

(3) POST-NATAL DAYS AND THE SILVER JUBILEE OF THE ASSOCIATION

(A) FORMATION OF MAHARASHTRA AND GUJARAT CRICKET ASSOCIATION

Great embarrassment suffered by the Association in the immediate post-natal period came from the claims of the Gujarat Cricket Association and the Maharashtra Cricket Association to obtain independent affiliation to the Board of Control for Cricket in India. The nomenclature of the Association itself amply indicated that its territorial jurisdiction extended to entire Bombay Presidency as it was mapped then, except, of course, Sind. This being so, the areas which Maharashtra and Gujarat Cricket Association wanted to control fell within the accepted territorial limits of the Bombay Presidency (Proper) Cricket Association. The Claims of the two newly formed bodies, therefore, meant giving up a part of one's territory. The Bombay Association would not like it, and yet the situation had to be diplomatically tackled. An attempt towards that end was made.

At the meeting of the Association held on 16th August, 1934, the following resolution was passed by majority; Prof. D. B. Deodhar who was a member of the Committee, dissented.

"That the hon. secretary be authorised to write to Mr. T. V. Talim that this Bombay Presidency (Proper) Cricket Association hopes that it will be formed and will apply for its affiliation to this Association."

The Bombay Presidency (Proper) Cricket Association having had information that both Maharashtra and Gujarat Cricket Associations had directly approached the Board for direct affiliation, had become conscious of its own rights and had written to the Board that the claims of the two Associations should not be accepted. The plea fell on deaf ears and both the Association got their affiliations to the Board in 1934 itself. There was resentment in the Bombay Presidency (Proper) Cricket Association and the Managing Committee at its meetings 'noted with regret the decisions of the Board' and decided to place its written protest. Nothing of any consequence, however, happened and the areas to be covered by the Gujarat and Maharashtra Cricket Association were receded from the territorial limits of the Bombay Presidency (Proper) Cricket Association.

When one now looks at it objectively and from a distance of time, one feels that the decisions taken by the Board then were right and were in the best interests of all the concerned Associations. The claims of the seceding Associations could not be ignored and in course of time, there came a stage when the jurisdiction of the Bombay Cricket Association had to be limited to the areas covered by 'Greater Bombay and Thana District'. Bombay Cricket Association would have been in capable of looking after the interests of the growing population in the vast area which it once controlled.