



CROW TIMES

January 2025



Captain's Letter

Sunil K. Vasant
Captain, 2024 - 25

Dear Members,

Wishing you and your family a Happy New Year! May this year bring you happiness and good health.

December was a month of celebration, filled with many events at the Club.

We concluded the Festival of Golf, BGL 5.0, on 16th December with great fanfare.

- The winning team, Confident Par-Tee, owned by Mr. Rakshith Shetty, will enjoy an all-expenses-paid trip to Cape Town.
- The 1st Runner-Up was Abharan Albatross, owned by Mr. Pratap Kamath.
- The 2nd Runner-Up was Toledo Punters, owned by Mr. Pankaj Mittal.
- The 3rd Runner-Up was Dudes of Spire, owned by Dr. Deepak G. Shivarathre and Mr. B.S. Patil.

Under the aegis and co ordination of the BGC Crow Trust we also conducted a medical check-up for the caddies and staff. Around 257 individuals underwent dental, eye, and health check-ups.

- 130 individuals had blood tests.
- Two staff members above the age of 45 years have been advised to undergo cataract surgery, which will be sponsored by ILYF (International Lingayat Youth Forum).

I would like to thank the following sponsors for their generous support:

1. ICATT Air Ambulance Foundation
2. IDA (Indian Dental Association, Chikmagalur Branch)
3. KLE Society's Institution of Dental Sciences, Bengaluru
4. Neobliss, Bengaluru
5. Diagnostica Span
6. Dr. Alope Dhar, Eye Specialist
7. SEMI (Society of Emergency Medicine India)

8. ILYF (International Lingayat Youth Forum)

9. Optometry Confederation of India

10. VS Dental College & Hospital, Bengaluru

Continued to Page 2...



WhatsApp Grievances and Suggestions to  **90360 40398**

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Tic!

B. Sreenivas Murthy
Chief Editor

Confident Par Tee will soon be partying in South Africa, enjoying some golf among team members—and possibly even with some wildlife—much to the envy of the 19 other teams that participated in the recently concluded Bangalore Golf League (BGL).

In the previous issue of The Crow Times, we published opinions from most of the team owners. Both the format and the BGL itself received a big thumbs up. All inter-club matches are played as match play and foursomes—a refreshing change from most other club and open tournaments, where players usually compete against the course.

In most club tournaments, there is a cutoff (in terms of time and available

slots), but BGL 5.0 accommodated everyone who registered, which caused some angst among certain owners and captains. Should the total number of players be restricted, with a cutoff determined by a BGL qualifying tournament? Perhaps 16 players and 16 teams?

Additionally, fixing the dates of the BGL to remain the same every year could help players plan their schedules better.

And what about the potential sandbagging of handicaps? Should the BGL committee determine the handicaps, or could they implement a few standardized options and select the method by lottery to ensure fairness?

Finally, should the BGL continue to be a festival of golf, or evolve into a full-fledged “Golfest”?

Captain's Letter

from Page 1...



Christmas was celebrated with a delightful spread from Beijing Bites, while New Year's Eve was marked with a DJ event.

We are pleased to inform golfers that a semi-permanent toilet facility for both ladies and gents has been built near the 18th tee. It will be ready for use by the end of this month.

The card room is being shifted to a better location in the Old Club House (OCH) this month.

We are planning a Special General Meeting (SGM) during the first week of February to address rule amendments aimed at reducing litigation. Additionally, we intend to introduce a Master Plan that will include:

- Increasing car parking capacity at both the New Club House (NCH) and the Old Club House (OCH).
- Incorporating solar energy solutions.

- Renovating toilets at the NCH.
- Upgrading the NCH kitchen.
- Implementing other long-term development projects.

The tee boxes of all Par 3s have been replanted with new turf, and a beautification program has been undertaken. Flowering plants and hedges have been added to all tee boxes, thanks to a generous donation from Mr. Prakash Raju. The Association of People with Disability was contracted to enhance all tee boxes and the areas surrounding the NCH.

Top notch golfers from KGA were warmly welcomed to play the interclub match at BGC. Ladies representing KGA were the winners while the men from BGC got the better of KGA, with a lot of grit and determination I must say. Congratulations !

Tournament Results

26th BGC vs KGA Interclub Match
3 & 4 January, 2025

Main Team			
BGC		KGA	
Doubles	Singles	Doubles	Singles
3	7 1/2	3	4 1/2
Total	10 1/2	Total	7 1/2

Fellowship Team			
BGC		KGA	
Doubles	Singles	Doubles	Singles
2 1/2	9 1/2	3 1/2	2 1/2
Total	12	Total	6

Ladies Team			
BGC		KGA	
Doubles	Singles	Doubles	Singles
1	3	2	3
Total	4	Total	5

BGC Centenary Open Amateur Golf Championship

20, 21 & 22 December, 2024

Open Event		
Pritham Haridass	140	Winner
Sunil	142	Runner
Open Team Championship		
Sunil	142	(294) Gross Winners
Abhinav Baskar	152	
Handicap 0-9		
Nandan Rao	134	Winner
M S Nagaraj	135	Runner
Handicap 10-18		
Kedarnath Mudda	135	Winner
Dr Girish Rithwik	137	Runner
Handicap 19 - 24		
Lokesh Mehta	125	Winner
Capt. R Mohan	137	Runner
Senior's - 65+ Gross		
Rajendra Patil	159	Winner
Senior's - 65+ Net		
Sunil Kumar S	136	Winner
Ladies - Gross		
Saanvi V Reddy	159	Winner
Ladies - Net		
Karishma Tandon	136	Winner



The Grass is Greener

Pratap Thumbboochetty

During the past few months, the buzz on the course has been a constant hum of opinions on the state of the golf course at BGC. Conversations revolve around the lack of true lines on the greens, the sorry state of tee boxes, the height of the grass in the rough and the patchy nature of the fairways. Too much rain, too little sunshine, not enough de-weeding, etc. While some of these are fair observations, how many of us truly know what it takes to maintain a golf course in the best condition given the cards we are dealt with at BGC. I thought a slightly deep dive into what exactly happens (or ought to happen) behind the scenes when it comes to maintaining the course is the need of the hour.

Maintaining a golf course is a labor of love that requires meticulous attention to detail and a deep understanding of turf management. It definitely is more complicated than mowing a lawn and turning on the sprinklers at night. The essential components of golf course maintenance involve looking after the grass, watering the right way, taking care of the sand pits, caring for the trees and plants, keeping away pests and diseases, among others. Some of the more specific activities include:

Mowing: Mowing consumes the most amount of time in day-to-day maintenance of a golf course. Because very few mowers can overlap from one area of the course to another, separate mowers are required for each area of the golf course. Of all the mowers, arguably the most important are

greens mowers because they prepare the putting surface, the most important playing area of the golf course that, not surprisingly, is also the most intensively managed with lowest height of cut (HOC). Greens mowers are designed to mow especially low to provide a smooth putting surface and meet desired green speeds. Over the years, the HOC on putting greens has been lowered considerably from around 0.250 inch decades ago to around 0.125 or even lower today. Besides this, Greens Collar Mowers are used for collars around putting greens, with HOC higher than that of the putting surface. Additionally we also use Tee Mowers, Approach Mowers, Fairway Mowers, and Rough Mowers.

Cultivation: Unlike a farmer who can till a field every year before planting an annual crop, golf course superintendents must address their cultivation in a different manner. Much to the displeasure of golfers (and maintenance staffs alike), routine aeration is necessary. Aeration can be performed for a number of reasons, with the most common being to reduce soil compaction, manage thatch and organic matter accumulation, improve water infiltration, promote gas exchange, and provide avenues in the soil for deeper roots. While no one likes putting on greens that were recently aerated, it is important to understand that this practice continues to be critical in providing healthy turf and quality putting surfaces. Aerators come in many forms and sizes, as do

the aeration tines that can be fitted to the aerator. Modern walk-behind aerators for putting surfaces offer tremendous flexibility in regard to tine options, tine spacing, aeration depth, and ground speed of operation. Large tractor-mounted aerators are utilized in large areas of turf, such as fairways and roughs. Vertical mowing, or verti-cutting as it is commonly known, is used to remove some of the organic thatch buildup from the surface of the turf without interrupting the soil beneath the turf. The process involves tightly spaced rotating blades that cut vertically into the turf.

Top-Dressing: Topdressing is the even application of sand across a turf surface that is then usually lightly broomed or irrigated to incorporate the material into the turf canopy. Topdressing is utilized to fill aeration holes following core aeration. It is also used on a light and frequent basis throughout the active growing season of the turf on putting greens to help smooth the surface (for true-rolling putts) and keep pace with ongoing organic matter accumulation of the actively growing turf.

Fertilization & Pest Management: Applications of fertilizers, herbicides, fungicides, insecticides, or plant growth regulators require specific equipment for proper application. Most of these products are applied in one of two forms: granular or liquid. Granular products are applied with various spreaders, from small drop spreaders or rotary spreaders pushed by hand



for putting greens to large rotary spreaders and pendulum-type spreaders for fairways and roughs that are mounted to tractors or heavy-duty utility vehicles. Control of diseases and pests is also necessary for highly maintained turfgrasses on golf courses. Applications and treatment options vary by time of year and from course to course.

Bunker Management: Bunkers play a crucial role in the strategic layout of golf courses, providing both aesthetic appeal and challenging obstacles for players. However, they can become particularly vulnerable to erosion, contamination, and overall deterioration. Key activities to ensure that bunkers are maintained well include carrying out regular inspection and assessment, having consistent raking and edging, addressing drainage concerns, checking the sand quality and choosing the right one, topdressing, preventing contamination, and managing weeds and vegetation.

The pre-monsoon season in India requires a range of practices to maintain a healthy and playable turf. Fertilization, mowing, aeration, topdressing, and pest control are all important practices that can help to ensure that the turf is well-prepared for the challenges of the monsoon season.

Ultimately, the key to success in golf course maintenance lies in the dedication and expertise of the maintenance team, who work tirelessly to preserve the beauty and playability of these treasured landscapes. When it comes to golf course maintenance, there's never a slow day. Something always needs to be inspected, fixed, or cleaned. Our diligent and committed course staff often start their day at 4am to work their magic and ensure that all of us have an enjoyable and challenging round of golf everyday. The next time you see one of these green-uniform clad course warriors, do extend a hand and thank them for the incredible work they do. They definitely deserve your heartfelt thanks!

The author would like to acknowledge contributions from MaintainX, DTE Golf, Infraspeak, FairwayIQ, USGA/ Derf Soller, ipi-india.

Christmas Celebrations at BGC



New Year Celebrations at BGC





WINNERS

Confident Par tee



1st Runner up

Abharan Albatross



2nd Runner up

Toledo Punters



3rd Runner up

Dudes of Spire

Closing Ceremony of BGL 5.0





BGC vs KGA Interclub Match



Winners and Runners of Centenary Cup 2024

Entertainment Schedule

January 2025

Wednesday Chitrahah _____

8th	Ganesh
15th	Shekar Iyer & Aishwarya
22nd	Hitesh Mehta
29th	Chinmayi Rao & Guru Rao

Saturday Retro _____

4th	Chan
11th	Mahesh & Team
18th	Sanjana
25th	Zack

Tambola

20th	Sankranti Bumper
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WHISKEY 2+1

Chivas Regal
Ballantine's
Dewar's 12 yrs
Roulette

GIN 2+1

Salud

RUM 2+1

Bacardi Rum

WINE 1+1

Sula 375ml R/W
Grover 375ml R/W
Fratelli 375ml R/W



Tournament Calender

JANUARY 2025

1. P C Gurjer Memorial Tournament
10 - 12 January 2025
2. BGC 6 players team at MDGC
18 - 19 January 2025
3. Republic Day Cup
24 - 26 January 2025



Sad Demise

S. M. Krishna	K-036	10.12.24
A. B. Mallikarjun	M-186	13.12.24
H. K. Vijayakumar	V-068	18.12.24