

The Catholic Gymkhana Ltd.



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EDITORIAL

Friends and fellow CG members.

For some time, we have been receiving requests for a regular newsletter for the Catholic Gymkhana. You will be happy to know we now have a team in place to do just that.

Beginning with this issue – August 2025, we will bring you a quarterly newsletter. This will not just cover the events of the previous quarter but also give you a preview of the forthcoming events.

In this issue we have broken the rules a wee bit and started with coverage from April. How can we not begin with Easter? The symbolic resurrection.

Besides we have a message from Sr. Adv. Joaquim Reis, President, a thought provoking article by Randolph Rodricks and much more.

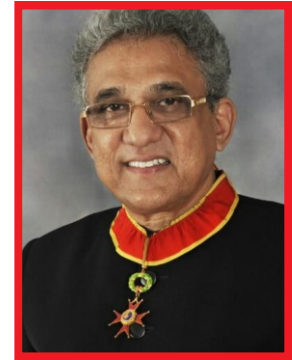
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Members,

As we near the completion of our first year as your Managing Committee, my heart is filled with gratitude and joy. This past year has been more than just a journey of managing responsibilities. It has been about growing together as one family, united by the spirit of the Catholic Gymkhana.

Time has flown by swiftly, yet each moment has been made meaningful because of the warmth and support of our members. Helen Keller's words, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much," perfectly reflect what we, as a community, have accomplished together.

From April through June, we witnessed a variety of activities in sports, cultural evenings, housie, and entertainment; each of them infused with energy, laughter, and togetherness. These gatherings were not just events; they were special moments of bonding, reminding us that our Gymkhana is more than just an institution. It is a home where friendships are nurtured and memories created.

A special word of thanks goes to our sub-committees, who have worked passionately behind the scenes, but above all, it is you, our members and your guests, whose enthusiastic participation has brought life and joy to everything we do. Your presence turns each occasion into a celebration and strengthens the threads of community that hold us close.

Looking ahead, we are preparing for our Annual General Meeting 2025, to be held in September. This is not just a meeting, but an opportunity for each of us to share our ideas, contribute to our vision, and shape the future of our Gymkhana together. We warmly invite you to be a part of it.

As we continue this journey, let us keep building on the sense of friendship, unity, and belonging that makes our Catholic Gymkhana so special. Together, we shall make it a place where every member truly feels at home.

SR. ADV. JOAQUIM REIS
President

EASTER BUMPER HOUSIE

After 40 days of fasting – at least for some; 40 days of self-imposed abstinence for some more; and 40 days of just ignoring all the self-imposed rules, our Easter Celebrations brought a smile to many a face. Family and friends got together for the things on offer.



There was the Bumper Housie for those who tried their luck on the popular numbers game – the mega event each Easter. Where one not only got cash as gifts but delicious marzipan eggs.

The Housie is played with total concentration and one can only wave out and say hi as there is no time for conversation. The Housie Sub-Committee is headed by our Chairman Peter Fernandes and versatile Arjuna Awardee and Vice-Chairman, Eddie Sequeira along with their Committee Members have been. The Bumper Housie sessions are run every Sunday for our Members and their Guests.



EASTER CELEBRATION DANCE

While some of us are there to play Housie and some to check out the bar, everyone looks forward to the fellowship that follows in the form of the Easter Celebration dance and this year too it was no different. Young and old they all took to the floor. Old fashioned yet always popular and graceful waltzers, the energetic jivers, with the older ones giving the youngsters a run for the money. And the rest just there to enjoy the music and shake a leg.



And the band did not let them down. Drinks and live music by Sunita Noronha and friends. In a poignant move, Sunita was joined on stage by several musicians who offered their musical talents to the recently deceased Michael Noronha. This live music session, in true spirit of paying tribute had a lot of attendees dancing to the rhythm of the joyous music. Truly an Easter move.



JAZZ NIGHTS

To cater to different tastes and genres – of the musical kind – the CG has started holding Jazz nights. Slated to be held every last Friday of the month CG By the Bay as the posters declared made its debut on February 29, with great aplomb, beginning with the sexy, jazzy and full-throated performance by three “Young women” who had the members singing along to the more popular jazz numbers. Some members and attendees took to the floor and jived the night away.

We had to skip a turn but had the next Jazz night on May 30 with a young very talented jazz band from Goa. The saxophonist and the flautist stole the show with their soulful renditions.

The evenings featured a thoughtfully curated gourmet menu. The first event had the bar helmed by renowned mixologist Eric Lobo, who crafted a range of innovative, event-exclusive cocktails that perfectly complemented the night’s theme.



GYMKHANA DAY CELEBRATIONS - 3RD MAY, 2025

For all those nay sayers who say the Gymkhana is dying it is a must to attend the annual Gymkhana Day celebrations. Young and old and middle aged too! All the members and their families make it a point to attend this function.

The CG uses this occasion to give thanks to the Lord for all the blessings received and the continued well-being of the Club. Thus, the evening began with the Eucharistic celebrations celebrated by Bp. Emeritus from Vasai Felix Machado, who in his homily highlighted how far the Gymkhana had come from its humble beginnings. It was an uplifting experience enhanced by the choristers from St. Anne's parish Mazagaon, ably led and conducted by Alfred Mendes.



It was then time for the President Sr. Adv. Joaquim Reis to raise the toast and cut the cake along with all the past Presidents who were present.





The formal program complete and it was time for the members to have some fun. Sunny and his band BOYZ did not disappoint setting the place on fire. The BOYZ knew their audience and belted out old favourites as well as the latest for the younger crowd; there was jiving and waltz and plain funky music. What is not to like. Take a bow Sunny.

In a first, there was a Gymkhana sponsored grand buffet featuring a wide array of appetizing fare to tickle the taste buds.

The atmosphere was enchanting, thanks to a combination of excellent music, delectable signature dishes, and delightful spirits.

As one member summed it up:

A SLICE OF LIFE ON GYMKHANA DAY AT THE CATHOLIC GYMKHANA - IT'S ALL IN THE PICTURES:

Maybe not everything. Enter the Grand Hall and there's the smiling face of Alfred Mendes and the choir tuning up. Upfront near the stage the MC members and the cultural committee are hustling and bustling about putting last minute touches to make the evening memorable. It is after all the "Catholic" Gymkhana and the anchor event is the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass for God's Grace and Protection. Prayers for the present, the future and not forgetting the past - all those members and leaders who have brought our Gymkhana to where it is. We were fortunate to have Bishop Emeritus Felix Machado celebrate the Holy Eucharist.

The lectors did a Yeoman's job and the choir lifted spirits to the skies. Great congregation participation. A prayerful and devout service.

With the sacrament done, our good old Sanju did a great job of compering the proceedings.

With a Eucharistic celebration done, our very own Caption Cool "Sanju Fernandes" did a great job compering this and brought the crowd together.

SAO JOAO - 21ST JUNE, 2025

Traditionally each year the festival is celebrated on or around the feast of St. John the Baptist which is on June 24th. Since it requires being dunked in water / well - a la Baptism – it helps that the feast falls during the monsoon. This feast is guaranteed to bring friends and family together. At the Gymkhana we celebrated it on the 21st June with great enthusiasm and joy. Colourful t-shirts, crazy headgear all formed part of the fun and joy. The symbolism of children joyfully jumping into water-filled tubs added to the festivities. With the members literally letting their hair down. To make it even more fun, the caterers made us take a trip down to Goa with lip smacking Goan delicacies on the menu.

Highlights were the colourful traditional attire sported by some of the die-hard fans of Sant Joa and the iconic Kopel dance. Joe and the Nightshift band did not let the crowd down belting out popular Konkani numbers including the classic “FULOI re Sao Joao... Viva Sao Joao!”

All in all, a fun time was had by all.



CONTESTS SPORT A NEW AVATAR

In order to attract more participants to enroll in the Annual talent contests, it was agreed to permit maximum 3 Guest Contestants in each Age Group Category. Additionally introduction by a Member was not required. There was no restriction on the number of Members who could participate in each Age Group Category.

Another change was that The Art (Drawing / Painting / Colouring) Contest got a name. It will now be named as The Brendan C. Pereira Awards – Art Contest. We thank Therese Pereira who has given a generous donation towards the Art Contest and requested that the Contest be named after her late husband, Brendan C. Pereira, a Creative Director and a Legend in the Advertising Field.



The Inaugural BRENDAN C. PEREIRA AWARDS – ART CONTEST and the ELOCUTION CONTEST were held in June, 2025. Both Contests drew a good response with an increase in the number of Entries compared to last year. Hemal Ved judged the Art Contest and Ritu Jalan, Twila Fernandes and Shirley D'Silva judged the Elocution.



THE CATHOLIC GYMKHANA & THE DEEP BLUE SEA

How does one make a group or committee more efficient in these modern times? Randolph Rodricks, a veteran member of the Catholic Gymkhana deconstructs The Deep Blue Sea popular book on training, to streamline existing practices.

Most organizations often end up, doing routine administrative tasks and continuing along the same old path laid down by its predecessors. And fail to recognize the distinction between Administration, Management and Leadership.

An Administrator strictly follows the laid-down rules and conventions and ensures those are faithfully implemented. A Manager tweaks the rules a bit and ensures that necessary changes are brought about in order to keep the ship afloat, or progress marginally. In the context of an organization like ours – a social organization which concerns itself with entertainment and fellowship for its members – a manager may change timings, add an element or two to existing activities, add an activity or two or look to marginally increase Gymkhana revenues or Member satisfaction, or both. A Leader on the other hand takes new directions, with a clear vision of the future of the organization in mind, especially in the context of an ever evolving environment.

If we take Members' Night, for example, an Administrator will ensure that laid down plans are faithfully executed. A Manager will assess the situation and decide some minor changes that may be necessary, on the spot, or in subsequent editions. A Leader will take a deeper look at the event and decide whether any radical changes are necessary not just to satisfy, but rather to delight the participants.

Cirque du Soleil was a traditional Circus show with clowns, acrobats and performing animals. But its popularity, like that of all Circuses, was in decline, with steadily decreasing audiences and, in turn, declining revenues and profits. Children would opt for video games rather than a visit to a travelling circus. There were also increasing sentiments by animal rights groups against the use of animals in circuses. So, Cirque du Soleil decided to re-invent itself. In a traditional circus there were only circus acts, so they added theatre, music, dance, light, sound, art and entertainment. They changed the concept of the traditional circus making it more spectacular and giving it a storyline. And they would create something new, on an ongoing basis. All this brought back the audiences, and *that* is Leadership in action.

Leaders and Presidents are remembered for their far-sightedness and the radical moves they engineered that paid rich dividends in the long run.

The scenario envisaged is of an ocean full of competitors, all doing the same thing, cutting into each other's businesses, like an ocean ravaged by competition, red in colour, strewn with blood. The preferred alternative is to go beyond the cluttered shores into deep waters, where your offering is unique and will not be attacked by competition – at least not for a long while. That is referred to as a Blue Ocean Strategy. Hence we should strategise and come up with Gymkhana activities that are different, attractive and cannot be copied in the short or medium term, rather than making cosmetic changes to existing programmes.

Blue Ocean Strategy also tells us that in assessing any operation under one's control, one must address four different areas for scrutiny:

Which activities should I reduce?

Which should I eliminate?

Which should I increase? And

What new element can I bring into the Programme?

To which I would also caution one not to throw out the baby with the bath water. If there is any activity that is doing well, there is no need to tamper with it. Thus, good, set and proven activities that are very successful, must be retained intact, and could be looked at just for marginal changes.

In other cases, apply the Blue Ocean Strategy looking at from all different angles.

Randolph Rodricks

SPORTS EVENTS

Our boys do us proud in their football endeavours. Updates brought to you by our very own **Gordon D'Costa**.

FOOTBALL

May 15: Catholic Gymkhana continued their unbeaten streak with a resounding 4-1 triumph over Mumbai Warriors in the MFA First Division league clash at the Neville deSouza ground, Bandra on Thursday.

Catholic Gymkhana were cohesive in their buildup, used the flanks and middle route to throw the rival midfield into disarray and spread eagled the defense to break free.

Hard working striker Kaustubh Meher scored a brilliant brace with superb goals in the 10th and 13th minutes to give Catholic Gymkhana the upper hand.

Later Grenville Murzello (74th min) and Curt DeMello (77th min) scored a goal each to seal victory. Mumbai Warriors FC reduced the margin through Shabaz Khan from a counter in the 49th minute of the second half.

Results - MFA Div-I: Catholic Gymkhana 4 (Kaustubh Meher 2, Grenville Murzello, Curt DeMello) beat Mumbai Warriors FC 1 (Shabaz Khan).



Grenville Murzello

MFA FIRST DIV LEAGUE

Reuben & Vandan:

Vandan Meher (right) and goal-scorer Reuben Fernandes are seen in a jubilant mood after Catholic Gymkhana scored a decisive winning goal in the 68th minute to snatch a 1-0 win against Anushakti Nagar.



Reuben: Striker Reuben Fernandes scored a decisive winning goal in the 68th minute to ensure Catholic Gymkhana snatched a 1-0 win against Anushakti Nagar.

Reuben strike lifts Cat Gym to the top

Mumbai, June 2: Catholic Gymkhana football team is continuing from where they left off last season. Having won the Second Division Championship last year, Catholic Gymkhana have been going from strength to strength this time too in the First Division.

The latest victims of their exploits were Sahar Silver Star FC with Catholic Gymkhana FC emerging 6-0 victory in their Group B match of the MFA League 2024-2025 and played at the Neville D'Souza ground, Bandra on Monday.

The fired-up Gymkhana lads led 3-0 at the break for their fifth straight win having drawn a match earlier. Prolific striker Reuben Fernandes was the star of the show with a splendid hat-trick as they outclassed their rivals with an aggressive show marked with splendid finishing. The other scorers were Jalmesh Nijar, Chirag Tandel and Vandan Meher.

Reuben's tap-in from Chirag Tandel's low pass in the sixth minute sent the lads on their way. The second goal in the 36th goal was an elegant top of the box angular shot by Jalmesh and Reuben with a snap left-footer got his second goal in the 44th minute.

On resumption Reuben provided a perfect assist for Chirag Tandel to drill in the fourth goal in the 50th minute. Catholic Gymkhana continued to put pressure on the rival citadel and left wing back Vandan Meher with a brilliant angular effort secured the fifth goal with Reuben making light of his injury completing his hat-trick in the 78th minute.

The gymkhana boys are presently leading the standings with 16 points from their six matches ahead of Mumbai Warriors with 13 points from six matches.

Results (First Div): Catholic Gymkhana 6 (Reuben Fernandes 3, Jalmesh Nijar, Chirag Tandel, Vandan Meher) beat Sahar Silver Star FC 0.

SNOOKER

Tin & Bottle Tournament – June 1, 2025

Our second Tin & Bottle tournament of the year saw enthusiastic participation, with 32 entries from CG members and guests from clubs like CCI, NSCI, Wodehouse, Hindu Gym, and Islam Gym. Sports member Avinash Daryanani played a key role in securing external participation. Young Rohan Pai (CG) and Maulik Shah (CCI) took home the title. We thank Karan from Hindu Gymkhana for sponsoring the prizes.



And that brings us to the end of this issue. Our next newsletter which will also include forthcoming events, will be shared in the month of October.

Do write and let us have your suggestions for improvement of this missive. If any of you would like to contribute articles relevant to the Gymkhana please feel free to write to office@thecatholicgymkhana.com

Until then

Editor
Margaret da Costa