

NEWSLETTER

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ASSOCIATION OF PAST EMPLOYEES OF SINGER

80, Nawam Mawatha, Colombo 2



With a few ex Singer employees now domiciled in melbourne, Australia Edgar Fernando, Malal Athauda, Nadira Jayawardena and Elmo Joseph



FROM THE EDITOR'S

We regret to inform you that the May issue of the Newsletter had to be postponed for June due to lack of articles for publication. Even though we had requested members to send articles for publication in the May issue before 20th April 2017, up to this date (20th May 2017) we have not received even a single article. This is very disappointing. Despite our numerous requests to members to send articles for publication, the response has been far from satisfactory.

If the members feel the Newsletter serves no useful purpose, we could stop publishing and utilize the money spent for type-setting, printing and postage to increase the financial aid given to sick members and also for other useful projects such as granting scholarships. We would appreciate receiving your comments on this matter.

On my recent visit to Australia, I had the good fortune of meeting Elmo Joseph who plays an important role in giving publicity to the activities conducted by the Association. Other ex Singer employees whom I met in Melbourne were Nadira Jayawardena who was working with me when I was the Marketing Services Manager, Malal Athauda and Edgar. Fernando. Except for Elmo, the rest were not aware that an Association of Past Employees of Singer existed in Sri Lanka. In addition, I spoke to Damayanthi Ranasinghe who is a resident in Sydney. There are 29 ex Singer employees now residing in Melbourne but I could not meet all of them. In addition, there is one more in Sydney, four living in Canada and one in New Zealand. Elmo gave me a list of all these ex Singer employees with their telephone numbers and Email addresses. The list was handed over to our President for necessary follow-up action.

Furthermore, I took the opportunity to explain the objectives of the Association to the ex Singer employees whom I met and briefed them on the activities conducted by the Association during the past 16 years especially our involvement in the welfare of our sick members and the assistance given to children of poor families to continue their studies without any hindrances. The ex Singer employees who were present expressed their satisfaction of the steps taken by us to alleviate the suffering of our members due to illness and financial problems and also help poor students to continue their education without any interruptions by granting scholarships etc. They assured us of their unreserved co-operation and financial assistance once they receive membership details and other relevant information. They were also highly impressed with the articles published in the Newsletter and said it certainly shed light on the activities of the Association and hoped we would send them copies of future publications. Over to you. Samitha and Nissar.

CHAIRMAN'S MOTIVATION TAKES SINGER TO THE TOP WINNERS OF 'CHAMPION TEA' CHALLENGE TROPHY



Seated (L to R) :- Sujith Ariyapala, Nelson Mendis (Manager Cum Coach), Dhammika Ranatunga (Capt), Mr. Hemaka Amarasuriya (Chairman), Chandana Amerasinghe (Vice-Capt), Gamini Wasalathanthiri (President) Kumar Samarasinghe (Cricket Secretary) , Janaka Kaluhendiwela.

Standing (L & R) :- Keerthi Weraniyagoda, Sujith Silimanne, Birani Dohanayake, Kosala Kuruppuarachchi, Nihal Pathirage, Piiyantha Muncisinghe, and Prigdees Senanayake.

Absent :- Dileepa Wickremasinghe, Nevin Noyahr, Prasanna Dissanayake and Piyal Rohana Guruge

The headlines of an article which appeared in the Sports Column of Sunday Observer described Singer's historic and memorable victory in the final of the prestigious MCA 'A' Division Cricket Tournament in 1990.

It is both historic and memorable as this was the first occasion Singer had won the 'Blue Ribbon' of the MCA 'A' Division Cricket Tournament. Not before 1990 and not since then to date.- A great achievement. "Do not overawed by the big names in the opposition. Believe in yourselves and play the game within your capabilities and give everything you have towards it. Then you will not fail"

This was the great advice given to the Singer Cricketers by their mentor and Chairman, Mr. Hemaka Amarasuriya a seasoned cricketer himself - a former Royalist, before their engagement with star studded Nawaloka Team - the reigning Champions of MCA which comprised cricketers in the calibre of Asanka Gurusinghe and Aravinda de Silva to name a few.

The Singer cricketers followed the advice of their Chairman to the very letter, and playing as a single unit, pulled off a sensational win by 41 runs to emerge Champions. Singer also beat another strong side Mercantile Credit, team packed with stars led by Arjuna Ranatunga. Singer also beat yet another strong side Hongkong & Shanghai Bank in the preliminary round on their way to the Final.

After the conclusion of the match, Mr. Amarasuriya who was with us right throughout the game suddenly vanished from the scene. All of us were wondering what happened to him and started looking for him all over the pavilion and grounds. A few minutes, later, Mr. Amarasuriya walked into the players' dressing room to the delight of everyone, carrying with him a bottle of Champagne, which he proudly shared with the team and the support staff.

I feel this article is incomplete if I do not pen a few words about the vital contribution made by Nelson Mendis (Manager cum Coach). His high level of motivation, advice and guidance no doubt helped the Champions in their task.

Dhammika Ranatunga (Captain) and Chandana Amerasinghe (Vice Captain) and their team of young players put their heart and soul into the game and pulled off a memorable victory. This historic victory is a personal achievement for the Patron of Singer Sports Club Mr. Hemaka Amarasuriya, Kumar Samarasinghe (Cricket Secretary) and the writer who was then the President of the Sports Club.

G.C. Wasalathanthri

NEW MEMBERS

We warmly welcome the following members who have joined our Association, recently, and look forward to their participation in all activities organized by the Association.

Name
Mr. Indika Rajapaksa
Ms. Shiromani Fernando
Ms. Shirani Kirthisinghe

The Worlds Craziest Court Cases

- 1. The employees in unfeasible deadlines and targets had to during the lunch break and tea breaks work without pay to meet the targets. California won in a class action against Wal Mart for making them work too hard. They claimed being "brainwashed" into accepting. Worst of all they had been forced to sing the Wal Mart song during almost every shift (Associated Press 2001)
- 2. Raymond Akers 52, was tired of being restricted at the office. His female colleagues could wear skimpy outfits which he felt were not "business like", whilst he had to wear boring ties. So one day he turned up in one festooned with pictures of brightly coloured condoms. The tribunal told him not to be silly and no they did not want to see the tie in question. (Times 3 rd June 2006)
- 3. Ohio state university officials closed off streets and called in the bomb squad when a sticker was spotted on the bike saying "This Bike is a Pipe Bomb. The owner Parick Hanlin was charged inducing panic. No bomb was found and it was explained that "This is a Pipe Bomb" and is the name of a punk rock band from Pensacola-Florida
- 4. A 27 year old woman has been banned from answering her front door wearing only her underwear. Neighbhours in Lancarshire, Scotland claimed that Caroline Shephard was just doing it to annoy them and it was unfair on the paper

Cricket At Singers

When I joined Singer Sewing Machine Company as a Trainee District Manager in 1975, the company did not participate in the Annual Mercantile Cricket Tournament. A few of us, M/s Hemaka Amarasuriya, Gamini Wasalathanthri, the late Neville Daniels and the writer decided to enter a team in the G Division in 1977. Our first match was against Aitken Spence Plc This was a disaster. Aitken Spence Plc batted first and scored 200 odd runs in their innings. At one stage they were in a difficult situation, losing 3 wickets for 30 runs, and Daya Livera without the permission of the captain commenced bowling his first over to Angelo Wickremaratne (former Peterite captain), who scored 24 runs in this over, and went on to score 94 runs. At the end of Daya Livera's over. Mr. Amerasuriya questioned me as to why I gave Daya Livera to bowl. I told him that he commenced bowling without my permission, He immediately informed me to drop him for the next match.

We recruited Mohan De Silva, Mohan Moothathamby, Russel De la Motte and Premalal De Silva. In 1980 we were in the D division. I could vividly remember the final of this Division where in we played against Mackwoods at NCC grounds. Mackwoods was captained by Ranjit Fernando, a Sri Lankan cricketer and had a team of good licketers including Kunchu Balendren, a leg spinner, who had played for St Benedict College Kotehena. Mackwoods batted first and scored 170 runs. Our top order failing badly. When I went in to bat we were 40 runs for 4 with our top order back in the pavillion and Mr Amarasuriya was at the other end. He came up to me and said "Ranjit we have to win this match so put your head down and bat ". We slowly pushed to score to 173 for 4 having put on a partnership of 133 runs. When I left Singer (Sri Lanka) Ltd in 1982, we were in the B Division.

Mr. T.B-----Colombo Apothecary's

Mr T.B. was an Executive at Colombo Apothecaries and he had purchased a machine from Chatham Street Shop on hire purchase, terms. Mr. T.B. was a sweet talker but an absolute liar,. After the initial payment he had stopped paying any installments. Mr. Maniam had paid several visits and was not successful. When I met Mr. T.B. he told me politely "Mr. David you seem to be a nice person and Mr. Maniam is a wonderful man. Do not worry I will pay you next week." Since the account was well over 6 months delinquent I decided to revert the complete machine. Next day we went to his residence at Enderamulla. His wife was there. I informed her that Mr.T.B wanted us to take the machine as he cannot make regular monthly payments. We took the machine into our possession. The following day Mr. TB walked into the showroom took the machine after paying the full amount.

A TIMELY THOUGHT

Amidst a spate of unfortunate incidents in Sri Lanka, including the man made mishap in Meethotamulla, collapse of a multi-storeyed building in Wellawatte and the recent natural disaster causing floods, it is timely to pause and realise the impermanent nature of life.

People may become pompous and rejoice at their wealth, including posh mansions, superb vehicles and all other comforts However, in a jiffy everything can tumble down causing great havoc sparing none. What is the lesson we have to learn at this juncture? Never to get elated by material gains in life. Our mission should be to live with a merciful heart, do wrong to none but good to all. Then only people can achieve spiritual happiness and stay calm during any calamity, following one's own religion. Therefore, let us always extend our hand to the needy and less fortunate people and experience the inner peace and joy.

Sent by Pushpa Fonseka

MAN O MAN

"Hats off to whoever wrote this; Man O Man, When without money, eats, veg at home, When with money, eats at fine dining restaurant. When without money rides bicycle, When with it rides Exercise Bike! When without money walks to earn food, When with it walks to burn fat. Man O Man never fails to deceive thyself! When without money wants to get married, When has it wishes to get divorced. When without money wife becomes secretary, When with money secretary becomes wife. When without money acts like a rich man, When rich, acts like a poor man. Man O Man, never can tell the simple truth! Says Share Market is bad but keeps speculating, says money evil but keeps accumulating. Says high positions are bad but keeps wanting them. Says drinking and gambling bad but keeps indulging. Man O Man never means what he says and never says what he means. Rs.20 seems too much to give a beggar, too little to give as tip. Praying to God for three minutes takes too much time but watching a move for three hours doesn't. Life isn't what you couldn't do so far. It's about what we can still do. Wait, and don't give up. Miracles don't happen every day."

Sent by Nelson Mendis

Aluthgama Singer Shop - Dr. Kar. giving bogus addresses

Soma Pat of Ingiriya

This lady was a female attendant working at the General Hospital Colombo and residing in Horana.. She had purchased a machine from from the shop Manager -- the late Maniam. After the initial payment, her account had become delinquent for several months. On my visit to Panadura I decided to revert this machine. With the assistance from the Shop Manager-Panadura we traced the machine in a remote area of Horana. The hirer's 'husband, a farmer was the only person at the residence. Whilst we were taking the complete machine to the vehicle, the husband shouted to the neighbourhood seeking their help. Suddenly from nowhere approximately about 20 men and women entered the house with Poles and knives. They told us to keep the machine or else they will be compelled to assault us. We had no other options than to leave the machine. I was rather annoyed and upset so I decided to seek the help of our revert King---Mr Neville Daniels. The following day -Neville dressed in Khaki Trousers and a white shirt with a borrowed Inspector's cap in his hand, visited the General Hospital. We spoke to Soma Pat and instructed to take us to her place and hand over the machine. She politely did so as she was scared and embarrassed. The complete machine was handed over to us and two days later she paid the full amount amount and collected the machine.

5 මරණයට බිය නොවන්නේ කෙසේද

්වේ තුසිත් අප බිහිවනවා සමගම මරණයද අතින් අරගෙන එන්නෙමු. ඉපදීමත් දුකකි. අප මෙලොව එලිය දූටු දවසේ සිටම සැම තත්පරයක්. පාසා වෙනස් වෙයි. කුස පිළිසිඳ ගත් මොහොතේ සිටම එම බීජයද වෙනස් වෙයි. වැඩෙයි. ඒ වගේම මරණය දක්වාම අපි වෙනස් වෙනවා වයසට යනවා ලෙඩ වෙනවා හම රැලි වැටෙනවා කෙස් සුදු වෙනවා දනහිස් කොන්දේ වේදනා ඇතිවෙනවා මුලු මහන් ශරීරයම දිරාපන් වෙනවා සරාවට පත් වෙනවා ඉල මහත ලෝකයම වෙනස් වෙනවා. එයයි ලෝක ස්වභාවය එයයි සතෳය මේ ලෝක ධර්තෝවය වෙනස් කරන්න කාටවත් බැහැ

ජීවිතය අතියතයි මරණය නියතයි. මෙම තත්වය අපි හැමෝම දැනගත්තේ ව්යපත්වත විටයි. එහෙත් සමහර පෙර පින් ඇති අය වියේදිමත් තවත් සමහර පින් දහම් කරගෙන අය කුඩා කාලයේ පටන්ම මේ ලෝ දහම අවබෝධ කරගෙන කටයුතු කරණවා. ඒ අයට බොහෝ පින් දහම් කරගෙන කටයුතු කරණවා ඒ අයට බොහෝ පින් දහම් කරගෙන මේ ඉපදෙන මැරෙන ඉවරයක් නැති සංසාරයෙන් මිදෙන්ට පුලුවන් වෙනවා

මරණය ගැන කතාකිරීමට පවා සමහර අය බයයි. ඒ මරණය තරක දෙයක් දුක් දෙන දෙයක් වැනි කරුනු කාරනා නිසා. එහෙත් අපි කැමති වූවත් අකමැති වුවත් මරණයට පිටුපාන්න අප කාටවත් බැහැ. මාරයා කතාකළ විට නියෝගයක් නිකුත් කළවිට අපිට ඔහුට අවනන වෙන්නට වෙනවා අපි මරණයට බිය නොවී සිටීමට ඇති හොඳම මාර්ගය වන්නේ ජීවත්වන කාලයේදී තමාටත් තම පවුලේ අයටත් නැදැයින්ටත් අසල්වැසියන්ටත් හිත මිතුරන්ටත් රටටත් ලෝකයටත් අයහපතක් නොකර කරදර නොකර වැරදි නොකර හිංසා නොකර තමාගේ ආගමට දහමට අනුව තම ජීවිතය හැඩගස්වා ගනිමින් පින් දහම් කරමින් පින නමැති ධනය රැස්කරගෙන පරලොව ගිනුමට එනතු කර ගැනීමයි එසේ කරණ විට අපි මාර්යාට බය නැත මරණයට සුදානම්ය එනිසා අපි සැම මොහොනකම හොඳ දෙයක් කරමු නම නමන්ගේ ආගමට දහමට අනුව හැසිරෙමු මරණය යන ධර්මනාවය විවිධාකාරය එකිනෙකට වෙනස්ය

මරණය පිළිබඳව අප අවබෝධ කරගන්නා විට බලන්න සමහර අය බොහෝ කාලයක් ආයුප විඳ මරණයට පත්වෙනවා එයට කියන්නේ පරම ආයුප කියලා මෙසේ අවුරුදු ගතනක්ම ජීවත්ව මිය යන අය සමාජයට යහපත් දේ කරලා පින් දහම් කරලා මිනිසුන්ට උදව් කරලා කිසිවෙකුට කරදරයක් නොකරම ආයුප විදිනවා විය හැකියි තව සමහර අය පරම ආයුප විදිමිත් තමන්ගේ සියලු වැඩ තමන් විසින්ම කරගන්නා අයද සිටිනි එවැනි අය ජිවන්වූ කාලයේදී හැකි තරම පින්කම් කරයිද කුසල් වඩවා ගනීද ඒ තැනැත්තා පරලොව ජීවිතය ඉතාම හොදින්ම ගතුකරනු ඇත සහෙරවිට දෙවියෙක් වී ඉපදීමටද හැකිය තවද එම තැනැත්තා පෙර සංසාරයේ සත්ව ඝාතන කර නැත සත්ව හිංසා කරනැත සත්වයන්ට පීවිත දානය දුන් අයෙක් විය හැකිය එතිසා ඔහුගේ ආයුප වැඩිය

පරම ආයුප බුක්ති විදින සමහර අයමහත් ජීවිත කාලයම ඉතාම දුකෙන් ගතකරණ බවද අපට දකින්නට ලැබේ බොහෝ කාලයක් ලෙඩවී ඇවිදගන්නට බැරිව වෙනත් අයගේ උදව්වෙන්ම ජීවිතය ගත කරණ අයද සිටිති තවත් සමහර අය අපිරිසිදුව කිසිවෙකුට ලගටවත් යන්න බැරි තරමට දුගඳ හමන අයද ඇත ඒ අය අතර ඔවුන් කිසිවකුට කරකක් නොකරන අයද සිටිය හැකිය එසේ වූවද ජීවිතය ගත කරන්නේ ඉතාම දුකෙන්ය තවත් පිරිසක් ජීවිත තාලයෙන් වැඩි කාලයක් මිනිසුන්ට සමාජයට කරදර කරන අයද තවත් සමහර අය ිසතුන් මරන හිංසා කරණ සමාජ විරෝධි කටයුතු කරන අයද ින්නට හැකිය එවැනි අයත් වැඩි ආයුපයක් බුක්ති විදිති පෙර සංසාරේ ඔවුන් කර තිබෙන පාප කර්ම ඔවුන් පසුපස දිගටම එන බවයි එයින් හැගෙන්නේ

සමහර අය වැඩි ආයුපයක් ගත තොකර මරණයට පත් වෙයි ඒ අය අතර ජීවත්වන කෙටි කාලය තුල හොදින් පින්කම් සිදු කරමින් ආගම දහමට අනුව ජීවත් වෙමින් තමාටිත් තම පවුලේ අයටත් නෑදෑ හිතවත්තයින්ට ගමට රටට කරදරයක් නොවී ජීවත්වූ අය විය හැකිය 🗓 ඔවුන් තමාටත් පවුලේ අයටිත් සැම දෙනාටම යහපනක් කල උදව් උපකාර කල අය විය හැකිය එසේ වුවද එවැනි අයපෙර සංසාරයේදී කවදා හෝ සිත්ව හිංසාවක් කල හෝ ඒ සත්වයන්ගේ ජීවිත වලට හානි කල අය විය හැකිය එනිසා මනුපෳ බවයක් ලැබීමට පිත තිබුනද වැඩි කාලයක් ජීවත්වීමට පින නැති කෙනෙකි

ජීවත් වු කෙටි කාලය තුලදී තමාටත් මුලු මහත් සමාජයටත් කරදරකාරි ලෙස හැසිරුකු සමාජයට අයහපත් දේ කල අයද කෙටි ආයුපු විද මරණයට පත් වෙන අයද සිටිති එවැනි අය සංසාරය පුරාම අයහපත් කටයුතුවල යෙදුන අය විය හැකිය හදිසියේම මිය යන අය දකිනට පුලුවනි රිය අනතුරකින් වැටීමකින් යනාදී නොසිතු ලෙසික් මරණයට පත් වන අය අපට හමුවේ එවැනි අය සංසාරේ සත්ව ඝාතනය කල අය ලෙස හඳුනා ගත හැකිය සත්වයනිට හිංසා ඝාතනය කල මරණයට පත් කල අයගේ ජීවත්වීමෙං ආයුප අඩුයයි ධර්මයේ සදහන් වේ තවත් අය උපතේදීම මරණයට පත්වේ එයද පෙර කර තිබෙන පාප කර්මයක පලවිපාකයකි

මෙනිසා අපගේ මරණය කෙසේ සිදුවේදැයි අපට කිව නොහැකිය අප කළයුතු වන්නේ මරණයට ඔනෑම වේලාවකදී මුහුන දීමට සුදානමින් අපේ පෙර ජීවිත කෙසේද කියාද නොදනිනා නිසා නිරන්තරයෙන්ම පින් දහම් කරමින් තමාටත් සියලුම මනුපායන්ම්ත් සියලුම ලෝකවාසී සත්වයන්ටත් මෛති සහගතව මෛතුි කිරීමය තමාගෙ ආගම කුමක් වුවද ආගමානුකූලව ජීවත් වීමය

අප සැමදෙනාම ගෙනා පින් මේ වන විට අවසන් වෙමින් ඇත. ඒනිසා පරලොව ජීවිතයට යාමට ගතේ ගාස්තු සූදානම් කර ගත යුතුය. එලොවට ගොස් වියදම් කිරීමට අවශා මුදල් තමාගේ තමින්ම තැත්පත් කර ගැනීමය ඒ සඳහා ඔබටත් වෙත් අපි හැමෝටම පුඥාව පහල වේවා කියා පතමි

මංගල වේලාරත්න

BIRTHDAYS

Following members will be celebrating their birthdays in the months of June, July & August. We wish all of them "HAPPY BIRTHDAY" and another successful year of Good Cheer and Happiness!

JUNE	
Salinda Samarakoon	01st
Hugh Samarasinghe	03rd
Anil Samarasekera	03rd
Zubair Hassen	04th
lene Indraratne	10th
Irangani Dhanapala	14th
Wincent Dabara	18th
Janaka Kaluhendiwel	19th
A.J Pigera	19th
Priyath Salgado	25th
W.W.A.R. Ravndra	28th
Sanath Jayasuriya	30th

M.I.M. Nizar



Asita Abeysekera 01st Vipula Fertnando 02nd Mahendra Amarasekera 09th M.H.H. Ghouse 11th Mala Gunaratne 11th Renuka Gunasekera 11th A. Nasser Majeed 12th Chitral Perera 14th Raja Senanayake 17th Jackie Gunasekera 17th Gemunu Mendis(Canada) 19th Himani Rajasuriya 20th A.M.M. Nissar 22nd 24th Mano Sekeram 25th Adithya de Silva 27th Srinath Dissanayake 27th Antoinette Fernando 28th Senerath Gunaratne 28th Neil Hathasinghe. 28th Nilanthi Palihawadana 31st

7100001	
Khalid M. Farouk	01st
D.J. Nandasiri	01st
K.A.L. Peiris	02nd
Upul Rajapaksa	04th
Ananda Dissanayake	09th
Ruan Abeyratne	11th
Varuni8 Sagarika	11th
Dulip Soysa	11th
Prashanthi de Silva	12th
P. Manawadu	12th
Vimercia Fernando	13th
Gwendalin David	13th
Murali Prakash	17th
Suren Wijeratne	21st
G.P. Katugampala	23rd
George Hettiarachchi	24th
G.C. Wasalathanthri	25th
K.V.M.S.S. Bandara	28th

Chandrani Gunawardena 28th

AUGUST

OLE' SINGER PAST MEMBERS GET-TOGETHER NEW YEAR BREAKFAST AND BUFFET LUNCH

The Association organized a New Year Breakfast and Lunch for Members on Sunday, 30th April 2017. A delicious breakfast of Kiribath, Kavun, Mungkavung and Kokis was arranged. Regrettably the turn-out for the Breakfast was poor. However, the day's event took a turn for the better later in the morning where we had 47 members and 3 invitees present. Fun and entertainment com menced with an interesting game of tombola in which all members actively participated, following which a couple of games were organized, one being "Crowning the Ladies" entertaining the members to a lot of fun and laughter. A raffle draw as well as a draw on the entrance ticket was organized and prizes given some donated by members. The get-together wound up with a grand buffet lunch enjoyed by all.

Sent by Judith Vannitamby





Some of the participants at the Avurudu Get-together

Crowning the Ladies - Gents tying the knot.

NEXT NEWSLETTER

We propose to publish the next Newsletter in October 2017. Therefore, Please send in your articles for publication to reach the Editor by 20th September, 2017 the latest. Post or email your articles to:





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