

# Goodwill Messages

## **FAILED** The Command Close Up **UNITE or DISRUPT**

by G. MOOTHOO

Are all the Associations in South Africa prepared to "close up"? Are all, or the majority, of those "Big Shots" firmly and sincerely convinced that "closing shop" will assist in producing better football and more cordiality in Race Relations? Will this policy really unify us, or will it at worst create a spate of breakaways?

It is said that those against closing shop are being moved by sentiment, but one would like to know whether those in favour are a 100 per cent honest in their beliefs?

Let us also remember that the sentiment over our Associations are preserved because of the experience and learning obtained from these Associations—have they not produced men of great calibre like the ones we respect today? The Associations, it should be realised, are institutions of learning, just as Lovedale, Fort Hare, St. Peter's and other Colleges. It is easy to destroy the institutions, but not the benefit derived thereof.

Give all clubs, players, districts and Associations the privilege of thinking before they take that irrevocable step. Allow them to decide whether to close shop or not. Let us not be accused of having rammed down the "unwilling" throats of others, our own sincere ideologies.

It is advisable to build on the solid foundation already laid and gradually add to the structure as time will provide and allow. There should not be any dissentients, for "a house divided amongst itself shall fall."

## THINK before you LEAP

S. E. PATEL

Integration has given soccer a new impetus. The racial tag has been removed from the names of almost all Associations in South Africa. The Associations, however, still remain Non-White. When will the Whites throw in their lot? It is generally accepted that the "sportsmen" will, but that the Government policy prevents complete integration. In fact, we can with safety assume that the policy of separation of the races will shortly be applied in the arena of sport by State intervention and for this the protagonists of integration must be fully prepared.

Race Groups, who receive Governmental or Municipal aid, will be coerced into action against integration. Entry permits into and out of restricted areas will become more and more difficult and we will be called upon to deal with the problem as politicians and not as sportsmen.

Will the glory of the Sam China die a natural death after this Tournament? We do not see why it should. The composition of the Association is multi-racial and it does not follow that because the Sam China was once "Indian" it cannot now become multi-racial. The solution is not a difficult one. All that remains to be done is for the Associations conducting tournaments for the Stuttafords (Coloured) and the Moroka-Baloyi (African) to encourage the affiliated centres to follow the pattern of the Sam China — multi-racial tournaments.

One Association to govern and control the many existing trophies will become terribly unwieldy and unmanageable. It will also oust out of its ranks many fine administrators who have proven their worth time and time again. In fact, the keeping alive of the Sam China, Stuttafords and Moroka-Baloyi Trophies will bring to the fore the talented young men among the 14 million Non-Whites in the country.

### SAM CHINA

It is indeed a pleasure for me as President of the newly founded Northern Natal Indian Football Association to associate myself with your association and the Sam China Tournament. The momentous decision taken at Lenasia on the 23rd April, 1967, by Soccer Administrators from various parts of the Republic of South Africa to resuscitate the SAIFA Association, was a step in the right direction.

It will be recalled that a unit of my Association — the Football Association of Northern Districts, was suspended by the Federation, (which comprises 97% of Indian Associations), for going "all-Indian."

This action by Federation has, in the eyes of the general Indian public, left much to be desired.

I want to emphasise that integration, in whatever shape or form, if not already, is bound to fail. Politicians, for their own political aims, inspired sports Administrators to take a decision in 1959 to unconditionally open the doors to Non-Indians. This act has, no doubt, brought about a definite decline in the standards of our Soccer both from the playing point of view and attendance. The Community suffered.

The South African Indian Football Association's epoch making decision to confine its activities to Indians is only a necessary, though overdue, reform and change for the better. SAIFA is doing good work in bringing back the past glory of Indian Soccer, unfortunately our aspirations are being thwarted by the Soccer Federation. Our fight is difficult but we will eventually win.

I wish this 1967 Sam China Tournament all success. I am confident the enthusiasm will be greater and the standard of Soccer will be higher and better than before.

S. MAHABEER (HENRY)

I would like to express my heartiest congratulations to the Committee responsible for the promotion of this wonderful tournament, their initiative is greatly admired.

May I make an appeal to the players to give their fullest support to the Referee, remember he has given up his time to make this Tournament a great success. DO NOT query his decisions and give him all the support you can and in so doing you will be doing your share to make this a most enjoyable tournament, both for spectators and the players.

May I conclude by saying: "Let not the winning be your only aim, it matters also how you play the game."

— GEORGE BRUNTON —

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# CONDITIONS OF THE SAM CHINA CUP

## CONDITIONS OF DONATION SAM CHINA CUP

WHEREAS I, the undersigned, Sam China of Kimberley, in the Province of the Cape of Good Hope, Union of South Africa, am the donor of a certain trophy in the form of a cup which was presented by me during or about the year 1903, for competition in Association Football, between the various provinces of the Union of South Africa, competed under the control of the South African Indian Football Board.

AND WHEREAS the terms and conditions under which the trophy was presented by me have not heretofore been fully complied with

AND WHEREAS I now desire the terms and conditions as laid down by me to be placed on record in order that there may be no misunderstanding in regard to the conditions under which the Trophy was presented.

AND WHEREAS I desire the terms and conditions to be fully enforced in future.

NOW THEREFORE these presents witness that the following terms and conditions shall apply in regard to the trophy by me namely :

1. That it be called the SAM CHINA TROPHY.
2. That it be presented for competition in Association Football to Indian Teams representing the various Provinces of the Union of South Africa which are affiliated to the South African Indian Football Board.
3. That the cup be presented to the Province which shall be successful in winning the trophy.
4. That the competition shall take place every second year and at such place or places as the South African Indian Football Board shall decide.
5. That my daughter, Miss Patty Sam China and Mrs. Valliamah Veerasamy and Mr. Govindasamy Narayana Naidoo, all of Kimberley shall be the Trustees in whom the Cup shall rest.
6. That in the event of no competition being held in any year, the cup shall be returned to Kimberley and shall be held by the afore-mentioned Trustees until such time as a Competition takes place.
7. That in the event of any disputes arising in regard to any matter relating to the Cup my Trustees shall have power to discuss or negotiate in regard to such disputes and their decision shall be final.
8. That the South African Indian Football Board shall insure the cup against all loss or damage and shall produce proof of having done so to my said Trustees and in the event of the loss or any damage to the Cup from any cause whatsoever, my Trustees shall have the right to claim the sum of one hundred and five pounds (£105.0.0) sterling being the value of the cup, from the South African Indian Football Board, in order to replace same.
9. That all conditions previously laid down by me in regard to the cup shall be of full force and effect whether certained herein or not.

THUS DONE AND PASSED PREVIOUSLY AT KIMBERLEY ON THE 13TH DAY OF JULY, 1930 IN THE PRESENCE OF THE UNDERSIGNED PERSONS AS WITNESSES :

AS WITNESSES :  
W. N. COOPER  
J. A. B. HODWELL

SIGNED SAM CHINA  
H. SMART

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**DESMINT**  
**C.M.T.**

# THEY WERE GRAND MEN

The Indian men of Johannesburg are meeting to form an Association to take care of their soccer. The majority of them are waiters. They are to meet in the Board Room of a posh hotel in the heart of town. Yes, I did say 'the Board Room of a posh hotel in the heart of town.' How I envy them! They are all meticulously dressed, down to the last detail. This painstaking, meticulous attention to detail is reflected in all they do and record. The official lists of all teams are written into the minutes.

The daily newspaper publishes a letter written by a Natalian, who makes disparaging remarks about the upstart Transvaalers who form a football association when that cannot play the game. There are many CLUB sides in Natal who can beat combined Transvaal. The excitement and the indignation which results, hits you and affects you as you read about the stormy, momentous meeting which was held. Here were men who could deal with any problems which confronted them. And this was no mere problem, it was an insult. It had to be dealt with in the manner that it deserved. A team had to be selected and it had to be sent to Natal to silence all boasts of superiority on the playing fields. The obstacles of travel, board, lodging and finance are disdainfully brushed aside. These are side issues, mere trifles. The side is selected on the spot. The entire council acts as a selection committee. The manager is nominated and elected. He has been the driving force behind all decisions taken. He is later manager, treasurer and secretary. And this one man performs his duties so efficiently that he would make three present-day officials, doing these tasks separately, look as if they were having a picnic. This man finds the money required and he takes his team to Natal. They play combined Natal and beat them on their ground and return home triumphant with their honour vindicated.

And so on and on. Colourful, vivid, inspiring, exciting. How anaemic, colourless, nondescript our men and our efforts seem in comparison with theirs. Am I being too critical of what we do? I do not think so.

I think our lives are so much the poorer because we do not have the so called 'characters'. I feel that our approach is much more leisurely and easy going. We are not as intense, as vocal, as devoted as dedicated! Those men were impelled by a singleness of purpose — a love of soccer — that enabled them to tackle all tasks in their stride.

Possibly the complexity of our modern lives do not permit the same application and dedication. I genuinely feel sorry for this. Find the time to read the story of the birth of and the early years of the Transvaal Indian Football Association, and, I am convinced, you'll agree with me.

In the hope that I might come across something that would jog my dull wits or stir and stimulate my imagination, I spent hours pouring over the first minute book of the Transvaal Indian Football Association. I had to find something to write about. Initially I seemed to have drawn a blank — I had not found the inspiration I was seeking.

I closed the minute book and decided that the article would have to wait. Then I thought about those grand old men who had started the Transvaal Indian Football Association in 1896. From those mutsy pages, there now arose in my mind's eye vivid and colourful 'characters' who were responsible for memorable and doughty deeds. Yes, indeed! Here was something to tell you about. One will have difficulty in capturing the romance and atmosphere that runs vividly, crimsonly scarlet through the many stories that unfolds before one's eyes.

Let me try to paint some of the pictures for you. I am looking at the first set of minutes that gave birth to the Transvaal Indian Football Association. It is beautifully hand written, in copper plate penmanship. It is still completely eligible and it abounds in the kind of detail that we would shun these days. It makes reference not only to the fact but depicts the excitement of the occasion. One joins in the hand-clapping and the liud cheering and the Hear!-Hear's! that reverberate through room.

*W.A. Moonsamy*

## EXPANSION NEEDED

Onward Sam China — a familiar name that brings back nostalgic memories to Indian sportsmen throughout this fair land of ours. The great and not so great are reminisced about wherever sportsmen meet — be it a wedding feast, or over a glass of this and that.

The resuscitation of this competition is welcome to all Indian sportsmen and presents a challenge to the administrators to think "BIG". Bigger than the days of the late Sam China (who thought Big — judging by the size of the trophy). The old fashion must not be followed slavishly but new thought and approach should be the keynote of the men at the helm of the present set-up.

The competition must be expanded. Room must be found for more Transvaal Provincial sides. Natal must be redemarcated and the competition split into two sections. An enlarged body will create a desire by our Indian soccerites to take part in competitive amateur soccer.

The generation of today is dynamic, and with the modern means of conveyance at our disposal, a place must be found for the newer centres. A semi-centralised long week-end of finals at headquarters, should bring Indian Soccer to the smaller centres sooner than on rotation, thus keeping the game alive. Remember that the generation of tomorrow will bask generously in memory of what we build to-day, so let us not be found wanting in their anticipation.

To the participants in the present tourney, let me remind them that soccer has become an ireristible magnet, that not only attracts but grips like a vice all the human fragments within its powerful influence. It is an antidote for all the ills that mankind is subject to. It is also the most valuable and cheapest commodity in the world: so easy of acquirement to be free for all. Kept clean and wholesome, its effect over mind and body needs neither push nor propaganda.

The benefits derived from sport have already filled volumes and in my opinion these should not be measured in physical feats or figures on the scoreboard, but in the spirit engendered in the game to both spectator and player. It matters not whether one is rich or poor, young or old, since even the sick and infirm find upliftment. It transforms a community into a big and happy family — looking on to see brothers "fight out" — a battle for supremacy on the sportsfield, without infringing the rules. It serves as a safety valve for pent-up energy and frustrations in the chain of life.

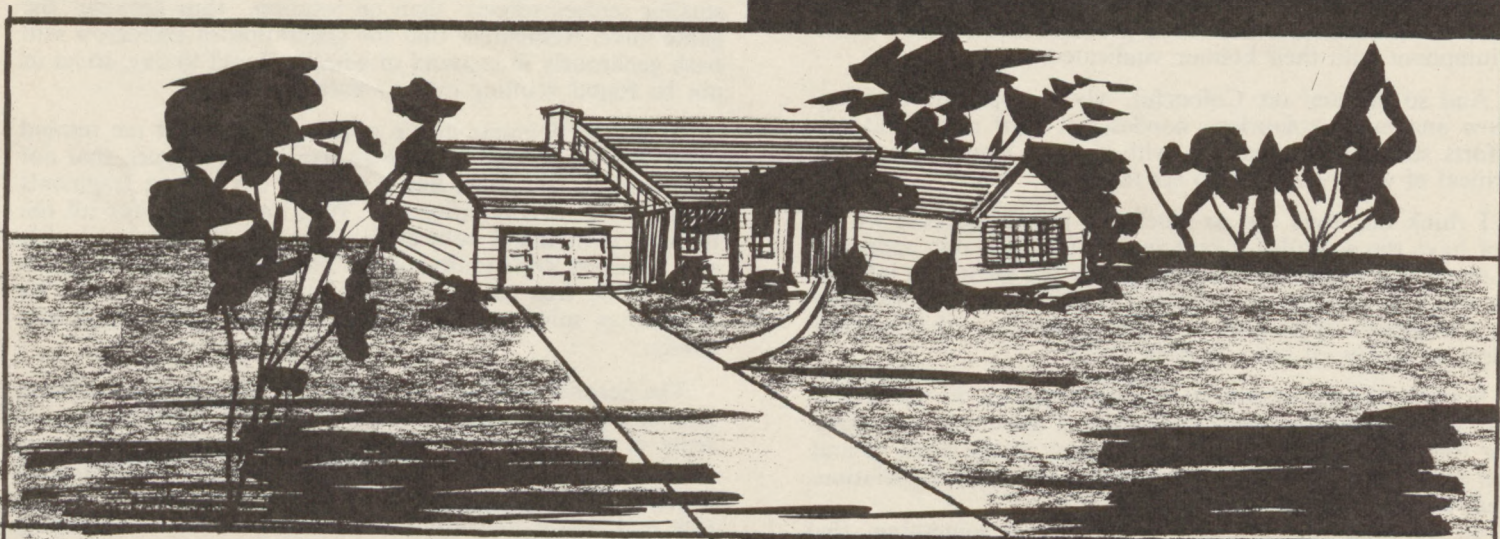
To the men actively engaged in this tournament, I commend the following words:—

"For when the great scorer comes  
To write against your name,  
He writes not that you won or lost  
But HOW you played the game."

H. W. NAIDOO

(Well-known Sports Administrator of the Western Tvl.)

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## A CHALLENGE AN ANSWER

M. R. VARACHIA,  
THE PRESIDENT OF THE  
TRANSCAAL CRICKET  
FEDERATION.

"There is a time and a season for everything." Can it be that this Sam China Tournament of 1967, is a challenge and an answer to the needs and rejuvenation of amateur soccer. Or is it a visible demonstration of the belief that integration has failed? This brings to mind a Basutu proverb: "If a man does away with his traditional way of living and throws away his good customs, he had better first make certain that he has something of value to replace them."

As in other spheres of human endeavour and enterprise the task to resuscitate or re-establish an institution or a cause will need deep, far sighted, thoughtful planning, concentrated and selfless efforts and above all a determined will to succeed.

In the final analysis of the chaotic conditions prevailing and obtained in amateur soccer throughout the country, one can only express admiration, sympathy and understanding for those of our friends who are today feverishly busy in this mammoth task of re-vitalising and re-organising amateur soccer, endeavouring to salvage to the maximum whatever they can out of the present chaos.

The name Sam China has been, and is, a revered and esteemed name among our people over these many, many years. Many a young man of the older generations have looked back with pride, glory and honour, to the many prizes and distinctions he gained and shared on and off the field. It drew to itself, like a beacon light, our young, enthusiastic and dedicated Soccerites. Throughout South Africa it was the culminating point of our organised and competitive amateur soccer.

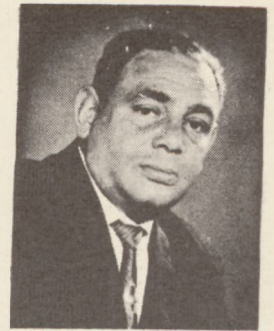
Did integration fail? There seems to be no unanimity on the answer to this obvious and defying question.

It is in the nature of human weakness and vanity to always find appropriate answers after the happenings of an event or an episode. Condemnation is no answer. Events and their resultant effects should be assessed in their true and proper perspectives, should be viewed in relation to and in circumstances at the times in which they occur. These were gallant, courageous, foresighted and tried administrators. They were exploring new fields, new approaches, building bridges so as to cross the boundries beyond the immediate environment and confinement. The task was herculian. These new and virgin horizons were fraught and pregnated with group interest, self agrandisement and privileged positions. From the very inception these new born ideas and schemes were buffeted from many sides and from many self interested and privilege parties. Pressures of undefined ferocity assailed incessantly. Regretfully, like a growing child affected with Leukemia, this healthy young idea had or will come to its natural end.

To one's deep regret, sorrow and hurt one has to admit shamefully that many of our national groups have yet to learn the beauty and richness of the philosophy of loyalty, discipline and respect for those in high office. We have yet to learn, perhaps at great cost, that the cause and not the personel is the answer to our many prayers.

May I wish you all every success in all your endeavours. May all the competing Provinces play the game on the highest ethics and the best team win their laurels in the best of sporting tradition.

## RACIAL UNITS



The recently held Indian Cricket Tournament at Lenasia revealed beyond doubt that Integration was not the answer to improved sport among the non-Whites of the country.

The tournament proved conclusively that racial units operating on their own can and do produce players of a better standard.

Better impetus to gain Provincial and national honours is provided and the challenges for a place in the district and representative side infuses fresh effort into the playr, so much so, that all players are required to give off their best to catch the selector's eyes and stake a claim in the representative side.

Since the introduction of integration in our sport we have witnessed nothing but a sense of apathy among the players. They lost their verve and there was no longer the desire to 'fight' and win a place in the team.

The other non-White races were not in anyway interested in the progress of the Indian youth in the world of sport. They merrily went along enjoying their games on their respective grounds and left the Indian to carry the baby. Coloured or Bantu who teamed up with the Indian teams to provide a front of integration only did so at the insistance of the Indian. The Coloured or Bantu knew that he could not return to h's own group and that he would not be restricted in any way. This led to a number of Indian sportsmen taking up the cudgels for resuscitating their racial units.

Club loyalties were destroyed, no longer could a team be sure of its players. A player of some merit may be a member of one team today and donning the colours of another the next.

In the five to six years that we have had integrated sports with us we have not produced a single outstanding player. But in the days of yore when we competed for the Christopher Trophy we produced some fine cricketers, just as soccer produced some giants in their Sam China Tournaments.

I cannot list at random three players who are products of the integrated Associations. All the soccer and Cricket greats won their spurs on a racial ticket. Be it Basil, Links, Carlton or Dharam. Where is the cry that integration has improved our sport? I fail to see it.

In the cricket world the Sir David Harris series have been revived and there are efforts being made to resuscitate the famous Barnato group so that cricket among the non-Whites could return to its previous heights.

The Bantu have never bothered to integrate and were content to paddle their own canoe, so too the Coloureds. The cry for integration came from the Indians because of the political import and where did it get them? No further than the meeting room. An examination of the composition of the various teams throughout the Republic will show that the term integration is a misnomer. It just does not operate at any level. It appears only in the minds of some officials.

I contend that for the sake of progress the racial units should once more come to the fore and in this spirit I offer my blessings and good wishes to the South African Indian Football Association for having resuscitated. You have saved the game for the Indian youth!

S. E. PATEL

# *SPORTSMEN THROUGHOUT THE*

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  - (c) R1,000 to the M.I. Sultan Technical College, Durban, expansion programme.
  
  - (d) R400 towards the cost of the 1967 Sam China Football Tournament and miniature trophies to the winning team .....
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3.45 p.m. WESTERN PROVINCE vs. TRANSVAAL.  
NORTHERN NATAL BYE.

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# DISINTEGRATED H.A. MAYES

Since Racial Soccer was disintegrated on the altar of "intergration" in 1961, we have had a number of highly successful soccer festivals or tournaments all over the Transvaal, and elsewhere. The first question that arises is, why were these tournaments held? Obviously because a vacuum had been created by the pundits of integration. The next question is, why were these tournaments so successful? Again the answer is obvious; because there was a hunger for such

When it is borne in mind that most of the tournaments were organised by individual clubs, and that almost none of them were restricted to teams of a particular group, further interesting questions arise. Why is it that clubs have succeeded where the mighty Federation and its affiliates have failed?

Is it not because the former gave opportunities to the players and to the spectators, to play and to see, to develop and to enjoy good soccer, while the latter were only geared to give the Government a good "run for their money"?

Is it not because the former sponsored soccer as sportsmen while the latter destroyed it as politicians. How is it that the former got all sponsorship and the support and the help, while the latter only found "obstacles"? Is it not because the former offered a little local recognition and acclaim to the soccerite that is playing, while the latter are demanding international recognition for the soccerite that they have stopped from playing? Even though one has to congratulate all those that have organised these tournaments, there are some reservations. This type of tournament precludes progression which was the hall-mark of soccer organisation in former years: you first played for your Club, then for your District, then for your Province and then for your Country. Also when one goes through the lists of teams participating in these tournaments one finds that a certain number of teams have featured in almost all the tournaments: participation thus depending on team membership and not individual merit.

It is because of this that the resuscitation of SAIFA and the revival of the SAM CHINA Tournament is to be wel-

comed. It will again give our soccerites something to look forward to, and for those who will have participated in them, memories that they will cherish.

# CATCH 'EM YOUNG

STANLEY JOSEPH

It is my belief that the schools can do much to inculcate true sportsmanship in our people. The schools are able to groom our future sportsmen and develop the vast untapped potential. In the past the Primary Schools Sports Union did much to encourage our Indian youth to improve their games. From the ranks of the school boys many great and talented players emerged.

There are Provincial Primary Schools Sports Unions and they could quite easily organise leagues and competitions with the minimum of trouble. The boys at school can quite easily be given the necessary coaching as quite a large number of teachers are good ball players. The P.T. Periods could be utilised to teach the basic skills and the inter-house competitions could be exploited to give the necessary team work exercise.

To give support for my suggestion it becomes necessary for the formation of a South African Schools' Football Association. This Association could then seek associate membership with SAIFA and in this way the school children will gain some recognition.

# CRICKET WITH YOU SOLLY CHOTHIA

After serious review, the Western Districts Indian Cricket Union took the bold step of going ALL INDIAN. The move shocked a number of administrators out of their lethargy. They soon realised that the positive steps taken by the Western Districts Indian Cricket Union to reorganise cricket on a racial basis was a move in the right direction and that it would lift cricket out of the doldrums and place it on the map again. Today Indian cricketers throughout the Republic are crying out for competitions and want the Christopher and B. L. E. Sigamoney trophies to be re-instituted. The enthusiasm of the younger cricketer is heartening and we hope to see the collapse of the South African Cricket Board of Control and the revival of the Bantu, Coloured, Malay and Indian National Unions this season.

The Sir David Harris group has resuscitated and machinery has been set in motion for the re-organisation of the Barnato Cricket Board. And so we see that the year 1967 will herald the advent of racial sport again. In this respect cricket does not stand alone because the South African Indian Football Association has also become alive to the impracticability of organised multi-racial sport.

Although it is to be regretted that Natal still remains wedded to sham multi-racial soccer and that they are not seeking affiliation to SAIFA, I believe that they will soon see the error of their ways and that we will see them within the fold of SAIFA next season.

As in cricket, I visualise an overseas tour by a South African Indian Soccer Side in the very near future. To ensure that more and more take an active part in the game I would venture to suggest that SAIFA institutes a coaching scheme in schools so that the youngsters could become good soccerites. I would even go further and suggest that SAIFA makes provision for the affiliation of High and Primary Schools Soccer Associations. I see no reason why a Primary or High Schools eleven should not be sent overseas during the July vacation. In this regard the Cricket Union (of which I am Secretary) are busy investigating the possibility of an overseas tour by a Schools Cricket Eleven.

Because of this wider vision I submit that the respective National Indian Sports Associations band themselves together into a powerful co-ordinating Union so that the one code could help the other to give to the Indian youth the opportunity to develop his talent to the fullest.

I extend the helping hand of cricket to soccer in the hope that we will be able to work together in the interests of sport for our children. Long Live the Sam China Tournament.

The arranging of tournaments could also be simplified if the following scheme is adopted: In May of each year the divisional Associations of the schools in each Province could arrange a Provincial tournament at one of the centres, and during the July vacation the South African Tournament could be held or alternatively, the winter holidays could be used for the staging of the Provincial Schools Tournament and the Michaelmas break could then be reserved for the National Tournament.

Soccer coaching in schools will greatly help to improve the standard of the game and when children proceed to High School they will be familiar with the rudiments of the game. At this stage the finer points of the game could be taught to the students and finally, when they enter the senior ranks, you will have the accomplished soccerite to provide soccer of a high standard.

# The Transvaal Story

**T**HE news that gold had been discovered in 1886 spread like wild-fire throughout the world immediately the Gold Rush began. From all corners of the globe fortune-seekers flocked to the goldfields of the Witwatersrand. They came by the thousands. The majority of these people were British subjects.

In the beginning, Johannesburg consisted of tents and corrugated iron shanties — gradually single-storey houses were built of brick and stone, and presently a modern industrial town took shape.

Heavily loaded transport wagons came in a steady stream — some from Durban — to transport machinery. Food supplies were conveyed to the gold-fields. During this period ox-wagons, horses and horse-carts were used for transport.

Among the fortune-hunters were ex-indentured Indian labourers from the sugar plantations of the Garden Colony. Some came to serve as hotel employees, some as batmen, some as coachmen and groomsmen, and some as chefs, some also came as "bossboys." Most of these Indians were, however, employed as waiters, barmen, chefs, porters, and clerks in the hotels, and among these pioneers were David Ernest, Emmanuel Peters, Harry Peters, Johnny Peters, Philip Ragathan, S. M. Joseph, Marrie Thomas, H. M. Harry, V. C. Naidoo, Appana, Ramsamy, Gourdien, Lutchman, Pinkton, Ismael.

With the fortune-hunters came many white ex-soldiers from Natal and they naturally brought with them their soccer togs and equipment. For exercise they indulged in "pick-a-quick-side" games of soccer and many an Indian waiter was called upon to make up the eleven. There was no question of separation it was integration.

## TEAMS FORMED

In 1887 the European Football Association of the Transvaal was established and this prevented the non-whites from playing in the same team as the whites—non-integration.

The hotel owners were peeved at their employees being deprived of a game of soccer and encouraged the Indians to form teams of their own. So the year 1887 also saw the first Indian team come into existence. They called themselves the "Prides of India" and were managed by a certain Mr. Smith (who could possibly have been Sir Aubrey Smith). The other team formed was under the control of Mr. Mac-Laclan and, being a true Scot, he favoured the name "Blue Bells" naturally Blue Bells of Scotland.

The "Prides of India" chose red and white as their colours and the "Blue Bells" black and white. These teams were encouraged and urged on to greater efforts by the European soccerites who frequented the bars and hotels; a large number of them often joined the waiters in practice games.

## WIDE OPEN SPACES

The soccer field was on the open space where the Oppenheimer Gardens are at present. The old C.T.C. Bazaar site, opposite the present Belfast, was also used. The goal-posts were beams of wood (two by two in.) and, believe it or not, the crossbar was a length of ribbon. Matches were played during the week and were refereed by Whites, among whom were many famous men like Barney Baraato, Parsons, Valentine Barrington, Osborne and Sweeney.

## GAME SPREAD

The game among the Indians did not confine itself to Johannesburg only, but spread to other towns where there was a boom—Barberton, East Rand, Klerksdorp. Occasional inter-town matches were played. After a while the "Prides of India" changed their name to "Diggers," and the "Blue Bells," not to confuse themselves with the "Blue Bells of Natal," changed to "Blue Lights."

It was obvious that the friendly matches could not continue because of the tremendous impact and influence the European Association had on the waiters, with whom they came into daily contact. This led David Ernest, who, by this time became a powerful headwaiter, to convene a meeting with the purpose of forming an Association on the same lines as the Football Association of the Europeans. The preliminary meeting was held in the old location (Coolie Location), where the present Newtown Market is built.

## RAILWAY INFLUX

By 1895 a large number of Indians entered Transvaal as a result of the railway line being built from Durban to Johannesburg. Among these new Uitlanders were many fine soccerites from Natal. This influx saw the formation of teams such as "Hindu Natalians," "Pirates," "Western Stars," and by 1896 there were at least seven teams.

These events spurred David Ernest on to greater efforts, as also the continued reference to Law 3 of 1885 (Volksraad). The pioneers were determined to prove that they were

as human as any other person in the Transvaal and they chose sport as the medium to prove their contention.

1896 therefore saw the constitution of the Transvaal Indian Football Association. There can be no gainsaying that the moving genius, the schemer, behind this venture was the dynamic David Ernest. He was ably assisted by such strong personalities as the Peters Brothers, Emmanuel, Harry and Johnny, Anthony Peters, Phillip Rajathan, A. Roberts, T. Major, S. Williams, G. S. Franks, H. M. Harry and many others.

David Ernest sacrificed the honour of being the first president of the T.I.F.A., because he felt that as Secretary and Treasurer he would be able to serve the Association better, and it proved so. Although having very little, if any, education, his enthusiasm as secretary was not hampered because he overcame his difficulties by having S. M. Joseph as act his "under-secretary."

The formation of the Association infused and invigorated all those interested in soccer and the strength of clubs rapidly grew. Every waiter wanted to belong to a club — in fact, he was compelled to belong to a club, so much so that it was a pride.

New players of merit were registered with the clubs and the headwaiters, David Ernest, Phillip Ragathan, H. M. Harry, made periodic visits to Natal to recruit waiters for their hotels: they only chose those who could play a good game of football. It did not matter tuppence whether the player was capable or efficient as a waiter, as long as he could play football he was offered a billet. Of course, the players so recruited soon learnt the hotel trade.

By now the prowess of the Transvaal players was being advertised in Natal and this caused Mr. J. Royeppen, secretary of the Natal Indian Football Association, to feature a letter in the "Diggers Standard," Johannesburg's daily, on the 9th June, 1896, in which he belittled the standard of soccer in the Transvaal by openly stating that any team in Natal would play havoc with the Transvaal combined team. At this time the "Moonlights Football Club" (formerly "Prides of India," formerly "Diggers") were contemplating a tour of Natal, and David Ernest, who was smarting under the ridicule of J. Royeppen, pleaded, begged and cajoled the "Moonlights" to abandon their tour in favour of a Transvaal team. And so in August, 1896, the Transvaal sent the following team to Durban to uphold the prestige of the Golden Colony.

E. A. Peters (Capt.) Star of India.  
A. Peters (Vice-Capt.) Moonlighters.  
J. M. Peters, Star of India. P. M. Lewis, Blue Lights.  
A. B. Roberts, Star of India. A. S. Salton, Yorkshire.  
C. R. Pinkton, Yorkshire. P. V. David, Moonlighters.  
G. A. Francis, Pretoria Orientals. A. V. Spider, Pretoria Orientals. D. Morgan, Moonlighters. T. P. Solomons, Moonlighters. A. R. John, Moonlighters.  
P. M. John, Yorkshire. N. O'Brien, Natalians. M. Jacob, Moonlighters. Manager and Trainer, David Ernest.

From 1886 to 1913 football in the Transvaal fell under the firm guidance of David Ernest and this extract from the Transvaal Minute Book bears this out:-

**Mr. A. H. Peters (Durban speaks with the permission of the Chairman: "In thanking Mr. D. Ernest . . . I am proud to say that the management of the T.I.F.A. is far better than Durban District Football Association.")**

(Extracted from the Council Meeting Minutes held on Friday, 15th May, 1903.)

Just before the First World War new blood was infused into the Transvaal and new avenues were opened. New personalities entered the administrative field, and among the best known of these were

**J. F. Marrian, Peter Ramsay, M. J. Tavaría, V. H. Singh, R. Mooloo, B. Maharaj, I. A. Mia, Shaik Amod, K. V. Pillay, S. Ernest, W. Ernest, H. Ernest, K. Cassim, R. Francis, E. I. Asvat, W. Johnson, G. Naidoo, K. Paul, T. S. Vassen.**

Soon hereafter a serious rift was caused, resulting in the formation of a Provincial Association. A concerted move was then launched to form a separate South African Association and wrest the Sam China Trophy from the S.A.I.F.A., but its plans misfired due to the manouevring of David Ernest. He frustrated all their movements. The mushroom bodies galvanised the old brigade into vigorous action and they went ahead planning a rejuvenated Transvaal; Natal and Griqualand were bitten by this rejuvenation bug and the S.A.I.F.A. again came to the fore, with the Transvaal as the spearhead.

The First World War period was a difficult period, but in spite of handicaps the Association continued to function. During this period Solomon Ernest, Willie Ernest, Jaun Marrian, D. Morgan, P. S. Dallai, Peter Ramsay, G. Kahn, P. W. Joseph, A. J. Thambiah, John Andrews, S. Royeppen took an active interest in the affairs of the Association.

Politicians in the persons of C. K. T. Naidoo, S. B. Mead, P. K. Naidoo, Mahatma Ghandi and A. A. Mizra entered the Association and helped to give it a boost.

The 1920's saw the resuscitation of the Association after the lean war years and it also ushered in a period of serious strife which again saw the formation of another Association. However, the storm was weathered and things in the garden became rosy again.

**It must not, however, be forgotten that during this period Inter-District matches between the players of East Rand, Pretoria and Johannesburg were being played, and what games they turned out to be!**

1927 brought the T.I.F.A. Bob Pavadai (President of S.A.I.F.A.), Rev. Sigamoney, V. Sundra, A. P. Naidoo. It is interesting to note here, too, that the Rev. Sigamoney was elected Vice Patron at the very first meeting of the Transvaal that he attended. This honour was conferred upon him because he had just returned from England and he was the first Indian priest to take up residence in the Transvaal.

The Rev. Gentleman joined the Standards Football Club and subsequently attended T.I.F.A. meetings as a delegate of the Club.

Youth was now being pushed to the front and the Rev. Sigamoney encouraged many youths to take up delegateship of their clubs and, naturally, these young men regarded him as their Guide and supported him without question or doubt.

The formation of the Sunday League with headquarters at Vrededorp, with N. K. Naidoo, S. M. Nana, A. A. Mizra and S. Royeppen in charge, began to take its toll on the Transvaal Association, which eventually led to the Transvaal making radical changes in its Constitution, which led to the District Associations being reinforced and reorientated. T.I.F.A. took on a new look and the young men who gave Rev. Sigamoney their unstinted support came into their own and began to challenge for recognition as officials. Among this band were B. D. Pavadia, W. J. Warnasuriya, M. Singh, V. Sundra, G. Moothoo, G. Ponsamy. encouraged by their elders . . . .

as human as any other person in the Transvaal and they chose sport as the medium to prove their contention.

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Joseph Royeppen had to eat his words, because the Transvalers returned from the tour with the following results:  
Beat Blue Bells 1-0.  
Lost to Yorkshire 1-3.  
Beat Pirates 2-0.  
Beat Natal Combined 1-0.

This was the beginning of the inter-Provincial matches. The "enmity" between these two provinces, some sporting, some personal, grew as the years passed by and this became evident when the S.A.I.F. was formed. In some spheres it still exists today—both on and off the field there is always a keen "battle" being fought between the Transvaal and Natal.

**Many verbal battles were fought between old stalwarts and the "young upstarts" but in the end youth won through. The old had served their purpose and the youth had to prove their mettle and they have not failed. They do not despise the efforts of the old brigade, but they remember them with reverence and gratitude.**

They are building on the solid foundation laid by these grand men.

No longer is the young man a "yes" man. Today he is an able debator and student of constitutional organisation. He can think for himself.

The "Last Post" has been sounded for the old, but "Reveille" is blown for the youth and now let us pause over the extract from an old Sanskrit writing:-

*Look to this day, for it is life  
In its brief course lie all the virtues  
and Realities of your existence.  
The bliss of growth; the glory of action;  
The splendour of beauty.  
For yesterday is but a dream, and  
tomorrow is only a vision  
But today well lived, makes every  
Yesterday a dream of happiness  
And every tomorrow a vision of hope  
Look well, therefore to this day  
Such is the salutation of the Dawn.*

★ **G. PONSAMY**



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## BARRACUDA





# RENOVATION REPAIR

SABAVATHY PILLAY

The concensus of opinion among the majority in the province of Transvaal is that the Transvaal Indian Football Association requires renovation and repair. Let us examine the statement:

Transvaal enters this tournament without the strength of Pretoria and Districts and the combined effort of the East Rand. Why? The districts concerned are not affiliated. A sad state of affairs indeed. It will be interesting to know what efforts were made to rope in these Associations. I believe none! Was it apathy on the part of the Big Boys in the Transvaal? Was it perhaps due to the lack of confidence on the side of the Districts or was it plainly and simply that the Transvaal Indian Football Association was not ready for the resuscitation of SAIFA? Whatever the reason, it sticks out like a sore thumb that Transvaal must stop to think and that they should embark upon an all out effort to enlist the support of all the districts conducting soccer in the Province.

How and where do they start? Right at Headquarters of course. The football on the Rand and particularly in Johannesburg and Lenasia must be consolidated. Granted that the majority of Indians are now concentrated at Lenasia and that Lenasia should of necessity provide the nucleus for the reconstruction programme, but sight must not be lost of the fact that the Johannesburg Indian Football Association will soon be having the full use of Natalspruit again and that there are a number of useful soccerites still in Johannesburg. It therefore becomes apparent that Lenasia should constitute itself to embrace its surrounding districts, Vereeniging, Bank, Roodepoort, Krugersdorp. There is no reason why Johannesburg should not be incorporated in a greater Lenasia Association.

This would mean that all players within, Johannesburg, Lenasia and immediate districts will be properly and comfortably catered for. The competition would become greater, and better football will be played. Some clubs like Swaraj, Dynamos and Vereeniging Old Boys will be brought into line and the piccanini tournaments will become the forerunner to the district competitions and finally to the Provincial Tournaments for the coveted Sam China.

The outside Country districts such as Western Transvaal, Potchefstroom, Klerksdorp, Bloemhof, Zeerust, etc and South Eastern Transvaal comprising of Standerton, Bethal, Ermelo, Volksrust, Piet Retief, etc. and Further Northern Transvaal, Pietersburg, Potgietersrust, etc. could constitute powerful allies and would engage the other districts in matches under the aegis of the Transvaal Indian Football Association.

This renovation and reconstruction of the Transvaal cannot be effected by discussion in a drawing room or by sitting and wishing. It can be accomplished by ambassadors of the Association going to the platteland and inviting the Country Districts to come within the fold. Very few of our administrators in the Transvaal know of the potential that is going to rust in the platteland. Most believe that soccer players only abound in the Big Cities like Johannesburg and Pretoria. How mistaken we are. Take a trip into the country and you will be rudely shocked at the high standard of soccer that is played by the country bumbkin. Recently a statement was made that when Durban speaks they do not speak for Natal may I turn this into: When Transvaal Speaks they do not speak for the whole of the province but only for the chosen ones who happen to reside in the Cities.

Therefore I suggest that Transvaal seriously consider the following demarcation for its districts because I am confident that it will help to build the province and offer scope for the players to engage in more competitive soccer:

- A. Johannesburg, Lenasia, Vereeniging, Bank, Roodepoort, Krugersdorp.
- B. Pretoria, Brits, Warmbaths, Potgietersrust, Rustenburg and Pietersburg.
- C. Germiston, Benoni, Nigel, Springs, Heidelberg, Balfour, Witbank, Middelburg.
- D. Klerksdorp, Potchefstroom, Bloemhof, Zeerust, etc.
- E. Standerton, Ermelo, Bethal, Volksrust, Barberton, etc.

# OUR EX PRESIDENT



BOB PAVADAI

**B**OB PAVADAI entered the field of sport as an ordinary playing member of the "Moonlighters" F.C. In 1928 he made his presence felt and attended his first council meeting of the T.I.F.A. His prowess as a soccerite earned him a place in the 1930 Transvaal team and from that day onwards there was a steady progress up the ladder of success.

When the T.I.F.A. shed its old order and the old clubs threw in their lot with the W.I.F.A. in 1933 Bob became the Secretary of the Association and the Rev. Sigamoney the President and K. Thumby the Treasurer.

It was in cricket, however, that Bob Pavadai began to shine as an administrator and he served the Wits. C.U. as Secretary and President and progressed so rapidly in this field that he soon became the provincial head and today holds the highest cricket post in South Africa President of the S.A. Cricket Board of Control.

Progress can never be halted no matter what obstacles are placed before it and so too with Bob Pavadai. His advance in soccer administration became phenomenal and he has the proud record of serving the Wits. as Secretary and President of the Transvaal as such and also the paramount body, S.A.I.F.A.

His interests were not confined to soccer and cricket, but also to tennis and he served the Union as Records Clerk.

The Sports Board also benefited by his services and acumen and after serving them as Secretary and President, he now still occupies the elevated position of Trustee and President.

Do not for a moment think that he only excelled at meetings — far from it! Bob was an actual participant at both soccer and cricket.

Highlights in his varied and interesting sporting career were his election as Manager of the S.A. Cricket Team in Kenya and his appointment to take charge of the Indian Soccer Team to India, which unfortunately fell through.

This colourful personality owes his rise to his sincerity of purpose and his ability to sum up a situation quickly.

He is tenacious in his attack when convinced he is right.

On the proposed tour of the West Indian side he was targetted for being in favour of the "segregated" tour and it was difficult to reconcile his adamancy in favour of the tour with his advocating for integration. It was a phase many sports followers will never be able to comprehend.

Today this ardent and at times obstinate sports organiser enjoys the position of Honorary Life Vice President of the T.I.F.A. and S.A.I.F.A.

He may not have strong oratory powers and may not be possessive of a very high academic education, but he cannot be faulted when it comes to guts, gumption and practical matters.

## SAIFA — EXECUTIVE



STANDING: S. B. D. JOSEPH (Cape Province), Dr. D. CHETTY (W. Province), K. WARNASURIYA (Border),  
D. NAIDOO (Northern Natal), W. A. MOONSAMMY (Transvaal).

SITTING: V. SUNDRA (Treasurer), C. MOOTHOO (President), W. J. WARNASURIYA (Secretary).



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