

Chairman of India's Selection Committee visit Cricket Hall of Fame

The Chairman of India's Test Cricket Selection Committee, Kiran More, paid a visit to Hartford's Cricket Hall of Fame, Friday, July 7. More, a former wicketkeeper and right-hand batsman, who played in 49 Tests for India, said during the visit that he was very impressed with what he saw taking place there.

The Hall of Fame, the first of its kind in the world, will be celebrating its 25th anniversary this year (October 7), with a grand Induction Ceremony at the Marriott Hotel, downtown Hartford. The theme for the function will be "Founding Fathers."

Before arriving at the Hall of Fame, More was feted at a brief reception held in his honor at the Express Kitchens, a furniture warehouse just a few doors up the street from the Hall of Fame. Max Kothari, proprietor of Express Kitchens who hosted the reception, explained to More that members of the Hall of Fame kept the institution going mainly out of their love for the game. Many times they have to dig deep into their pockets, he said, as donations which they rely on to keep it going is not forthcoming...

Following introductions and brief speeches, More was asked to respond to a few comments and questions posed about cricket in general and the recently concluded tour of his team in the Caribbean against the West Indies. It was his opinion that West Indies cricket is on its way back and in fact very soon will be among the top contenders of the game. "The team is still very young," he said, "and the experience they are gaining now will certainly serve them well."

He said that he definitely would like to see the West Indies team rise to the occasion again. "The sport needs the West Indian type of cricket," he said. "It is very exciting and brings crowds to the game."

More also said the Indian team is in a similar situation as the West Indies. "We are now in a rebuilding stage and many of those who made the tour were youngsters who we are grooming for better things to come."

He expressed the desire to see cricket become big in the U.S. saying that his country is willing to give whatever support they can. "Matches between Test playing countries, whether against the U.S or between themselves, should give the sport a big boost in this country," he stated.

The second most successful Indian wicketkeeper, More still holds Test records for most stumpings in an innings (five) and in a match (six). More, who turned to coaching after the conclusion of his career, now runs a flourishing cricket academy in his home town of Baroda, Gujarat.

Among the party which accompanied More to the Hall of Fame was former Indian allrounder Dhiraj Parsana. Dhiraj, who played for his country briefly (two Tests), is now a top curator and builder of cricket pitches. He shares his time now between India and Connecticut, where one of his sons resides.