



# TURF TIMES

**Bulletin***Private Circulation for Members only*

## Chairman speaks

Dear Member,

**SEASONS GREETINGS** At the outset, I wish to thank all Members for their valuable support in hosting the Bangalore Winter Meeting 2014-15, which was conducted successfully. The Bangalore Summer Meeting 2015 is scheduled to commence from Saturday, 16th May 2015 and preparations are underway to facilitate competitive racing, the hallmark of Bangalore Summer Meetings.



On the critical aspect matter pertaining to the tenure of the existing Racecourse, I would like to thank Members for their suggestions on formulating the response of the Club in the context of the hearing before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India held on 19th February 2015. In this context, I would like to mention that the Government of Karnataka has filed an affidavit in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India on 23rd March 2015 inter-alia stating that the Government of Karnataka would adhere to implementing the order of the Hon'ble High Court of Karnataka dated 22nd March 2010 in letter and spirit and that in the circumstances, the suggestions made by the Karnataka Racehorse Owners Association and the Bangalore Turf Club to the contrary cannot be accepted. The Club has submitted a representation to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Karnataka, enclosing a schematic diagram of the entire Racecourse, with the assistance of environmental experts, to demonstrate the commitment of the Club to enhance green cover in the Racecourse. The Club has endeavoured to point out that it could be permitted to continue to conduct its activities in its current premises by undertaking afforestation program as outlined in the plan.

On one other legal matter arising out of the judgement of a specially constituted Three Judges Bench of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, classifying Race Clubs as 'shop', the ESI Authorities raised a demand for payment of Rs. 10.26 crores in respect of the past period up till 2009. This demand has been stayed by the ESI Court, pending determination of the actual amount payable in respect of contributions, subject however to the Club depositing an amount of Rs. 3.50 crores. The matter is being legally addressed by the Club towards arriving at the actual contribution in an attempt to reduce the liability.

I would like to assure Members that no effort would be spared in securing the interest of the Club and I seek the support of Members in ensuring longevity of racing at the existing Racecourse.

Yours in Racing,

V. Harimohan Naidu

## Editors notes



Nearly after two months I am again with you all to share the happenings in our club. We have had a good winter season which has just concluded. The salient feature was the smooth running of races without any hiccups and the entire Racing fraternity joining hands to make all the events successful. The committee has been faced with numerous issues.

The land issue is still in the Supreme Court and all the racing community is awaiting a favorable solution. The committee has taken steps to showcase the greenery and the useful long space as directed by the court.

The club got two major sponsors, one for the Derby and another for the million Race though legacy Builders and Garuda group. This is a welcome addition and we hope to get more such sponsors. The end of the financial year is nearing and the formalities are being finalised. The preparation for the next season due to start in the middle of May 2015 is on. The track work is about to start and we hope to have a great Summer season.

The promised issues at the last General Body Meeting have been met and certain new measures are also being worked out in order to have good administration with a view to cutting down wasteful expenditure. The efforts are being introduced though there is certain resistance. We only hope members will appreciate these efforts and lend their whole hearted support and cooperation.

Come march it is the month for election of new members to fill the vacancy caused by the demise of our senior members. This year it is the selection of 11 members out of 21 members who are in the field. Lets wish all the best to all the contestants and welcome the new entrants to our family.

In response to my appeal for suitable write up on Racing I am glad to say that our former chairman Dr. Srinivas Gowda and member Mr. Direndra have sent articles and I am proposing to publish the same for the benefit of our members. I am sure more people will come forward and give their impressions or expressions on racing related issues.

I would like to wish every one A Happy Ugadi and lets look forward to a period of good and interesting days ahead.

Regards,

C. SRIVATSAN

### **Key Committee decisions :**

Managing Committee Meetings were held between January to March 2015 were five and some of the major decisions taken and recommendations are given below:-

1. The Club was confronted with heavy demand with regard to corporation tax and ESI matter due to Supreme Court Decision.  
The Corporation demand has been sorted out and the club ultimately paid Rs. 3.17 crores towards tax. The Committee would like to thank the Karnataka Owners Association for coming forward to resolve this issue.  
The ESI matter is being attended to as there is a demand of Rs. 10 crores due to Supreme Court Order.
2. Committee has decided to give certain amount of exposure to the officials with other clubs. With this in view, the Committee has decided to send some of the senior officials to RWITC for some educational trip. Similar arrangements contemplated to receive other Club's officials to our centre. This will help our officials to get good exposure and also understand racing activities.
3. Due to certain developments in our sister clubs, the Excise department came down to our Club and imposed restrictions on the disbursement of liquor from one designated outlet. This may cause certain amount of inconvenience. It is hoped that the Members will understand and appreciate and co operate with the management.
4. A few of the Sub-Committees met and took useful and positive decisions which have been recommended to the General Committee for their approval. May be certain decisions are pending due to various reasons. But the recommendations are given below for members to know the efforts taken by the sub-committee.
  - a. Introduction of shift system to employees of maintenance departments.
  - b. Discourage Double employment in the same organisation.
  - c. Transfer of officials and staff inter departmentally.
  - d. Rotation of all race day staff.
  - e. Race Track grass is being replaced with Bermuda Triangle (Cynoden dactylon)

**Following are the Classic and Important Races that were held between January 2015 till end of the Winter Season. The Committee wishes to congratulate the Winners and expects them to do better in the coming season.**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Horse Name</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>Trainer</b>	<b>Jockey</b>
02.01.15	Chief Minister's Trophy	Agostini	M/s URBB Ltd.Ashok Ranpise	SS. Attaollahi	P. Trevor
03.01.15	Bangalore Oaks	Athens	M/s Manjari Horse Breed's Farm Pvt. Ltd. K. Dada Chanji, Dinsha P. Shroff & Hoshamgdadhoy	Dallas Todywalla	Colm O'Donoghue
03.01.15	New Years Cup	Arrogant Approach	M/s AV Jayaprakash, P S.Ranganathan, T.S. Suresh	SS. Attaollahi	A Sandesh
19.01.15	KRHO Million	Eternal Fame	Dr.MAM. Ramaswamy	S.Ganapathy	P. Trevor
26.01.15	Legacy Bangalore Derby	Bold Majesty	Dr.MAM. Ramaswamy	S.Ganapathy	A. Sandesh
26.01.15	Bangalore Race Course 152nd year Commemoration Trophy	Arrogant Approach	M/s AV Jayaprakash, P S.Ranganathan, T.S. Suresh	SS. Attaollahi	A Sandesh
30.01.15	Sprinters Trial Stakes	Speed Six	M/s URBB Ltd.	S.Padmanabhan	P. Trevor
07.02.15	Stayers Trial Stakes	Wind Stream	M/s Wadhawan Livestock Pvt.Ltd	Hidayath Khan	Suraj Narredu
14.02.15	Bangalore Winter Million	Honour	Kurien P. Varghese	S. Diminic	Imran Chisty
14.03.15	Garuda Bangalore Juvenile Million	Author-Itarian	S. Narredu & M/s.Astir Sales Pvt. Ltd.	S. Narredu	Suraj Narredu
07.03.15	Indian Turf Invitation Cup 2015	Quasar	J.M. Livestock Pvt. Ltd. Mr. Thanmayi A. Agashe, Madhav G. Patankar	M. Narredu	Yash Narredu

## Legal Matters

### Shifting of race course

On a suggestion given by the Bangalore Turf Club to the Hon'ble Supreme Court that the area under the occupation of BTC Ltd shall be maintained as open space and the activities including horse racing would be continued without any damage to the surrounding environments and ecology and without raising any construction whatsoever, the Supreme Court inclined to adjourn the case for 2 weeks to enable the state to respond to the suggestion. The club has prepared and submitted a detailed blue print with proposed planting of trees, bushes to make a social forest in conformity with the decision given by the Karnataka High Court.

Now the case is posted for hearing on 25th March 2015.

## Implementation of TALLY ERP 9

As reported in our earlier letter the tally integration is reaching its final stage. Members should know that this is being done with a lot of hurdles within and from outside. But I along with sub committee Chairman of IT and members Mr. Gangadhar, Mr. Ravipoll, Mr. Nikhil have dealt with all the obstacles. Final product will be made available in the coming months. There will be accuracy and transparency in all the transactions. This is a long awaited improvement which will be achieved shortly. The present system of concentration of power and decision making will shift to a system oriented and transparent disclosure of the activities of the Club. The owners, trainers, jockeys and the members can and will make use of the change for the betterment and improvement of the system in the club.

## Obituary:

Mr. V. Venugopal Naidu : expired on 28.01.2015  
 Mr. Bharath Hegde : expired on 12.02.2015  
 Mr. V.G. Coelho : expired on 13.02.2015

*May their soul rest in peace.*

## Club News

### Congratulations

We are proud of our fellow members who have been conferred with Doctorate.

**Dr. Hajee Abdul Sattar Sait** – Doctor of Literature (Honoris Causa) by the Padmashri Dr. D.Y. Patil University, Nerul, Navi Mumbai.

**Dr. Uday Garudachar** – Fairlands University Africa on Construction Technology.

## 152nd Anniversary Cup

The Club recognized the completion of 152nd year of the existence of racing. The Committee decided to have a race conducted as 152nd Anniversary cup. This goes in the annals of history and will be remembered for years to come. This event attracted good number of entries and the winner was Arrogant Approach. Congrats and wish all the best for BTC and may it go forward to celebrate 200 years of racing in Bangalore. The future will remember the existence of this race course and the sport. The next generation should feel happy and appreciate the king of sports. It may be today cricket and earlier it was Hockey, Badminton but racing will remain in the minds of people forever. On this day, the Club witnessed special appearance of Governor of Karnataka coming in to give away The 152nd anniversary cup. This was made possible entirely on account of efforts of the Chairman with his contacts with personal friends. Mr. Raju Morzari should be thanked for his help in getting the Governor's acceptance to come and give away the trophy. Kudos to the PR work done by the Chairman.

Similarly, the Chairman was able to invite various dignitaries like Commissioner of Income tax and other officials of Government departments to grace the occasion.

We welcome suggestions or feedback from any member of BTC, or even a write-up on racing related aspects which may be of interest to others. Please do send us your valuable inputs to share with others.





His Excellency Governor of Karnataka presenting  
The Bangalore Race Course 152nd year Commemoration Trophy



Mr. Ambreesh, Hon'ble Minister of Housing  
Govt. of Karnataka presenting  
The Bangalore Oaks



Dr. B.N. Garudachar IPS (Retd.) presenting  
The Garuda Bangalore Juvenile Million

### Racing Fixtures APRIL 2015

3rd	Friday	Delhi
4th	Saturday	Mumbai
5th	Sunday	Mumbai
6th	Monday	Delhi
10th	Friday	Delhi
11th	Saturday	Mumbai
12th	Sunday	Mumbai
13th	Monday	Delhi
17th	Friday	Delhi
18th	Saturday	Mumbai
19th	Sunday	Mumbai
20th	Monday	Delhi
24th	Friday	Delhi
25th	Saturday	Mumbai
26th	Sunday	Mumbai
27th	Monday	Delhi
28th	Tuesday	Delhi

*(Above dates are subject to alteration)*



Mr. V. Harimohan Naidu Chairman and  
Senior Steward presenting  
The Chief Minister's Trophy

## To race or not to race?

R. Dhirendra, (DRIN)

Horse racing in India is over 200 years old. The first racecourse in the country was set up in Madras in 1777. Today, India has a very well established racing and breeding industry, and the sport is conducted on nine racetracks by six racing authorities. Racing in Bangalore has been going on for more than 100 years.

Despite being the oldest racing country in Asia, horse racing in India has lagged far behind compared to other racing centers in the world and more specifically in Asia.

Take for e.g. The world's largest racing Industry – Japan. Japan Racing Association (JRA) is a public limited company (answering to Japan's cabinet-level Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries) in charge of the country's biggest tracks, betting parlors, and training centers, and the licensing of jockeys, trainers, owners, even veterinarians.

The Japan Cup, which is hosted annually in November attracts the best horses in the world with a prize money of \$5 million. The sheer amount of money wagered on Japanese racing is so great that maintaining a clean sport is as much a commercial consideration as an ethical one. In 2013, the JRA put on 288 race days. The betting turnover on all Japanese racing, most of it handled by the JRA, was about US\$30 billion last year. That's roughly triple the amount wagered on American races, despite American tracks running three times as many races and the U.S. having three times the population of Japan. Even though racing's popularity has declined slightly since 2000 in Japan, the country is still mad about it: about 21 percent of all bets around the globe are taken here.

The money keeps the sport healthy. The JRA draws its budget from this betting turnover. In 2013, it sent nine percent to the government in tax, 75 percent back to bettors, five percent went to purses and 11 percent to its operations.

The JRA employs 2,000 people in total, half of those are at their office in Tokyo, and the other half stationed at racecourses, training centers, and the other offices in Japan and the globe. Employees have to undergo 5 rounds of interview and also have to pass a exam testing 'common sense and personality. Each year only 30 new people are hired.

Miho, in the countryside outside Tokyo, and Ritto Training Center, its counterpart near Osaka, are often touted by the JRA as main reasons for the country's success. Some 4,000 horses, all of them monitored by the JRA, have every type of facility and track surface and medical necessities at hand. Ritto was opened in 1969, and Miho in 1978, to get horses out of the racecourses located within rapidly expanding cities.

Apartment buildings for all the employees are provided, where jockeys, trainers, their staff, and JRA employees live. Even journalists are provided with dormitory housing if they want to stay there overnight.

Miho boasts of a medical center, supermarket, baseball field, tennis courts, and compost plant. Miho is a self-contained city, it's because it's designed to minimize contact with the outside world.

Everything that happens here happens under central oversight. It has been well documented in the U.S. how private vets answer to the trainers—prescribing medications is how they get paid. In Japan, if a horse has a problem, his trainer must call a JRA-employed veterinarian.

Similarly strict standards apply to jockeys and trainers. Jockeys must attend riding school for three years and then pass an exam. Trainers, too, get a formal education before being allowed to apply for a license. The license examination is held once a year, in February, and although between 100 and 150 regularly take it, only five or six pass. You will rarely find a trainer who is below 45 years.

Trainers thus ply their trade as assistants for a decade or two. Even after opening their stables, they are not allowed more than 70 horses but only 28 stalls at the training center, meaning they often move horses around from pre-training farms to the center a few weeks before a race. Given all these restrictions, the prospect of large numbers of foreigners riding or training in Japan, despite the incredible prize money, is hard to see.

Coming to another racing center is Hong Kong racing under the Hong Kong Jockey Club is an example of how a not for profit organization has contributed to the growth of Hong Kong as a city.

The key aspect of Hong Kong racing is a code of conduct for all the stake holders including the members. Racing integrity is upheld by the club's panel of stipendiary stewards who monitor races, conduct inquiries which may involve breaches in racing. It has one of the most comprehensive racing integrity manuals which includes, trainers, jockeys, employees and members.

The testing lab is the best and the only one referenced in Asia amongst the five world wide, which is recognized by the International Equestrian Federation.

The club has a long standing commitment towards promoting responsible gambling practices and aims to provide socially responsible betting which meets the demands for gambling while minimizing potential harm to the individual and the community. It has a huge green governance policy and initiative and has contributed millions of dollars to various initiatives of sustenance and energy recycling.

The Hong Kong Racing Club has donated over \$HK1.95 Billion Dollars to various charities and is the largest donor after the Government. It employs 28000 people directly and indirectly and is the largest employer in Hong Kong. On non race days the number of activities for the public is so huge that the Public has given a 77% rating as the best place to hangout. It is just mind boggling what a not for profit organization like the Hong Kong racing club has done for racing, the people of Hong Kong and Equestrian Sport world wide.

Another racing center that has grown from Strength to Strength is Dubai Racing Club. Racing in Dubai started in 1981. The first Dubai World Club, the richest race in the world was held in 1996 and thrust both Nad Al Sheba and the UAE onto the global stage. In 2010 the DWC helped introduce the iconic Meydan Grandstand and Racecourse to the racing and sports world. The architectural master piece is the new home for the Dubai World Cup and is the world's largest integrated racing facility, with a seating capacity for over 60000. In just a period of 35 years, Dubai has become one of the best racing centers in the world.

Dubai racing and the Dubai world cup attracts the worlds best brands to sponsor races, making it one of the most sought after events to be advertised.

Each one of the centers listed above is unique and have contributed immensely to the Sport of horse racing, which incidentally is the most watched sport after football in the world.

It has been acknowledged that Bangalore is the best suited environment for racing amongst all the other centers in the country and today we are helplessly seeking to keep this sport alive in our city thanks to very few people understanding what is at stake.

Racing in our country has been viewed as a gambling den, where as world over it is a game of skill and has contributed immensely towards the building of communities and society.

There are so many aspects that we can learn from these racing centers that will showcase not just racing but become a landmark for every tourist to visit too.

We need to create a vision plan and plan for the next 20 years as to how we can build a socially responsible organization that cares for all the stake holders. This planning can only be successfully done, if all the members believe in the credo of the club.

At BTC, of the 350 club members, may be most are passionate about racing. There are some who understand racing but only a few who would work towards building a world class racing center. Looking at the present scenario to save our club, there has to be a serious revamp on who should be elected as a 'Club Member' vis-à-vis 'just a member for prestige'. This is a serious cause for concern as, if and when racing gets into the wrong hands, this can lead to bigger damage than no racing at all. We need to think beyond on what will happen if we don't have the land. After all the life of the club depends on the collective action and inputs of its members.

Its time we start thinking and putting together building blocks that can give hope and a vision for a great racing center that will become a landmark of our city and our country.

Till then, racing is dead. Long live the King of Sports!