

Lawyers world cup cricket helps international understanding

By John Dean

THE 5th Lawyers Cricket World Cup (LCWC) was held in Brisbane from 29 December to 9 January 2016.

Wellington lawyer John Dean, who had previously organised a New Zealand lawyers team to play in the 3rd Lawyers World Cup held in Cambridge, England, was not able to enthuse sufficient Kiwi cricketing lawyers, or 'cricket tragics' as they are affectionately called, to get a team together to play in Brisbane. Only two New Zealand lawyers went this time: John Dean and Scott Donaldson from Invercargill.

There were 12 teams: two from Australia, two from the Cricket Association of Advocates in India, two from Sri Lanka, two from England – the England Solicitors team and the Barristers of England and Wales Cricket Club, one each from Bangladesh and Pakistan and two made up from disparate members of the Commonwealth.

The Kiwis played in the Commonwealth A team, with the other members coming from the UK, Australia, Sri Lanka, Pakistan and India. The West Indies had four players in one Commonwealth team.

The youngest were in their early 20s with the oldest into the early 70s. Young Gandhi, who was a member of the Commonwealth A team, related how he usually got a chauffeur to field for him during his games back home in India!

The Pakistan team had their national cricket coach with them. He was going on to the under-19 World tournament in Bangladesh immediately after Brisbane. That is why they all seemed so young and good at the game. They also had at least three Supreme Court Judges in their tour group supporting the team.

In general, cricket skills varied from former representative players to those there to hold a bat and enjoy friendship and interactions with lawyers from the many jurisdictions present.



All the matches are played in a friendly and competitive spirit in accordance with the LCWC motto: Cricket For Friendship. In the exciting final, played under lights at Chelmer Cricket Club ground, Pakistan beat India in the last over. Talking of grounds, the matches throughout the week were played on three ovals at University of Queensland and some club grounds not too far away. All pitches were of a high standard. It is easy to feel like the poor cousin when comparing New Zealand facilities to these.

The Aussie LCWC committee is a formalised body and its members organised a most enjoyable 10 days of functions, cricket and accommodation. Most of us stayed at reasonable cost at Kings College on the University of Queensland St Lucia campus. Both of the pommie teams stayed at Rydges in town, which perhaps lost some interaction with the other teams. But those young poms were enthusiastic contributors to the night life of Brisbane when not playing.

The social programme included an opening function at the Queensland Cricketers Club at the Gabba, and a cocktail party sponsored by the T C Bierne Law School held at the University of Queensland Art Gallery. This is a venue any city, let alone a university, would be proud to call their own. Other social events included a new year party and celebration; and the final dinner and presentations.

The patron and guest of honour for the LCWC was the retired Australian High Court Justice the Honourable Ian Callinan QC AC, now of the forthcoming Bain report.

The conference programme for the week was sponsored by the TC Bierne Law School

of the University of Queensland and facilitated by Anthony Crocker with Professor Sarah Derrington, and included papers presented on the following topics: The Long Arm of Anti-Doping Rule – presented by Hayden Opie; Corporate Governance in Large Sporting Bodies – presented by Jim Holding; The Burden of Proof under the WADA Code : the Contador decision – presented by Christopher Johnstone; Betting exchanges – what are they and what do they have to do with cricket? – presented by Lyndon Fahey.

There was a panel discussion which included a brief outline from Yasim Patel, the English barrister who has represented a number of professional cricketers in disciplinary and criminal matters, most notably the jailed Pakistan fast bowler Asim who toured New Zealand a few weeks ago.

Previous LCWC events have been held in Hyderabad, Cambridge, Barbados, New Delhi and now Brisbane. The next LCWC will be in Sri Lanka in 2017, with dates yet to be announced.

The LCWC aims to promote the rule of law throughout the Commonwealth, by using cricket as an opportunity for lawyers to meet colleagues from many countries at the biennial International Lawyers' Cricket World Cup. It is called 'Cricket For Friendship'.



John Dean faces Pakistan attack.



The Commonwealth A team in which the two Kiwis played, seen here in tangerine uniforms (Pakistan in green), were left to right back row: Ben Schneider and Christopher Johnson, Australia, Scott Donaldson, New Zealand, Simon Tolhurst, Australia, Mahesh Kotuwelle and Judge Piyel Ratnayka, Sri Lanka, Tamerisa Kishore, UK, Zia ul saboor Khan, Pakistan; front row: Rehman Malik, Pakistan and UK, Gautam Gandhi, India, and far right John Dean, New Zealand (not in tangerine).



Retired Australian High Court Justice the Hon Ian Callinan QC AC, the patron of the Brisbane LCWC (and author of the forthcoming report on David Bain's compensation), and the Australian LCWC Council chairman, Alex Martin.

Plea to Kiwi cricketing lawyers

John Dean says: "It would be good for international legal and cricketing relations if we Kiwis could get a playing team and supporters together to attend the sixth LCWC to be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka in 2017."

If you are interested as a player, umpire, scorer, or supporter please let John Dean know at:

NZ_Lawyers_Cricket@nzlcwc.org

Scott Donaldson from Invercargill is keen to assemble a team of younger Kiwi cricketing lawyers to form a team for Sri Lanka. His contact details are:

sidonaldson@gmail.com.

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