



BFMC Times

The Weekly News Magazine of Benjamin Franklin Memorial Club

November 7, 2018

Volume IV, Issue 20

8 pages

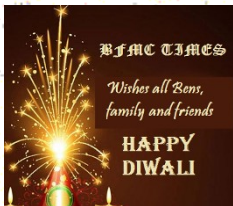
A grand gala Golden Jubilee year Reunion of Bens

BNS (Nov 6)

Benjamin Franklin Memorial Club's fiftieth year has been memorable thus far. After the successful Yuvtal Sports and round one of Yuvtal 2018 - literary, cultural and creative events last week, comes the other biggest event - exclusively for the Bens and their families. Aalankrita Resorts, the venue for the Golden Jubilee Reunion of Bens of 5 decades was home to 2 days of fun frolic, music, games and lots of memories regaled. Over a year of planning had gone into arriving at the date, then months to zero in on the venue and then series of communication through Whatsapp, email, phone calls, and through this weekly- for confirmation of members and their families and then the payment follow ups. It was quite a task to get the event going amidst high expectation of numbers, which slowly started to shrink. Finally the D Day arrived. 44 members and their families landed in the sylvan settings.



First to arrive at the venue of course was the moving force, the brain behind the Reunion - Convener Ben Sunil Narahari Nath, followed by the ever agile and meticulous Ben Dr Gita to monitor the registration and reception assisted by the Young Bens group. Slowly the Bens from across the city, nation and the world arrived. They were soon showed to their cozy rooms before embarking



on the Day 1 lunch. This was followed by a Treasure Hunt organised by the junior Bens. The young and old participated with verve and the team led by Ben LRC cracked the treasure first. A round of high tea-coffee and snacks was followed by the main event of the Reunion - the Evening get-together.

The meeting was convened with a welcome address by President Ben Harshvardhan followed by Charter President Ben PS Mohan and Charter Secretary Ben GV Sethuraman addressing the congregation. They spoke of the beginning and the journey of five decades and hoped the club will one day celebrate its centenary in a grand manner.

This was followed by the highlight of the evening programme with septuagenarian Ben Dr Gita Sharma stunning the audience with her Bharatanatyam. She performed on

two songs and was greeted with a standing ovation.

The popular party game Tambola was up next by Ben Sairam, assisted by young Bens Ritwik and Srikanth. All the members participated with much enthusiasm. BFMC had always had its Anthakshari conducted by Ben L Ravichander, but for a change he was made to participate by the organisers, leaving the stage to Ben Narayan. The fiercely contested competition ended in a stalemate with the teams led by Bens LRC and BS Kiran tied on equal points.

The young Bens in the former's team added the much needed flavour with their knowledge of latest numbers. A few speeches and songs then interspersed as the curtains to day 1 were drawn with a sumptuous dinner.

- More pictures and reports inside

Yuvtal Finale this weekend

BNS (Nov 6) we hear the Hyderabad District Collector Yuvtal 2018 will enter its business end this weekend with the marquee events the Quiz, Anthakshari, Orathon, Singing and dance finals followed by a grand Valedictory on Sunday November 11. The Bens have been making sure that the events have a good participation on both days with audience presence too expected. The results have all been tabulated, and at the time of going to press,



is likely to be the chief guest at the Valedictory, and await more news. The valedictory venue also is HPS itself, and we hear that the organising committee is opting to do it in the ground- out in the open rather than the central hall in the Shaheen block as for the valedictory. All necessary arrangements including short video snippets of events are being made, and expectations have been set high.

Ben Toon



The Editor's Family Revelling at the Reunion.



A once in a life time reunion

It seems the year is full of reunions, from family reunions to school mates, college mates, cricket club to old friends reunions to the Benjamin Franklin Memorial Club Golden Jubilee Reunion.

Reunions are everywhere - but last weekend was different. A mix of generations of members spread over 50 years descended to celebrate the common thread that binds them - they are all Bens. From Ben PS Mohan to Ben Ritwik, they shared the same platform and laughed, sang, danced and enjoyed the camaraderie. There was much nostalgia for many and quite a learning experience for the young Bens.

Reunions can be really eye-opening. We usually develop wisdom and maturity as we age. Encountering our old mates and recalling old memories, good and bad, may help us gain better insight into who

Editorial: Ben Venkat Parthasarathy

we are now and how we got here. Reunions can also be fun. It can be a time to go down "memory lane." That is, to reminiscence about people we knew as well as our mutual history in such things as music and historical events. In fact, renewing old friendships and reliving the fun and feelings we had in active BFMC days are the reasons people attended the Golden Jubilee Reunion at Aalankrita last weekend.

Since everybody, for the most part, has moved farther away, the Bens reunion was about the only time most of us saw each other. Life is short and unpredictable, so it's important to take the time to attend reunions whenever possible. All these people were important to you at one time; it's nice to go back and rediscover that importance. Surely, the ones who gave the event a skip, for varying reasons, may never ever witness another reunion of the kind.

Letters to the Editor

Kudos to Editor & team for excellent and exhaustive coverage of Yuvtal 2018. Ben LRC deserves all appreciation for conceiving and organising GJ Yuvtal. Heartiest Congrats to EC and Young Bens for ably conducting Yuvtal. Thank you Sunil for posting detailed statement on contributions by Senior Bens.

As usual I loved reading BENIGNLY YOURS by Ben Appa Rao.

Looking forward to 10 th & 11th Nov Yuvtal events.

- Ben Sethuraman (via WhatsApp)

UNSCRAMBLE

C T A A H T E L G U A P V I R E L D V R A T D E

It was somewhat a dare, the hamlet being chosen for most activities of the reunion.



Answers to the last week's UNSCRAMBLE

SIPHON, UNEVEN, WAITER, LOOSEN

Coming up next, U 'N' I R gonna mingle into ONE: REUNION

Diwali Special Crossword

ACROSS

3. This writing instrument can set a page on fire. (6)
6. Diamonds are a girl's best friends, according to the old saying. Or, as we know it on Diwali, a phosphorous stick that throws out starry pieces of fire. (8)
7. Pigeon poop? Not quite. But it's an explosive avian alright. (4,4)
9. This cracker sounds like déjà vu. You heard that right, twice. (6,5,4)
10. Sounds like a gardener's friend, this colorful volcano. (6,3)
12. You could throw a rock, etc., in the air, but it would never go as high as this spacecraft. (6)
14. The world might have been a different place if these had been dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki instead of their original namesakes. (4,5)
15. If wick weren't available, no fireworks would be lit. (9)

DOWN

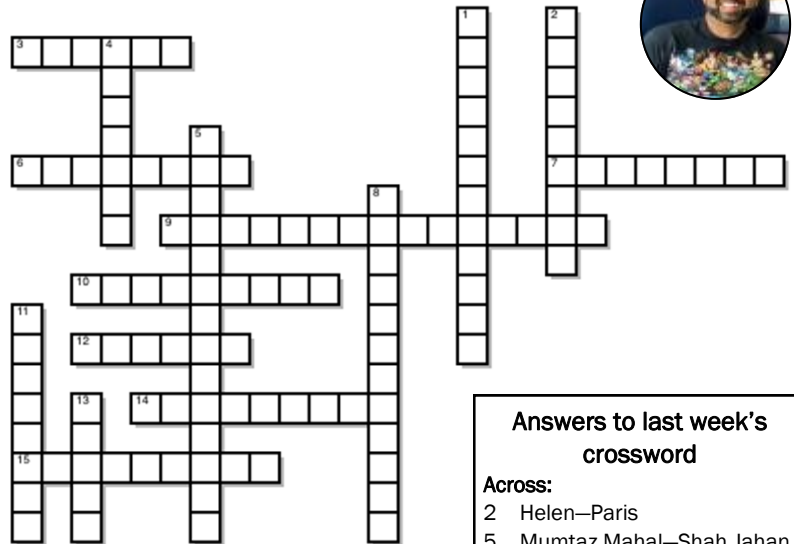
1. In Roman, M combined with the last part of a dafliwala to create a big ladi. (8,4)
2. Who knew an owl-riding goddess could be so explosive? (5,4)
4. Vishnu's wheel spins mesmerizingly on the ground or on a thin wire rod. (6)
5. The right accessory to launch the Diwali spacecraft from is a container for a now-defunct home

fuel. Retest one bloke cleverly to get the answer. (8,6)

8. The best accessory to light the faux-Hiroshima rocker from under grows on trees, especially in Kerala. (7,5)

11. Sounds like all fireworks are sourced from Nataraja in Varanasi (8)

13. It's black. Its sinewy. It's not a mamba. And it certainly is not a favorite of mothers because of the sooty clean-up job it requires afterwards. (5)



Answers to last week's crossword

Across:

- 2 Helen—Paris
- 5 Mumtaz Mahal—Shah Jahan
- 8 Samyukta—Prithviraj Chauhan
- 10 Anarkali—Salim
- 11 Sohni—Mahiwal
- 12 Heer—Ranjha

Down:

- 1 Laila—Majnu
- 3 Parvati—Devdas
- 4 Bhagmati—Quli Qutub Shah
- 6 Cleopatra—Antony
- 7 Nur Jahan—Jahangir
- 9 Juliet—Romeo



Two days of fun, frolic, recalling memories



Charter President Ben PS Mohan addressing the gathering. Charter Gen Secy Ben Sethuraman, President Ben Harsha, Gen Secy Ben Praharsha look on.

Their smile beamed, and it showed in their eyes, you could see that irrespective of the quality of arrangements they were delighted to meet their friends. There has been a lot of “Yaari Dushmani” among Bens but today it was all “hau mama kaisa hain...BP ki goli liya ki nahin.”

Then there were Charter Bens who were waiting to turn the time back. Once the rooms were allotted the F Block Ground Floor became the Kacheri. In the verandah it was “Oohalu Gusa Gusalaadey,” as Charter Bens gave us highlights of their life and times. Lunch was eventful

The Highlight performance



Ben Dr. Gita Sharma performing Bharatanatyam.

with quick catching up talking about life and kids but then an odd – “Arre mamma thoda rasam daal le acha hain” advise was audible.

You can take Bens out of Malkajiri, where will Malkajiri go out of Bens? In the evening, it was time for “ikke pe ikka” – Clues hidden, treasure to be hunted amidst the well laid out resort, brought “Chichorey” out of Bens.

Ahead of Diwali we had some “sattebaazi” with Tambola. Ben Venkat enjoyed his “Mera Bat hain main pehle batting kartoan” moment when he threatened to walk out of Antakshari. In this entire portion it was “Narayana Narayana” by the Narada of his times – Ben Narayan.

Young Bens made us look like Dinosaurs with rendition of some new age songs and then during the dinner time it was all movers and shakers. Everybody came to the dance floor and shook their leg to almost all numbers. While some of them quietly slipped the others sang till they needed strepsils, to the



The Welcome standee

some juices and quickly assembled in the areas of their choice – a bit of Shuttle Badminton, Beech Volleyball, Swings with friends of their choice and all of them assembled at the “DERAA”. This time it was nostalgia and how they missed the others who did not make it to the reunion. When it was time to bid adieu, with a well designed Memento in hand, they

Charter Bens



Dr Lalitha, Subrahmanyam, Murali Mohan, Sethuraman, PS Mohan, Saran Kumar and Dr Vathsala

Karaoke and ended the night hitting the sack like a log. The Next day, everyone savoured the Pongal, Ragi Idly, Parantha and others along with

said – it was a home coming, it looks like a nice family affair. True BFMC still remains a closely knit family.

- Ben Sairam Chavali



Reunion Pics



Ben Dr Gita, Mrs Prabha, Sunil, Sathwika, Sudha at the reception: Registering, giving away the goody bag, room keys, T Shirts.



Post registration, Bens Jayaramana, Sethuraman, Guru Moorthy, M Ravi, Rao Anand, BT Sharma and Dr Lalitha chilling



Bens Sethuraman, Rao Anand, PS Mohan, M Ravi, N Shridhar, Jayaraman posing in front of the stage backdrop



Bens with Families—Almost the entire attendance



Team formation for 'Treasure Hunt' by Bens Praharsha and Krishnaveni - the organisers



A Minute's silence for the departed Bens



Reunion Pics



When the Treasure Hunt got serious.



Afternoon Music Session: he Senior Bens shunned their afternoon siesta and got involved in an Anthakshari session of Telugu songs



The Junior Bens at the Breakfast Table on Day 2



The Young Bens group

The mood before the day 2 lunch and parting



The day 2 Lunch and Bens reminiscing the time spent together, exchanging notes and promising to catch up/meet soon



Reunion Trivia and photos

The Goody bag



The exquisitely designed jute bag prominently displayed the 50 - the Golden Jubilee Logo contained the following:

- a Ben Pen
- Osmania biscuits from Karachi bakery
- Chikki
- Hand made chocolates
- a pack of wafers
- Spl Hyderabad itthar (perfume)
- Fatafat
- Pop corn

Special Thanks to Ben BS Kiran for collating the items for the Goody bag and putting them together.

Special Mention

We recognize the special effort by a few Bens to have made it from far and wide, not just from corners of Hyderabad, but from across the World, to be part of the Reunion event at Aalankrita

The Overseas Bens

PS Mohan
Rao Anand
Dr Vathsala Raghavan

Outstation Bens:

M Ravi
BV Rathnam
Gp Capt Krishnamohan
Anand Varanasi
Narayan Devanathan
Parthasarathy Devanathan (Bijoy)



Ben Subrahmanyam Invocation

When Salim Pheku came to the Reunion

*Hau Mama BFMC ka reunion
huvu kethey*

*Hau rey kyaa mast tha malloom...
chindi karthey pottey budhey sab
milkey*

Acha kya kya karey

*Kya nahin kare pooch mammoo...
Ben Vijaya Kumar, Saran Kumar,
Subrahmanyam milkey 69 ko*

*uthaar diye maahaul mein. Koi maantha 70 saal ke hain yeh logaan
bolkey*

Acha aur...

*Arrey kya dedh hain kya re...70 saal waale aisa karey tho 40 waale
20 waale kya karna...offo paseene dala diye...*

Kaisa

*Arrey aisa naachey aisa gaaye...who angrezi gaane gaarey tho meku
hamaarey puraaney gaaney yaad aagaye – Dangerous, Black or
White*

Acha thu kya kiya phir...

*khaamush side main jaakey mahaul setting kar liya...bachey budhey
sab milkey fultu*

*Kya bhi bol mama – yeh logaan karaoke bole tho shuru ho jaathey
Karaoke matlab –*

*Yeh dekh music chalthey rehthi gaana hum ku gaana hotha
Itha ga liye itha ga liye harrey*

*Phir agley din aaye baad main thoda idly dosa khaalekey phir shuru –
Khelre koodre – dar lag gaya baap kahin kisi ko kuch ho jaatha
bolkey*

*Phir who “DERAA” main aagaye aur chichora panaa shuru, isku ba-
naarey usku ungli karrey...*

Malkajiri ka naam roshan kar diye poorey

*Par ithi jaldi khatam ho jaatha patha nahin tha maamaa dopahar ku
sab logaan alay balay karlekey Khushi Khushi lautey lekin “PHIR
MILNA HAIN YAARON”*



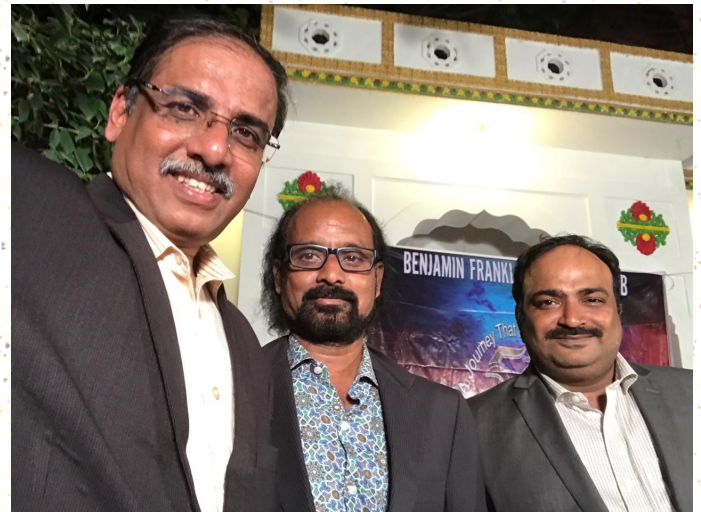
Pre Reunion meet up of Senior Bens



Bens Premanand, M Murali Mohan, L Jayaraman, BT Sharma, Dr Gita Sharma, Saran Kumar, PS Mohan, Rao Anand, Sethuraman, M Ravi, Y Vijaya Kumar and Mrs Prabha Ravi met on the eve of the Reunion at the Taj Mahal Hotel, Malkajiri over high tea.

*Pictures Courtesy: Bens L Jayaraman and Rao Anand and
WhatsApp group.*

Dapper Trio



The organisers: Bens Venkat, Sunil, Sairam



Bens Golden Jubilee Reunion - A Review

Let us start with the Bens.

Pigs don't have wings but some of our NRI Bens seem to. They just flew down to India specifically (we prefer to believe) to be there for this event. Somehow, the faces seemed very familiar - perhaps, we saw their pics on social media or, perhaps, they keep landing up at the slightest excuse to be among Bens. It was a pleasure to have Bens **Vathsala, PS Mohan & Rao Anand** joining us for the grand reunion.

Talking of familiar faces, there were the usual "local" friends who were Bens. I am talking of my good friends, most of

whom I should be calling *uncles* or *aunties*, or at best keep them at a distance like one does with the friends of an older sibling. Bens **Sethuraman, Subramanyam, Jayaraman, Kishore, Chandramouli, BT Sharma, Gita Sharma, Lalitha, Guru Moorthy, Ravichander, V Sekhar, N Shridhar, Muralimohan, Saran Kumar, Vijaya Kumar, Venkat, Raghu, Sairam & Kiran** all inflicted their beastly society on us. (And, no, I am not complaining.)

Other than the *firangi* Bens and the *hamare gaaonwala* Bens, we also had Bens **BV Rathnam & M Ravi**, along with the now rapidly becoming *chaadasthapu* oldies, Bens **Anand, Bijoy, Krishna Mohan & Narayan**.

From a certain view point, we have very old Bens who act as if they are in their teenage. And then, there are those middle aged Bens who act as if they are the grandfathers in the Bens family. We now come to another bunch of Bens who are barely into, or just out of, their teens. But they patronize the seniors like nobody's business. It was a delight to have the junior Bens **Adithi, Harsha, Krishnaveni, Praharsha, Sai Kumar, Satwika, Siddharth, Srikanth, Utkarsh, Vimal, Vybhav, Sudha & Ritwik**. They were a delight unless, of course, you caught them giggling behind the back of some senior Ben.

To round up the whole crowd, we also had the company of better halves of Bens, Mrs. Sethuraman, Mrs. Subramanyam, Mrs. Rathnam, Mrs. Mahalingam, Mrs. Sekhar, Mrs. Muralimohan, Mrs. Saran Kumar, Mrs. Vijaya Kumar, Mrs. Krishna Mohan, Mrs. Venkatesh, Mrs. Anand and Mrs. Sairam. And there were the 2 kids of Anand and 2 kids of Sairam, most disciplined, therefore inevitably, future Bens. Finally, we had a few non-Bens in the crowd, the

BFMC Golden Jubilee Reunion Statement of Accounts			
InFlow		OutFlow	
Contributions	1,75,000	Resort Cost	1,96,200
Donations	1,73,012	Photography	18,000
		T-Shirts	17,260
		Mementoes, Gifts	23,380
		Goody Bags	26,602
		Tips etc.	3,500
	3,48,012		2,84,942
		Surplus	63,070

driver of Mr. & Mrs. Sharma, another person whose name I forget, who was apparently rejected in the "interview" to become a Ben in the 70s, and a couple of friends of our juniors (potential guests at our regular meeting & then potential Bens.)

All in all, a very heterogeneous crowd.

Now, let us talk money.

So, we decided to pamper the juniors and said that they can join the fun for free. Then, we said that individual Bens attending the reunion need to contribute Rs. 5,000 per head. For those coming with spouses, we said Rs. 7,500. We didn't want to burden them, as they were already coming with their burdens.

So, according to plan, we collected a total of Rs. 1,75,000 from the Bens towards contribution for the reunion.

But, wait, you think some of them would let it go at that? No, they paid extra and asked us to call it "donation" to the club. To add to our woes, several more Bens, who were not even attending the reunion decided to pump in donations from their side as well. And, we ended up with another Rs. 1,73,012 in our kitty.

Then, we tried our best to splurge it all. We hired a photographer, we ordered T-shirts, someone came up with the bright idea of Goody bags, we spent on Mementos & Gifts and were extremely generous in giving tips. And, finally, when we wanted to settle the bill with the resort, what do they do? They tell us that they are waiving all charges for AV equipment and that they are not going to charge us for food consumed by our drivers, photographers et. al. !

So, here we are, with memories to cherish forever, and a surplus Rs. 63,070 (which obviously won't last forever).

- Ben Narahari Nath

CONTRIBUTIONS MADE FOR REUNION			
S.No	Name	Contribution	Donation
1	Anand Varanasi	7,500	2,500
2	Bijoy Parthasarathy	5,000	3,800
3	Chandramouli S	5,000	
4	Gita Sharma	12,500	7,500
5	Guru Moorthy R	5,000	15,000
6	Gururaj		20,000
7	Janardhan Vellikad		7,500
8	Jayaraman I	7,500	
9	Jayasimha R N		5,000
10	Kiran Kumar B S	5,000	
11	Kishore S	5,000	
12	Krishna Mohan V	7,500	1,300
13	Krishnan G V		10,000
14	Lalitha K Dr.	5,000	
15	Mohan P S	5,000	30,000
16	Murali Mohan M	7,500	
17	Naraharinath S	5,000	
18	Narayan	5,000	5,000
19	Raghu, Sree Yellai		10,000
20	Rao Anand	5,000	10,000
21	Rathnam B V	7,500	
22	Ravi M	7,500	
23	Ravichander L	5,000	5,000
24	Sairam Chavali	7,500	
25	Saran Kumar V	7,500	
26	Sekhar (Dr.) V.S.C.		7,500
27	Sekhar V	7,500	
28	Sethuraman G V	7,500	17,500
29	Sridhar N	5,000	
30	Subrahmanyam G	7,500	
31	Vatsala Raghavan Dr.	5,000	15,412
32	Venkatesh P	7,500	
33	Vijayakumar Y	7,500	
	TOTALS	1,75,000	1,73,012



Unsung Heroes of the Reunion

My Famous 5 this time are, ironically, those who did not become famous. At least, as far as the Bens GJ Reunion goes. While the Sunils, Venkats, Sairams, Krishnavenis, Praharshas and even the LRCs basked in the glory of conducting a memorable reunion, these obscure 5 need a special mention.



5. Ben GV Sethuraman: Our Charter General Secretary was one of the key motivators, both for the Core Focus Group working on making the reunion happen, and for nudging and pushing many of his contemporaries to ensure that they are present for the event.

4. Ben BS Kiran: The one Ben with an infectious enthusiasm, he was the guy to give structure to all planning, budgeting and organizing stuff. The Goody bags and their contents that you all received were visualized and put together by him.



3. Ben Dr. Gita Sharma: Another Ben who was a tremendous force in mobilizing all the Bens, she was the one who would follow up the Bens whether prodding them to attend, or to make sure they remitted their contributions, or even to simply get their T-shirt sizes.

2. Ben VVS Anand: He did what he was known for when he was an active Ben. Viz., chase the Bens, especially those abroad and not attending, to keep up their promise of giving money to the club. Thanks to him, there is a surplus in our kitty after the event.



1. Ben Guru Moorthy: In our quest for a suitable venue, the "Trio" briefly became a "Quartet" with him joining the visits to potential venues notably Ramoji Film City and Aalankrita itself. Even more valuable, literally, was his paying the advance booking money for the resort.

Thank you, once again, my "Famous 5" Bens!

- Ben Narahari Nath

Benignly Yours



Dear Editor,

What you feel after Bens Reunion? Tell frankly.

I am asking because I am doing analysis of who all came. And getting feeling that you three guys (the "Trio") must be somewhat embarrassed. Why because I will tell you.

You are going on telling we had 60 head count. But you can't fool me. So many times I did counting but I think only 45 Bens head count came. In them, more than half were bald headed, grey haired, just—dragging—themselves—around, oldies. Which means Bens Sethuraman, Muralimohan & Gita Sharma roped in their friends of between 1969 to 1985. Another 15 were junior Bens.

You three are between 1985 and 2005, no? How many head count came who are your contemporaries? 6, 7? That's all, no?

You talk about one great Governing Board in 1988-89 when you were Treasurer. You talk about one great impeachment of a President around that same time. Poor fellow. You talk about some great vibrancy in club in the early 90s. You talk about first BFMC Times and super Editors. You talk about this Yuvtal and that Yuvtal during 20 years of you. Not only in Hyderabad but also in other towns.

Which all people are you kidding?

It seems only you guys are proud of that period in the club. We are talking of reunion since more than one year. Your contemporaries don't seem to care about reunion. Did anyone of your friends even try a little bit to be there? I don't think so.

I know many of your friends are abroad. You will tell everybody don't gets vacation. Don't fool yourselves. You gave them ample opportunity to make the dates convenient to them. How many responded to your survey? They all make personal India visits every 2 or 3 years. If they were interested in BFMC, they would have made plans this year.

Also, many of them are in India only. That too some in Hyderabad only. What is their excuse? I am telling you, there's no excuse.

Of course, if you ask they will tell BFMC shaped their personalities. But don't they know actions speak louder than words? It seems BFMC made them big talkers only, but small doers.

- Ben D Appa Rao

For someone who is so organised... it's child's play

When he told the young Bens of the Yuvtal organising committee to maintain a Master Document for the Event, they were clueless and had to be goaded to bring every aspect of the event into one excel document. A sort of ready reckoner to keep a tab on every happening, every pending job, every payment made and outstanding. Alas! they could never come to terms in creating one in spite of his extending support and help. Well, the highly organised convener Ben Sunil Narahari Nath had put together a simple master document and carried his laptop everywhere. Thus there were no loose ends. While he did get support from Bens Venkat, Sairam, Kiran, Anand, Narayan, Krishnaveni, Murali Mohan, Sethuraman, Dr Gita Sharma

BNS (Nov 6) in varying degree- starting with a Bens Data force to collate

shared prints with the organising committee teammates for follow up and report back.

He knew exactly the tasks assigned and the status of each and every one of them. Eventually when the event was over and the accounts were settled and it was just matter of minutes for our Mr Meticulous to publish the statement of accounts. We know why it's child's play when he is so organised.



The Event details

information on the Bens, to putting every little detail in place, Ben Sunil had every bit of information on his finger tips. He created excel files, Google docs, PDF documents,



For Sunil, its Child's Play!

This weekly newsmagazine is published by members of Benjamin Franklin Memorial Club, Malkajgiri, a registered society with reg. no. 421.

Editor: Ben Venkat Parthasarathy. Publisher: Ben Sunil Narahari Nath. Associate Editors: Ben Sairam Chavali & Ben Krishnaveni (For private circulation only.)

