



# Golden Gleam

The Official newsletter of the SPCOBWDC  
Initiated in 1989, formalized in 2003

## Newsletter



## The Peterite Golf Classic 2012

The severe thunderstorms of Friday evening graciously gave way to a pleasant, bright and astounding Saturday; grace granted by the golf gods bestowing their approval on the initial Peterite Golf Classic charity golf tournament organized by the St. Peter's College OBU of Washington D.C. [SPCOBUWDC] on June 2, 2012 at Glade Valley Golf Course in Walkersville, Maryland.

The SPCOBWDC, initialized in the 1980's has been supporting its Alma Mater in Colombo for the past two decades and riding on the success of its past accomplishments, was energized to undertake a larger project to yield a greater impact to children in Sri Lanka and in the USA.

There was much excitement when news of the initial Peterite Golf Classic hit the street. This was the first golf tournament organized by any Sri Lankan alumni along the eastern states of the USA and SPCOBWDC raised the bar by including a Sri Lankan schools tournament within the PGC Open.

The 72 degrees weather with light breeze was ideal playing conditions for the 102 golf players at the scheduled 8:30 am shotgun start. Domestic players forged bonds with out of state players and together welcomed overseas players, who had travelled from the UK to participate in the tournament.

The PGC organizers offered very attractive prizes to each par 3 hole-in-one winner, with a 2012 BMW 328i being the principal prize. In addition the PGC shootout raffle winner Antonio Leal was offered the opportunity of winning USD 100,000.00 as a hole-in-one prize. He failed to get an ace, but was awarded a Panasonic stereo iphone docking

station for getting on the green in his attempt to win the USD 100,000.00

Although there were no par 3 hole-in-one competition winners, the SPCOBWDC wanted every player to feel like a winner and offered complimentary mail in coupons to be redeemed for two golf clubs per player. The tournament was conducted by the golf professional staff at Glade Valley and various distinguished members of other alumni and guests, were invited to present the awards and prizes.

The following were the winners of the PGC Open -

1st. Place - DCI One Score 63

2nd. Place - Dark Cloud Score 65

3rd. Place - Royal College - Blue Score 66

The following were the Sri Lanka School winners -

1st. Place - Royal College - Blue Score 66

2nd. Place - St. Peter's College Score 71

3rd. Place - Royal College Gold Score 73

The longest drive winners - Helen Sexton [Ladies] and Joe Abbondante [Gents]

Closest to the pin winners - Yumin Choi [Ladies] and Shawn Park [Gents]

During lunch, praises of the tournament were free flowing as much as the complimentary buffet. Many players were eager to know if the event would be organized next year, assuring their participation and support. The sponsors and advertisers were very satisfied with how the tournament was organized and conducted, and pledged their continued support. New sponsors eager to come aboard and partner with SPCOBWDC for future events, stepped forward and identified themselves.

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## The Classic Rendezvous

The evening celebration continued at the Marriott Hotel and Conference Center in Bethesda, MD where over 250 guests to the Classic Rendezvous - Black Tie Gala were greeted to the alluring music of a saxophone player at the reception. The doors of the Grand ballroom then opened to the beating of drums and guest were escorted to their tables, aptly named after prestigious golf course around the world. The impressive curtain raiser was an item by three Brazilian dancers, followed by two beautiful ladies playing the violin and the cello. Next was an animated revelation of the PGC logo on two majestic screens that magically appeared. A screen presentation of the recent winning accomplishments of St. Peter's College, Colombo followed, very appropriately to the theme "we are the champions". After a quick welcome and acknowledgement of the guest, a short clip of the three charities was presented.

The Peterite Golf Classic (PGC) and The Classic Rendezvous - Black Tie Gala (TCR) was organized by SPCOUBWDC to raise funds for the following three causes.

- 1) Establishing a Career Guidance Center and a Trust Fund at St. Peter's College, Colombo
- 2) Purchasing medical equipment for the new Pediatric Cancer Hospital in Jaffna, Sri Lanka.

- 3) Funding research at the National Foundation for Facial Reconstruction (NFFR) in New York.

The key note speaker Mr. Mark Neuman gave a good account of the economic progress in Sri Lanka and at the conclusion of his speech, guest enjoyed a scrumptious dinner. The high point of the gala was the batik fashion show, where authentic batik attire from Buddhi Batiks in Sri Lanka was modeled by fifteen elegant ladies on a special runway designed for the event. At the end of the fashion show, the models were accompanied on stage by the designer herself - Darshi Keerthisena. Music was provided by Jack Diamond and The Jim Steed Band and a live DJ - Indymix from California. The dancing continued into the two o'clock hour and the singing of the St. Peter's College anthem signaled the end of a very entertaining and enjoyable evening.

SPCOBUWDC wishes to thank all who teamed with them to make both fundraising events a success. They also recognize and appreciate the support extended to the three child related causes and look forward to a closer partnership in the coming years.







## Cricket Tournaments

The Peterites began their 2011 cricket season with the New Jersey Tricket tournament. Although it was a poor performance due to lack of match practice, the Peterites showed a lot of courage and were eager to put on a better showing at their next tournament. The New Jersey tournament was followed by a local tournament organized by Lanka Lions and the Peterites progressed to the second round, a much improved performance from their first tournament.

After losing 19 out of the 21 games last summer the Peterites made their biggest comeback by progressing to the semi finals in the Sri Lanka Cricket Association Cricket Tournament. They only lost to the Royal team who were the eventual runners up. The remarkable thing about this achievement is not the achievement itself but how they actually achieved that milestone.

Last summer the Peterites participated in practice sessions numerous times during the week. These practice sessions consisted of cardio exercises, agility training and mock cricket games. Our players worked tirelessly for two months to be fit, agile and improve their cricket skills; and so they did. Moreover the regular practice sessions built the much needed chemistry amongst the players. The perfect example was when Shiran mentioned at the SLCA tournament how he had no pressure batting with Madusha because he believed in his talents.

Apart from training hard, there were great individual performances which helped the Peterites to reach the semis. Unarguably the biggest contributing factor for the wins were the strong batting performances by Madusha Peiris and Shiran Mack. It was a delight to see them hit the ball out of the park in each game they played. Dakshi DeSilva's strategies as a captain worked out perfectly with the batting order and the bowling changes. He also bowled well making games more challenging for the opposition. Hiru Padmakumara showed some good form with the bat but was denied of any major contributions by Shiran and Madusha because of their extended stay at the wicket. However Hiru was very agile in the field and was very vocal keeping the spirits high. Shahan Sudusinghe joined the team and gave the bowling extra strength with his experience from the league games. Gaddafi too bowled a good final over showing the depth of talent in the side. Nishan did his part behind the stumps and kept spirits high. The 8 a side tournament organized by the Old Boys Union of Royal College also saw the Peterites reach the semifinals and lose to their long standing rival, St. Joesph's College.

# Lending a heart and lending a hand School Books Distribution

As in the previous years, SPCOBUWDC has generously continued to help our alma mater. As some of you may be aware, most of the minor staff at St. Peter's College earns less than Rs. 15000 for a month. SPCOBUWDC donated Rs. 45000 to purchase school books to all the school going children of the minor staff. Also another Rs. 55000 was donated to purchase books for the year 2012. With the Colombo OBU request, a banner was created and displayed while the books were donated.



# Annual Joe-Pete Encounter



A blue sky marked with wisps of white clouds, and a gentle breeze barely causing the flags of our alma maters to flutter was the beautiful back-drop for the 21st annual cricket encounter between the alumni of St. Peter's and St. Joseph's on Sunday, October 9, 2011. As the sun dried up the morning dew at the Mill Creek Town grounds, and while the last vestiges of a league baseball game petered out of the grounds, the captains of the two teams, Dakshi and Roshan, tossed for the right to call. St. Peter's won the toss and decided to bat on a wicket that was drying out but still managed to keep the ball low and accurate.

Sheran and Madusha opened the Peterite innings and the Josephians struck early with a Shane, in his very first over, getting the valuable wicket of Sheran caught out for a mere six runs going for a big hit. Then skipper Dakshi joined Madusha at the wicket and they slowly raised the score to 44 before the Josephian captain got Madusha with a wily delivery that caught the edge of his bat. Hiru joined his captain and this pair took the score up to the break with Dakshi hovering at the precipitous score of 46. After the break with the score at 97, Dakshi bowled out of the game caught brilliantly at the boundary by Roshan off the bowling of Marlon. Then Dilan joined Hiru at the wicket and some very sprightly hitting took up the score to the 15th over when Hiru going for a big hit took his eye of the ball and was bowled for 36 very useful runs. Shirontha then joined Dilan who was in fine fettle and with some very powerful hitting took the score up to 153 before Shirontha was out caught by Roshan who stood his ground at the boundary to take a well judged catch of the bowling of Marlon. Dhanika joined Dilan and the pair took the score up to 177 before Dilan was caught at the boundary line but this time by Marlon off the bowling of Nishan for 43 entertaining runs. Nuvan joined Dhanika and the pair nursed the score to 180 at the end of the allotted 20 overs.

By now the golden gleam of the sun had joined her partners, the blue sky and puffy white clouds to signal the lunch break and the warm flowing camaraderie between the alumni and their family brought back a the glow of friendship and warmth that transcends the friendly rivalry on the field. stalwarts like Greg and his very supportive equal half Sulocha were missed as we were looking forward to hearing her stentorian voice urging the Joes to the time honoured cry of "Are we worried?"....there was food of all types from the issara or front food to the madda or entrées which was the splendid hoppers and spicy curries served up by Ramani's Kitchen, followed by passa or sweet food.



Yes, it was a feast, but the Joes knowing they had to take the field kept their appetite at bay till the last ball of the match was bowled. Amidst the music, which had the ring of the paparay without the frills of the band, nevertheless did boost the atmosphere to encourage alumni to do the two-step, which is the root beat of the baila. A surprise visitor was Richard Hagar, who having dropped his kids off at the play-ground, strolled over and with a whimsical smile enquired "Cricket on Shady Grove Road?... Tell me more about it". He was given chapter and verse by Chandru on the intricacies of the game, what it stood for, how it came to be played in the USA and where it started..... Needless to say, the history of the SPC OBU of Washington DC whose beginnings go back to 1989, and their very warm and friendly relationship with the Josephians which culminated in holding this annual cricket encounter, was recounted to WTOP reporter Richard Hagar who was very appreciative and interested in the friendship and honourable intentions of these two august OBU bodies, which he did air on his morning program the very next day.

The Josephian innings started with a bang, and they asked for no quarter and gave none. The Josephian openers skipper Roshan and his comrade Roshantha attacked the bowling with vigor and skill and took the score up to 35 in the third over when Roshan was brilliantly bowled by Madusha off a ball that had his number on it. A very valuable innings of 27 and the Josephians had lost their skipper. Nishan then joined Roshantha and this pair hit the bowling attack wily nily taking the score up to 43 when Nuvan had Roshantha caught behind for a well compiled 12 runs. Shane joined the in-form Nishan and the pair took the score up to 64, with Nishan bearing the brunt of the attack before he was brilliantly caught by Dilan of the bowling of Nuvan. It should be noted that up to this point the Josephians were ahead on the run rate and if the rains gods had deemed it proper, a deluge at this time would have given the game to the Josephians. At the eight over mark the Peterites had 53 on the boards and the Josephians had 65. Marlon joined Shane at the wicket and after adding four runs together, Marlon took off for a run that was not there and some quick fielding by the Peterites sent him back to the Josephian tent, with Nimal coming in to do yeoman service for the Josephians. Nuvan struck again having Shane clean bowled for one, to take the wicket tally to six wickets with no addition to the score. Our nemesis from many a past game, Terry then joined Nimal at the wicket but Nuvan struck once again and had him walking back to the Josephian camp with no addition to the score. Ansem joined Terry at the wicket and with seven more runs added to the total; Terry bowled out giving a high catch to Hiru at the boundary. At this stage the

Peterites breathed a sigh of relief because the run rate was had now lagged behind, with the Josephians having 70 at the 10 over mark to the Peterites having 83. After the break Prasanth joined Anslem at the center and in the 15th over the last Josephinan wicket fell with Dilan taking a catch off the bowling of Gaddafi.

The Peterites had won after a hiatus of two years and amidst the stentorian yells of 'P- E- T- E- R- S' and hip, hip hurrah.... another game had been played and the words of Grantland Rice, and often quoted by WG Grace seem to resonate in our ears, "When the one Great Scorer comes to mark against your name, he writes not if you won or lost, but how you played the game". Here we were, the alumni of two stellar institutions far away from our country of birth having a friendly game of cricket amidst an over flowing of good friendships and genuine laughter. It made us proud to be alumni, and members of the SPC OBU of Washington DC and the Old Joes of America. The players caught up on their lunch now that the game was done and mingled amongst the people who had come to enjoy this beautiful day. Children ran underfoot yelling 'I want to bat' to 'No, I'm not out'....dogs barked and the trill of laughter made this day a happy one indeed.

It was time to make the awards and with much deliberation those who had the knowledge and the right to make these selections had their list ready. Chandru assumed the role of emcee and quelled the crowd sans microphone to make the announcements. Dilan [SPC] was awarded the Most Valuable Player trophy for his batting scoring 43 runs, taking two catches, one run out and conceding only 8 12 runs in his three overs. The award for the best batsman went to Dakshi [SPC] for his scintillating top score of 46. Nuwan [SPC] with his wily bowling taking four wickets for eight runs with the only maiden over in the entire match, walked away with the best bowler trophy. There was no outstanding fielding performance and in consensus another trophy was awarded for next best all-rounder was awarded to Nishan [ SJC] for his two wickets, alert fielding and a very valuable 24 runs.

The game was over, and it was time to bid au revoir till the next time. The 2011 game is done, but long live the next game to be held in 2012.

SPCOBU-WDC won this year's [ 2012] encounter with the Joes convincingly.

## Rugby Jerseys Donation

Not only has SPCOBWDC helped College in education, but also in sports. The Inter House Rugby Championship which involves all age groups plays a major role in molding younger players. Colleges see the tournament as an opportunity to pick out fresh and upcoming talent and also to raise funds for future development activities. Last year over 500 players participated in 10 and 12-a side rugby games ranging from under 10 to 18 representing their respective houses. SPCOBWDC graciously donated Rs. 55,000 to make 500 jerseys for the six houses which participated in the tournament.

## Auction Proceeds

To coincide with the annual Joe-Pete cricket encounter, SPCOBWDC printed its first ever souvenir. The purpose of the souvenir was to raise funds for on-going projects for the benefit of deserving students of St. Peter's College Colombo. With the help of St. Peter's College alumni, other Sri Lankan based school alumni, local business, family and friends, SPCOBWDC managed to raise \$6400 from advertisements.

## Battle of the Saints Souvenir 2011

The Joe-Pete cricket encounter was followed by a grand dinner get-together at Trevor Mack's residence in Gaithersburg, MD. Peterite alumni, their family and friends and fellow Joes were present at the dinner. In order to maximize in raising funds to help out with College projects, SPCOBWDC auctioned various Sri Lankan memorabilia. The proceeds from the auction was \$695.