

10/71 / USM

10/71



Cercle Sportif Saigonnais NEWSLETTER

No. 5
October
1971

CHAIRMAN'S EDITORIAL

—O•O•O•O—

Dear Friends,

The new Board of Directors has been at work for over a month. Perhaps it has not yet been noticed, but actually they have worked out solutions to certain problems which will be made known in our next few newsletters.

You were able, however, to see them in action, if it can be said so, when prizes were distributed to the winners of the Senior and Junior Chess Championships and the Omnisports Tournament intended for youngsters.

This tournament was contested by 8 teams of 17 youngsters each, each team played Tennis, Badminton, Table Tennis, Chess, Volley-Ball, Swimming and Petanque matches.

It was the first time that such a competition was organized, and yet incontestable success was achieved. Our youngsters were requested to prepare the coming year's tournament together with the Board, so as to make it more interesting.

On your behalf, I wish to congratulate these contestants and their captains for their high spirits.

The school-term has re-opened, and until next year we will see less youngsters attending the Club, especially in the Sitting-Rooms.

Nevertheless, they cannot refrain from continuing to contest in official matches (the victory of our Volley-Ball team, victories of our Badminton girls in the Saigon-Giadinh Area Championship).

Now with the end of the rainy season, we will begin the C.S.S. Tennis Championship competitions and the outdoor "Boules" games.

As far as international competitions are concerned, I wish to remind you of the satisfactory results achieved by our boy and girl swimmers in Tokyo, as well as by our Tennis players in Malaysia with VO VAN THANH coming out as a finalist in singles, and Miss THIN and MISS LY ALINE AN winners of the mixed doubles.

x
x x

Most Board members were seen on Saturday September 11 reviewing the Club facilities : it was their general inspection that takes place every 2 months. Detailed decisions were taken by them to improve the facilities and remedy certain shortcomings. Most projects which were discussed were completed or started the following week.

Specifically, the construction project under way adjacent to the Tennis dressing-room and Body-Exercise room was inspected by the Board members. As you know, this construction project belongs to phase I of the second C.S.S. 4 year Construction Plan adopted by the Extraordinary General Assembly held on November 26, 1970. It will extend the area of the Body-Exercise room by 143 additional square meters and will double the Tennis dressing-room space. Such expansion is required by the Club, and everything will be ready for use by early November.

Afterwards we will engage in Construction Plan Phase II ; namely a new Table Tennis Room.

Meanwhile, a wall will be erected along Tennis Court No. 10 to separate the C.S.S. area from the Tao-Dan Garden.

The whole project will be completed with the construction 2 indoor Badminton courts.

x
x x

That's not the end. The Board is planning to build a Basket-Ball court that can be used as a second Volley-Ball court, and a single only Tennis court between Court No. 4 and the Swimming-Pool entrance.

To accomplish all the above, we must have available funds, and I regret that the fund drive launched early this year has had slow response : to date VN\$ 2,658,800.- has been raised by 827 members only.

x
x x

As you are aware, every effort has been made by the Board in effecting Club improvements in order to give you a maximum of satisfaction for a relatively suscription fee if not for almost nothing. You have to admit it.

Established in 1896, the Club is now an advantageous asset for everyone of us and will be a delightful one for our children and grand-Children.

Help us to expand it. Help us in raising money. Help us in having discipline enforced for our common interest.

Act like our veterans

Long lifetime in the C.S.S. !

R. JOUVE

C.S.S. HISTORY

by R. Jouve.

At the Extraordinary General Assembly of November 26, 1970, I had the opportunity to brief you rapidly on C.S.S. history.

Several members were interested in it, and as requested by our Newsletter editing staff, I availed myself of a rainy Saturday afternoon to relate it.

The C.S.S. was born in 1896, at No. 24, Gia-Long St., where some rare sportmen met to fence and to practise weight lifting. Body-Exercice was unknown at that time.

In 1902, its Head Office was still located at the same place, total membership was about one hundred. The monthly subscription was One Piaster and the admittance dues were also One Piaster.

The Club had operated since 1896, but only on May 18, 1902, did it begin to exist officially--under the chairmanship of Paul RENISE.

Meanwhile, in 1897, a Cyclist Club was established which included a Cycle-Racing-Track on the site where the Tennis courts are lying now. A small "pavillon" was erected alongside this track. It was the embryo of our Club House.

In 1902, the Cyclist Club disappeared after it had discontinued to operate. The Town then decided to turn over the plot to the C.S.S. and even agreed to grant a subsidy of VN\$ 400.00 to the Club.

In 1905, the first Tennis court was built, the track repaired, and the "pavillon" used as a Club House enlarged. All of this cost VN\$ 2,000.00 and was covered by financial contributions from voluntary members of the day.

Subsequently, while the plot was still owned by the Municipality, the Club continued to expand.

At the end of 1907, three new Tennis courts were built and the fiscal year was closed with assets VN\$ 41.44, liabilities VN\$ 360.00 and members 120. A happy time when 4 Tennis courts were made available to 120 players !

In 1908, a Soccer field was added at the time when Foot-Ball became popular. It was enlarged in 1911 and a grand stand was constructed in 1912. In connection with this, a report on the discussions of the Municipal Councilors reveals that in their meeting of June 15, 1914, they blamed the C.S.S. for charging admission to the grand stand. After this interference, this admission remained payable, but 75% of the takings were earmarked for maintaining and improving the grounds and grand stand. This regulation remained in force until the latter was turned over to the Town in May 1958.

Afterwards, in 1910, a Nautical Section was established by C.S.S. in the Botanical Garden with 4 boats purchased for VN\$ 525.00, also were established a Cricket Section and a Boxing Section. However, these Sections disappeared quite rapidly for a lack of interest.

It is to be noted that the enlargement of the Club House in 1911 was funded by 280 bonds issued by the members at VN\$ 25.00 each.

In 1912, a new loan was made among the members to increase the Tennis courts from 6 to 8 with VN\$ 10.00 - 1.500 bonds.

At the General Assembly in 1911, the Club Secretary General said :

" Thus, little by little, phase after phase, thanks to a wise management, an untiring effort, and especially with a faith in the final success, various Boards who followed one another and guided the destiny of our Club succeeded in gathering Sportmen and establishing an alluring, influential and effective center ".

It is to be noticed that 60 years later, this statement has been the credo of the present Board as it had been that of all their predecessors.

World War I broke out. Then the Club had a Club House relatively less momentous than the present one, 8 Tennis Courts and a Soccer-Football field.

From 202 members at the beginning of the war, the membership had dropped down to 160 by the end of it.

In 1919, thanks to new appeals to the members, the Club House membership increased once again and the Club buildings continued to expand until 1925 when it reached its present look.

In 1928, the first test of illumination for the Tennis courts was undertaken, and as early as 1928 the Board answered a request of the Tennis Delegate with the following statement :

" Through the Tennis Delegate, the Board has received a request from some players asking to be allowed to wear shorts and sport-stockings. This clothing adopted by some Far-East Clubs does not suit the French tradition and particularly in a mixed club : this can lead to a mistake of taste and jeopardize all esthetics of the courts. The Board feels that the time has not come yet to adopt such brief attire and informs the Tennis Delegate that only white clothing and long trousers are allowed ".

Things have altered greatly since then.

In 1928, there were 596 members and annual/revenue exceeded VN\$ 100,000.00

It was at this time that we first had the idea of building a Swimming-Pool. In order to accomplish this, however, the existence of the Club had to be made official and a pertinent lease signed with the Town. The lease was renewed in 1958. This latest lease is valid until October 31, 1990.

Funds were then required.

The Board of the day, in 1931 exactly, proposed to increase the monthly dues from VN\$ 7.00 to VN\$ 10.00. Such a proposal was turned down and, as Mr. GOUTES wrote : the idea of the Swimming-Pool "fell into water".

In 1932, the resolution of appealing to the members to raise VNS 50,000.00 was voted. Subsequently the Swimming-Pool was constructed with a cost of VNS 90,000.00 and dedicated on September 3, 1933.

Perhaps only our Seniors Mr. DE MONTREUIL and Mr. MESLIER can remember this heroic epoch perfectly.

Our Club continued to exist peacefully and did not suffer much from World War II since our main buildings escaped from a string of bombs.

At this time, Mr. NGUYEN VAN HIA, our present Director, was a member of the staff.

Afterwards it was post-war time, and the C.S.S. felt relieved once again.

Thanks to revenue resulting from the presence of numerous French officers', in 1951 a building could be constructed on the side adjacent to the Club House where the Library, Body-Exercise Room and Tennis Dressing-Room are located now.

Next, a Table Tennis building was constructed in 1958, a Judo building in 1959, and Court N° 11 in 1961.

At the end of 1961, there were only 1.750 members.

In 1962, the Board decided to widen the Club entrance for the purpose of enlarging facilities and extending service hours.

These extensions have been noticed by all and many of you attended the Extraordinary General Assemblies of February 24, 1965 and November 26, 1970 which resulted in voting 2 successive Construction Planning Phases whose second is now under way.

The following are completed jobs :

- An Indoor Kindergarden
- A covered main building entrance door
- An Administrative Office building
- An Air conditioned Library and Reading-Room
- Two Tennis walls
- A Bowling ground
- An Indoor Badminton courts
- A Handball court
- Swimming-Pool extensions : Solarium, decks, 2 basins
- A Barber shop
- Construction of maintenance shops and storerooms under Swimming-Pool
- A Volley-ball court

The following are jobs still to be performed :

- An extension of the Body-Exercise Room and Tennis Dressing-Room (completed in October 1971)
- Moving the Table Tennis Section under the Swimming-Pool West Solarium
- Construction of 2 new Badminton courts
- Construction of an outdoor Basket and Volley-ball court
- Construction of Tennis court N° 12.

According to an information from a Japanese source, a Gigantic Volley-Ball Competition was organized in Japan. It was intended for "Ladies" and not for girls, and 1,600 teams (One Thousand Six Hundreds teams) attended the competition. The "Senior" player was 53 years old.

A good many Club ladies members are confident that in order to stay in good form, practising a sport is absolutely required. Volley-Ball is a very pleasant sport indeed, and aside from the Club girls, why we don't try to make up a team of our ladies-members ?

C.S.S. BOARD'S DECISIONS.- During one of their last meetings, the Board of Directors decided that the parents would be held responsible for their children's faults. Especially, whenever a member's child is caught in the act of robbery, the entire family will be barred from the Club.

TENNIS SECTION RACKS - At the request of one of our members, the regulation governing racks to be rented at the Tennis Dressing Rooms is outlined as follows :

Requests should be addressed to the C.S.S. SECRETARY'S Office. Each member using a rack will pay a rent of VNS 100.00 per month. The Secretary's Office is in charge of collecting these rents and assigning available racks according to the requests received on a first-come-first-served basis.

Your attention is brought to the fact that enlargements of the Tennis Dressing Rooms are being carried out. As soon as new rooms are made available, additional racks will be put in use.

Please, therefore, send in your requests right now in order to be given priority in obtaining the racks.

LOST AND FOUND THINGS
.....
.....
.....

Many people come to claim lost things. Quite often, they don't know where the things were lost.

Others lose things which they don't think to claim because they don't know where they lost them.

That's the case of MICHELINE who lost a very nice article at the Swimming-Pool. She doesn't think to claim it, simply because she doesn't know where she lost it.

The Board of Directors has requested that all Sections hand over to the C.S.S. Secretary's Office all things they find but whose owners they don't know.

Lost and forgotten things, therefore, should be claimed at the Secretary's Office. In order to stimulate the personnel to turn-in all lost things to the Secretary's Office, the Board has also decided that a premium based on the value of a lost thing be requested by the Secretary's Office for the benefit of the individual who found it.

Any article that is not claimed for THREE MONTHS will be turned-over to the individual who brought it in.

READERS!

PLEASE GIVE US THE ADDRESS TO WHICH YOU WANT US TO MAIL YOUR NEWSLETTERS. THANK YOU.