



Colombo, 17th May 2016

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Cricket-Aid fundraiser at Lord's.

Sri Lanka Cricket CSR to raise funds for CKD Pandemic in Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka Cricket re-ignites its CSR Arm. Charity dinner and silent auction to be held at the Long Room at Lord's. Funds to be disbursed toward CKD patients in Sri Lanka.

Known as a nation of smiling people, Sri Lankans are celebrated for their hospitality and kinship the world over. Sri Lankans are also known for their passion for cricket – a passion of religious proportions, so much so as to say that Cricket is the one unifying force that transcends all boundaries of race, religion, cast or creed, in an extremely diverse culture.

It is this very passion that led Sri Lanka Cricket in the aftermath of the devastating Boxing-Day Tsunami of 2004, to launch Cricket-Aid as a CSR initiative of SLC. Within 24 hours Cricket-Aid dispatched its first consignment of relief, with National and International cricketers coming together in the spirit of oneness and unity. The international world of cricket chipped in with the ICC, World Vision and Cricket Australia arranging a benefit match at the Melbourne Cricket Grounds followed by a Charity dinner. The one day match between the World XI and Asian XI played on the 10th January 2005, guaranteed a pre-match placement of A\$ 500,000 pledged to Sri Lanka through World Vision.

The clarion call of Cricket-Aid was able to gather resources to establish four villages in the north, south, east and west of the country complete with 50 houses, places of worship, playground, library and IT center. A foster care programme for 1,000 orphaned children was established through Cricket-Aid and cricketers travelled the country conducting coaching camps and visits with the displaced, providing them with much needed support. While taking care of material and financial needs Cricket-Aid also provided psychological support for the many thousands traumatised by the devastating losses they suffered and the desolation they were subjected to, with the assistance of Green Cross in the USA.

Cricket-Aid is being resurrected by the President SLC, Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Thilanga Sumpathipala, who founded the initiative. With his re-appointment as President, Hon. Thilanga Sumpathipala wants to re-ignite Cricket-Aid and put the spotlight on Chronic Kidney Disease as the deserving cause of Cricket-Aid's first fundraising event.

Chronic Kidney Disease or CKD is a disease that has reached pandemic proportions in Sri Lanka. Statistics indicate that 2,000 people die of this disease, while around 20,000 people are admitted and re-admitted to hospitals for CKD annually.

The disease is believed to be caused by the lack of or limited access to clean drinking water, use of low quality fertilizer which seeps into water sources and the lack of medical facilities such as dialysis machines to treat those afflicted. CKD patients largely consist of poor farmers and whilst poverty prevents patients on dialysis treatment from receiving the right nutrition, limited facilities necessitate priority to younger patients, leaving older patients at a distinct disadvantage. The situation is further exacerbated when the bread winner suffers from CKD, which plunges their dependents into greater despair and poverty.

Sri Lanka Cricket will launch its fight against the disease at a Charity dinner to be held at the prestigious **Long Room at Lord's on the 4th of June** amongst a gathering of distinguished guests, which will include the Hon. Minister of Sports Dayasiri Jayasekera, the Deputy Speaker of Parliament Hon. Thilanga Sumathipala, National Captain – Angelo Matthews and the Sri Lanka Cricket Team. The **after-dinner address will be delivered by Graham Gooch OBE**, one of the most prolific International Batsmen of his era.

Tickets priced at £200 will entitle the holder to a tour of Lord's, Cocktails followed by dinner at the Long Room and a silent auction. A specially signed memento will also be presented to all guests.

Seating is in high demand, and inquiries may be made on the numbers given below. **Tickets may be pre-booked by sending an email to the following address.**

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