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Editorial

-In celebrating this historic decision by the clubs involved in the formation of a united structure, we can all reflect and stand proud that the quest to put Lenasia on the forefront of sporting achievers is finally being realised.

This whole new sporting environment which now allows every keen sportsperson to pursue his or her dream, throws our objectives into a new perspective altogether. Gone are the days when all the broader more pertinent issues of every day life were also the responsibilities of sports people.

The many members responsible for this merger are mindful of this fact and have hence taken on the awesome task of providing cricket at all levels, in a most professional and businesslike manner.

Under the stress and duress of the past system, our diligent officials did their best to promote and provide all the codes of sport. But today the difference is that the individual can not only strive, or compete, but also achieve the ultimate dream. Whether it be a gold medal at the Olympics, a Wimbledon crown, a goal at the Soccer world cup, a century at Lords, or a drop-goal in the Rugby world cup.....

As we move towards another season and work to make all the pieces fall into place, it is the players more than any others who must realise the gravity of the decision to form a joint structure.

Officials involved in the new Lenasia Cricket Club took a brave step, when they dissolved clubs which had proud histories. The responsibility lies in the hands of each and every individual who are members. They must never lose sight and must be totally dedicated to the success of the club, on and off the field. A sense of belonging must be instilled.

Everyone loves winners, and they bring in the crowds, rekindle interest and the money necessary to go to the top. The Lenasia Cricket Club will endeavour to operate on the scale of the great Johannesburg clubs, namely; Wanderers, Old Edwardians and others. It is possible that the Lenasia Cricket Club would be the largest in the West Rand, with over 120 juniors and close to 100 senior players.

This brings us to the sore point of sponsorship. Individuals and small businesses have kept the sporting flame aflame for all clubs in all sporting codes. Lenasia has many national and internationally recognised banking and insurance companies in its midst. Over the many decades they have been patronised by the locals, but it is sad to see that none are involved in the promotion of sport.

If big business can get involved, our infrastructures which are already in place, can be improved to a large degree. The main cricket, soccer cum athletics stadium must be developed into a top class venue.

The Sports Trust promises that existing facilities will be upgraded, but the wait may be too long. The Stadium needs to be adequately floodlit, extra wickets need to be laid, practice turf nets are a matter of priority.

We must aim to host a game or two in the inaugural Youth World Cup in 1997, and work towards making our facility a famous venue. The advantages in the long term will be immeasurable.

The great interest at school level must be harnessed. A culture must be developed from a young age and the teachers must take responsibility as well. Schools somehow never did enough for cricket in the last three decades and more. There were a handful of teachers that did their best.

It is indeed sad to see our retired seniors no longer involved. They must assist clubs and play and guide youngsters in the lower leagues and spot talent as well. The game has given them so much and surely a little commitment can go a long way.

The Lenasia Cricket Clubs members can look upon themselves as pioneers. This move must be seen as the catalyst in the decades to come.

So we are pointed in the right direction. Prepare to succeed and aim for the moon, for if you miss, you can still be among the stars.

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Message from Ashraf Kolia-
President - Lenasia Cricket Club

After two previous attempts which resulted in failures, we got it right the third time around. The unification of five cricket clubs in Lenasia, viz; Cavaliers, Crescents, Lenasia Spurs, Queensland and United ushers in a new era for this great game in our community.

At this juncture I want to commend everyone who was involved in the initial talks and the final formation of the Lenasia Cricket Club.

this changes in the very near future, like our playing numbers, our administrative numbers will also die a slow death.

Lenasia with its large cricketing fraternity at this point in time does not have a representative on the Senior Board of the TCB. Makes one wonder as to why our numbers are dwindling, doesn't it?

Of late there have been articles in the press from dissatisfied parents or

I also want to thank the membership and my colleagues on the executive for placing their confidence in me to head this new and historic structure.

Cricket before the unification of the SACB and SACU was at its zenith in Lenasia, albeit with limited resources. Unification brought about a great air of enthusiasm and expectancy, but unfortunately, that was very short lived. It was envisaged that cricket in Lenasia with its strong cricketing culture would go from strength to strength. On the contrary we have only regressed. Proof of this is that at the time of unification we had one team playing in the Premier League, today we have none - which in a manner of speaking has shut the door for our aspiring cricketers with regard to playing provincial cricket, let alone the thought of international aspirations. The relegation from the premier league has also resulted in the loss of our better cricketers. Those who wish to keep their aspirations and hopes of playing any form of representative cricket have moved on to other clubs such as Wits, Alberton and Protea, who have premier league status.

Our numbers have not only dwindled on the playing fields but we suffer the same fate at an

administrative level. At the time of unification instead of going for an equal number of administrators at Board Level as other provinces had done. We had only asked for 4 members on the Senior Board out of a total of 18. In hindsight, past and present administrators do acknowledge that we have done a great disservice to ourselves and more so to our larger playing community.

As things stand, in an open election to get onto the Board (i.e. TCB) there is virtually no chance. This is due to the fact that the voting structure is stacked in favour of the premier league clubs. Furthermore, these clubs are in no position to vote for an individual who is not known to them. Unless

cricket lovers regarding cricket per se in Lenasia. We often read about vast sums of money that has been pumped into development and facilities. To date we have not seen the fruits of development. We know that there may be persons who would be quick to point out that there are youngsters who have been developed as a result of the programme, but they are few and far between and have become virtually non-participant.

In the light of the above, the five clubs with their respective rich histories decided to forego their names and form the Lenasia Cricket Club, and have adopted the theme, "We keep the shine on."

We aim to make this a COMMUNITY BASED CLUB and at this point we want to take the opportunity to invite all the people of Lenasia to come and join us, so that together we can help our children realise their dreams.

We live in a New South Africa, but NEW only for select communities. The affirmative action policy somehow seems to apply only to them. The powers that be have recognised this fact and concentrate their energies only in that direction. For those communities that do not fall in the ambit of a select community nothing has changed at all.

A community who forgets its heroes who sacrificed cannot be forgiven. It is through their sacrifices that we have a respectable standing in the sporting fraternity.

The Lenasia Cricket Club has come to the realisation that if we don't get active for our children and community, no-one else will. It seems the powers that be are basking in their glories and have forgotten their ultimate aims and objectives.

In conclusion, it is my fervent hope and prayer that with the assistance of our community, my executive and membership, this new structure will celebrate many decades of success in providing the opportunities to partake in sport.

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Message from Krish Mackerdhuyj -
President - UCBSA

On behalf of the members and the executive of the United Cricket Board of South Africa I send sincere greetings and best wishes on this special occasion, the launch of the Lenasia Cricket Club.

It is inspiring to note that your prime objective for the unification of four clubs into one is in the interest of youth and cricket. It is commendable that in this unity, established clubs are prepared to forego individuality for the common good and in the name of

mammoth task of transforming one country in line with the vision of the new South Africa, every act or move assisting the process sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, which when crossing each other from a trillion different centres of energy and daring, these ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.

It is to be remembered that many of the world's great achievements of thought and action flowed from the initial work of a single action.

progress. In supporting this initiative one has no doubt I have no doubt knowing the people involved | that your aims and objectives underlie a clear vision

in this process, that cricket in Lenasia is going to | for the future.

benefit tremendously, especially among the juniors. Congratulations and well done! May you have
In these times, when we are engaged in the | a successful launch.

Message from Dr Ali Bacher -
Managing Director UCBSA

Congratulations on the launch of the
Lenasia Cricket Club!

It gives me great pleasure to write
this message for your brochure com-
memorating this auspicious event.

I congratulate you on the positive
action you have taken in uniting four
well-established clubs in the interest of
the game. The months of negotiations
and meetings required to accomplish
this unity will prove to have been time
well spent. By pooling your experience
and skills you will be in a far better

position to achieve your aims of developing cricket
among your young players and of elevating the

standard of cricket in Lenasia.

It is your commitment to the junior players,

however, which is particularly
commendable. The talent which no doubt
exists in these ranks must be nurtured
and developed, not only to ensure the
longevity of your newly established club,
but also to establish a source from which
exceptional players can in the long term
be selected for your province and ulti-
mately groomed for our national team.

My best wishes go to your execu-
tive committee who have ahead of
them an exciting challenge. To the play-

ers I wish to say that given your enthusiasm, your
dream of taking on the best in the Transvaal Cricket
Board will, in the foreseeable future, translate into

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Message from Dr RAM Salojee-

Member of Parliament

I am deeply moved by the decision to launch the Lenasia Cricket Club. Those of us who have played and loved the game of cricket, had with sadness and dismay seen the decline in the interest of a sport which our communities had nurtured and established under the most difficult of circumstances and deprivation.

With the premature normalisation of cricket in South Africa, the neglect in our areas, as regards players development and upgrading of facilities appeared to be the final straw that broke the camels back.

The enthusiasm and latent crowd support vividly demonstrated at the hastily prepared and poorly surfaced Lenasia cricket stadium brought back nostalgic memories of our cricket heritage.

It seems that this was merely a passing phase of an era long gone? To date the reality country-wide continues to exist.

As the turbulent growth and ripening taste of the fruits of freedom and liberation becomes slowly and painfully rooted, sports in our areas is at its lowest ebb. A number of depressing factors appear to have undermined the spirit of our youth. The energy and determination required to become part

of the processes that are necessary to weld the South African peoples into a motivated and resolute nation; brimming with the vision and strength to reach the highest levels of achievement and performance is lacking.

Thus, I regard your efforts to restore and cultivate this fresh breath of purpose is timely and welcome. To turn the tide of hopelessness and despair is often arduous; but the rewards of perseverance and ultimate triumph is priceless. I am convinced that your efforts will be crowned with the success it deserves.

Our schools must become the engines for this change. Let the tradition of gamesmanship and

excellence become part of our educational institutions. It is here that the germ of talent and training must begin. It is from this cradle of empowerment we must fight the disease of boredom, drugs and antisocial behaviour.

Parents and community organisations must also begin to focus at improving and aiding in the promotion of sports. It will be an investment worth its weight in gold.

We too pledge ourselves to assist and advise in every way possible.

Message from Ahmed Kathrada-
ANC Member of Parliament

It is with great pleasure that we learnt of the moves to unite four existing teams into one powerful Lenasia Cricket Club. It is not an everyday occurrence when clubs with long histories and traditions agree to forego their separate existence in order to merge into a large entity. It is a sign of their altruism, their unquestionable devotion to the game, their maturity and sportsmanship. Such a display of unselfishness can only bode well, not only for cricket, but for the promotion of a healthy spirit and positive values among the people at large.

The desire of the club to give priority to the development of cricket among the juniors is another example of the determination of the members to submerge their personal aims and ambitions in the

interest of the greater whole. It is a spirit that can only be admired; a spirit that, hopefully will be emulated by increasing numbers of people.

With the abolition of the pernicious apartheid laws the whole country - indeed the whole world - is now open to us. In keeping with the times we have to break out of our ghettos, both mentally and physically, and interact with all the people of our country who too had been confined to their ghettos. In this way we will be making a worthy contribution towards the building of the new South African nation.

We are confident that the Lenasia Cricket club will be ready to meet the challenges that lie ahead.

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Message from Joe Pamensky -
President, Transvaal Cricket Board

clubs; yet I have no doubt that the merger amongst these clubs together with the others involved, is an act of great foresight and wisdom. In the formation of a strong club structure such as the Lenasia Cricket Club, the overall standard in playing and administration will inevitably improve to unprecedented heights.

The Transvaal Cricket Board has

The formation of a united structure with the major clubs in Lenasia has been greeted with fervent enthusiasm amongst all the Transvaal Cricket Board members.

In my capacity as President, I share in the delight and salute the pioneers whose efforts culminated in the successful merger of your clubs which have such enviable and proud track records. The personal sacrifices of no doubt in the wealth of talent that the many individuals who committed exists in Lenasia. We need to nourish themselves selflessly to the concept of this talent. This can be achieved best in should never be forgotten. the foresight that you have demonstrated and the

Clubs such as Crescents, Lenasia Spurs and | commitment that you continue to display in making Queensland have made momentous contributions | ing your endeavours successful. in the historical development of cricket in the area. May you grow in strength. Congratulations
It is sad to witness the demise of such illustrious | and the best of luck.

Sikander â\200\230Ziggyâ\200\231 W advalla -
Senior Vice-Chairman TCB

It gives me great pleasure in writing this message | community will ensure the of congratulations to the Lenasia Cricket Club. continued and sustained I believe that the administrators and players who _ success of the club. have so painstakingly worked and _ successfully On behalf of all the completed this task, need to be commended. I use _ officials at the TCB, let the word â\200\230Taskâ\200\231, because I am aware of the me take this opportunity sacrifices that were made in order to ensure the â\200\224 to wish everyone who is success in the formation of the new club. involved with the club A formation that has long been overdue, and everything of the I believe that the calibre and dedication of the â\200\224 best. May you achieve all executive coupled with their willingness to serve the your objectives.

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Message from Imtiaz Patel

Manager - Tul Cricket Development Programme

The formation of the Lenasia cricket club is a most significant development in the history of Lenasia cricket.

We take this opportunity to extend our best wishes to everybody involved with the club. The Lenasia Cricket Club will provide a natural home for youngsters emerging from the Development Programme. You will also be providing them with the ideal platform from which they can aspire to the highest ranks.

We look forward to a close working relationship and you can be assured of our total support for your initiatives regarding the development of Junior cricket.

Under the leadership of Ashraf Kolia, and the many experienced and enthusiastic personnel in his executive, we are confident and have no doubt that you will achieve every success in the future.

Message from Mohamed Yusuf Dinath

Chairman - Lenasia Sports Forum

Congratulations on the formation of the Lenasia Cricket Club and best wishes for a successful launch and tournament.

The end of an era with the demise of Crescents, Lenasia Spurs, United, Cavaliers and Queensland, also heralds the birth of new hopes, with the formation of the Lenasia Cricket Club as an exciting new venture.

This bold, constructive and visionary step should be supported by all those who cherish the desire to see our youth playing cricket under optimal

conditions and growing up to know that they too deserve the best!!

The Lenasia Sports Forum is fully supportive of this venture as it advocates strongly the need to review and consolidate our resources in sports management, in coaching and funding for a broader based youth orientated initiative that will provide for the sporting needs of all those residents in Lenasia and its environs.

We all cherish hopes of a better future for our youth.

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L-R - I. Jinnah (Treasurer); A. Osmany (Secretary); S Mangera (Executive Member); AR
E Alli (Executive Member); M. Deoko (Assistant Treasurer)

Seated - A A Mangera (Senior Vice President); S Desai (Assistant Secretary); M A Kolia
(President); S Sujee (P.R.O.);
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The inspiration lives on.....

We have all lost a great friend; a devoted helper and a true son of Africa.

In the passing on of Aboobaker Asvat, â\200\234Hurleyâ\200\235 as we affectionately called him, we feel this loss even more, now that everything he strove for is coming to fruition in the new South Africa.

We can take heart and press on with the knowledge that Abu has left for us, through his guidance a track to run on. He lived to serve his fellowman. It is with this inspired devotion that he led us to the eve of change - and it is in this self-same spirit that we must press on ... until the day breaks when every youngster can play structured sport and earn the rainbow colours of our nation, on ability.

To this end, the Lenasia Cricket Club has dedicated the annual tournament in his memory. The aspirant Springboks (or Proteas), must play the game in the true spirit of good sportsmen. Let us grow and build on the foundations laid by Abu.

This occasion also yields funds for the Lenasia Cricket Club to maintain the feeding scheme for underprivileged families. A scheme in memory of our hero.

In the spirit of â\200\230Masakaneâ\200\235 (Let us build together), we must look to establishing a coaching program for the youth; maintaining teams in every division and fostering the sport for player and family. Our community should know cricket as the

builder of friends and the developer of talents.

If with our efforts we do produce top cricketers, then all the sacrifices by Hurley and many others would have been worthwhile. With this in mind let us strive to provide for our youth the opportunities that are slowly becoming possible.

Finally, in the words of James Naik, a special tribute to Abu:

TRIBUTE TODRABUBAKR â\200\234HURLEYâ\200\235 ASVAT

Your countenance
reflecting a spontaneous,
broad enigmatic smile;

Your spirit full of humanity, love,
life and vitality,
strength of purpose and dedication.

Your code and a restless yearning and struggle for
justice and equality.

Yes your honour lives through us, with us
As we continue forward...

James Naik

Contributed by Abdul Aziz Mangera -
Vice Chairman LCC

â\200\234HURLYâ\200\235 THE MAN : The Peopleâ\200\231s Champion

Born in Pageview, or as we knew it â\200\234Fietasâ\200\235, Abu matriculated in 1961 from the Johannesburg Indian High School (J.I.L.H.S.).. He had to venture abroad to Pakistan to study medicine. During his academic years, his exposure to abject poverty, the unhealthy and inhumane conditions under which millions lived, had a marked impression on him.

During his intemship at Corona-tion Hospital he immediately publi-

man, grew up with Crescents right from the Fietas days. He was president of the Club for more than a decade. Hurley, together with a dedicated band of colleagues, founded the Transvaal Cricket Board (TCB), which then was succeeded by Cricket Association of Transvaal (C.A.T.) and served as its president for two seasons. Suffice it to say that he was also instrumental in the introduction of the doctrine of â\200\234NO NORMALSPORT INANABNORMAL

cised the plight of the Black Doctor and the medical worker, the unrealistic and inferior facilities provided for black hospitals and their patients. His forthright manner led to his dismissal.

He moved into his surgery in Soweto in the early seventies. Here within this sanctuary of hope ~ he conducted his crusade against the system. His superhuman energy allowed him to â\200\234makeâ\200\235 time to serve the community in educational, welfare and sporting affairs.

As a sportsman he was of above average ability (he represented his school and college at both cricket and soccer). Hurley, a regular Crescentâ\200\231s

SOCIETY.

Abu was not only the local family doctor, a top sports administrator, welfare worker and human rights campaigner, but also chairperson of the

Peopleâ\200\231s Education Committee.

Abu, forever modest and humble, shrugging
off all the accolades bestowed on him, WE SALUTE
YOu.

Finally, let us not forget Dr Asvatâ\200\231s widow,
Zohra, and the children Sulaiman, Akeal and

Haseena. We wish them long life and good health
and continued fortitude for always.

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16

One of the most exciting developments in sport has been the launch of the sports trust in September last year. The idea of a trust was first mooted by the National Sports Council in its policy recommendations to the Minister and subsequently endorsed in the White Paper on Sport.

The Founding Trustees of the Sports Trust include Nedbank, M-Net, Sun International, First National Bank, NOCSA, NSC and the Department of Sport. With the exception of the NSC and NOCSA, each of the Founding Trustees have contributed R1m to the Trust and have committed a further R1m each.

The Trust will support projects in 5 primary areas which include identification of young sport talent, coaching and training at all levels, provision of bursaries for deserving athletes, building multi-purpose sports facilities and the sponsoring of key sports events.

With regard to facilities, the Sports Trust will prioritise the disadvantaged communities. Facilities will be provided where none exists. In the case of existing facilities, the upgrade will be in four stages - levelling and grassing of the fields, enclosing and fencing, building change rooms and providing floodlights.

With regard to human resources, the aim of the Trust is to assist with the establishment of a pool of sports support services in each province to service all codes, train sports administrators at grassroots level and train coaches, umpires and referees. Sports bodies throughout the country are eligible to apply to the NSC for assistance from the Sports Trust by setting out a detailed written request for

THE SPORTS TRUST

assistance.

The Sports Trust has thus far supported the following projects:

> The 10th world gymnastarade in Berlin. The event took place in July and South Africa took along a gymnastics team from each of the nine provinces, a national team of 86 members and a group of 30 development leaders.

> The proteas sports Programme of the NSC which is intended to introduce young people to basic and varied quality sports types, promote quality coaching, ensure that South African teams are representative through talent identification programmes, provide education in sports administration and increase the pool of quality coaches and administrators. Components of the programme include Sports Pioneers aimed at the 7-17 year age group, Isizwe Stars aimed at the 15-21 age group, Protea Mmuso which involves the training of coaches and administrators and Super Kidz aimed at children under 7 years.

> Funds have also been allocated to upgrade the
Zwelitsh, Mdatsane and Kagis Sports Complexes and to the
NOCSA Operation Excellence programme.

My advise to all sports clubs and associations in
Lenasia is to utilise the Sports Trust for the improvement
and to the benefit of athletes in your area.

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Sir Garfield Sobers ;, :usur-cuvss-carva

In the whole history of cricket, no cricketer has commanded our attention as much as Sir Garfield Sobers. He is the alrounders allrounder, the cricketers cricketer. In a word, he is a man for all seasons.

Such glowing tributes have been paid to this singular man of genius, that all other comments seem superfluous and redundant.

Sobers himself has spoken eloquently with his bat as batsman, as bowler, as fielder and as captain.

Sobers comes from a long line of great cricketers who are part of the great tradition and culture of West Indian cricket. Learie Constantine astonishes the world with his fast bowling, aggressive batting, and audacious fielding. George Headley bats handsomely and courageously, Weekes and Worrell and Walcott the three usher in the golden age of West Indian cricket, and then dramatically emerges Garfield Sobers, the first fine fruit of a great tradition. (CLR James)

W G Grace has his place as great batsman and entertainer, Ranjitsinhji occupies a place in the sun as the great artist from the East, Bradman dominates his era as the complete business cricketer, Kanhai reaches sublime heights of cricketing artistry, Keith Miller dominates with grace and charismatic personality, Greame Pollock as young man gives masterly performances, but one man stands as a symbol of cricket, as the embodiment of cricket, Sir Garfield Sobers.

Sobers was born in Barbados in 1936 and as a lad played what has been called Lilliput cricket. Sobers seems to have played cricket since the time he has been a toddler. He graduates from strenath to strength and from soft ball cricket to hard ball cricketer.

In 1955, young Sobers opens the innings against Australia in a test match and faces the formidable fast bowling of Ray Lindwall and Keith Miller. Sobers scores 47 in 15 minutes. Miller writes of this occassion; all hell broke loose. This little known Sobers kept hammering fours at Ray and myself until we were punch drunk. That one innings set Sobers alight as a batting wizard. That seems almost a turning point in cricket history.

| The rest that follows is cricketing history. These are just the briefest statistical records. Sobers scored 365 not out against Pakistan to record the highest individual score in a test match. He hit

Malcolm Nash of Glamorgan for 6 sixes in an over in a first class match: a world record. Sobers and Nash both gained immortality. What would have happened if Nash bowled 2 or 3 no balls ?

In 1960 against Australia at Brisbane Sobers hit 132 in a little over 2 hours, one of the great innings of modern times. In 1966, against England at Lords, Sobers scores a monumental 163 not out

and over

in a partnership of 274 together with cousin Holford when all seemed lost.

For the Rest of the World team against Australia in Melbourne in 1971, Sobers scores 254 which Bradman refers to as; a historic event of cricket. In Test cricket Sobers hit 26 centuries, scored over 8000 runs at an average of 57 and took 235 wickets and 110 catches. That's all statistics.

Who shall forget the majestic figure of Sir Garfield Sobers as he marched onto the field to congratulate Brian Lara when he scored the

new world record of 375 runs?

Here are a few comments about Sobers from some great cricket writers.

John Arlott said: Merely to see him come out on the field, his long hungry stride a strangely tigerish blend of the relaxed and purposeful, is to recognise the great athlete..... he is the most gifted versatile player the game has ever known.

Sir Donald Bradman referred to Sobers as the best 5 cricketers in the world: The best batsman, the best fast bowler, the best spinner, the best fielder, and the best captain in the world.

Richie Benaud says: He gave me more pleasure than any other man in the game, and perhaps that is the measure of his standing. The ability to give pleasure to all those watching, even those playing against him. He is a born entertainer.

Sobers has given pleasure to millions.

Gordon Punch writing in the Guardian said: He is himself a team, but is essentially a team-man

Jack Fingleton wrote: Long may Sobers be on view, and may his influence be the dominating one in the West Indian years ahead.

JB Priestley the writer wrote in the New

Statesman in 1966: I seem to have spent a lot of time this summer sitting in front of the TV watching Garfield Sobers. Always I have stared at him out of a mixture of apprehension and admiration. He frightened me and enchanted me by turns. Batting, bowling, fielding, captaining his side, he seemed to be pronouncing, often with a grin, the doom of the England XI.

More than once - in the bitter hours of facing defeat, I wish he would sprain a wrist or tum an ankle. But even so, admiration came seeping through these mud walls of partisanship. And it was not only his feats with bat and ball that compelled my applause; it was his style and manner, the way he carried himself, the way he moved.

We might remember before making our final protest and then deciding to emigrate, how a man from Barbados came onto our test match grounds, so eager and yet so easy, without a stubborn bone

to page 21

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from page 19

or stiffened muscle in his body. Yes indeed we can
learn from Garfield Sobers.â\200\235

CLR James wrote: â\200\234 There is embodied in him
the whole history of the British West Indies.

He is the living embodiment of centuries of a
tortured mee
Sobers is ; â\200\234 the first fruit of a great tradition.â\200\235

James in describing various innings of Sobers,
says of some of his strokes that â\200\234Not a man
moved. Not a man moved.â\200\235 He once wrote a short
one line letter to Sir Frank Worrell :

My dear Frank,

I have peng to write except that I perpetually
wonder that a little scrap of West Indies territory has
produced Garfield Sobers and you.

CLR James.

And this is what Sobers says of cricket:
â\200\234We have shown the world how we live through
cricket and done our best to see that cricket lives
through us. In cricket there are three basic require-
ments, skill, guts and the sheer love of the game.â\200\235
Sobers has given joy to millions. That joy is his
reward.

Sobers has been regarded as a calm and gentle
person, humble and compassionate. Always pre-
pared to learn, He has also been considered an
analytical thinker. In him coalesces the fine qualities
of love and truth and beauty, justice, temperance
and courage, humour, energy, individuality. As a
man of genius, he never lost the human touch.

The gallery and galaxy of cricket is full of
shining stars. Grace and Ranji, Hobbs and Hutton,
Compton and May, Graveny and Dexter, Larwood
and Trueman, Laker and Lock.

Bradman and Trumper, Archie Jackson and
Stanley Macabe, Miller, Benaud and Alan Davidson,
Norman Oâ\200\231 Neill and Greg Chappell, Lillie and
Shane Wame.

Graeme Pollock and Bruce Mitchell, Barry
Richards and Eddie Barlow, Atholl Rowan and Mike
Proctor.

Imran and Majid Khan, Javed Miandad and
Hanif Mohamed, Wasim and Waaar..

Gavaskar and Kapil Dev, Azharuddin and Tendulkar.

Learie Constantine and George Headley,
Weekes, Worrell and Walcott, Ramadhin and Val-
entine, Viv Richards and Clive Lloyd, Conrad Hunte

and Kanhai, Ambrose, Holding and Marshall and the latest Brian Lara.

Put all these names together. One names reigns supreme: Sir Garfield Sobers. A symbol of cricket, all grace, style and majesty.

Historians of the future shall look back at the gallery of great men and women, and see artists and thinkers and scientist. Shakespeare will stand for Drama and Poetry, Beethoven and Mozart for Music, Newton and Einstein for Calculus and Relativity, Socrates for Philosophy, Van Gogh and Rembrandt shall stand as symbols for painting.

Laurence Olivier for Acting and Theatre, Pele shall stand for soccer, Muhammed Ali for boxing, and for cricket there shall only be one man, Sir Garfield Sobers.

We in South Africa did not see Sir Gary play. He played on all major cricket grounds of the world. Nor did we see Pele or Ali. And that has been our greatest pain of regret.

In 1958, there was a possibility of a team led by Frank Worrell coming to South Africa to play against the black cricketers of SACBOC. Alas it was aborted.

Would the history of South African cricket have changed if Sobers and Kanhai had come to this country in 1960.? What would the history of sports be if Sobers or Pele or Ali had been born in South Africa.?

I find myself unconsciously murmuring to myself :

Full many a gem of purest ray serene.

The dark unfathomed caves of ocean bear,
Full many a flower is born to blush unseen
And waste its sweetness on the desert air.

Basil D'Oliveira was nearly lost to test cricket. And certainly lost are the exploits of Tiny Abed, Lobo Abed, Frank Roro, George Langa and Sam Ntekesia.

The exploits of Sir Gary we shall enjoy only vicariously through old film and video clips.

In 1968, in the West Indies, Sobers made a declaration setting England the target of 215 runs in 2 hours and 45 minutes. So momentous was this declaration for the good of cricket, that it could have led to a turning point in cricketing history.

If it had been appreciated by critics, captains and cricketers, it would have added a new dimension to cricket. After three stale and drawn tests, Garfield Sobers demonstrated that to lose gracefully and provide excitement and entertainment to spectators, is better than to doggedly aim for sterile draws.

The West Indies lost the series and critics indulged in their favourite pastime of hectoring and badgering Sobers. They failed to appreciate what he had aimed for. He had aimed for the sheer joy and beauty of cricket. It was not understood. John Arlott had said: â\200\234 There is so much more to cricket than statistics. So much more.â\200\235 And CLR James had said: â\200\234What do they of cricket who only cricket know ?â\200\235

Sir Garfield Sobers name shines brightly in the skies of cricketing fame. He is a portion of the loveliness he made more lovely. Like a falcon, he has outsoared the rest, little fledgelings strutting their hour or two. His name is assured amongst the supreme sportsmen of the world. His influence on cricketers and people around the world is immense and indelible. He has left an imperishable mark on the cricket of his time. He raised it to new levels of radiance and grandeur. Those who saw Sobers play were immensely fortunate. Those who know him are blessed. They have been in the presence of Genius.

In conclusion, in this eulogy of the great West Indian, I wish to quote from Shakespeare. Mark Antony speaking about the life of Brutus said:

â\200\234 His life was gentle; and the elements

So mixed in him that Nature might stand up and say to all the world:

This was a man!â\200\235

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â\200\230TINYâ\200\231 ABED was a giant of a cricketer. He was tall and handsome; he had a magnificent physique and was popular with the crowds. A replica of Keith Miller if you like.

He had a solid defence and invariably consolidated his innings by playing very straight off the backfoot. Once set, he opened up with an array of drives, pulls and cuts.

Abed bowled very quickly with a mixture of off-cutters. As a fielder, he was quite brilliant. His ever confident approach seemed quite intimidating to the opposition.

â\200\230LOBOâ\200\231 ABED was certainly the greatest wicket-keeper I have seen, doing the task with aplomb. The whole demeanor was of simplicity, displaying neatness both on the on and off-side of the wicket.

He was compact and solid, and there was nothing that was acrobatic or ostentatious. A bye was rarely conceded and this gave his bowlers immense confidence. His anticipation was incredible. The stumpings were neat and elegant. His behaviour was cool and correct.

As a batsman he was thoroughly competent and reliable. In the tradition of the Abed family he graced the fields along with brother â\200\230DIKâ\200\231, who later played in the Lancashire league and for Holland.

â\200\230MACâ\200\231 ANTHONY was probably the greatest bowler in black cricket during his time and in the decades that followed. A fast bowler who controlled his swing impeccably. The out-swing was always almost perfect.

Anthony was an aggressive batsman and a sound fielder. He appeared to be a freak of a cricketer. So brilliant, so energetic and so committed yet so little is known of his cricket during his early days.

SAM NTEKESIA won immortal fame when he captured 5 wickets for 27 runs for a S A Haque XI against a Johnny Waites XI in 1961.

Ntekesia had the great art of swing bowling. He was doubly dangerous as he controlled his swing through the air and off the wicket to deceive the best of batsman. He continued to amaze all with his very consistent length and line and this was possible because he possessed great stamina.

GEORGE LANGA bowled medium pace, with immaculate control of both his outswinger and vicious off-cutter. His arms rotated rhythmically in windmill-like fashion, which tantalised you as you gazed at this Don Quixote-like character.

Loose balls were a rarity and you could hardly pull or cut him. A self-effacing gentleman, he was all humility.

SOLLY CHOTHIA was a forceful attacking batsman, who loved the on and off-drives. He was not afraid to lift the ball and enjoyed exciting cricket.

At his peak he was very fast as a bowler, but later settled

down to controlled medium-paced bowling. The lanky all-rounder was also known as 'the Spyker' and often nailed the opposition with his match-winning performances.

Also a possessor of great stamina and a wonderful head for crisis. A safe fielder in the covers, he was always brimful of confidence.

HUSEIN 'PANGA' AYOB was a rare prodigy as a fast bowler. His control of the new ball was exemplary and did not bowl a loose ball. A bouncer he rarely bowled giving the impression that the aggressive make-up was missing.

Cricketers supreme...., remembered

But Ayob was a glutton for perfection and always came up trumps. This was proof as he was a competent batsman, capable of both aggression and defence as the need arose. He had the safest pair of hands in the outfield.

AHMED 'AGGIE' PATEL was a classical all-rounder. He stood erect and elegant with effortless strokeplay. He played a wide range of shots, at most times beautiful in its execution.

Unperturbed by crisis he could play a long innings. As a medium-pacer, he swung the ball both ways, and a surprising lifter was mixed in his armoury.

Had the opportunities been accorded to this wonderful potential, he would certainly have scaled many heights.

AHMED DEEDAT played for South Africa against Kenya. His consistency and ability to conjure long knocks frustrated many an opposition. The innings was largely built around the sure-footed master.

He was forceful yet stylish and played with an air of nonchalance. But when the ball was struck, especially the cover-drive and square cut, the fielders were left stranded. A joy to watch and a very lovable man indeed.

A L 'TIFFIE' BARNES batted like a seasoned professional and never gave his wicket away. His bat was very broad (somebody should have measured its width). The little man had all the strokes.

When he strode to the wicket, his gangling approach belied the sheer brilliance of his abilities. But the opposition soon got to know that they were up against a player with true grit and determination.

'Tiffie' fielded in any position and his brilliant eye saw him perform some true miracles. His further claim to fame was as a medium paced off-cutter who bowled unchanged.

BASIL 'DOLLY' DA SILVA OLIVEIRA was in a class of his own. He went to England in 1960 and 6 years later represented England in test match cricket. His temperament and courage in crisis was truly remarkable.

He displayed his cricketing genius before an admiring world and experienced the beautiful pain of fame. His delightful

strokeplay was there for all to see and did so by scoring many centuries in county cricket.

Against the Australians in 1968, he scored a magnificent 158 at the Oval cricket ground, but was not included in the team to tour South Africa. After an injury to a fellow player and an unprecedented uproar against the MCC, Basil was belatedly selected.

The South African Government felt his inquisition was unacceptable and the tour was cancelled, thus giving birth to the Dolly affair and the beginning of this country's isolation in world sport.

Basil went to England rather late in life. We had the good fortune to see the exuberance and enthusiasm of the artist when he was still a young man. His craft matured in England.

As an off-spinner he led the England spin-attack and was known as a bowler to break partnerships.

His life and success shows what can be achieved if a cricketer or sportsman is given the opportunity to play. No cricketer had to overcome greater obstacles than Dâ Oliveira.

He is South Africa's greatest contribution to English cricket.

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â\200\230*Gunn being let off in the long
field.â\200\235

. Every ball was watched with great
attention.â\200\235

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â\200\234â\200\234 Removing his off-stump.â\200\231

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Grace hits him over the pavilion.

* The umpires examined the
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© The wicket assisted the
bowlers.

© Four of the eleven had a turn with
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<= the same quality at the Oriental Plaza in Fordsburg for less. _

=A Sure, you might have to drive a little further and bar gain a bit =

mn (we're centrally located just off the M1). at

Oo. But if you take into account how much you could save on even just ONE item, Ou

pel ask yourself, â\200\234Can I really afford not to buy at the Oriental Plaza any lon

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An Good vibes. Good people to do business with. ns
a Come on now, make yourself part of the family! on
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