



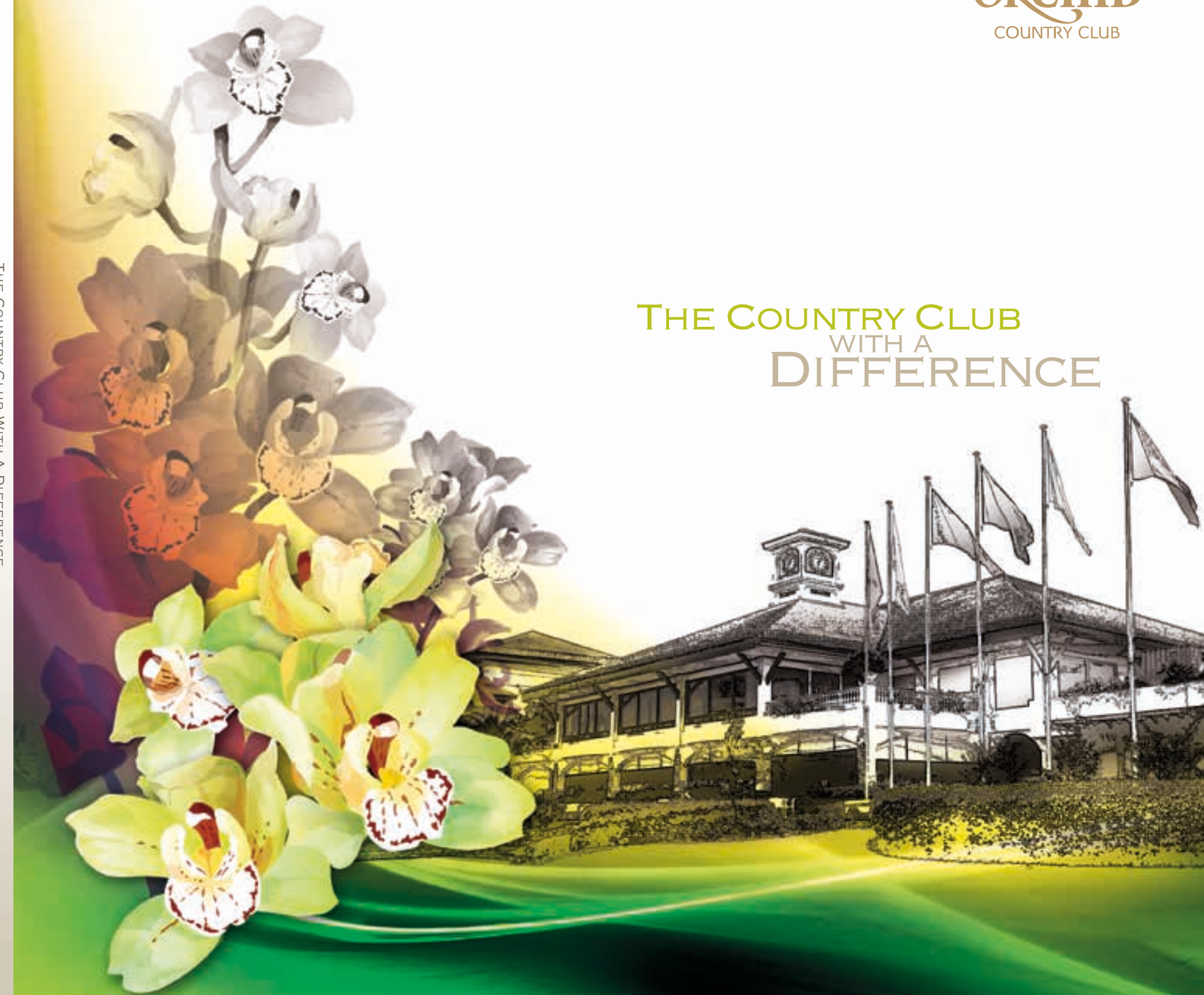
Orchid Country Club

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THE COUNTRY CLUB WITH A DIFFERENCE



THE COUNTRY CLUB
WITH A
DIFFERENCE





To celebrate 20 years of serving the members, unions and guests, this book takes a retrospective look at how Orchid Country Club (OCC) took shape and the people and events that make it happen.



THE COUNTRY CLUB
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Mr Gan Kim Yong, Minister for Health and Chairman of Singapore Labour Foundation

When the idea of OCC was first mooted, it resonated strongly with Cabinet members. Many agreed that golf should not be exclusive to senior management executives, but should be made available to ordinary workers. With this in mind, the government alienated the piece of land at the Sungei Seletar Reservoir area selected by the Labour Movement to the Singapore Labour Foundation (SLF). SLF Leisure Enterprises (Pte) Ltd was then incorporated to develop OCC which was completed in 1993.

But OCC is more than just an affordable recreation facility. The club is today a tangible symbol of the successful tripartite relationship Singapore has enjoyed over the years. OCC is a tribute to the contribution of the unions, employers and the government in building a successful Singapore.

Over the years, OCC has been the venue for many important conversations and milestone events among tripartite partners. I trust it will carry on this tradition and serve us well into the next lap of Singapore's development.





Mr Lim Swee Say, Secretary-General of National Trades Union Congress

The Labour Movement exists for workers and their families. Our mission is to ensure fair treatment and improve the wages and employment conditions of all workers in Singapore. But more than this, the Labour Movement is also a firm believer of social inclusiveness where ordinary men and women are to be respected and treated as equals regardless of their position in the workplace.

Even though golf has traditionally been regarded as the activity of only the well-to-do, our vision for OCC is to make golf a game where employers and employees stand on par, so to speak, in enjoying facilities which are affordable for all.

Today, OCC is a well established golf club and a facility fit for the many working families who have played a part in the progress of our nation. I wish OCC all the best in the years to come as our brothers and sisters here continue to support ordinary workers and their families to live a better life.

Mr Stephen Lee, President of Singapore National Employers Federation

OCC has grown since its inception in 1993 to become a world-class facility. It is a unique facility conceived by the Labour Movement, to be shared by employers and employees alike. The Singapore National Employers Federation contributed to this cause by encouraging corporations to subscribe as members, enabling their employees to also have the opportunity to enjoy the facility.

Employers today appreciate the importance of partnership with their employees for their businesses to be successful. Every worker should be valued for his or her contributions. Indeed, no company can grow on its own unless everyone in it grows together with it.

The seeds of partnership have been planted not just between the employer and the employee who is represented by the unions; but also with the government. OCC is a reminder of the strength of this tripartite partnership which has seen us through many difficult times. In the current call for increased productivity to ensure our economy continues to grow, and for us to live better lives, it is all the more critical for tripartite partners to stay together and strive for closer collaboration. OCC continues to provide the ideal platform for this to happen.



Mr Lim Jit Poh, Chairman of SLF Leisure Enterprises (Pte) Ltd



OCC has a clear social mission. What makes our club like no other in Singapore is its unique objective to make golf accessible to all workers. OCC is the only club in Singapore which offers a floating membership for unions to enable workers to enjoy golf and club facilities.

The Singapore Labour Foundation (SLF) and NTUC invited their friends and friends of the Labour Movement to purchase memberships in OCC. Unions and union members bought many memberships. Individuals and companies also purchased ordinary golfing memberships. It is this partnership between the Labour Movement and club members that transformed the vision of OCC into a reality.

With OCC's vision to be a hub for tripartism, the club has been engaging and also hosting significant golfing events and meetings, as well as social and recreational activities for NTUC Social Enterprises, unions and corporations.

Many union members and their unions have treasured and used our facilities. OCC has played host and benefited from this important and crucial patronage.

Over the years, our win-win partnership has continued to flourish. This has enabled OCC members and the Labour Movement Family to meet and enjoy time together in a friendly and cordial atmosphere.

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Mr Chong Kee Hiong, President of Orchid Country Club General Committee

2013 marks a significant milestone for the club as we step into our twentieth year. We have come a long way since the club's inception in 1993. We could not have done it without all our members.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to them, especially to the pioneers who have been with us since the beginning. I would also like to recognise the efforts of all past committee members, management team, staff and the leadership of past club presidents.

In the club's twenty years, we have invested millions to upgrade and refurbish key amenities such as golf courses, driving range, hotel rooms, function rooms, jackpot and mahjong rooms. We have introduced more lifestyle and family-centric activities to keep our club current and interesting. Our aim is to stay relevant to OCC members and the Labour Movement Family.

Many exciting plans are in place for 2013 and beyond to continuously improve the club. OCC will always strive to be a step ahead and keep its facilities up to date, with a uniquely orchid experience so that all members will always feel at home and in good hands.





THE COUNTRY CLUB WITH A DIFFERENCE

Chapter I

Why A Country Club For All Workers?



WHY A COUNTRY CLUB FOR ALL WORKERS?

Orchid Country Club (OCC) is today one of the premier country clubs in Singapore. But it is more than just that. OCC is an embodiment of all that tripartism stands for in Singapore, and a symbol that workers share the fruits of Singapore's success. How OCC was built in 1993 with the collaboration of the unions, employers and government shows the strength of tripartite co-operation in Singapore.

The seeding of the idea of OCC can be traced to NTUC's Modernisation Seminar in 1969. Up till then, NTUC's focus had been on industrial relations and fighting for workers' rights. Arising from the Modernisation Seminar, there was a move to also "stretch the dollar" of members by providing benefits. The early NTUC co-operatives such as NTUC Income Insurance, NTUC Welcome Supermarket (now called NTUC FairPrice) and NTUC Comfort for taxi drivers were set up for the purpose of delivering basic needs to union members.



These benefits evolved in the 1980s to include recreational benefits. They were introduced during the tenure of the late Mr Ong Teng Cheong who was NTUC Secretary-General from 1983 to 1993, and also Deputy Prime Minister from 1985 to 1993. He went on to become Singapore's first elected President from 1993 to 1999.

After the introduction of the NTUC Club card, NTUC Clubhouse in Shenton Way opened in February 1987 and NTUC Pasir Ris Resort (now called Downtown East) in October 1988. This was followed by NTUC Clubhouse Jurong branch in January 1989 and Sentosa Beach Resort in September 1993.

At the opening of the NTUC Pasir Ris Resort, then-Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew said: "It is tripartite co-operation of government, unions and management that has made our success. By providing these facilities to the workers, NTUC is removing any sense of psychological exclusion the middle and lower income groups may otherwise feel if they were denied access to certain things in life."

That was not all. Mr Ong had in mind the revolutionary idea of a country club complete with golf course for ordinary workers. Golf was then still considered a 'high class' game that not all could afford. Some at that time could not believe their ears and did not think it could be done. They were proved wrong. By all accounts, Mr Ong, more than any other person, ensured that the vision of OCC became a reality.

He was confident that with support from tripartite partners, as well as from unions and NTUC Social Enterprises, it could be done in spite of the estimated initial cost of \$150 million. The government could help with concessionary rates for the land while employers, corporate entities and individuals could help in cash and kind. As Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Ong also managed to convince his Cabinet colleagues that this was a workable idea.



Benefits Of Growth Shared By All

Singapore's first Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew explained how Orchid Country Club came to be at the NTUC Labour Leadership Appreciation Dinner held at the club on 30 January 2012. Pictured are NTUC Secretary-General Lim Swee Say (left) and Mr Lee during the dialogue session with unionists.

Mr Lee said: "I grew up with the unions and I decided that whatever the employers enjoy, the unions should have comparable facilities... I believe there must be a sense that they are sharing in the benefits of growth, not just in material terms but also qualitatively and that they are on par with the employers socially and that makes a difference."

"The fact that you can hold a meeting like this and a dinner to bid farewell to your nine old leaders, and have the federation of employers and the Government represented means tripartism is still working, and can continue to work provided there is internal communications that keep union members informed through their union leaders."





Tripartism: A Shared National Treasure

"Each of us has to do our part to strengthen tripartism. We need strong unions and union leaders to represent and fight for the interests of workers, but fight intelligently; to persuade workers to support policies which benefit them, even if they hurt in the short term; to work good constructive relations with the other tripartite partners.

"That is why the Government has always unfailingly supported the unions and the NTUC over now 50 years since its founding in 1961, so that workers can have a sense of ownership, of strength through unity, of solidarity, of being equal partners with business and the Government.

"We need responsible employers too. First of all, please operate successful businesses. We want your businesses to do well. If your business does not do well, you cannot help your workers. Invest in your workers, promote fair and merit-based employment practices, and be part of the prosperity we are creating together.

"We need a pro-labour and pro-Singaporean Government to protect workers' interests, to foster growth, to make sure that everyone benefits from prosperity. That is what our tripartite partnership has always been about. We must strengthen the trust and understanding that underpin this relationship. We have built it up over many years of shared sacrifice and toil. Let us strengthen it, never lose it, this is our treasure which keeps us safe and strong and ahead."

Excerpt from Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong's May Day Rally 2013 speech

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong (centre, in pink shirt) arriving at Orchid Country Club's Grand Ballroom for NTUC's National Delegates' Conference held from 29 to 31 October 2007. On PM Lee's left is then-NTUC President John De Payva.

All of independent Singapore's Prime Ministers from Mr Lee Kuan Yew, followed by Mr Goh Chok Tong and now Mr Lee Hsien Loong are great supporters of union activities in OCC and themselves participate in them.



How It Came To Be...

Mr Oscar Oliveira, who was NTUC President from 1986 to 1997, recalls that sometime in the early 1980s he learnt that NTUC Secretary-General Ong planned to build a golf and country club for union members. Things became clearer after Mr Ong visited and golfed in Japan, Taiwan and Malaysia.

Mr Oliveira said: "Mr Ong's visit to Ayer Keroh Golf and Country Club in Malacca also ignited his interest in designing his very own golf and country club. Mr Ong was impressed with the layout and design of Ayer Keroh Golf and Country Club done by Tun Ghafar Baba who was Chief Minister of Malacca and later Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister.

Mr Liu Tsun Kie (centre) with Mr S Dhanabalan (left) and Dr Hsu Tse-Kwang at the tree planting ceremony in 1991

"This spurred Mr Ong, also an architect, to design OCC's Aranda course, the first nine of the 27-hole golf course. He actually planned to design three different courses - the Aranda being for beginners, the Vanda for intermediate golfers and the Dendro for the advanced players. He strongly felt that golf should not be an exclusive sport only for the rich, it should be an egalitarian sport made affordable to all workers!"

Mr Oscar Oliveira (right) at a site visit to OCC in 1993 with Mr Ong Teng Cheong (left)

Mr Liu Tsun Kie, who was then Executive Secretary of the Singapore Labour Foundation (SLF) and Executive Director of SLF Leisure Enterprises (Pte) Ltd, was put in charge of the OCC project by Mr Ong. Mr Liu worked closely with Mr Ong and remembers him "as a man with a great mastery for details, an attribute no doubt from Mr Ong's professional training as an architect."

Mr Liu said: "Mr Ong was heavily involved in the design of the golf course. He chose the name Orchid as he was behind the introduction of the orchid motif as the Singapore Dress during that period. Mr Ong also had a say in the design of the OCC logo and the naming of the courses after orchids. He even had specific discussions on the types of trees to plant."

In preparation for OCC, Mr Ong had asked where in the world union-run golf courses could be found. Mr Liu did various researches and inquiries without the convenience of browser searches on the internet we have today. Although some unions like Japan's RENGO do have golfing facilities for their large membership base of about seven million, there was no relevant and equivalent model that could be used for OCC with the supporting foundations of tripartite co-operative efforts.

Mr Ong and a small project team with Mr Liu visited RENGO in the 1980s to hold discussions on labour and union matters. Mr Ong was impressed by the night golfing at the RENGO designated course near Mount Fuji and confirmed his intention to include night golfing facilities at OCC.

Mr Liu recalls: "I tried very hard to understand their capital structure and membership concepts, but the Japanese are typically reticent on such matters. So we had to evolve our own capital and membership structures guided only by the working principles of tripartism as this would be quite a high profile project for the Labour Movement and Singapore."

Importantly, Mr Ong felt that unionists themselves had to buy into the idea and give their blessings to the project meant to benefit them. To test the market, NTUC News ran a page one lead story in January 1988 titled "Why not golf for workers?" There were initially mixed reactions but eventually the consensus was that it was a good, workable idea.



Why not golf for workers?

WHY can't workers play golf? Why should the game be restricted to a privileged few? These have been questions asked from time to time by a number of rank-and-file union leaders, who feel that the time has come to make the game as popular as, say, squash. After all, in many other countries, there are public golf courses. Britain, Australia and Japan have them. So why not in Singapore?

Contrary to popular belief, golf is not an expensive game.

But where can our workers go to play a full 18-hole game of golf when such courses are operated by clubs that set very high prices for admission and membership?

In the more developed countries, there are public courses where workers, including taxi drivers, could go for regular games on payment of affordable green fees.

Rank-and-file unionists who have been abroad and seen such courses, are keen to see the provision of similar facilities in Singapore.

NTUC leaders share their enthusiasm to promote golf among workers, as the game is good for both physical and mental exercise.

Informal discussions have taken place between NTUC and the relevant authorities for a suitable site for a public golf course.

It is possible that one of the NTUC co-operatives may be prepared to manage such a course.

"Golf for workers" is a natural follow-up to the popularising of such games as squash, which was at one time limited only to those who belong to clubs that have squash courts.

The move to make golf available to workers will, it is hoped, have the same

desired effect. It will also put workers on par with their executives, where games are concerned.

The "golf for workers" concept comes at a time of growing affluence for Singapore. To ensure that our workers share in this happy state of affairs, NTUC has taken several tangible measures:

- Introduce an NTUC Club-card scheme to enable union members to shop at a discount, and to go for a swim in public swimming pools free;
- Set up a club for union members to enjoy facilities previously available only to members of exclusive clubs;
- Construct a huge holiday resort, with similar facilities available to country clubs;
- Bring the Singapore Symphony Orchestra to NTUC Club so as to give union members a taste of classical music.





THE COUNTRY CLUB WITH A DIFFERENCE

Chapter 2

Getting Started



GETTING STARTED

The wheels were set in motion. The SLF, a government statutory board set up to improve the welfare of union members and further the development of trade unions in Singapore, quickly established a subsidiary company, SLF Leisure Enterprises (Pte) Ltd, on 18 January 1989 to oversee the development of the project.

With strong support from the government, land was offered through SLF at a subsidised rate to build OCC. After considering a couple of other sites, the Sungei Seletar Reservoir location, which was then farm and swamp land, was chosen. There was ample space to have a few clubhouses, an Olympic-size swimming pool plus several smaller ones as well as three golf courses. It was also well served by public transport, with the Yishun MRT station not far away.

Mr Ong roped in professionals from the private and public sectors into the SLF Leisure Enterprises (Pte) Ltd Board of Directors. Each contributed their expertise in different ways.

The “owning” of a golf club by the Labour Movement would further strengthen the workers’ belief that the progress of Singapore is shared by them.



The first SLF Leisure Enterprises (Pte) Ltd Board of Directors comprised:

Chairman:

Dr Hsu Tse-Kwang

Commissioner, Inland Revenue Department (seated, centre)

Directors:

- **Mr Sat Pal Khattar** - Senior Partner, Khattar Wong & Partners (Advocates & Solicitors) (standing, far right)
- **Mr Ngiam Tong Dow** - Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance (seated, far right)
- **Mr Lee Ek Tieng** - Managing Director, Monetary Authority of Singapore; Chairman, Public Utilities Board (seated, second from right)
- **Mr Ng Pock Too** - Group Chief Executive, Sembawang Group of Companies (seated, second from left)
- **Mr Goh Chee Wee** - Assistant Secretary-General, National Trades Union Congress (standing, third from right)
- **Mr Lew Syn Pau** - General Manager, NTUC COMFORT (standing, third from left)
- **Dr Chua Sian Eng** - Commissioner, Parks & Recreation Department, Ministry of National Department (standing, second from right)
- **Mr Alvin Liao** - Managing Director, Alpal Management & Consultant Pte Ltd (standing, far left)
- **Dr Chew Beng Keng** - Medical Specialist, Chew Da Costa Pte Ltd (seated, far left)
- **Mr Liu Tsun Kie** - Executive Secretary, Singapore Labour Foundation (standing, second from left)



The first meeting of the Board of Directors was on 24 January 1990 and Mr Ong set out the reasons for the project. He said that the purpose of embarking on the development of a golf club by the Labour Movement was to make golfing accessible and affordable to the workers. This would help to demolish any perceived class distinction of golf club membership comprising mainly the higher income group.

The “owning” of a golf club by the Labour Movement would further strengthen the workers’ belief that the progress of Singapore is shared by them. The golf course to be developed by the Labour Movement should be accessible to members of the public with union members enjoying a concessionary rate. He added that funds would have to be raised; probably partly through sale of memberships and partly from the trade union movement.

Mr Ong added that the golf club should provide clubhouse facilities which union members would enjoy. Union members would be encouraged to join as social members of the club to give them a sense of belonging. The clubhouse facilities would include swimming pool, bowling centre, conference/mahjong room, games/jackpot room and suites for guests.



THE COUNTRY CLUB WITH A DIFFERENCE

Chapter 3

OCC Takes Off



OCC TAKES OFF

Union members gave the thumbs up for the project at the NTUC Ordinary Delegates' Conference on 24 – 25 November 1989. One of the resolutions adopted at the conference was:

"To provide union members with more social and cultural facilities, including expanding current facilities like the NTUC Club, NTUC Pasir Ris Resort, and the provision of new facilities like the Golf and Country Club and chalets and campsites at Sentosa."

On 10 September 1990, union officials responded positively to the briefing on Orchid Country Club by Mr Ong and others.



On 12 September 1990, Mr Ong launched the Orchid Country Club membership at the Oriental Hotel Ballroom and announced that Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew would be Patron. With the support of corporations, unions and individuals, the response at the launch was tremendous.

This enabled the club to cover the building and development cost, which had risen to \$180 million by the time OCC became operational in 1993. Unions contributed 25 per cent of the total membership fees raised.





THE COUNTRY CLUB WITH A DIFFERENCE

Chapter 4

Construction Begins



CONSTRUCTION BEGINS



The building of Orchid Country Club commenced with a Tree Planting Ceremony at the site with Mr Ong Teng Cheong and other guests on 24 August 1991. There was also a teeing off ceremony held at the Aranda Hole 2 Par 3.



Mr Alan Choe presenting the plan for OCC



Mr Alan Choe was chosen as the architect for Orchid Country Club. He was the first architect/planner in Singapore and was also involved in other NTUC projects with Mr Ong.

Mr Choe said: "Mr Ong was also an architect and planner. We understand and appreciate the same design vocabulary. Being a good and sensitive designer, he enjoys interacting with me with his design ideas. You can say that we enrich each other's design ideas and improve the product substantially in the process. I prepared designs based on his vision to create OCC."

It was an architecturally ambitious project. As it was built with workers in mind, OCC had to be suitable and appropriate for workers and not turn out to be a costly white elephant.

Mr Choe said Mr Ong constantly kept a watching brief on the design and progress of the construction: "As for the golf course itself, Mr Ong studied and incorporated good ideas from other golf courses in Singapore and abroad and had good ideas on how the golf course should be designed. He played a key role in the design of the whole golf course. Hence, you will see the sand bunkers shaped in the form of orchids."

Mr Choe added: "It is difficult to find similar aspiration and concern for workers, with the provision of a golf club with many amenities in the clubhouses for the enjoyment of workers and families, elsewhere in the world."



Because of the size of the project, strict control of the budget was practised right through the project. There were regular meetings and cash flow reviews to ensure adequate funds were provided in time. Many followed Mr Ong on frequent site visits, gave their views and had a say in sourcing around and bringing in the best features for the project. These regular visits ensured that whatever changes there were could be made on time.

Mr Ong spent much time on the Grand Ballroom design and acoustics as he wanted workers to try and enjoy ballroom dancing. Not only that, the Grand Ballroom was also intended to be used for conferences, big dinners and other events. The curved grand staircase (above) was also Mr Ong's idea.

Orchid Country Club

160 bays for Golf Driving Range

THE Golf Driving Range of NTUC Orchid Country Club will have 160 bays, one of the largest in Singapore.

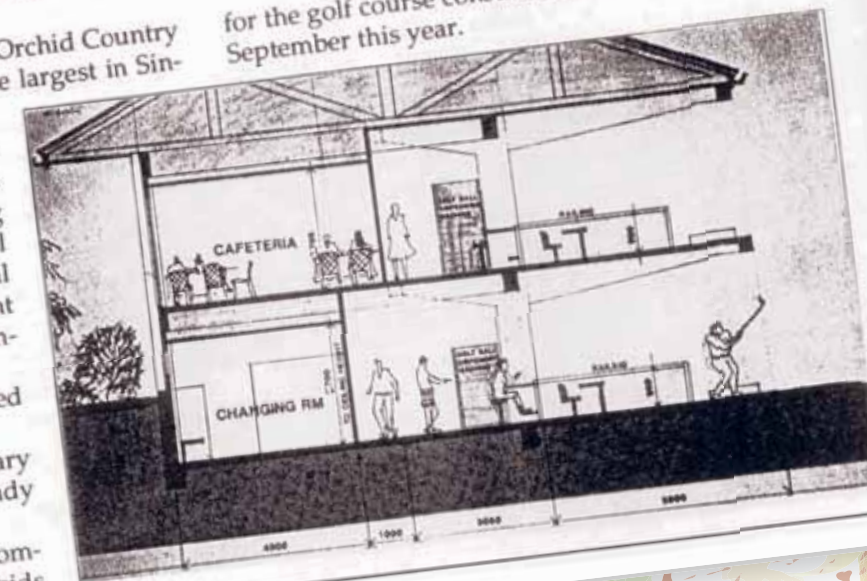
It will comprise 110 covered bays and 50 open bays. Distance is up to 250 metres for the driving practices. There is also a proposal for two putting greens and several sand bunkers. A small refreshment area, a pro-shop and video teaching areas will be included.

The Driving Range is expected to be completed in July 1992.

The Clubhouses and ancillary facilities are scheduled to be ready by October 1993.

With the site clearance completed, invitation for tender bids

for the golf course construction is expected in mid-September this year.

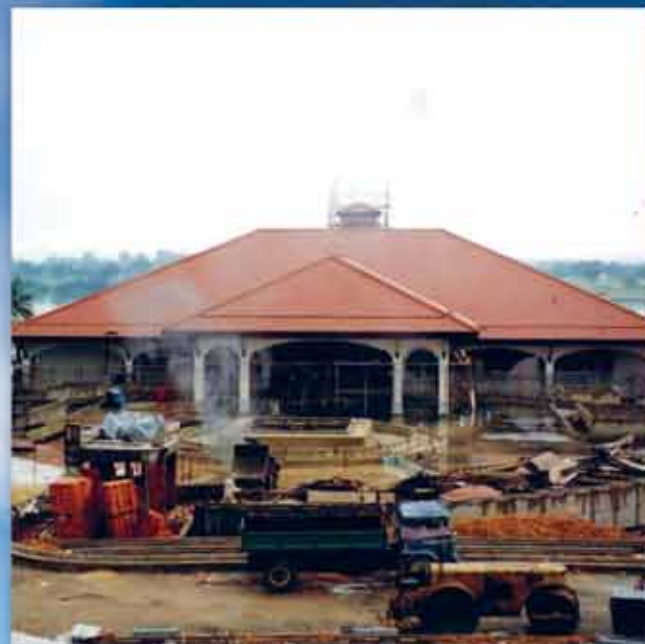


A driving range with a difference

WHAT makes the Orchid Country Club (OCC) quite different from other existing golf clubs is that it is the first to have a driving range with an artificial turf and computerised tee-off systems. Making use of different colours, OCC managed to create a turf that has almost everything - ponds (represented by the blue stretch in the centre) and bunkers (as the sandy-coloured patches suggest) amidst a vast green landscape. So golfers, if you hit the blue stretch, do not be overjoyed for your golf balls are supposed to have disappeared into the water.

More on Page 11

In the first phase of development, the main building works for the 160-bay automated Driving Range commenced in July 1992 and opened on 28 February 1993 to good response from members and the public.



Work started on the Golf Clubhouse with the first pile driven in on 24 March 1992 and the main building works began in August 1992. This was completed in September 1993.

Then & Now



Aranda 2

Work for construction of the golf course started in June 1992 and the first nine holes, the Aranda course, were ready in September 1993.





Aranda 6



Aranda



Vanda 9



Then

In the second phase of development, the Social Clubhouse, the second nine-hole Vanda course and the 69-room Orchid Lodge were ready in September 1994.



Now



Orchid Lodge



First Golf Course Aranda Officially Opens

ORCHID COUNTRY CLUB

President Ong opens Aranda Course

ARANDA Course, the first nine-hole course to be completed at Orchid Country Club, is now open to members.

President Ong Teng Cheong was the first to tee-off at the course on 27 October. This commemorative event, symbolic of opening the Aranda Course, was hosted by Dr Hsu Tse Kwang, the Club's President. A friendly game then ensued, involving 40 guests.

The opening of the Aranda Course adds one more facility to the Orchid Country Club, which is still under construction.

In March this year, the club's computerised Driving Range became operational. Two months ago, the Golf Clubhouse was opened to members.

When completed, the Orchid Country Club will have a 27-hole course, a 69-room hotel block and a Social Clubhouse with a ballroom catering to 1,000 people, a theatre, supermarket, jackpot rooms and a 36-lane bowling alley.



In October 1994, Mr Ong Teng Cheong, who had by then been elected President of Singapore, officially opened the first of the three golf courses that he had helped design. It was the Aranda course. President Ong also accepted an invitation to become OCC's Patron in addition to Mr Lee Kuan Yew.

This was soon followed by the Vanda and Dendro courses. The third nine-hole Dendro golf course was ready by October 1995. Night golfing was also available at the Vanda course and eventually at the other two courses.



To commemorate the opening of all three golf courses, a ceremony was held on 28 October 1995 with guest-of-honour NTUC Secretary-General Lim Boon Heng (right).

The NTUC's objective in building the Pasir Ris Resort and Orchid Country Club was to signal to ordinary workers that as the country progressed, they too can enjoy the fruits of success. Resorts and country clubs should not be accessible only by managers and executives. Under Mr Ong's leadership, the NTUC showed that it can be, and was done.

"This endeavour raised workers' sense of self worth and social status. I would like to believe that social habits improved too, as standards have been maintained. Today, OCC's standards are comparable to similar facilities."

NTUC Secretary-General from 1993-2006 Lim Boon Heng

First Tripartite Golf Friendly Takes Place

Then-NTUC President Oscar Oliveiro remembers that after the launch of the Aranda/Vanda courses, Mr Ong would occasionally invite some tripartite partners to golf with him in the evening.

Mr Oliveiro said: "There was an occasion when then-Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong joined the tripartite party for a game of golf. After the game, Prime Minister Goh suggested that we should organise an annual tripartite golf friendly. He proposed that the objective be for the tripartite groups to golf and develop fellowship amongst ourselves."

Mr Oliveiro organised the first tripartite golf friendly on 9 October 1994 and this has since become an annual affair now running into its 20th year.

In addition, up to today, the tripartite partners continue with their weekly golf session at OCC which is now held every Wednesday morning. This was initiated by Mr Lim Boon Heng when he was NTUC Secretary-General. This camaraderie amongst the tripartite partners has grown since then. More than golf is discussed at breakfast – serious matters too can be amicably discussed and resolved. It is also a good platform for the tripartite partners to get to know each other better in an informal setting.



(From left) NTUC Secretary-General Lim Swee Say, Emeritus Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong, Acting Manpower Minister Tan Chuan-jin and Singapore National Employers Federation President Stephen Lee at the 2012 Tripartite Golf Friendly at Orchid Country Club.

“Congratulations to Orchid Country Club on its 20th Anniversary! Over the years, OCC has become an important place for our workers, union members and employers to interact and bond with each other. The OCC is also the venue for the annual Tripartite Golf Friendly. Such informal interactions help build harmonious and strong tripartite relations, which remains critical to Singapore’s global competitiveness.

I am confident that OCC will continue to improve its facilities and services to keep up with the times so that it can remain a recreation venue of choice for our workers, union members, employers and their families.”

Emeritus Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong

A Hive Of Tripartite Activities

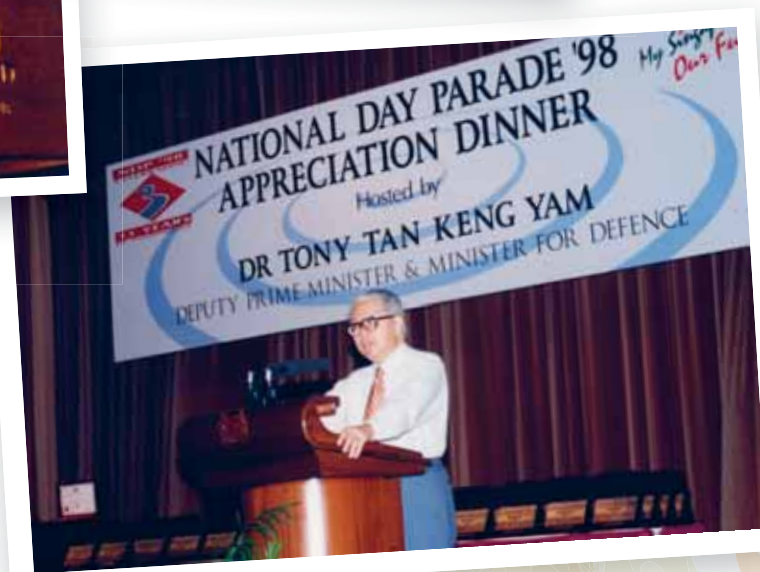
OCC is much more than an excellent venue for golf and recreation activities. With the support of the Labour Movement family, government ministries and corporations, many events such as conferences, seminars, workshops, courses and meetings are held at OCC. The club has benefited from this strong patronage that has raised its profile and is now moving to the next level as the hub for tripartism.



Then-Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong speaking at the 1999 May Day Dinner held at Orchid Country Club.



Then-Manpower Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam (middle) chatting with SNEF President Stephen Lee (left) and NTUC Secretary-General Lim Swee Say at the May Day Dinner held at Orchid Country Club Grand Ballroom on 29 April 2012.



President Tony Tan speaking at the 1998 National Day Parade Appreciation Dinner at Orchid Country Club when he was Deputy Prime Minister.



An appreciation dinner was held at Orchid Country Club on 2 September 2011 when Mr Mah Bow Tan (right) stepped down as the Singapore Labour Foundation's longest serving Chairman.



Tripartite partners enjoyed a golf game at Orchid Country Club before the May Day Dinner on 30 April 2000. Among the players were (from left) then-NTUC FairPrice Chairman S Chandra Das, Mr Ong Teng Cheong, then-Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong and Singapore Labour Foundation Chairman 1993-1996 S Dhanabalan.



Then-Manpower Minister Dr Lee Boon Yang launched the Manpower 21 Committees on 7 June 1998 at Orchid Country Club Grand Ballroom.

The Singapore Armed Officers 14th Joint and 6th NS Warrant Officer Course Graduation Ceremony and Dinner was held at Orchid Country Grand Ballroom on 29 June 1998.



At the Secretary-General's Cup Dinner on 26 June 2011 were (from left) then-OCC President Lim Jit Poh, NTUC Secretary-General Lim Swee Say, then-NTUC President John De Payva and OCC General Manager Peter Goh.



Singapore Labour Foundation Chairman 1997-2002 Lee Yock Suan (right) pledging \$1 million to the NTUC Education Trust in 2000. Receiving the pledge is then-NTUC Secretary-General Lim Boon Heng.



Then-NTUC Secretary-General Lim Boon Heng (middle) with then-President S R Nathan at the President's Challenge-NTUC Charity Nite held on 1 September 2001 at Orchid Country Club.



NTUC Deputy Secretary-General Heng Chee How speaking at the event after NTUC raised \$800,000 for the President's Challenge 2001.

Mrs S R Nathan (right) at the dinner.



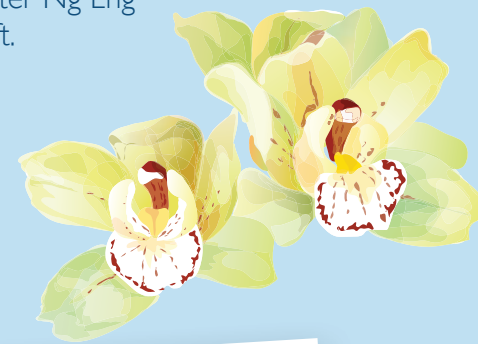
NTUC President Diana Chia (middle) flagged off the Family Fun Walk organised by NTUC Membership on 15 July 2012 at the Orchid Country Club golf course.

DID YOU KNOW

DID YOU KNOW



Former United States President Mr Bill Clinton (third from right) played night golf at OCC with then-Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong (third from left) in 2005. Then-Manpower Minister Ng Eng Hen is second from left.



OCC received the IGOLF Laureate Course certificate in 2009 in recognition of our commitment to environmental and social responsibility. We are one of only five courses in Singapore to be certified.

OCC received numerous accolades for its courses, including First Runner-Up for Best Golf Course Renovated in Asia Pacific and Top 5 Golf Courses in Singapore (2009). In 2010 and 2011, we were voted the Top 3 Best Golf Courses.



Our Driving Range is the only one in Singapore with a computerised tee-up system. And it is one of the biggest in South East Asia with 160 bays.



OCC is the country club with the biggest bowling centre in Singapore. Orchid Bowl @ OCC has 36 lanes.



For three consecutive years since 2010, OCC played host to the ISPS Handa Singapore Classic sanctioned by Asian Tour and Singapore Professional Golf Association.

MILESTONES

1990

The first meeting of the Board of Directors of SLF Leisure Enterprises (Pte) Ltd was held on 24 January when Mr Ong Teng Cheong set out the reasons for the setting up of Orchid Country Club

1991

Tree planting ceremony held in August at Aranda course

1993

The first phase of the club development, including the Driving Range, Golf Clubhouse and the Aranda course, was completed in September

1994

The second phase comprised the development of the Vanda and Dendro courses, the Social Clubhouse and Orchid Lodge. Most of Phase II was completed by the end of the year

1995

Commemoration ceremony for the completion of OCC's 27-hole course was held on 28 October. The bowling alley was opened in June

1996

Orchid Country Club golf course was voted fourth best among 10 golf courses in Singapore. President Ong Teng Cheong and former President Dr Wee Kim Wee golfed at OCC on 6 March

1997

Orchid Lodge housed delegates of the Asian Netball Championship from India, Malaysia, Maldives and Sri Lanka in September. Hosted the Jaguar Golf Marathon (54-holes) on 4 November

1999

Hosted Nokia Singapore Open from 21 to 24 October. The Millennium Charity Ball was held on 31 December

2001

Third phase of the club development was completed, which included the Olympic-sized swimming pool and tennis courts at Recreation Clubhouse



Nokia Singapore Open: Club Captain Dr Chew Beng Keng (left) with Kenny Druce



A gathering of Presidents... President Ong (fourth from left) and former President Wee (fourth from right)

OCC Oktoberfest



2007

Hosted the NTUC National Delegates' Conference at the Grand Ballroom in October

2009

Renovated 27-hole golf course opened for play on 18 May. Awarded second best renovated golf course, top five golf course by Asian Golf Monthly and IGOLF certification

2010

The Singapore International Open Bowling Championships, an Asian Ranking Tournament, was held at Orchid Bowl @ Orchid Country Club in May. Hosted the inaugural ISPS Handa Singapore Classic from 9 – 12 September. Voted top three best golf courses in Singapore by Asian Golf Monthly

2011

Voted top three best golf courses in Singapore by Asian Golf Monthly. First Oktoberfest held on 29 October

2012

Launch of newly renovated Jackpot Royale with additional new machines. Received the H.E.A.L.T.H (Helping Employees Achieve Life-Time Health) Award (Bronze) from the Health Promotion Board. Achieved the bizSAFE Level 3 certification awarded by Workplace Safety and Health Council

2013

Celebration of the club's 20th anniversary with the launch of its commemorative book

Millennium Ball



Singapore International Open Bowling Championships at Orchid Bowl



MEMBERS' EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS



Family Friendly



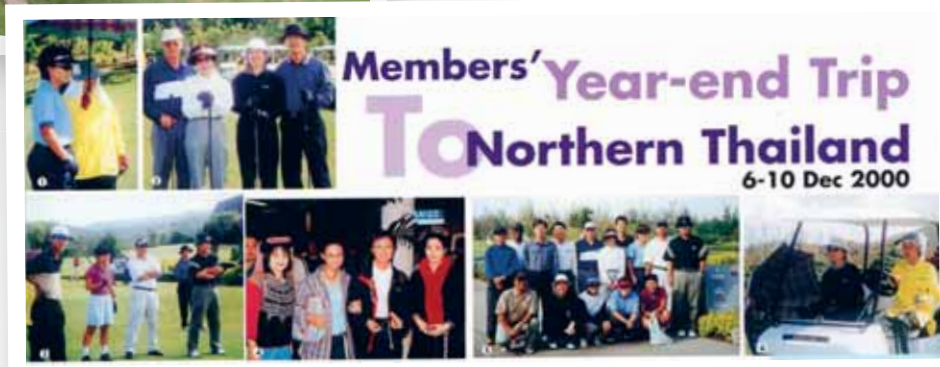
Keeping Fit & Sporty



On The Golf Course



Social Activities





LONG TIME MEMBERS HAVE THEIR SAY...

Some pioneering members share reasons why they have stayed loyal to OCC

Golfing member Mr Ng Seng Long (left) has had links with Orchid Country Club since its inception

“He says: “I joined as a member even before the golf course, the clubhouse and the array of facilities were built because I like a great place to play the game I love. The location is good. It is in a peaceful catchment area and overlooks the Seletar Reservoir.”

“When the development was completed, I was not disappointed. The beautiful clubhouse overlooks the lush greenery and the serene reservoir. The extensive facilities are also beyond my expectations.

“I have fond memories of the years I played golf at the club. The staff have made my golfing experience that much more enjoyable and pleasant. I have met many wonderful friends and golfing ‘kakis’. Recently, I broke my knee-cap and I spent a lot of time at the club gym to strengthen my knee and to tone up my muscles and at the members’ lounge to relax.

“I found the staff at both areas to be very friendly and helpful. I look forward to enjoying playing golf and working out at the gym at OCC for many more years to come.”



Mr and Mrs Michio and Kazuko Kamei, our foreign golfing members from Tokyo, share with us some of their unforgettable memories.



“A good Singaporean friend of ours, Dr Han Cheng Fong who was the former Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Labour, recommended us to join OCC when we were considering being a member of a country club in Singapore.

“In order to determine whether we should join OCC, we visited the proposed OCC site for advance checking and found the topography was ideal for a golf course. This area was an orchard with plenty of durian trees on gently undulating slopes overlooking a big reservoir.

“The lodge facility was the most attractive to us. Ever since the Orchid Lodge was opened, we have been coming to Singapore once or twice a year to stay for over a month and play golf at OCC.

“One of our most exciting memories was in 1995 when we first stayed and played at OCC. The Orchid Lodge was available only from 1995. We decided to play 18 consecutive days of golf in consideration of a round of golf being 18 holes. We arrived in the evening of 13 February 1995. We started playing from the 14th and completed 18 rounds of golf on 3 March 1995. It was the first time in our lives playing golf for 18 consecutive days.

“Another happy one was on 27 January 2005 when I had a hole-in-one at the No. 8 Vanda Course. It was my first hole-in-one outside of Japan.”

Social member Mrs Mary Ng-Tan Mui Kheng joined OCC in 1994.



Here is what she has to say: “The beauty of OCC is certainly my choice. The club is also very near my residence, a less than 10 minutes drive. Hence, convenience is also another reason. For me, the facility that attracted me most to join OCC obviously is bowling.

“After we bought the membership in 1994, I bowled with my colleagues, club bowlers, community club bowlers, friends and family every Friday evening until now. My membership has lasted long partly due to my two daughters who are also members of the Youth Interclub Bowling League team for many years.

“Also, I have been involved as a Bowling Team Captain for the OCC Adult Interclub Bowling League since 2005, and I managed the Adult team for nine years. With my strong passion for bowling, I enjoy the game every minute. I wish to continue to manage and lead the OCC bowling team.”



Mr Lim Kuang Beng (third from left), General Secretary of the Singapore Industrial and Services Employees’ Union (SISEU), shares how their corporate union membership has benefited them.



“SISEU uses OCC as a platform to engage their management and union members through events such as seminars and dinners. Occasionally, we will invite our companies management for social events such as golf. We use these occasions to introduce the club’s facilities to the companies and also encourage them to use OCC facilities for their own activities.

“Building relationship and trust is important. We want to foster bipartism and stronger labour-management relations through various platforms, and socialising at OCC is one way we can get to know them better. From there, it is easier to resolve issues and work together for the betterment of our members.”



Union member Mr Steven Long (second from right) from Staff Union of NTUC-ARU (SUN) uses the corporate union membership to learn golf at OCC.

“As a member of SUN, I was given the platform to learn golf at OCC in 1997 via the union’s corporate union membership. I was urged to learn the game so I can golf to engage union associates and management team, as well as plan friendly social games for the companies. With the corporate union card, I also get to maintain my handicap at OCC.”



“THANK YOU TO OUR MEMBERS
FOR STAYING WITH US ALL
THESE YEARS....”



PIONEER OCC STAFF

Acting Head of Golf Stewart Lee (pictured left, greeting Mr Ong Teng Cheong) has been at OCC since 1993.

"I joined as I wanted a new challenge in terms of handling a different category and diversified membership base. I have stayed so long as I like the environment and I enjoy working at OCC. Over the years, I have progressed with the club from a Golf Executive to a Senior Golf Executive and now I am the Acting Head of Golf. Under the Labour Movement family, the management believes in nurturing and giving opportunities to internal staff for promotion.



"The transformation of the club is tremendous as there are many activities organised, be it for golf or social. The club is constantly coming up with new ideas to anticipate the needs of OCC members and corporate union members to ensure that all are well taken care of."

Personal Assistant in the General Manager's Office Lee Siang Cheng (second from right) joined OCC in August 1993 as she had the relevant hospitality experience. She is proud to be part of the club's history, as she has been a staff since the beginning when the club was still in its construction phase.



Property & Maintenance Secretary Dolly Choo (second from left) joined OCC in June 1993 for a better job opportunity and has stayed put because of the close proximity to her home and overall good working colleagues and environment.



Sunrise at Vanda 9

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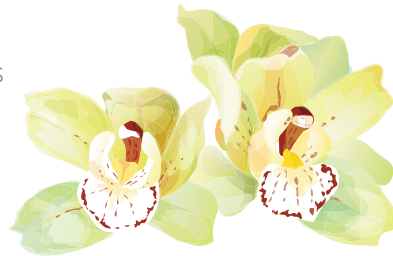
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