

Transcript

1-2

00:00:02.300 --> 00:00:04.490

Rodney Ulyate: A couple more people to admit. But I'll, I'll introduce you so long, shall I?

3-4

00:00:09.720 --> 00:00:16.929

Rodney Ulyate: Good morning, everyone, and welcome to another in our series of lectures. It's really good to see so many familiar faces. In fact, this is, I think, the first time we are to be joined by a regular attendee.

5-7 - 00:00:24.870 --> 00:00:40.470

Rodney Ulyate: Nimal Chandrasena is an ACS member in good standing. He's also a weed scientist, a botanist, and an ecologist, currently editor-in-chief of WEEDS, the House Journal of the Asian Pacific Weed Science Society. He also earns his keep as an environmental consultant in Western Australia. Conceivably, he might have some wisdom to impart to the curator at Lords. I'm glad to see the broadband in Western Australia is treating you well this time, Nimal, so after last week's false start, why don't we get underway?

8 - 00:01:15.880 --> 00:01:16.980

Rodney Ulyate: You ready?

9- 00:01:17.640 --> 00:01:18.290

Nimal Chandrasena: Yes

10 - 00:01:18.800 --> 00:01:22.590

Rodney Ulyate: Okay. Well, if you want to share your screen. You can start.

11-12 - 00:01:49.060 --> 00:01:51.659

Nimal Chandrasena: Okay, can I... can everybody see? Yes? Hello?

13 -00:01:58.320 --> 00:02:01.510

Rodney Ulyate: Yeah, sorry, we're all muted, but yes, we can see.

14 - 00:02:03.070 --> 00:02:06.219

Nimal Chandrasena: Can I make this full screen, Rodney?

15 - 00:02:07.110 --> 00:02:10.000

Rodney Ulyate: You can do what it... What do you like, no more?

16 - 00:02:11.860 --> 00:02:14.030

Nimal Chandrasena: So how do I do the full screen?

17-19 - 00:02:15.080 --> 00:02:16.539

Rodney Ulyate: Oh, I wouldn't know; I don't know what you're using, but it looks perfectly visible as is, so I'd just proceed, frankly.

20-27 - 00:02:26.090 --> 00:02:27.799

Nimal Chandrasena: Okay, well, good morning, everyone, in Britain, and Good afternoon and good evening to some of my other relatives and friends who have joined in Melbourne. Evening? I'm sorry that we couldn't do it last week. There was a broadband issue here in Perth, and I'm thankful that you have persevered and joined the game. There will not be any interruptions. So, last weekend was bad, and it was the right thing that I alerted Rodney, and we rescheduled a week later.

28-32 -00:03:12.720 --> 00:03:18.859

Nimal Chandrasena: So, yeah, one word of caution before I go cracking on into this. I have a few people who are not cricket experts listening today. On the other hand, I've got you guys in Britain who are Experts on the subject, and history, as well as the whole thing, right? So, like me, you know, we know cricket history to varying degrees, because that's our love, but not everyone is of the same, Same, with the same knowledge, so I have to...be cautious about what I say and how I say it.

34-36 -00:03:56.980 --> 00:04:08.019

Nimal Chandrasena: So there are some pictures that I put in my first slide before I go into the second one and introduce myself. But here is this beautiful island, paradise, that we call 'Serendib', Ceylon, or Ceylon, and unfortunately... rather, unfortunately, these days called Sri Lanka. We would have preferred the older names, because we very much value history, I guess. That's where it's coming from.

37-40 -00:04:26.770 --> 00:04:32.469

Nimal Chandrasena: When the Brits arrived, the Dutch had already made lots of big, big impacts in what we are going to see, Colombo, the capital city. I hope some of you have visited the island. Let me know at the end of

the talk whether you have or not. It would be good to know. Then you would know some of these landmarks that we're talking about. Just have a look at those pictures from the 1890s, the horse-driven, horse-drawn carriages, and then you can see the sarong-wearing people playing cricket, and then in the 1920s, people watching at the very famous golfer's grounds. So, our history, you know, goes back some distance in time.

41-42 - 00:05:17.560 --> 00:05:25.810

Nimal Chandrasena: You probably know some of it. Okay, a little bit about myself. I've always been called a cricket freak, a tragic. I would say, because I never got a chance to play serious cricket. But I, I like to. Yes?

45 -00:05:39.860 --> 00:05:46.980

Rodney Ulyate: Yeah, sorry about that. Someone joined unmuted, and we got awful feedback, but I have now muted them. Please proceed.

46-49 -00:05:46.980 --> 00:05:52.500

Nimal Chandrasena: No worries. So, as Rodney said, I am a weed scientist. And, I was educated at, obviously, University of Colombo, and then went to Bangor, so I...did my PhD in North Wales, Bangor, so I know quite a bit about your ecology, your plants, plant population biology, and all that, so...I became a specialist in weeds, and then I wrote my book, which is on the left, *The Virtuous Weed*, and got it out of my chest. It took 10 years for me to write, but that's my subject area.

50-52 - 00:06:20.210 --> 00:06:32.350

Nimal Chandrasena: In 2023, I wrote my second book, which is on a man you all would know, Kevin Douglas Walters, one of... and my cricketing idol when I was a little kid. So...There I am with Dougie; we released the book in 2024. I am currently writing Sri Lanka's Cricket history, the first 100 years. So today's talk is very much limited to the first 100 years. I'm not talking about what happened after that, because that part is known to most people.

53-55 - 00:06:52.970 --> 00:06:58.180

Nimal Chandrasena: What we are talking about is stuff that we do not know, at least... most people do not know. And there will be a sequel. When I finish the book at the end of this year, there'll be a sequel. That'll take another two years, because there's a hell of a lot that happened in the last 50 years before the test status (in 1982). So it's quite interesting, the first 100 and...then the next 50 years. Those are the two parts that I will be

writing on, and then, of course, we won the World Cup in 1996 in the ODI, shorter format, but that... that bit will be written later.

57-60 - 00:07:29.030 --> 00:07:41.999

Nimal Chandrasena: So, it's a fascinating story. The more you read about it, the more you talk about it. The cricket story is connected to the British rulers and the Ceylonese natives. It's related to coffee, Tea plantations, and finally, rubber. It was a story of subservience, engagement with the rulers, prejudices, and resistance, as in the colonial world. Sailing ships, three-masted sailing ships of the past before the 1850s, and then, obviously, the ocean liners that came after the 1860s.

61-66 -00:08:07.460 --> 00:08:11.300

Nimal Chandrasena: The pretty savvy planters, civil servants in cricket and some distinguished visitors. You can see some of them at the bottom there. WG... Ranji, Bradburn, Bob Sutcliffe, and the guy on the right-hand side, LH Gay. We will talk about him later. Some were very distinguished cricketers. There are some more that I refer to. So again, like in Britain, public schools, Clubs, cricket clubs, public schools, from which talented cricketers emerged.

67-71 -00:08:40.429 --> 00:08:44.049

Nimal Chandrasena: And as I am documenting in my history. The Malays played first, the Burghers, the Dutch descendants, played second, the Tamils played third, and then the Singhalese gave in that order. Well, the country may not recognize these other things, but that is the truth. Much of this backstory is not known, and that is the reason that I've been working so hard to document this in book form. It is already 450 pages, and I'll stop there, and then try to publish it at the end of the year.

72-76 -00:09:16.860 --> 00:09:29.989

Nimal Chandrasena: Ceylon is a beautiful, beautiful country. There's a picture of the Central Highlands where cricket happened. My historical sources are two great books. One book, "*Sixty Years of Ceylon Cricket*", written in 1924 by that gentleman (S. P. Foenander) on the right-hand side, top. A much-treasured book, very hard to find. There are two copies, I think, in England, for about 300 quid.

The second one, Mr. S. S. Pereira's "*Janashakthi Book of Sri Lanka Cricket*", written in 1999, is a big Bible. That's in the second row. Mr. Perera is on the right, but the guy who actually brought it out is Mr. Chandra Shaffter, now a good friend of mine. It is a big book; again, a few copies are available in

England. It is very hard to find in Australia, but there are a few copies around.

77-82 -00:10:00.460 --> 00:10:16.250

Nimal Chandrasena: Then, the Cricket Magazines were my sources, and the newspapers. Oh, trawling through *The Times of Ceylon* for the last 50 years was a hell of an exercise. I'm still doing it. Then the Cricket Archive online, and then your Association (and the Website).

Many old cricket books, like Grace's "Reminiscences" 1899. And Michael Roberts' prolific writings, after the 1990s. And there's another Sri Lankan Tamil, Aston Mahadevan, who in 2020 came out with a book, a limited edition book and DVD, that's the one in blue, over there. And then Nicholas Brookes, a young man from Britain, who wrote a book "An Island's Eleven". But it's not historical; it's only the first 70, 80 pages where he (Brookes) touches history. There are a few other cricket books, but as Nicholas Brookes himself says, there's such a great history, but hardly any literature to read.

83-87 -00:10:58.330 --> 00:11:13.680

Nimal Chandrasena: Okay, cricket began in 1832, so my story ends in 1932 (the first 100 years). So, for people who do not know, there's the, you know, the pearl-shaped island at the bottom end of India. And it's got two big harbors on the... on the western side, Colombo, which is very well known as the capital city, but more important was Galle, down at the bottom. You can see the harbor in the left-hand side photo, a brilliant harbor. The Portuguese saw it first, developed it, and then the Dutch developed it much larger. There's a big Dutch Fort; there's a picture of it in Galle. And that's where the ships, all these sailing ships, three-masted sailing ships, stopped, in the early part of the 19th century, from the 1800s, and so on and so forth. So, Colombo became important only much later.

88-89

00:11:52.740 --> 00:11:56.069

Nimal Chandrasena: It (Colombo) is the most important place now, but it became important only much later. Colombo also has a lovely harbour, after the Suez Canal, after the Suez Canal, only.

90-94 -00:12:05.720 --> 00:12:08.560

Nimal Chandrasena: So, there's Colombo. beautiful, big, big Fort. You can see the old fort on the right-hand side. You can't see any of it now. Only a few remnants of it remain. Most important is this jetty, which is still there.

You can see the jetty on the left-hand side. Very well developed. And then this line here used to be a waterway. Now, it is not a waterway; it's a major road, and the Dutch Governor's residence was built there. And the entire thing in the middle is where the British Governor lived. On the left-hand side, you can see the tree-lined place; we call it the "Queen's House" or "President's Palace" You can't go there; it's all blocked.

95-98 -00:12:55.590 --> 00:13:06.630

Nimal Chandrasena: This entire area cannot be easily accessed. But here (on the Map) you can see the Fort's old ramparts. These were all taken out in 1850 by the British. And then I will show very quickly where the earth... earthen embankments of the ramparts and all that went on down south, below here. To create a big, levelled ground, what's called the *Galle Face*.

99-103 -00:13:23.880 --> 00:13:39.350

Nimal Chandrasena: The next slide again gives a little bit of a picture of Colombo as it is now. So, that's the Fort right here at the top, and some cricket grounds. We'll come to them later. There's the Rifle Green. The Garrison was somewhere. And all of these (earthen) ramparts were brought down. If you can follow my, cursor... This is what's called *Galle Face*, the ocean-facing promenade. And there is this very famous *Galle Face Promenade* and the *Taj Samudra Hotel*. Now, that's where the headquarters of the first (European) cricket club was, the CCC (Colombo Cricket Club). And then the very famous *Galle Face Hotel*, which goes back 170, 180 years now.

104-107 - 00:14:13.780 --> 00:14:18.690

Nimal Chandrasena: But the rest of Colombo, you can get a bit of a feel for it here. Okay, the earliest clubs were all along ethnic lines. The first European club, Colombo Cricket Club (CCC), was established in 1832, and they played at some of those grounds, which we will see in another slide, in a minute now. They're exclusive to the Europeans. Burghers (Dutch descendants) were allowed only in 1870. And the... the Burgher gentleman who was first allowed was the one on that... on the bottom left-hand corner, George Vanderspar, who had so much pioneering cricket influence in Ceylon.

108-111 -00:14:49.620 --> 00:15:03.689

Nimal Chandrasena: The *Galle Face Hotel* in 1900 looked like that. The *Racquet Court* (Pettah), where we played cricket for the first time, looked like that on the right top picture. All tree-lined, beautiful, in those days.

The CCC, all European, was headquartered at Galle Face and played a lot of cricket. And other games as well. Sponsored games, but there was a period from 1832 to 1862, about 30 years, during which nothing happened. And the reason for that was a big rebellion in 1848. So, the country was unstable. There was no cricket for about 30 years (after the start in 1832).

112-116 -00:15:30.710 --> 00:15:44.409

Nimal Chandrasena: In the 1860s, everything started again with George Vanderspar and other people. The first Ceylonese club was the Malays Club. Why? Because the Malays were there as part of the British Army, in the *Ceylon Rifle Regiment*.

And then the, the Burghers formed the Colombo Colts in 1873. Then the Sinhalese and Burghers got together in 1890 and formed the Bloomfield CC, then Nondescripts (NCC) in 1868, the Colombo Sports Club (1895), then Mr. Vanderspar let the CCC go (from Galle Face) and bought part of it and developed Galle Face into a very big sports and recreational area. Because he was a multi-millionaire - the first millionaire on the island, probably, among the public.

117-119 -00:16:17.780 --> 00:16:29.470

Nimal Chandrasena: Then BRC, the Burger Recreation Club in 1896, the Sinhalese Sports Club SSC in 1899, and the Tamil Union, the Tamils almost at the same time (1899). These were the big clubs that evolved along ethnic lines. Then, there was fierce rivalry to get things done by the administrators. So, you know, for favours, right? So, fierce rivalry, but they were well-formed clubs. They're mostly along ethnic lines, but following the British system, right? Of forming a club, forming committees, having regular meetings, and the like.

120-127 -00:16:55.130 --> 00:17:03.079

Nimal Chandrasena: Okay, the earliest cricket grounds. Again, people who are familiar with Colombo would know. So this is Colombo. And you can see the Racquet Court (one of the oldest cricket grounds), which is still there as a car park. This is the recent picture. It existed for a long time, until 1915, when, during the wartime, it became a granary. Still, there are a few buildings, but the rest is a car park waiting to be swallowed by someone. And then, here at the bottom end is where the Garrison was. There is the Fort. As you can see, the Garrison was down on the southern side, and it is now a very big *World Trade Center* location. The big *Kingsbury Hotel* is there, the big *Hilton* is there, and so on.

And then, more slightly to the east, is this ground, *Rifle Green*. This is where the garrison used to cross the *Beira Lake* and play over there with the Malays. So the Malay regiment was placed over there. The ground is still there, opposite the *Cinnamon Grand Hotel*.

128-130 -00:18:09.770 --> 00:18:28.119

Nimal Chandrasena: And then, the *Galle Face* is right here, with the big promenade, and this hotel, the *Taj Samudra*. This area is where George Vanderspar developed the *Galle Face Green*. There was even horse racing there, and a golf club... golf and horse racing in this area. Cricket...Plus, those things, and there are still some buildings remaining there.

131-134

00:18:33.720 --> 00:18:37.029

Nimal Chandrasena: Okay, this slide shows the earliest, public schools, that's...The sentiment was the guy who you know very well, Lord Harris. He's the one who started making the idealistic, romantic comments on cricket. *Cricket builds character*. Cricket is important in producing gentlemen and all that. This is *Tom Brown's School Days*, stuff that Thomas Hughes had written about 20 years earlier. The British would know all of that, not necessarily the Sinhalese and my Sri Lankan compatriots. But I was told to read *Tom Brown's School Days*, I had a look at it, but I just could not understand. I was too young to understand what Arnold and the other guys were discussing.

135-137

00:19:17.230 --> 00:19:23.880

Nimal Chandrasena: Thomas Hughes, and even... I mean, I have the book now. It's a brilliant, brilliant book, but...I didn't quite understand it. Such comments were published from the time the *Cricketer* magazine came around in 1873. These sentiments were all echoed throughout the empire. You can understand that.

138-140

00:19:35.080 --> 00:19:48.910

Nimal Chandrasena: Then in 1905, Baden Powell came about, like, saying again, every... every boy in a public school playing... should be playing cricket or football, and that the 11 should straight come into the British Army, if they can shoot straight. (Baden Powell said) If they can play cricket, they can shoot well and should come straight into the British Army, because Britain had lost 22,000 soldiers in the Boer War, right? So these

sentiments echoed through about 30 or 40 years of our pioneering time, from the 1860s to about 1920. That's the time during which our public missionary schools were established.

141-144

00:20:16.680 --> 00:20:31.280

Nimal Chandrasena: The first one, in this bullet list, if you have a look, is *The Academy*, in 1836. It became the famous *Royal College* in 1851, and a guy called Joseph Brooke Bailey is supposed to have taught cricket. I don't believe any of that. I have given the evidence. He was only 16 years old, and he was born in Ceylon. He did not know cricket. You know, just take your mind back to 1836, and I know what state cricket was in England at that time. No chance that this guy, a young boy, would have taught us taught the... yeah, so that's a bit of an exaggeration, I think. He taught us what is called flogging, though. He's... he's famous in Ceylon for having taught flogging as the acting Headmaster.

145-146

00:21:04.490 --> 00:21:15.869

Nimal Chandrasena: St. Thomas', a very famous school, was established in 1851. It went to its current location, Mount Lavinia, in 1890, and then came the *Battle of the Blues*, which people have been asking me about. Very much like the *Eton and Harrow Clash*. The *Battle of the Blues* still continues from 1879 to now, right? 150 years. And the guy who started it was a Cambridge mathematician, Ashley Walker, who taught cricket.

147-149

00:21:27.710 --> 00:21:37.820

Nimal Chandrasena: St. Benedict's, another very famous school, is in the north of Colombo, established in 1865. Then another very famous school, 1874 Wesley College. These are the cricket schools. The big cricket schools in that period. Then there is Kandy, the second capital city, up in the mountains. That's where the second big garrison was. So Colombo has one big garrison, and Kandy has the second biggest. Kandy was the final (Sinhalese) kingdom to fall. It had a big garrison, and one major school in the early days - it's what became *Trinity College* in 1890.

151-152

00:22:05.830 --> 00:22:18.870

Nimal Chandrasena: Then Galle, that port. Inside the Galle Fort were *Old Saints* and *Richmond*, two schools, and then *Prince of Wales*, Moratuwa, and

then *St. John's* Panadura, and I come from Panadura, which is 17 miles south of Colombo. So, the western coastline was developing at that time, but still, missionary schools dominated in the third quarter of the 19th century.

153-156

00:22:30.380 --> 00:22:39.779

Nimal Chandrasena: Then, Col. Henry Steele Olcott came to Ceylon and started a Buddhist School, because Buddhism was not getting recognition from the Brits. So he established a Buddhist English High School in 1886, which became Ananda College, my alma mater.

But cricket started at Ananda only in 1911, and now we have the second biggest big match, the clash between Ananda and Nalanda Colleges (the premier Buddhist Schools), in what's called the *Battle of the Maroons*, still 100 years old now. That's how cricket happened in the public schools in the pioneering period; very, very similar to your story.

157-159

00:23:09.020 --> 00:23:25.799

Nimal Chandrasena: Okay, the next slide: not much is written about this. Coffee, tea, and cricket went hand in hand, but it was coffee in 1824, first plantations in Kandy, and the man we must thank is the fourth governor, Sir Edward Barnes. And he just said, we've got to grow something here to make money, otherwise the colonial office is not going to give us any money. He called the garrison commander, Colonel H. C. Bird, this guy... and Colonel Bird said, I don't know anything about how to grow things, but my brother does. He brought in George Bird. I didn't put a picture of him because there are no good pictures.

160-163

00:23:49.490 --> 00:23:51.479

Nimal Chandrasena: So, coffee began (with Barnes and Bird). And if you look at these bullet points in the middle there, it was the greatest export. King Coffee, the island was called. But...we had the greatest yields of coffee until 1860, and then the coffee rust, which is *Hemileia vastatrix* on the right-hand side, hit. And then destroyed it (coffee) over the next 50 years. But cricket started well before that, so well before tea came around, cricket was with the coffee planters.

164-165

00:24:23.690 --> 00:24:32.029

Nimal Chandrasena: And then, Tea came in, in 1863 to 1867, then obviously expanded from there... Tea was brought from Assam. Then fortune seekers came, right after Edward Barnes said, come, come, everybody come, from the Caribbean, from everywhere, they came.

166-169

00:24:41.080 --> 00:24:58.599

Nimal Chandrasena: The most important thing in all of this is the development of the railroad, sorry, firstly, the road from Colombo to Kandy, in the 1830s, only for horses and bullock carts, mainly for transporting coffee and goods. The railway line began in 1858 from Colombo and reached Kandy in 1867. Then to Nanu Oya, very famous now, with the tourists, British tourists in particular. And then to Haputale, and I'll come to that, and to all of these wonderful places, and end up at Ella, which is where all the tourists are going these days. And finally, Badulla, the end of the line, 30 years later, only in 1924.

170-173

00:25:20.800 --> 00:25:25.170

Nimal Chandrasena: So, the railway line took a long time. And it had to cut through mountains, as you can see in that picture, and it... Otherwise, it was all bullock carts; double bullock carts and... And as I've written here, without bullock carts, bulls and horses, hardy Tamils and the Sinhalese, there would be no coffee, no tea, or cricket, right? There's no question about that. It was a small population in those days. The first census that the Brits did showed 2 million people in 1871, now it's 23 million.

174-176

00:25:57.400 --> 00:26:11.830

Nimal Chandrasena: Yeah, so again, very quickly, the tea pioneers. Tea came in with James Taylor. The 1860s. 1867 was the first Tea plantation, at Loolecondra Estate, which is still there, but it became world-famous after Sir Thomas Lipton got involved. All are Scottish, all are Glaswegians. The grocery millionaire, Thomas Lipton, bought all of the coffee, or many of the coffee plantations cheaply. And then produced the yellow label Lipton's tea, and then took it everywhere.

You can see a cart there in London, where he, you know, popularized the whole thing. They built a huge tea empire, and something called the *Lipton's Seat* is a prime tourist spot, which we occasionally go to, once in about two years, to go and have a look. Haputale, Dambattenne Estate.

177-180

00:26:50.350 --> 00:26:53.909

Nimal Chandrasena: And many, many other tea estates in up-country places. Interestingly, the bungalows were made like those in the Scottish Highlands, in the most beautiful places. And there are lots of horses, lots of feedstock imported from Kenya, Ghana, and other places. Their weeds; most of my weed work identified many things that have come to Ceylon in this story. Many weeds came from... from Africa (British colonies, Ghana, Kenya, etc.), because large numbers of horses had to be fed.

181-183

00:27:20.450 --> 00:27:29.699

Nimal Chandrasena: Okay, the Clubs were established in this very picturesque, hilly country. The first was in 1856. DACC Dimbula Athletics and Cricket Club at Radella. We'll come to it in a minute. Second one, in Dickoya-Maskeliya (Hatton), DMCC, 1866, then in 1874 in Kandy, the second capital city. In Kandy, it was called ABCD, and later became Kandy Club, and at Bogambara Grounds, that's where the Kandy Garrison was and the Bogambara Prison. They all still exist.

184

00:27:56.640 --> 00:28:06.690

Nimal Chandrasena: All were European Clubs; no natives were allowed, but there is a mention of one (Ceylonese) Burgher, a J. S. de Sarum, for a Kandapola team, and we'll go to Kandapola in a minute.

185-186

00:28:06.920 --> 00:28:26.220

Nimal Chandrasena: And then the provincial clubs, first in Galle, also cannot be forgotten. They must have played cricket in the early days. There is a claim that they (Galle) played in 1860, but no further evidence. It's a claim only. Matale, Gampola, Kelani Valley, Badulla, all of these, Kalutara with rubber, all of these provincial clubs became established around, you know, 1860 to 1898, in that period.

187-193

00:28:31.750 --> 00:28:33.960

Nimal Chandrasena: The earliest important matches, again. 1867 was what's called the first big match in Ceylon between a central province team and a Colombo team. All Europeans, right? Yeah, it was called the big match. It was on the 5th of August (1867), played in Kandy, actually, at

Bogambara. And then in 1872, Colombo Townsmen versus the planters, where we do not know. Played over 3 afternoons from 4 to 6 pm. Then, in 1872 to 73, what's called the Upcountry Derby. 1875 Colombo Europeans versus Up-country Planters. It's what's called the Colombo Big Match. And then, little by little, it (cricket) expanded.

194

00:29:18.040 --> 00:29:37.010

Nimal Chandrasena: And the first match between the Europeans and the Colombo Colts, as I've noted here, is in 1873. Very critical for us. This is where the Ceylonese first formed a team and played against the Europeans. The scorecards are not available, very hard to find, except in newspapers and old books, very hard to find.

195-197

00:29:37.910 --> 00:29:56.660

Nimal Chandrasena: Okay, let's go to upcountry, Radella and Nanu Oya. Picturesque, as you can see. I've been visiting it quite often. Stunning location, 1856, and we have to thank this man, William Parker (W. P.) Halliley, born in 1850, died in 1936 in Sussex. Wonderful man. 18, 19 years old when he started building this, and it took him 10 years to build Radella. Beautiful place. And we played a few international games there.

198-199

00:30:07.610 --> 00:30:11.729

Nimal Chandrasena: And it has the first Turf practice nets in Ceylon, as you can see. That is a picture from last year. And the logo here clearly says Radella, established in 1856. The old buildings are still there, renovated, obviously, over time, but they're still there.

200-201

00:30:25.880 --> 00:30:33.939

Nimal Chandrasena: Then, here in this valley called the Maskeliya-Hatton Valley. It's a place called Darrawella (the second most important cricket ground in the Highlands). Not many people go there. But we went there and had a good look, surrounded by plantations, and there used to be a nine-hole golf course as well. The last international they played was in 1930. Old pictures, furniture, books, but no cricket books; it's all fiction.

202-203

00:30:48.930 --> 00:31:00.740

Nimal Chandrasena: There's a treasure trove of... there's a big logbook of cricket records from 1872 to 1923. They're not telling that to the government or any of these corrupt people, because they'll steal it. It's been well looked after and has the records of the first 51 years of their games. And you can see some of the pictures, and you will recognize the great man, Jack Hobbs. Visited it four times. 1928 was the last time he visited.

204-206

00:31:15.450 --> 00:31:22.749

Nimal Chandrasena: So, the grounds are still there, and there's a classic picture, the first picture photographed, 1872. "Bearded, like the pard", people will understand, all bearded fellows, and the structure at the back is the tent, the first tent before they built a pavilion. The pavilion is still there, you can go there and have a look. Nothing much happens at Darrawella now. It's not used for any serious cricket.

207-209

00:31:41.410 --> 00:31:49.549

Nimal Chandrasena: Right there (in this slide). This (ground) is even more important. This is really hidden in the up-country, and I will show you in a minute where it is. Kandapola, High Forest Estate, and it is inside a Hayley's-owned estate. You need some help to get there, so I needed some help from the army to get there. Surrounded by 38 plantations, it again had a 9-hole golf course, used only for rugby practice, as the pictures show. It's all dilapidated now. You can see the Tamil, what are called lines, the cool leaves and the workers, where they live.

210-212

00:32:14.660 --> 00:32:32.169

Nimal Chandrasena: Kandapola hosted many matches. Two outstanding names, Patrick Hadow - we'll come back to him later - and then Robert Downall, the guy who put together the, the Planters' Benevolent Fund. So, great, great names. The elder Tamils actually remembered their great-grandfathers' stories about golf balls landing on their roofs. It's all true, but that's about 60, 70... sorry, 150 years ago.

213-215

00:32:50.670 --> 00:32:53.119

Nimal Chandrasena: Okay, this is where it is. People do not know, and no one goes there. Nuwara Eliya, down here on the bottom (of the Map), is a big, big township, touristy town, very much like Simla, when the Brits

made it. Kandapola is all the way 40 kilometers along this way into this area, inside this tea estate, where the cricket grounds are.

216-218

00:33:11.990 --> 00:33:19.740

Nimal Chandrasena: This vegetation is the Pidurutalagala, the tallest mountain and our highest (elevation) point, so our...you know, radio and TV station antennas, and all are up there on the top of the (tallest) mountain. So, it's a wonderful drive from Nuwara Eliya. Actually, Kandy is further up (North in the Map). This way also, you can go to Kandy, or you can come down from Kandy (to Nuwara Eliya). So, anyway, it's wonderful to go on this drive in the hill country.

219-223

00:33:43.080 --> 00:33:50.110

Nimal Chandrasena: These are the famous cricket grounds. They're all in one area in Colombo, and I will show that in a minute. The most important one is the CCC, this one. And then the NCC. The dates show that. All of the area was under the military in 1863, but the cricket grounds were moved to these areas. The area was used by the RAF even in World War II.

224-229

00:34:16.020 --> 00:34:19.550

Nimal Chandrasena: So, the... the Sinhalese Sports Club (SSC), which is the most important one at the moment, moved there in 1899, but the cricket ground, which (later) became a Test venue, is here. The ground was established in 1952.

The next most important thing is the cricket board. The famous Sri Lanka Cricket Board and the Cricket Museum are just next to it. There's a picture of it there. It's worthwhile going and having a look. Okay, this is where it is, another Google Map of Colombo, and that's that area, which has these cricket grounds, and then what about Royal College, that first college, and what about my university? Down here on the Map

230-231

00:34:58.410 --> 00:35:16.320

Nimal Chandrasena: And then there is another one, Bloomfield Cricket Grounds, and there are many others, as you can see, dotted around. This area is what's called Cinnamon Gardens in Colombo, a very affluent part of Colombo, Colombo 7. Cinnamon Gardens (plantation) were completely

covered with cinnamon, right, during Dutch times. Not there anymore, you can't find a single tree.

232-235

00:35:19.320 --> 00:35:26.220

Nimal Chandrasena: Okay. This slide shows the greats of Ceylonese cricket. I am talking about pioneers of the 19th century; they are these guys. George, you can't go past George Vanderspar, the Burgher gentleman. Then, the others, Tommy Kelaart, Alan Raffle, D.L. de Saram, all Burghers, right? E.R. de Serum, Cecil Horan, Colonel Joseph, Rosario, and the first Sinhalese gentleman, Frank Goonewardena, right here at the bottom right.

236-238

00:35:48.800 --> 00:35:55.370

Nimal Chandrasena: Basically, Burghers led the pioneering effort to bring Ceylon cricket forward. And you can obviously see a very well, you know, very well-dressed Burghers, those young people, in that, in that period, it's the turn of the century, and then a top Sinhalese family also, the Gunasekara family, some of those names are very well known. They all went to Cambridge. As I've written here, education in England was a way to gain recognition back in Ceylon.

239-240

00:36:22.460 --> 00:36:39.139

Nimal Chandrasena: They were all lawyers and doctors, hugely recognized back in Colombo. Fluency in English was crucial for recognition. Joining the army was the fastest way to recognition because it allowed elitist socialist interactions and upward mobility in businesses. Estate brokerage, tea, rubber, General Stores, Cargill's, Willows, Carson's, Shaw Wallace, and in all of these... the boss was a Brit, the second was always a Burgher. So, that's how cricket was influenced by those people.

241-244

00:36:55.580 --> 00:36:58.269

Nimal Chandrasena: Among the European pioneers, in my opinion. Frank Hadow, who played for Kandapola, was very, very famous. He won the second Wimbledon title. There it is. He went all the way from Ceylon to take part in the Second Wimbledon in 1878, and won.

245-249

00:37:17.300 --> 00:37:35.760

Nimal Chandrasena: Right? And he's (Hadow) worldwidely known for introducing what's called lobbying, which you know, at Wimbledon. Then Mr. Halliley, and then Percy May. We will come to Percy May a bit later. But these other cricketers are very important. Some of you will remember them. Bill Graswell, Somerset; A L. Gibson, Winchester, didn't play for Essex; Vivian Crawford, Leicester, and Surrey. And then Frederick Julian (F. J.) Siedle; he didn't play for any county but was also absolutely critical. Crawford made the first turf wicket in 1911 at the CCC grounds. And then Col. T. Y. Wright (Kandy).

250

00:38:01.120 --> 00:38:17.759

Nimal Chandrasena: The turn of the century, you know, brought the Sinhalese forward. The Sinhalese were very shy, and Col. Wright- he's the one who said, "come, come, come with me, let's go to this party". Col. Wright used to introduce them and got them involved in social clubs in Kandy.

251-253

00:38:19.680 --> 00:38:33.540

Nimal Chandrasena: This is something that's not very well known. Four English test players played in Ceylon: Major Leslie Hewett (L. H.) Gay, the first one, Cambridge, Somerset, Hampshire, England, dual international, cricket and soccer. I don't know whether you guys know him or not. Played in Andrew Stodart's team in the first Test at the SCG in 1894. On the way back, he stayed in Colombo and did not go back to England for many years because his brother was already a planter. Played for 5 years, and so on.

254-255

00:38:50.860 --> 00:38:57.829

Nimal Chandrasena: What about G.F. Vernon? I'm sure that the British listeners would know, right? Very, very famous man. Rugby player, Middlesex, more than 200 games for Middlesex, toured Australia twice, led his own team, and stayed in Ceylon. We do not know for how long, but he played for some time.

256-258

00:39:10.730 --> 00:39:12.699

Nimal Chandrasena: Then, what about Percy May? Played in one unofficial test versus New Zealand. Came to Ceylon and stayed for 40 years, and actually died in Ceylon. Percy stayed a long time.

259-263

00:39:24.430 --> 00:39:25.889

Nimal Chandrasena: And then what about George Thornton?

Edinburgh-educated doctor, went to South Africa for medical services, played in that first-ever South African test versus the Australians, Joe Darling's Australians at Joburg in October 1902, and then came to Colombo, was appointed the head of the General Hospital in Colombo for 13 years while he played cricket. These four people are the Test internationals who played in Ceylon.

264-266

00:39:54.360 --> 00:40:03.269

Nimal Chandrasena: This one, people will recognize, Ivo Bligh, the first most important tour, the first international one, 1882. Bligh's team was on the way to Australia to try to win the ashes back. So there's Bligh in the middle, Vernon up there at the top, and they stopped in Colombo and played one game. The Ceylon team had all Burghers, and the archaeological Commissioner (British, H. C. P. Bell) also, as you can see from the names. They were on the *Peshawur*, one of the first ocean liners.

267-271

00:40:26.080 --> 00:40:37.810

Nimal Chandrasena: And they played one game; they left on the 15th of October, but met with a big accident, about 246 nautical miles south-east of Galle. The ship had to come back, and they played a second game.

Not well recorded in Ceylon's history, but they played a second game this time back in Colombo, against the Garrison. And they left on the 24th, arrived in Adelaide a week later, and everything had to be rescheduled in Australia.

271-275

00:41:01.340 --> 00:41:06.149

Nimal Chandrasena: And then this was followed two years later by Murdoch's, Billy Murdoch's Australian team. They were on the way to England and played one game. And I don't have time to go into these, these names, but you can see Mr. Spofforth, Demon Spofforth there,

Blackham, Murdoch, Bonner... oh, this guy you would know, Billy Midwinter. And then Harry Boyle.

276

00:41:27.930 --> 00:41:45.839

Nimal Chandrasena: So, the great players, very great players, and they appreciated Ceylon. And see the comment here? They paid so many tributes to Colombo Hotels, the Galle Face Hotel, and so on. They said they're much, much more impressive than the Australian cities at that time. Unbelievable comment.

277-279

00:41:46.920 --> 00:41:49.690

Nimal Chandrasena: Murdoch again came. 1890 on the RMS *Ormuz*, the greatest ship of those days. 17-hour business stop, but they didn't forget to play a game. 17 hours only. Getting off the jetty, some people fell into the water, including women. The governor also went in, into the drink to pull them out.

280-281

00:42:07.250 --> 00:42:24.600

Nimal Chandrasena: So, the internationals were treated very well, and we played again. So, we appreciated it. Colombo appreciated these (whistlestops). We played... Ceylon played 11 players for the first time (1890). Up until that time, Ceylon would always play 18 players, as the custom was. The Stronger team 11, the weaker team 18. But this is the first time we played with 11 players.

282-287

00:42:29.080 --> 00:42:37.020

Nimal Chandrasena: And then the great man came in 1891 with Lord Sheffield's team. Again, the Brits would know all of this. WG came with Lord Sheffield's team. We know who Lord Sheffield is. At the end of the Australian part of the tour, they stayed in Colombo for 18 hours, or 24 hours, maybe? One game.

The guy (Grace) got out hit wicket for 14. He walked off, huffing and puffing and sweating, that's what the records say. He was so hot under the collar that he went away. Stoddart, the other opener, cracked 70 with 5 sixes. The match was drawn. England, 143, Ceylon 18 made 10 for 70.

288-289

00:43:15.480 --> 00:43:29.729

Nimal Chandrasena: Most interestingly, Grace was very upset when he got back. The Governor and everybody else were now after someone else. Henry Morton Stanley was on board the *Ormuz* and was in the pavilion. Stanley, everyone would know of the Dr. Livingston's fame, "Dr. Livingston, I presume," all that stuff at Lake Tanganyika. So, a very famous man, whom a childhood.

290-291

00:43:40.170 --> 00:44:00.059

Nimal Chandrasena: WG's story is very well known. WG was paid 3,000 pounds for his family, all the kids, and the servants and all that, whereas all the rest of the team was paid only 300 for the whole tour by Lord Sheffield. But the Lord Sheffield said, if Grace is not going, I'm not going, I'm not funding. Oh, well, we had a great time with, with Grace, I think.

292-294

00:44:06.700 --> 00:44:19.670

Nimal Chandrasena: This is a very interesting picture, and I've forgotten where I got it from. The one Lillywhite? Bligh, I recognize Grace, Stoddart, McLaren, Archie, Pelham Warner, and Johnny Douglas? And some of the others.

295-298

00:44:23.050 --> 00:44:25.549

Nimal Chandrasena: But these dates are very important, right? 1882, 1889, Vernon; 1991, Lord Sheffield, then Lord Hawke's team. Then, finally, in 1927, 1928, 29, 32, the teams were called the MCC, right?

299-301

00:44:42.030 --> 00:44:48.870

Nimal Chandrasena: And the most interesting was in 1903, Warner's team refused to play because Ceylon had two natives in, sorry, I should go back up again. Ceylon proposed to have two *natives* in the team, D. L. de Saram (a Burgher) and D. B. Gunasekara (A Sinhalese). It was racism, blatant racism, as the newspaper reports said even at that time.

302

00:45:04.960 --> 00:45:18.189

Nimal Chandrasena: Okay, the Australians, again, did us a great service: 10 visits in those 100 years. So, as I said in the previous one, 12 English visits in the first 100 years, and from Australia, 10 visits.

303-304

00:45:19.790 --> 00:45:32.670

Nimal Chandrasena: (In this Slide). The Australian captains. Stevenson, the first one, Murdoch, Percy McDonnell, Harry Blackham, Harry Trott, Joe Darling, I can recognize some, Monty Noble, Syd Gregory, and Warwick Armstrong ("Gulliver"), or "The big ship". So these people (and their Teams) came in that period that I'm covering, up to 1932.

305-307

00:45:38.100 --> 00:45:45.080

Nimal Chandrasena: And the most interesting thing is that Bradman came in 1930 with Woodfull's team. But due to depression in Australia in the 1920s, Bradman himself had lost a stone before the tour, but regained nutrition and strength during the travelling in the luxury streamliner. Not well known, but very well written, in Bradman's own book, *Farewell to Cricket*.

308-311

00:46:07.690 --> 00:46:14.610

Nimal Chandrasena: So, the other interesting thing that happened in 1901 was a very unique event. The Boer prisoners of war, in the POW camp of 5,000 prisoners; they had a cricket team of 70 to 100 people, led by Peter De Villiers, a great South African cricketer, Gert Kotze, and a few others. They made themselves a pitch without grass, just like the South African pitches on very hardened mud.

312-313

00:46:36.650 --> 00:46:51.700

Nimal Chandrasena: I saw cricket there in 1963, 64, 65. I was a little kid, and I used to go there and watch the Army play, the Air Force, and so on and so forth. That's the pavilion, it's newly made now. I used to sit down here. And they used to just tickle my hair and then walk away. The adults, you know, the Army and the Navy fellows. I was just a little boy, watching cricket with passion.

314-316

00:47:03.390 --> 00:47:15.210

Nimal Chandrasena: So, the Prisoners were on parole, and this is unique in the world. Unique in the world, where prisoners played serious cricket. Down in Colombo, they were on parole for one week and were treated like royalty in Colombo. They played against the Colts. They asked for the best team, and the best team on the island was the Colts. Raffel, Adam Raffle was captain. The Colts won, easily, by 141 runs. It is a very unique event which I've written about separately.

317-320

00:47:33.350 --> 00:47:40.309

Nimal Chandrasena: So, a great deal of cricket was played... and then, these games may not be that important, right? I just put these things to show that by this time, the Burghers and the Europeans were playing regularly against each other. Bill Gresswell, famous names, A. L. Gibson, Vivian Crawford, and many others.

So I put this picture because some of these Burghers actually looked very dark, darker than me in colour. They were not just the way the Dutch were (fair and tall). No. Like, Cecil Horan or all the Kelaarts, and many others, on the other hand, were very fair and tall people. The Burghers were so mixed with the Tamils and the Sinhalese by this time.

321-322

00:48:18.620 --> 00:48:29.469

Nimal Chandrasena: The absolute pioneers of Ceylon cricket. We owe a great deal to these fellows, Dr. John Rockwood, a Tamil, Dr. Joseph, another Tamil, and Mr. S. P. Foenander, a Burgher.

And then Mr. British Colonial Secretary E. B. Alexander, D. L. de Saram again, a Burgher, and Dr. C. H. Gunasekara, and Frank Goonawardena. These are the people, our pioneers, who brought us to where we are.

323-324

00:48:44.880 --> 00:48:52.249

Nimal Chandrasena: Where are we today? So, I'm sorry I'm rushing through a little bit. But I think you basically got the message there.

325-327

00:48:58.290 --> 00:49:10.159

Nimal Chandrasena: Lord Harris came 3-4 times. Grace, twice; Ivo Bligh, twice. What about Sir Francis Lacey, your MCC Secretary, over a long period? Ranji came 4 times. And then, what about Sutcliffe and Hobbs? They came four times, which is a lot.

328-330

00:49:18.070 --> 00:49:19.390

Nimal Chandrasena: And then Lord Hawke? Twice, I think, the third time he missed because he was sick. So these people came many times; Pelham Warner, two to three times; Percy Chapman, three times; Douglas Jardine, twice. And these... these were the pioneering influences that we had. If we didn't have these people, then we wouldn't have come this far.

331-333

00:49:37.840 --> 00:49:43.640

Nimal Chandrasena: And another one; there's Don Bradman, right? So the Australians came, that's William Morden Woodford's team. And, do you recognize the guy to his left? Victor Richardson, the Chappell Brothers' grandfather? Bradman, there he is. He made 4 and was dismissed hit wicket by a Tamil bowler.

334-335

00:49:58.140 --> 00:50:08.059

Nimal Chandrasena: He did not play in 1934; he came again in 1948. He came 4 times, but in 1948, he made 20. Came 4 times. This is a picture from 1948. So, and Batman has written quite a bit about Ceylon in *Farewell To Cricket*.

336-340

00:50:15.520 --> 00:50:19.589

Nimal Chandrasena: an important one for the Ceylonese audiences, again. St. Peter's College, Adelaide, paid a visit. A very important cricket tour. For the first one, an Australian cricket school came, and this started cricket school exchanges. Royal College went to Australia two years later.

341-343

00:50:37.310 --> 00:50:52.399

Nimal Chandrasena: And important things for Ceylon are these two fellows that I've circled here. This guy, Dudley Sinenayaka, became the prime minister, you know, 40 years later. This guy down here, his brother, Robert Senanayaka, led cricket for 30, 40 years in Colombo, right? We would not have come on this journey if not for these guys. So we owe a great deal to these people.

344-345

00:51:03.580 --> 00:51:14.789

Nimal Chandrasena: And someone made an error that described the Australian captain, S. F. Downer, as Alexander Downer's relation? No, he was no relation. Alexander Downer is a well-known man (Politician and Foreign Minister) in Australia, as you know.

346-350

00:51:17.630 --> 00:51:26.559

Nimal Chandrasena: MCC in Ceylon, the last one, 1928, before my book ends, and again, you can see the mixture of people. Wally Hammond was there. Mr. S. P. Foenander managed this whole tour. There's Hobbs, Douglas Jardine, Percy Chapman, O. B. Forbes, Dr. Gunasekara, the Ceylon captain, Cecile Horan. And other Ceylon players, this is the official, official photo. And, again, Hobbs made runs, Chapman made runs, yeah, so it was an important game for us.

351-353

00:51:55.890 --> 00:51:59.699

Nimal Chandrasena: And this is again a very important one, the Maharajkumar Vizianagram's team. Important because by this time, Hobbs and Sutcliffe were invited to play for Vizi's team, and he had a Ceylonese player, Ed Kelaart, also playing in his team. This is the time when what's called "first-class" games came about.

354

00:52:21.800 --> 00:52:41.280

Nimal Chandrasena: But in Ceylon, my listeners will not know, we did not get classified until about 1925, but thereafter, what's called "first-class" cricket came about. Up until that time, everything that we called ourselves first class was "domestic first-class" cricket. So the Australian statisticians, this society, and others have now clearly identified what the world calls "First-class" cricket. But these games were very, very important for us.

356-359

00:52:48.670 --> 00:52:53.759

Nimal Chandrasena: December 1932; the first 100 years. Ceylon visited India. They were led by C. K. Naidu, obviously the first captain of the Indian team. One of our guys made a 100 in the first international century in 1932. (Sago Jayawickrema)

The team, again, was mostly made up of Burghers and a few Sinhalese. Led by Dr. C. H. Gunasekara, a Cambridge man, he had to return to Colombo to deal with diphtheria and give up the tour of India.

360-364

00:53:19.220 --> 00:53:21.179

Hobbs said to Colombo, you need a coach, right? And then, he asked around London, and then recommended the Surrey man, William Razor Smith; you would know him. He was our first coach. Then Mr. Foenander, who was doing so much for cricket in Ceylon, resigned from the Cricket Board, saying that "We don't need the English to teach us how to play cricket."

And I put this picture for the Sri Lankan audience again. This guy is known to... known to us, John Halangoda, the Trinity College coach. For 13 years, the college was unbeaten, which was an incredible record. And there's Doug De Saram, there's Dr. Rockwood, who were the pioneers, Frank Goonewardena, and so on and so forth. There is Percy May also in that picture.

366-372

00:54:14.500 --> 00:54:25.530

Nimal Chandrasena: This is the penultimate slide. There's a role of honour. The fallen in WWI. I spent seven days fully researching this, and I got the names right. These are the people who died, who played cricket in Ceylon and, joined World War I, the army and died, and whose names appear in the, in the, the memorial, which was at Galle Face.

Now it is somewhere else; it was taken down during World War II, because the Japanese were going to use that as a marking target. So it was shifted somewhere else. It's still there, and here... here in the picture are these names. Spelling is sometimes wrong.

373-375

00:55:02.320 --> 00:55:06.849

Nimal Chandrasena: There are no details about these people. Their second name, the Tamil gentleman (Aiyadurai). There is nothing known about him, except that he died in France. With the rest, you can find something in Britain.

376-378

00:55:15.040 --> 00:55:17.569

Nimal Chandrasena: And then the others who served are very important. P. F. Haddow, Fetherstonhaugh, Fitzgibbons, A. L. Gibson, Bill Gresswell. All of these fellows went back and joined around 1911 to... sorry, 1915, 16, 17, 18. They came back in 1919. Some of them knew nothing except to be engineers, and worked in various ways in the forces.

379-382

00:55:44.760 --> 00:55:45.520

Nimal Chandrasena: So...I put this again for the Sri Lankan audience. We all know this very famous quote from C. L. R. James. *What do they know of England who only England knows?* Kipling said that in the English flag. And James used that for cricket. We all know that. In Britain, you know these things very well. *What do they know of cricket who only cricket knows?* So, talk about cricket only after a deep understanding, that's what James was saying. He also said that in cricket, the brilliant players were not an accident. They were part of a social phenomenon. Very important point.

383-385

00:56:25.050 --> 00:56:34.800

Nimal Chandrasena: *The cricket field was a stage on which selected individuals played representative roles charged with social significance.* That's what he said. And they all wanted to prove that *you guys are no better than we.* That's what he said. Colonialism, the story is the same in the West Indies, India also on the big difference is, we didn't have slavery.

386-388

00:56:53.690 --> 00:57:03.219

Nimal Chandrasena: Cricket was a cultural phenomenon, an elitist sport that became a tool for cultural democracy between the ruled and the rulers. Good cricketers were always upward mobile, roasting society. So Cricket made a very positive cultural influence. In the decolonization process, cricket was the way to show cooperation with the rulers and also display some defiance and resistance.

389-394

00:57:20.450 --> 00:57:25.290

Nimal Chandrasena: Okay, on the last slide. I went and met some of these great guys. Some were Cambridge-Educated Fellows. Some of you will recognize Sidath Wettimuni, who's in the cricket committee now. Michael Tissera, a great captain of the past. Chandra Schaffter, 96 years old now; he said he couldn't join today, as he was out of his home. Ranjit Fernando,

former wicket-keeper and opener. Then Mano Ponniah, who played for Cambridge and was an All-Ceylon player. I had a good time with these fellows.

395-396

00:57:50.020 --> 00:58:01.829

Nimal Chandrasena: I say that cricket is as much about what doesn't happen in the field as what does. So, not remembering that history is the folly that Ceylon is suffering from at the moment. And maybe England, too, to some extent. Hopefully, my story will start a new and positive conversation. Thank you very much.

397

00:58:12.630 --> 00:58:22.199

Rodney Ulyate: Thank you, Nimal. That was lovely. Would you stop sharing your screen so that we can get a good look at you during the question-and- and answer session?

398-401

00:58:22.210 --> 00:58:31.829

Rodney Ulyate: The first thing I'd like to say is very well done on those slides. I really admire the trouble you went to there. Really...

Evocative stuff, and you clearly took a lot of time over them. First question, I suppose I'll put to you, and please, others who have questions, either raise your hands or throw them into the chat function.

The first question I'd have for you is on the question of Ceylonese or Sri Lankan nationalism and its connection to cricket. This is a subject, obviously, that interests historians of Australia and of South Africa and of India, but I know next to nothing about how those two phenomena intersected in Sri Lanka, did they? And how...

402-403

00:59:11.940 --> 00:59:17.240

Nimal Chandrasena: It's a topic for a long discussion. Like I said, in Ceylon, the Malays played cricket first, but no one recognizes that.

404-409

00:59:22.310 --> 00:59:41.049

Nimal Chandrasena: The Malays are people from [Malaya] who... when the Sinhalese and the Tamils, or anyone local, could not be persuaded to join the army. They brought people from the Malayan Peninsula and

Indonesia and created the Ceylon Rifle Regiment. They watched the Brits play cricket, and they started playing cricket.

No one recognizes them very much. And then the Burghers followed, obviously, a half recognition. So the ethnic, in the Tamils and the Singhalese, almost at the same time. And like I said, the social phenomenon of interacting and engaging. The more positive the engagement with the rulers, the more support they got for grounds and facilities, pavilions, and so on and so forth. So it's a... it's a journey that we came, came together. We, you know, were not always subservient.

410-415

01:00:12.490 --> 01:00:27.059

Nimal Chandrasena: We tried to play the game, you know, as hard as we could, and we beat the Europeans most of the time. So, I'm not too sure whether... it's a long story, very, very closely linked with the normal social journey that Ceylon came through. In that period of not 200 years, about 100 and... but the bridge came in 1796, 1815 surrender, total surrender, so 1948, independence, so 135 years, right? Let's put it that way, in that journey. But...cricket made, more than anything else, a very, very positive contribution to our engagement with our rulers.

Okay.

416-417

01:01:02.500 --> 01:01:15.519

Rodney Ulyate: Great, thank you. No other questions so far, which perhaps, given that we have just hit 11 o'clock UK time, isn't the worst thing in the world. So, unless we get another, I'll ask one final question, which is about the project itself. When can we expect to see it? Is it going to be a tie-in with the 200th anniversary of that?

418

01:01:23.520 --> 01:01:29.720

Rodney Ulyate: The very first batch you mentioned. Where did you say it took place? On Rifle Green, back in 1832.

419

01:01:31.370 --> 01:01:38.830

Nimal Chandrasena: I don't know, I'm working very hard, because I'm used to other things also. I'm trying to get the book out before the end of the year, that's...

420

01:01:39.060 --> 01:01:40.830

Rodney Ulyate: Before the end of the year, alright, yeah.

421-423

01:01:40.830 --> 01:01:41.790

Nimal Chandrasena: Yeah, yeah. Quite a bit of an effort to finish it off and make an index and that type of thing. It's very different to other cricket books. It's more or less like a history book, with proper citations and references and an index and so on and so forth. It is not just like any other cricket book. It's a properly written historical account. Because I am an academic, I can't ignore the sort of training that I have. So everything is cited and referenced with footnotes and whatnot.

424-425

01:02:18.150 --> 01:02:28.979

Nimal Chandrasena: So there, therefore, it takes time. But I'm... yeah, the next two years will be that other part, and as I said, it's going to take longer, because so much has happened in that period. But none of that is that important, because the new generation has access to a lot of information.

426-428

01:02:37.860 --> 01:02:49.699

Nimal Chandrasena: But this old stuff, no one has...time to go through the *Times of Ceylon*, you know, a six- or seven-page afternoon newspaper, just imagine, you know, it's mind-blowing to have a look at these old newspapers, you know, unbelievable stuff, really unbelievable. And the power of digitization has allowed me to look at these.

So, I'm going through those things painfully, but thoroughly enjoyable.

429

01:03:07.420 --> 01:03:09.030

Rodney Ulyate: Alright, well, if you... If you don't have.

430

01:03:09.030 --> 01:03:10.000

Nimal Chandrasena: No question what?

431

01:03:10.000 --> 01:03:11.160

Rodney Ulyate: Sorry?

432

01:03:11.940 --> 01:03:14.159

Nimal Chandrasena: No, no, I, no, not yet, not yet.

433

01:03:14.530 --> 01:03:25.570

Rodney Ulyate: Okay, well, I'd be happy to run it past the ACS General Committee. I think it would be something right up our alley. Without further ado, if we don't have any other... oh, we do!

434

01:03:25.670 --> 01:03:42.170

Rodney Ulyate: have a question. That's from David Kelly, who wants your email address. I'll send that to him after the fact. But thanks a lot, Nimal, that was very interesting, very colorful, really visually striking, too, which again, I really do appreciate, and we'll be in touch. I'm sure we'll get a lot of.

435

01:03:42.170 --> 01:03:42.559

Nimal Chandrasena: Yeah, yeah.

436

01:03:42.560 --> 01:03:43.789

Rodney Ulyate: Back about this one.

437-438

01:03:43.980 --> 01:03:57.349

Nimal Chandrasena: One final comment. If... if people can give me feedback quietly, I would appreciate that. And when you share my email address, even the phone number, I don't mind. You know, they can... they interact with me,

439

01:04:01.320 --> 01:04:14.500

Nimal Chandrasena: That'll be... that'll be good. This is not to sell the book. I am not in that mode, all right? I'm not interested in... I'm just interested in engaging with people who probably know some of the names that I mentioned. See.

440

01:04:14.500 --> 01:04:32.150

Nimal Chandrasena: A couple of things that I forgot to mention. I mean, I've been, you know, working with, or trying to get Jeremy Lonsdale to find an Ashley Walker photograph, right, from Britain. The guy who introduced cricket to Royal College, Royal College does not have a photograph of Ashley Walker.

441-442

01:04:32.230 --> 01:04:48.690

Nimal Chandrasena: Unbelievable! So, so it's like the George Vandesparr, same thing. You know, where's the Vandersparr family? How do I find them? You know, I must go to Holland to find them. So it's, you know, when history is poorly recorded, that's what happens. We will forget them. We should not forget them.

443

01:04:50.060 --> 01:05:01.879

Rodney Ulyate: Thanks, Nimal. I'll be happy to furnish the needful introductions for everyone, and hopefully something comes of that. Anyway, without further ado, goodbye, everyone. Have a lovely Saturday.

444

01:05:03.300 --> 01:05:04.110

Nimal Chandrasena: Thanks.