

## CONTROL OF TOURNAMENTS

The urgent compelling need of controlling and disciplining various types of tournaments being played in Bombay started being keenly felt from the year 1965 onwards. Earlier attempts towards that end were scuttled. As an illustration, I am tempted to give only one instance of the early years, Members with vision had already become conscious of the means & damage that the uncontrolled and increasing number of tournaments would entail on the quality of the game. In the year 1954, therefore, a proposal moved by such enlightened members that the subject of controlling the tournaments be kept for discussion on the agenda of the Annual General Meeting was unanimously adopted. But this was not to be. It seems some powerful eyebrows must have been raised ! Prior to the issue of the Agenda, therefore, at another meeting of the Managing Committee held on 3rd August, 1954, the resolution was reseeded without assigning any reasons ! The resolution cryptically states;

"It was unanimously resolved that the idea of placing the item on the agenda of the next Annual General Meeting for controlling all the tournaments in Bombay be dropped."

And there the matter rested for a number of years. In the meanwhile the number of tournaments grew like mushrooms. As one tournament body organised its own programme without consulting the Association, innumerable clashes in dates resulted. A club could enter as many tournaments as it liked. As a consequence, a tournament that started its programme in a year, had to play their finals in the next year ! The entire picture was ridiculous; and something had to be done strongly and sharply, if the game was not to go haywire. Standard had already started falling and it gave a farcical look to the show as the number of tournaments in the city had already reached a half-century mark!

The Association deserves credit for handling the problem with iron will and determination. Both at the Managing Committee and the General Body levels, the members were convinced and made to realise the urgency of controlling the tournaments run in Bombay. The task was handled with brilliant sagacity and diplomatic tractfulness. Rules were so formed that no tournament body's right to manage its own affairs was questioned or disputed. They had, however, to work under a code of conduct prescribed by the Association. This worked and since then, there has been no major dispute and all the tournaments run to a schedule proposed by the Association.

This is the Association's major achievement during the past Silver Jubilee period.

The process of bringing the tournaments under control began in the year 1962. A meeting of the representatives of all the tournaments run in Bombay was convened and they were persuaded to accept the control of the Association, through a Tournament Sub-committee to be appointed by the Managing Committee of the Association, comprising of two members from the managing Committee and other 4 members to be recommended by the representatives of the various tournament committees. To ensure that this did not increase the growing burden of the Association's Jt. Hon. Secretaries, it was also agreed that this new Committee would have an Honorary Secretary of its own. Servashri P. S. Bhesania, V. B. Prabhudesai R. V. Gavaskar and B. V. Mahaddalkar, who is the present incumbent, have, held this post and discharged their duties admirably.

An exhaustive list of the tournaments played in the jurisdiction of the Bombay Cricket Association and which have come under its effective control and discipline, is given elsewhere in this volume. Everyone will unhesitatingly accept that it is a formidable list !