

BRIEF HISTORY OF SRI LANKA DEAF CRICKET ASSOCIATION

ESCO, a NGO operating just south of Colombo in Moratuwa headed by late Mr. Tissa Kurukulanatha was initially involved with the development of deaf cricket through sponsorship and made it possible for the deaf cricket team to participate in the 1st Deaf Cricket World Cup held at Melbourne, Australia in 1995 / 1996. ESCO was an organization that was into the rehabilitation of the disabled. Using the local media Late Mr. Tissa Kurukulanatha reached out to deaf cricketers in all parts of the island. In order to make this deaf cricket concept a success, talented youth were identified and they were put under the tutelage of a qualified coach Mr. Jayalath Aponso, to prepare the boys for the tour of Australia.

Late Mr. Tissa Kurukulanatha and the coach Mr. Jayalath Aponso, both of whom are normal, had a major communication problem, as they were not conversant in the sign language. However the enthusiasm and with the exuberance of the young cricketers between them, they managed to overcome all obstacles and the team was ready to embark on their maiden overseas trip to Australia, making best use of the limited facilities that were available.

Even though Late Mr. Tissa Kurukulanatha has passed away since this article is a tribute to his dedication and commitment to make this world a better place for those who are different enabled. We owe him our eternal gratitude for without him, we would never have been able to come this far.

Due to being the head of many projects of similar nature, it was difficult for Late Mr. Tissa Kurukulanatha, to focus on the deaf cricket alone. Realizing this, he was wise enough to hand over the reins of the Association to the parents and the relatives of the players, in order to take it forward. The parents and the relatives too understood how important it was carry forward the activities of the Association, with regard to the development of the deaf boys, agreed to undertake this task and it was their commitment from that point onwards that the Association was able to all but struggled forward from 1995 to update.

The founder Mrs. K.D. Anula Ranjani was elected the first President of the Sri Lanka Deaf Association in 1996. It was during this period that the Sri Lanka Deaf Cricket Association, if it was affiliated to the Deaf Cricket International Federation and it made the maiden entry in to the field of competitive national cricket by participating in the Division III tournaments organized by the Colombo District Cricket Association affiliated to Board of Control for Cricket of Sri Lanka, as it was known at that time.

Although the Association was able to register a few victories during this period, participating with budding national cricketers, gave a great deal of satisfaction to the Sri Lanka Deaf Cricket Association.

The Sri Lanka deaf cricket team participated in the 2nd World Cup held at Lucknow, India in 2005, and Sri Lanka was placed in fifth, out of nine participate countries.

In 2005, however the efforts of everyone especially the coach Mr. Jayalath Aponso and the commitment of the players began to bear fruit as the deaf cricket team was able to win other matches over their counterparts, with no disability of any nature. The Sri Lanka Deaf Cricket Association was affiliated to the Asia Deaf Cricket Council in 2006 and the Deaf International Cricket Council in 2013. Sri Lanka deaf cricket team participated in the 1st Deaf Cricket Asia Cup held at Mumbai, India in 2007, where Sri Lanka was placed 3rd, out of five participate countries. The Sri Lanka Deaf Cricket Team participated in the 2nd Deaf Cricket Asia Cup held at Lahore, Pakistan in 2012 where the Sri Lanka Deaf Cricket team placed the runners up, losing to Pakistan deaf cricket team in finals. Also the Sri Lanka Deaf Cricket Team participated in the 3rd Deaf Cricket Asia Cup held at Hyderabad in 2017 where the Sri Lanka Deaf Cricket Team placed the runners up, losing to India Deaf Cricket Team in finals. The name of “Asia Deaf Cricket Federation” was changed into Asia Deaf Cricket Council in 2012. The Sri Lanka Deaf Cricket Association also was affiliated to the National Federation of Sports for the Disabled and Sri Lanka Central Federation of the Deaf.

The Sri Lanka Deaf Cricket Association wishes to record its deep sincere appreciation to the head cricket coach Mr. Jayalath Aponso and the former assistant cricket coach, Mr. Bobby Fernando and the present assistant cricket coach Mr. Ajith Bandara.

The Sri Lanka Deaf Cricket Association takes this opportunity to record its appreciation of the Patron, Mrs. Zaharine Hameen, the Chairperson Mrs. K.D. Anula Ranjani and the former President Mr. Shivantha Vivekanandan for the support and commitment they have selflessly displayed at all times by continuously to make themselves available for any activities of the Sri Lanka Deaf Cricket Association, in spite of their busy schedules.

The Pakistan Deaf Cricket team took part in the 3 ODI cricket tournaments against the Sri Lanka Deaf Cricket team in October 2008, played at the De Soysa Stadium Moratuwa.

The Sri Lanka Deaf Cricket Team took part in the 2nd Deaf Cricket Asia Cup held in Lahore, Pakistan in 2012 where the Sri Lanka was placed Runners up behind the Champions Pakistan.

The Sri Lanka Deaf Cricket Team participated in the 1st T20 Deaf Cricket Asia Cup, which was held at Lahore, Pakistan in April 2015.

Even though deaf cricketers hail from all parts of the island, the training camps were always either in Matara in the South of Sri Lanka or in Colombo. However individuals manage to practice on their own in their respective home towns, There are still many talented deaf cricketers in many other parts of Sri Lanka who are awaiting recognition of their talent but are hampered mainly due to financial constraints.

It is the sincere hope of the Sri Lanka Deaf Cricket Association that the Association would be in a better position to reach out to many more talented cricketers in future and look forward very much to the support and co-operation of all concerned.

(1/2)

REPORT FROM 1ST JANUARY TO 31ST DECEMBER 2017

Division III Cricket Tournament

The above leather ball cricket tournament organized by the Colombo District Cricket Association which is affiliated to the Sri Lanka Cricket Board, were played between 1st May to 21st May 2017. The SLDCA cricketers played five matches against the normal clubs. Two matches were won, the one match was drawn and the SLDCA lost one match.

5 Districts were affiliated to the SLDCA

The five deaf cricket Associations in Sri Lanka were affiliated to the SLDCA, namely Jaffna Deaf Cricket Association, Galle Deaf Cricket Association, Matara Deaf Cricket Association Hambantota Deaf Cricket Association and Colombo Deaf Cricket Association.

Sri Lanka Deaf Cricket Association Annual General Meeting

The SLDCA AGM and the election of the office Bearers were took place on 21st May 2017 at the Moratuwa Sports Club, Moratuwa

Southern Cricket Tournament

The above tournament was played at the Uyawatte Stadium, Matara on 10th September 2017 where the Matara Deaf Cricket Association beat the Colombo Deaf Cricket Association. The five districts took part in this tournament. The trophies and prizes were awarded.

Northern Cricket Tournament

The above tournament was played at the Point Pedro, Jaffna on 15th October 2017 where the Colombo Deaf Cricket Association became the champions beatning the Marara Deaf Cricket Association in a final match. The trophies and prizes were awarded.

(2/2)

Sri Lanka Deaf Cricket Team Vs Pakistan Deaf Cricket Team

2nos ODI 50 and 3nos T20 Cricket Tournaments between the Sri Lanka Deaf Cricket team and Pakistan Deaf Cricket Team were played at the De Soysa Stadium, R. Premadasa Internation Stadium and Galle Internation Stadium from 20th to 25th November 2017 where the Pakistan Deaf Cricket team won 1 no 50 overs and 3nos won T20 Matches the other one no 50 overs ODI Match was drawn owing to the heavy rain.

Deaf International Cricket Council Annual General Meeting

The Deaf Intenational Cricket Council AGM was held between 27th & 28th November 2017 at the Berjaya Hotel, Mount Lavinia. The workshop was held on the 27th November 2017 and the DICC AGM was held on the 28th November 2017 where the Office Bearers of the DICC were elected. The delegates from England, Sri Lanka, India Bangladesh, South Afira and Pakistan took part. Mr. Shivantha Vivekanandan, former President, SLDCA was elected as the Committee Member of the DICC. The delegates met the Minister of Sports, Hon: Dayasiri Jayasekera at the Ministry of Sports Office, Mr. Mathvasam Vice President Sri Lanka Cricket Board at the Sri Lanka Cricket Board office and the CEO at the Asia Cricket Council office, to discuss that Sri Lanka hope to host the first International Cricket T20 World Cup, to be held in Sri Lanka next year and SLDCA need to affiliated to the normal hearing cricket board.