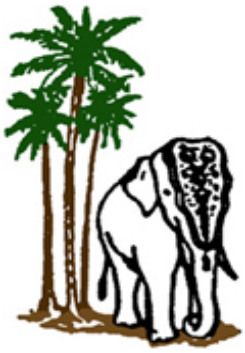


The Malayalee Association of the UK

Annual General Report & Financial Statements 2015

Web site: www.mauk.org **email: keralahouse@mauk.org**

Contents

Company Information

Directors' Report

Statement of Financial Activities

Balance Sheet

Notes to the Financial Statements

Company Information

Name of Company: **The Malayalee Association of the UK (MAUK)**

Company Number: **4934084**

Charity Number: **1102653**

Registered Office: **Kerala House, 671 Romford Road, Manor Park, London E12 5AD**

Mission Statement

To be a global organisation for the Malayalee community, to meet their needs, advance their interests and develop partnerships with other organisations and agencies in pursuit of community cohesion and social inclusion.

Purpose and Aims

The Malayalee Association of the United Kingdom (MAUK) is a community organisation providing social and cultural services and activities primarily to the Malayalee community (Kerala State, South India) not only in Newham and the wider East London area, but also nationally. We have been successfully working since 1974.

Dear Members

I would like to take this opportunity to present the annual report of Malayalee Association of the UK, (MAUK) 2015. This report mainly covers the various activities and events of the organisation from January to December 2015.

Board of Directors

MAUK is a Registered Charity and a Company Limited by Guarantee. Therefore, members of the Board of Directors have responsibility as Charity Trustees and as Company Directors.

At the AGM of 2015, the following 8 new members were elected to the Board: Pushkas Vasu, AnilKumar Edavana, Nishar V Pushpalatha, Biju Gopinath, Silpa Jayan Pillai, Aji Kumar Velu, Suprabha Nair and Harilal Vasavan. The current Board consists of the following 20 directors:

Term expires in AGM 2016

Aji Gangadharan, Jainlal Soman, Jaison George, Lalitha Pillai, Sreevalsalan Pillai and Sambasivan Raman

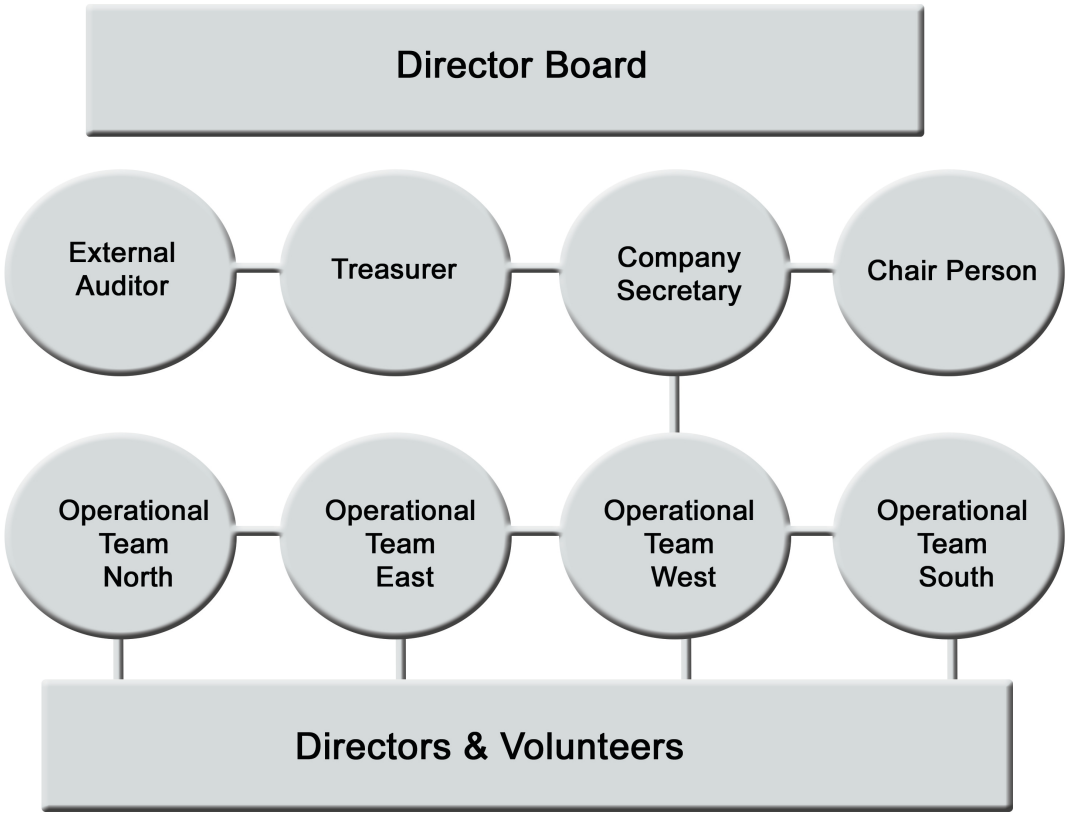
To continue till AGM 2017

Aji Kumar Velu, Anilkumar Edavana, Baldwin Simon, Biju Gopinath, Harilal Vasavan, Jayan Pillai, Muraleedharan Gangadharan Pillai, Silpa Pillai, Nishar V Pushpalatha, Pushkas Vasu, Rajeswari Sadasivan, Raveendran Nair, Sudheeran Vasudevan and Suprabha Nair

As per the MAUK Constitution, the AGM will be electing only the required number of directors to the Board. The first meeting of the Board will then elect the officials and decide on the roles and responsibilities of the various directors.

Management Structure

In our effort to continue with an effective management structure that will enable MAUK to deliver the best possible services to the community, the management structure was mainly to accommodate the greater number of directors on the board. The structure is designed to move activities and events around within the four teams to even out the workload such as to regular services and annual events with a mixture of experienced directors in each of the teams to help with any guidance required by the newer members to the board. The teams were renamed Team North, East, West and South.



Directors' Report

This annual report covers the period from January to December 2015. Below is a summary of the main activities and services for the year.

Onasadya and Onam Celebrations

Malayalees from across the UK celebrated Onam, commemorating the great king Mahabali and the golden era under his reign. The two day Onam celebration organised by MAUK kicked off with the grand traditional feast, 'Ona Sadya' at the Trinity Centre, Manor Park, London on Saturday, 5 September. It was a day for all to dress up in traditional Kerala costumes and to enjoy the taste of 'home'.

A four-hour cultural variety show at Ilford Town Hall on Saturday, 19 September 2015, was held as part of "PONNONAM 2015" celebrations. The event started off lighting the lamp followed by the welcome speech of Chairperson Mr Ravendran Nair. Our chief guest, Dr Sajish, Cardiologist from Little Flower Hospital in Kerala has also given a worthy speech about Onam.

The cultural events featured a good line-up of dancers and musicians from the Malayalee community in London and neighbouring counties, cultural and traditional performances like Maveli Varavelppu, Thiruvathira, classical dances, group dances, and chendamelam organized by local talents. The highlight of Onam celebrations was a three hour live ganamela by the famous playback singers Anwar Sadath, Rakesh Brahmanandan (s/o late Brahmanandan Mash) and Sithara. The orchestra led by Nisari of MAUK is accompanied by musicians from Kerala and UK who are Sabareesh on violin, Sushant on keyboard, Vinodkumar on tabla and percussion, Varun on drums and rhythum and Shino on base guitar. MAUK would like to thank all the participants and volunteers who made the show another successful one.

MAUK worked in partnership with Sangeetha of the UK which enabled the singers from Kerala to perform for the Onam celebrations. MAUK will continue to explore partnership opportunities that would benefit the community.

MAUK's e-newsletter

Since 2010 the e-newsletter is supporting the effective promotion of MAUK nationally and globally to increase the communication significantly. One of the MAUK's aims has been the development of an IT and marketing strategy. It was pleasing to state that MAUK has made huge advances in achieving this aim by continuing the e-newsletter. This e-newsletter has opened up opportunities to reach new readerships globally, meeting the needs of the modern community whilst maintaining our traditional and cultural values.

Aalapanam – Musical Night

For the first time in Kerala House, MAUK has conducted a live musical programme by Mr Kannur Sherif, the well known playback singer and judge of Asianet's program called "Mylanchi". The event was jointly organised by 'Nisari' and 'Kattankaappiyum Kavithayum'.

On Sunday, 25th January an evening of music was well enjoyed by the crowd with an interactive session of an array of Malayalam film songs from 60's and 70's and proved that he is a master in all types of film songs. This exclusive event was a good treat for the viewers at the beginning of New Year.

Chendamelam

The Chenda players for MAUK have showed their performances in various parts of United Kingdom. Nevertheless 2015 was the best year in terms of the performance to have the greatest opportunity for the team to perform in Trafalgar Square. A team of 50 performers from MAUK and Sangeetha of the UK, received the proudest moments to showcase the traditional Shingari melam in front of a 50,000 visitors at the London Mayor Show celebrating Diwali festival.

It was indeed yet another privilege for MAUK Chenda team to be a part of the 65th Republic Day Celebration organised by the High Commission of India at the Grosvenor House Hotel in London. The Banqueting hall was packed with more than a thousand invited guests from various fields across the country. For the last three years the team have been accompanying the chariot festival organized London Sree Murugan Temple and Sree Lekshmi Temple in Manor Park. The five hour long

procession through the streets was well received by thousand of worshipers. We are also performing at various churches for the annual festival celebrations. MAUK would like to thank the organisers for giving the performers this opportunity to achieve another successful year.

International Women's Day

International Woman's day was celebrated on 22nd of March with different varieties of programs. The day commenced in the morning with pampering session for ladies by Miss Andrea Petrou ranged from head massage, shoulder massage, facial and threading.

The cultural programmes was inaugurated with the lighting of the lamp by two senior citizens from our own 60+ sisters club namely Radha Asokan and Rita Joseph.Saalene Sivaprasad was one of the main anchors of the programme with an opening speech about the significance of IWD and what women have gone through to accomplish the rights that we have today.

The first speaker, Maria Gabriel working for Mental health Awareness team spoken about recognizing early signs of mental depression and how we can provide support for them and their relatives and friends. She did emphasis on the fact that certain cultures and family values prevent them from coming forward and seeking help.

The second speaker, Abhinav Bejoy is a very young talented 15 year old who has been chosen to speak for UN as a chairperson spoke about all the women that brought a difference to his life ie his mum, aunt and his teacher. The last speaker was Mrs. Geeja Srilal, Senior Specialist Biomedical Scientist working for Barts and the London Hospital spoke about the importance of Cervical Screening, as it is the 11th most common cancer in women in UK and explained the different stages of the disease, the risk factors and how often to have the test. Bhavani Balakrishnan from Metropolitan Police, also have made a short speech and her job to mediate between the Asian community family and the Police.

The programme comprised of variety of dance varying from cinematic to classical. All the dancers need to be well appreciated for their outstanding performance. The small skit by 60+ sisters called " Sthree janmam puniya janmam" was indeed a reflection of what many women

around the world experience today. It signifies the fact that, a woman should not be judged on her clothing. Every women need to treated with respect irrespective of their financial status, caste or religion. There was also a Martial art demonstration by Taekwondo ladies group. The demonstration exhibited the women present in the audience, the prominence of self-defense, for vulnerable women. Singing, Poetry recital, keyboard were some of the other talents portrayed on stage.

After light refreshment, the event concluded with raffle draw and vote of thanks by Rajeswari Sadasivan. We extend our acknowledgement to everyone for the support in bringing this event to a great success.

Nisari-Orchestra of MAUK

Since 2014 the relaunch of Nisari, the orchestra of MAUK, performed in eight stages in UK. The troupe has supported play back singers like Kannur Sharif, Biju Narayanan. They have provided musical night to local and other organisations in UK. MAUK extend their support to the effort taken by the group within the community.

Pool competition

The Pool competition on Sunday 12 April, 11:30 am at the Rising Sun (c/o of Shrewsburry Road and Romford Road) went on well with a good turn out. The venue also has other entertainments like Karaoke, BBQ, Bouncy Castle for kids, Live Dosa Station.

Aji Velu won the singles category and the second prize went to Mohan Sreedharan. For the doubles competition, Pushkas Vasu & Raji Gangadharan shared the first prize and the runners up to Sreejith Sreedharan & Jaslyne Shimmy Antony. The prizes were given at the Onam celebrations. MAUK would like to thank all the participants, directors and volunteers to organise this event and brought into a successful one.

Kerala Carnival 2015 - Promoting local Partnerships

The Family Fun Day called Kerala Carnival jointly organised by MAUK, and Kerala Catholic Association of the UK (KCA) had continued in 2015. Over 350 people enjoyed various activities on the day. The event also shared the celebration of 50th year of the formation of Newham supported by London Borough of Newham. The event commenced with a national tribute song on the keyboard.

The Local MP, Stephen Timms, also welcomed the event by a short speech about fifty years of Newham. Other Newham Council Members showed their support by their presence. The audience also welcomed the speech by Nair Services Society, NSS UK. The barbeque stall by Friends of London supplied healthy variety of grilled foods attracted the crowd. The food stall by both organisations and the special Puttu kada corner was one among them for a tastier cuisine. Other events like martial arts, yoga session, tug-of-war, and cinematic dance were also appreciated. The highlight program of singers from Angel voice was well received with their variety of different slow and fast numbers.

The directors and volunteers from both the organisations have given their best effort to bring the event another success. The event once again enabled MAUK to achieve its mission of community cohesion and partnership working by bringing the local Malayalee community together.

Funding and Sponsors

Membership and sponsorship are our two main ways of generating income. However due to the financial demands of MAUK trying to do more for the community we look for other avenues to acquire income and one such way is through sponsorship. Our main sponsor is UAE Exchange who have given immense support for the Kerala House renovation project and Barclays.

A great thanks to the well-wishers who have supported the elders day centre by sponsoring up to £250 each month in memory of their beloved ones. This was a huge support from the users to sustain the flagship service of MAUK to another year running. Another big handshake goes to Barclays who have supported in raising funds for various activities like 60-plus sisters' club, annual day celebrations, Friday club etc. Royal Mail match funding has also supported by the help of members who are working in Royal mail for events like pool competition. MAUK extend its gratitude to all the sponsors for their support to all our events and services.

GCSE and Volunteer of the year Award

MAUK's Educational Awards for the highest achieving Malayalee youngsters in GCSE 2015 were presented at the Onam celebrations. We follow strict selection criteria and the winners are selected only after

careful and rigorous vetting of the evidence submitted by the candidates. The prizes were presented to the winners at the Onam celebrations by Dr. Sajish, Cardialogist from Little Flower Hospital in Kerala

GCSE Awards

(1) MAUK Educational Award 2015 – 1st Prize – Nanditha Shaji
(2) MAUK Educational Award 2015 – 2nd Prize – Anjana Swayam Kumar

Volunteer of the year award is presented to Sruthi Ravi for her esteemed support given to various MAUK's activities like Lunch club and 60+ sisters' club for the last 15 years. She is also part of the prestigious Chenda team. We congratulate these youngsters on their praise-worthy achievements.

Kattan Kaapiyum Kavithayum (KKK)

The literary group of MAUK organized 11 events at various places with the cooperation of other organisations like Sangeetha of the UK and Sree Narayana Mission of the UK. The dignitaries attended to share their views and experiences by eminent witers, poets and philosophers. KKK participated in 'The Big Draw 2015', the international drawing event, and organized three group drawing events at various places including one at Stevenage. The group organized an international poetry competition for expatriate Malayalees and poem by Mohammed Hashim from Croydon was selected as the outstanding one.

Events Organised in 2015

- 25 Jan 2015: *An evening with Kannur Sharif – in association with NISARI of MAUK*

- 14 Mar 2015: *Discussion on Freedom of expression. Director Jayan K. Cheriyan joined discussion form USA through Skype*

- April 2015: *International Poetry Competition for expatriate Malayalees*

- 21 Jun 2015: *Evening with Kavalan Narayana Panickar (dramatist, theatre director & poet) & Jayaprabha Menon (Mohiniyattam dancer) organised in association with Sangeetha of the UK*

- 24 Aug 2015: *Book review – 'Veyil pookkunna Mazha mekhanagal' by Aniyan Kunnath.*

- 04 Oct 2015: *Kadha2015 & Introduction to "The Big Draw"*

- 10 Oct 2015: *Group painting event for 60+ sister's club, MAUK*

- 08 Nov 2015: *Group painting event 'Colouring Poetry' at Stevenage*

- 8 Nov 2015: *Interactive session with Dr. Balashankor Mannath, actor and film director*

- 20 Nov 2015: *Discussion with Ashokan R. Charuvil, writer and member of Kerala state PSC, organised in association with SNGM of the UK*

- 18 Dec 2015: *Discussion with Dr. Ravi Raman, Member of Kerala State Public Service Commission*

Through this platforms Kattankaapppiyum Kavithayum have given valuable talks to the audience by open discussions varied from malayalam literature to socio-political and environmental issues. MAUK thankfully recognise the support extended by organisations like KALA, Kaumudi Europe and London Sahithyavedi in the successful conduct of some of our events. 2015 became a vibrant year for KKK with innovative and meaningful programmes due to the dedication and hard work of its volunteers and constant support from MAUK.

Elders' Lunch Club and Day Centre

The elders' day centre was maintained over the year despite funding from Council or the consortium body. The main help was awarded by well-wishers and users of the elders' day centre. The monthly contributions in remembrance of their loved ones have given a stable operation through out the year. This monthly sponsorship of £250 either individually or jointly was an immense help to the weekly service and MAUK is much obliged to the contributors. Additional cost is covered from the income generated by charging users entrance fee for the

activities and meals. MAUK is also supporting from the fund for any subsidising shortfall.

The elders' day centre is run at Kerala House on Thursdays between 10 am and 4 pm. Light exercises, art & craft activities, knitting, music etc are just some of the items on the day's busy schedule. Regular presentations by health professional and health advisers especially about diabetes and dementia helped to raise awareness on various topics of relevance to elders. Interpreters are made available for those who have difficulty in understanding English. The day centre provides information on other local activities and events. There have also been one-day trips to various places that the elders thoroughly enjoyed.

The regional satellite channel at the club was keeping the users, especially the elderly ladies, busy with malayalam serials, other programmes and this gives a good opportunity for the elders to socialise. Playing cards by the elderly men is also a mind-stimulating exercise that keeps them more confident at their age.

MAUK will always make the effort to sustain the elders day centre, as it remains as one of the most popular services of the organisation. It served around 1000 nutritional meals to elders during the year. MAUK extend their gratitude to all the contributors, volunteers and users who have kept the service a weekly regular activity.

60+ Sisters Club

Since 2006 the club is operating and serving nearly 25 members on a weekly basis. This service is an example of how volunteers can play a crucial role in providing essential, high quality services to vulnerable members of our community. As a result of this service by MAUK, older women are able to freely talk with each other, sing, dance, organise their own entertainment, do light exercise, and most importantly, they have formed a strong support network for each other.

The members also visit places as day trip to different parts of the London and also celebrate their annual day and Christmas celebrations in a grand style. Those who attend this group have gained confidence enough to even perform at public functions. It shows what can be achieved with strong volunteer support. The benefits of these projects

can most certainly be seen in the users and in the improved quality of their lives.

MAUK School for Music and Dance

The good news of MAUK schools is the steady rise in number of students attending our music and dance classes. One reason of this improvement is the way of teaching to the standard by good quality teachers. It has led to the students to attend musical and dance examinations from external exam bodies like Trinity college of Music, Oriental Fine Arts Academy of London (OFAAL) and Oriental Examination Board London OEBL.

Bharathanatyam

The classes were being run every Saturday from 9 to 12 Noon under the tutelage of Ms Santosh G Nair. Students have not only achieved the good level of Bharathanatyam but also have graded from OFAAL and OEBL. The students have performed at the Onam 2015 show to a wider audience and also at other organisations. We have received positive feedback and we hope to see the class develops under the coaching of Santosh.

Cinematic Dance

The cinematic dance classes were running as normal on every Sunday. Rohoney Dayanand who has been organising various dance shows in the year conducts them. The students are enjoying this session as means of exercise and developing the skills. Our organisation would like to thank Rohoney for her commitments.

Keyboard & Guitar

The year 2015 for keyboard and guitar classes has improved with the increase in number of new applicants. The classes are now running as usual on Saturdays from 3 to 5 pm and Sundays from 2.30 to 6.30pm. Since the sessions are virtually on a one to one basis, we have students from the age of 5 to 60 years. Well-known musician and music composer, Mr Albert Vijayan, trains the students of MAUK. He has performed in mega shows in UK, India and other countries. This year various students were selected to attend the grading examinations in keyboard and guitar and all passed with excellent results. We would like to thank Albert Vijayan for his commitment in developing the music skills of the students.

Tabla and Mridangam

Tabla and Mridangam classes have improved by the introduction of new students. This year the classes are attracted to non-malayalee students, which is another stepping stone for the classes. The students have the flexibility to attend classes in the evenings, on weekdays and home tuitions are also a regular operation. The weekend classes are conducted throughout the day with regular intervals. The classes are run under Mr Vinodkumar who is a famous percussionist and was a key player in the well-known orchestra in Kerala called "Navadhara". He is also a key player in MAUK's orchestra troupe "Nisari". MAUK thank him for his dedication in running these classes.

Chenda

Since 2011, the Chenda classes have put a step into the teachings of one of the traditional form of this South Indian art. Through the learning of chenda lessons, the students of MAUK are fortunate to perform in various stages all over UK ranging from temples, churches, Independence Day celebrations by High Commission of India, and the spectacular program in Trafalgar Square for the Diwali festival organised by the Mayor of London. One of the uniqueness of the chenda team is the female majority of performers, the first in kind in Europe. These lessons are also under the coaching of Mr Vinodkumar. We thank all the players who made a name to MAUK through these performances.

Website & E Newsletter

www.mauk.org

MAUK has been using the website, social media and the E Newsletter as the key media to publicize to the community. It has been recognised, that lot more has to be done to ensure the information is presented in a quality and timely fashion.

E-Newsletter

MAUK website has been revamped to ensure that we have mobile optimised website to cater for the rapid growth in people visiting our website from their mobile devices. Our Website is the information hub and big focus for 2015 will be how to use the website to promote our activities and get the community to visit our website.

Finances

The external audited accounts for the year are shown at the end of this report.

Resolutions

If members wish to introduce any resolutions, please inform the Company Secretary seven days prior to the AGM at the latest. The resolutions should be proposed and seconded by two members of MAUK and it is a requirement that all three members are present at the AGM when the item is discussed.

Conclusion

The year 2015 has been a very challenging year for MAUK. Due to operational reasons, the AGM has adjourned to the mid year by which the operational structure and services was slightly affected and we have managed and sustained it. It was a challenging time for our elders' services, which means that MAUK needs to look at alternative means to raise funds, as this is a flagship, and valuable service that has transformed the lives of many people. The partnership events with other organizations made the event such as Onam and Kerala Carnival, a cost effective one. On behalf of MAUK, I take this moment to thank all the directors, volunteers, sponsors, local authorities and partners to share the support and help given to the organization.

Sudheeran Vasudevan
General Secretary
On Behalf of the MAUK Board of Directors