation occurred on a number of occasions during the recent Youth Premier League matches, so I have heard, and indeed, twice during two different matches in which I was officiating. For each of these matches the umpires had been given two different procedures to follow by two different CV Officials. The first: “The free hit cannot be taken as the ninth ball is the end of the over.” The second: “The over must continue until the free hit is able to be taken legally by the batting side.” I have even heard a third interpretation, namely that the free hit should be taken on the first delivery of the over following the nine-ball over.

Both the first and third approaches potentially disadvantage the batting side. But the second approach resulted in a twelve-ball over which, according to one “reliable authority”, is a record for Premier Cricket, the previous record being an eleven-ball over bowled at the Arden Street ground some years ago, admittedly in somewhat different circumstances!

_Ed._