

‘Virodhi’ Ugadi Celebrations, 2009

ಮನೆ ಎನ್ನುವ ಹೋಮ್(Home)ಗೂ

ಬೈಟನ್ನಿನ ಹೋವ್(Hove)ಗೂ ಒಂದೇ

ಕೊಂಡಿಯ ಅಂತರ

ಹೋಮಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಆಯಿತು ವಿರೋಧಿಗೆ ನಮನ

ಹೋವಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಕೂಡಿತು ಕನ್ನಡ ಬಳಗ!

This was an extempore poem which never got aired in front of Silli-Palli at Hove. More of them later. Kannada Balaga successfully celebrated the 2009 Ugadi function in Hove (the better half of Brighton?) in Sussex on the 4th of April. After the grand RJM people thought this could be a bland affair. On the contrary it was a satisfying and fulfilling one’s expectation.



Photo: S P Desai

I for ...

The programme was scheduled to start only after 10 30 am and brunch scheduled at 11 30, probably taking into consideration the distance one had to travel to reach the south coast. After a cup of coffee there was plenty of time to talk. Someone, who couldn’t join sent me an internet message that I should engage in “incessant, incoherent, Indian talk” in Hove! Talk we did and incessantly as we waited impatiently for the proceedings to commence.

Eye for India

It was, if anything, a slow start on a drizzly day. It wasn’t ideal cricket weather in Hove that greeted me. After all it is the headquarters of Sussex County’s cricket club, which was once captained by no less a person than K S (later Sir) Ranjitsinjhi. His nephew Duleepsinjhi also played for the club. No wonder the Chief Guest of the day The Right Worshipful the Mayor of the City of Brighton & Hove, Councillor Garry Peltzer Dunn, apparently a keen cricket enthusiast himself talked about Indian cricket during the visit. He didn’t fail to mention the name of a

few of the cricketers of Karnataka in his speech. The turn out for the meeting was small but colourful. His eyes were dazzled by the array of colours of the saris the women folk wore, he admitted. He was invited to visit Karnataka as he sheepishly confessed that he hadn’t done it yet!

All the world is a stage

We were welcomed by comperes Praful Ginimav and Archana Ravishankar. After the traditional invocation by two talented Kanumakala brothers on violin to the elusive Vatapi, the introductions, the welcome speeches and the inauguration followed. The slogan of KB will change from ‘two cultures and two generations’ as the third generation took the stage this time. The entertainment on the stage was wholly by the local team as there was no invitee from other parts of the world and hence a showcase for home grown talent. Singing and dancing was presented. Two pieces by Vidya Matt were my favourite; the two pieces by two sisters-in-law pleased the crowd (some tapping their feet and dads rocking in their seats!). To many the maiden performance by the TTKB (‘the third generation tiny tots of KB’) was heart warming. Moved by it the Mayoress took to the stage and engaged them in a spontaneous sing-along! It was touching. There was Karnataka vocal (Arun and Anil Kumar’s), Kannada folk songs (Bhaskar digging deep in pockets and memory for lyrics!) solving of scrambled Rubik’s cube, among other items.



Photo: Tony Mould

AGM

Annual general meeting (dubbed *Kuruksheetra* by some) is normally approached with trepidation by the folk on the stage. One doesn’t know what to expect from KB membership – will they throw bouquets or brickbats? This time however there were hardly any contentious issues in the AGM nor controversial resolutions (if any) to pass and hence it was despatched off with the elegance of Ranji’s leg glance! The president must have

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been relieved that no one was wicked and she wasn't batting on a sticky wicket!
It was later announced that breakdown of RJM expenses will be sent separately. It is eagerly awaited.

Workshop on Hinduism

During the AGM the youngsters (over the age of 9) were engaged by Dr Satyanarayana Sastri who conducted successfully a workshop on Hinduism for them in a separate room.

Silly-Palli

Yes, *Silly-Palli* and not *Silly Billy*. This was an inter-active session conducted by the duo Shrilata and Prashant in the afternoon. They encouraged audience participation in song, dance, mimicry, extempore election speeches etc. In short a *dhamaka!* The winners got prizes; nay, even just for taking part, too! There was even an instant poetry test. The one at the top of this report never made it!

The Venue

To host the meet here was organiser Dr Shreegowri's long time desire. Her team of dedicated volunteers worked hard to make the function such a success. We had the whole of The Great Hall of the Hove Town hall at our disposal. It was spacious, grand and well spread out. Moreover the lay out was such that incessant chattering didn't interfere with the main function. A great choice. It was where we had our dinner at the tables following a complementary glass of wine at the conclusion of the entertainment. What followed was disco with DJ. The day ended at mid night with some members wanting to dance even more!

(This is a personal account of the proceedings)

Shrivatsa Desai
April, 2009



Photo: Tony Mould

KB UK Ugadi 2009

Tiny tots of KB



Photo: Tony Mould

End piece:

Overheard at Hove meeting:

ಹೆನ್ನೀಕರಣ

ಏನ್ನೀ,

ನಾಮಕರಣದ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಕನ್ನಡಿಗರಿಗೆ

ಬೇರೆ ಹೆಸರೇ ತೋಚುವದಿಲ್ಲವೆ?

ರಾಮ-ಕೃಷ್ಣ-ಮೂರ್ತಿ-ರಾಜ

ಶಿವ-ಬಸವ-ಶಂಕರ-ಗೌಡ

ದೇವರಿಗೆ ನೂರು ಹೆಸರಾದರೂ

ಒಡೆಯನೊಬ್ಬನೇ ತಾನೆ?

ಬಳಗದ ಕೈಪಿಡಿ ಪೂರ್ತಿ

ಈ ಹೆಸರುಗಳದೇ ಭರ್ತಿ!

'ಹೋವಿ'ನಲ್ಲಿ ಕ.ಬ. ಯುಗಾದಿ ಸಂಭ್ರಮ

ವಿಭಿನ್ನ ಉಡುಪು-ತೊಡುಪುಗಳ ಸಡಗರ

ಹೆಂಡಂದಿರು ತಮ್ಮ ಗಂಡಂದಿರನ್ನು ಕರೆದಾಗ

ಕೇಳಿಸಿಕೊಂಡ ಅಂಗ್ಲ ಮಿತ್ರನಿಗೆ ವಿಸ್ಮಯ

ಕೂಡಿದ ಗಂಡುಗಲಿಗಳ ಹೆಸರೆಲ್ಲ **Henry ಏಕೆ?**

ಶ್ರೀ. ದೇ



Photo: Tony Mould