



## ASSOCIATION OF PAST EMPLOYEES OF SINGER

80, Nawam Mawatha, Colombo 2

### Patron

Mr. Hemaka Amarasuriya

### President

Bertie Fernando  
Tel: 0715733  
Mob: 0724526229

### Vice Presidents

Nelson Mendis  
Tel: 2716209  
Mob: 0777271375  
Kalyana Dhirasekera  
Tel: 2901673  
Mob: 0712771793

### Secretary

Ananda Epa  
Tel: 2865351 (H)  
0117207676 (O)

### Asst. Secretary

Vijitha Jayawardena  
Mob: 0758005299  
0711643063

### Treasurer

A.M.M. Nissar  
Tel: 2530680  
Mob: 0714222325

### Asst. Treasurer

Janaka Kaluhendiwela  
Mob: 0777280734

### Executive Committee

- \* John Emmanuel  
Tel: 2820306  
Mob: 0777330577
- \* Gamini Wasalathanthri  
Tel: 2854745 (H)  
2829567 (O)  
Mob: 0713325035
- \* Lashantha Perera  
Tel: 2581995  
Mob: 0773080226/  
0714534732
- \* W.G.E. Dabara  
Tel: 2233957 (H)  
2943966 (O)
- \* Kaushalya Murugadasan  
Tel: 2363205  
Mob: 0773028389
- \* Judith Vannitamby  
Tel: 2770152  
Mob: 0775105299
- \* H.L.M. Nawaz  
Tel: 2767340  
Mob: 0714767974
- \* M, Zubair Hassen  
Mob: 0777749636

**Hony Auditor** : Mr. Priyath Salgado

### From the Editor's Desk

Dear Members,

This is the first issue of our Newsletter for the current year and with it we send you and your family our best wishes for a bright and prosperous New Year.

First and foremost, I take this opportunity to offer my sincere thanks to all those past employees who responded to our request for articles to be published in the Newsletter. Your contributions no doubt helped us to continue with the publication last year. A new year has now dawned and we expect many more members to recall their past experiences working for the Singer Group and share them with other members of the Association.

This year we hope to send out at least four issues of the Newsletter and to implement our plan successfully, we need the co-operation of all members of this Association. Whatever language you choose to write your articles, they will be accepted with both hands. So do not hesitate. Language is no barrier. Send them, we will do the rest. Thanks.

The Annual General Meeting of the Association was held on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2012 at Sea View Hotel, 15, Sea View Avenue, Colpetty.

### NEW MEMBERS



Two new members joined the Association at the Annual General Meeting:

Mr. T.V. Perera  
Mr. Murali Prakash

### APPOINTMENT OF SUB-COMMITTEES

The following Executive Committee Members were appointed to serve in 5 Sub-committees to plan and implement various activities of the Association for the current year:

### Social & Entertainment

Mr. Nelson Mendis, Mr. Lashantha Perera,  
Mr. Kalyana Dhirasekera, Ms. Kaushalya Muruga-  
dasan & Mr. John Emmanuel

### Newsletter & Publicity :

Mr. Gamini Wasalathanthri, Ms. Judith Vannitamby  
& Ms. Vijitha Jayawardena

### Scholarships :

Mr. Ananda Epa & Mr. Mr. Zubair Hassen

### Membership Drive :

Mr. Janaka Kaluhendiwela, Mr. Lashantha Perera  
& Mr. H.L.M. Nawaz

### Welfare of Members :

Mr. W. Dabare, Ms. Vijitha Jayawardena & Mr. Ananda Epa

### ***Anecdotes from Singer***



#### **"Oh: He is my Clerk"!**

Way back in the late Seventies, I was the District Manager in charge of Galle District and my Superior was the late Mr. Robin Ebert, Area Manager in charge of the South.

One morning, I called over at the Galle shop on a scheduled visit and commenced checking the inventory to prepare my Forms XYZ (Inventory Checking Forms). My Area Manager came to the shop at about 11 a.m. and enquired for Mr. Kudahetty, the Shop Manager who had not reported for work. Without any further questions, Mr. Ebert started to check the status of hire purchase accounts awaiting the arrival of Mr. Kudahetty (affectionately called Kuda). Since it was quite apparent that Kuda had taken a day off without informing the supervision, Mr. Ebert enquired from the shop assistant where Kuda was. Without any hesitation, the shop assistant replied "Sir he took some F.128s (Hire Purchase Account Card) before he left the shop last evening. He must be visiting hirers to collect this month's instalments. While perusing the F.128s, Mr. Ebert picked up one card which indicated the Account was delinquent for three consecutive months and decided to visit the hirer who was a waiter at the Galle Cricket Club. He requested me too to accompany him. Both of us got into

Mr. Ebert's V'Wagen Beetle I Sri 5727 and drove to the club at about 5pm. We made enquiries for the hirer and was told by another employee at the club that he was serving drinks to the members in the Billiard Room.

We walked into the Billiard Room and were shocked to see Kuda playing billiards with a burgher gentleman. Kuda saw us immediately we entered the Billiard Room but was not moved at all. Pretending he had not seen us, he continued to play. Mr. Ebert just excused himself and told Kuda that he would see him the following morning at the shop. Both of us drove back to the shop and from there to our respective hotels to spend the night.

For Kuda's bad luck, the Burgher gentleman who had been playing Billiards with Kuda too was spending the night at the same hotel where Mr. Ebert was. When both of them got together for a friendly chat, the Burgher gentleman had told Mr. Ebert that after he left the Billiard Room, he had casually asked Kuda who Mr. Ebert was and Kuda had unhesitatingly replied "Oh, he is my clerk'.

The following morning, no sooner the shop was opened for business, both Mr. Ebert and myself entered the premises and continued to attend to the work which we had abruptly stopped the previous evening.

Five minutes later, Kuda entered the shop. Mr. Ebert immediately got up from his seat and greeted Kuda thus 'Good Morning Sir'. Kuda returned the greetings but felt uneasy as Mr. Ebert's facial expressions were not at all pleasant. Kuda knew the joke he had cracked at the expense of Mr. Ebert had boomeranged and now he had to face the music.

Kuda did not waste any time. He apologized to Mr. Ebert and said "Sir, I did not mean to disrespect you or cause any embarrassment to you. I had to maintain the dignity of the Company which I worked for and wanted to show the Burgher gentleman that I too held an important position in the Company.

Knowing very well Kuda's character, Mr. Ebert just said "OK Sir, you are excused this time but I cannot let you go without even a lenient punishment. Take out the F.121 Receipt Book and clear the arrears on this account which is delinquent for three months. Kuda promptly cut three receipts and put them into the table drawer."

G.C. Wasalathanthri

**මෙය කියවා සතුටු වන්න**

- 01) ඇරයුම් පත් රැසක් ලැබුණත් විටින් විට  
අසනිපය නිසා බැරිවිය එන්න මට  
ආසා වුවත් මම සැමදෙන දැක ගත්ට  
දොස්තර අනුමැතිය ලැබුණේ නැත මෙමට
- 02) Heart Attack දෙවරක් සැදුණාය මට  
තුන්වෙනි එකෙන් හැකිවෙයි මෙලොවින් යන්ට  
ලැබුණොත් ඊට පෙර මම සැම හමුවන්නට  
ඇතිවන සතුට මෙතෙකැයි බැහැ කියන්නට
- 03) මිතුරිය විජිතා නිතරම මට අමතනවා  
ඇපා සොහොයුරන් දැක සැප විමසනවා  
ගමගේ සොහොයුරන් දැක සැප විමසුවා  
ඇති වූ සතුට මෙතෙකැයි කියනට බැරුවා
- 04) ඇත්තනි, ඇත්තටම නිතරම දුරකතනෙන්  
මට අමතනවා දෙදෙනම හට ආදරයෙන්  
මමත් මගේ සුපුරුදු සිනහව පාමින්  
කථා කරණවා ඔවුනට හට ආදරයෙන්
- 05) සිංගර් මිතුරු මිතුරියෝ නිතරම මෙමට  
ෆෝන් කරණවා දැක සැප දැනගන්ට  
මෙහි ඉඩ මදිය ඔවුනගේ නම් ලියන්නට  
දෙන්නකො සමාවක් අදරැති මාලාට
- 06) Society එකේ ඉන්නාවූ අලුත් අය  
හමු වන්නට ඇත්තෙන් හට ආසාය  
මට නම් කිසි දිනක එන්නට බැරි වෙයි  
ආවොත් සැවොම සතුටින් පිළි ගන්නෙමිය
- 07) සතුටත් කණගාටුවත් මට හොඳ නැතිලූ  
හැඳුමත් සිනහවත් දෙකමත් එලෙසයිලූ  
කැම බිම විමසිලිමත් විය යුතුලූ  
හැම දෙයක්ම දැන් අමතක කළ යුතුලූ
- 08) හතලිස් දෙකක් අවුරුදු සිංගර් එකට  
කළ සේවාව සිහි වෙනවා සැම විට  
ඉන් ඇති වන සතුට මෙතෙකැයි කියන්නට  
මා ලග වන නැත ඒ ගැන ලියන්නට

**Laugh All the While**

By: T.V. Perera

**(1) Soda Water Officer**

Soda and Disprin were freely available at SIC as first aid for employees with headaches and fever. However, it was those with a hangover following the previous night's boozing sessions who consumed most bottles of soda.

The newly appointed S.W.O (Security & Welfare Officer) Nelson Mendis who was assigned the task of handling the issue of soda somehow accomplished it much to the charging of most employees. They christened the SWO – Soda Water Officer.

**4 2) Santa Clause's Beard**

Mr. Hemaka Amarasuriya, the Finance Controller at that time, cut his finger on a file clip, which caused bleeding. His Secretary, Rani de Silva, instructed peon Jayawardena to bring some cotton wool to be placed over the wound but to Jayawardena's horror, the first aid box was empty. Yet, he brought a lump of cotton and gave it to Rani. Noticing at first glance that the cotton wool was dirty, Rani asked him where he brought from. "I pulled it off Santa Clause's costume beard near the Tiffin Room" Jayawardena explained.

**3) The unknown Funeral**

Three vibrant members of SIC Management Staff, Wijetunga, Nelson Mendis and Vidyaratne went for the funeral of a factory employee's father. While awaiting the employee to make his appearance, they had a long chat with the occupants enjoying soft drinks served twice. As it was getting late, they finally decided to leave the house and enquired for Ranjith, the employee.

"What Ranjith? There's nobody by that name here. Nobody here works at the Singer Factory" the householders replied.

The aghast three could only look at each other's faces. They had visited the wrong dead.

මාලා මංගලිකා අබේසූරිය,  
වාල්ස් රණසිංහ වැඩිහිටි නිවාසය,  
132 හයි ලෙවල් පාර,  
කොට්ටාව (Opposite Wickrama Hardware St.)  
දු.ක. 0755441692

#### 4) Bat Ekey Hilak

At a cricket match played at the Ratmalana Irrigation Grounds, Nelson Mendis playing for the office team strode to the middle, whirling the bat in his hand like a gigantic fan blade. Everybody expected to see the ball fly over the ropes but Nelson Mendis was clean bowled the very first ball he faced.

He walked back, looking at the bat every few steps. Approaching the pavilion he was greeted by his son Akila who shouted, "මොකද තානේ බැට එකේ හිලක්ද ?"

#### BIRTHDAYS:



We take this opportunity to wish the following members who are celebrating their Birthdays in March and April. Have we missed anyone ? Do please inform us.

<u>March</u>		<u>April</u>	
Pushpa Fonseka	1 <sup>st</sup>	D.A. Ariyadasa	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Susima Ponnampereuma	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Ananda Perera	5 <sup>th</sup>
Ranjit David	10 <sup>th</sup>	Ruan Abeyratne	11 <sup>th</sup>
Janaka Kumarasinghe	13 <sup>th</sup>	Sanath Wijetunge	13 <sup>th</sup>
Bertie Fernando	16 <sup>th</sup>	Percy Gunawardena	14 <sup>th</sup>
Kamalangani Perera	23 <sup>rd</sup>	D.M. Heen Menike	14 <sup>th</sup>
Sriyani Weerasinghe	23 <sup>rd</sup>	J.W. Dickman	16 <sup>th</sup>
G. Dewruwan	24 <sup>th</sup>	Anton Abeysekera	18 <sup>th</sup>
Swarna Prematilake	28 <sup>th</sup>	Ananda Epa	20 <sup>th</sup>
Delricus Peiris	29 <sup>th</sup>	R.G. Moorthy	20 <sup>th</sup>
		Nevin Noyahr	23 <sup>rd</sup>
		P. Shivaji	26 <sup>th</sup>

#### EVENTS PLANNED FOR YEAR 2013

We have planned the following Events for the current Year.

- \* Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May  
Cricket Match Get-together – Present Vs. Past Employees and a Net Ball Match
- \* July / August  
One Day Outing fir Members & families (Date & Venue to be finalized)
- \* September  
A Presentation on Health (Date & Speaker to be finalized)
- \* November – "Sing-a-long" Musical Evening – The Event you are looking forward to. (Date and Venue to be finalized)
- \* December- Annual General Meeting – Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December. Please keep the date free and make sure of your Presence.

#### NEXT NEWSLETTER

We have planned to publish the next issue of our Newsletter in May or early June. Members are kindly requested to send in contributions for publication not later than 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2013.

#### **Addressed to:**

G.C. Wasalathanthri  
6A, 6<sup>th</sup> Lane  
Pagoda Road  
Nugegoda