

A History of Canadian Cricket: An Immigrant game

Canada's participation in this year's (2011) Cricket World Cup competition came as a surprise to many followers who were not aware of the fact that the sport was once very big in the country. Although they did not make it to the finals, many were also impressed with the performances that they put up in the matches that they played.

The Cricket Hall of Fame recently became the recipient of a book: "A History of Canadian Cricket: An Immigrant Game," which consists of some delightful stories of how the game was brought to the country and the part that immigrants played in its development.

Canada has scored some notable first in the history of cricket. In 1844 the first-ever cricket international was played between Canada and the United States, 33 years before the first Test match between Australia and England. In 1859 the first official cricket tour took place when Englishman George Parr took a team of professional cricketers to play in Canada and the United States. The success of this venture would lead to further tours, to both North America and Australia, and ultimately to the birth of international cricket.

Written by Patrick Adams, the son of an English couple, which had migrated to the country, the book records the history of cricket in Canada from its origins in the early 19th century, to its zenith in the 1890s and its decline throughout most of the 20th century, to its more recent renaissance. Running through the years is the steady influence of first generation immigrants who had learnt the game in the nation of their birth. This is their story.

Adams, who claims that there are two loves in his life: cricket and his Canadian wife Holly, said that it was his father-in-law's advice that he should write on a subject that had not already been extensively covered that led him to write the book. He also spoke of how much he was involved in the participation of the game as a youngster.

Anyone interested in learning some very intriguing aspects of how the sport made its way to Canada should try to get a copy of the book. They can do so by contacting the publishers www.lulu.com.