



The Poona Club Ltd.

INSIGHT

The Poona Club Newsletter
For Private Circulation only

JAN 2017

LEASE RENEWED

The Govt of Maharashtra has renewed the leases of both, The Poona Club & the Golf Course up to 2037



Lease Renewed

It all began when the British used the premises for the recreation of British troops in the city of Poona. Later the lands were leased to trustees and laid the foundation of what is today 'The Poona Club'. 99 years later, in 1984, the lease was renewed for a period of 30 years and today it stands renewed upto 2037.

Swachh Club initiatives & Green measures

For a long time, the management had been mulling over doing away with direct contract labour and utilizing the services of a professional cleaning company. In December 2016, it was decided to outsource the cleaning of the main club to a professional company. The benefits seem to be certainly showing.

On the green count, the Cricket ground is using bore well water in an attempt to conserve potable water.

Additionally, whilst the wi-fi facility has been there for some time at the Club, (open only to members, after activation of account, free of cost, with the FDP department), the website of Poona Club is scheduled to be revamped and professionally managed. Members can soon look forward to having all the latest information at the click of a button in the efforts to go paperless.



Dear Fellow Members,

Your Managing Committee took charge of their respective portfolios at the end September 2016, and they are working to ensure that the results expected by you are delivered upon by them. Broadly speaking, I would like to take this opportunity to outline some of the issues that I feel need to be addressed in the immediate future.

I believe that one of the biggest stumbling blocks for the Club is the quality of service being provided to members. Though we have been talking about improving in this area, we have not yet been able to see any positive results. I have entrusted this task to the Staffing Chairman (Mr Yogesh Vaghani) and the Catering Chairman (Mr Sunil Handa), who will advise the CEO & Secretary on the steps to be taken to achieve our goals. We are also taking steps to better the administration of the club, and ensure that it evolves into a more professionally run organization. The managing committee is taking steps to induct a second caterer into the club, so that members would have more dining options to choose from.

On the development front, a new spacious and modern Health Club is under serious consideration. We believe this is the need of the hour, as a good health club is integral to a Club of repute such as ours. We are also aware of the fact that the rooms at our club have deteriorated to a point where they will require a major overhaul in order to meet members' expectations. We are

currently working out how this can be achieved with minimal disruption of activities, while maintaining or increasing the number of available parking slots. Apart from this, we are considering a proposal for heating the swimming pool to enable members to enjoy this facility in the winter months as well.

At the Golf Course, the upgrade is taking shape despite some initial hiccups. The back nine holes were finally opened in December 2016, and seem to be quite satisfactory. We are in constant communication with Pacific Coast Design, the designers of the course, to ensure that we carry out the appropriate maintenance practice. This project was taken up considering a three-year timeframe for achieving the final result, and as such, it is imperative that the maintenance practices are strictly followed over the next few years and even thereafter. Unfortunately, during the up-gradation period, the golf course suffered financially on account of the extended closure as well as a longer than usual monsoon. However, we expect things to improve substantially in the coming year. We hope to commence construction of the golf course club house in about six months and we expect the upgraded club house to further help us to boost revenues through increased sponsorship and golf subscribership income.

I hope this gives you an idea of the direction that we are taking in the coming year. I look forward to your support in taking our club to greater heights.

Rajiv Sangtani
President

Committee with Portfolios

Rahul Dholepatil
(Vice President)
Law
Cricket

Currimbhoy Habib
Entertainment
Golf Coordinator

Desai Nitin
Finance
Club Shop

Handa Sunil
Catering
Bar
Sponsorship
Billiards
Card Room

Kanitkar Aditya
House
Badminton

Mehta Manish
Sports
Swimming Pool
Health Club
Jogging Track

Patwardhan Jaideep
Ballot
Tennis

Pusalkar Rohan
Systems -Website
(Digitisation)

Vaghani Yogesh
Staffing
Table Tennis

Narotam Chowdhary
Golf Captain



CEO & Secretary

Lt. Col Ashok Sarkar (Retd)
who had a 7-year stint as the club secretary at the turn of the millennium, returns as CEO & Secretary. The club will undoubtedly benefit from his experience both here and with the corporate sector.

Some Popular Demands Met

As the Poona Club is primarily a sports Club there was a representation by members against the rule prohibiting gentlemen in shorts, in the club post 7 pm. An equal number of members desired formal wear in the dining areas.

Finding a balance between the two, the management has permitted wearing of smart, knee-length shorts on the cricket ground and outside the

Billiards Room terrace beyond 7 pm. Members and guests sitting at these venues can enjoy being served, post their games, without the need to change into formal attire.

The demand for a small meeting place to cater to about 10-20 guests has also been met and members can now use the private enclosed area near the lounge for a small fee of Rs. 500 (booking in advance as per

rules with the venue-in-charge).

In tune with the Club being a second home and to meet the need of members in an emergency situation, the management has formally empowered the members to park their cars overnight in the Club for one night. However, for more than one night members will have to seek the prior approval of the CEO and Secretary.

Affiliated Club list grows

The management is slowly and steadily increasing the number of Affiliated Clubs across India and overseas to the advantage of members who prefer to stay in affiliated clubs due to the great price advantage and the facilities on offer. Recent additions are The Indiranagar Club at Bengaluru and the Emerald Garden Club at Jaipur.



Indiranagar Club at Bengaluru



Emerald Garden Club at Jaipur

Regulations on Dependents using the Club



- Members who complete 10 years of membership must put in an application for the independent membership of their children of 21 years & above, failing which dependents will be denied use of the club.
- Members who have not completed 10 years of membership but whose children are over 21 years can allow their dependents to use the Club till the member completes 10 years or till the child attains 35 years of age whichever is earlier, by paying annual subscription and games fees.
- Under all circumstances, once dependents cross 28 years they cannot apply under the Special Children's Category but are eligible for a Separate Category upto the age of 35 years.
- Beyond 35 years the dependents can only apply for life / permanent membership as per prevailing rates.

New Facility at the Swimming Pool

When the swimming pool changing rooms were renovated, a steam room for the ladies somehow went on the back burner. However with the men's steam room facility in operation, the demand for having the same in the ladies changing room was made by the ladies. We can expect the work to be completed by mid-March 17.

Easier terms for Corporate & NRI membership

Though the permanent membership categories have closed, the club is giving easier payment terms for Corporate membership. The 7-year memberships earlier required upfront payment of Rs 10 lakh. Now, Corporates can pay Rs 3 lakh upfront and pay the balance over the next six years. Though the 7-year NRI memberships have been stopped, now NRIs can opt for an annually renewable membership @ Rs 1 lakh per year.



Food & Beverage

While the cash crunch continued across the country in the past few months and restaurants were losing business...clubs did well as all credit establishments were expected to.. The Buy one get one offers at the Bars along with some other amazing promotions in general encouraged more and more members to patronize the Club leading to a larger footfalls.

With the revival of the sicsta room, many members are seen working from the club with a break thrown in. The reclining chairs and TV sets surely help ! But come lunch time and a single member has limited choices as the servings are rather large. To cater to this need, Sunil Handa, the Catering & Bar chairman has plans to offer a-meal-for-one during day hours. Options for the Solos' Menu are being worked out.

Bridge, Rummy, Scrabble and now Mahjong!

The Bridge room, the Card room and even the activity rooms are buzzing with more and more members everyday post 3 pm. The activity room which hosts scrabble every Tuesday evening is now the witnessing the spirited revival of a tradition handed down to us from the British as Mahjong gains popularity.



New Look Lounge

Refurbishment of the lounge and the card rooms is on the anvil. Members can soon expect to see the seating arrangements get a fresh new look.



A wide repertoire of genres has been the flavour of 2016. Entertainment ranged from classical Hindustani music to western music, from top Bollywood artists to best of local talent, from stand up comedies to theatre, from old classic movies to the latest blockbusters.....the Club will be continuing in the same spirit in 2017 says Habib Currimbhoy, the Entertainment Chairman.



Bidding 2016 Good Bye

The cricket grounds have been a host to many a function and New Year parties. But this year was undoubtedly the best. Professionals showcased dances to popular

bollywood numbers, pulsating music belted out by the best of DJs in the city, the large dance floor and the well spaced arrangements under the star lit skies truly created a memorable evening.

Poona Club Premier League (PCPL) Season - IV : Promise of six action-packed days of fun and frolic.

The Poona Club Premier League which draws inspiration from the popular Indian Premier League, kicks off in early February. The 2017 edition, representing the third straight year, the event is being held, will see 12 teams owned by as many club members, vie for the coveted trophy. Get ready for nearly a week of cricketing revelry and bonhomie rounded off with a healthy dash of competitive spirit.

For the 1000-strong crowd of members who are expected to be a part of this one-of-its-kind sports carnival, there is more than just cricketing action to look forward to. The combination of the crisp Pune winter air, the floodlit ground, the stalls dishing out delectable food and subsidized bars will surely make for an enchanting evening. What's interesting is that any club member can register as a player - and has a chance to play provided he or she is selected by some team owner at the PCPL auction of players - a well conducted event where owners bid for the players of their choice to complete the selection process.

Rahul Dhole Patil, the cricket in charge and Vice President Poona Club hits the nail on the head when he says, "In a nation where cricket is the most loved sport - this tennis ball cricket tournament gives every Poona club member a chance to enjoy the sport through personal involvement. Be it by wielding the willow or by being part of the cheering spectators."



Training & Coaching

Lean periods for the pool are the perfect time for some good training to help you perfect your strokes and tone up the muscles. Coaching for swimming @ Rs 1200 pm, aqua aerobics @ Rs 1300 pm up to 31 March 2017 has pulled in quite a few youngsters and senior citizens who profess that the Pune winters are no winters really and that the pool waters are very refreshing. Considering that we have a very small pool and to ensure good attention to members, the management has permitted guests @ Rs 100 per head for

the occasional swim and not for any coaching or training classes.

Cricket, Tennis & Squash coaching is running well. Special classes for Pilates, Karate, Zumba, Yoga and even Bharatnatyam are also offered at the Club. Connect with Sports Coordinator Mr. Reddy on mobile # 9011036924 for further information.

Going a step further and meeting members' requests, Personal Trainers at the Club Gym have also been allowed @ Rs 100 per session.



A Second Innings

Don a new pair of shoes after hanging up the boots



Alka Kshirsagar has been a mainstream print journalist for over 30 years, and has worked with leading English national dailies and magazines.

A member of our Club she represented the Indian women's team at the 2013 World Bridge Championships held in Bali. Recently retired, it's interesting to see her point of view.

Given that cricket is a national obsession, the term 'Second Innings' is familiar enough to everyone. It is this very spell of wielding the willow that usually establishes the outcome of the game,

determining whether it is time to rejoice or mourn and retreat into a huddle with momentary despair.

As in cricket, I am a firm believer in the power of the second innings in the game of life. And the really exciting (and enticing) thing is that the outcome can only be positive.

Confused? What I am talking about is that phenomenon in every working person's life that is greeted with a bag of mixed emotions: Retirement. Some are terrified at the prospect of a loss of both earning potential as well as 'usefulness', others hail it as a welcome relief from several years' of forced regimentation and still others are not quite sure on how it's going to pan out.

My personal vote will go in favour of a growing tribe of denizens who have embarked upon their second innings in life, and look upon it as a time full of promise. For many of them, their second stint with working life is quite different from what they did in their

first and indeed far more fulfilling. A gynaecologist I know has moved into designing apparel, a journalist has re-invented herself as a successful author with a large fan following, an engineer has chucked the Corporate world and is now successfully growing prawns and a former MD is taking classes to imbibe values in young children. This I would imagine is the best time to invest in doing what you wanted to do, en-cash your own experience and earn some welcome cash which is far removed from being a reluctant participant in the proverbial rat race. To sum it up....hang up your boots if you must. But do put on another pair of shoes, a more comfortable one. More importantly, don't run, but thoroughly enjoy the exhilarating walk.

Alka Kshirsagar
Member

TAKE A BREAK

De-Stressing at Kovalam

Landing at Trivandrum Airport, we stayed at a hotel in the heart of the city. Being centrally located added to the fun as we walked around and experienced the culture of the place. Eating Kerala's sadya meal was an awesome experience in itself.

The Napier museum with its collection of metal artefacts over the past many centuries is a must-see. The Raja Ravi Varma section in particular was very impressive.

A visit to Balramapuram, approximately a 30-minute drive away was really worth it as we shopped for saris at the weavers shop lane.

Even though I have visited many temples, none matched the experience of seeing Lord Vishnu's black and gold image at Sree Padmanabhaswamy temple. The sight remains entrenched in my memory. Open to followers of Hindu religion only - traditional dress is mandatory for those who wish to enter it. But fear not, for one can get the clothes and a place to change for a fee. Ladies, if you want save yourself

some trouble, just wear a saree. The men of course have to change!! A day later a breath taking experience awaited us in kovalam. Calming with or without the famed Ayurvedic treatments, Kovalam is pollution-free and with clean white sand beaches off aquamarine waters. The crescent of the beach is fascinating and the sunset incredible.

Do Plan to visit beach post 4 pm and you can enjoy being in water as you see the incredible sunset and then visit the typical beach side shops followed by a great seafood dinner. Remember, it is best to avoid being out on beach between 12 and 4 pm as the sun is sharp and you could get a sun burn. For the more adventurous, a trip to Kanyakumari is a must, approx 80 km away, one can plan to spend a night there if you want to watch the sunset too. The historic Trivandrum Club is eager to seek affiliation of the Poona Club. Will the management oblige?

by Radhika Hira
Member



Trivandrum's
Napier Museum



Kovalam Beach



Save yourself some embarrassment!!

It is only when someone tells you that your name is up on the board for non-payment of dues and that your membership stands to be terminated that you wake up and run to the Club.... complaining about not having received bills, or notices which are precursors to the final trauma you are faced with.

You blame the management, the finance department, the staff and even the couriers!

Give it a thought. When was it last that you checked your address, email id and contact details with the Club?

All you have to do is visit the MRM officer Pradeep Bakoray in the accounts office and ask for your profile sheet. Check out and you may be surprised to see outdated old information. Correct it and hand back the sheet. Ask for an updated sheet. Enjoy your peace of mind.

Pay your bills online or through the use of credit/debit cards. To make card payment easier, the management is in the process of increasing the number of credit card machines at different places in the Club.says Nitin Desai, the Finance Chairman.

From the next issue expected to be out in April 2017, we shall be creating a page for classified advertisements only for members. So should you wish to sell any used item in your home, (cars, furniture, place for rent, place for sale etc etc....) the club will offer you space to advertize in the classified columns at a very reasonable rate of Rs.500/- for 20 words. Do connect with the secretary for more information on this.

Members are invited to send in articles for the next issue before 1st March 2017.
The Editorial team reserves the right to accept, reject or edit as relevant.

From the Editorial Desk

Amongst the many changes that the President and management team keen to make improvements green-signaled, was a re-vamp of the quarterly Club magazine. With a view to make it more club centric, we are packing it with information on what's new and what's making news at the Club. The Club is our second home and we must be able to get help whenever we need it. The new team, which was given a free hand, has enjoyed presenting this first issue of the new look Club Newsletter. We hope that that it will keep members abreast of new developments while becoming a platform for people to voice their opinions for constructive change. More suggestions are welcome and we look forward to your response to this issue. Do write to us at the clubnews@poonaclubltd.com

Editorial Team

Rckha Krishan (Past President), Alka Kshirsagar (PCL Member and Senior Journalist)

Sunil Handa (Committee member) & Lt. Col. Ashok Sarkar (CEO & Secretary)

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