

4

Back Row (L-R)

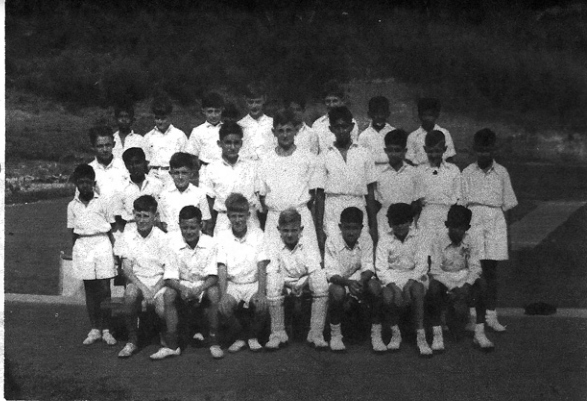
1. B.N. Jurampathy
- 2, 3 & 4 Hill School
5. Melville Mottau
6. Hill School
7. Denzil Perera (Kookar)
8. M. Ismail ?

Middle Row :-

1. B.M. Jurampathy
2. Brian Perera
3. Jiffry
- 4, 5 & 6 Hills School
7. D.T. Range
8. Ralph Maas
9. Ferdinands
10. Herman Claessen

Seated :-

- 1, 2 & 3 Hills School
4. Phillips Capt Hills School
5. Bryan Claessen Capt. Wesley, 6. Pat Schokman Vice Capt. Wesley 7. Manil Gunawardene





ABOVE: BRYAN CLAESSEN IN ACTION in India C.C.A. vs Madras in Gopalan Trophy match
Other batsman: A.C.M. Kufir

My dear Peter,

This is intended to accompany the enclosed copies of information etc relating to the Under 14 match against Hills School of Nuwara Eliya in 1948, which I hope could be used on the web site. I have numbered the pages for convenience of explaining certain relevant aspects. So, let me go through each page.

Page 1 Contains Newspaper articles of the Hill School game and the game against St. Joseph. The Hill School match was stunning. Isn't it amazing that my brother Herman who was only 10 years of age at the time got 4 wickets for just 1 run. I think it equally interesting that bearing in mind what a fine left arm bowler he was, he was still not able to find a permanent place in the First XI until 1954. That proves the strength of the Wesley sides in the early 1950s. I also believe that there was some reluctance on the part of the authorities at the time to push Herman too quickly into the senior side for fear of it adversely affecting his future.

Another point that I would like to make is that the Jurampathy in the article is the older of the two brothers. The names of the Wesley players are shown on page 4 and the two brothers are in the photo. I mention this because this guy was a very modest unassuming guy like Jiffry. He was a talented left arm medium pacer. He too left school rather early.

The next observation that I must make is that it was Desmond Juriansz who had a good partnership with me against St. Josephs. Desmond I believe now lives in England and is a cousin of an equally talented Harold Juriansz who played for Wesley in 1955, 1956 & captained in 1957.

Page 2. This contains two items of special interest. The first being the Under 16 game against the Matara Methodist Youth Club with Radley Claessen as the Wesley captain. As the photo copy is not at all clear I reproduce below the short article as it appeared in the press. :-

JUNIOR CRICKET

The Wesley junior cricket team met The Matara Methodist Youth Club in a match on Saturday, on the Matara esplanade.

Schokman batted brilliantly for Wesley, and among the Matara boys, Jansz a left hander, richly deserved the hat-trick he secured.

The Claessen brothers bowling was Too much for the local team, Radley

the Wesley captain, being un-playable in the first innings and Bryan equally destructive in the second.

Scores: Wesley 1st innings 173.

(Schozman 67, Cassiechetty 46, → Cassiechetty

Juriansz 31, Jansz 4 for 53, including

The hat-tick)

Youth Club 1st innings 21. (Radley

Claessen 5 for 8, Wickramaaratchi 3

for 2)

2nd innings 35. (Solomonsz 20

Bryan Claessen 7 for 16, Radley

Claessen 3 for 11)

The Schozman mentioned above is Pat Schozman a dashing, dare-devil right hand batsman who went on to represent Wesley, the N.C.C. and the C.C.A (Ceylon Cricket Association) with distinction. Cassiechetty mentioned is Ashley Cassie Chetty who played for Wesley in 1949 under W.P.S. Abeywardene as captain and in D.B.C. Mack's team of 1950. Ashley was a stylish middle order batsman and an absolutely brilliant fielder in any position but more particularly in the out-field. Wickramaaratchi was a fast medium bowler who was in the 1953 side but didn't get a game according to my recollection purely because that Wesley team was extremely strong. It was a team that remained unbeaten. [It should be mentioned for the purpose of record that Ashley Cassie Chetty referred to above is in fact an uncle of Peter Cassie Chetty, more affectionately called "Christie" who according to inherited talent as a cricketer and strong family traditions, played for Wesley in the mid nineteen sixties. According to the reports I had received, he was a very gifted bowler and a valued member of the 1964 and 1965 Wesley sides.] X?

As it will be observed on page 2 from the photograph, there were four Wesleyites included in the Combined Colleges team. The Wesley cricketers are 1. S. Musafar, 2. R. Claessen, 3. B. Claessen & 4. S. Mack. Once again it establishes that Wesley had extremely powerful teams in that period of 1950 to the mid 1950s. Stanley Jayasinghe was the schools captain and the match was against the Madras University Occasionals played on the Colts Cricket Club grounds on Havelock Park on the 8th and 9th May 1950. The significance of this particular game, apart from some good individual performances by the schoolboys was the final result. The School XI lead by 5 runs on the first innings and in the second they were given the almost impossible task of making 110 runs in just 40 minutes. They ended with 12 runs short of their target. It was an excellent result for the combined schools team because their opponents had experienced players and several Indian Test players in their side.

Page 3 is the Photo of the C.C.A. Team that went to Madras, India in 1953 for the Gopalan Trophy. It will be of interest to all Wesleyites to take note of the fact that in this strong C.C.A. team were two Wesleyites. Ceylon went on to win the match by an innings and 14 runs. Lafir made 107 runs, Bryan Claessen 64 and Ivers (C.I.) Gunasekera 31 runs. In Bowling G.P. Schoorman and C.I. Gunasekera each took 4 wickets and Schaffter 1 wicket.

Page 4. The top photograph is a group photo of the Hills School team and the Wesley Team. In the bottom photo is Bryan Claessen on his knee and at the non-striker's end is A.C.M. Lafir.

Page 5: photograph of the C.C.A. Team to Madras for the Gopalan Trophy match. For the purpose of record and clarity it must be mentioned that when a person played for Ceylon against another country the person actually played for Ceylon and if the game was against another side of significance like the

Pakistan Services XI or the Gopalan Trophy game against an Indian state the player was regarded as playing for the C.C.A. (Ceylon Cricket Association). Accordingly and in strict terms if a player did not represent Ceylon against a visiting Country eg England or Australia he was not a person who played for Ceylon.

Page 5. It will be of interest if this photo is now published on the internet if someone would identify others in the photo. My first reaction was the guy in white to the side of the groundsman Wilbert is P. Arulpragasam. If I am not right I am still pleased that I made a guess because it has given me the opportunity of remembering a friend. Arulpragasam was in my class and I am pleased to remember him.

Before I close there are two things I should do. The first is to send you in the enclosed papers as a matter of friendship a copy of one of my poems. It comes with my very best and affectionate regards. I do hope you like it.

The send aspect is to end up with a strange and weird story and a very true one. Wesley was playing St Joseph at Campbell Park in 1951. It was D.B.C. Mack's 2nd year as captain. In the first innings I was batting with Denis Ebert who incidentally was batting in a pretty aggressive manner. I was on 15 runs and on strike to fast bowler Ken Serpanchy. The ball lifted sharply and stuck me on the left elbow. With that I went to ground and left the field. Radley Claessen followed me. Dennis got out a few minutes later for 57 and Pat Schokman went out to replace Dennis. The First days play the 2nd of February ended with Radley and Pat Schokman at the crease. That night I had a dream – it was clear as daylight. In my dream a wicket fell quickly and I went in. The very first ball I received I despatched through extra cover for four. The very next ball was well pitched up on leg stump. As usual and in my customary manner I flicked the ball intending it to go to fine leg. Instead the ball hit the edge of my bat and it went soaring into the heavens. The ball went extremely high and Reiny Perera at deepish mid on go under it. He swayed from side to side keeping his eye on the ball and he took the catch. At the game on 3/2 Pat Schokman after adding 3 more runs was out for 9 and I went in. The very first ball I received (From Perumal as the records show) I drove through cover for four. The next ball was on leg stump and up went the ball. I have never seen a ball go so straight up and so high. Reiny Perera the brilliant fielder would have been about the only one who could have taken a catch like that. What an amazing story and it is all very true

With all that I must bring this letter to a close. I am aware from your recent E Mails that you are anxious to get information about the three Claessen brothers. I think Wesleyites have heard a lot about them and sometimes I wonder if it is too much. Be patient, the Claessen story will come out in the end. If this present attempt succeeds there will be more to follow and I sincerely hope that in the fabric of the stories told there will be accounts of so many others, not necessarily cricketers who were such an important and exciting part of our lives as Wesleyites.

With Kindest regards,

Bryan

1953 C.C.A TEAM (Ceylon Cricket Assoc)

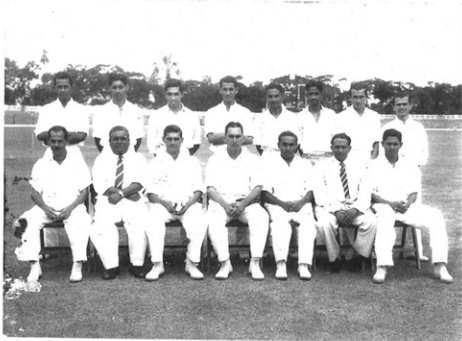
GOPALAN TROPHY
MADRAS V. CEYLON

Standing: L-R:-

1. A.C.M. Lafir, 2. H.I.K. Fernando 3. C.T Schaffter 4. D. Bullyjens 5. P.A.T Kelly
6. N. Ponnial, 7. Bryan Claassen (Wesley) 8. Pat Schoorman (Wesley)

SEATED: L-R

1. G.P. Schoorman
2. Mr. Aniaratnam
3. C.I Gunasekera
4. Vernon Prins (Captain)
5. M. Makkin Salih
6. Major Kadirigama
7. Stanley Jayasinghe.





CORNER VIEW OF INNER QUADRANGLE, WESLEY COLLEGE