

## **Author's Bio**

Spellbound by the sight of a fully cassocked parish priest enthusiastically playing cricket in the church green, little Ranjan took to the game, as the proverbial duck to water. Later, in his youth, Ranjan Mellawa graduated to a passionate village cricketer.

Not long after, he traversed exotic lands, witnessing exciting episodes of willow and leather on-field and many memorable events, off it. The thrill of witnessing great moments and unbridled excitement in Sri Lankan cricket, helped satisfy his romantic trysts with the game.

Ranjan also functioned as the secretary of Ragama Cricket Club, a first-class cricket club in Sri Lanka. Next to cricket, in a career spanning twenty-five years as a banker, he finally held positions as director in both commercial and merchant banking institutions in the island. He possesses a master's degree in business administration from the University of Western Sydney.

Ranjan's wife Champa has gracefully accepted cricket as the 'other woman' in his life and continues to selflessly support his life-long obsession, although in the process, it had transformed her into a *cricket widow*.

Ranjan brings to bear the rich life-skills imbibed, together with lessons learned, while mastering the intricacies of a game that had become ever so sophisticated with the advent of technology. Quite aptly, he invokes C. L. R. James' observation 'What does he know of cricket who only cricket knows?' A fully convinced Ranjan, personifies this spirit in his inimitable style, in *Winds Behind The Willows*.