

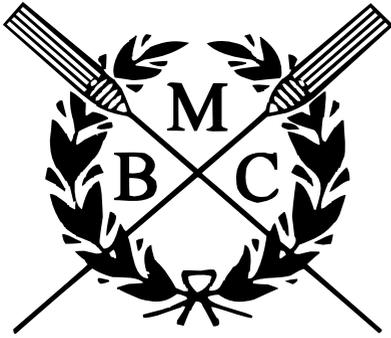
THE
CLUB ELITE

OARSPEAK

BOAT CLUB NEWS

In House Magazine | December 2017





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& PORTFOLIOS 2017- 19**

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CONTENTS

Editorial	5
Merchants, Professionals & Clubs Regatta	6
Shri Bala's Kitchen - Coriander Appalam Bhaji	8
Tour of Oslo - on a boat!	12
MBC wins Millennium Cup Regatta 2017	14

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**Cover photograph: Team MBC lifts the
Millennium Cup 2017**

EDITORIAL

Dear 'MBCians"

It gives me great pleasure to inform you that the editorial board has taken steps to enhance the value of the magazine with progressive increase in the number of pages and content to bring you the best of OARSPEAK.

This can be done better by you sharing through the magazine your experiences, extraordinary happenings, or your hobbies. Maybe some talent of yours, like painting, writing stories, or poetry!

We would also like to recognise achievements of any member at the national or International level. Tell us about your travels your sport your child's achievement.

The members can truly transform your own house magazine. The grand old lady "Embeece" is our grandmother and we all live in her house - our house. The size of the family being what it is -1700+ strong - OARSPEAK is the ideal medium to communicate with each other.

We are keen to ensure there is something of interest for everyone in your family. Make your second home, a home away from home by the river, more enjoyable by sharing! The thought of the club being a second home brings a song to mind.

City roads

Take me home

To the place

I belong,

West bank river,

To the sculler,

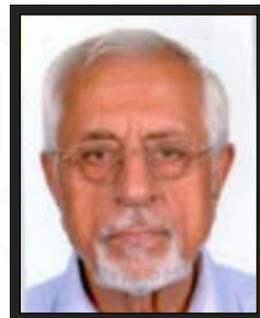
Take me home

City roads...

(With due apologies to John Denver!)

Please send your contributions to oarspeak@gmail.com

Looking forward to your participation!



**Warm Regards,
Ted Thadani**

MERCHANTS, PROFESSIONALS & CLUBS REGATTA



In September 2017, Madras Boat Club took to the waters to participate in yet another regatta, except this time it was not to showcase our members' rowing skills. This was the Merchants, Professionals and Clubs Regatta organised by the Royal Madras Yacht Club.



For a change our members left their oars behind and relied on the whims of the wind gods to sail. Teams from various clubs and organisations took part in the two-day regatta. But before the regatta, the participants were trained as crew for over two months every weekend by senior and prominent sailors with 40 years experience and sailors who have participated in the Asian Games and World Championships.



The races were held over a weekend in a variety of boats - Seabirds and dingy boats (420s, Omegas and Enterprises). About eight participants from Natraj Venkat & Associates, the Maritime Officers Sports Circle, Hindustan Institute of Maritime Training (HIMT), Air India, Madras Cricket Club (MCC), Madras Gymkhana Club and of course, our very own MBC. Participants ranged from 7 to 60 years in age! With 8 races over 2 days, each race took from an hour to hour and a half with sailors taking short breaks in between races to eat lunch out at sea.

MCC took top honours, followed by HIMT, with MBC coming in third.

After two days out at sea, Sunday evening saw participants gather for the traditional regatta night with good food and music.



SHRI BALA'S KITCHEN

CORIANDER APPALAM BHAJI

- 🍷 Small size Appalam – 10 nos
- 🍷 One small bunch of fresh coriander
- 🍷 Kadalai Maavu (besan flour) – 1 cup
- 🍷 Arisi Maavu (rice flour) – ¼ cup
- 🍷 Salt to taste
(add very little as raw appalams will have salt)
- 🍷 Green chillies – 2 nos
- 🍷 Ginger garlic paste – 1 tsp
- 🍷 Red chilli powder – 2 tsp
- 🍷 Oil for frying

METHOD

Finely chop the coriander and green chillies.

In a bowl, add all the ingredients except the appalam. Add water and mix the ingredients into a batter.

Add oil to the frying pan and let it heat.

Once the oil is ready for frying, dip an appalam in the batter and add to oil.

Fry till golden brown.

Then add the next batter-dipped appalam to the oil.

🍷 *Serve it hot with your favourite chutney or ketchup.* 🍷



Sridevi Balasubramanian (PUC 559) is a finance professional who moonlights as a chef. Her forte is South Indian cuisine. She conducts food festivals in top hotels in the country, trains chefs in authentic South Indian food, hosts a food show on Pudhuyugam TV. You may have sampled her food at the International Regatta hosted by our Club in July 2017. Visit her FB page Shribala's Kitchen, or catch her on Instagram @shri_bala or Twitter @_shribala

TOUR OF OSLO ON A BOAT!

Three of our members took a tour of Norway's famed fjords – on a boat. Prabhakar writes about his experience on the rowing tour. Rowing with people from 20 different countries (everyday one rows in a different crew, and never with one's club-mates, or countrymen), Prabhakar, Krish, and Ranji row through a Norwegian summer (!), strong winds, dodge ocean liners blithely cutting across the fjords, while making new friends. Here is the concluding part of the article. The first part appeared in the November 2017 issue of Oarpseak.



The calm voice of our Nordic cox kept urging us not to worry, don't look out, just look down and listen to my voice. We will be there soon, he reassured us. Just then a huge wave came up to the gunnel and flowed over, soaking our feet! It was an experience in real, rough ocean rowing. And I was genuinely surprised no one fell in. An hour later, we were helping each other pull the boats ashore, shivering not just from the cold, and laughing hysterically with the adrenaline high at the thought of the mortal fear that had just passed. The tour was not just about seeing a new place but about experiencing new things.

BEACH PARTIES IN THE NORWEGIAN SUMMER

The next evening, after a long day's row in a new part of the fjord, we had a simple, quiet dinner at a restaurant nearby. We were back at the hotel by 8.30. The rowers were trickling back gently, more or less ready to go up and wind down for the day. Ranji and I were standing outside the hotel, talking. A couple of others hung about as well. I pulled out my hip flask and offered a sip of whisky. One gentleman from Austria said, hang on, and brought down some calvados from his stash! Before long there was an informal gathering of around 15 people sharing stories and laughing. The hotel was not happy about it and wanted us to disperse. The party animals that Ranji



and I were, we proposed that we don't quietly go up, but adjourn to the deck overlooking the fjord and our boats. The beach party culture of the rowing tour was born!

By next morning the story had spread. At lunch, the primary talk was about whether 'we' were hosting another beach party! We, of course, said yes. That evening, more than half the rowers and the organizers were on the banks. A table was whipped out, and fantastic wines and liquors from the home countries made their appearance. Add some music and we happily partied into the night. We truly became friends that night! Rowing friends who sat, with the same hangover of warmth from the camaraderie, in the boat the next day to pull another 35 kilometres without a whimper! That, truly was tour rowing at its best.

And when I say without a whimper, I have to mention the Peter Bursteins

and Debbys of the world. There were a whole bunch of men and women in their seventies on the tour. They sat in their boat every day without a word of complaint. They pulled till someone else decided it was time to take a break. They never asked for one. Given their decades of experience rowing around the world, they captained their boats safely through the waters taking care of the boats and their crew without any fuss. They've rowed year in and year out, looking forward to their next tour, meeting their friends of yore, singing praises of those departed, thanking their stars for still being able to do it and spreading the spirit of rowing to another generation.

They were true inspiration. And fun! My god, how Debby, the septuagenarian from Australia laughed when I swung her around a dance floor and took a picture with her saying she can now show off her toy-boy to her friends! They had spirit. A spirit I hope

I have the energy to emulate!

And so we realised, the tour was about rowing but down the week it became much more. It was about the people. It was about the places. It was about a perspective to life. And it was about friends. By the last day, we had our own gangs! On the last day, our formal dining table had the loud Indian – me; the quiet Indian – Krish; the nice Indian – Ranji; the two swiss chocolates Eva and Verena; the one shiela – Suzie from Australia. We were the gang that had become inseparable like we had known each other for years! And it had my dear Brita from Norway, the two girls from Zimbabwe and the lone Becky from Buffalo who had gently gravitated towards the gang. We rowed together, we laughed, drank, danced, partied and when we left the Oslo airport together with hidden tears, we knew we would meet again on a boat.

*S Prabhakar
RP026*



MBC WINS MILLENNIUM CUP REGATTA 2017

S.NO.	EVENT	MBC CREW	POINTS	
			MBC	CRC
1	Girls Sub Junior Single Scull	Neha Saravanan	4	2
2	Boys Sub Junior Single Scull	Pavan Karthik	2	4
3	Girls Sub Junior Double Scull	Neha Saravanan/ Anoushka Prakash	4	6
4	Boys Sub Junior Double Scull	Pavan Karthik/ Jadon Moses	6	4
5	Boys Sub Junior Pairs	Devanathan/ Krishna	6	4
6	Boys Sub Junior Fours	Devanathan/ Krishna/ Jadon Moses/ Kirit Pillai/ Sanjay Gandhi (cox)	6	8
7	Girls Open Single Scull	Pooja Sankar	4	2
8	Boys Open Single Scull	Philip JJ	4	2
9	Boys Open Double Scull	Sohail/ Gopal	4	6
10	Boys Open Pairs	Adithya/ Sidesh	4	6
11	Boys Open Fours	Rohit/Tushar/ Philip/ Saketh/ Sanjay Gandhi (cox)	10	8
	TOTAL		54	52