

No settlement seen in Cricket Board's case over office bearers' election

Cricket battles at Lords and Hulftsdorp

by V. Varathasuntharam

While Sri Lanka was battling with England at cricket's headquarters Lords, yesterday, the tussle over the recent election to the Board of Control for Cricket figured at Hulftsdorp and chances of an amicable settlement to the dispute seemed to fade.

This was indicated when the case against the Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka (BCCSL) came up for hearing before Colombo District Judge A. W. Salam yesterday.

On the last date, Court appealed to both parties to consider resolving the issue amicably in the larger interest of cricket and the

country at large.

Counsel for both parties gave an undertaking to Court to explore the avenues for a settlement. But yesterday their submissions indicated that their clients were unable to arrive at a negotiated settlement.

In this case plaintiff Clifford Ratwatte has filed a suit through his counsel G. G. Arulpragasam challenging the propriety of the recent election to office bearers of the defendant Cricket Board.

Paul Ratnayake Associates filed the answers of the defendants.

S. L. Gunasekera, counsel for the defen-

dant Board of Control for Cricket in Sri Lanka submitted that it was the position of his clients that the election of office bearers was fair and free. In view of such a standpoint as opposed to the view of the plaintiff, it is unlikely to reach a settlement.

President's Counsel Romesh de Silva appearing for the plaintiff submitted that their stand was that the recent elections were null and void in view of various reasons including impersonations and violence. The only way out for a settlement was a re-election under the supervision of Court.

He further indicated to Court that in antic-

ipation of a settlement, they had not come ready to file any papers.

Court ordered both parties to tender written submissions on June 17.

Romesh de Silva (PC) with Palitha Kumarasinghe and Harsha Amarasekera instructed by G. G. Arulpragasam appeared for the plaintiff.

L. C. Seneviratne (PC) with S. L. Gunasekera, Ronald Perera, Chandana Perera, Hemaka de Alwis and Sudath Perera appeared for the defendants.

Hiran de Alwis with Iyomi Perera appeared for the second defendant.