



Bulletin - April 2008

New President's Message



It is a privilege to address you as your new President, in this, our centenary year. Looking back through our rich history, it is also a tremendous honour to hold office in a role that has previously been presided upon by some of the most illustrious

names, not just from our community, but from our country.

Achieving this historic landmark of a hundred years is one that we can all be proud of, particularly given the substantial demographical transformation to our community for much of the second half of the Union's existence. Add to this, the effects of a debilitating internal conflict in the island that has now spanned a quarter of a century; one could perhaps have understood if the Dutch Burgher Union could only be found in the history books today. But, like the country itself, the resilience demonstrated by our community in the face of considerable adversity is to be greatly admired and serves as a source of encouragement for us to keep looking ahead and to be positive in all we do.

I am fortunate to have continuity in the General Committee with the presence of many of those faces responsible for bringing about significant change to the

DBU under the brilliant stewardship of Kem Martenstyn. Of Kem, no words of praise can appropriately encapsulate the contribution that she has made to the DBU, not just in terms of the aesthetic improvements to the DBU Building and premises, but to the very rejuvenation of spirit and enterprise within the Union.

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Succeeding Kem is a hard act to follow. I am grateful for the foundations laid during Kem's highly successful tenure and it is now incumbent on my team and I to build upon her achievements and maintain the pace, so to speak! It is, of course an ongoing process and there is much more to be done, not just during this centenary year, but well beyond.

I look forward to the challenges ahead in furthering both our social and fellowship objectives during my term as President. Your support would be vital and, of course, greatly appreciated.

We will continue to keep you informed of our activities and plans, through the medium of the monthly Bulletin and our

Website. Let us make 2008/2009 a year that would have made our forebears, a hundred years ago, justifiably proud!

Sincerely yours,
Nigel Austin
President

Editorial

HOLIDAYS!! Sri Lanka has so many of them! There always seems to be some festival or other being celebrated here, despite all the hardships the country is facing. Easter came early this year, with the Sinhala and Tamil New Year following hot on its heels. This is the time when the entire island goes on holiday – every single business establishment, from the littlest “kadays” to the big conglomerates – everything is closed for the duration of the “Avurudhu” celebrations. Colombo becomes a veritable “ghost town”, with most of its inhabitants going away on holiday or returning to their villages for the Avurudhu celebrations. For those, like me, who opted to stay home during this time, it was sheer bliss driving on roads sans the horrific traffic, pollution, jay-walkers and noise!

The DBU held its Annual General Meeting on the 28th March. A large gathering of

members was present, and it was nice to see our very senior members attending. The office bearers for the year 2008/2009 were elected – Nigel Austin was elected President, uncontested, and Kem Martenstyn was elected Deputy President, also uncontested. All Office Bearers names are given elsewhere in this Bulletin.

The AGM was followed by a time of fellowship with an excellent spread of finger food laid out, and music provided by Kumar Molligoda on the Saxophone. The party moved upstairs soon after, and everyone present had a good time until the wee hours of the next day.

Several events are on the cards for this our Centenary Year, and very soon the General Committee will be meeting to put pen to paper. The programme of events will be published in the Bulletin for your information, as well as to enable our

overseas members to plan their visits. Look forward to a Grand Ball in October, to coincide with the DBU Founder's Day celebrations!

In the meantime, our Bar and Lounge continues to grow in popularity, and is becoming quite a favourite “watering hole” for our members and their guests especially on the weekends. Our Wednesday nights are still very popular with various musicians providing music for dancing or listening. We also have Darts, Carrom, Billiards, and a TV lounge with Cable television.

So, come and be a part of it all!

Cheers
Anne-Marie Kellar

Meet the new President!



Nigel Austin, newly elected President of the DBU for the year 2008/2009 at the recently held Annual General Meeting, is an established entrepreneur in diversified areas of industry and trading.

Having joined the DBU as a member in 1983, Nigel served as Deputy President during the year 2007/2008. Although his varied business and other interests keep him extremely busy, Nigel always brought a lot of professionalism and also humour to the

DBU General Committee meetings. He has the knack of assessing a situation or issue and arriving at the best solution with the consensus of all concerned, without much ado. It is hard to believe that such a great (almost mischievous!) sense of humour dwells behind that formidable exterior!

One of the most prominent and well known businessmen in Sri Lanka, well known in the areas of packaging, diamond cutting, export of fresh fruits and vegetables, as well as being the exclusive Agent in Sri Lanka since the last 25 Years for “ISCOR” – the Principal South African Steel Mill, Nigel has held positions on the Boards of several public quoted companies.

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He was previously Chairman of Asia Capital Ltd and a Non-Executive Director of Richard Pieris and Company Ltd, Lanka Orix Leasing Company Ltd and Asian Hotels and Properties Ltd. He currently serves on the Boards of James Finlay & Co Ltd and Dutch Lanka Trailers Ltd.

Nigel is a past Chairman of the Employers Federation of Ceylon and currently is a Trustee of the Federation.

Outside of his Commercial interests, Nigel has the distinction of being the youngest Commodore to serve the Ceylon Motor Yacht Club in 1974. He has been a past

President of the Sri Lanka Association for Motor Sports and a past President of the Ceylon Motor Sports Club. He currently serves as Treasurer of the Colombo Club and is also a Committee Member of the Sri Lanka Turf Club.

Nigel was appointed in 1999 as Bailli Délégué in Sri Lanka for the Confrere De la Chaîne des Rôtisseurs – an internationally recognized Organisation of significance to Star Class hotels and restaurants.

Nigel's general interests include motor sports, classic cars, a passion for horses and boating. Nigel was an Oarsman and

rowed for St Thomas' College in the inaugural Royal-Thomian Regatta held in 1962. In the area of Sri Lankan motor sport, Nigel dominated the motor rallying scene in the mid 1970s, regularly winning such major events as the Monsoon Reliability Trials and the Lotus Rally. As an owner of race horses, Nigel had the distinction of winning the prestigious Governor's Cup in the Years 2000, 2002 and 2005. He was also owner of the Horse that Won the Sir Solomon Dias Bandaranaike Memorial Cup presented by President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga in memory of her Grandfather, in the two years when this race was run in 2000 and 2001.

Outgoing President, Kem Martenstyn's speech at the 100th AGM



Fellow members, friends, I extend a warm welcome to each and everyone of you at our 100th Annual General Meeting.

Today is a very significant day in the annals of the Union.

When I decided to take up office as President, it was a challenge. To most members I was new. Many of you really did not know me. In my own style I persevered to give leadership to the Union. I was overwhelmed by letters and messages of support and encouragement I received locally and from abroad. To quote from a letter received from one of my committee members – “You have done and continue to do great things for the DBU and the creation of a long overdue DBU website is yet another in a long list of outstanding accomplishments attained during your term as President. A legacy to

be truly proud of. I can only reaffirm that it has been a great privilege to serve in your committee and your dedication despite recent adversities to your health has been nothing short of inspirational. March is a long way away and particularly in the light of the centenary year your leadership is absolutely vital leading up to the transition and indeed beyond. Needless to say you will have my support always.”

A project of great importance has been the Welfare work.

□ The DBU Welfare Beneficiaries project which I initiated in 2006 now sponsors 50 elderly less advantaged folk of our Community. There are 23 sponsors who support this programme and we look forward to more joining in the new year.

□ Then we have the A.E. Christoffels Educational Fund which sponsors 48 children up to the A/L standard. A further 10 children have been sponsored through this fund to follow courses of their choice – Architecture, banking, Chartered Accountancy, IT courses etc. I myself have personally interviewed the children individually and given them that little bit of extra encouragement.

□ Moving over to the overseas welfare work. We have the Eighty Club Melbourne who sponsor 193 elderly folk and 112 children upto A/L standard. The Burgher Association of

Australia who sponsor 65 children and the Burgher Welfare League of Western Australia who sponsor 18 elderly folk. At the recent Miss Sri Lanka contest on Easter Sunday Jamie Wright was adjusted 2nd runner up. She is a young lady who is sponsored by the 80 club Melbourne. She also won Miss Amity and Miss Personality. We congratulate her on her achievement.

□ My heartfelt thanks go out to all the members, friends and organizations that continue to support our welfare work.

Another project close to my heart is the renovation of St. Nikolaas' Home. I am happy to inform you that work has commenced at the Home and I hope that we will be able to complete it by next year.

From time to time efforts have been made to increase our membership. In the new year we must launch an organized campaign to try and awake in our people a greater interest in this Union which means and matters so much to our small Community. Let us resolve that every individual here will do his or her bit towards bringing in new members, such as friends or members of the family.

I must say I would not have been able to achieve my ambitions for the DBU if not for the fact that my talented and capable Committee rallied round me with active participation. To me this has been
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a great transformation. Some would say a resurrection of the DBU. Needless to say the atmosphere now at the DBU is wonderfully relaxed – a vibrant friendly warm place especially on our Wednesday nights upstairs at the Members Bar/Lounge an evening of laughter, friendship, enjoyment and fun. The guests who come here could not fail to be impressed and as a Burgher it makes me feel very proud of the DBU.

Our incoming President, Nigel Austin, is a long standing friend of mine and he has all my support to make our centenary year an outstanding year – a year to be remembered!

My heartfelt thanks go out to my Office Bearers and Committee Members for their unstinted support and for a job very well done. I thank all the members who have

attended our functions and supported us in our journey through the past 3 years. My thanks also go out to Mohan and Etienne who have always been pillars of strength to the Committee. Thanks also to Gordon, Jerome, Kapila, Errol, Gunadasa and Subramaniam.

I now quote from another letter received from overseas – “You as President ought to be congratulated for harnessing the talents of the present committee members and co-opted members. This breath of life was what was long overdue. To me, the DBU seemed to be a sailing vessel that sat in ‘dry docks’. And it did sit in the ‘dry docks’ for so long, going nowhere and of no use to anyone. Now thanks to your organising capabilities, this vessel is out on the waters (where it belongs) sailing along magnificently, be the waters still or

troubled. How good to see a sailing such as this on the waters. Please continue to take the DBU not only to uncharted waters, but also to dizzy heights. Leave your mark as President, by continuing the present trend, so that you will be remembered like the stalwarts of old.” Now that the wheels have been set in motion and the momentum set in, thanks to you, keep going forward, which is the only sensible way to go. I pen these lines, for I would be failing in my duty if I didn’t.”

Finally I must say that everything we have achieved with all of you has made this a stand out year ‘Par Excellence’. Team work and transparency have always been the essential ingredients that ensured our success together. Now my vision has been accomplished. Thank you and may God bless you all.

DBU General Committee for the year 2008/2009

Principal Officers		General Committee Members	
President:	Nigel Austin	Timothy Speldewinde	Dallas Martenstyn
Deputy President:	Kem Martenstyn	Carol Prins	Stephen LaBrooy
Secretary:	Anne-Marie Kellar	Anthea Muller	David Grenier
Treasurer:	Mike Anthonisz	Keith Modder	Mervyn Dirckze
Ex-Officio Committee Members		Fleur Mack	David Colin-Thome
Scott Dirckze		David Martenstyn	
Mervyn Andriesz			
Vernon Muller			

Welfare

Payment of the 1st quarter to the Locally Sponsored children was paid on Saturday the 14th of March 2008. On the same morning the children were given an Easter Treat of short eats and soft drinks, which was made possible with a donation made by a well wisher. A few games were also played and prizes awarded.

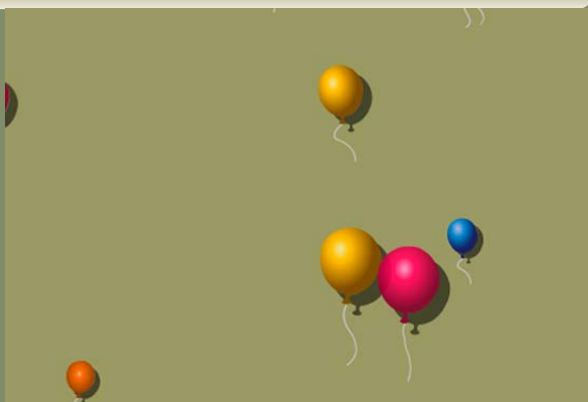
On the 29th instant the Welfare Beneficiaries of the ECOM will be paid their 2nd quarter allowance and on 3rd May 2008 the children sponsored by the ECOM will be paid their 2nd quarter allowance.

Anthea Muller
Chairperson
Social Welfare

Birthday Greetings

Mrs. April Atton, Ms Deloraine Brohier, Mrs C.E. Beling, Ms Lorraine Bartholomeusz, Ms Rosemary Emersley, Miss Rozanne Hingert, Ms Savitri Jayawardene, Mrs K.T. Martenstyn-Overlunde, Ms Cherise Pereira, Mrs Angeline Pereira, Miss Christine Wallbeoff, Stephan

Leonard Anthonisz, Nigel Austin, Ramon Aldons, Toby Claessen, Tissa de Alwis, Gerald de Saram, Tyrone Howie, Barrington Juriansz, Nandalal Jayawardene, Johan Leembruggen, Elmo Landsberger, Keith Martenstyn, Winston Muller, Vernon Muller, Chandra Kumar Navaratnarajah, Wilhelm Anthony Ellis Ohlmus, Krishana Hiram Parathalingam, Christopher Stork, Ranil Subasinghe, Rex Victoria, Lester Weinman, Dirk Williams and Mervyn Dirckze.



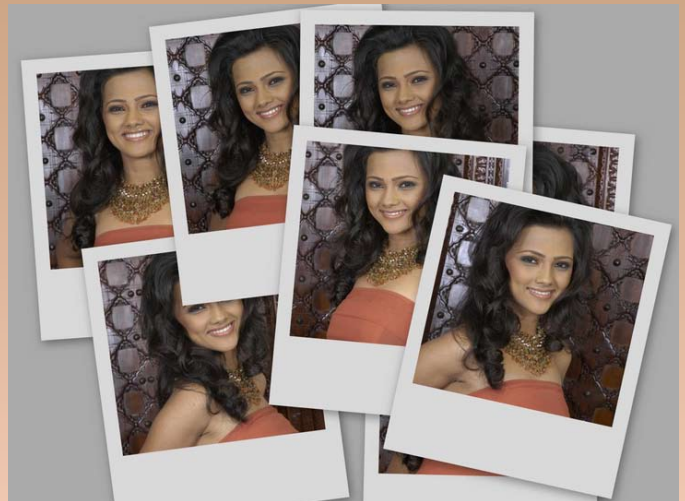
Wednesday Music in the Upstairs Bar/Lounge during the month of April and May

- 2nd April – Dharshika of “Lazer”
- 9th April – Suriyakumar
- 16th April – Darlan
- 23rd April – Dharshika of “Lazer”
- 30th April – Nimal Jayamanne
- 7th May – Dharshika – Strict tempo music for dancing
- 14th May – Suriya Kumar – Jazz, Pop and Oldies
- 21st May – Darlan – sing along
- 28th May – Nimal Jayamanne

Miss Sri Lanka



Miss Jamie Wright, extreme right, was selected 2nd Runner up at the recently held Miss Sri Lanka for Miss International Tourism. Jamie ,who is a girl sponsored for education by the Eighty Club of Melbourne was, in addition, voted the Miss



Photogenic and Miss Amity as well at the same contest. She will be taking up her A Level examination in May this year, but at the same time is being trained by Sri Lanka Airlines to be a member of their Cabin Crew.

Bar & Lounge Dress Code Reminder

A gentle reminder to Members and their guests about the dress code in the upstairs Members Bar and Lounge after 7pm is “smart casual”.

- No Rubber Slippers (At any time)**
- No Collarless T Shirts**
- No Shorts**

Your cooperation is much appreciated.

For Sale from the DBU Kitchen daily

- Lamprais**
- Mixed Meat or chicken – Rs 250
- Beef Smore** 450g – Rs 350
- Pork Badun** 450g – Rs 430
- Ginger Beer** – Rs 125 per bottle