



## KARACHI GYMKHANA

From  
The President's Office

22nd October 2021

Respected Members,

**Assalam o Alaikum**

On the eve of the 24<sup>th</sup> of February 2021, I, your President Altaf Hussain Agha and the Members of my Managing Committee were handed the reigns of the prestigious Karachi Gymkhana by the trust and confidence you demonstrated in us through your vote. It has been eight months since we have been at the helm of affairs and would like to appraise you of all that we have endeavored to undertake on your behalf despite Covid-19 looming over most of our tenure.

When we took charge, the club had a fixed deposit of Rs.50 Crores and a liability of Rs.7.5 Crores taken in lieu of membership still to be realized leaving us with a net balance of Rs.42.5 Crores. As of today, it gives me immense pride in sharing with you that we have a balance of Rs.57 Crores in fixed deposits and another Rs.2.4 Crores in our Running Accounts and have no pending liabilities what so ever.

The stench that engulfed one's senses when one parked at the rear side of the club was something sadly we have all been privy to, making most of you aware that Karachi Gymkhana did not have a sewerage line. Every month bowlers 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 a lethal combination of sewage and rain water as we have witnessed just last year. It is my privilege to let you know 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 the Pearl Continental Hotel and the Movenpick Hotel was dug up, a mammoth task on its own considering the surroundings of the area the club is located in.

The club's water connection which had been disconnected over disputed arrears of Rs.40 lacs for the last 8 years were settled for Rs.19 lacs less than half of the amount outstanding and reconnected.

The Construction Stay Order by the Supreme Court of the Pakistan on certain areas of the club, has crippled us to such an extent that we cannot even restore the cement graveyard with metal rods, on which I can say with certainty that most of you have tripped over at some point or the other back in to the garden it used to be. We have however tried to strategically place plants so that members may be averted into encountering any major mishaps. We have also put railings, steps and a slope so that Senior Members and the physically impaired can however maneuver that terrain with at least a bit of ease.

The Walking Track of Karachi Gymkhana, which encompasses our famous cricket ground where a multitude of international and national teams have played and practiced over the years as you can see is undergoing massive repair and maintenance work. We are installing a rubberized synthetic state of the art

walking track keeping in mind the needs of our senior members who are extremely close to our heart and for their endless support we are eternally grateful. Unlike running on our existing track, a synthetic track will provide excellent shock absorption and cushioning, protecting runners from impact-related joint injuries. The soft surface will not only absorb impact and will decrease muscle stress but is also grippy enough so runners will not slip or stumble due to a bad stride. To top it all off, we had been allocated a budget of Rs.4 Crores from the 2019 Committee for the dissemination of this project but we have managed to give the contract at Rs.1.96 Crores plus approximately Rs.25 lacs for the envicrete pavers. We have chosen a far superior quality material; hence it has been rolled out at around 50 percent, a massive saving of the hard-earned money of our members.

The roof of the Badminton Court and the Courts itself have had to be completely refurbished due to the rain water coming into the building through various holes drilled at the time of installation of the solar panels.

The children's play area has been re-carpeted completely to ensure the safety of our children. After receiving several complaints that the young ones were getting hurt in the pool due to the old tile shards we have had the learners pool completely retiled. The area around the Swimming Pool has also been re-done with new astroturf grass. Umbrellas and shades have all been replaced all over the swimming area as the previous were in a deplorable state.

The food of Karachi Gymkhana is improving progressively in the last several months and with the addition of a new chef and a food and beverage manager you will see further improvement in the depth of dishes and the quality of service being provided to you. We have installed a new brick oven in the bakery production as the old one had been made almost 20 years ago and had now outlived its useful life. The bakery products speak for themselves and many now goodies have been added to tantalize your taste buds further taking our bakery to an all new high which has been reflective in the doubling of their sales.

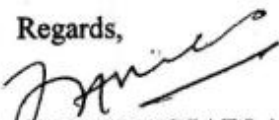
Many smaller but integral incremental changes are also visible all over the club. The chandeliers of the lobby and the painting and polishing of the wall panels, the re-polishing of the furniture, re-cushioning and re-upholstering of all the chairs in the lobby, TV Room, Dining Halls, SAMs Club, Tennis Area, Security Office, Cricket and Billiard have been done.

A Vaccination Drive was arranged at the club in the month of August 2021 for the ease of its members at the time when vaccine shortage nationwide was at an all time high. As the Covid-19 restrictions have been relaxed in the last month, we have been finally provided with the opportunity to organize several entertainment and musical events for the benefit of the members and will continue to do so.

In the end, all I pray for is that I hope my team and I have lived in some part up to the love and trust bestowed on me by my fellow members and may God give me the strength and foresight to continue serving you in the best of my capacity for the balance time I have left as your President.

God Bless and Stay Safe.

Regards,

  
ALTAH HUSSAIN AGHA  
PRESIDENT