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Greg Baum, Sports writer

I wasn't on that 2018 tour, in fact wasn't a full-time cricket writer by then. I was acting sports editor at The Age, but I did write some columns about the scandal.

So I didn't talk to Khawaja, then or since. About his claim that he always wanted to talk about the scandal, the invitation was always there, from media, from the cricket board. I understand why he did not speak until after he retired, but I reject that it was because of some sort of neglect on media's part.

The three banned players effectively went to ground for the period of their suspensions, so further questions to them were not possible. Smith spoke after a nets sessions one day in Sydney, but did not say much. The expectation always was that they were keeping their counsel until one or all wrote books.

The balance needed in maintaining a connection with sportspeople while critiquing them [is] a tension I always struggled with, so I'm not going to condemn anyone else.

I would reject outright and unconditionally any accusation that journos chose not to report the story. The confused claims and counter claims of the last week demonstrate how hard it was to pin down.

Gideon refers to the omerta of the dressing room. This was always a problem. Politicians at least feel they are obliged to answer to the public that elected them, however touchy the subject. Unelected sportspeople don't. Dressing room solidarity is paramount. Khawaja exemplifies this.

I respect Geoff Lemon. He was a reporter on that tour and wrote a very good book about it. He seems to be indicting himself, so fair play to him.

[Edited for legal reasons]