

Cricket Hall of Fame's Jamaica reception well received



Hartford's Cricket Hall of Fame came in for high praises during the opening week of the International Cricket Conference's (ICC) ninth Cricket World Cup, which took place in Jamaica. At an informal gathering hosted by the Hall of Fame at the Knutsford Court Hotel in New Kingston, Jamaica, former West Indian fast bowler and now a respected commentator Michael Holding lauded the innovators for their vision to start the Hall of Fame, the first of its kind in the world.

Michael Holding addresses gathering at reception.

Looking on is Director Michael Chambers and present West Indies player Daren Powell.

A team from the organization who was in Jamaica to attend the historic CWC event used the reception as an opportunity to explain the existence of a Cricket Hall of Fame in the U.S. and the reason why it was established.

Director Michael Chambers and program coordinator Dolton James, who co-chaired the program, simultaneously narrated a slide presentation which depicted some of the action that took place at past induction ceremonies. They informed the gathering, which included former West Indian fast bowler Michael Holding, class batsman Lawrence Rowe and present fast bowler Daren Powell, two inductees of the Hall of Fame, Lloyd Scott of New York and Conny Campbell of Ottawa, Canada, that the organization which was started by few visionaries in Hartford, Connecticut in 1981, celebrated its 25th anniversary last year.

Holding, who was inducted into the institution in 2004 along with former Australian great Greg Chappell during a brief speech, said that "Tonight what I want to do is try to endorse the Hall of Fame. I know a lot of people have been very skeptical when they hear of a Cricket Hall of Fame in Hartford, Connecticut, U.S.A. When people start thinking Cricket Hall of Fame, the question asked is, what has that got to do with the U.S.A."

"Well we all know that it was started by some West Indian people who wanted to leave something behind . . . some sort of legacy because we know that West Indians do not . . . write down a lot of things . . ." he said.

"This Cricket Hall of Fame is not only about inducting sportsmen, but also administrators. If we do not have people to organize things we would not have too much cricket. Sometimes we get good cricket with bad administration, but we need both sides of the coin," he said.

"I think that everyone that got inducted into the Hall of Fame felt very proud to be part of it. I know for instance that you gentlemen were told when you started the Hall of Fame in Hartford, Connecticut, how dare you to start a Hall of Fame for cricket. The portents saw it fit and went about doing it and after 25 years we have an established Cricket Hall of Fame. I am happy and feel greatly honored that I was asked to be part of the Hall of Fame," he said.

From one generation of West Indies fast bowler to another, Holding said that he had brought Powell along to the function because "I wanted him to know what this Hall of Fame is all about. I want him to aspire to be in the Hall of Fame. All you have to do is win the World Cup and you could qualify as a Hall of Fame inductee," he challenged Powell.

A highlight of the function was the performance of the 20-piece Music House String Ensemble. Directed by well known Jamaican music impresario Peter Ashbourne, the group whose members range in ages from 10-22, delighted the audience with a variety of popular classical pieces.

According to Angela Elliott, director of the Music House, the orchestra which has been in existence for the past three years is slowly making a name for itself throughout the Jamaica.