

## REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN, GOAN MUSICAL SOCIETY

The GMS name has been synonymous with good planning, organisation and great shows and the promotion of the Goan culture, music and art forms. We have managed to achieve these over the years without looking for profit or monetary gain of any kind. Carrying out the Objectives of the GMS has been possible thanks largely to a committed band of people within the Committee with support from some members and others. Our current membership has steadily risen to the magic figure of 104!

Various organisations - the G.O.A. and other village organisations, the Merton Ethnic Minority Council, Wandsworth, Mitcham and Morden Arts Councils and Making Music, continue to take an interest in us and we are happy to coordinate with them. Under the direction of our excellent music co-ordinator, Joao Paulo Cota, the GMS Ensemble of singers, musicians and dancers has participated in many events. The Ensemble is annually invited by the GOA to participate in their celebration mass of St Francis Xavier's Feast in December.

The Ensemble regularly practices at The Vestry Hall, Mitcham but there is irregular attendance. To assist Joao Paulo in his music direction, we have been actively looking for conductors and to date, several people have expressed an interest. Joao Paulo expects to audition them on his return from paternity leave.

### Other notable events

1. **Tsunami Fundraising Event mass (20/2/05)** – Special thanks go to Errol Lobo, Lavine da Costa, Mario Fernandes and other musicians for their support in enabling our General Secretary to direct the choir, as well as to the **Goan Cultural Society**, especially Gregg and Camillo Carvalho for their cooperation, participation and use of their amplification equipment. The same also goes to Bella, Neva, Nina, Rosy, Paul, Bonnie and others who attended the practices.

2. **Carnival (5/2/05)**

With the annual carnival in Goa gaining popularity in India and abroad, two GMS members - Norman Cortez and Francis Po - decided to introduce a similar event in the UK. This proved to be a sell-out and a great success. The organisers have been inundated with requests for a repeat next year. Well done, Norman, Francis, their spouses and their supporters!

3. **Jam Session (1/5/05)**

Our General Secretary was informed of 2 talented Goan musicians visiting the UK from Mumbai and the US and decided to bring them together with others in our community, and so the idea of a Jam Session was born. It proved to be very enjoyable, listening to 8 wonderful musicians providing fantastic music using a combination of instruments such as a vibraphone, keyboard, double bass, guitars, trumpet, sax and drums. We also

encouraged student musicians to later display their musical talents and were pleased with being accompanied by some of the experienced musicians. Our youngest talent was just 7 years old! The GMS' senior bass singer, Paul D'Souza, also inspired the audience to join in with his version of "Hello Dolly".

The GMS is here very grateful to: The **G.O.A.** (encouragement and support), **Francis Po** (use of his keyboard and amplification equipment), **Joao Paul Cota** (input + printing of flyers + provision of music/instrument stands), **Paulo Colaco Dias** (website support), **Ian Rebello** (music coordination and direction), **Ray Lobo** and **Elma Cota** (setting up the hall & membership + publicity), **Nina Pinto** and **Norman Cortez** (publicity) and **all the musicians** who participated. **Concy Fernandes** and her family were on hand to provide tasty food and the bar was run by the **G.O.A.**

The GMS has also been represented at the following:

- **Merton Goans Senior Citizens Association Open Morning (21/7/04)**
- **Tooting Mela (25/9/04)**
- **"Marketing your Society/strengthening the Society/Expanding audiences" evening with the Deputy Chief Executive of Making Music (28/9/04)**
- **Other Arts Council evenings**
- **Web Page Design Course (16/10/04 and 6/11/04)**
- **International Womens Day (30/3/05)**
- **G.O.A. Goan Festival (7/05)**
- **Prof Mendes Music Healing sessions (8/05)**

Our General Secretary, Anita Rebello, extends her gratitude for all the support she has received but is now unwilling to continue in this role. She hopes that the next incumbent will prove just as enthusiastic and committed as she has tried to be.

In conclusion, it must be mentioned that the Dance Co-ordinator resigned within a few months of being elected and the Assistant Secretary (Membership) handed over her duties soon after. Other members were also unable to commit fully and making decisions as a committee was therefore not possible to fulfil our objectives as a cultural organisation. I therefore urge those who are able to offer their time and expertise to make themselves available to keep our vibrant culture alive.

*Alfred Rebello*

Chairman

**GOAN MUSICAL SOCIETY**

September 2005