



STEDFAST Newsletter

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Secretariat

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EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

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Committee : Michael Yei

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Message from the PRESIDENT

The Stedfast Association hopes to reach as many former members of the Boys' Brigade as possible, and this newsletter is one of the ways to do it. We hope that those of you who are already members of the Stedfast Association will help by persuading those you know who are not yet members to join us. The scope and possibilities of what the Stedfast Association can do are wide and full of promise.

The newsletter helps us to be in touch with one another and to let you know about the programmes and other interesting events organised by the Stedfast Association.

I take this opportunity to wish all of you a Blessed and Prosperous New Year. We look forward to another year of Stedfast activities and the pleasure of your fellowship and participation.

• Tung Kam Seng •

ABOUT THE PERSATUAN STEDFAST TRUST FUND

Stedfast members at its last Annual General Meeting unanimously agreed to the setting up of a Trust Fund which will be used mainly to assist deserving youths in the Boys' Brigade in their education, purchase of uniforms and leadership development needs.

Mr. Danny Cheah was appointed Chairman of the Trust Fund by the Persatuan Stedfast Committee. Other members in the committee are:

- Mr. Yong Chee Seng (alternate Chairman)
- Mr. Low Ching Cheong
- Mr. Cheong Sing Yuen
- Mr. Loo Leong Swee
- Mr. Michael Yei

The committee has been meeting regularly to work out the mechanism and details of dispensing the fund.

Following an exercise in calling for applications from deserving youths in the Boys' Brigade who require financial assistance to further their tertiary education, interviews were conducted to determine the needs of the applicants. Stated below are the successful applicants:

1. Ho Yew Tuck
2. Lo Kuan Che

3. Jeremy Ong Wei Liam
4. Wong Kien Lee

A total sum of RM6,820 will be spent on the scholarships.

The Trust Fund will not be able to assist financially youths who are applying to go overseas as the amount to be given will not be meaningful or substantial in proportion to the actual cost. All payments will be made directly to the applicant's college or institution and a review will be conducted at the completion of studies each year.

Recently, a case was referred to the Persatuan Stedfast for financial support. The Trust Fund Committee agreed to take on this case as its pilot project to help a family in dire need and named the Project Fund as MARY/MIMI LIM FUND. (Please refer to write-up regarding this Project Fund). ♦

A RELAXING WEEKEND AT THE HILL

This trip to Bukit Fraser on Saturday, 26 September, 1998 was considered a 'breakthrough' for the Association. We had on many occasions planned for such trips but were never successful due to the busy business schedules and other priorities in our lives.

It was heartening to see members with their families gathering at the Methodist Bungalow, Bukit Fraser - Albert Chia and his family, Looi Kwong Hon with his family of 6, Henry Hong with his wife and princesses, Leong Wai Wah's wife and daughters, Low Ching Cheong and Lorna and their young son, former 1st Petaling Jaya Coy Captain Yong Chee Seng and his wife. Stedfast supporter M. F. Leong and his wife, serving officers Robinson Pan and his girlfriend, Christina and Donald Kee plus weekend bachelors Tung Kam Seng, Danny Cheah, Michael Yei, Sonny Chin and Andy Chan.

A steaming hot Steamboat Dinner was our first meal together. You don't believe it but some of the diehard habits of yesteryears still exist. Maybe you can call it animal instincts or the Jungle Law of Survival of the Fittest. I am referring to some members taking food from others and at the end not able to

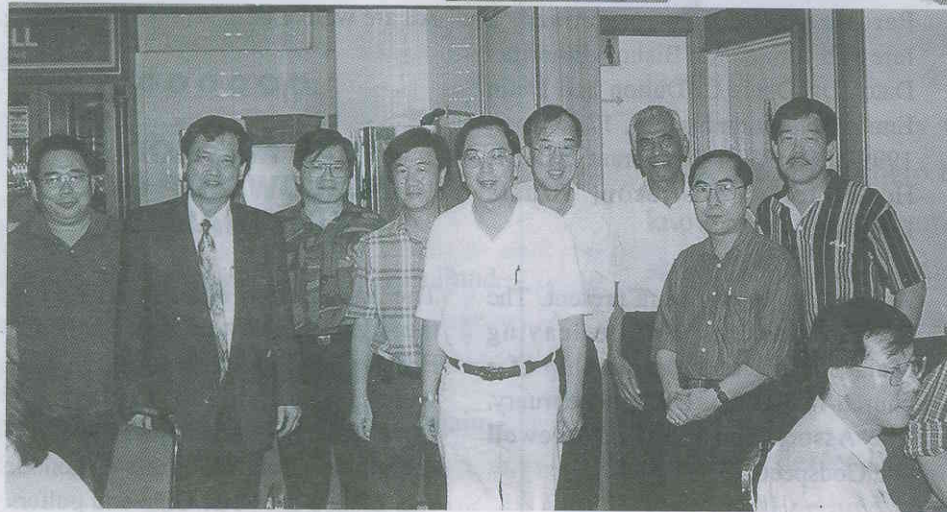
consume them. And of course there were the vociferous ones at any BB gathering. But there was one sure thing, everybody enjoyed the sumptuous Steamboat Dinner followed by the thick coffee and tea that followed after every meal.

While the children and women folks gathered in the living room after dinner to get to know each other and finding out the latest trend in managing children and other subjects, the men were working very hard in the dining hall slogging through 2 meetings - The Association's Committee meeting and a meeting in preparation for the golf tournament to raise funds for the Methodist Education Foundation. To sleep immediately after the meeting would be sheer waste of time as there were so much of catching



1998 FOUNDER'S DAY DINNER

Some former members of the Boys' Brigade may have forgotten what happened on October 4, 1883 in Glasgow but not for members of the Persatuan Stedfast. It was the date of the formation of the first Boys' Brigade Company in the city of Glasgow by Sir William Alexander Smith. So, on October 4, 1998, FOUNDER'S DAY was celebrated with a sumptuous 9 course Chinese Dinner at the Pik Wah Restaurant, just a stone throw away from the grounds of the 1st Kuala Lumpur Company.



children to be members of the Boys' Brigade.

After a prayer of thanksgiving and grace by Rev. Dr. Yu Chee Huat, dinner was served to the music accompaniment by the 1st Kuala Lumpur Company Brass Band.

The special guest for the evening, Bishop Emeritus Dato' Dr. Denis C. Dutton, Patron of the Boys' Brigade in Malaysia and a staunch supporter of Persatuan Stedfast, was then invited to address the gathering.

In his speech, he praised the Persatuan Stedfast for the work they have done for the Boys' Brigade. He then related a true story of how the Boys' Brigade had touched the life of one of the boys and his family.

Guests were also entertained to some light moments provided by the Rev. Ng Ee Lin.

Many of the participants were rewarded with gifts and hampers donated by well-wishers of Persatuan Stedfast when their numbers were called.

It was indeed an evening to remember as participants shared their rich experiences with each other.

As we said goodbye and goodnight to one another at the end of the evening, we were once again filled with the nostalgic feeling of yesteryears of time spent in the Brigade. All of us look forward to a bigger event next year. ♦

Guests for the evening were:

- Bishop Emeritus Dato' Dr. Denis C. Dutton and Datin Emme Dutton
- Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Yu Chee Huat
- Rev. & Mrs. Tan Jin Huat and wife
- Rev. Ng Ee Lin

The programme started off with the singing of old BB favourites like "Onward Christian Soldiers" and "Will Your Anchor Hold." As the M.C. for the evening, Andy Chan did a roll-call and we were pleasantly surprised by the composition of those who had gathered there. Participants included ex-members from as far north as Sungei Patani and Penang to Ipoh, Teluk Intan, Klang, Kajang, Petaling Jaya, Kuala Lumpur and all the way down to Johor Baru. In his welcoming speech, the President Tung Kam Seng, expressed appreciations to parents who gave support to the Boys' Brigade by allowing their

BOYS OF THE OLD BRIGADE MET UP AGAIN IN MANCHESTER

Manchester played host to an international convention of former members of the Boys' Brigade. It was the third international gathering of the worldwide old boys' organisation – called the Stedfast Association – the earlier get-together being in Singapore and Australia.

The convention was held at the Manchester Conference Centre

and Hotel in Sackville Street. The programme started with a buffet reception and a display by members of Manchester and district battalion and the brigade's north west district.

Included in the convention programme was a Founder's Day parade and service which was also held at the Conference Centre.

Delegates had a full day tour including a visit to the north west

training centre at Kirkham taking in Blackpool Illuminations.

The convention concluded with a gala dinner with an address by Rev. Noel Proctor, a former member of the Boys' Brigade and former chaplain at Manchester's Strangeways Jail.

• *source: Manchester Stedfast Association magazine*

NEWS IN BRIEF

PERSATUAN STEDFAST 4TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Members are asked to take note that the 4th A.G.M. of the Association will be held on:

Date : Saturday, 6 March, 1999

Time : 6.00 p.m.

Venue : Menara Wesley

Wesley Methodist Church

2, Jalan Wesley

Kuala Lumpur

Dinner will be provided after the meeting.



HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP?

If not, please renew your membership before 28 February, 1999. Membership fee is only RM30.00 per annum. If you consider it too bothersome to renew your membership annually, you can convert your annual membership into Life Membership by a single payment of RM300 only. Act now!



FAREWELL DINNER FOR BISHOP EMERITUS DUTTON

Persatuan Stedfast organised a farewell dinner for Bishop Emeritus Dato' Dr. Denis C. Dutton and Datin Emme Dutton on Sunday, 17 January, 1999 at Pik Wah Restaurant, MABA House, Jalan Davidson, Kuala Lumpur.

About 270 persons were present. The Bishop emeritus will be leaving Malaysia to take up pastorship of a church in Kansas, USA in February. The Association bids him farewell and Godspeed.



TALK ON STRESS

Organised jointly with the Social Concerns & Missions Committee of Wesley Methodist Church, Kuala Lumpur, the talk was held on Sunday, 25 October, 1998 and attended by about 50 persons. The speaker was Dr. Cheah Wing Yin, a well-known psychiatrist.



BADMINTON FELLOWSHIP

Members are meeting once a week for badminton. Interested members may join them on:

Day : Thursday

Time : 7.30 p.m.

Venue : School Hall of M.B.S.

Kuala Lumpur

All are welcome.



10TH METHODIST FELLOWSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Association against assisted in the organising of the 10th Methodist Fellowship Golf Tournament this year which was held on Friday, 6th November, 1998 at Templer Park Golf & Country Club. The guest-of-honour was Bishop Dr. Peter Chio and golfers competed for the Bishop Emeritus Datuk Dr. Denis C. Dutton Challenge Trophy. A total of 120 golfers participated in the Tournament and the winners based on stableford partnership results were Mr. Wong Swee Loy and Mr. K. W. Low. Many other prizes were also given including a Rolex watch and a Hyundai Coupe car for Hole-in-one achievers. Before the prize-giving, the Mimi/Mary Fund was launched by Bishop Emeritus Datuk Dr. Denis C. Dutton. These two sisters need assistance medically and a self-explanatory appeal letter is enclosed for your attention. A garage sale in aid of the fund was also organised at the Youth Centre of Wesley Methodist Church, Kuala Lumpur on December 6th, 1998. ♦

Garage

Sale

The Mary/Mimi Lim Project Fund

Organised specially to raise funds for the Mary/Mimi Lim Fund, the sale was held on Sunday, 6 December, 1998 at the Youth Centre, Wesley Methodist Church, Kuala Lumpur and was patronised by mostly members of the church. Things for sale range from household items to personal belongings. A sum of RM2,090 was realised at the end of the day. We are grateful to Mr. Simon Lim, Mrs. Rina Hong, Ms. Linda Kam, Mr. Low Ching Cheong, Mr. Danny Cheah and Ms Sheng Len Yee for their contributions and Mr. Derrick Dai, Mrs. Annie Lim, Ms Luzvisminda Gonzales, officers and members of the 1st Kuala Lumpur Company for their assistance and support.



MEDICAL HISTORY OF MARY & MIMI LIM

MARY LIM

Age: 10 years old

Born with congenital heart disease – has only single valve, no chamber wall and hole in her heart. Her heart is also on the opposite side.

First heart surgery done when she was 6 at Institute Jantung Negara to help pump more oxygen.

Encountered many complications after the operation and has since been in and out of hospital. Currently on various kinds of

medications to control her heart condition.

The cardiologist has mentioned that she is due for her second surgery as her heart condition may deteriorate later.

MIMI LIM

Age: 6 years old

Born paralysed waist down. Also suffering from Meningitis. Spinal cord deformed during birth. Had 2 surgeries when she was a week old to implant a shunt into her skull to drain the excessive fluid from her brain and to correct the deformed part of her spinal cord. She was alright until last February when she experienced bouts of fever and headache frequently. Since then, she has been in and out of hospital trying to determine the cause of her trouble. Doctors finally traced the trouble to the shunt which was not working. A

procedure to drain the fluid and release the pressure of the brain by inserting a tube externally was done and her condition has since improved. A new VA Shunt has also been implanted for Mimi. She has to be closely monitored to prevent complications and she has to go for regular check-up.

PETER LIM, THE FATHER

Age: 39 years old

Job: Assistant Manager

Salary: RM2,100 per month

Job Future: Uncertain due to economic downturn. May be laid off.

Also supporting aged parents. His father is 82 years old and mother is 77 years old. Father diagnosed recently to have prostate cancer.

Wife: Not working as she has to look after the children. ♦

up to do and so some of us make our way to Bukit Fraser town in search of beverages until the wee hours of the morning.

Early the next morning, the golfers made their way to the golf course for the first ever Stedfast Association closed tournament while the non-golfers painted the town red. Some went horse riding while others relaxed by the golf course soaking in the sun and eating nasi lemak, teh tarik or mee rebus. The children had a whale of a time paddling boats in the lake nearby and zooming round and round in go karts – the latest attraction in Bukit Fraser.

After a lunch of Western meal, the results of the Golf Tournament were announced and prizes presented. The winners were:

1st : *Danny Cheah*

2nd : *Michael Yei*

3rd : *Donald Kee*

All good things have to come to an end and so, with fond memories of the good old BB days and the opportunity of renewal of friendship and comradeship, we made our way home by the 2 o'clock gate. It was indeed time well spent together with the family and with other members of the Association.

For those who missed this trip, do make plans to join us for our next outing. The committee is considering to go to the much talked about Perdu Lake or Bukit Merah resort in 1999. Don't miss out on the fun and fellowship of the Stedfast Association of Kuala Lumpur. ❖

THE 1ST STEDFAST GOLF TOURNAMENT

The 1st Stedfast Golf Tournament was held on Friday, May 29, 1998 at the Kota Permai Golf & Country Club, Shah Alam. 128 members, friends and supporters participated in this historic event.

Organised by a committee headed by Mr. Yeoh Seng Kooi, the tournament was most successful considering the current economic downturn. The support, response and encouragement received from golfers, advertisers and donors was overwhelming.

A Proton Wira was offered for Hole-in-one achiever.



The objective of this tournament was to raise funds for the newly set-up Persatuan Stedfast Trust Fund which will be used mainly to assist deserving youths in the Boys' Brigade in education, purchase of uniforms and leadership development.

Winner of the 1st Stedfast Golf Tournament was Mr. Michael Thean who was presented with a 29-inch Panasonic Colour Television.

Pesatuan Stedfast salutes the organising committee for a job well done. ❖