



August 12, 2008

Dear friends,

Exactly 10 weeks ago you gave me and my team the responsibility of running the DI. In this short period, we have tried our best to get a few things moving. Here is a report.

1 Liquor prices down at DI

The prices of petrol and *ilish* are going up up up! However, in these inflationary times alcohol prices at DI are down down down! There is no magic wand at work. Some of the excise cuts have been passed on to you. The lowered prices will be in effect till December 31, 2008. We will review the prices thereafter. Please come to the DI and get full value for money.

*Drink responsibly. Drive safely.*

2 Kookie Jar, Gupta Brothers & Chocolarte at DI from September 1

3 pieces of great news for food lovers.

Three new outlets kick-off from September 1. *Vegetarians should be delighted*, as two of the three new additions are strictly veg.

The popular food chain *Gupta Brothers* will join the DI Food Court with their mouth-watering specials. *Chocolarte* will also bring a new flavour with a range of vegetarian snacks and eggless desserts/pastries. There is more good news. Also from September 1, the city's premium confectionery brand, *Kookie Jar*, comes to DI. Initially the *Kookie Jar* counter will only be open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, from 4.30 to 10.30 pm; prices will be the same as their regular outlets.

The DI Food Court regulars (Sher-e-Punjab, and Jimmy's Kitchen) continue to team-up with Global Cuisine and Delicious Caterers to bring you more variety, more choice.

3 What's new in the bar/lounge: Free snacks, Music and a new TV

- *Free snacks*: In the bar area only. Tuesdays 7 to 8 pm (courtesy, Global Cuisine) and Wednesdays: 7 to 8 pm (courtesy, Delicious)
- *Recorded music* every evening at the bar from Rock to Rafi and Retro to Rabindrasangeet
- *New flat screen TV* installed in lounge
- *Bar open till 2 am* on an experimental basis for Michael Jackson Birthday bash on August 30.

4 Lots of sporting action

- *Tennis* The first court has been dug-up and freshly laid. Court 2 and 3 are now being dug-up and relaid. Plus, 24 enthusiasts took part in the tennis tin 'n' bottle tournament.
- *Football* Two exciting indoor 5-a-side football tournaments for members were held in July/ August. An incredible 120 players from all age-groups took part in the two events.
- *Basketball* The new fibre glass basketball boards were inaugurated in the hall with a one-day indoor tournament for members. 48 players. (I managed to smuggle myself into the winning team!)
- *Olympics on TV*. A giant screen has been installed in the new hall for all the Olympic action.

5 New, Youth 4 DI launched on August 10

New, Youth 4 DI was officially launched on August 10, two days before International Youth Day.

This innovative initiative got off to a great start. The opening ceremony with music, dance and skits was graced by two of our Life Members, Lance D'Cruz and Neil O'Brien.

*Youth 4 DI* seeks to give more responsibilities to our *members between the ages of 18 and 35*. Lots more will be heard from them. If any member born between 1973 and 1990 wants to be a part of this youth movement it is still not too late to call Sohini (9339032565) or Anamika (9830404087).



6 Sub-committees in place

Over the last two months the Council has spent considerable time, constituting sub-committees and outlining responsibilities/roles for each committee member. A joint meeting between all sub-committees was addressed by the President to share short/medium/long-term goals. The names of the new convenors / members-in-charge/members are up on the notice board. Good Luck to each member of the team.

7 Charter of Demands

Your Council is in negotiations with the Employee's Union. While we seek an amicable settlement for the benefit of all concerned, we are convinced that it is in the interest of the club to sign a 4-year (not 3-year) agreement. We will keep you updated on the progress and seek your co-operation. Additionally, we are taking remedial measures to improve the quality of service.

8 Development Project

Status quo.

9 Make your friend/relative a DI member

If you would like to make someone a new member, please collect a form from Pauline Ward. Only Permanent members can propose and second candidates. The earlier you submit the form the better. As agreed at earlier meetings over the last two years, the entrance fee works out to Rs 1.55 lacs (Rs 55,000 as admission fee and Rs 1 lac towards the development fund).

Additionally, you could specify if the new member you propose is willing to take up a 3-year "signage sponsorship" on the club premises for a further cost of Rs 2 lacs.

10 Drainage work on Jhowtala Road, so expect bottlenecks at the gate

As you would have noticed, most of Jhowtala Road has been dug up as part of a KMC project to improve drainage. The durwans are trying their best. Please co-operate as construction work on the road will hamper flow of traffic into the main gate. We seek your understanding.

11 Please carry your Digital Identity cards

For those members who have lost their cards please obtain a new one from the club office. You will be charged Rs 150/- for a new card as this is what is to be paid to the vendor. There are many of us who are still not using our ID cards. Please begin to do so.

You can expect another comprehensive update from me in this format in December 2008.

Meanwhile, if you have any suggestions or comments feel free to write to me at [derek@dikolkata.com](mailto:derek@dikolkata.com) or drop-in on *Sunday, August 24* between 10 am and 1.00 pm. Look forward.

With every good wish.

Derek O'Brien  
President

P.S. Thank you for taking time off to read this letter. Do stay in touch on email or see you on August 24 morning.