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SLMDA UK

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Newsletter

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Formerly known as the Sri Lankan Doctors' Association in the UK

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From the President

Dear Friends

It has been a busy year so far following the successful Spring Scientific Meeting and Dinner Dance on 4 May. The first meeting of the new Council was well attended. Dr. Champa Sumanasuriya and Dr. Ruwanmali De Silva were co-opted to the Council with the specific role of driving the membership forward. Several new initiatives were planned for the coming year, the main one being the proposal to award an undergraduate or post graduate medical trainee in the UK - a member of the SLMDA - a research grant, to collaborate with a counterpart in Sri Lanka in an audit or research project. A further initiative which evolved from the recent members' survey was a scheme to assist Post graduate International Medical Trainees to secure suitable training posts in the UK. Find out more about this on our website.

Details of the new bursary scheme have been communicated to the Deans of the Medical and Dental faculties in Sri Lanka. The book donations for this year are currently under way under the watchful eyes of Prof. DYD Samarawickrama.

Congratulations to the first and second cricket teams on winning the Law Medical Encounter which took place in July. The first team played a remarkable innings to snatch victory from the lawyers after 8 years.

The next big event, our major fund raising event, is the **Annual Charity Ball on Saturday, 18 October at De Vere Belton Woods Hotel, Belton, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG32 2LN**. See the website for details. Get your tickets early to avoid disappointment. There will be Sri Lankan music, raffle prizes and lots more to enjoy.

Join us at Belton Woods for the event, or why not make a weekend of it as De Vere Belton Woods is really quite different! You can explore the beautiful, tranquil Lincolnshire countryside that surrounds it. Belton Woods prides itself in its leisure facilities so escape life's pressures with weird and wonderful activities from a spot of croquet, to quad-biking or simply a 'Walk with a Hawk'. There is also a Serenity spa, a beautiful pool, and for Golfers a PGA championship approved course.

Look forward to your support at this event.

With Best Wishes

Allistair

Mr. Allistair Solomonsz

MBBS, FRCOG

The Council 2014 - 2015

President: Mr. Alistair Solomonz
Vice-President: Dr. Mahesh Nirmalan
Secretary: Dr. Ruwan De Soysa
Treasurer: Dr. Melanie Weerasuriya
Immediate Past President: Dr. Ruvini Senasinghe

Members

Dr. Lankanatha Alwis
Mr. Supul Hennayake
Dr. P Krishnamoorthy
Dr. Mahadeva Manohar
Dr. Thilaka Ratnayake
Dr. Thushara Rodrigo

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Dr. Ruwanmali De Silva
Dr. Asanga Fernando
Mr. Ajantha Jayatunga
Dr. Rasioka Jayatunga
Dr. Uditha Jayatunga
Dr. Andrew Nayagam
Prof. DYD Samarawickrama
Dr. Champa Sumanasuriya

Advisory Committee

Dr. Sathi Ariyanayagam
Dr. Sunanda Jayaratne
Dr. Cyril Pattapola

The Spring Scientific Meeting and the Dinner Dance

The Scientific Meeting including a Youth Forum, the AGM and Dinner Dance was held on Sunday 4 May 2014 at the De Vere VILLAGE Hotel in Nottingham. The Scientific Meeting was attended by around 100 from a wide spectrum of age groups and specialities, and it was a great success. The speakers and presentations were of a very high standard and it showed that the calibre of our young doctors, dentists and students who aspire to a career in one of these disciplines is indeed remarkable.

The youth brought to this meeting some ground breaking research in which they are engaged in and they dazzled the more senior attendees with their case reviews, literature reviews, audits and protocol proposals. Our Keynote speakers in turn also captured the attention of the audience both young and old with their presentations. 'The current developments on Timely interventions during labour', delivered by Mr. Edwin Chandrarahan, 'Developments in Embryo selection and treatment for Infertility and Genetic Disease' by Prof. Simon Fishel, a World leader in the field of Infertility, and 'Recent advances in Immunology and Allergy' by Dr. Suranjith Seneviratne were indeed captivating. Dr. Rasioka Jayatunga gave an overview on 'Training of Paediatric postgraduates from Sri Lanka over two decades of time'. Her dedication and commitment to organising this training knows no bounds and without a doubt she has made great strides in this arena and will continue to do so. Prof. DYD Samarawickrama was the 'Time Lord of the Day' and gave the audience 'food for thought'.

Overall, the participation of the audience created dialogue and added to the value of the knowledge shared. It was a very interesting programme.

The judges of the Oral and Poster presentations in the Youth Forum had the unenviable task of selecting the winners in each category. A runner-up prize was also awarded in each category.

The Dinner Dance which followed in the evening at the same venue was again very well attended with around 200 guests. It was a very entertaining evening with excellent eastern cuisine and music provided by a Sri Lankan band. The range of music brought the young ones as well as the older generation to the dance floor, be it the Jive, the Waltz or the Baila, it got everyone moving around the dance floor. It was a wonderful evening, enjoyed by all.

It was an honour to have in our midst our Founder Mrs. Sita Siriwardena and her son Prof. Ajith Siriwardena. It is her vision and foresight that has made it possible for us to foster medical and dental undergraduate and post graduate education in Sri Lanka. Her presence endorsed that she is immensely proud of what this Association has achieved over the last 32 years, and it is our intention to keep the flame of her vision burning long into the future. The younger generation who are already involved in many ways, will no doubt play a major role in leading the SLMDA into the future.

Photo Gallery

Spring Event, May 2014



Sri Lankan Medical & Dental Association in the UK

Autumn Charity Ball

Saturday 18th October 2014



At

**De Vere Belton Woods
Hotel & Country Club**

Nr Grantham, Lincolnshire
NG32 2LN

Time: 7.00 pm to 1.00 am

Live music by Sky High

Dress code: Black Tie

Tickets: £65

For tickets, please contact:

Allistair Solomonsz	0115 9452668	solomonsz@ntlworld.com
Mahesh Nirmalan	079299 78456	mahesh.nirmalan@manchester.ac.uk
Melanie Weerasuriya	079666 27278	melanieweerasuriya@yahoo.co.uk
Ruwan De Soysa	07974722745	rdesoysa@toucansurf.com

Accommodation at De Vere Belton Woods Event Ref: SLMD181014 @ £100 D/B&B (applies till 6 September 2014)
E-mail: belton.woods@devere-hotels.com Tele: 01476 514352

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Lawyers Humbled by the Doctors After 8 Years

Report of the 11th Law-Medical Encounter held on 5th July 2014 at Harrow School Cricket Grounds

The forecast was gloomy with just a few glimpses of sun predicted during the day. The Harrow school cricket greens were yet again a delight to play in. There was some trepidation about the wetness and a green streak across the playing surface. The behaviour of the pitch was the subject of some concern. The lawyers turned up in full force with the full might of the legal hierarchy making an appearance in support. There was a buzz and some banter even before the start of play.

As usual, the doctors' team gathered together having to introduce themselves to each other as most of them travelled a distance for this one off annual match. One member having woken up at 5.30 am to get to London for a midday start, travelling all the way from Durham. All were united in one purpose - to answer the call to beat the lawyers after 8 long years. Yet again, we failed to win the all-important toss and were sent into sample the treacheries of the damp wicket by the law skipper Chathura Warnasuriya.

Skipper Vinodh delivers the ideal start

A very cautious start by the medical skipper Vinodh Elangasinghe leading from the front added 16 runs off the first 5 overs before his young and more aggressive partner Manoj Wickramasinghe offered a simple return catch to Naveen against the run of play. Knowing that the top order has been very unpredictable and vulnerable, Vinodh decided to guide the top order through this danger period.

Nipuna nips in with the first Ton

Newcomer Nipuna Senaratne fresh from the varsity game showed why he is classed as a bright star of the Cambridge team showing immense composure combined with delightful stroke play to forge a fantastic partnership of 82 runs with the skipper for the second wicket. Just when the acceleration was required Vinodh was stumped trying to attack the spinner Manoj Warnapala who had been single handedly trying to exert some control to the legal attack with some nagging bowling. Forging ahead in the company of Youvan Ilankoon a veteran of several Law Medical campaigns, Nipuna embarked on the best period for the medical team with scintillating 91 run partnership with both the batsmen taking full toll of the tiring legal attack and were helped by some ragged fielding lapses. When Youvan departed to a mistimed stroke, Thilina Ambepitiya (18) followed by Minoth Kanagaratnam (7 NO) helped Nipuna push the score along to a healthy 239 runs in the allocated 45 overs losing only 4 wickets. Nipuna duly completed a very well deserved century off the final over becoming the first player in the history of the Law-medical games to score a century for the SLMDA.

Despite a short stoppage for rain, none of the bowlers from the law team managed to exert any prolonged control over the stroke play of the youthful medical batsmen.

The legal reply thwarted

The lawyer's reply was dealt a huge blow when last year's batting hero Manoj Warnapala was removed by Mo Ramali without scoring. Two further blows from the opposite end by Akram removing Michael and Miles Sriharan caused a further setback to the chase. However, batting with the assurance the seasoned campaigner Leon and the newcomer Shaveen attacked any wayward deliveries pushing the score steadily and compensating for the loss of early wickets. They forged a valuable and rapid partnership of 67 runs.

Spinners bamboozle the lawyers

Medical skipper Vinodh continued to set aggressive fields to tempt errors and once the spinners were introduced the ploy paid off with young Manoj Wickremasinghe showing some prodigious turn on a helpful surface. His variations and fantastic turn of speed worried all the batsmen and he reaped rich awards firstly seeing off the dangerous Leon for a well made 47 runs and then snaring the veteran Harsha Rubasinghe. Working in Tandem with the Youngster the seasoned campaigner Ajantha Jayatunga helped to exert great pressure from the other end slowing the run rate down with a nagging length completing a miserly spell of 2 wickets for 16 runs off his quota of 9 overs. Anura Malaweera continued to bamboozle the lower order lawyers with a sterling spell of 2 wickets for 18 runs off 6.3 overs. With none of the lawyers managing to counter the spin threat they soon folded for a score of 179 with the only other notable contributions coming from The newcomer Shaveen and the old campaigner Hemantha Warnapala who scored 25 and 21 runs respectively. Young Manoj having recovered from his travel weariness had the best figures of 3 for 36 off his 9 overs.

The Medics were jubilant to have wrested the Law Medical trophy back after a lapse of 8 years. The match was played in a very friendly atmosphere despite not losing the competitive spirit. Clearly the outstanding player of the match was youngster Nipuna Senaratne who created a piece of history with his sterling knock.

In the gathering gloom the 8 year long dominance of the ASSLUK was surely and squarely squashed by a determined and resourceful SLMDA.

Ajantha Jayatunga

The Medics Rout Lawyers in the Seconds

The seconds match was played in the adjacent pitch. Having been asked to take the first lease, the docs were on the dock with 3 wickets falling quickly for 10 runs. Responding to the challenge skipper Uditha Jayatunga combining with Udara Kularatne forged a century partnership completely demoralising the legal attack. Towards the latter part, all the bowlers were flayed to all parts of the ground by the rampaging Udara who made an excellent 72 not out. Asanga Fernando chipped in after Uditha departed for a captain's knock of 34 runs. The total at the end of the allocated 30 overs was 173 for 4 wickets.

Lawyers fold

In reply, the lawyers folded meekly due mainly to excellent bowling by Janaka Weeratunga, (2 for 12) Priyantha Siriwardene (2 for 26) Jeewaka Samarasinghe (2 for 8) and the evergreen Janapriya who grabbed 2 for 3 runs in the final over. The margin of victory was more than 100

as the lawyers' reply ended in the 18th over for a mere 70 runs.

Off the pitch

The event on the whole proved to be a great success again and the main organisers Wasantha Tennekoon and Auffer Asver must take credit for another very satisfying day.

The spouses of both sides participated well with the carnival spirit being created by the musicians and the crowd being entertained with plenty of authentic Sri Lankan food. The tug of war raised plenty of laughs and fun with the kids too enjoying in the frolics.

It would have been nice to have an event for ladies and maybe the Organising Committee will take this on board for future events.

Ajantha Jayatunga

Book Donation Scheme

The Council decided to increase the amount allocated to each faculty from £1000.00 to £1500.00 from 2014 onwards. The faculties were delighted with this increase. According to the library sources, the books donated by the SLMDA are in great demand by the students. With the cost of textbooks being what they are, a vast majority of students cannot afford to buy any books. The purchase of books for the 2014 round is currently underway. It is hoped to deliver the books to the faculties in October / November 2014.

Bursary Awards

After this scheme was made more flexible, some faculties have continued to seek bursaries for their deserving students whereas other faculties have opted to receive a lump sum equivalent to the annual cost of a bursary to enhance their respective student support funds. These funds disburse smaller awards to students in financial difficulty and are therefore able to assist a greater number of students needing help.

SLMDA Website

Please visit the SLMDA website:
www.srilankan-mds.org.uk

Enrol a New Member

The SLMDA is seeking help from the current members to enrol at least one new member each. Please help us. Thank you.

SLMDA Bursary Fund

The Association has been providing bursaries to medical and dental students in need since its inception. The need for this assistance has never been greater. With the ever rising cost of living, many students are struggling to support themselves. Please support the SLMDA generously so that it can continue with its bursaries. Thank you.