

BOMBAY CRICKET ASSOCIATION COLOURS

It is often willingly stated that it is easier to earn India colours than to receive Bombay colours. This might seem fallacious; and yet one who goes through the records of the Bombay Cricket Association of last 50 years, is likely to reach this bewildering conclusion. A number of stalwarts had to wait long enough to earn this rare distinction.

In so far as administrators are concerned, the honour has come to a still fewer number, although it has to be admitted that some of those who administered, were persons of eminence and intelligence, of merit and calibre which could be deemed as rare and unequalled.

The idea of awarding colours was first mooted in the year 1935, when at a meeting of the managing committee of the Association held on 16th December at the Islam Gymkhana, a proposal to 'fix the colours of the Association' came up for consideration and the following resolution was adopted.

"Resolved that the honorary secretary in consultation with Mr. H. N. Contractor should prepare some suitable design and submit the same for final approval by the managing committee".

It seems that the resolution did not enthuse the concerned persons for a fairly long time, besides being out of Bombay. Another resolution, therefore, naming a sub-committee and binding it with a time limit was adopted at the meeting of the managing committee held on 27th Nov., 1936 which was almost after a lapse of a year. The resolution states:

"Resolved to appoint the following gentlemen on the colours sub-committee to report to the managing committee within a fortnight regarding the colours to be adopted for our Association :- Messrs. H. N. Contractor, C. P. Bransle (or his nominee), Mr. Vijay Merchant and A. A. Fyzee (hon. secretary) ".

This Committee did get on to business and submitted its report to the managing committee, which at its meeting held on 11 th December. 1936. took the following decision:

"Resolved (a) that it (?) be adopted. (b) that the tie of the Association colours may be worn by the members of the Managing Committee"

The vagueness of the resolution is so obvious to make its operation and implementation almost impossible. Mr. A. A. A. Fyzee, legal luminary in all probability perceived this and he in his capacity as the hon. secretary of the Association, prepared precise bye-laws and presented them to the managing committee for consideration and adoption.

The meeting of the Managing Committee held on 19th Feb., 1937 considered these 'bye-laws regarding colours prepared by the hon. secretary and gave its approval.

The bye-laws adopted at the meeting were as follows:

1. The colours of the Bombay Cricket Association shall be Navy Blue, Red and Gold.
2. The badge for blazer and cap shall be (as per sample) Red Lion with gold crown and shield, containing the letters B.C.A.
3. The Tie shall be as per sample, except that red, instead of maroon shall be used and 1/2 inch instead of 1 inch Blue.
4. The Association Colours shall be worn by those who have played (not by the reserves who have not played) for the Bombay Cricket Association in the Ranji Trophy Tournament and by no one else; provided that the Tie of the Association may be worn by members of the managing committee of the Bombay Cricket Association.

In spite of the detailed report on colours, there must have been some doubts raised, to clarify which, the bye-laws were slightly amended and adopted at a subsequent meeting of the managing committee held on 29th September, 1938. The amended bye-laws were as follows:

1. The Colours of the Bombay Cricket Association shall be Navy Blue, Red and gold.
2. The blazer shall be plain Navy Blue, bearing a badge which shall be 'red lion with gold crown and shield containing the letters B.C.A.'
3. The tie shall be bound in the Association Colours as follows:

Blue 1 1/2

Red 1/4

Gold 1/8

4. The Association Colours shall be worn by those who have played (not by the Reserves who have not played) for the Bombay Cricket Association, in the Ranji Trophy matches.
5. The managing committee may present colours i. e. a tailored blazer and a tie each to such players as have given, in the opinion of the managing committee, valuable services to the Bombay Cricket Assn. Other players may buy the Association colours at cost price.
6. Any person who is directly connected with the Bombay Cricket Assn. may wear a tie. Such persons shall buy it at cost price the tie of the Association. (A person directly connected with the Associations is one who is or has been a member of the managing committee or a sub-committee).

Since the year 1938 when these bye-laws were adopted, either the managing committee nor the general body of the Assn. has thought it necessary to amend, alter, repeat the first three bye-laws. The remaining bye-laws, however, underwent verbal and meaningful modifications from time to time. The bye-laws as they stand today, are given below. They were adopted at the meeting of the managing committee held on 18th May, 1951.

COLOURS BY WHOM TO BE WORN

1. The Assn. Colours shall only be worn by such persons who have played (but not the reserves who have not played) for the Assn. in the National Championship for Ranji Trophy Matches.
2. The President, Vice Presidents, Jt. Hon. Secretaries, Hon. Treasurer and persons who have been or are members of the managing committee shall be entitled to wear a tie of the Assn. and buy the same at such price as the managing committee may from time to time determine.