Newsletter Issue 2 • Year 2012

MESSCOIL





for Life!



CONTENTS



- 3 SPOM-SSPOA AGM cum Retirees Night 2012
- 4 SPOM D&D 2012
- 6 SPOM Revamp! 5th SPOM Medal
- **7** KTV Kraze Kontest 2012
- 8 DSO Dining-In Activities Galore @ SPOM!
- 9 ComChest Heartstrings Walk Vertical Marathon @ Marina Bay Sands Yellow Ribbon Run
- 10 Interview with Mr Edwin Oliver Thompson SPOM Heritage: The Dining-In Culture
- 11 Wine Appreciation Workshop SPOM Babies
- 12 Lunch with Retired Senior Police Officers
 "And the Answer Is..."

 Calendar of Events

Editorial Committee

Advisor

DAC Wilson Lim Chairman Internal Communication & Publicity Mess Committee

Editor

ASP McIntvre Rosie Ann

Assistant Editors

ASP Gan Seng Tark ASP Dean Ng ASP Lam Yarn

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Please send comments and contributions to **Rosie_Ann_Mcintyre@ spf.gov.sg**

Internet Website

http://www.spf.gov.sg/sites/spom/home/home.htm

Intranet Website

http://intranet.spf.gov.sg/institutions/spom/home/home.htm

Contact Mess Sgt. @ Senior Police Officers' Mess

153 Mount Pleasant Road Singapore 298341 Tel: 6478 3040

Fax: 6254 9924



[&]quot;MESS CALL is the signature Bugle Call to tell all Officers to head for the Mess (or the Mess Tent, if the event is out field) during the days when communication was either by Bugle Call or Semaphore Flags. Appropriately, our newsletter by way of its contents is to 'invite' all of you to the Mess and aim to invoke a sense of association for the Mess. The Editorial Team seeks to establish **MESS Call** as a bridge that connects all of us together in the SPOM family".



SSPOA-SPOM AGM cum Retirees Night 2012

Supt Tey Siew Choo SPOM Honorary Secretary

n the late afternoon of 31st July 2012, a total of 405 SPOM Ordinary Members arrived at SPOM to participate in the SSPOA-SPOM joint AGM. Early birds received a specially made peak-cap holder from SPOM, as well as a laser pen with a built-in thumb drive from SSPOA.

Commissioner of Police, Mr Ng Joo Hee, commenced the joint AGM with a speech, followed by the launch of SSPOA's new logo. Following the unveiling of the new SSPOA logo, SSPOA held their AGM before SPOM held ours.

At the conclusion of SPOM's AGM, all attendees were invited to the Ante Hall to witness the presentation of retirement gifts to 7 retirees. Each retiree received a ceremonial sword (only for SPF officers), a cheque amounting to \$888 and the SPOM Coffee Table Book. A total of 23 SPOM members had retired over the past year and they are:

- 1. Mr Ng Kee Hoe
- 2. Mr Teo Kian Teck
- 3. Mr Teng Kok Heng Stephen
- 4. Mr Chong Choo Ha
- 5. Ms Chan Lai Yong
- 6. Mr Avadiar Pongenan
- 7. Mr Surjit Singh S/O Bakshi Singh
- 8. Mr Lam Peng Choy
- 9. Mr Chean Ah Kiong
- 10. Mr Ang Kheng Leong Phillip
- 1. Mr Chua Eng Hwee
- 12. Mr Benny Tan Chwee Eng

- 13. Mr Tan Boon Heng
- 14. Mr Seow Hong Lee
- 15. Mr Teng Wan Siong
- 16. Mr Kenneth Tan Boon Khoon
- 17. Mr Lai Chin Fatt
- 18. Mr Saran Kumar Gurung
- 19. Mr Narjit Rai
- 20. Mr Jiwa Ram Gurung
- 21. Mr Mankaji Gurung
- 22. Mr Kailash Rajbhandari
- 23. Mr Chhabilal Paija Pun



At the end of the presentation, Senior Officers and the retirees, who are SPOM's Honorary Members, were invited to enjoy the Retirees Night where a sumptuous buffet spread was served. CP also officiated the opening of the newly renovated Karaoke lounge. The new Karaoke lounge has 3 individual rooms and they are fully furnished with new interior designs, furniture and sound systems. The night ended with a few members singing away in the new Karaoke lounge while others continued to enjoy the sumptuous dinner.







Men in Blue: Mata Lai

ASP Madeline Low Ai Lin SPOM Social Sub-Committee

ailed as the Senior Police Officers' Mess (SPOM) social event of the year, the SPOM Annual Dinner was held on 29th March 2012 at Amara Sanctuary Resort at Sentosa. It was a night to remember.

The evening began when a welcome fanfare, comprising of a unique blend of sirens, heralded the arrival of the Guest-of-Honour, Commissioner of Police (CP) Ng Joo Hee and his entourage.

After an energetic drum performance by the SPF Band and an opening address by the President of the Mess Committee, CP delivered his speech.

In his speech, CP exhorted the Senior Officer Corps to live up to our core values of Courage, Loyalty, Integrity and Fairness so as not tarnish the good image and repute of the Singapore Police Force. He reiterated that men in blue are subjected to the highest standards of personal integrity and are expected of higher standards of conduct which no other occupation requires of its members.

Adding that "we all love our Commissioners", CP also gave special thanks to former Commissioners Mr Khoo Boon Hui, Mr Tee Tua Ba and Mr Goh Yong Hong as well as Deputy Commissioners Mr Goh Liang Kwang and Mr Peter Szeto, all of whom took time off from their busy schedules to join our Senior Officer Corps for a night of good food and great entertainment.



Guests started

tucking into the exquisite fare while being enthralled by two stuntmen, Hapis and Hafiz, who performed a series of gravity-defying bicycle stunts. Thereafter, NSIs Md Firdaus and Abdul Wafiy entertained everyone with a medley of songs. The talented SPF Quintet next took over the stage and created a perfect and soothing ambience for officers to dine, wine and chat. Seasoned stand-up comedian Mr Chua En Lai then kept the audience in stitches as he delivered one hilarious joke after another.











Musical gems from within the Senior Officer Corps, Deputy Commanders of Special Operations Command and Bedok Police Division, DAC David Scott Arul and Supt Jarrod Pereira then serenaded diners with "I'm Yours" and "Hey Soul Sister".

Deputy Commissioner T. Raja Kumar then came on stage

and surprised everyone with his smooth delivery of a medley of 4 songs in Hokkien, English, Malay and Tamil! CP also kept the audience spellbound singing "The Leader of the Band".

The event culminated with CP leading the Senior Officer Corps in a cheer for the SPF. Hip Hip Hurray!

SPOM Revamp! To all the Singers out there!

Supt Masagoes Idris Bin Masagoes Hussain

SPOM Business and Development Sub-Committee

Business and Development Sub-Committee had refurbished SPOM's karaoke rooms and lounge so as to serve you even better. Members will definitely notice the remarkable changes made to the karaoke rooms and lounge!

The transformation first began with the installation of

installation sound-proofing systems and acoustic rooms. The karaoke rooms had also been redesigned to give the area new and vibrant look. Energy-saving

had also been installed to make sure that we do our part for the environment. And to top it off, the new KTV system is updated with the latest songs for your entertainment! The KTV rooms will surely provide you with the karaoke experience that you deserve.

For larger groups, the newly renovated lounge is an excellent venue to host your karaoke session. The lounge is large enough to accommodate 20 people comfortably, and is equipped with bar tables and stools. The lounge is spacious and perfect for a social night out. Whether you are bringing new colleagues along to get to know each other, or just feel like letting your hair down with your buddies, the lounge will definitely prove to be a favourite hangout.

If you prefer a cosier setting, the 3 private rooms are perfect for you. Indeed, the private rooms provide a relaxed ambience which guarantees a wonderful experience for you, your family and friends!

Whatever the occasion, the newly refurbished karaoke rooms and lounge are well-placed to meet your social and entertainment needs. This facelift is but another endeavour to value-add to your overall experience at SPOM. So come on down and have a good time!





ASP Chen Tongyu & Insp Joseph Young SPOM Sports Sub-Committee

Being the last SPOM golfing event for year 2012, SPOM 5th Medal received a rousing response, with 49 SPOM members competing at the newly remodelled 18-hole course at the Jurong Country Club (JCC). Jointly organized by SPOM and Police

Golfing Society, the event was graced by PMC Deputy Commissioner T. Raja Kumar.

Just after teeing off, the

leeing on,

unpredictable weather started to turn windy with rain, threatening to dampen the spirits of the golfers. The patient golfers halted their games briefly but thankfully, the rain soon stopped. The cool weather was most ideal for a good round of golf.

After the game, the golfers enjoyed a lunch buffet at the clubhouse. Chats and laughter filled the room as SPOM members shared their golfing experience on the course.

Using the "Double Peoria" method of calculation, the winners this time around are Mr Keok Tong San from 'F' Div (37 pts), Mr Nasri Hasron from TP (36 pts) and Mr Robin Goh from 'A' Div (35 pts). The Nearest-to-Pin winners are Mr Bernard Quek from SECCOM and Mr Eric Tan Seow Peng from CNB.

The Nearest-to-Line winner is Mr Lewis Lopez from MHA. Our 2 lucky draw winners are Mr Richard Goh from 'E' Div and Mr Birendra Bikram Limbu from GC.

The event was brought to a close after the lunch cum prize presentation, with many golfers looking forward to the next SPOM Medal Challenge in the new golfing year 2013.





ASP Rane Chua SPOM Social Sub-Committee

n 31st August 2012, 19 Senior Officers from various units gathered at the newly renovated SPOM Karaoke Lounge for the inaugural "Karaoke Kraze Kontest 2012". They came armed with their zealous supporters and a repertoire of English and Mandarin hits from various genres.

Organised by the SPOM Social Sub-Committee, the contestants were judged based on showmanship and vocal qualities. They also had to perform before the camera, besides the judges and audience! Videos of their performances were then uploaded on the SPOM Facebook page.

The panel of judges comprised of Mr Sulaiman (an award-winning song writer), Mr Noor Asrin (Chief Musician in the SPF Band) and Mr Lau Khee Keong (Choir Master of SPF Choir and Bandmaster of the SPF Band) from the Singapore Police Force Band. The judges shared their valuable tips and advice when they became our very own "Simon Cowells" for the night.

The audience was well-entertained as the contestants gamely displayed their vocal skills and tried to outperform one another. It was an impressive contest and a close fight amongst the contestants, so the judges definitely had a challenging time awarding their points. The finalists were also being determined by SPOM members as 20% of the contestants' overall scores were based on the number of 'Likes' the contestants received for their recorded performance on the SPOM Facebook page.

Upon the final tallying of scores, the Social Sub-Committee would like to congratulate the following five finalists:

- Madeline Low (CID)
- Lee Pei Ling (CID)
- Chan Jan Ho (D Div)
- Lai Ser Tun (F Div)
- William Siew (Senior Officer Trainee)

If you have not seen the contestants in action, you can still view their performances on SPOM's Facebook page. You can watch the finalists performing live at the finals during the SPOM Annual Dinner 2013!



Dining-In of

Tan Sri Haji Ismail bin Haji Omar

Inspector-General of Police from the Royal Malaysia Police

Supt Tey Siew Choo SPOM Honorary Secretary the attendees celebrated his birthday with a cake! Tan Sri Haji Ismail turned 59 years old on 17th May 2012.

n 4th May 2012, a Dining-In was held in honour of Tan Sri Haji Ismail bin Haji Omar, Inspector-General of Police, Royal Malaysia Police (RMP), for his contributions in promoting close bilateral ties between the RMP and the Singapore Police Force (SPF).

Earlier in the day, Tan Sri Haji Ismail had been conferred the Distinguished Service Order by our Singapore President, Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam, at the Istana. Besides SPF officers, the Dining-In was also attended by Mrs Kamsiah Kamaruddin, Acting High Commissioner, Malaysia High Commission and other RMP delegates. As per tradition, Commissioner of Police (CP) presented the Temasek Sword to Tan Sri Haji Ismail who in turn presented CP with a set of RMP Police Ranks.

In addition to experiencing the tradition of the SPF Dining-In, Tan Sri Haji Ismail was visually surprised when CP and After dinner, everyone was entertained by the SPF Combined Band at the SPOM lawn. At the end of the performance, a delighted Tan Sri Haji Ismail gave a standing ovation to the band as



Activities Galore @ SPOM!

The SPOM Social Sub-Committee will be organising one social event each month for SPOM members to network and build camaraderie amongst the Senior Officer ranks.



To coincide with the opening of the newly renovated SPOM Karaoke Lounge in August 2012, the committee organised the 'Karaoke Kraze Kontest'.

2012, the committee organised the 'Karaoke Kraze Kontest'. The SPOM version of 'Singapore Idol' attracted 19 budding songbirds from various units. The top 5 contestants who had garnered the most number of points from the judges and from the online voting by SPOM members will compete in the finals at the SPOM Annual Dinner on 15th February 2013.

SPOM members celebrated the Mid-Autumn Festival on 29th September with their families on the grounds of SPOM. They were treated to an evening of sumptuous food and various types of delectable mooncakes. Participants were also enthralled by a renowned local ventriloquist and magician.





The SPOM building was transformed into a haunted house for 'Hell-oween' on 27th October! Members and their families came dressed up in various costumes, and they sure had the spookiest time ever with the games and entertainment which awaited them!



ASP Ryan Koh SPOM Social Sub-Committee



SPOM's version of Oktoberfest which was held on 30th November was named "Novembeer Fest"! Members joined the Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner to sample various German beer and food. Entertainment was provided by 2 live bands, SPF's Quintet and DAC David Scott Arul's band. To mark a close to year 2012, the annual Children's Party was held on 23rd December 2012.

Other exciting events that SPOM has lined up for you in the New Year 2013 are the SPOM Annual Dinner on 15th February and a visit to the new River Safari in March. Hope to see you at these events!



ComChest Heartstring Walk 2012

Insp Joseph Yoong & Insp Yow Kien Seng SPOM Sports Sub-Committee

The Senior Police Officer cohort was once again proud to participate in the ComChest Heartstrings Walk 2012 @ Marina Bay.

With the iconic Marina Bay waterfront as the panoramic backdrop, the walk for charity was indeed fun and meaningful. Held on 26th August 2012, the event was graced by Guest-Of-Honour Mr Teo Chee Hean, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Home Affairs.

Even before dawn, members of the Senior Officer corps had gathered at the start point, eager to do their part in celebrating the caring and giving spirit of the Singapore community. The first rays of dawn soon illuminated the waterfront, heralding the commencement of the walk. At the end of walkathon, the participants enjoyed the fun-filled carnival, live entertainment and were even treated to massages to soothe their tired muscles. It was truly a rewarding experience for the participants as they had made a difference in the lives of over 300,000 people under the care of Community Chest.



Vertical Marathon @ Marina Bay Sands

Other than the walkathon, four SPOM members also participated in the vertical marathon for this meaningful cause. ASP Richard Chung, INSP Liow Yong Hwee, INSP Yow Kien Seng and NSI Oo Wa Thann teamed up to conquer 57 floors of the gravity-defying Sands SkyPark. The team achieved 4th position, surpassing SPOM's 7th position in the ComChest Vertical Marathon 2011. Well done, guys!

Yellow Ribbon Prison Run 2012 The Road to Acceptance

Insp Joseph Yoong & Insp Yow Kien Seng

SPOM Sports Sub-Committee

on 16th September 2012, SPOM members gathered eagerly at the start point of picturesque Changi Village. Amidst the cheerful greetings and friendly jibes of how prepared (or unprepared) each officer was for the challenge ahead, Senior Officers who represented SPOM were ready to do their part in creating awareness for the Yellow Ribbon Project. The race was led by none other than Commissioner of Police, Mr Ng Joo Hee and Deputy Commissioner of

Police, Mr T. Raja Kumar.

The 10-km route took runners through one of the most beautiful routes in the east. Runners will pass through lush greenery and rolling hills, historic sites like the Johore Battery and the old Changi Prison wall and culminating at the new generation Changi Prison Complex.

Into its 4th year, the run blends endurance, challenges and community involvement – the same factors that make up the reintegration journey of ex-offenders. This year's theme, The Road to Acceptance, is about giving ex-offenders a second chance to have a fresh start, conveying the message that what matters most is not about the fall, but how to pick oneself up after the fall.

As the kilometres rolled by, the runners were spurred on by fellow runners around them and the cheerleaders who lined the race route. Though the run was long and at times arduous, everyone persevered. Soon, the end point was in sight and all were cheered on by the thought of having contributed to the success of the project and in having helped to fly the SPOM flag high.



SPOM Heritage: Interview with Mr Edwin Oliver Thompson

ASP Dennis Lim SPOM Heritage Sub-Committee

r Edwin Oliver Thompson was born in the year 1931. While he was in the Police Service from 1952 to 1974, he held the following appointments:

- OC Police Reserve Unit 3
- OC "D" Police Division Queenstown Police Station
- Acting Superintendent Area 1 ("A" and "D") Divisions
- Acting Director Police Academy
- Commandant of National Police Cadet Corps
- Superintendent "Administration and Specialist" Division CID
- Acting Director CID

Subsequently, he was seconded to the Prisons Service where he held the appointment of Deputy Director of the Prisons Department and retired in 1986. He also held the appointments of Honorary Secretary of the Police Inspectors' Association (from 1957 to 1960) and Honorary Secretary of the Senior Police Officers' Mess (from 1963 to 1966).

SPOM was privileged to interview Mr Thompson in the SPOM Library on 27th September 2012. Mr Thompson spoke about his rich and rewarding time during his service with the Singapore Police and Prison Services. The interview which was recorded in two parts covered the activities that were held in SPOM during its early days and the changes SPOM had undergone. Both parts of the interview had already been uploaded onto our Facebook page for your viewing pleasure.





The Dining-In Culture

Insp Daniel Chong Kwang Fei SPOM Social Sub-Committee

Tradition - The history and significance of Dining-ins

When the Senior Police Officers' Mess was inaugurated in the 1930s, it was first known as the Gazetted Officers Mess of the Straits Settlements. Derived from a rich heritage of British military tradition, SPOM was originally the living quarters for unmarried British gazetted officers who practically ate all their meals at the Mess. As the years went by, the notion of incorporating activities such as formal events, hosting of guests and having meals together within the Mess emerged.



The Straits Settlements Police Force in Singapore was dissolved following the 2nd War World and the once

exclusionary Gazetted Officers' Mess of the Straits Settlements took on the new name of the Senior Police Officers' Mess (SPOM). The British tradition of the mess night or dining-in continued even when more locals became Senior Officers. One of the key traditions was the customary invitation of guests for Dining-In, where both guests and officers were dressed formally.



Heritage - SPOM's Dining-Ins

SPOM quickly became an ideal place to host important events amongst local leaders and foreign dignitaries. Dining-Ins formed a significant feature of such occasions. Officers who were dressed in their smartest uniforms and armed with robust etiquette, sat together to enjoy the sumptuous meal laid before them. This formed a platform for communication and socialising among the officers and enhanced the friendship between leaders.





SPOM's Dining-ins has transcended time and through an infusion of British traditionalism and modernity, the scope of activities for dining-ins has broadened. Shifting from a rather patriarchal British standpoint, where only male senior officers used to be the perpetual hosts for Dining-Ins; a clear juxtapose can be seen today, as female senior officers are entitled to the accolade of hosting guests as well. The dynamics of Dining-Ins thus shed light of the increasingly even-levelled playing field shared between both genders. Aside from this, Dining-Ins had over the vears been assimilated with the 'dinner and dance'.

Culture - Why SPOM is adopting the Dining-In concept for D&D 2013?

To celebrate the unique tradition and culture of Dining-Ins, SPOM will adopt the dining-in concept for the Annual Dinner 2013. Members are strongly encouraged to bring their spouses along to this significant and joyous event. Like what Commissioner Colonel R.E. Fougler (1946) said: "Your Mess, like Your Home." SPOM D&D 2013 champions this assertion.

WINE APPRECIATION \//



Insp Erik Fan SPOM F&B Sub-Committee

o you love your glass of wine and wish to learn the art of wine tasting? That was what some thirty SPOM wine enthusiasts did together on 20th July 2012 when they attended the Wine Appreciation Workshop conducted by Mr Brad Ng, a connoisseur of wine from Beautiful Wine Pte Itd.

Just like appreciating a precious gem in the making, the key to recognising a premium wine lies with several critical elements during its making. An understanding of the variety of grapes used, the methodology used to culture the wine, the age of the wine and the alcohol level will enable one to differentiate the premium from the entry level wines.

All these factors affect the smell and taste of the wine and in turn trigger our senses to respond to each wine differently. Understanding the various experiences that can be achieved with different wines was initially a mystery to most participants. Eventually, this became crystal clear and every participant became one step closer to becoming a connoisseur themselves.

Mr Brad had introduced three bottles of red wine from Hentley Farm. The Beauty Shiraz 2006 brings out the fullness of ripe fruit flavours and spicy overtones. The Cub Shiraz 2009 brings out rich, ripe flavours, with a blanket of sweet spicy oak and superfine tannins enveloping blackberry, blueberry and plum fruits. Lastly, the Lou Miranda Leone Shiraz 2008 brings out deep crimson red with purple highlights.

Two bottles of white wine, namely Spreitzer Riesling Trocken 2010 and Spreitzer Oestricher Lenchen Riesling Erstes Gewacha 2009, with a rating of 88 and 91 points respectively, were also appreciated by the members at the workshop. In addition to the wine provided by Mr Brad, participants were privileged to taste the exclusive SPOM house wines.

The wine appreciation workshop provided an avenue for members to forge and renew bonds by learning the art of wine tasting together. Participants left with fond memories, just like the lingering bittersweet taste of a delicate wine. It will certainly not be the last of the meeting for SPOM's wine lovers!





ASP Choo Hong Xian SPOM Heritage Sub-Committee

on 27th September 2012, SPOM Heritage Sub-Committee organised a lunch for retired senior police officers at SPOM. The lunch was hosted by Deputy Commissioner (Policy) and the attendees included Mr Karthigesu Thamby Rajah, Mr Woon Sian Hai, Mr Lim Soo Gee, Mr Simon Cornelius, Mr Tan Ngo Chew, Mr Seng Kuang Meng, Mr Edwin Oliver Thompson and Mr Ponnaya Ganesan.

It was a memorable afternoon where old friends gathered



to catch up with one another. For younger officers like ASP Dennis Lim who is a member of the SPOM Heritage Committee, it was an enriching experience to listen to the retired officers as they shared nuggets of wisdom or their experience with the Force.

Mr P. Ganesan shared with ASP Dennis Lim that good officers are able, dedicated and disciplined, besides having integrity and vitality. Mr Ganesan joined the force in 1958 and had gone through a wide range of postings, such as with the GSB in CID and Head Investigation with 'F' Division. He retired in August 1990 where his last posting was Head Administration (Traffic Police). His advice certainly remains relevant today.

ш			2013
Ö	<i>1</i> 5	FEB	Annual Dinner
AR	9	MAR	River Safari
$\frac{1}{2}$	26	APR	BBQ At SPOM
	31	MAY	SPOM Member's Night
	<i>1</i> 5	JUN	Outdoor Movie Night

And the ANSWER is....

Senior Officers often write brilliant articles to share their experience in SPOM. All you have to do is READ the articles and provide the correct answers to the questions in this competition and you will stand a chance to win attractive prizes!

Fabulous prizes await you. Ten \$30 vouchers for SPOM services (food, KTV room, tennis court usage etc) or a 1 Night Stay at SPOM's chalets awaits 10 lucky winners. Deadline: 31/03/2013.

Simply fill in the answers to the questions with your details in the original cut out and mail it to the following address:

MessCall Contest **Senior Police Officers' Mess** 153, Mount Pleasant Road Singapore 298341

Question 1:

Who were the 4 Senior Officers who came in 4th position in the ComChest Vertical Marathon 2012?

Question 2:

What were the two items which the early birds received at the SSPOA-SPOM AGM?

Question3:

Who were the three judges for the Karaoke Kraze Kontest?

Rank/Name:

Dept/Unit/Div:

Contact No.:

Email Address:

Terms & Conditions apply. (Officers are allowed only 1 entry. Repeated entries on original cut out will also be rejected. Officers must use the original cut out from MessCall. Duplicates or photocopies of the cut out will be rejected. Winners will be contacted by SPOM Manager and officers must collect their prizes with 1 month of being informed. Entries received after the deadline will not be accepted. The SPOM Committee shall conduct a draw of the winners if there are more than 10 correct entries received by the deadline).