

Golden Era.

Union Sports Club features 1972 to 1992.

The golden era of the club commenced during the period between 1972 to 1992 that engraved with golden writing the history of cricket in Tanzania by Union S.C. Daressalaam. Very few clubs globally have achieved that has been accomplished by the club.

With the change of name from Ithnasheri Union Sports Club to Union Sports Club due to National Sports Act 1972. The change made the club more vibrant and pro-active with its performance on the field and pulsating to become a very recognized exemplary club especially within the sphere of community and National level. Names globally within community emulated the name for their youth body as UNION then while on National level the history of cricket in Tanzania had a new chapter written.

In Tanzania especially Daresalaam Union S.C. became a household name due to its performance on the cricket field and also made the Ithnasheris community proud because of the club's performance.

Achievement

- 1972 the club became runners up in cricket.
- Cricket Champions for 18 years in the span of 20 years between 1973 and 1992.

1973 the club became champions after 19 years and lost in 1974 then regained in 1975 and again lost in 1976. From 1977 to 1992 the club for 16 years continuously (like the owner of the trophy) were **Sunday League Champions**. This is the record in Tanzania that no club ever reached that pinnacle of accomplishment. I would have thought it is deserving to be recorded in the **Guinness Book Of Record**.

Alongside the players performance on the field with quality teamwork, dedication and team spirit the club had quite competent able leaders and capable management who played also major role to have taken the club to that height.



Union S.C. the Sunday League Cricket Champions after 19 yrs.

Group photograph at Coast Gymkhana in 1973.

Sitting from L to R: Mohammed Nathoo, Munawer Nurmohamed, Amir Yusuf (Captain), Yusuf Dhalla (Chairman), Yusuf Kabana, Bashir Tejani and Mahmood Nurmohamed.

Standing from L to R: Hasnain Gulamhusein (Scorer), Husein Sultan, Shabir Jivraj, Liakat Khimji, Naushad Kermali, Raza Kara, Ibrahim Tejani, Shakir Sherali, Mahmood Rahim and Husein Dato.



1981 - Union Sports Club won all 4 trophies of competitions organized by DSM Cricket Association. Players, officials and fans pose picture with the trophies.



1984 - Once again Union S. C. winning all trophies of competitions organized by DSM Cricket Association.

Players, officials and fans pose photographs with the trophies.

Standing from L to R: Husein Sultan, *Sajjad Lakha*, *Mahmood Rahim*, Saleh Jacksi, Ibrahim Bachoo, Mohamedraza Kabana, Khalil Khatau, Jimmy Peera, Mushtaq Rama, Akhtar Nayani, Muna Versi, Mohamed Nathoo, Kazim Nasser, Kassim Bharwani and Amir Yusuf.

Sitting Row 1 L to R: Hassanali Chacha(Blue Eyes), Mohammed Virani, Raza Janmohamed, Husein Peera, Bashir Tejani, Muslim Jivraj and Said Nyanya.

Sitting Row 2 L to R: Mohammed Rahim, Kassim Bhimji, Husein Jaffer Taki, Akil Ahmed, Anwer Satchoo, Mohammed Kermali, Husein Ahmed (Dr.Who) and Haider Alidina.

National Team

The club produced 7 to 8 National Players at one time and also had the honor to create captains that led Tanzania National Team with pride and integrity to win East & Central Africa Quadrangular Tournament. Mohamed Nathoo captain of the National Team had pride to win the tournament in 1984 after 16 years followed by Shakir Sherali also to be victorious in 1990.

The following players from Union S.C. had the honor and opportunity to lead Tanzania National Team.

- Bashir Tejani.
- Yusuf Kabana.
- Mohamed Nathoo.
- Shakir Sherali.



1979 - Nairobi, Kenya - During Quadrangular Tournament - Tanzania National Team against Kenya.

Standing L to R: Ranjit Bhatia, Kenyan Umpire, Asif Nurdin; [Aunali Chandoo](#); [Sajjad Laha](#); [Shakir Sheraly](#); Tahseel Sheriff; Elesh Gajjar; Subash Parmar; Jitu Patel; Subash Rathod and Nizar Jivani (Tanzanian Umpire).

Sitting L to R: [Amir Yusuf](#); Mohamed Nathoo (V/Captain); [Yusuf Dhalla](#) (Team Manager); [Yusuf Kabana](#) (Captain) and [Bashir Tejani](#).



1984 - DSM - During the reception hosted by Tanzania Cricket Association at Upanga Club whereby the Tanzania Captain Mohamed Nathoo was presented the Sir Robert Menzes Trophy by Hon. Pius Msekwa.



Group Photograph Tanzania National Team with the president of Tanzania His Excellency Ali Hassan Mwinyi in 1990. Shakir Sherali as the captain of Tanzania National Team with Vinod Asar as Team Manager.

TAGT Tournament.

During the Quadrangular tournament of 1977 held in Ndola and Lusaka, Union S.C. players representing Tanzania National Team had the opportunity of having close relations and interactions with the members of Metro S.C. that built very close ties between the two clubs. The management of two clubs then decided to have sports ties between them. In 1978 Union traveled to Lusaka with the invitation from Metro S.C. to play cricket, volleyball and tennis and the following year Metro S.C. reciprocated visited Daressalaam from the invitation of Union S.C. That is when TAGT took birth.

This move prompted other clubs from East and Central Africa to join the group and in 1980 very generously sponsor Babubhai Tarmohamed from Nairobi donated the trophy. Earlier the tournament was known as Tarmohamed Muslim Trophy but latter it changed to Tarmohamed Abdulghani Tournament whereby five clubs from East & Central Africa participated. The participating clubs were:-

- Metro S.C. Lusaka, Zambia.
- Mpingwe S.C. Blantyre, Malawi.

- Union S.C. Daressalaam. Tanzania
- Universal S.C. Nairobi, Kenya.
- Universal S.C. Harare, Zimbabwe.

The first tournament was hosted by Metro S. C. in Lusaka in 1980 and moved into venue rotations which resulted to 13 tournaments to have been played until 1990 which eventually came to standstill.

- 3 times hosted in Lusaka (1980, 1983 and 1987)
- 3 times hosted in Harare (1981, 1985 and 1988)
- 3 times hosted in Blantyre (April 1982, April 1986 and 1990)
- 2 times hosted in Daressalaam (Dec. 1982 and Dec. 1986)
- 2 times hosted in Nairobi (1984 and 1989)

The mammoth size of the contingent (17 members) per club travelling was hosted with full accommodation borne on reciprocal basis by the host country.



Group photograph: Union S.C. players/officials with their host Universal S.C. of Harare players/officials during the closing ceremony of TAGT tournament in Harare in 1981.



Standing from L To R : Umpire, Jimmy Peera(Scorer), *Kazim Lakha*, Hasnain Tejani, *Murad Kermalli*, *Liakat Khimji*, Sikander Fazal, *Sajjad Lakha* and Umpire.

Sitting from L to R : *Amir Dedhar*, *Bashir Tejani*, *Shakir Sheraly*(Captain), Murtaza Alidina(Chairman), *Yusuf Kabana*, *Amir Yusuf* and Mohammed Nathoo.



Captains of the participating clubs in the TAGT tournament held in Daressalaam in December 1986.

From L to R: Inayat Bagas (Metro S.C.), Ali Shah (Universal S.C.-Harare), Mohamed Nathoo (Union S.C.) Zahoor Sheikh (Universal S.C.-Nairobi) and Iqbal Gumrah (Mpingwe S.C.)



During the TAGT tournament in Daressalaam in December 1986.

Mohamed Nathoo (Captain for Union S.C.) receives the Runners-Up trophy from prominent business man from Lusaka, Yunus Badat (Team-Manager Metro S.C.) on the right at the top table.

Supreme Council Tournament.

Commenced in 1984 and Union S.C. had the honor to host very successfully the inaugurated tournament that is continuing to date. The games which were contested cricket, volleyball, football, tennis and table tennis. Union managed to win trophies many times mainly in cricket, volleyball and football.



Inauguration of Supreme Council Tournament 1984.

The AF chairman Al-Haj Mohamedbhai Dhirani being introduced to Union Sports Club- DSM players at Gymkhana Ground.

Mohamedbhai shaking hands with USC Team-Manager Br. Akber Gulamhussein (on his right) Amir Yusuf (Captain), Mohamed Nathoo, Amir Gulamhussein and Sajjad Lakha.

Behind Mohamedbhai Dhirani is Br. Raza Kara (then Union Sports Club chairman).



Union Sports Club Winners of 4th K.S.I.S.C. Tournament held in Dar-Es-Salaam December 1987.

Sitting from L to R : Hasnain Tejani, Sajjad Lakha, Mohammed Nathoo, Kazim Nasser(Captain), Shabir Dewji, Shakir Sherali and Bashir Tejani.

Standing from L to R: Jameel Kabana, Anwer Satchoo, Kassim Bhimji, Ibrahim Dattoo, Jimmy Peera(Scorer), Naushad Dhanji and Hasnain Raza.

Union S.C. trips outside Tanzania.

Beside local tournaments in Daresalaam and within Tanzania the club had opportunity to tour outside Tanzania for friendly encounters on invitations by clubs from Dubai, South Africa, India and U.K. First ever cricket club from Tanzania to travel out-side Africa. In 1989 the club travelled to Dubai for different games cricket, volleyball, squash and tennis also in 1991. In 1992 the club was invited and travelled to Johannesburg South Africa. And the same year the club toured to Mumbai India for friendly encounter. In 1996 the club toured to UK for series of friendly cricket matches in London, Essex, Yorkshire and Southampton.



Union S.C squad arrival at Dubai Airport 1989.



Group photograph of Union S.C. in Sharjah Stadium in 1989.

Standing from L to R: Bali Damji, Mohamed Nathoo, *Shakir Sheraly*, *Sajjad Laha*(*Captain*), Jabir Chatoo(Team Manager),Hasnain Tejani, *Bashir Tejani*, Mustafa Virani, Kazim Nasser and Jimmy Peera(Scorer).

Sitting from L to R: Hozaiif Bhaloo, Ibrahim Datoos, Kasim Bhimji, Anwer Satchoo, Munawer Dhirani, *Mahmood Rahim*, Naushad Dhanji and Jameel Kermali.



Union S.C. Cricket Team in Dubai 1991.

Standing from L to R : Muslim Jivraj (Treasurer), Roshan Sumar (Secretary), Jimmy Peera, Kazim Nasser (Captain), Kassim Bhimji, Mohammed Nathoo, Fayaz Chandoo, Sajjad Tejani, Sajjad Laha, Bali Damji, Abbass Moloo and Hasnain Rahim.

Sitting from L to R : Jameel Kabana, Sajjad Sumar, Shakir Sheraly, Ahmed Sumar, Shabir Murji, ???, Kazim Nathoo (Scorer) and Inayat Dhalla.



In August 1992 Union S.C. – DSM were invited to play series of friendly cricket matches in

Johannesburg (South Africa). Players, officials and fans watching one of the games in Johannesburg.

Low row: From L to R: Mohammed Somji (Chairman of the club), Bali Damji and Abdul Dhalla.

Medium row: Raza Nathoo.

Top row: From L to R: Shabir Hameer, Murtaza Murji and M. Somji.



Union S.C. squad of cricket players and supporters about to leave for Mumbai to play series of cricket matches at the invitation of various clubs from Mumbai in 1992.



Group photo of Union Sports Club with UK clubs during their tour of UK 1996 where they played clubs from London, Essex, Southampton and Yorkshire.:

Team Manager: Mahmood Panju.

Captain: Ibrahim Dato.

During the club's golden era we had leaders and players who brought glories and accolades for the club and not forgetting club fans who were always present to cheer Union S.C on the field are no more with us. Please let us remember them with Sure Fateha.

There are three events that could be probably out of context with the article relevance but in order to preserve the history I found worth to share:

1. History will record that in 1968 - 3 a side Final volleyball game between Union Sports Club v/s Aga Khan Sports Club lasted for three days (best of 5 games). Eventually USC beat A.K.S.C. 3 to 2 games. Prior to the game A.K. possessed a record as an unbeatable side team (3 a side) for almost five years. USC was never beaten then in the volleyball tournament of 3 a side until traditional volleyball was abolished in Tanzania in 1971.

After the match the 3 players were carried on shoulders by our fans from volleyball court near Kabrastan to mosque and presented with cash donated by Marhum Hassanali Virji, Maalim Kassamali Nurmohamed and shirts donated by Alhaj Amir Jessa.

The players who represented in this historical game in 1968 were:-

A.K.Club.

1. *Aloo Visram*
2. *Aunali Chandoo*
3. *Firoz Bhamji*

U.S.C. Club

1. *Amir Yusuf*
2. *Mohamed Nathoo*
3. *Yusuf Kabana*



Union fans rejoicing Muddy, Mohsin Khimji, Auny Satchoo and Muslim Jivraj congratulating Mohamed Nathoo after victory.



Amir Yusuf replying the ball, Mohamed and Yusuf watching. Firoz Bhamji is on the opposite side.



1968 Union Sports Club volleyball champions 3 a side.

From L to R: Amir Yusuf, Yusuf Kabana and Mohamed Nathoo.



1969 Union Sports Club volleyball champions 3 a side.

From L To R: Mohamed Nathoo, Amir Yusuf and Liakat Khimji.

2. Minor Counties Cricket Association from UK visited Daressalaam from 27th October to 3rd November, 1982 on the invitation from Tanzania Cricket Association.

The Tanzania Cricket Association organized three matches for the visitors viz TCA Chairman's X1, Tanzania X1 and Daresalaam Combined X1.

Dr. K.S. Gupta writes in his article:

"The first two matches unfortunately neither produced pleasing results for the home side nor the spectators who had thronged the ground to cheer their heroes. This could be probably been due non-availability of Four Union Sports Club players Bashir Tejani, Mohamed Nathoo, Sajjad Lakha and Shakir Sherali who were observing Mourning period of 12 days Muharaam.

The last match between Minor Counties and DSM Combined produced cricket that pleased connoisseurs of cricket in the city. Five wickets down for a paltry 26 runs, Mohamed Nathoo and Bashir Tejani came together in a partnership of 117 runs. The pair stroked all-round the wicket and for the first time in the series the Minor Counties attack lacked punch and penetrations. Mohamed more confident than Bashir was severe on the spinners and made them very ordinary. While Bashir gave two sharp chances Mohamed game devoid of any errors. Trying to pull Howlett over the fence Mohamed was caught at long on by Smith, the Jamaican. Mohamed Nathoo had a standing ovation for his scintillating 70 which came in exactly 114 minutes. Bashir Tejani 61 runs and Mohamed Nathoo courageous range of stroke play earned Tanzania both respectability and credibility.

Sajjad Lakha's 11 overs 4 maidens 21 runs 2 wickets were superlative effort in leg spin bowling. There were moments when he tied Simon Peter in knots. He richly deserved the wickets of Huggins McEvoy. The latter had his off stump clutched from its socket from a ball that turned from the leg stick. If Sajjad could only discipline himself to conjure googlies he would be very difficult bowler to read."

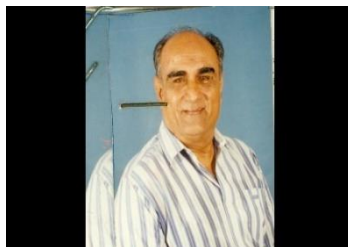
3. Four Veteran Sportsmen of the yester-years were awarded the "Abassi Medal" during the Opening Ceremony of Amaani Sports Festival on 22nd December 2008 in Nairobi.

This is the first time in the history of Africa Federation to honor "Abassi Medal" (beside yearly or biennial awards to Sportsman of the year Abdul Fazel Trophy) to the community outstanding sportsmen who have contributed the long exceptional services to the development of sports in the community and to the country. Abbas Medal is the highest honor in the community sports environment.

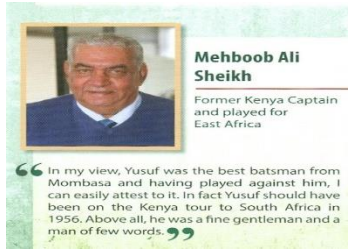
The recipients were:

- 1 Al-Haj Yusuf Karim - Mombasa
2. Al-Haj Mehboob Ali Sheikh - Nairobi
3. Al-Haj Bashir Tejani - Daressalaam now Arusha
4. Al-Haj Mohamed Nathoo – Daressalaam

Three recipients were able to attend the function unfortunately Br. Bashir Tejani could not be present. Regrettably the pictures of the two beneficiaries of the trophy were not available for display.



Yusuf Karim



Mehboob Ali Sheikh



Mohamed Nathoo



Bashir Tejani



Asif Karim Former Kenya Cricket National Player honors Mohamed Nathoo with Abassi Medal. Alhaj Ramadhan Nanji chairman of AF on the right and left Brother Mukhtar Asaria AF Admin Secretary.

Top: Alhaj Manzoor Kanani AF Councilor/ Chairman Jaffery Sports Club Nairobi extreme left.

Murtaza Somji Chairman of Nairobi Jamaat and Zuheir Kanji Chairman of AF Sports Council.

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