

The Covenanter

IN HIS magnificent book, *Playing to Win**, Conrad Hunte tells the story of his life from its beginnings in his West Indies village where his first cricket bat was a palm frond, through club cricket in Barbados and Lancashire, to the day when he joined the select band of those who scored a century in his first Test innings.

Hunte thrillingly describes some of the great moments of his life on the ovals around the world, like his superb throw from the boundary which was responsible for one of the last-over run-outs in the famous tied test in Brisbane.

But Hunte is much more than a great cricketer. He is a great man with a great message. And he has some extraordinarily good things to say about brotherhood, peace and racism. I hope this statement he makes at the conclusion of his book will thrill you enough to make you read the whole book:

"Racial issues are only a part of the basic trend to division and fragmentation throughout the world. Someone, some section of people, has to set a new pattern of specious statesmanship, in pioneering the art of winning those they feel opposed to instead of crystallising and concreting disagreement.

"Blame and separation do not do it. Expedience increasingly shows this. The violence that can develop out of blame is reaction not revolution. It is as outmoded as the Stone Age. It only tends to increase the sum total of bitterness and break up the world. And division usually becomes the tool of those who are in fact lusting and planning for power for themselves.

"The Black man chose to be inferior to other men. He fell in love with being the injured party over centuries of injustice and suffering in his relationship with the rest of the world family. In that box of his own making he became ineffective to cure the causes of his suffering and a ready tool in the hands of power-seeking and profit-making men.

"The truth is that those

Great message from a great sportsman

who have suffered most have the most to give in the task of humanising society.

"The Black man must now break out of the box of man control, whether that man be himself or any other. He can use his sensitiveness to injury and his insight through suffering to bring the secret of healing to every hurt and hate in all men everywhere.

"The need in the world is for the Black man who is hate-free, pure, thoughtful, cheerful, punctual, who holds no grudge, seeks no revenge, has no demands, a servant of mankind, knowledgeable, with depth of compassion and space of spirit, a friend of the Son of Man and a brother to all men.

"My hope is to become a man who is available, trustworthy and dependable; an anchor to those who seek the solution to the broken relationships whether between Black and White, Arab and Jew, Protestant and Catholic, parent and child. I am no hero. I want to learn to serve wherever I can. I am not my own master. My life is given to God for the moral rearmament of the world."

* *"Playing to Win"* by Conrad Hunte, (Hodder and Stoughton).