

MC

LIVE

Issue 10



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Editor : Dr. Siddarth Shetty

IN RIGHT EARNEST

MAY... and it's peak summer, when all one wants to do is keep sipping on tall glasses of something cold and delicious. The heat is on in several ways as election fever grips the nation and we wait with bated breath for the 23rd of May - the real wheeling and dealing will begin then!

May is also holiday time as people pack their bags and zoom off to distant lands. Our own club members will be off on a sojourn to Turkey. We wish them a wonderful vacation.

The CHETTINAD FOOD FESTIVAL was a runaway success. Our staff were in sync with the cuisine as they donned traditional

Chennai attire and created the right ambience.

Our F&B department gets another feather in its cap with the addition of a full fledged continental menu. A dedicated chef has been recruited for this and you can look forward to pampering your palate.

On the entertainment front it was heartening to see a packed house for the monthly housie. Thanks to Mr Vishwanath Mallya for volunteering to call out the numbers and our new member Mr Aditya Pai for sponsoring the prizes.

The club rooms are being refurbished and the work is in progress. The planned renovation of the admin area will be taken up in mid May.

As the IPL reaches the business end of the tournament plans are on to have special screening of the play offs. Details to follow.

We look forward to seeing you members more often in the club and do enjoy the rest of your summer vacation!

Ganesh Kamath
Hon. Secretary



CHICKEN ALA KIEV CRAFTED BY OUR NEW CONTINENTAL CHEF

THE EDITOR'S DESK

I think we can finally say with conviction that humanity is at an all time low. The events that unfolded in Sri Lanka bear witness to that. The attack came just when we thought that terror was a thing of the past in the emerald Isles. Let us all pray for that country's speedy recovery back to being a tourist haven.

Back in Mangalore we're bang in the middle of a terrible summer 'nuff said. The elections are being conducted along various parts of the country, mostly peaceful. Most Mangaloreans rushed to vote in the early hours, keen to avoid the afternoon sun.

A lovely feature of the holidays is the sports training camps being held around the city. You have training camps teaching kids the fundamentals in Tennis, Badminton, Swimming and of course Cricket. We must appreciate the revival of Tennis

coaching in Mangalore by a neighbouring club. It has been a much neglected sport in Mangalore.

I recently attended a discussion on Mangalorean cuisine. Came away feeling there is the need for parents to train kids in their traditional cuisine, the culinary skills of the past must be passed on to the next generation to preserve them. Sometimes you never realise how easily precious knowledge is lost, never to be recovered.

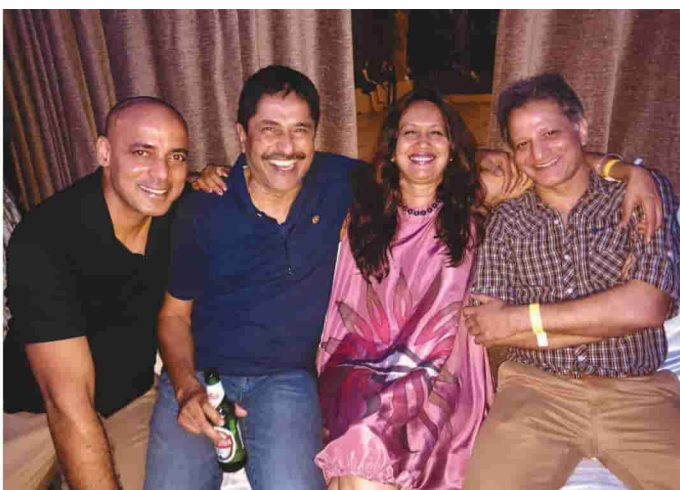
In MC live this month, a visitor to the club gives a rollicking account of the Easter ball, one of the pioneer dentists of Mangalore, who is also a long standing member is interviewed by Rajni Patrao, a unique Mangalorean home is featured and Isaac Vas reminisces the circumstances of the loss of the family muzzle-loader; a much loved possession of every house hold in the past.

Dr. Siddarth Shetty
Editor, MC Live

MAJESTIC MANGLORE BUNGALOWS : CHALK CLIFF



'Chalk Cliff' situated in Kodiabail has a history of over 100 years. The unique feature of this house is the elevation from the road. It has a majestic curving approach from the gate. The house has a lovely portico and high ceilings. Mr. A. Umanath Rao, an erstwhile popular chartered accountant of Mangalore bought this house in 1956. This ancestral house now owned and immaculately maintained by his son Mr. A. Suresh Rao and his wife Mrs. Hema Rao contains priceless memories for 3 generations of the Rao family. Mr. A. Suresh Rao is incidentally the Chartered accountant of Mangalore club.



EASTER EVENING CELEBRATIONS

- Brandon de Souza



For a person who now lives in a dust bowl, they call the Capital-Delhi, it was a true revelation making a whistle stop in gorgeous Mangalore and I am so glad that I did! It is easily one of India's best kept secrets and while I picked the worst time of the year-Summer, the calming ocean breeze, swaying palms, warmth and hospitality by my hosts - Peter and Paul Mascarenhas has made this a truly memorable two days.

Mangalore Club - MC has to be everyone's favourite pit stop. I was fortunate to have my second night there coincide with an Easter Evening celebration and while I am sure that like this bad Catholic not everyone had made sacrifices through Lent, watching people let their hair down was sheer pleasure. Clearly, I observed Mangaloreans come late but when they do arrive - they are in no hurry to leave.... Ladies, you are really lucky!!!! Oodles of hugging and kissing was the order of the day and while the dance floor was busy with some looking like they were having an epileptic fit- the star of the evening for me was DJ Lalith who played great tracks from old favourites like Bruce Springsteen and Ricky Martin among others.

The club can take a bow for delivering a bespoke menu of mostly continental fare which was well appreciated as the mercury had soared to over 37 degrees. My vote for the favourite dish would go to the Lamb Fettuccine in the array of main course and what we refer to as "devils on horseback" canape, re-coined as "pigs in a blanket" was clearly the hit of the evening. Met wonderful people, though, will not risk sharing names as there were too many who were introduced to me though sadly most of the ladies refused to share their phone numbers-guess it's an age thing!!!

Kudos to the secretary- Ganesh Kamath and the whole team at the Mangalore Club apart from my own buddies Peter and Paul and wish more success to the club in the years ahead. MC clearly is well and alive and I cannot wait to visit again!!!!

Brandon de Souza is the Chairman & MD of Tiger Sports Marketing Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi and was a special guest at our Easter Celebrations.

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MEET - DR. HENRIC LOBO



Dr. Henric Lobo is a renowned dental surgeon, a coffee planter and has been a Mangalore club member for the past 40 years. Known for his warmth and beaming smile, he is a familiar face in the club and around Mangalore. A man who has donned many hats over the years and done his share for society. He has been past president of; Rotary club of Mangalore South, Dental Association D.K branch, Christian planters guild. Past Asst. Governor of Rotary Dist. 3180, Past secretary of Kanara club and has been vice president of Chikmagalur Catholic club for the last 8 years. A caring husband to his lovely wife Renee, and an exemplary father to his 3 children Rohan, Ryan and Monisha. Here's a brief interview with Dr. Henric.

You were the first joint secretary of Mangalore club in 1990, what was your most memorable contribution to the club?

In 1990 I negotiated an out of court settlement with the lawyer of 2 staff members who claimed possession of their staff quarters on 9 cents of unused club land under the then powerful Tenancy

act. The premises were subsequently vacated and now houses the present staff quarters and a portion of the car park. This is my most memorable contribution as a committee member from 1988 to 1992.

If you could change one thing in the club today. What would it be?

I would like the blackballing ratio to be amended from 1:3 to 1:2.

The biggest change you've seen in Mangalore in the last 40 years?

Growth of a small town into a cosmopolitan city.

If you could re-live one particular instance of your life, which would it be?

Marriage with my wife Renee.

If not a dental surgeon, what would have been your alternate career choice?

I would have loved to be a Doctor of Medicine.

Kya aapke toothpaste mein namak hain?

Namak nahin, sakkar hain. Mujh jaisa meeta hain.

According to you, _____ is the best medicine.

Happiness is the best medicine...but if that doesn't work then a shot of whiskey should do the trick!

"Anything can happen over a coffee" your thoughts as a coffee planter?

Well, my first date was over a cup of coffee and all I can say is that it definitely is a stimulant!

Your idea of a perfect holiday is?

Anywhere with my family.

Your advice to the younger generation of MC members.

As a member since 40 years, I would say, Enjoy the club facilities with dignity and decorum.

Interviewed by **Rajni Lobo Patrao**

EVENTS

Events for the month of May 2019:

18.05.2019 – Saturday – Housie.

26.05.2019 – Sunday– Rummy Knockout



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IDENTITY: THE MUZZLE-LOADER AND THE CUSTODY LOST

Many summers ago almost every Mangalorean house owned a gun. It was part of the landscape as a décor in the living room when you entered one. Strangely in our house the antique muzzle-loader that my father owned was never on display. Shoved in the space between the corner of the wall and a wooden cupboard it seemed it better served as a club rather than a firearm in case you needed it for self defense. Though I grew up amidst relatives who owned an array of such weapons, I am not a fan for more than one reason.

The most popular guns in those days were breech loading single barrel guns which used red-colored cartridges as projectiles. An Uncle in the family with political connections boasted of a gun license that enabled him to carry it all over the country. However his marksmanship was so poor that surrounding fruits from the tree would fall but not the target. In those days when families met, hunting stories with a lot of added spice, entertained the whole neighborhood

gathered around in the twilight over a pot of freshly extracted palm toddy. We kids listened awe struck not knowing that much of it could have been fiction. The City Armory near Taj Mahal Restaurant next to Zenith Shoes was doing brisk business selling these guns and ammunitions to aficionados.

Though breech loading guns were popular, early firearms were almost entirely muzzle-loading. The main advantage of breech-loading is a reduction of reloading time. Only the strong hearted and ethical hunter would choose a muzzle-loader. The muzzle-loader requires an enormous amount of patience to load which is an art by itself and doesn't even qualify to be a firearm in the US. The protocol first starts with cleaning the barrel with a rag wrapped around the ram rod. After which a measured amount of gun powder is added followed by coconut fiber as wadding. Then solid propellant pellets were inserted and more wadding. Each time you had to hammer the bore with the ram rod to keep the contents packed. Finally a percussion cap was placed on the nipple hammer which was then cocked to make the firearm ready for the blast. When all this happened, in case you were facing a tiger or a ferocious wild boar, you were sure to meet your maker before your adversary did. The challenge of a muzzle loader was that 200 yards was about the limit of ballistic and shooter performance. So the best bet was to

use your hunting skills and get as close to your game as possible. That is what muzzle-loader shooting is all about – less aim, more stealth and an equal chance for the hunter and the hunted.

With a catastrophic decline in wild life in India today, hunting is banned. It is pretty much illegal to shoot even a crow now. Western countries are better known to regulate their wild life. They declare a special hunting season when there is a spurt in their numbers. The muzzleloading rifle is the oldest fire arm on earth. It has been around since the start of the 17th Century. World over muzzle-loaders were dying out when the Muzzle Loaders Association was formed in the 70s in the US and the first World Championship was held in 1971. In the western world even to this day muzzle-loading guns, both antique and reproduction, are used for target shooting, hunting, historical re-enactment and have a large following.

Elections in India always remind me of the muzzle-loader that my father had. Every owner of a gun had to deposit it at the nearest police station. Before the turn of the century my father expired after a brief illness and in the grief we all forgot about the muzzle-loader until years later a Police officer came knocking informing us that this gun was giving them a nightmare during inventory check and inspection. I politely refused custody quoting legal reasons with a ruse that I did not have any license and my father was no more. Determined to get rid of the gun from his hands, the officer, offered to accompany me till I deposited it at a licensed armory near Bunder. My travails did not end there; the gun was among the weapons stolen during riots that hit Mangalore a few weeks later. This was a serious case which hit the headlines. Once again a COD Inspector turned up at my door step informing me that I have become part of the criminal proceedings against the culprits as my father was the original owner and took down a statement. From then on court summons were a regular affair. The judge was sympathetic to me for the woes that were bestowed on me for no fault of mine, he asked me whether I wanted my father's gun back, I promptly replied in the negative and the gun was to be suitably disposed off as per his order. Sometimes I wonder if I made the right choice by refusing custody. My young son says I did not. I have missed a chance to narrate stories of guns and hunters in the days to come.

- Isaac Vas

