

# eight bells

COMPANY OF MASTER MARINERS  
Quarterly Newsletter  
August 2025

## Your news summary

The CMM held its 34<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting and the get together at the Amaya Hills resort on the 21<sup>st</sup> June 2025. The new council was elected on the same day and assumed office for the 2025/2026. Read through to find out the newly appointed council. Page 2-4.



## CMM event calendar

The event calendar for the CMM was released via email for the members to view. Lot of activities planned for the year. Have a look at it at page- 5

## OPA members night

OPA held its members night which CMM members also took part. Read about the event at Page 6

## CMM Events calendar

The newly appointed council have completed the first meeting and produced the tentative events calendar for the year 2025-2026. Have a read through and reserve your dates for the exciting events. Page 5.

## Membership Dashboard

Total Membership	423
Life Members	359
Life Membership Due	64



# 34<sup>th</sup>

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND GET-TOGETHER

The 34<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting and the get-together of the Company of Master Mariners was held at Amaya Hills, Kandy on the 21<sup>st</sup> June 2025. It was a grand evening filled with the Master Mariners and their families from all over Sri Lanka getting together for an evening filled with camaraderie and fellowship.

Those who attended the AGM witnessed the passing off the baton from few of the council members while most of the council got re-appointed.

Below is the newly appointed council of the CMM for the year 2025-2026.

<b>Capt. Lasitha Cumaratunga</b>	<b>President</b>	<b>Capt. Isuru Perera</b>	<b>Shore Member</b>
<b>Capt. Mahendra Ranatunga</b>	<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Capt. Upul Peiris</b>	<b>Shore Member</b>
<b>Capt. Hemantha Madanayake</b>	<b>Vice President</b>	<b>Capt. Chamil Wijewardane</b>	<b>Shore Member</b>
<b>Capt. Prawala Perera</b>	<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Capt. Lasith De Silva</b>	<b>Shore Member</b>
<b>Capt. Sumudu Lakmal</b>	<b>Assistant Secretary</b>	<b>Capt. Peshala Medagama</b>	<b>Shore Member</b>
<b>Capt. Sanjeewa Delgoda</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Capt. Janaka Mathalawa</b>	<b>Sailing Member</b>
<b>Capt. Ishan Kodithuwakkuarachchi</b>	<b>Assistant Treasurer</b>	<b>Capt. Sumudu Dodampalage</b>	<b>Sailing Member</b>
<b>Capt. Rajitha Semage</b>	<b>Editor</b>	<b>Capt. Nishantha Hettiarachchi</b>	<b>Sailing Member</b>
<b>Capt. Nirmal Silva</b>	<b>Shore Member</b>	<b>Capt. Jagath Atapattu</b>	<b>Sailing Member</b>



# 34th

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND GET-TOGETHER

Here are some highlights of the AGM and Get-Together. Visit the CMM website for the full album.









# CMM Event Calendar

<b>07<sup>th</sup> August 2025</b>	<b>Sponsor Appreciation Dinner</b>	<b>Council members with Sponsors and outgoing members of the council</b>
<b>19-20<sup>th</sup> August 2025</b>	<b>OPA Annual Conference</b>	<b>Cinnamon Life, Colombo</b>
<b>Sept- 25</b>	<b>Port Visit and Fellowship</b>	<b>Port of Colombo (CWIT)</b>
<b>Nov- 25</b>	<b>Member's Night out</b>	<b>Venue- TBA</b>
<b>Dec-25</b>	<b>Christmas Party</b>	<b>Venue- TBA with SOCHEM and IMaREST</b>
<b>Jan-26</b>	<b>P.B. Karandawala Memorial Lecture</b>	<b>Venue TBA with CILT</b>
<b>Feb-26</b>	<b>Guest Speaker event</b>	<b>OPA auditorium with OPA</b>
<b>Mar-26</b>	<b>Member's family day out</b>	<b>Venue-TBA</b>
<b>May-26</b>	<b>Deck Officer's workshop for improving soft skills</b>	<b>Venue-TBA</b>
<b>20<sup>th</sup> June 2026</b>	<b>20<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting</b>	<b>Venue- TBA</b>

Stay Tuned for More updates!!!!!!!!!!



# Organization of Professional Associations

## MEMBERS NIGHT

OPA held its members night at OPA on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 2025. CMM took part at the members night and Council member Capt. Chamil Wijewardena lit up the night by bringing home the awards for the best dance couple (1<sup>st</sup> Place) and Solo Singing (3<sup>rd</sup> Place). Below are some photo of the CMM members taking part at the event.

As CMM members, you can also obtain the membership of the OPA and be a part of memorable nights like this also be part of some exciting events which provides new networking oppourtunities and knowledge. OPA provides a perfect platform to rub shoulders against stalwarts of other industries apart from mariners.





# **Sponsor Appreciation Dinner**

**7th August 2025  
At Imperial Grand  
Monarch**



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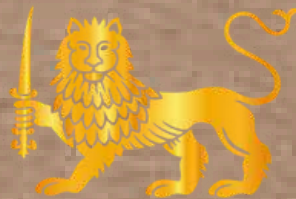


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# Sponsor Appreciation Dinner





# Sponsor Appreciation Dinner







# Sponsor Appreciation Dinner







# Sponsor Appreciation Dinner







# Sponsor Appreciation Dinner- President's Speech

Distinguished sponsors, Members of the Executive Council of the Company of Master Mariners, Ladies and Gentleman.

A very Good Evening to you all!

It is both an honour and a genuine pleasure to stand before you tonight at this joyous gathering where we celebrate the generous support of our sponsors who continue to keep the sails of the CMM of Sri Lanka full and blowing.

As a proud member of the Organization of Professional Association of Sri Lanka, The CMM isn't just about ships and cargo.

We are the heartbeat of Sri Lanka's maritime excellence. We advise policymakers, Champion professional development and occasionally argue over who had the toughest experience at sea.

Our membership reads like a who's who of maritime mastery: Master Mariners, Harbour Masters and their trustee deputies, Marine pilots who thread the needle in tight ports, port administrators who keep things running smoothly, Ship Owners, Operators and managers- aka the ones who pay the bills, Ship service providers, crewing and training providers, Marine Surveyors and a whole bunch of logistics and service providers.

In short we are not just good at steering ships. We are jacks of many trades, and masters of quite a few!

Being a Master Mariner mean you are the captain, sometimes engineer, the diplomat, the negotiator, the accountant, the book keeper, the auditor, the bartender, the doctor, the therapist, the lawyer, the peacekeeper and sometimes even the plumber and the carpenter.





# Sponsor Appreciation Dinner- President's Speech



That's the kind of versatility we celebrate tonight. and the kind of excellence your support help us nurture.

Thanks to the generosity, we've expanded our programs, strengthened our community and continued to advise policymakers. You have helped us chart new waters and reach new horizons.

In a world where the maritime industry is navigating digital disruption, sustainability goals and changing weather patterns, your commitment ensures that Sri Lanka remains a shining light on the global shipping map.

On behalf of the Company of Master Mariners, I offer our heartfelt thanks.

You are not just sponsors, you are our co-captains, our compass bearers and even, our lifeboats or the life raft when the budget gets tight.

There is someone very special here who deserves a special thanks as well. Ms. Sandali Dissanayake who went above and beyond the calling of my office to help the council members organize this successful event. Thank you Sandali for all the hard work that you put in to organize a great AGM for the CMM.

So now, council members, if you'll raise your glasses with me:

***Here's to smooth sailing, strong partnership, and a future as vast and promising as the ocean itself. To our sponsors- thank you for being the wind in our sails. Cheers!***

***Enjoy the rest of this wonderful evening.***



# Captain Chandra Godakandarachchi writes

## COMPANY OF MASTER MARINERS OF SRI LANKA – A BRIEF EARLY HISTORY

Idea of first ever Company of Master Mariners came about at the Adelphi Hotel in Liverpool, United Kingdom during a speech made by Sir Robert Burton Chadwick, a Master Mariner brought up the idea at Annual Ship Masters dinner in 1921 saying that Master Mariners are entitled and capable of forming a Guild or a company in line with other trade associations in London, was known as a livery companies. Role and scope of Company of Master Mariners UK at the time was quite different to the role of this day and age as at the time CMM UK upon becoming a livery company was responsible for regulations, controlling wages and labour conditions etc. CMM UK was founded on 25<sup>th</sup> June 1926 thanks to Sir Burton Chadwick for his vision, becoming the first CMM in the world. United Kingdom in that era had seen a few excellent Master Mariners, who lead by example even being brave in the face of imminent death or leading crew in the toughest challenges a Master mariner could ever encounter, the likes of veteran Captain John Edward Smith, SS Titanic and Captain Major Sir Earnest Shackleton who saved his crew from near zero chance of survival and brought them to safety under tremendous challenges when his ship Endurance was crushed by ice and sank in Antartica, were a couple of Master Mariners to mention. It was no surprise King George V conferring the title “Honourable” on the company of Master Mariners UK on 01<sup>st</sup> June 1928, thus becoming Honourable CMM UK, the only known honourable CMM in the world. Also all livery companies in London were highly respected with almost all livery companies were known as “Worshipful Company of XXXXXXXXX name of profession”. It was no easy task by any means to become a livery company at the time and it is quite interesting to note that no companies were formed for over 100 years until CMM UK was established in 1926 then being granted livery in 1932. Company of Master Mariners of India was established in 1956, first in the sub-continent.

### Why Merchant Navy

With the announcement by King George V on 14<sup>th</sup> February, 1928 of his intention to bring Merchant Shipping into line with Armed forces thus having a member of Royal Family as its Head, conferred the title of “Merchant Navy” upon merchant shipping. Prince Edward, Prince of Wales was the first Royal Master of the Merchant Navy and Fishing Fleet, since it has been customary to have a Royal Master.

# Company of Master Mariners of Sri Lanka

It was a beautiful Sunday morning at the Pilot Station Colombo in 1990, Captains Harindra Perera, Sardha De Silva and Niranjan Gunawardane were having a yarn in the veranda of iconic old Pilot Station enjoying a drink of lemon juice. The idea of establishing a Company of Master Mariners Sri Lanka came about from nowhere out of many other things talked about. The trio got into action by passing the idea to fellow Master Mariners in the island at the time thus having the first gathering of Master Mariners at Ceyline Shipping, R A De Mel Mawatha. It was decided during the gathering to call for the first CMM SL meeting at Mission to Seamen, Fort Colombo in 1991. There were about 25 Master mariners in attendance for the first meeting. Late Captain George Oscar Henricus, Master Attendant (now known as Harbour Master) being the most senior Master Mariner present called upon the youngest Master Mariner present to act as Pro Tem President (Captain Darryl Rosario) in electing the president. Late Captain Henricus's was elected as the First President CMM SL without a vote as no other names were proposed. Captain Henricus, The President of CMM SL then called nominations for the committee. As far as the author of this article can remember below are some of the committee members (apologies for any mistakes or non-inclusion) Captain Lester Weinman was elected as the Vice President, Secretary Captain Asitha Wijesekara, Captain Harindra Perera, Captain Ajith Peiris, Captain Shantilal Jayamanne, Captain Tilak Wicramasinghe, Captain Rajendra, Captain Shiran Senanayake, Captain Niranjan Gunawardane were in the committee.

Captain Henricus upon being elected as the President of CMM, requested members present to design a logo for CMM SL and requested to present designed prospective logos in the following bimonthly meeting (CMM members used to gather at Mission to Seamen for bimonthly meetings followed by drinks). Captain Henricus also proposed to start a newsletter, name 8 Bells too was suggested by Captain Henricus himself outlining a meaning of "Eight Bells" on ships then newsletter name "Eight Bells" was adopted by the members present. Captain D J Amarasuriya was appointed as the Editor. Captain DJ did a magnificent job and continued as the editor for a long time ably supported by a few members contributing interesting write ups. There were three likely Logos were presented by members in the following bimonthly meeting, then the design presented by Chandra Godakanda Arachchi was chosen. It would be fair to say Eight Bells was the main line of communication among members at the time with articles contributed by a few members on various subjects. That was prior to computers and internet came into being and popular in Sri Lanka, all the articles were hand typed. It was a laborious task to type and photocopy the newsletter before posting to all members. (It is worth mentioning that members at the time were keen to receive the newsletter (before internet era).



Author of this article has been presenting articles since the beginning of Eight Bells continuously for over 30 years on various subjects and Captain Mehran Wahid too has been presenting articles for a very long time). Various business such as constitution was followed during successive meetings. It was pleasing to note the progress of CMM SL slowly but surely. It is well worth mentioning Captain Joseph Ranchigoda's excellent effort and work in making plans to gain financial stability, progress and for a better balance sheet.

CMM SL membership at the beginning was about 30, numerous members of CMM SL at the time did their bit for the betterment of CMM SL , laid a solid foundation, did what they had to do with the not so advanced facilities at to bring CMM SL what its today.



Look forward two more articles from Captain Chandra Godakandarachchi on the next editions of Eight Bells.

# FEEDBACK

**We value your feedback very much.  
If you have any feedback or pointers  
to improve the newsletter, please  
contact the editor.**

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**the**

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