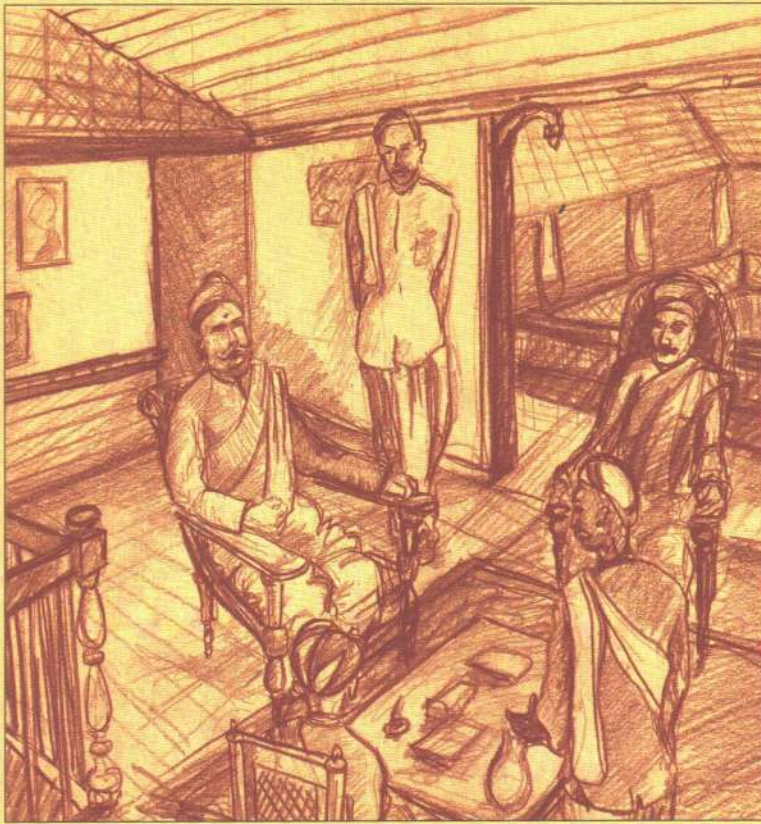




*Sri Mulam Club*

A GLIMPSE ON  
**126** YEARS OF  
SOCIAL BONHOMIE





*Picture of elites holding a meeting - an artistic impression*



*An artistic view of Cotton hill Hillock, Vazhuthacaud in 1891*

Few elites of Trivandrum, met on 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 1890 at "Hill View", Thycaud (Later owned by Sri A.N. Thampi) and resolved to start a new club. Thus a club was born with the name "The Union Club". Sir T. Rama Rao, the then ruling Dewan of Travancore, was elected as the first President of the club.

Even now the Club Year extends from 1<sup>st</sup> June to 31<sup>st</sup> May.

On the first anniversary day, a resolution was passed requesting the Government to grant a suitable site for the club and a donation for start-up works. The Government acceded to the request with a gift of 3½ acres of land on the southern side of Cotton Hill at Vazhuthacaud and a grant of Rs.1000.



Government's grant supplemented with Members' contribution brought to reality the first club building within a year. Acceding to the club's request His Highness Sri Mulam Thirunal Rama Varma, Maharaja of Travancore, paid a visit to the new club premises. His Highness also agreed to name the club after him and became the patron of the club. Thus the club was renamed as "Sri Mulam Rama Varma Union Club" in 1892.



*H.H. Sri Mulam Thirunal  
Rama Varma*





♦ H.H. Sri Mulam Thirunal Rama Varma pays a visit to the club in 1892

K.Krishnaswamy Rao, Sir P. Rajagopalachari, Dewan Bahadur T. Raghaviah, Dewan Bahadur V. Nagamiah, Sri T. Sadasiva Iyer, Mr. M.E. Watts, Sir M. Krishnan Nair, 'Kerala Panini' Prof. A.R. Raja Raja Varma and T. Padmanabha Rao were among the popular office bearers who took keen interest in the development of the club during the initial years.

Dr. C.V. Chandrasekharan, as President of the club (1936-45) took strenuous efforts for improving the club's amenities and membership strength from a meager 35 to 250. Club's name was shortened to 'Sri Mulam Club' during his tenure in the late 1930s.



Dr.C.V. Chandrasekharan



Sir. P.Rajagopalachari



K.Krishna swamy Rao



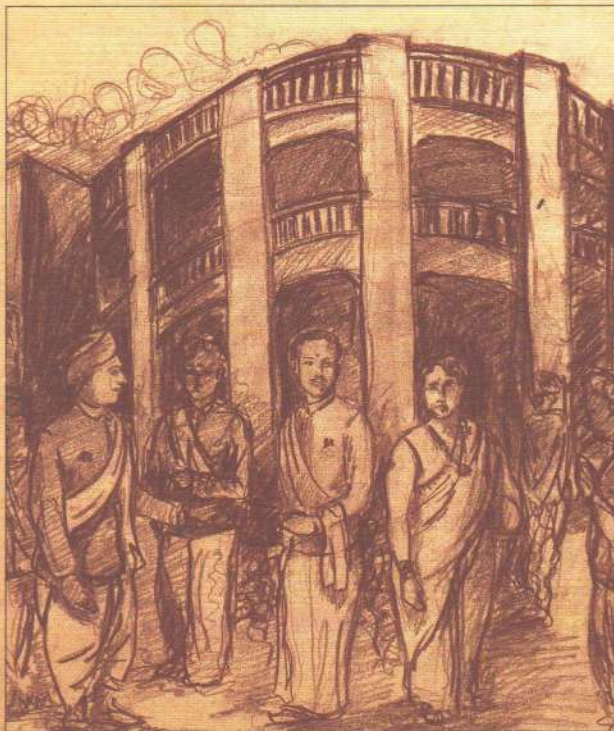
A.R.RajaRaja Varma





*Tennis players of yore posing after a few sweating sets. Dewan Udarasiromany Sri T. Padmanabha Rao is seen sitting at the centre flanked by Prof. A.R. Raja Raja Varma (right) and K. Krishna Swamy Rao (left) along with other club members.*





• An artistic impression of the visitation of H.H.Sree Chithira Thirunal Balarama Varma Maharaja of Travancore at the club with H.H.Maharani Sethu Parvathi Bhai on the occasion of the opening of the Golden Jubilee building. Dewan Sir C.P. Ramaswamy Iyer is also seen

The Golden Jubilee building was opened on the 50th year of the club's founding.

"The idea of a club is and should be that you put aside all that is connoted and denoted by your office, your rank, your title, your estate, your station, your position and come here as ordinary human beings, exchanging ordinary human thoughts, trying to soften the acerbities of life, trying to make things better and sweeter"

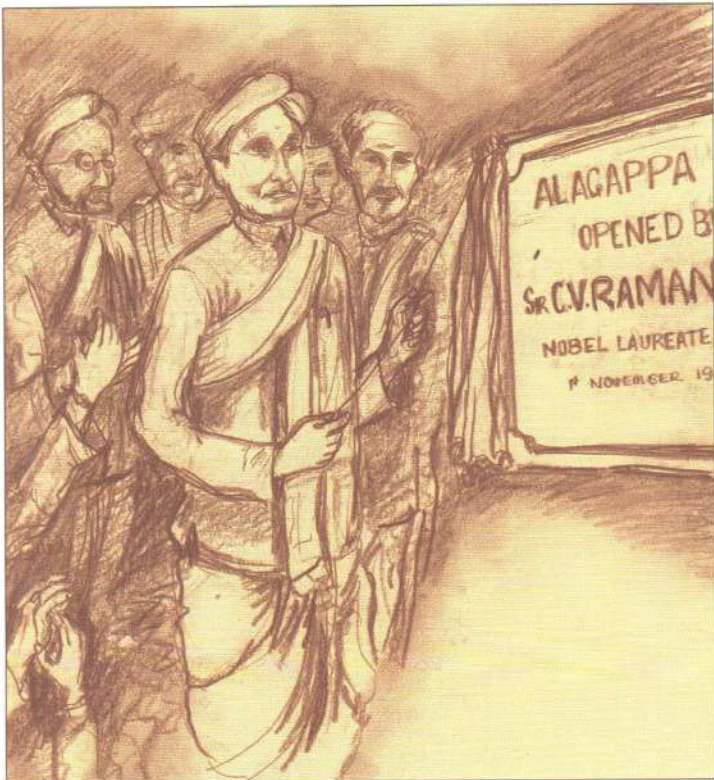
- from the speech made by Sir C.P. Ramaswamy Iyer, Dewan of Travancore (1936-47) and first Life Member of SMC, on 6th July, 1939 while laying foundation stone of the Golden Jubilee building

"A club is not merely a scene for passing diversion and the refreshment and activities for which the body and spirit crave when the day's task is done, but should also be a second home for the cultivation of those qualities which make for good fellowship and healthy citizenship. The distinguished names which adorned the rolls of this club in the past will not only be a memory but a constant stimulus and I have no doubt that the present worthy successors of this tradition will maintain and pass on to coming generations the lofty ideals which are enshrined within this handsome home".

-from the speech made by H.H. Sree Chithira Thirunal Balarama Varma, Maharaja of Travancore (1924-49) and Patron of SMC on 14<sup>th</sup> September, 1940 while inaugurating the Golden Jubilee building

Sir C.P. Ramaswamy Iyer donated about 100 books and Rs. 350 towards setting up a club library. Soon a new library named "Sir CP Library" came into being with the efforts of Sri Chidambaram, Hon. Secretary. A Women's Wing and Children's Wing were also started functioning.





*Sir C.V. Raman inaugurates the Alagappa Hall.*

Alagappa Hall was dedicated to the club by Nobel laureate Sir C.V.Raman on 1<sup>st</sup> November, 1945.

The hall was named after Dr. Sir R.M.Alagappa Chettiar from former Madras Presidency. Sri Chettiar was a true philanthropist, educationist & businessman, who donated handsomely for the construction of the hall.

Alagappa hall has witnessed various events marked in the Travancore history and speeches of eminent personalities from all over India like Sarojini Naidu, Alladi Krishna Swamy Iyer, S. Radhakrishnan and Srinivasa Shastri.



*A Shuttle Badminton court was made in the hall, probably the first indoor sporting facility in the state.*





♦ Shri N.N. Wanchoo, Governor of Kerala inaugurating the new shuttle badminton court (1973)

In 1973, one wooden Shuttle Badminton court was added to Alagappa Hall. A national level Shuttle tournament was conducted to mark the opening of the new court in which the then stars of Indian Badminton like Prakash Padukone, Partho Ganguly, Suresh Goel, Pradeep Gandhe and others descended at SMC.

Dr. Peter B Periera, Trivandrum Bishop and a regular player in the club courts, deserves a special mention for mentoring many ones sporting careers. All Kerala SMC Shuttle Badminton Tournament was a regular feature in the club's sports calendar.

The court has also cradled many illustrious players including Sri U.Vimal Kumar, who won the National Badminton Championship twice and titles like French Open, Welsh Open and SAARC Trophy. He became the first person in the club's history to be conferred with an Honorary Membership for his invaluable contributions in the field of sports.



U. Vimal Kumar



Bishop Periera





*Community Hall Inauguration by the then Governor of Kerala Smt. Jothi Vengatchellum on 1<sup>st</sup> September, 1988*



*H.H. Uthradam Thirunal Marthanda Varma Ilayaraja inaugurates the centenary celebrations by lighting the 'Nilavilakku'*

*P.C. Alexander is being welcomed by the Club president Dr. P.N. Nair to inaugurate the concluding session of the centenary celebrations.*

From 1980 onwards the club witnessed a catapult in development in terms of infrastructure and facilities, which started elevating it from its humble begins.

Foundation stone for a new restaurant and kitchen block was laid by S. Padmanabhan, District Judge on 21<sup>st</sup> August, 1982. Sri P. Narayanan Nair was the club President. S. Kesavan Nair, club President dedicated the new block to the members on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 1983.

A new guest house with state of the art facilities was added to the club infrastructure by Sri P. Narayanan Nair, club President on 4<sup>th</sup> April, 1987.

A new Community Hall was opened by the then Governor of Kerala Smt. Jothi Vengatchellum on 1<sup>st</sup> September, 1988 while Sri M.D. Abraham was the club President.

Yearlong celebrations were held from 1989 to 1990 to mark the centenary year of the club.

"There should be a purpose in club life. This should be directed to promote better understanding and social intercourse between people"

– H.H. Uthradom Thirunal Marthanda Varma Ilayaraja while inaugurating the centenary celebrations on 29<sup>th</sup> August, 1989.

Dr. P.C. Alexander, Principal Advisor to the Prime Minister of India Smt. Indira Gandhi, inaugurated the concluding ceremony of centenary celebrations on 6<sup>th</sup> August, 1990.





*From 1990 to 2016  
the club in pics...*





A classy air-conditioned modern Community Hall was opened by Kerala Chief Minister Sri Oommen Chandy on 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2006, whose completion owes much to the relentless effort of late Sri K.G.Nair, Hon. Secretary (2004-06)

Two more banquet halls, a family restaurant, an elegant permit room, a modern lobby, fully automated operations, sprawling lawn, synthetic tennis court, modern health club, guest house, CSR activities, overwhelming club festivities enjoyed by nearly 2000 members and families feature the present club.



Sri Mulam Club, as it proudly marches ahead holding high the lofty principles on which it was founded 126 years ago, offers a bonhomous yet responsible social niche for the elite natives.



# A GLIMPSE ON 126 YEARS OF SOCIAL BROTHERHOOD

Under the Aegis of Executive Committee (2015-16)

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