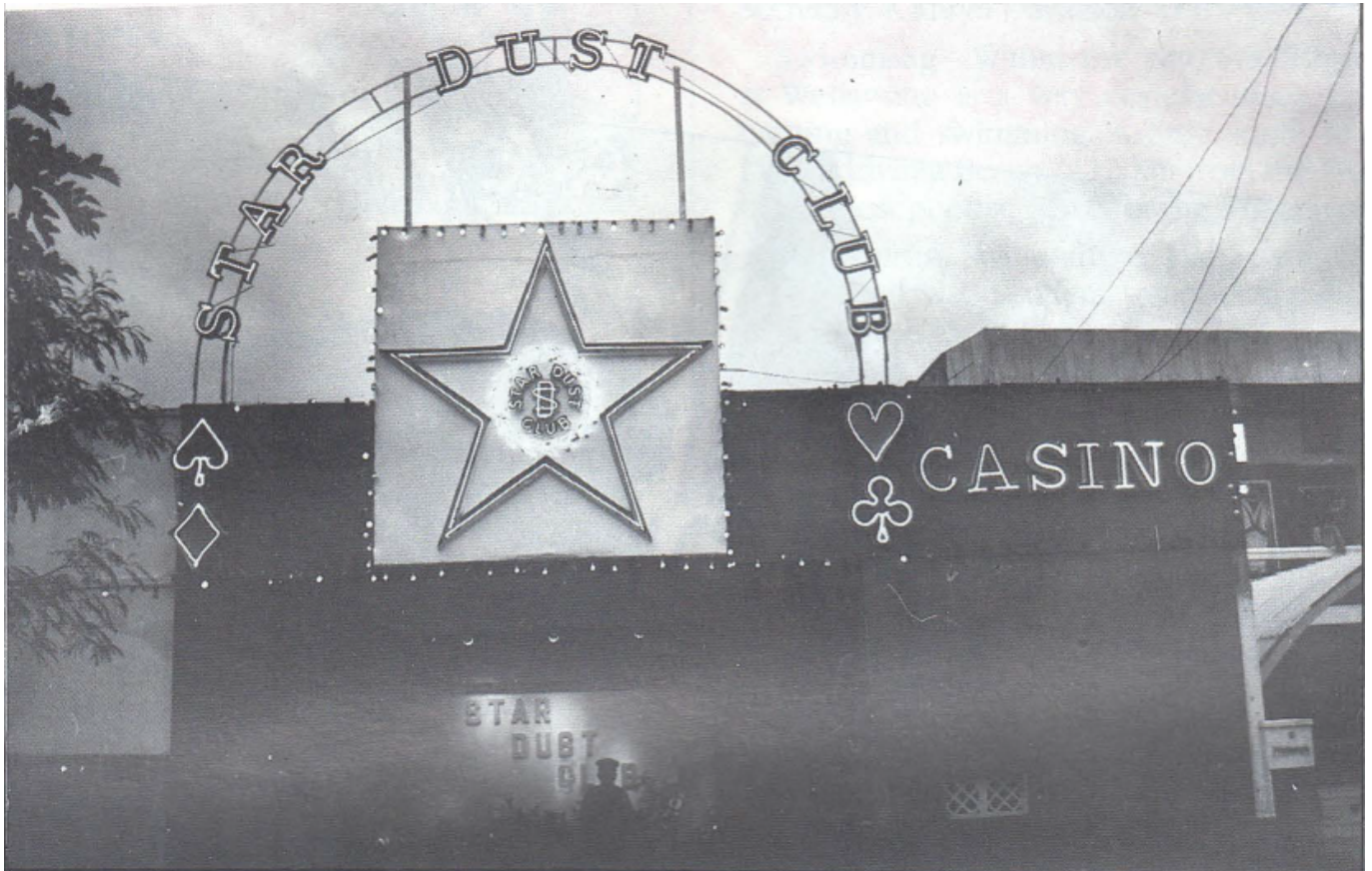


Cassandra Alexander



Galle Road today has a proliferation of brilliant neon signs that, after the sun goes down, somewhat garishly vie with each other for the attention of passersby. Among these are quite a few which advertise various gaming clubs—each of which tries to attract you with the hope that tonight this is the place where you will make your fortune.

A few of these signs have now permanently been turned off due to the stiff competition. But one club's sign has remained in place perhaps longer than any other and still continues to burn brightly in the night: The Star Dust Club.

Although the distinctive Star Dust Club sign fronts Galle Road, the Club itself is situated a few hundred yards down 15th Lane, where there is ample parking for its guests.

With a smile the door is opened for you; with more smiles the formality of signing in the guest register is completed and you are shown into the main gaming room.

Once inside, you will find a spacious room, well planned out with various gaming tables to suit anyone's tastes. First there are the two Roulette tables, at which you can purchase chips - as at all the other gaming tables. Roulette is probably the easiest introduction to winning. Exchange your money, place your chips on the table - and away you go...

But don't stop there. Also at the Star Dust you can play at one of three Baccarat tables or at one of the five Blackjack tables. The croupiers and dealers are well trained to answer any questions about the house rules you may have, and are equally happy to pay out when you win. And as soon as you seat yourself anywhere in the room, an attentive steward will appear by your side to provide you with whatever drinks, cigarettes or other refreshments you may want.

Also besides the standard games, you will find in any clubs in Colombo, at the Star Dust you can play Rummy nightly at about 9pm as well as Mah-jong at any time.

And if you don't want to go out on the town by yourself to sample a bit of the gaming excitement which Colombo has to offer, the popular night time entertainment program Colombo by Night winds up its evening at the Star Dust Club. Join this pleasurable tour and when you reach the Club you will receive 500 rupees in free play coupons to try your luck at the gaming tables. Also for your convenience complimentary return transport to all the leading hotels in Colombo is provided on request.

On my first visit to the Star Dust Club, what struck me immediately was that it's a friendly place. The Club makes you feel welcome and there's nothing intimidating about it. The Staff are eager to please and the ambience casual. There's no pressure to gamble if you feel like a break from the tables. You can sit at one of the side-tables and order a delicious snack from their well-maintained kitchen - or just a drink from their well-stocked bar if you prefer. It's a comfy setting, relaxed and informal, not like some of the other more ostentatious gaming establishments along Galle Road or in the five star hotels.

Amongst all the clubs that I have visited - be it along Galle Face Road or in one of the hotels - the Star Dust stands out. The reason being quite simply that it's a comfortable, enjoyable place with a skilled staff at the tables, and excellent serving personnel who look after your every need. What more could you ask for?

So treat yourself tonight to a visit to the Star Dust Club and experience the distinctive service and quality that sets it apart from any other casino in town. Have fun and a lucky evening.

Star Dust Club: Your Best Bet