



NEWSLETTER

December
2009

ASSOCIATION OF PAST EMPLOYEES OF SINGER

From the Editor's Desk

Hi there Singer Muchachos,

We are with you for the final Newsletter of the year, and as the saying goes "all good things must come to an end". But more of that later, let's revert to our Associations Happenings during the last couple of months as there were great going ons since.

In September we had Mr. Christy Nanayakkara, the AGM of Corporate Banking, Seylan Bank, speaking to us on "Investing and Managing Personal Finances in Difficult times" which was followed by a very vocal discussion time, Drinks and then Lunch.

The presentation by Mr. Nanayakkara was extremely enlightening as he focused his thoughts and words on persons who had retired and were looking for a sound investment portfolio in these difficult times. Whilst he was buffeted with many pointed questions to which he had ready and thought provoking answers, he misfielded, we believe, when asked the question why did a Golden Key crash. His answer was "greed". Mr. S. Thiagarajah and another gentleman were immediately on their feet pointedly asking loudly "whose greed". The session ended with the "the cup that brings" great camaraderie amongst all, and a tastily prepared sponsored Lunch.

Then, in October the Association arranged its customary fund raising project in the way of screening the film 'Dorakada Marawa' at the Elphinstone Theatre on Saturday, 10th October at 5.30 p.m. The proceeds were in aid of the Associations Benevolent Fund. Mr. Hemaka Amarasuriya, Singer's Chairman graced the occasion as Chief Guest and participated with other distinguished personnel in lighting the traditional Oil Lamp. There was fair support, in these difficult times for the project and profits of approximately Rs.115,000/- was realized and would help swell the fund. Mr. Kalyana Dirasekera spared no pains in making this event a success and together with the Association's President, Bertie Fernando were chiefly responsible for the excellent work done. The Ex-Co thanks all Members who participated in the September Seminar and the October fund raiser in every way.

Contribution from Members

S. Thiagarajah sends in an anecdote of nostalgic memories of Singers great sporting history. Least your memory is fading, Thiagarajah was a pillar of the Company's Wharf Department and a towering figure on the Sports Field, particularly at Hockey.

"In the year 1959, the Singer Sports Club entered the 'C' Division knock out tournament and played its first match against 'Keell & Waldock Sports.Club.' a very strong side represented by many Europeans who were members of the CH&FC hockey team. The match was played at the Moors grounds and after a terrific tussle we won by 2 goals to 1. Raj Fernando and Romauld

Fernando scored for us. It was a superb victory over a star studded opposition. The Singer Hockey side won many more matches and came up to the final and were drawn to meet the strong Lake House Sports Club for the inaugural 'C' Division K/O finals" for the "A. Baur & Co. trophy which was scheduled to be played at the Colombo Oval.

Thiagarajah goes on to say that since this was the First ever Finals, the Sports Club invited all its members as well as the members of the 'City Branch Managers. The Club wanted maximum support from all concerned and so provided additional transport for all and sundry to come and cheer the side on. Needless to say the spectators from both sides thronged the sidelines in anticipation of a truly great match.

The match bullied off at a hectic pace but there was no scoring in the first 5 minutes with the match moving to and fro with players looking for a break in each others defences which would enable them to score. The break did suddenly come with the late Clarie Peiris our right extreme sounding the boards to an accompaniment of resounding cheers from the 'Singer spectators. Then this was followed by a second goal by the late Mark Zieglaar and a third by the writer, which sent the 'Singer Crowd' into rapturous hurrahs! It looked as if the match was in the bag at the end of the first half and there was great singing and shouting from the vociferous 'Singer Spectators'.

"The second half began with the Lake House side storming the Singer Goal with an untold frenzy and before we knew what was happening they scored three times and the scores were level at 3 each".

The 'Singer crowd' was hushed, whereas the Lake House Spectators went into tumultuous cheers and were spurring their team on to further achievement.

A Ding Dong battle was now on with play swinging from one corner of the field to the other. It was at this stage of the game that the late Subbiah Rajendra a product of Matale and Kandy District Hockey Association, employed by us as a sales person at the Warakapola shop, broke free from the melee and scored the 4th goal for Singers. Loud shouting erupted once again from our silent spectators as they smelt victory for our side. Minutes went ticking by and just before full time, I was able to put the issue beyond doubt by scoring my second goal for the match and we won 5 to 3 at full time."

"Singers' was thereafter well known for a strong Hockey Side. Some of the names that come to mind in addition to those mentioned earlier are Batcho Selvarajah, Ravi Hewathanthri, Shanthi MacLelland, Zubair Hassen, Neville Daniel, A.S.M. Ifhan, M. Mahesaratnam, Majuula Wijemanne, Damith Jayasena, Caritha Senanayake, Indika Hewawasam, Shan Jurangpathy, Suren de Wijeratne, Dhammika Wijesundera, Nandana Wijesundera, Indika Gunawardena, M. Suresh Kumar, Thushara Welliwatte and erstwhile Anton Abeysekera and our present Chairman, Hemaka Amarasuriya," he winds up.

Pushpa Fonseka goes down 'Memory Lane' with a nostalgic poem she has sent us

"What a Happy Crowd we were
At Singers, yester year,
Whatever creed or race
Young, matured, married or single
Enjoined together as a bouquet of flowers.
Funloving Hassen, pretty skinned Lilian

Sweet faced Errani and Dimpled Mano,
Vivacious Jasmine, Serious Saro,
Helpful Nilam and joyful Beata

Sporty Epa and lanky Thiaga
Baila Ranjan and giggling Mala,
Smiling Anthony, pale faced Johnny
Talkative Farouk and smartly dressed Bala.

The pretty Stenos, Judith & Shiro
And their Bosses, Dulcie and Viji,

Friendly Shanthi, Selvie & Saku,
Marie the Mom so active as ever
To mention some that come to mind
Somehow we meet to talk and laugh
Until that day, we too must bide.

Vijitha Jayawardena sends an Ode to 'Our President'

'Personable, Active and Able is H.S.B.
Representing a Battalion of 170
Ever ready and willing to guide the A.P.E.S. Committee,
Simple, but steady – a powerful commander – carefree

In seventy three joining Singer – SIC
Developed career from Junior Management to Middle and Senior latterly
Ending up as Director (Regnis) and then as consultant, you see
Now retired, still so busy as Head of Past Employees
To him we send wishes with good cheer
For long life upto a century.

ICC Centenary Medals – 2009

Our current Chairman Mr. Hemaka Amarasuriya and Vice President Mr. Nelson Mendis have been honoured with full member ICC Centenary Medals for 2009 in recognition of their individual contribution and commitment to the game of Cricket in Sri Lanka. The medals were awarded to Mr. Amarasuriya and Mr. Mendis at a glittering ceremony by the ICC to celebrate 100 years of existence by the Chief Executive of the Council recently.

I believe we are all aware of what Singer has done for Cricket as well as other sports, over the last decades in the way of sponsorships and other assistance. Mr. Amarasuriya was at the helm of all such financial assistance initiating many grants without which cricket in Sri Lanka would have had difficult times, particularly in the year we won the World Cup in 1996.

Mr. Amarasuriya was instrumental in sponsoring and conducting the "Singer World Series" Tournament in 1994 with Sri Lanka, Australia, India and Pakistan participating. This tournament was handled entirely by Singer with assistance from the Board of Control for Cricket. Our Patron led the Sri Lanka Cricket Board as its Interim Committee Chairman for two years with distinction. Singer also helped Mercantile and School Cricket with patronage from Mr. Amarasuriya.

Mr. Mendis has been coaching cricketers at all levels and specially at junior level for almost fifty years. Currently he is administering the C.C.C. School of Cricket at the C.C.C. and will be celebrating his half century in the field of coaching on 30th March 2010. He has coached around 14 Cricketers who represented Sri Lanka. He started coaching at Dharmasoka and Nalanda Colleges and produced cricketers for the National side including the first Test Cricket Captain Bandula Warnapura

Whilst taking pride of the above facts, your Association congratulates both Mr. Amarasuriya and Mr. Mendis for the yeoman service rendered and wish them many more years of dedication and commitment to the game.



Birthday Wishes for December

And now we wish all you 'December Borns' a very Happy Birthday and may all your "sweet little dreams" (SIC) come true. Have lots of cake and ice cream, and down it all with a good scotch and soda and lots of ice:

W.M. Kumarasinghe	-	1/12
Shiroma Pieris	-	2/12
J. Sadique	-	3/12
Muditha Wijayakulathilake	-	10/12
Romesh de Silva	-	11/12
Manomany Chandraratne	-	17/12
Kaushalya Murugadasan	-	24/12
Sonny Perera	-	27/12
George Anthony	-	28/12
Aron de Silva	-	29/12

A.G.M. - A reminder to all our members that the AGM of the Association will be held on Sunday the 13th of December very likely at the 'Sea View Hotel', Colombo 3. A separate notice will follow with the previous minutes and other details. Please be present as this will be the last occasion for the year for you to meet with old friends and colleagues and socialize.



'Smile-a-While (if you can!)

And now for some "Limerics" to make you smile!

1. A lady, whilst removing her scanties
Heard crackling electrical chanties,
Said her husband "My Dear,
I very much fear
You suffer from AMPS in your panties
2. There was a young man from TACOMA
Whose breath had a Whisky Aroma

To alter the smell
 He swallowed 'chanel'
 And spun off in a heavenly coma

3. There was a young man from Madras
 Who possessed a beautiful Ass
 It was not round and pink,
 As you possibly think,
 But was grey, had long ears and ate Grass!

4. God's plan, made a wonderful beginning
 But man spoilt his chances by sinning.
 We pray that the story
 Will end in God's Glory
 But at present, the other sides winning.

5. There once was an AFRICAN MAU-MAU,
 Got into a very bad 'row row',
 The cause of his friction?
 His practicing diction
 Saying "how-how, now-now, brown-brown, cow-cow"

Conclusion:

And so my friends we must say,

"Au-Revoir for 2009" as the year is now fast drawing to its close. Our Committee consisting of Judith, Gamini and yours truly Lucky, will also be saying 'Adiue' and taking our leave of you. It has been a pleasure bringing the Quarterly Newsletters to you for year 2009 and we extend our sincere thanks to all you beautiful people who sent in your contributions in writing, making our publications so much more interesting.

Also, the Ex Co did a great job with Bertie at the Helm in bringing so many varied types of activities for your participation during the year. The sports day, the Medical Seminar, the Financial Presentation, the Sing-a-long, and the screening of 'Dorakoda Marawa' were well attended activities and we trust that you enjoyed these events and the camaraderie and reminiscence these brought you. Like we said, the AGM in December is to be another opportunity for us to meet over drinks and lunch. We trust you will be there.

And finally December being the month of Christmas cheer, we trust the Season sees you in a very Festive Mood, despite the recessions, depressions, and Elections. The resilience of Sri Lankans to celebrate is world renown, and we are very lucky to be able to do so and drive away 'the blues'.

So let's Ring out the bells and welcome Santa and his reindeer, pull out the goods, and the cup that cheers, and celebrate another passing year, wishing each other a ***"MERRY CHRISTMAS and A JOYFUL NEW YEAR!!"***

Newsletter & Publicity Committee



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