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Issue 103 (Aug-Sep 2016)

GRASSROOTS

A publication of The Grassroots' Club

MCI(P)020/06/2015

with passion

**Getting
Around Singapore,
Without a Car**

**Age Well
Together**

**Congratulations
to our NDA 2016
Recipients**

HAVE YOUR SAY!

National Day Parade:
Has it lost its sparkle?



www.grassrootsclub.org.sg

> CONTENTS



05



06



08



12



14



14



Issue 103 (Aug-Sep 2016)

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Message by Mr Bobby Lim, General Manager
Editor's Notebook

03

04

Spotlight

Annual General Meeting

05

Age Well Together

06

National Day Awards 2016

10

Voices: National Day Parade: Has it lost its sparkle?

12

Warm Welcome to Our New Members

14

In Focus

No Car, No Problem: There are Many Ways to Get Around Singapore

08

Member Activities

Strategies to Battle Healthcare Costs

14

Karaoke Singing Class

14

MESSAGE BY GENERAL MANAGER

Dear Members,



Mr Bobby Lim
General Manager
The Grassroots' Club

> On behalf of the President, Management Committee and staff of The Grassroots' Club (TGC), warmest greetings to all.

To members whom I have not had a chance to meet, allow me to introduce myself briefly. Prior to joining TGC, I was the Assistant Director of Fitness & Leisure at The American Club, and before that, the Club Manager of SAFRA Tampines. I trust that my past experience will be useful to help bring TGC to new heights.

Now for some Club updates. You will be pleased to hear that the installation of the giant TV screen at the Atrium has been completed. We have started screening news and children's programmes on weekdays as well as local movies on weekends. We are also liaising with SingTel to screen English Premier League soccer matches. Do stay tuned for more updates.

Meanwhile, other Club enhancements are being planned as part of Phase 3 upgrading, which we target to complete before the end of the current financial year. These include the renovation of the Health Centre and general landscaping works.

Members who patronise our Jackpot Room will be pleased to know we are replacing several of the less popular machines with new ones.

Increasing social events at the Club is also part of my focus for this year. The recent Members' Night on 1 July 2016 was successfully held, a testament that such events have their appeal despite having been stopped for a while.

On a final note, I look forward to your constant support, participation and feedback. I hope to see more of you at our activities organised for members like yourself.

Wishing everyone the best of health. >



EDITORIAL TEAM

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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Dear TGC Members,

> A historic moment was created for Singapore on 13 Aug 2016 when Joseph Isaac Schooling won Singapore's first Olympic gold medal ever. The Grassroots' Club congratulated Joseph for his historical gold medal win.

Do you know that you could capture this historic moment and other sporting moments through the giant LED screen at the podium of the Club. If not, do look out for the programme schedule.

The Club has revitalised the Hardware, and now we will also look into revitalising the Heartware to organise novel and interesting programmes for our members.

As we embark our journey to e-magazine, we would like to encourage you to contribute interesting articles to our magazine so that your voices could be heard. Do start writing now!

Toh Sze Wei, PBM
Editor

eighth avenue

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Health Centre @ Tel: 6550 2128

Jackpot Room @ Tel: 6550 2132

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SPOTLIGHT

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2016



> The Club's Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on 22 July 2016, 7.30pm at TGC Auditorium. The meeting scheduled at 7.30pm was adjourned for half an hour, as there were only 115 voting members, which was insufficient to form the required quorum of 250 voting members. While waiting for the quorum, members had fun playing 2 games of Tombola during the interval.

The meeting started proper at 8.01pm with 117 voting members.

After the items on the Agenda were swiftly concluded, the key Management Committee members answered some questions from the floor. Members enquired about the Club's membership, increases in maintenance and revenue

support costs, as well as the reasoning behind the location of the giant LED screen.

The final note was given by People's Association Group Director, Mr Tan Kim Kee who assured members that PA will continue to support TGC in its efforts to be an ideal place for grassroots leaders to socialise and network.

Mr Tan also expressed his thanks to the 12th Management Committee for their dedication and contributions during the last two years. He also welcomed the new Management Committee and is confident that they can continue the good work accomplished by the previous Committee. In closing, Mr Tan gave his best wishes for more successes in the years to come. ➤

SPOTLIGHT

"AGE WELL TOGETHER"

HEALTH TALK

BY HEALTHY AGING ASSOCIATION

> The Club had the honour of being the venue of choice for the Healthy Aging Association (HAA)'s "Age Well Together" health talk. On 23 July 2016, a total of 74 members and guests attended the talk, and were given a free bone mass screening.

Held in the Auditorium, the talk was given by Cardiology Specialist Dr Kenneth Guo, Neuropsychologist Dr Donald Yeo and Dr Tan Teck Jack from Northeast Medical Group. The experts delivered explanations on heart health, aging brain and pneumonia. Through the talks, participants acquired knowledge on how to keep their hearts healthy, the effects of aging on the brain, and how to guard against pneumonia, a lung infection that affects all ages.

Armed with heightened awareness of pneumonia and flu prevention, some participants went for pneumococcal and flu vaccination administered by Dr Tan in one of the meeting rooms. Others visited the booths and enjoyed a good time exchanging ideas with fellow participants. They also received bags of goodies from HAA.

It was a Saturday well spent learning the "secrets" to maintaining optimal health as we age. A good number of members remarked that the talks were very informative and useful. Let's see what some of them have to say! >

"The talks are very good, especially the one on pneumonia. Nowadays, Pneumonia is becoming wide-spread and we should be careful to protect ourselves against it."

~ Mr Poh, member



"Very good talk by all the doctors. I like the talk by Dr Donald Yeo. Very informative."

~ Ms Lim, member



"The talk was very good. Informative, realistic facts n give us seniors a channel to find out where to get help."

~ Ms Teng, member

22 SEPTEMBER 2016

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NO CAR, NO PROBLEM:

THERE ARE MANY WAYS TO GET AROUND SINGAPORE

For some Singaporeans, expensive car prices have opened up new avenues for them to move around. These include cycling, using personal mobility devices (PMDs) and even becoming private-hire car drivers.

> Prices for cars have skyrocketed in recent times, mainly due to the increasing cost of the Certificate of Entitlement (COE). Car park rates around the island are also set to increase in the months to come.

Consequently, it has become more difficult to own a car in Singapore, despite the Monetary Authority of Singapore's recent adjustment that allows car buyers to pay lower downpayment rates and take up a bigger car loan.

Consequently, some Singaporeans have resorted to taking public transport because of its lower cost.

41-year-old Brendan Goh lives in Punggol and uses an electric scooter to get to work everyday, covering a distance of 16 kilometres in total per day.





"I scoot to work as it saves cost and time. Having a car is too expensive and public transport is too crowded," he said.

The ride takes him 20 minutes on the scooter, and 35 minutes should he opt for the bicycle which he does some days. It helps that his office at Tai Seng is located right next to a park connector, giving him easy access to and from home.

What about road hazards such as speed limits, one's right of way and even contact with fellow road users like the pedestrians?

"Obviously, we need to observe rules and regulations, and not abuse our rights as road users," he added.

The recent announcement of the construction of a 150-kilometre Round Island Route, which will complement the 300 kilometres of pathway under the current Park Connector Network (PCN), ought to be music to the ears of those like Brendan, as it provides cyclists and PMD users alike safer routes to their destinations.

For some, the rise of private-hire car services like Grab and Uber has given them an alternative that lets them own a car, but without paying the hefty upfront charges for a new vehicle.

Last year, Jason Wong bought a car with one year remaining on the COE. Like many others, he signed up with Grab and Uber, using his free time to offer private transportation.

"Buying a 9-year-old car gives me the option of COE renewal, which offers lower overall depreciation than getting a new car," he said. "Getting an old car also gives me some buffer time in case COE prices go down. It also requires less upfront payment versus getting a new car."

Jason estimates that using his car for private-hire has offset about 35 percent of his total car costs. But he admits that having a home that's closer to his office in the Central Business District will make the switch to public transport a viable option.

"Having the ability and option to charge a fee for one's time and energy is something very empowering, but



it's not for everyone. The driver ideally needs absolute conviction in driving ability, judgment, low reaction times, customer service skills, a good dose of patience and humility, and most importantly a continual desire to do better than one's current state," he said.

The proliferation of Grab and Uber has also worked in favour of passengers who were formerly car owners and recently surrendered their car upon the expiry of the COE.

No longer do these people have to deal with road conditions and finding a parking space. Booking a private-hire car from the aforementioned companies is a cinch, and it complements the taxis that are already plying the road.

"At present, it doesn't make sense to renew the COE and lose the rebate that comes with the car," said Damien Lai, who gave up his car in July. "I believe COE prices will fall in future, but for now, I am enjoying the cost savings of public transport and the comfort of the occasional taxi ride. Private cars that I hire come straight to my doorstep, and I don't have to think about parking charges or bad motorists."

As Singapore gears itself for a "car-lite" society, it's crucial to realise that it will not be one that's completely car-free. Hence, it's reasonable to see citizens who use a combination of transport modes, including cars, to move around.

P. Maui counts himself as one of them. Citing a lack of shower and locker facilities at his workplace, Maui chooses to load up his bicycle onto his father's car and cycle home after work ends.

"My job requires me to carry a camera and laptop around, so on the occasions that I don't, I'll bring my bicycle out and cycle home," he said.

Bicycles and PMDs, coupled with the increase in bus operators, MRT lines as well as PCNs, may give rise to the day when car ownership in Singapore becomes less of a necessity, as accessibility to any part of the island becomes convenient and cost-effective, no matter the mode of transportation. ➤

Congratulations TO OUR CLUB MEMBERS WHO RECEIVED **NATIONAL DAY AWARDS 2016**

THE PUBLIC SERVICE STAR / BINTANG BAKTI MASYARAKAT (LINTANG)



Mr Lim Ah Lek,
Christopher, BBM(L)



Mr Tan Kian Hoon,
JP, BBM (L)



Mr Yeo Khee Chye,
David, BBM(L)

THE PUBLIC SERVICE STAR (BAR) / BINTANG BAKTI MASYARAKAT



Mr Ang Cheng Ho,
BBM



Mr Ang Pong Tian,
Allan, BBM



Mr Lee Yong Chuan,
Edwin, BBM



Mr Lim Thien Su,
Gerald, BBM



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Andrew, BBM



Mr Sarjit Singh,
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Mr Teo Seng Leong,
Peter, BBM



Mr Kea Meng
Kwang, BBM



Mr Sathinathan s/o
M.R. Karuppiah, BBM



Mr Sim Kin Chye,
BBM

THE PUBLIC SERVICE MEDAL / PINGAT BAKTI MASYARAKAT



Mr Han Jioek Lee,
PBM, PB



Mr Lee Song Tioh,
Bob, PBM



Mr Leong Siew
Khuen, PBM



Mr Lim Hong Wan,
Andrew, PBM



Sreevardhanan s/o
Vasu Pillai, PBM



Dr Tan Kia King,
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The Arts



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National Day Parade

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VOICES

NATIONAL DAY PARADE: HAS IT LOST ITS SPARKLE?

I was fortunate to be present at the National Stadium to watch the NDP live. As a show it's not too bad. But NDP is more than a show. It is supposed to showcase the nation's growth and glory and not about some mythology. Sure, there were some nice effects at NDP2016 but seeing the parachutes, flypast, fireworks etc. in the past NDPs was exciting. I hope those items can return again next time.

~ Ms Tan K.T

I enjoyed the NDP2016. If it was similar as previous years, you will hear complaints like having no creativity etc. To me NDP2016 had lots of creativity compared to the past NDPs. My thanks to the Organising Committee and all the thousands of participants who put in great effort in giving us an enjoying NDP2016!

~ Mr Lee P.K

I felt that the "parade" part of NDP was lacking. It was merely a curtain raiser to the show segment. I felt that it was more of a National Day Musical. I also missed the Red Lions, the military and aerial displays. I think this year's NDP has lost its sparkle. I hope to see the items I mentioned earlier return for NDP2017.

~ Mr Wong C.S

I think it is good to try something different once in a while. This year's NDP is quite different from the past NDPs which I think should appeal to some people, maybe more towards the younger generation. Despite the changes made, I won't say that the NDP has lost its sparkle as I felt that the core spirit and theme is still present.

~ Mdm Lim S.K



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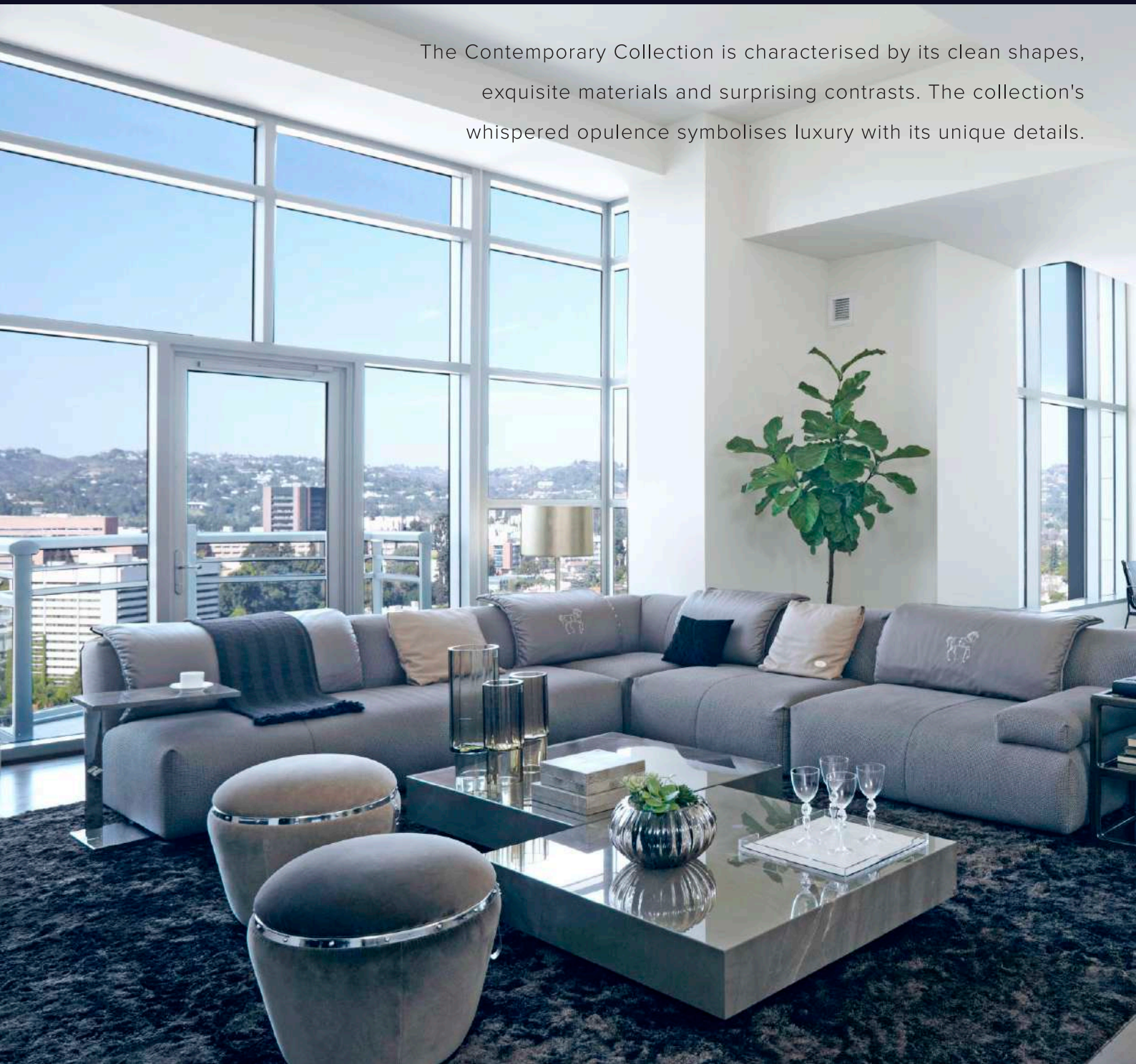
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Time: 7.00pm to 9.00pm

Venue: TGC

Fees: \$120 (Members), \$135 (Guests)

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TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

**As of 17 June 2016*

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Chua Ping Sun Richard
Chua See Ngan
Colin Tan Cheng Ngan
Khoo Boon Chiu
Roderich
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Leong Sau Yip

Loo Chee Yong
Mohamed Yasim Bin
Mohamed Abidin
Neo Teo Kong
Ng Moi Kheng Doris
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