

KARACHI GYMKHANA

# NEWSLETTER

**FEBRUARY 2022** 

# Presidential Address

"I served you well in the past and in my humble capacity I am proud to have served you once again. During my previous and the current tenure as President Karachi Gymkhana, I undertook many projects and hope to have complemented these improvements by creating a space where members felt at home and treated equally.

We recognize the importance of the trust you place on us and endeavored to constantly meet your expectations. As a prime objective, on one end we prioritized the preservation of the heritage of Karachi Gymkhana in order to retain its original glory, while on the other, we laid a state of the art synthetic track for the benefits of all our members, specially the senior walkers. We have already upgraded lobby area, bakery, and the learners Swimming Pool. The Club is also undergoing much technological advancement to modernize it and bring you the best and most efficient facilities, at your doorstep. None of this could be possible without your support and we hope we have been able to live up to your expectations to improve your quality time at Karachi Gymkhana.'





### **Jogging Track**

The Club had an old and muddy walking/jogging track around the Cricket Ground. Our senior members always wanted to have a proper Synthetic walking track. Keeping in mind the ease of our senior members in particular and other members in general, we laid an all-weather synthetic jogging track in the short period of 4 months. On 8th January 2022, it was inaugurated by our incumbent President, Altaf H. Agha; the ceremony was also telecasted at national electronic media / Hum News.

We have warranty of 10 years from the manufactures for walking track and also a guarantee from the consultant that it's been made as per the required specifications.

The synthetic track not only aids our senior members to walk without the fear of being stumble but also prevents joints and any potential knee pain for everyone, making walk a much easier and healthier exercise.

Antique lights have been put all around the track and with a beautiful garden, which was never there, with plantation and seasonal flowers all around to make it look more elegant and pleasing to the joggers, giving natural fresh air.



# Fight against COVID

Karachi Gymkhana treats employees as their own family members and priorities their health. As a result, the management arranged free dozes of vaccination for them as well as for our members who required them. We would also like to thank the Sindh Government for enabling us not only to vaccinate our entire staff at priority but also set up special camp to administer booster dose to our respected members.

Additionally, to have a continue watch on the health state of our staff, we arranged PCR testing camp exclusively for our employees. We believe in the welfare of our staff as they have contributed a major portion in making Karachi Gymkhana what it is today.



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## Catering

The Catering is one of the most vital department at Karachi Gymkhana and we are constantly endeavoring to improve it. Our greatest achievements include the catering of a very successful musical night where we served delicious and sumptuous food of the finest standard, to our respected members.

To improve our services, we have also hired the services of a very experienced Senior Chef and a new Food and Beverage Manager. In addition, we have recently hired a Quality and Control Inspector to ensure better food standards and increased hygiene. We have also designed a much more efficient mechanism for the Store, Stewarding, and Staff Canteen. To reach out to the doorsteps of our members, we have introduced Bykea's services for deliveries with convenience and satisfaction.

Further, in consultation with our new hired Chef. we are revising constantly improving our recipes at a very economical cost. The point is evident from the fact that despite an all-time high inflation and increase in cost of all ingredients, we have not increased the prices of our menu, even once. We have kept a very strict eye on pilferage which has saved us the cost of the food, which helped us in not to increase the prices. Our suppliers are also extremely reputable which help us to provide the highest standard of food.



### **Bakery**

The Bakery at Karachi Gymkhana has always aimed to serve our members the highest quality products at a very economical price and we continue to uphold this objective. Our newest additions to the menu include Opera pastries, seasonal fruit tarts, plain and chocolate croissants, raspberry swiss rolls, king cakes, blueberry cheesecakes, and many more. We have upgraded our classic desserts with new and improved recipes to give you a delectable trip down memory lane. We have also added a taste of Middle Eastern cuisine with items such as hummus with Pita, Ommali, and Baklava and to all those health enthusiasts out there, we have introduced a new range of healthier options which include Greek yogurt and seasonal fruit parfaits along with a variety of fresh and refreshing salads. You can view these beautiful delicacies in our newly installed LED display which will entice your taste buds and satisfy all your cravings. To display its expertise, The bakery has celebrated all the events like Christmas, Halloween, valentines, Eid etc. Our sales which were 60,000 /- per day have reached to more than 160,000/- per day on an ordinary day and 200,000/- plus on Saturdays and Sundays.

The production facility has been Revamped and upgraded to ensure better hygiene and standards. A new bhatti and conventional ovens were also installed. Production area has been completely upgraded. Entire bakery shop was refurbished with new setting to enhance the ambiance. Recently, we have started contributing to the environment by introducing biodegradable and reusable bags.

We invite you to visit our improved bakery and enjoy a completely new and distinctive experience!



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#### **Entertainment**

After relaxation in Covid-19 restrictions, the vibrant nights of Karachi Gymkhana also lived at their fullest.

Started from an evening where the melodious voice of Singer Kamran Saagu filled-up the air with a nostalgic feel of 90s music and when Dilshad Sabri reminisced about one's eternal and other's long-lost love. From Akhlaq Bashir Khan, making the crowd sing their hearts out along him to Shoaib Raja, Pakistan's emerging talent, whose melodic voice took the audience into dreaminess. The nights at Karachi Gymkhana have witnessed the best of all.

We surely have not forgotten our Christian community. On the eve of Christmas, we arranged Christmas Carols to observe and to be a part of their celebration. Also, we arranged Halloween Party for the kids, which included fun rides, games, and other exciting activities.

Our beloved members have significantly contributed in making these events a huge success for Karachi Gymkhana.

We also celebrated 74th Independence Day with great zeal and spirit. On the occasion, badges and small flags were distributed among the members. Flag raising ceremony was conducted by the incumbent President, Mr. Altaf Hussain Agha. Through this display, we expressed our gratitude for the freedom, we all so fully enjoy. Audience also enjoyed traditional flag hoisting and the cake cutting ceremony.





### Library

The library in Karachi Gymkhana offers multilingual books for adults and children. Recently 206 new books were introduced in children and elders library, both. We hope you will visit and enjoy our new collection.

During the Covid-19 restrictions, we made special arrangements in KG Hall 1 for members to read books and newspapers. Members can now use British Council Library online, there are various newspapers, magazines, comics, audio books and e-books available on the site which members can read conveniently.

Multiple events were organized throughout the year. On 28th October 2021, "Breast Cancer Awareness" program was arranged for lady members. An awareness lecture on "Sudden death with reference to Quran e Hakim and latest discoveries of Medical science" was arranged on 30th December 2021.

Free medical camps were conducted by health professionals where members got free check-ups done.

Children were given an opportunity to exercise their creative minds and show their creations in "Creative Writing Competition" and "Art Competition". All participants were awarded certificates. Like every year "Mehfil-e-Milad" and "Special Children Performance" were also organized.

Amid Covid1-19 restrictions, we arranged Taraveeh for ten days during Ramadan under the open skies in Karachi Gymkhana's Cricket Stadium, to comply with the corona SOPs.

#### **Quiz Rama**

We know that Karachi Gymkhana family loves Quiz Rama therefore this year we organized multiple Quiz Rama shows. Some of the lucky members amongst us received Mega Grand Prizes in Grand Quiz Rama show which was held on 18th December 2021.





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## Men's Weight Control Room and Gymnasium

We have designed our gymnasium to give you the best workouts possible. Recently, we have added Rubber Coated Dumbbells, T-Bar machine, and forearm machine in our weight control room

Re-carpeting and revamping of the entire gymnasium and weight control room has been done to bring aesthetically pleasing and practical change.

We have got all the equipments that you need to walk, jog or sprint your way to your absolute fitness goal. Now, we are many more than just incredible facilities; we have got you instructors and trainers who will help you on your way to holistic well-being.





#### **Cricket**

Amid Covid-19 pandemic, we arranged regular Cricket matches while strictly following the SOPs. Karachi Gymkhana Cricket team won 38th corporate challenger Cup held on 11th April 2021 at Karachi Gymkhana. Mr. Altaf H. Agha, sitting President distributed prizes amongst the winner team.



### **Badminton Court**

After the installation of solar panels above the badminton court, the drilled holes resulted into an intense rainwater leakage through the rooftop. The leakage was not only hampering the gaming activity but also damaging the courts. To rectify the fault, the Management approved the waterproofing of the rooftop. The Club also replaced the court with synthetic flooring to improve your playing experience.





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#### **Tennis Court**

The Management has completely refurbished the tennis court by replacing the flooring and all the nets. We have also re-painted the courts, making the courts on par with international standards. In addition, for the spectators, the old worn-out sofas lying on the sidelines have also been refurbished.

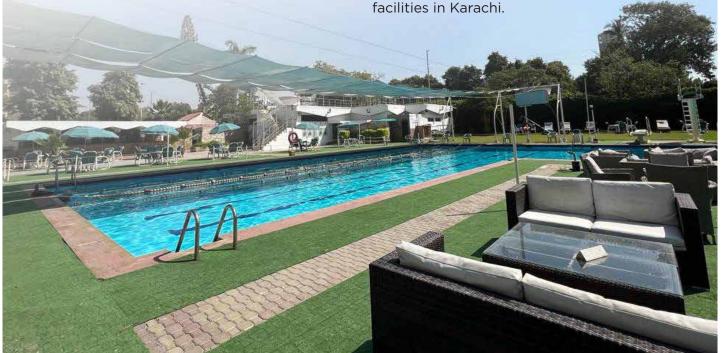


## Swimming Pool

The Management has updated and renovated the Jacuzzi by replacing the pumps. Furthermore, we have changed the heaters in the sauna to ensure that they remain in perfect working condition. The dressing rooms of the swimming pools have also undergone thorough maintenance to prevent degradation. New electric geysers were installed there.

The learners' swimming pool is being refurbished. New umbrellas and shades were installed. Astroturf around pool was laid for protection. Retiling was also done.

We are incessantly making new improvements in the swimming pool area as we strive to meet your needs as they come and offer you the best





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## **Playground**

Our playground has combination of swings, slides, climbers, spring riders, and spinners to maximize fun, safety, and accessibility for kids. The safety of your children is of the utmost importance to us which is why we have installed this Astroturf to protect our children. We hope that this enables them to play freely.

Rides have been completely refurbished and aesthetically enhanced. The bathroom has also been renovated.

We tried to make the playground more appealing by painting cartoon characters on walls and to maximize the fun and excitement for kids we have done aesthetic up gradation of rides.





#### **Staff Welfare**

It is in the first time of history that our club staff, permanent and temporary, both have been given a raise in their salary of 12% and the union agreement has been settled for 2 years. In addition, Umrah package has been restarted for six staff members every year with an addition of 2 tickets from the sitting President to maintain cordial relationship.



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# Innovation in IT

We have introduced QR code menus which are a digital version of the physical menu cards. You can now scan the QR code on your mobile phone to access it. This is to prioritize your health and safety by reducing the use of physical menus which can be extremely germ-ridden.

IT team made social media pages and a new dynamic website to keep members updated with pictures and announcements of the upcoming events. Also, IT division has created digital Tambola Board exclusively for members.

In the recent year Library Management System has been upgraded for the ease of members and now they can search book on touch screen desktops installed in the main Library.

We have also changed the internet provider at Karachi Gymkhana. We have upgraded to a better provider for a cheaper, discounted cost and have stationed 47 indoor and 6 outdoor routers across the club. The Wi-Fi is of a higher quality and has greater range than the previous provider. Also, CCTV are installed in most of the areas of the club for the protection of our members.



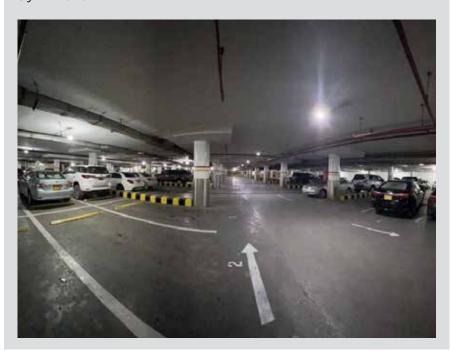
#### **Maintenance**

The Management recovered 300 usable chairs, from the scrap pile at the basement, dumped by our predecessors. The items were discarded as non-usable items; however, to prevent the wastage of our money, we repaired and polished these chairs, rendering them good as new. These chairs are now being used around the club. All the light fixtures has been changed, and the area has been enlightened to create a much more inviting and serene space.

The stench that engulfed one's sense when parked at the rare side of the club was something sadly we have all been privy to, making most of you aware that Karachi Gymkhana didn't have a sewerage line. Every month bowsers were hired and the waste was dredged out and transported and if God forbid it rained, the entire track and cricket ground became inundated under lethal combination of sewage and rain water as we have witnessed just last year. It is our privilege that for the first time in the history of the club we have had the main gutter line installed at the track/cricket ground for which the entire road between Pearl Continental hotel and the Movenpick hotel was dug-up, mammoth task on its own considering the surroundings of the area the club is located in.

All the discarded material thrown in the Parking Area has also been cleaned out. Car Park has been completely cleaned and repainted. Also, all the lights have been redone.

We have set out to improve the oxygen regulation and the visual aesthetics in Karachi Gymkhana by placing beautiful plants wherever possible. We hope these additions brighten your day and improve your experience when you visit Karachi Gymkhana!





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