

Chris Harte and Warwick Hadfield, *Cricket Rebels*. Horwitz Grahame Books, Sydney, 1985. pp. 174. \$5.95.

Chris Harte and Warwick Hadfield are admirably suited to write about the events leading up to the Australian rebel cricket tour of South Africa. Harte is the editor of the *Australian Cricket Journal* and the former editor of *Cathedral End*, and author of *Fight for the Ashes 1982/83* and *History of the Sheffield Shield*. Warwick Hadfield, a feature writer with the national newspaper *The Australian*, has covered Australia's tour of India and the West Indies' visit to Australia. His expertise was acknowledged by the N.S.W. Cricket Association media award in 1984.

The authors state fairly that the South Africans only had themselves to blame for being cast out of Test cricket for almost 20 years. Their misadventures began almost a century ago in 1894 when Krom Hendricks, a Malaysian fast bowler, was left out of the South African team to tour England. The plight of coloured players in recent times was highlighted by the non-selection of the Cape all-rounder Basil d'Oliveira in 1968 in the national team. He eventually was to play for England. South African cricketing relations with other countries deteriorated further when the Prime Minister, John Vorster, refused entry into South Africa of an England team which included d'Oliveira. England withdrew from the tour, and the two nations have not resumed Test contact since.

The 1985-86 Australian rebel tour was not the first such venture as the English, Sri Lankans and West Indians had preceded the Australians. Those English players who toured were banned from Test cricket for three years, the Sri Lankans for 25 years and the West Indians for life. In 1970 the world cricketing powers told South Africa that it would not be allowed back into the recognised cricketing world until a series of specified changes were effected by South Africa. By the mid-1970s, most of these changes had been made but entry into world cricket was not forthcoming. South Africa was not even allowed to put its case to the International Cricket Council. Their frustration turned to bitterness, and the realisation that the only way to play cricket was to organise rebel tours. In 1982 the side of English players led by Graham Gooch became the first of such teams.

Harte and Hadfield trace brilliantly, and with care, the behind-the-scenes plotting and legal manipulations that were attempted to get an Australian team to South Africa. The roles of Ali Bacher and Bruce Francis are detailed, and the principal players involved are highlighted, with short biographies written on each.

The role of the Australian government and the Australian Cricket Board, the inconsistencies, and at times unfairness of their policies towards South Africa are well catalogued by the authors. The role of Kerry Packer, and the influence of Channel 9 and PBL Marketing, are put clearly. Packer, who had organised and financed the breakaway World Series Cricket in the 1970s a move clearly designed to destroy 'establishment' cricket, now used his financial power to lure back players contracted to go to South Africa, particularly Dirk Wellham, Graeme Wood and Wayne Phillips. They were viewed as traitors by the rebel tourists. The whys and wherefores of the legal backdown by the Australian Cricket Board and what would appear to be a legal victory for South Africa are stated fairly, but, it makes for interesting reading!

The cynicism of Harte and Hadfield is evident as they outline the political manoeuvring of prominent Australians. The

positions of former Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser, Prime Minister Bob Hawke, Minister of Sport John Brown, the Australian Cricket Board and Kerry Packer in the infringement of human rights and fair trade practices is put forward very clearly. The book is a must for those interested in a non-biased analysis of the actual events leading up to the tour. Also, this book is highly recommended for those working in the area of South African sport as it endeavours to treat factually the developments occurring in the country. The conclusion however, is far from optimistic for South African cricket is not any closer to readmission into official world cricket.

Maxwell & Reet Howell
Human Movement
University of Queensland