



Brian Close and Adjit Wadekar at the Cricket Hall of Fame

Cricket Hall of Fame praised for doing a wonderful job

By Stan Walker

In what was described as one of the best ceremonies that they have held, the committee members of the Cricket Hall of Fame was showered with praises for the wonderful job that they are doing by almost all the inductees at their annual function which was held at the Hilton Hotel, downtown Hartford, Saturday, October 2,

Master of Ceremonies Rudolph Cohen, who delivered a very eloquent introduction of the two international inductees, former Test captains Dennis Brian Close of England and Adjit Wadekar of India, paid tribute to the Hall of Fame for giving them the chance to honor both local and international inductees. "You are doing a wonderful job of memorializing the history and

memory of this great game," he said.

The local inductees were Clifford Hines, one of the pioneers of the game in New York, Akhtar Masood Syed of Illinois, who has helped change the game in the U.S., Hugh Pitter, known as the 'archive' in the Metropolitan Cricket League in New York, Ballista McLeish, a dedicated player and leader also in New York, Ivor Stephens, a founder of the US. Cricket Umpires Association and Paul Williams, former chairman of the Connecticut Cricket League.

Paying tribute to Close and Wadekar, Cohen said that in order to be a successful captain, you have to possess the abilities of leadership, discipline, instruction and compassion. "These men exemplified in their positions and should be considered welcome additions to the Hall of Fame," he said. Speaking of Close who is known for his legendary toughness, Cohen said he had an attitude of never giving up regardless of how powerful the opposition may be.

Famous for his fearless fielding at short leg and his courage against fast bowling, Close also had high praises for what is being accomplished at the Hall of Fame. "There is nothing like this in any other place in the world," he said. "The exhibits, pictures and memorabilia at the hall bring back some great memories of some of the games that I have played in and some of the men that I use to play with."

Regardless of how talented you may be as a batsman or a bowler, cricket is a thinking game, he said. "The Hall of Fame is a wonderful place and I am proud to donate a tie that is filled with memorable signatures of my days in the game to be among the exhibits at the hall. As a cricketer I had a wonderful life."

Wadekar, who led the Indian team to historic triumphs in the West Indies and England, and who will always be remembered as the captain who brought unprecedented glory to Indian cricket, in praising the Hall of Fame for having a great vision, said that he saw his induction as a great honor.

Speaking on the state of the game in the U.S., he said that in order to get it to the stage of the other cricketing countries, they will have to develop a grass root program. Using this approach will give them a better chance of getting the sport well grounded in the country.

Stephens, who said that he was very overwhelmed and gratified by what he saw at the hall, did not only offer a prayer for its success but made a strong appeal to the audience to help the individuals who are responsible for keeping it alive, financially..

Hinds, who was honored by the International Cricket Council for his contributions to the sport in the U.S., also had high praises for the Hall of Fame, and said that he saw his induction as a high honor. He gave a

very in depth response after his induction in which he drew a variety of comparisons of the sport in regards to many other disciplines in life.

President of the Hartford City Council rjo Winch, who filled in for mayor Pedro Segarra, presented a proclamation on his behalf which declared the day Cricket Hall of Fame's Day in the city of Hartford.

The well attended ceremony was also highlighted by a very exciting and lively cultural dance performance by a local Indian dance troupe whose members were attired in some very colorful costumes.