

THE LIGHTHOUSE

WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF MADRAS
ISSUE 31 | FEBRUARY 13, 2024

BUILDING RESPONSIBLE COMMUNITIES



Dear RCMers,

We are delighted to present to you an action packed week. The District Conference saw the presence and participation of many RCMers with Rtn. Prabha Srinivasan and Rtn. Vikram Chesetty taking the lead in the entertainment section. Proud moments for RCM!

Warmly,

Rtn. Sunita Suresh

samarpan



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Send in your articles, news and stories for consideration in the Lighthouse bulletin to:
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Stay updated with our very own RCM magazine!

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Minutes of the 31st Weekly Meeting of Rotary Club of Madras

held at Hyatt Regency, Teynampet, Chennai, on February 13, 2024

The meeting commenced at 01:30 P M Sergeant at arms Rtn.Parkavi collared President Rtn.Ravi Sundaresan who formally called the 31st weekly meeting of RCM.

Call to Order and Invocation:

Rtn. Ravi Sundaresan called the meeting to order and observed a silent invocation.

President Ravi Sundaresan officially commenced the meeting and thanked Rtn. Parkavi for the collar.

Confirmation of Previous Meeting:

President Ravi Sundaresan requested confirmation of the 30th Weekly Meeting held on 06-02-2024 at Hyatt Regency.

Guest Rotarians and Probus Club Members:

Welcomed guest Rotarians and Probus club members.

Announcement of Amistar Trip:

Rtn. Vikram Chesetty provided details and highlights of the recent Amistar trip, expressing gratitude to AVM Balu and the team.

District Conference Recap:

Recap of RCM's involvement and activities at the district conference, including a booth and presentations.

Presentation by Rotaract President:

Rotaract President Harini Priya presented the club's recent projects and initiatives.

Community Service Director's Announcement:

Rtn. Anuradha Ganesan invited attendees to a special tour of RCM projects on February 23rd and 24th.

Announcement Regarding Cricket Carnival:

Rtn. Shivkumar Easwaran announced the RCM Premier League and encouraged participation.

Regular Announcements by Honorary Secretary:

Rtn. Sessa Sai made announcements regarding upcoming events, birthdays, anniversaries, and projects.

Introduction of Guest Speaker:

Rtn. Arjun Anand introduced guest speaker Mr. Anand Amritraj, highlighting his achievements in tennis.

Address by Guest Speaker:

Mr. Anand Amritraj addressed the gathering, followed by a Q&A session.

Vote of Thanks:

Rtn. Nikhil delivered the vote of thanks, acknowledging the guest speaker and other attendees.

Financial Committee's Project Announcements:

President Ravi Sundaresan shared details of approved projects and the application for CSR grants.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned by the president, followed by the playing of the National Anthem.

BIRTHDAYS

Feb. 12th - Rtn. Vivek Harinarain PP

Feb. 15th - Rtn. Deepak Chander

Feb. 15th - Rtn. Sabina Narayan

Feb. 18th - Rtn. Punkaj Sachdev

Feb. 15th - Ann. Aruna, Dr. Spouse of
Rtn.Ramasubramanian V. Dr.

Feb. 16th - Ann. Naga Prasanna, Spouse of
Rtn. Govind Vasnadu

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Feb. 12th - Rtn. Arulmozhi Varman N.V. Dr. & Uma

Feb. 13th - Rtn. Anand Vurgese & Dr. Anila Mathan

Feb. 14th - Rtn.Udayanarayanan G.M. & Saraswathi

Feb. 16th - Rtn. Jhaver R.K. & Kiran Jhaver

Feb. 16th - Rtn. Sharon Krishna Rau Dr. &
G.Lakshminarayanan

Feb. 16th - Rtn. Ramakanth Akula & Niharika Akula

Feb. 16th - Rtn. Siddharth Ganeriwala &
Harsha Sajnani Ganeriwala

Feb. 17th - Rtn.Yashwanthkumar Venkataraman &
Dr.Nilaya Reddy .V

Feb. 17th - Rtn. Anil Srinivasan & Archana Kalyansundar

Feb. 17th - Rtn. Nagarajan M.S. & Savithri

SUNSHINE

Rtn. Himanhu Budhia

- Rs.2500/-

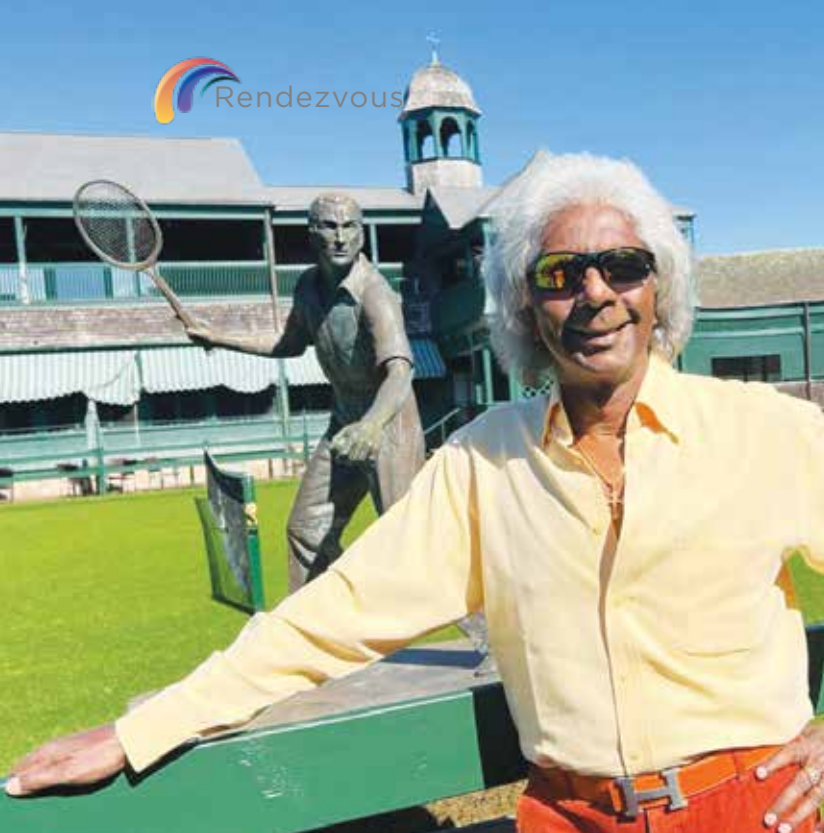
Rtn. Govind Parikh

- Rs.5000/-

From the 31st Meeting of Rotary Club of Madras February 13, 2024







A CHAMPION

AND HIS Legacy!

The greatness of a true Champion is the ability to inspire youngsters to become champions themselves and carry forward their legacy. This is what was on display when Indian tennis legend Mr. Anand Amritraj (who is as fit as he was in his hey days and as charming) encouraged and recognized seven young, promising players in tennis and other sports, awarding them the RCM-doodleblue Sports Scholarships for 2024. This was at the 31st weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Madras.

Rtn. Arjun Anand introduced the Chief Guest, Mr. Anand Amritraj, and spoke of many being inspired by his exploits and trophies won, and more so by the conduct of Anand on the court and off it. He is one



of the few Indians in the top 100, reaching a ranking of 74 in 1974 and 24 in Doubles in 1979.

The RCM-doodleblue Sports Scholarships was initiated by Rtn. Hemanth Chordia a few years back and is given away annually. Over the last couple of years, many upcoming champs like chess prodigy Praggnanandhaa have been felicitated. Mrs. Pinky Chordia, the Chairperson of doodleblue, presented their activities. She also said the expectation is that the 7 youngsters shortlisted this year, will continue to shine and grow to their full potential, and one day, represent India at the top level on the national and international stages. This includes RCM's own Vaishnavi Girish (daughter of Rtn. Shakti Girish & Mr. Girish Ramdas), who has been winning medals for pistol shooting over the last few years.

Mr. Anand Amritraj opened his speech saying his relationship with Rotary Clubs of India, especially Chennai, go back a long way. When he was 17, he got the Rotary Cup for the most promising Junior in India. He along with brother Vijay Amritraj, led India into the 1974 Davis Cup finals against South Africa, but this was forfeited due to apartheid protest by India. He was also in the Indian team which reached the final of the Davis Cup in 1987 against Sweden. In addition, Anand has won many ATP tournaments over the years.

Currently based in LA, Anand has also been involved in training youngsters in sports, as part of the BAT program in Chennai to make them

competitive for the Davis Cup. He spoke about how sports open doors to lots of opportunities, the current fitness levels required, and the motivations needed to remain competitive. There is a need for many more Singles players from India. There are also many sports scholarships available and staying focused on playing will help in getting these. From the US perspective, the chances of getting scholarships for women players are high as there are lesser number of people applying.

When asked about comparison of why Indian players fared better in Doubles than in Singles, Anand felt that in Doubles you need to have a very good first serve and need to only cover half the court. With a good partner you can succeed in this, while playing Singles is more exhaustive, and requires a much higher fitness level for winning daily matches (in a championship).

Hence, Indian players were better in the Doubles scene. Similarly, any Singles champion in today's era would not participate in Doubles due to the effort needed to excel in Singles matches.

The equipment over the last few years has changed from the wooden Wilson racquets Anand started

the game with, to the aluminum and steel they progressed to, and then the graphite in the 70s. He went on to say the players have also themselves undergone physical changes and are massive, with focused upper body strength. While earlier a good run was considered as a workout, today's players spend more time in gymnasiums than on tennis courts. The result is much faster and powerful serves and volleys emanating from the players due to both these factors.

When asked about pickleball, Anand said that while it is named as the fastest growing sport in the US, he personally does not like it so much, or the sound of the paddle hitting the plastic ball. However, he felt that any game that gets a person to be physically active is good.

President nominee Rtn. Nikhil Raj delivered the Vote of Thanks acknowledging the Chief Guest and members of the TNTA. In conclusion, it was wonderful to meet one of the legends of Indian sports in person. Let us hope that the youngsters who met with him will also rise to these levels in the decades to come.

- Rtn. Ravindran Ramachandran

SRI SANKARA VIDYASHRAMAM MAT. HR. SEC SCHOOL INTERACT CLUB 2023 - 24



Rotary Club of Madras Weekly Meeting -
An Award... An Inspiration!

A programme to present the Rotary's prestigious 'The Sake Honour Award' was held on 30th January 2024 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. RCM was delighted to present the award to Ms Suchithra Ella, Co-founder, Bharat Biotech, the towering force behind India's vaccine success story!

It was a great privilege for Sri Sankara Vidyashramam Mat. Hr. Sec School to be invited by the Rotary Club of Madras to give a cultural performance for this event. 'Resolute Triumph Over Covid' was the title of the dance performance that six of our Interactors performed to thunderous cheers from Rotarians. The dance, supplemented by an interactive back drop, traced the impact of the COVID pandemic and the triumph over the dreaded disease.

RCM has rightly awarded this prestigious award to such a deserving achiever.

- **Ms C Rajam**, Coordinator, Interact Club, Sri Sankara Vidyashramam Mat Hr Sec School
- **Rtn. Suresh N Amirapu** Youth Services RCM



DISTRIBUTION OF KITS

President **Rtn S Ravi**, with the support of District officials, distributed 192 kits to individuals in VOC Nagar, our secretariat staff and **Urbaser Sumeet** employees who are dedicated to maintaining a cleaner Chennai through waste recycling.

Special thanks to the **Rotary Club of Singapore Suntec and Wartsila** for their contributions.

