

England to tour next winter

# Tit for tat: India to skip Asia Cup



**NEW DELHI, May 20:** India decided on Tuesday not to participate in the Asia Cup cricket tournament in Pakistan later this year, an official of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) said, reports Reuters.

BCCI secretary Chandappa Nagaraj told newsmen in the western Indian city of Panaji the decision was prompted by the Pakistan Cricket Board's failure to honour its commitment in Pakistan later this year, an official of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) said, reports Reuters.

**ICC ref Cowper lays down the ground rules**

LONDON, May 20: Former Australian batsman Bob Cowper laid down the ground rules for a summer of harmony between England and Pakistan, reports AFP.

Cowper, appointed as match referee by the International Cricket Council, spoke to both teams plus umpires David Shepherd and Barrie Meyer on the eve of the opening Texaco Trophy international at Lord's.

"I am fully aware there have been problems during the last two series between the two countries, but both teams are keen there should be no repeat this summer," said Cowper.

The 51-year old Australian reminded England and Pakistan of the code of conduct which outlaws verbal abuse of opponents and umpires and urges cricket to be played "within the spirit of the game."

Neither points were observed in 1987 when the behaviour of players on both sides during back-to-back series was disgraceful at times.

As referee, Cowper can hand out fines or even suspensions for breaches of the code.

He also confirmed umpires would make "random inspections" of the ball for evidence of seam picking and deliberate scuffing.

Rees equalised from the third short corner in succession as Wales put the Indian defence under pressure at the end of the half.

The pattern of the second half was much the same as the first with Wales taking to defence and holding the Indians in check. In the 41st minute, however, Mukesh Kumar was obstructed by Clide O'Sullivan who conceded a penalty stroke and once again Harpreet Singh converted.

India were then reduced to nine men with Dhanraj Pillay being sent off for a questionable tackle and Sukhjith Singh for dissent. While they were off, Rowlands converted a short corner to level the score.

It took a superb effort on the part of India to score the winning goal which was obtained by Pargat Singh from a short corner.

The teams meet again here on Wednesday.

Four substitutions were permitted to Wales by general consent.

**TEAMS**

**WALES:** C Ashcroft, J Doherty, P Edwards, R Jones, D Bleach, J Rees, D Hucker (captain), C O'Sullivan, A Grimes, D Knapp, I Hughes, Rowlands.

ments in the past.

The Pakistan Board had failed to send a team to India on three previous occasions, including the last Asia Cup two years ago, Nagaraj said.

Pakistan had backed out of a five-Test tour of India in the winter of 1990 when Hindu-Muslim clashes swept north India. The Pakistan Board also cancelled a five one-day international series last year, expressing concern for the security of the cricketers.

"The BCCI wants Pakistan to tour India first before India reciprocates," Nagaraj said.

**ENGLAND TO TOUR**

Meanwhile, another Reuters report from Delhi said: The England cricket team will play three Tests and six one-day internationals on their tour of

India beginning on January 3, Indian Cricket Board secretary Chandappa Nagaraj said on Tuesday.

The three Tests would be played at Calcutta, Madras and Bombay, Nagaraj said, as he released the schedule from the western Indian city of Panaji after the Board meeting.

The venues of two of the six one-day games had not been finalised, Nagaraj told Reuters by telephone.

Besides these, England will play three other first class matches on the short tour which begins after the return of the Indian team from its first-ever tour of South Africa.

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