

The Humble Beginning of Seattle T.I.S.I Sangam

Seattle Sangam was legally formed in mid-1998. Twenty five years have passed since the formation of Seattle Sangam. Many soccer-enthusiastic people from Seattle showed interest in participating in Soccer tournaments organized by the U.S.A. and Canada Sangam. As a result, a meeting was called at a high school soccer field in Kent, Washington, and it was decided that a Sangam Soccer club be formed.

On the 21st of April, 1999, Seattle Sangam Soccer Club was renamed T.I.S.I., T.I.V Seattle Sangam to promote culture, sports, social and education. Since the formation of Seattle Sangam, a lot of water has passed under the bridge. Seattle Sangam has participated in two Sangam tournaments in Canada and eight in the U.S.A., playing in three finals and winning the U.S.A. Sangam Cup once. Seattle Sangam formed a South Indian Dance team and performed the South Indian dance in Seattle to promote the South Indian culture.

Seattle is a very active district when we consider Sangam Activities. Soccer has been the most common sport that brings most of our members together. Seattle played for the U.S.A. Sangam soccer team in three Sangam world cups. In Canada, was the 1st one, New Zealand was the 2nd, and being the 3rd. U.S.A. Sangam played in the finals in New Zealand. A Seattle player (Kamal Goundar) was awarded the Golden Boot Trophy for being the highest goal scorer in the tournament. The district also had the opportunity to field some players with other districts to represent the U.S.A. Sangam in the 80th Annual Sangam Convention in Nadroga, Fiji Islands.

This and other activities were possible with the vision and objectives set forth by the pioneer members. The founder, President Late, Mr. BalKrishnan Gounder, and his board of directors had the initiative and courage to form Seattle, then called Seattle Soccer Club. The officials were the 1st executive board officials of Seattle Sangam, the Late Mr. BalKrishnan Gounder, Mr. Annamalle Chetty, Mr. Kuveran Naicker, Mr. Rakesh Naidu, Mr. Sammogam Goundar, Mr. Rajesh Naidu, Mr. Gyan Muni, Mr. Gyaneshwaran Pillai, and Mr. Ram Murti Naidu.

In 1998, Gyan Pillai was elected the 2nd President of Seattle, and later, when he got elected to the National (U.S.A.) Sangam Board of Directors, Mr. Gyan Muni, took over as the President in 2004. Later years saw Kishor Kumaran and now our current President, Mr Bal Ram, elected as the President.

To these stalwarts, Seattle is indebted with deep appreciation and thanks for guiding the Seattle Sangam to be in good standing in all areas of Sangam activities. With 15 members, Seattle has grown up to more than 50 members with a hard-working Mathaar Sangam (ladies) unit looking after the interests of all females in the Sangam community.

Seattle Sangam today serves the community as a non-profit organization duly registered under section 503 (1) (a) with the Federal and the State of Washington. It serves as an affiliated district to the U.S.A. (national organization) Sangam, together with five other districts.