

THE CENTENARY AND THE SESQUICENTENNIAL

In 1973 the Yom Kippur war took place and the price of oil jumped by 200 percent. Chilean President Allende was deposed. An accord was reached to end the Vietnam war. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's Awami League won the election in Bangladesh. The Bosphorus bridge opened.

The Gulag Archipelago by Solzhenitsyn was published. Other notable books released in 1973 included Breakfast of champions (Kurt Vonnegut), The eye of the storm (Patrick White), The honorary consul (Graham Greene), Fear of flying (Erica Jong) and Jonathan Livingston Seagull (Richard Bach).

Barbara Streisand released single "The way we were". Dolly Parton released her songs "Joelene" and "I will always love you". Steve Wonder released the single "You are the sunshine of my life". The single "Smoke on water" (Deep Purple) went gold.

The "Goodbye Yellow Brick Road" (Elton John), "Band on the Run", "Red rose speedway" (Wings), Piano man" (Billy Joel) and "There goes rhymin Simon" (Paul Simon) albums were released.

Stephen Sondheim's musical "A little night music" and the London production of "Grease" premiered. Aloha from Hawaii became the most watched broadcast by an individual performer.

The movie "American Graffiti" was released. "Godfather" won eleven academy awards.

Kiss played their first show. The final episode of Monty Python's Flying Circus aired on BBC TV.

Blue Poles sold for \$2,000,000 to the Australian National Gallery. Evonne Goolagong beat Chris Evert to win her first home single title.

Dickie Bird made his test umpiring debut. Sobers scored his 26th and last test cricket century. Richard Hadlee made his debut in test cricket.

The Colts turns hundred

The pictures below were taken either on 29th July 1973 when the centenary celebrations were inaugurated or on 25th August when a dinner was held at the pavilion. The photos highlight the problems faced when taking photos of pictures through the glass of a framed photograph. If not already in place, a club website should carry clear pictures of all the photographs hanging on the club's walls for use by researchers and general information seekers.



The Colts president Tita Nathanielsz welcomes the country's president, William Gopallawa
**MR. GOPALAWA INTRODUCED TO THE CLUB
 STALWARTS**



The Colts president Tita Nathanielsz welcomes the country's president's wife
SHAKING HANDS WITH LOCAL POLITICIANS?

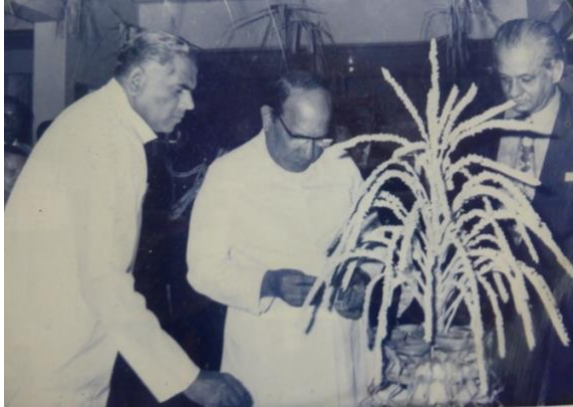


From L to R: ?, ?, Douglas Lieversz, Tita Nathanielsz, William Gopallawa, ?, Mrs Gopallawa



L TO R: ?, ?, Eddie Melder, Tita Nathanielsz, Shanti Jayaweera

RITUAL TO OPEN CEREMONIES?

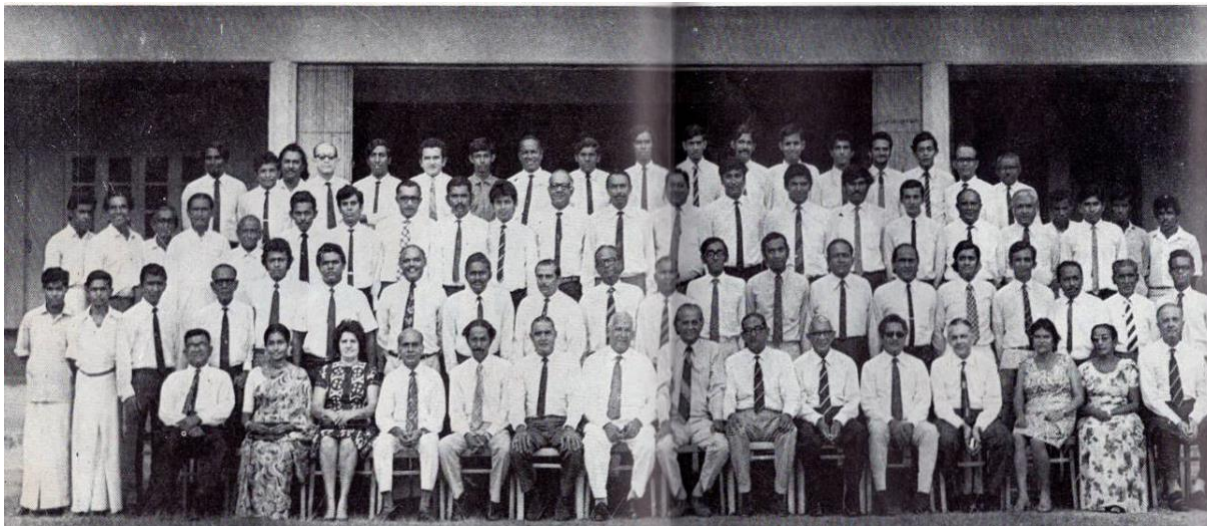


MRS GOPALLAWA CUTS THE COLTS CAKE



The chronicler's father received a letter from Harold de Andrado, his friend from the N.C.C. days who attended the dinner. Mr de Andrado whilst wishing the Colts the best had mixed feelings about the club. He said that while people like Douglas Lieversz represented the finest traditions of the club, the general membership of the club was a disappointment to him or something to that effect.

PART OF MEMBERSHIP AND STAFF, JULY 1973



Seated L to R: Mr. Sylvie, ?, ?, Mr. Mahenderajah, Emile Othen?, ?, Tita Nathanielsz, Douglas Lieversz, ?, ?, ?, Mrs Alles?, ?

Standing first row L to R: ?, ?, ?, ?, ?, ?, ?, Dicky Alles, Mike Chanmugam, Darrell d'Silva, Anil Mudalige, Neville Fernando, ?, ?, Eddie Melder

Standing second row L to R: ?, ?, ?, ?, ?, ?, ?, Rauf Azzam, ?, ?, Laxshman Doolwela, Beverley Paul, ?, Trevor Rajaratnam, Lester Pereira, ?, ?, Wendell Kelaart, Shanti Jayaweera, M. Balasubramian, Roy Dias

Standing third row L to R: Nalin Perera, Tissa Jayaweera, Willie Caldera, Laramie Paulesz, ?, ?, ?, ?, Gary de Silva, Ranjit Samarasekera, Bernard Rulach, Archibald Pereira, ?

Courtesy of centenary souvenir

Stalwarts such as Mike Chanmugan, Eddie Melder, Rauf Azzam and Ranjith Samarasekera are in the picture. In the front row seated are stalwarts from the fifties and prior, namely, Douglas Lieversz, Tita Nathanielsz, Emile Othen and Mr. Sylvie. If Ronnie Elders hadn't passed away in 1970, he certainly would have been in the picture.

It is interestingly, it is good to compare the club seniors of 1973 with the committee organizing the 150th anniversary celebrations. The current President was brought to the Colts by Ranjith Samarasekera. And he had strong ties with Tita Nathanielsz.

ORGANISERS OF THE 150th CLUB ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS



Courtesy of Papare, 2nd June 2023

The following event was attended by the president of Sri Lanka.



Courtesy of the Colts Cricket Club

Colts celebrates a glorious 150!

The Island, 11th December 2023



President Ranil Wickremesinghe was the Chief Guest at the celebrations to mark the 150th anniversary of Colombo Colts Cricket Club

by Rex Clementine

“Colombo Colts Cricket Club celebrated its 150th anniversary at the club premises on Saturday with President Ranil Wickremesinghe and first lady Prof. Maithree Wickremesinghe gracing the occasion.

It’s been a glorious 150 years for the Park Road club that was only the third cricket club to be established in Sri Lanka and in fact the first Ceylonese club with the other two being exclusively British. Even though more prominent local clubs came into existence since then, Colts’ unique feature was that it welcomed members of all ethnicities and religions.

To mark the 150th year celebration, there was a major redevelopment work undertaken by the club and currently it’s beyond recognition becoming a high-end Colombo club in no time rubbing shoulders with SSC and CCC.

The members of the 1996 World Cup winning team and the players of the side that won the 2014 World T-20 were awarded life membership of the club and President Wickremesinghe also received a life membership.

Although Colts is a club with a rich history most prominent players in an era gone by opted to represent other leading clubs with the likes of Roy Dias, Chaminda Vaas and Romesh Kaluwitharana being exceptions. However, that’s not the case anymore as many national players opt to play for the Park Road Club. Some of the key player of the club at present are Angelo Mathews, Kusal Janith Perera, Dilshan Madushanka and Dunith Wellalage.

With the club's state-of-the-art facilities available at the moment, more and more players are going to head to Park Road. Colts also have been pioneers of promoting women's cricket and the club continues to be a strong force in women's cricket.

President Wickremesinghe during his speech gave an assurance to create a culture where cricket will prosper without the inference of politicians. The President's assurance came at a time when Sri Lanka Cricket has been suspended by the International Cricket Council and the Executive Committee running SLC is facing allegations of financial malpractices.

Sports Minister Harin Fernando, Western Province Governor Marshal of the Air Force Roshan Gunathilake, members of the 1996 and 2014 cricket teams were present along with many other dignitaries. The 150th year anniversary celebrations were spearheaded by Colts President Nishantha Ranatunga, club stalwarts Trevor Rajaratnam and Carlton Bernardus."



Colts stalwart Trevor Rajaratnam was felicitated during the club's 150th anniversary celebrations

Trevor Rajaratnam is the only physical link with the past and the present. His club membership goes back to the early seventies. And he also was a member of a Donovan Andree winning team.

Missing records

Regrettably the chronicler hasn't been able to obtain any material and information pertaining to the club's 125th anniversary celebrations. He hopes that this failing can be rectified in the near future.

A community restored

The office holders are different to those of fifty years prior, as is to be expected, but amongst the rank and file are many old faces. Many of those who left the club have returned and those who have let their membership lapse have renewed their links. Many of them have acquired life membership. Many others, like the chronicler, have remained a Colt at heart despite being domiciled abroad. The unique Colts history and tradition creates inseparable and enduring sentimental bonds. And the administration has tapped into this Colts fellowship broadly defined and given recognition and space to this phenomenon.