

## ABSTRACT

The formation of sports and social clubs in Jamaica in the late nineteenth century has always been along class lines and was greatly influenced by social, as well as colour, prejudices.

The writer intends, by analysing the development of Melbourne Cricket Club, to present a typical Jamaican club which exercised prejudices in order to restrict its membership to people from a particular class and, as far as possible, of a particular colour.

A cursory look at the Jamaican society in that period aids in understanding the social forces at work during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Such an analysis indicates that education, economic success and skin colour were important determinants in gaining admittance to the various sports and social clubs.

Chapter One presents a short history of cricket in Jamaica from 1857 to 1900.

Chapter Two focusses on the formation and development of Melbourne Cricket Club. This chapter analyses the organisation, structure and growth of the Club.

Chapter Three considers the occupational, racial and class character of the Club.

Chapter Four analyses the performance of Melbourne from 1897 to 1902 and attempts to explain why the Club performed as it did in given periods.

A Summary and Conclusion follow in Chapter Five.

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