

**Message from
Chair, SAFGR**



Dear Golfing Friends,
Trust you and families keep good health!
I am happy to inform you that our members' strength has risen to 247, with Golfing-Rotarians from various stations of South East Asia. I still hope that there are enough prospects for the membership to increase. I share with you a very inspiring story in this issue of e-Bulletin – of Rtn. [Dr.] Agama Srivastava of the Rotary Club of Baroda Metro [RID 3060] who almost created a miracle by reviving his once prestigious club by inducting 10 Golfers as members in his club. My heartiest congratulations to Rtn. Agam and welcome the new members to the SAFGR chapter.
You will hear of similar inspiring initiative by our innovative leader Rtn. Navdeep Chawla [RID 3011] in the July issue of e-Bulletin. Such initiative is perhaps the first of its kind in the realm of Rotary. It re-assures me of our members' limitless innovative ideas and their boundless courage to implement those. You too may create the history by dreaming of fresh ideas. SAFGR is certainly rocking in the Rotary world by inviting & inducting the golfers as Rotary members from various destinations.
Friends, our 58th IGFR World Championship 2022-23 team is committed and working meticulously to plan the event. The recently appointed M/s SLW Media P. Ltd led by Mr. Anil Dev and his team as our Event Management partner for World Championship. It will be of interest to know that 57th IGFR World Championship at Marrakech, Morocco will continue with their revised schedule from 29th October, 2021 for one week. Members are requested to please confirm their participations online.
The virtual 'Know Our Member', a speaker initiative, has become a very popular program to connect. We have knotted speakers till end of July.
Happy Golfing & warm regards,

Parag Sheth

**Message from
Editor**



Dear Friends,
Compliments first! Last month 'Know Our Member' series was launched with Rtn. Navdeep as the first speaker. Month of May saw Rtn. Rohan [on 11.5.2021] and Rtn. Ravi [25.5.2021] doing the honours. Speakers' life's learning is found to be worth million sermons! As Chair says, the series is appreciated by one and all as though we have hit a jackpot!
Now the caution, precaution and care! A heavenly round of golf is an itch we all have but safety is even more important for you, your family and friends. So, please follow safety protocols seriously and show no bravado for few more weeks when this problem will be behind us. In the interregnum, allow your dear **drivers and clubs** some more 'rest'! By all means, check them, admire them, kiss them, clean them, shine them and wait for the game with bated breath till officially allowed!
e-Bulletin team learns the SAFGR has reported having taken two major steps recently - [1] 'Exchange Program' and [2] 'Orientation Program' both led by very senior PDGs Raju M. Doshi [RC Kolhapur, RID 3170] and Sanjay Khanna [RC Delhi SE, RID 3011] respectively who are keen golfers. Kudos to the Core team for these initiatives! Event Chair of 58th IGFR World Championship in Delhi from 5-11 Nov. 2022 is engaged in laying the ground works. He will share more from time to time when ready. This month ID card project leader is expected to share half the cards. The remaining members are being contacted to rush their photos and blood group info.
We cannot thank friend Anil Dev of GolfPlus & his team enough to have kept his art studio at our disposal to bring out SAFGR e-Bulletin month after month even these tough times! Thank you Anil Bhai!
Please stay safe. Help the needy. Wait for great golfing days ahead!

Ramesh Bhandari

EXPANDING ROTARY & SAFGR VIA BARODA!

Dr. Agam Shrivastava [RC Baroda Metro, RID 3060]



The news coming in is RC Baroda Metro [RID 3060] now stands revived with the support of the golfers led by Rtn. Dr. Agam Shrivastava [pic. to your left]! As he puts it, it all happened when 'Rotary mission was explained over a cup of coffee'! He showed how we all benefit being Rotarians to serve the larger causes of Polio and other community projects via own Clubs and other modes.

When interviewed, Dr. Agam said, "When he approached his friends he promised them a great time in Rotary", he continued "still reluctant, he reached out to his friend Prabhakar who took up the challenge and connected with all the 10 friends!" He said 'as the friends were all from government, business, corporate sector and community leaders, power of

persuasion worked'. Underneath, he rued, "golf was also working and he calls them the Besties"! "Rest is history", he said. When e-Bulletin asked him same power will play for Morocco participation, he said "certainly this will work".

Chair Parag thanked Dr. Agam to bring new members to the Rotary universe and called him true 'membership specialist'!



'KNOW OUR MEMBERS' SERIES

JOURNEY OF A YOUTH EXPLAINED

Rtn. Rohan Sambabu, RC Kodaikanal, TN
GUEST SPEAKER [2] 11.05.2021

Born to an educationist and senior Rotarian on 20th June 1986 [father is a PDG [2005-06] of RID 3000, Rohan completed his schooling at St. Peter's School, Kodaikanal [TN] and graduation from prestigious Loyola College in Chennai. He did his Masters in International Business from the London South Bank University.

Like modern day youth, his entrepreneurial journey started early. He dabbled into several business start-ups – last being real estate development. He launched a children's 'news and infotainment magazine' called 'Jellyfish Monthly' which was well-accepted. He is currently Director of iconic 'St. Peters International School'.

Rohan has been a cricketer, badminton player and golfer and excelled in all. He took up community service projects whilst he was Secretary and later as President of his Club. He plays at handicap of 7. Rohan has been an early member of SAFGR and is currently Jt. Secretary.

Rohan is married to Sandra. They are blessed with a son [aged 3] and baby girl.

Attended by over 55 members and guests, on 11th May, the 2nd in the series was Rtn. Rohan Sambabu who shared his business work experiences, his love for community services under Rotary and passion for golf. His is an ongoing journey, he said.

Among others he puts premium on 'satisfaction' gained in the work done in any sphere. He derived satisfaction while pursuing his dream of business, kids' magazine and playing golf. 'Vision' to make school or win a prize in a prestigious golf tournament, he relied on it. His narration of short life incidents were captivating. He spelt-bound the audience when he posed few questions!

One, how does one accept a situation when one hits an 'uncontrollable'? Say, ball hits a sprinkler on the course. Answer is 'carry on' attitude. Second, how to get out of tricky situations? Say, almost at winning stage, ball



drops in a funny bunker. Answer is 'focus on the solution' and not to bemoan the shot that brought the ball to bunker. Third, if a partner imbibes fear / discomfort (usually out of respect), strike 'peace deal' and 'get on'. Because golfers adapt to any situation anyways!

His final word was that SAFGR has given him a platform to interact with best of golfers within and outside and unleash spirit of competition, camaraderie and joy and joy!

JOURNEY OF A NAVAL VETERAN

Rear Admiral Ravi Gaikwad, NM (R)
GUEST SPEAKER [3] 25.05.2021

Played on 80 golf courses in India & 34 courses abroad incl. R&A in St. Andrews, UK

Friends call him Ravi. We all heard veteran's life journey. Born to a Royal Indian Air Force officer in Chennai in 1957 who saw it all – India's Independence, as part of actions in 1962, 1965 and 1971. Ravi followed to join Indian Navy in 1977.

Ravi is an alumni of NDA, Navigation School, prestigious Defence Service Staff College and the College of Defence Management. He commanded several ships over the years. He is also PG in Management Studies and MPhil from Madras University.

We hear him say his professional journey started with Aircraft Carrier 'Vikrant' and several other war ships. He served many commands in Mumbai and Delhi and was instructor at the Navigation School and at the

College of Naval Warfare.

Nau Sena Medal (NM) awardee by the President of India, he was also bestowed with CNC Commendation in 1995. As Rear Admiral he was Flag Officer and Advisor to the Govt. of India and had stint with other naval agencies not to mention that he was Chief Instructor at Defence Service Staff College Wellington, and Chief Instructor (Navy) at the National Defence College, New Delhi. He was front line officer in Operation Pawan, and took part in Operations Parakram and Vijay.

He is member of RC Bangalore Indiranagar, and currently member of several golf clubs. Ravi is member of SAFGR as well as IGFR. He proudly mentions that he played on 80 golf courses in India and 34 courses abroad including at R&A Course in St. Andrews. [See more on next page]

Married to Dr Pushpa Gayatri (MBBS from AFMC, Pune) and is a former commissioned



officer of Indian Navy. Their 2 children are both now academics in the US. He retired in 2015 after nearly forty years of naval service. Ravi family is settled in Mysuru.

SAFGR INNOVATES PROGRAMS TO CONNECT & ENRICH GOLFING

E-Bulletin is pleased to report that SAFGR has taken new initiatives in the ‘new normal era’ to connect with members in fewer 4-balls where golfing activities are very limited or no actual golf at all - to enrich fellowship, network and give vent to golfing itch. Please read on...

‘EXCHANGE PROGRAM’

Seriously taken, SAFGR has the pleasure to invite PDGs Rajendra M. Doshi [RC Kolhapur, RID 3170] as the Chair of this program. With his chosen team, he would encourage members to criss-cross the country and the Asian Continent! In smaller groups to play in a planned manner. This will indirectly help build SAFGR and Rotary image and enable fellowship and bonding.



‘ORIENTATION PROGRAM’

With the members’ concerted efforts, like Rotary does all the time, several new members are joining SAFGR. But fellowship has taken a beating due to pandemic as the most Clubs are not open. PDG Sanjay Khanna [RC Delhi SE, RID 3011] will lead this program with his team. To enable new members to get to know more of SAFGR, its members and its activities, this program will help new members and old alike. There will be some members acting as ‘faculty’ too.



CHAIR’S FAMILY’S GIVING INITIATIVES – TO THE ROTARY FOUNDATION!

Parag & Punam Sheth, India

Arch Klumph Society Chairs Circle, Bequest Society Level 2
(Contributions of \$250,000-\$499,999)

Shri Mayur Sheth (honouring his brother)

Arch Klumph Society Circle of Honor Members
(Contributions of \$250,000-\$499,999)

‘We joined Rotary for business and fellowship, but we stayed in Rotary to change the world. Life is very simple - what we give, we get back. The Rotary Foundation is our foundation. We have created it, so it is our humble duty to strengthen it. Donating to the Foundation is always our pleasure.’



Three Cheers, Parag bhai!

[Source: Rotary Foundation Annual Report for year 2020-21].

For the Donors to know:

The Rotary Foundation is recognized as one of the most effective and well-managed charitable organizations in the world, with 12 consecutive four-star ratings from Charity Navigator and an A-plus rating from Charity Watch.

NEW MEMBERS DURING MAY 2021

Rtn. Shrirish Adil [RC Baroda Metro, RID 3060]	Rtn. Kameswar Singh Elangbam [RC Shillong, RID 3240]
Rtn. Inderjit Nageshkar [RC Kolhapur, RID 3170]	Rtn. Aditya Nath Mishra [RC Pune Riverside, RID 3060]
Rtn. Ashish Dholakia [RC Baroda Metro, RID 3060]	Rtn. Prakash Venkatramn [RC Bangalore l’nagar, RID 3190]
Rtn. Prabhakar Saxena [RC Baroda Metro, RID 3060]	Rtn. Imraan Jamal [RC Bangalore l’nagar, RID 3060]
Rtn. Bharat Choksi [RC Baroda Metro, RID 3060]	Rtn. Dr. Lokesh Kenkere [RC Bangalore l’nagar, RID 3190]
Rtn. Bhavin Shah [RC Baroda Metro, RID 3060]	Rtn. Bandish Shah [RC Baroda Metro RID 3060]
Rtn. Haresh R. Shah [RC Baroda Metro, RID 3060]	Rtn. Narayanan Swaminathan [RC Chennai Patna, RID 3232]
Rtn. Ajay Bhandarkar [RC Baroda Metro, RID 3060]	Rtn. Lt. Col. Lester Herbert [RC Bangalore l’nagar RID 3190]

TARGET: 53 MORE RUNS IN 10 OVERS! [TARGET: 53 MORE MEMBERS IN 60 DAYS!]

Friends, the time for new inductions to Rotary is always a celebration! All the same, reaching out to the whole lot of veteran Rotarians who are also great golfers spread all over too is celebrated - primarily in the cities like Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Chennai, Chandigarh, Cochin, Delhi NCR, Hyderabad, Jaipur, Kolkata, Mumbai and Pune all with multiple Clubs. If you, dear members, target on these and other cities, there is no stopping! Please introduce more to and hit 3rd century!

Hello Leaders of the Regions!

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| North - Rtn. Navdeep Chawla, | South – Rtn. Anil Menon, | Central - Rtn. Y M [Yogi] Singh, |
| West – Rtn. Madhukar Parikh, | East - Rtn. Timir Roy, | Nepal – Rtn. Pradeep Shreshtha |
| B’desh – Rtn. Shafiqul Islam, | Sri Lanka - Rtn. Ahalya Rajen | |

**You have special responsibility to lead from the front! Forms are already sent to you!
If you don’t have them handy, call the Secretary & editor for instant help!**

MEET & GREET EVENTS OF THE MONTH

SOUTH – HYDERABAD

We all know how Covid pandemic has caused hardships to all and sundry. Many golf Clubs supported their Caddies and other staff. RC Hyderabad Deccan was one such Club reporting their program of distribution of essentials to their Caddies as seen in the pic.



WEST – AHMEDABAD

Ahmedabad Rotarians finally could play golf after prolonged shut down! Rtns. Madhukar Parikh and Ramesh Bhandari [both RC Ahmedabad Cosmopolitan, RID 3054] took the opportunity to play a round at Belvedere Golf & Country Club, Ahmedabad with members of RC Ahmedabad North and RC Ahmedabad Main as potential members of SAFGR. Their cheering confirmations are received! Thank you Ahmedabad!



WEST – BARODA

Majestic Gaekwad Palace and Baroda Golf course co-exist together! The RC Baroda Cosmopolitan's family of Rtn. Jaideep Verma and Dr. Sharmila Verma and their daughters played a round after lockdown!



Dr. Agam Shrivastava of RC Baroda Metropolitan made frequent visits to the Baroda ensure it was ready to play as pandemic abates! Dr., we understand the temptations!

OUR REMINISCES OF MECCA OF GOLF!

[Rtns. Prabhakar Bothireddy & Ravi Gaikwad, RC Bangalore Indiranagar, RID 3190]

Learning that the Rotary Club of St. Andrews conducts annual golf tournament in the month of June where Rotarians are invited from all around the world. The tournament lasts four days. In early 2019, we both decided to register.

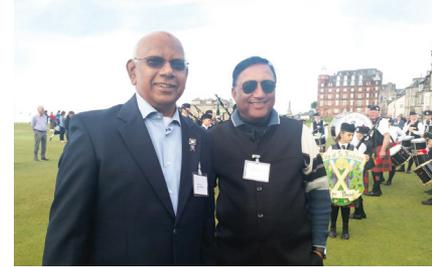
After completing all formalities, we made stay and transport arrangements in St Andrews. We flew into London, took a feeder flight to Edinburgh and drove for two hours to St Andrews. Our hotel was about 10 kms from the golf site and used Uber taxis for travel.

During first two days all Rotarian golfers from all over the world play two rounds in the famous Old Course. Depending on the performance the about first 80 golfers play

two more rounds to win an International Trophy. The players are divided into six teams based on regions of the world.

Surprisingly, we both were the first from India to participate in this tournament since it started many years ago. I [Ravi] got to play two rounds at the Old Course one round each in the Eden and New Course as I qualified for the international group tournament. In the finals after being on top of the leader board after the first day, I was third on the final day, and our regional world team won the first prize. The highlight for me was a birdie on the famous 4 par 18th hole of the Old Course on the final day!

The approx. cost paid to the Rotary club of St



Andrews was about GBP 480 which included a formal 5 course sit down dinner and the prize distribution ceremony. It must be said that the course is very tough with strong sea winds and its famous difficult bunkers. All in all it was a life time experience!

MECCA OF GOLF - II

ROYAL AND ANCIENT GOLF CLUB OF ST. ANDREWS

[R&A] [The Old Course] St. Andrews, Fife, Scotland

The earliest records indicate golf has been played at St. Andrews for more than four centuries. In its infancy, golfers played eleven holes out and the same eleven back again, for a round of twenty two holes! In the mid-1700s, however, their first four holes were combined into two and round consisted of eighteen holes. It is this format that caused eighteen to become standard for golf courses around the world.

St Andrews is also home of Royal & Ancient, the governing body to the game in most parts of the world. Here, rules are determined and policies set. The organization has served as golf's guiding hand. The course's tournament history suggests most of the memorable champions have had their day here. Many a memorable moment has taken place over the links of St. Andrews. Rest assured many more will occur on this hallowed garden of golf! *[To be continued]*



CARD! OH CARD!!

You know why it echoes so much? Rtn. Madhukar Parikh conveys the ID card project is well on its way! Nearly half the cards should be ready in next few days for which complete data are available. Yet, he could be happier if remaining members will please also respond. He is reaching out to them personally.

57TH IGFR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP AT MARRAKECH IN MOROCCO

Yes, the World Championship in Oc. 2021 at Marrakech in Morocco is on! It is only appropriate that we register and travel in large nos. to Morocco as India [read SAFGR] is the host for 58th IFGR World Championship [Nov. 2022]. Many registrations are already done. You also please register now with money payable only in July/August 2021.

R&A SNIPPETS

Did you know Mecca of Golf invests in Golf?

Each year the R&A invests over £5m in support of golf worldwide?

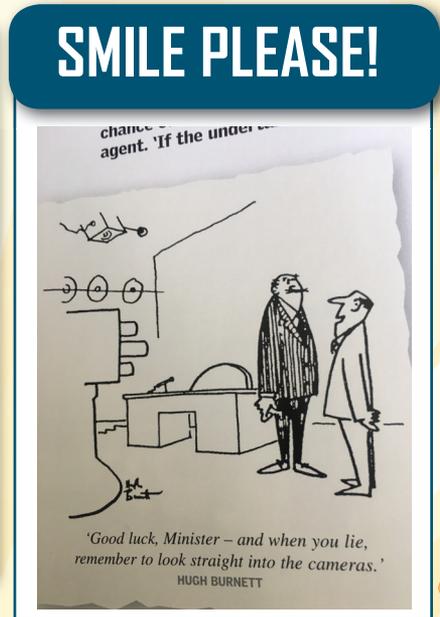
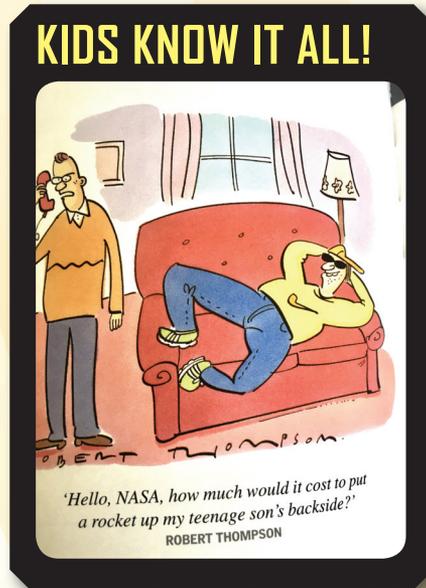
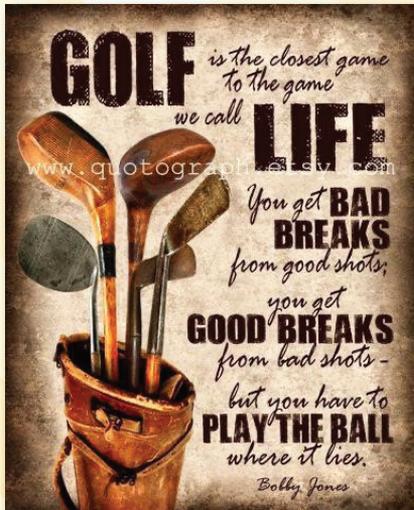
BY THE WAY - In 2019 R&A invested £19.1 million into golf! It steadily invests in the sport-golf development, governance of the sport, staging world class amateur championships and in supporting other golf activities. *[Annual Report 2019/20]*



IGFR CALLING!

Membership of IGFR enables you to play all IGFR tournaments elsewhere the world over. It's a lot more redeeming to be IGFR life members. Do visit www.igfr-international.com

GOLFER'S HUMOUR COLUMN



LAW & ORDER
*I 'm a criminal lawyer'.
Thank you for being so frank.'*

GOLFER'S DILEMMA
My wife will buy anything marked down. Last year she bought an escalator with a free golf kit!

POLITICS & GOLF
**Why don't politicians like golf?
Because it's too much like their work - trapped in one bad move after another!**