



The Dutch Burgher Union of Ceylon

Bulletin - February 2009



EDITORIAL

The month when people around the world begin to search in their hearts for expressions of appreciation and love for the special folk in their lives... the month of St Valentine, patron saint of Love!

The DBU's Valentine's Day party, "Hearts on Fire" saw the hall decked out in Red hearts and cupids, the band Kismet in attendance and around 75 members and guests dancing the night away.

February is also the month when Sri Lanka celebrates Independence, and this year the DBU was invited by the Ministry of Finance and Planning, which is headed by the President of the nation, to participate in a special parade on Independence Day, the 4th of February. All communities in Sri Lanka were invited to participate and the DBU had to represent the Dutch Burghers in a parade which included Colombo Chetties, Chinese, Malays, Portuguese Burghers, Bharathas, Borahs, Memons, Kaffirs, Veddahs, etc.

A "Sri Lanka Street" was set up as part of the huge exhibition held at the BMICH, along which every community was requested by the government to run a stall showcasing their history, culture and traditions. The Dutch Burgher stall was most impressive, and featured a Dutch Burgher home, with Antique Dutch period furniture, posters depicting the painting of Speilbergen landing in Batticaloa, a brief narration of our history and a display of utensils used in making Dutch Burgher food like Bredudher pans, waffles, etc. Given that we were given a short period of 14 days to have it all organised, the DBU put on a splendid display! The only disappointing issue was that very few of our members turned up for the parade. Despite over 20 members giving in their names and security clearance obtained for them all, only 11 turned up; and we are most thankful to them all – Nigel Austin, Stephen Labrooy, Daniel Kellar, Mervyn and Beverly Dirckze, Emil Kronenberg, Duncan Muller, Carol Prins, J.B. Muller and Jerry and Johan Anderson. Yours truly and Kem

Martenstyn manned the DBU stall when President Mahinda Rajapakse visited the stall. Many thanks to Kem for loaning her beautiful collection of hats for the ladies to wear, to Stephen for loaning his wonderful antique furniture and to Dallas Martenstyn and Fleur Mack for loaning their Dutch cooking utensils.

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We also appreciate the time taken by all who were rostered to man the stall during the five days of the exhibition – Stephen Labrooy, Carol Prins, David Colin Thome, Dominic Kellar, Emil Kronenberg, David Martenstyn, Anne-Marie Kellar, David Grenier, Dallas Martenstyn, Christine Walbeoff, J.B. Muller and of course our office staff Mohan, Etienne and Gordon. David Joachim and Linda Arooz were dressed in period costume on the opening night of the exhibition, and we thank them for their participation. It was amazing to all of us, to face the realization that so many Sri Lankans did not even know of the existence of Dutch Burghers! Many looked at us in the stall as if we were some sort of aliens, and were even in awe of talking to us, fearing we would not understand Sinhala. It was quite an educational experience for a lot of people – millions visited the exhibition, termed

Deyata Kirula – and for those of us who had to answer the questions asked of us.

Well, very soon another term will come to an end for those of us on the General Committee, and nominations will be called shortly for nominations for the next President and General committee.

Watch out for the fantastic Retro Party on the cards on 27th February at the DBU, in association with the island's hottest Retro Music radio station, Radio One (104.5 FM). With fabulous prizes on offer, a great band "Black", popular Radio DJs Tom Hart, 007 Spy and Diamond Deen will host the party and spin the hits from the 50s to the 90s. A host of sponsors will be giving away great deals at the Bar. Tickets are priced at only Rs 500 for guys and all ladies enter free!

The Union is really "rocking" now – and we want you all to be a part of it. See you all on the 27th in your Retro gear – bell bottoms, hot pants, minis, maxis, midis, Elvis collars, Englebert sideburns, platform shoes, beads, headbands etc! A prize of a pair of original Levis Jeans (any size, him or her) will be the prize given to the best dressed Retro couple.

Tune in to Radio One on your radios, all of you fans of the good old hits of the past – from the 50s to the 90s, on the frequency 104.5 FM for some great music, competitions and prizes.

Cheers,
Anne-Marie

WELFARE REPORT JANUARY 2009

On Saturday, 17th January the children sponsored by the BA of Melbourne were paid their 2nd and 3rd quarters for 2008, and a few interviews too were held on the same morning.

On Tuesday, 27th January the Welfare Beneficiaries sponsored by the ECOM were paid their 1st quarter for 2009. Present with me this morning were Mrs Rosemary Outschoorn and Mrs Mystica Flamer Caldera. Spectacles received from

the ECOM were distributed to those who needed them and some interviews were also held of prospective WBs.

On Saturday the 31st instant the children sponsored by the ECOM were paid their 1st quarter allowance together with the Book Allowance which is paid annually in January.

Anthea Muller
Chairperson - Social Welfare

RODNEY JONKLAAS' COLLECTION OF SEASHELLS OF SRI LANKA

Rodney Stralton Jonklaas, marine biologist and diver of international repute, has done a great service to marine biology. Even when he is no more, his life's work survives. He has left behind reminders of his time in the ocean that will benefit generations to come. Among these is a magnificent collection of seashells lovingly accumulated and maintained during his lifetime.

After his demise, this collection was put up for sale. As advised by the National Science Foundation (NSF) Working Committee on Zoological Survey of Sri Lanka, the Board of Management of NSF decided that this collection should be treated as a national treasure and should not leave the shores of Sri Lanka. Thus, in 1997, the NSF purchased this collection for a sum of Rs 650,000.

The seashell collection was later inventoried and indexed, and a computerised database for the identification was prepared under the guidance of Prof. S.U.K. Ekaratne of the University of Colombo.

Early this year, this collection was donated to the National Museum of Sri Lanka to be kept in its zoological division, for exhibition as well as for scientific purposes. It was open to the public on 29th March 2001, by the Minister of Cultural Affairs, Hon. Monty Gopallawa. This collection will form the nucleus around which the national zoological collection and national database on fauna of Sri Lanka will be established.

DEYATA KIRULA EXHIBITION



WARREN BUFFET - WORLD #1 BILLIONAIRE FOR 2008

Letter to Berkshire Hathaway Inc. shareholders

We begin this New Year with dampened enthusiasm and dented optimism. Our happiness is diluted and our peace is threatened by the financial illness that has infected our families, organizations and nations.

Everyone is desperate to find a remedy that will cure their financial illness and help them recover their financial health. They expect the financial experts to provide them with remedies, forgetting the fact that it is these experts who created this financial mess.

Every new year, I adopt a couple of old maxims as my beacons to guide my future.

This self-prescribed therapy has ensured that with each passing year, I grow wiser and not older. This year, I invite you to tap into the financial wisdom of our elders along with me, and become financially wiser. I'm certain that those who have already been practicing these Principles remain financially healthy. I'm equally confident that those who resolve to start practicing these principles will quickly regain their financial health.

Let us become wiser and lead a happy, healthy, prosperous and Peaceful life.

WARREN BUFFET'S PRINCIPLES

Hard work: All hard work brings profit; but mere talk leads only to poverty.

Laziness: A sleeping lobster is carried away by the water current.

Earnings: Never depend on a single source of income.

Spending: If you buy things you don't need, you'll soon sell things you need.

Savings: Don't save what is left after spending; spend what is left after saving.

Borrowings: The borrower becomes the lender's slave.

Accounting: It's no use carrying an umbrella, if your shoes are leaking.

Auditing: Beware of little expenses; a small leak can sink a large ship.

Risk-taking: Never test the depth of the river with both feet.

Investment: Don't put all your eggs in one basket.



WHEN INSULTS HAD CLASS!

These glorious insults are from an era when cleverness with words was still valued, before a great portion of the English language got boiled down to 4-letter words.

- ☺ The exchange between Churchill & Lady Astor: She said, 'If you were my husband I'd give you poison,' and he said, 'If you were my wife, I'd drink it.'
- ☺ A Member of Parliament to Disraeli: 'Sir, you will either die on the gallows or of some unspeakable disease.' 'That depends, Sir,' said Disraeli, 'whether I embrace your policies or your mistress.'
- ☺ 'He had delusions of adequacy.' - Walter Kerr
- ☺ 'He has all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire.' - Winston Churchill
- ☺ 'A modest little person, with much to be modest about.' - Winston Churchill
- ☺ 'I have never killed a man, but I have read many obituaries with great pleasure.' - Clarence Darrow
- ☺ 'He has never been known to use a word that might send a reader to the dictionary.' - William Faulkner (about Ernest Hemingway).
- ☺ 'Poor Faulkner. Does he really think big emotions come from big words?' - Ernest Hemingway (about William Faulkner)
- ☺ 'Thank you for sending me a copy of your book; I'll waste no time reading it.' - Moses Hadas
- ☺ 'He can compress the most words into the smallest idea of any man I know.' - Abraham Lincoln
- ☺ 'I didn't attend the funeral, but I sent a nice letter saying I approved of it.' - Mark Twain
- ☺ 'He has no enemies, but is intensely disliked by his friends.' - Oscar Wilde
- ☺ 'I am enclosing two tickets to the first night of my new play; bring a friend...if you have one.' - George Bernard Shaw to Winston Churchill
- ☺ 'Cannot possibly attend first night, will attend second... if there is one.' - Winston Churchill, in response.
- ☺ 'I feel so miserable without you; it's almost like having you here.' - Stephen Bishop
- ☺ 'He is a self-made man and worships his creator.' - John Bright
- ☺ 'I've just learned about his illness. Let's hope it's nothing trivial.' - Irvin S. Cobb
- ☺ 'He is not only dull himself, he is the cause of dullness in others.' - Samuel Johnson
- ☺ 'He is simply a shiver looking for a spine to run up.' - Paul Keating
- ☺ 'There's nothing wrong with you that reincarnation won't cure.' Jack E. Leonard
- ☺ 'He has the attention span of a lightning bolt.' - Robert Redford
- ☺ 'They never open their mouths without subtracting from the sum of human knowledge.' - Thomas Brackett Reed
- ☺ 'In order to avoid being called a flirt, she always yielded easily.' - Charles, Count Talleyrand
- ☺ 'He loves nature in spite of what it did to him.' - Forrest Tucker
- ☺ 'Why do you sit there looking like an envelope without any address on it?' - Mark Twain
- ☺ 'His mother should have thrown him away and kept the stork.' - Mae West
- ☺ 'Some cause happiness wherever they go; others, whenever they go.' - Oscar Wilde
- ☺ 'He uses statistics as a drunken man uses lamp-posts...for support rather than illumination.' - Andrew Lang (1844-1912)
- ☺ 'He has Van Gogh's ear for music.' - Billy Wilder
- ☺ 'I've had a perfectly wonderful evening. But this wasn't it.' - Groucho Marx

VALENTINE'S DAY



MAILBOX

Love the bulletin - well done
Anne-Marie!

Keep the good work - going!
May God shower down all his
graces & keep you in good health

God bless you,
Dorothy de Zylwa
Colombo

OBITUARIES

Mr George Arndt, former DBU Secretary

DBU MEMORABILIA

Buy your DBU mugs, caps and car stickers from the DBU bar or office – be proud to be a member of the DBU!

Car Stickers: Rs 100 | DBU Caps : Rs 200 | DBU Mugs: Rs 300

BIRTHDAYS IN FEBRUARY

Mrs Loretta Burditt, Ms. Tamara Flamer-Caldera, Ms. Janice Joachim, Mrs Bobby Jordan-Hansen, Mrs Sabina Kelaart, Mrs Anthea Muller, Mrs C.V. Melder, Mrs Mary Ridgeon, Mrs Penny Stock, Mrs Eesha Speldewinde, Mrs K.S.B. Vincent, Ms Susanne Van Lieshout;
Messrs. Mervyn Anderiesz, Andrew Christoffelsz, Kevin Gray, Carlyle Gray, David Joachim, Anver Jafferjee, Dominic Kellar, Simon Lourensz, Dallas Martenstyn, J.B. Muller, Richard Ohlmus, R.C. Prins, Samson Pereira, Gerard Schokman, Mark Sisouw De Zilwa and Neville van Eyck.



DARTS AND SNOOKER COMPETITION 2009



Upali Seneviratne



Jerry Anderson



David Joachim

Darts - Round the Clock
Winner - David Joachim
Runner-up - Jerry Anderson

Darts - 301
Winner - Dorian Gray
Runner-up - Dallas Martenstyn

Snooker Singles
Winner – David Colin-Thome
Runner-up – Upali Seneviratne

Billiards
Winner – David Colin-Thome
Runner-up – Upali Seneviratne

Snooker Doubles
Winners – Tony de Livera & David Colin-Thome
Runners-up – Yanick Martenstyn & Dallas Martenstyn

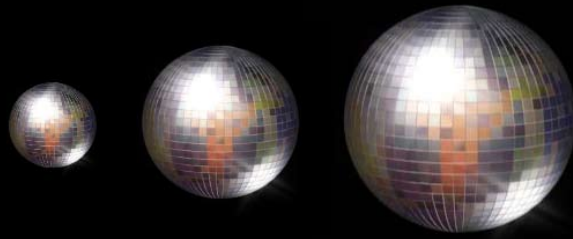


Dorian Gray



David Colin-Thome

Winners receiving awards from former President Kem Martenstyne



THE RADIO ONE SHOW

A RETRO PARTY LIKE NEVER BEFORE!

Friday 27th February 2009 9pm onwards

Band - 'BLACK' featuring MONIQUE
With Radio One DJs Tom Hart, Diamond Deen and Spy!!
Dancing to Music from the 50s to the 90s!
Special deals from Alpha Orient Co!



Lots of great prizes to be won

- Satya Paul tie and cufflinks set worth Rs 10,000
- Oriflame gift packs worth Rs 3,000 - Rs 4,000
- Original Levis jeans (him or her, any size!) for the best dressed couple in Retro style
- 5 prizes of VCD packs (5 original VCDs in each pack) of the best Retro movies from M Entertainment
- 4 prizes of vouchers for Dinner for two at the Ceylon Continental Hotel

**Come in your bell bottoms, beads, hotpants, minis etc etc!
Liquor at special prices - no liquor to be brought from outside.
Tune into Radio One on 104.5 FM for special deals!**