

MERCANTILE BADMINTON ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT – 2008

As president of the Mercantile Badminton Association it brings me great pleasure to issue the following report to our members regarding the activities and future plans of our association.

a) Overview :

The year 2008 was the dawn of a new era for the MBA as we completed 25 years of service to the game. Our theme as we stepped in to our 26th year was “LOOKING BEYOND THE SILVER JUBILLEE”.. The key elements of the new vision were

- I. Broad basing our activities and reaching towards the outstations.
- II. Incorporation of the MBA Trust.
- III. The MBA Badminton Acedamy.
- IV. “Badminton Everywhere” – National Project.

b) Administration :

The functions of the association were divided among the following sub committee's which were headed by the Vice President and the immediate Past President.

✦ Finance	Chairman	Mr. Sumith Guruge
✦ Special Events	Chairman	Mr. Priyantha Wijesekera
✦ Media & Publicity	Chairman	Mr. Princely Cooke
✦ Tournaments	Chairman	Mr. Roshan Fernando
✦ Regional Events	Jt Chairman	Mr. Peter Wijesekera Mr. C.W Peter
✦ MBA Academy	Jt Chairman	Mr. Priyantha Wijesekera Mr. Sumith Guruge
✦ “Badminton Everywhere”	Jt Chairman	Mr. Nirodha de Costa Mr. Princely Cooke
✦ MBA Foundation & Stadium Project	Chairman	Mr. Gamini Jayasuriya

General council had regular monthly meetings numbering (10) for the year at which the attendance was satisfactory but should have improved further.

c) Special General Meeting :

A Special General Meeting was held on 28th August 2008 at which the following items were approved.

- I. Inclusion of the immediate Past President as a member of the General Council..
- II. Approval for the formation of the Mercantile Badminton Trust.
- III. Appointment of a new treasurer due to the resignation of the former treasurer.

The necessary amendments for the constitution were unanimously passed.

d) Finance

The finances of the association were well managed by the former treasurer Mr. Dayananda Peremune and the present treasurer Mrs. Shiranthi Maddegoda. Monthly accounts were tabled at the council meetings and an income and expenditure statement of each activity was also presented to the house.

Our financial status as at the end of the financial year is as follows

- I. Deposits **Rs 980 999** (treasurer's bills 250 000+fix deposits 730 999)
- II. Current account balance **Rs 717 477.44**
- III. Saving account balance **Rs 102 396.68**

e) Sponsorship

The annual budget for the activities for the association is approximately Rs.1.3 million.

As it was difficult to find a single sponsor at this scale, our efforts were to find sponsors in two categories.

- I. Corporate sponsors at Rs.400 000 per year
- II. Brand sponsor's at Rs.100 000 per year

It is a matter of regret that we have not been very successful in securing the desired sponsorships though many pledges have been made.

◇ **Corporate sponsorship's - Sponsorship from CIC paints.**

We are deeply indebted to CIC Paints for their generosity of continuing the annual sponsorship of Rs.400 000 with the MBA for the 10th consecutive year.

◇ **Brand sponsorship – Mike Cooke Group**

We also express our grateful thanks to Mike Cooke Group who have supported us with brand sponsorship this year.

As the president of the association I appeal to the member firms to support us with sponsorship packages to enable us to carry out the activities of the association.

f) **Activities 2008**

◇ **Tournaments**

I. Mercantile Novices Badminton Championship

The championship was held from **6th to 9th March 2008** at the S. Thomas' College Sports Complex.

II. Family Fun Badminton Tournament 2008

The tournament was held on **29th June 2008** at the Tamil Union Indoor Stadium

We express our sincere thanks to Exterminators (Pvt) Ltd for having sponsored the trophies for this event.

III. Mercantile Individual Open Badminton Championship 2008

The championship was held from **20th to 24th August 2008** at the Indoor Sports Complex of S. Thomas' College Mount Lavinia

◇ **Proposed Events**

I. Dulux MBA Interfirm Championship

2nd to 8th December 2008

II. MBA All Island Open Championship

The 1st ever MBA All Island Open Championship which was planned in collaboration with the NCPBA had to be postponed to February 2009 due to security concerns.

We have also planned to have our 1st regional tournament in the North West Province early next year.

The tournament's conducted were well organized and I wish to place on record our appreciation to the chairman and all member's of the tournament committee for their untiring efforts.

It is regretted that the participation of our committee member's at these events was not very satisfactory.

III. Tour to India

The traditional tour to India comprising of a team of winner's and runner's up of the MBA novices was revived this year. A team of 18 along with the team manager Mr. Ravi Jayasekara had a very successful and enjoyable tour to Pune India from **22nd to 27th July 2008**.

g) Publicity

The MBA web site was launched at the silver jubilee celebrations and information regarding the association is up dated periodically. However we hope that more and more members would utilize the web site to gather information as well as contribute to the web site with useful news.

Although Badminton does not draw much attention from print & electronic media the Publicity Committee did a commendable job in getting reasonable coverage for our activities.

Conclusion

I wish to thank all our Sponsor's and Well Wisher's, the SLBA, the Media , the management of S. Thomas' College Sports Complex, and all member's of the committee for their support during the year and look forward to the continuation of same in the future.

A special word of thanks to our Secretary Mr Chriso Gonawela for allowing us the use of his office and to his Secretary for all the help extended to the MBA.

Ajith Wijesinghe
President

05th November 2008