



The Danish Soldiers Club

JuLY 2018

<https://www.danishsoldiersclub.com>

NEWSLETTER FOR THE DANISH SOLDIERS CLUB OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA, INC. POST OFFICE BOX 41, PETALUMA CA. 94953
MEMBER OF DANSKE SOLDATERFORENINGERS LANDSRÅD. PROTECTOR HER MAJESTY QUEEN MARGRETHE II OF DENMARK

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Greetings,

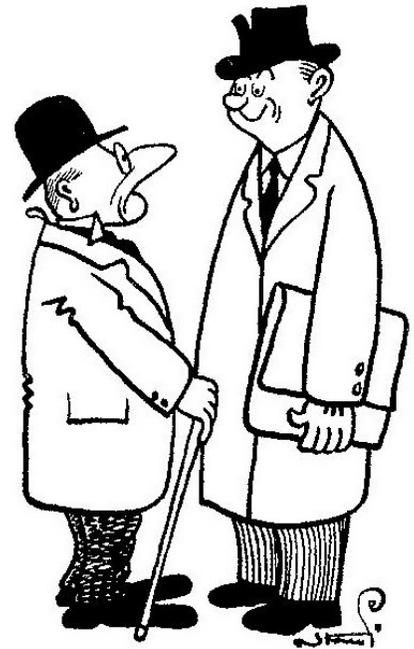
As usual, the July meeting occurred very close to the great national 4th. Some years this situation affects the attendance. But this year was somewhat different. We noticed that an unusual number of members are vacationing in Europe in June/July, notably in Denmark. And still more announced they would be away in July/August.

Good to get some wind under the wings, but perhaps the unusually pleasant weather in Denmark this summer has something to do with it.

Prior to her departure, one American lady announced that she loves Denmark so much that she may not return. In light of this years pleasant summer weather, I shall be watching who will or will not return late July. As the husband is on the board, I hope that at least he will not be tempted to abscond.

The installation of various activity equipment turned out to be a great success. Job well done Vagn. We still have some issues concerning exact location of this equipment, but that is a minor point. See you all in August.

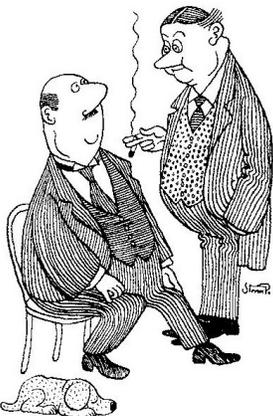
Poul



-You always look so happy.
-Yes—somebody has to do it

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Petaluma, CA 94953



-It worries me, that I have started talking to myself.
-But you don't have to answer.



-What is this—are you playing a violin?
-No—but I got it really cheap

Address Correction Requested

The Governing Board for 2018

Poul Poulsen President to 2018	San Rafael (415) 459-7727 pouls Poulsen@gmail.com
Per Madsen Vice Pres. to 2018	San Francisco (415) 928-4509 permads@danishsoldiersclub.com
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Rick Santarini Secretary to 2019	Santa Rosa (707) 481-8251 ricksantaini@danishsoldiersclub.com
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Ken Fultz Director to 2020	American Canyon (415) 362-7509 KFCVA41@comcast.net
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Keith Brians Director to 2020	Petaluma (707) 789-9953 kastaniakeith@gmail.com
Jill Brians Director to 2019	Petaluma (707) 227-8404 jcbrians@yahoo.com
Vagn Nielsen Kasernemester	Sonoma (707) 996-9950 vkn Nielsen@comcast.net
Lilian Rasmussen Membership Coordinator	Roseville (916) 771-4961 mormor@surewest.net 4397 Coach Whip Way Roseville, CA 95747-8623

This is also an election year for the Soldiers Club. In the October meeting The President, the Vice President and one Director position are up for reelection. Hopefully all three will seek reelection and continue at least one more term. All members are encouraged to comment and /or volunteer for a position.

I am sorry to report that Romeo (Romie) Santarini passed away June 17, 2018. Romeo was 90 years of age and had been a member of the Danish Soldiers Club for 25 years. The full obituary is on our web site together with details on the Memorial Service July 28 in Santa Rosa.

The members and guests for the July 7 meeting noticed new entertainment equipment installed, when they drove into the parking area at Kastania Park.

Vagn Nielsen has installed a basketball hoop, a tether ball station next to the flag poles, and at the end of the Dania Hall a bean bag game made by Vagn.

The equipment were a success based on the few children at the July meeting. We are looking forward to heavy use in the future. Before next meeting the club will surround the basketball area with cones, so incoming cars can be warned about the safety zone.

If there are other ideas for entertainment for the younger generation, the club is eager to hear them all.

One idea: Wi-fi coverage for the park, for tablets & laptops for games, music and movies will require a satellite connection and the cost has to be discussed.

Vagn Nielsen has really taken on the "Kasernemester" job not just with the new equipment but also with maintaining the groundkeeper house. He donated a patio door that otherwise would have cost the club around \$1500. Thank you Vagn.



Email or mail this order no later than Tuesday prior to the lunch to:

ricksantarini@danishsoldiersclub.com

Or:

Rick Santarini
325 La Crosse Avenue
Santa rosa, CA 95409

Order form for Smørrebrød at \$20.00 each

Yes, I wish to order lunch for Kastania Fælled. My check is enclosed

Four pieces of Smørrebrød of which one is **SALMON**
Total plates with Salmon _____

Four pieces of Smørrebrød of which one is **SHRIMP**
Total plates with Shrimp _____

Four pieces of Smørrebrød of which one is **HERRING**
Total plates with Herring _____

Four pieces of "non-seafood" Smørrebrød **REGULAR**
Total plates Regular _____

Drink Tickets are 3 for \$12.00, or 6 for \$20.00. Please specify quantity _____
1 ticket for any mixed drink, wine or beer. Soft drinks 1/2 ticket. Bottled water free.

Name: _____ Check amount _____

THE MOST BEAUTIFUL GAME

By Peter Steiness

Soccer, or football, is tacked a 'beautiful game'. As a marketing ploy it would be rather corny, but watching a game, or match, rather often brings those words past my full lips, uttering: 'wow, that was a beautiful pass, shut, safe, play' and so forth; acknowledging that, it is very much a 'beautiful game', corny or not.

It started way back as **association football**; today it's better known as either football or soccer, depending on where you live. Whatever you call it, it's a grand team sport. The basic idea for the team thing is that if you do not play the game as you should, as a team, involving common effort, common aim or plan, you will for the most part not be winning much. The team effort is a big part of successful soccer, but only one of so many aspects that makes this game so fascinating. Team work is nothing new, and soccer is nothing new either.

It seems human beings have been kicking balls around from the moment balls were invented. Documented as far back as the Han Dynasty (206 BC – 220 AD, which is a very long time ago) a somewhat beginning of soccer occurred, with only a few rules to play by. But let's quickly jump a few years away from Han and find that additional rules of soccer came over a period of time around the middle of the 19th century. Basic rules were decided, when the English FA (Football Association) was established in 1863. These basics were drawn up, discussed and explained and most of the football clubs back then, accepted playing by these rules. Today the rules are very specific, but still very simple. Only rarely has any parts of these rules been tweaked, and only few 'major/minor' changes have ever been applied. So it's pretty much been the same basic game for over

150 years – the simplicity of the rules also adds to the beauty of the game.

Soccer is the most popular game on this globe of ours. Looking at statistics, it says that over 250 million people are playing (not on the same field at the same time, duh!), but I'm not sure what that number covers, as soccer is played on so many levels, from kicking a tennis ball around in the street with anybody, to the highly paid professionals; females and males alike.

I was 6 when I started playing for a local club (KFUM) just outside Copenhagen (which is still in Denmark). We trained 3-4 times a week and most weekends we played matches against other clubs. When I started school, we had a soccer team; when I started working, the company had (well of course) soccer teams, etc.; seemed like there were even more than 250 million Danes playing back then – if possible.

My childhood friend Claus and I wrote letters to all the major soccer clubs in England when we were about 12 – I think. We received responses from all those clubs (the good old days, really). The one club I was the most impressed with (cool patches, I remember) was Manchester United and I have followed that club ever since; dating myself, that's about 60 years of interest; way to go, Peter. I never considered myself a 'fan' (abbreviation of: fanatical), but more so as an interested follower. Back in the days, getting soccer results or team information was tough, as these items rarely showed up in Danish newspapers. But then broadcasts of English soccer games started to be shown on Saturdays. Luckily, Claus' parents had just about the only TV in our zip-code; it seemed like. Black and white as it was. And we were glued to the screen during all those English soccer games.

Today I can watch or record all the English Premier League games on our very smart TV, with

‘nearly like being there’ surround sound and HD picture quality. What a long way we have come; so very close to soccer-heaven.

There are so many aspects to soccer, so many great things. It’s a constantly flowing game, played in two halves of 45 minutes. To me it has always been superb entertainment, but if a game gets boring, I can fast-forward, delete or leave. Such control, huh?

As of this writing we finally reached the last two games of the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia that has been on for a month. Last Saturday morning, England and Belgium battled for third place and Belgium came out the winner. England shouldn’t really be too disappointed, as they came to Russia with a fairly young and inexperienced team, with average age around 25. The Belgian team was quicker on counter attacks, where England had a hard time connecting up front and then made two boo-boos on defense, which cost them the game; otherwise very entertaining.

Among so many things good about soccer; here you have the last two games, where one side is a nation of 60 million people (France & England), with Belgium at about 11 million and Croatia with 4.3 million. Even Iceland of about 350,000 citizens, have established them as a mighty soccer nation, no matter how little that country is. It’s not about how big the nations are that determine how well their national teams play. And isn’t that great? (No, I’m not going to mention the USA with 350 million-plus not even making it to the World Cup this time around – so there. But then the USA women’s national team has been ranked first in the world for many, many years – but that’s another story all together).

This World Cup has been awesome; so many surprises. Before the tournament started, I had Belgium and England in the final; they ended up

playing for third place. I had never envisioned Croatia in the final, and even France playing in the final was a bit of a surprise to me, as they pretty much sucked before the tournament started. But they have improved dramatically during the 4 weeks in Russia – and good for them, as they have very good and talented (team) players.

Croatia had a fantastic and surprising World Cup run, but Sunday morning they did meet their match in the final, and in spite of them battling valiantly against a vastly improved French team, they lost the game 4 to 2. But they never gave up – so good for them. France is now World Cup Champions 2018 for a second time around and well deserved.

I started coaching soccer when I was 12 and stopped coaching some 7-8 years ago. What I miss the most from coaching, are all the fantastic players of all ages, genders and levels that I had the privilege to hang around with – I miss all 500-600 of them. I tried to teach them that having fun training and playing, was essential to the attitude they should bring along. So there was always a lot of laughter and really fun times, even when we had to concentrate to do our best on the pitch.

The last thing I always communicated with the players, pre-training or pre-game, was: “NOW GO OUT THERE AND HAVE SOME FUN – PLEASE”. Early on I had learned that the harder we trained, the better we played, and there for the more fun we had. It was a positive and simple recipe – and it worked extremely well; a very simple philosophy both for life and certainly for this very beautiful game called soccer (or football, wherever you are) (sigh)...

