

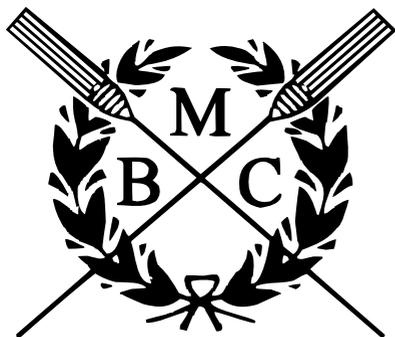
THE
CLUB ELITE

OARSPEAK

BOAT CLUB NEWS

In House Magazine | October 2017





MBC MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE & PORTFOLIOS 2017- 19

President

Mr. K.K. Arun Krishnan

Immediate Past President

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Captain of Boats

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Honorary Treasurer

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MIC - House & New Projects

Mr. Pravin Aiana

MIC - Corporate Affairs & Employee Relations

Mr. S.N. Eisenhower

MIC - Sports

Mr. S. Srinivasan

MIC - Bar & Catering

Mr. D. Krishnan

MIC - Entertainment

Mr. S. Sriram



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FROM THE COMMITTEE

Dear Member,

Greetings!

We are happy to inform you that the new committee under the stewardship of Mr. Arun Krishnan was elected at the Annual General Meeting unanimously without an election process. We would like to thank the members for the faith and support in the new team which has a majority of members from the earlier committee. A brief profile of each of the committee members is also given in page 6.

As per past tradition and the Rules of the club the Immediate Past President Mr. M.R. Ravindra was invited and has joined the committee.

The committee members have taken their role very seriously and are in the process of activating their sub committees. We hope to continue with the good work done by the last committee in improving the infrastructure and facilities and making our club one of the premier clubs in India.

The Master Plan Committee with Mr. A. Venkat, Past President at the helm with his team will coordinate with Mr. Pravin Aiana, MIC House and ensure that all new structures and developmental activities are implemented smoothly.

We have received the 150th year souvenir mugs made of bone china with the logo of the club embossed on one side and a print of the club structure on the other side. The distribution of the mugs, to all members who contributed to the 150th year celebrations fund, is in force. I am sure members would cherish having this prestigious mug in their possession. Members also have the option of purchasing these mugs at a cost of Rs.1000/- inclusive of GST @18%.

The preparations are on for the Millennium Regatta to be held in Kolkata in end November 2017 and for the ARAE also in Kolkata in the first week of January 2018, both hosted by Calcutta Rowing Club, the oldest Rowing club in India. The new boats are expected to arrive by the end of November 2017.

The billiards table was inaugurated on 25th September by the Billiards and Snooker World Champion Mr. Pankaj Advani, who not only admired our new Viraka table but appreciated the unique wooden structure housing the facility. He complimented the club for this and mentioned that the ambience reminds him of playing in Scotland.

We would request the members to kindly pay the bills on time. At present considerable amount of time is spent in writing letters, sending messages and following up on the payments due to the club. We also request members who have exhausted the credit limit to replenish their account with a minimum amount of Rs.5000/- . This committee takes serious note of members who exhaust their credit limit and still enjoy the service of the club by ensuring their KOTs are not billed in connivance with the staff. This practice is not acceptable and results in serious problems for the accounts department and also in tallying stocks in the case of bar sales .

We have ensured that the tipping menace has reduced to a large extent . But we still see some members resorting to direct tipping which is not permitted as per the Rules of the club. Members are requested to use the gratuity box kept in various locations at the club.

The Member-in -charge Entertainment Mr. A Sriram and his team are planning for grand New year Eve Party and I am sure you all will join us at the club to welcome the New year

I am sure the new team would work harmoniously in the best interest of the club, to take the club forward in its 151st year .

Warm regards
Farid A Husain
Hony Secretary

MADRAS BOAT CLUB

COMMITTEE - 2017-19



K.K. ARUN KRISHNAN
PRESIDENT

CLUB COLOUR OF THE 1970s, WHO HAS HAD THE HONOUR OF REPRESENTING MBC ONCE AGAIN AFTER A GAP OF 42 YEARS. A MEMBER OF THE MBC SWIMMING TEAM; WINNING GOLD MEDALS AT MASTERS SWIM MEETS. ENDURANCE SPORTS ARE A PASSION. EAGER TO PLAY A SUPPORTING ROLE IN NURTURING TOP CLASS SPORTING TALENT AMONGST THE YOUNGSTERS OF OUR CLUB.



M.R. RAVINDRA
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

PRESIDENT FOR THE PAST TWO TERMS. NATIONAL GOLD MEDALIST IN ROWING AND A KEEN TABLE TENNIS PLAYER. HAS BEEN CAPTAIN FOR SEVERAL TERMS IN THE PAST.



JAMES JOSEPH
CAPTAIN OF BOATS

CAPTAIN IN THE IMMEDIATE PRECEDING TERM. GOLD MEDAL WINNER IN ROWING IN NATIONAL GAMES AND NATIONAL ROWING CHAMPIONSHIP. SILVER MEDALLIST IN THE ASIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS. HAD THE HONOUR OF PRODUCING MAXIMUM NUMBER OF MEDAL WINNERS IN NATIONALS AND CLUB EVENTS. 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN THE TEXTILE AND GARMENT INDUSTRY.



FARID A HUSAIN
HONY. SECRETARY

A COMPANY SECRETARY AND LAWYER BY QUALIFICATION. HAS OVER 33 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN VARIOUS CORPORATES INCLUDING A STINT AS VICE – PRESIDENT IN DEUTSCHE BANK. HONY. SECRETARY IN THE PRECEDING TERM. A PAST COMMITTEE MEMBER 26 YEARS AGO AND HONY. SECRETARY OF OUR CLUB A DECADE AGO. PLANTING TREES AND GREENING THE ENVIRONMENT IS HIS PASSION.



C.A. THEAGARAJAN
HONY. TREASURER

WAS MEMBER IN CHARGE – CORPORATE AFFAIRS IN THE PRECEDING TWO TERMS. PRACTICING ADVOCATE WITH 34 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE. KEEN BILLIARDS PLAYER AND GOLFER. AT PRESENT, COMMITTEE MEMBER IN THE GYMKHANA GOLF ANNEX AND PAST SECRETARY TAMIL NADU BILLIARDS AND SNOOKER ASSOCIATION.

MADRAS BOAT CLUB

COMMITTEE - 2017-19



S.N. EISENHOWER

*MEMBER IN CHARGE – CORPORATE AFFAIRS,
LEGAL AND CHAMBERS*

DIRECTOR (OPERATIONS) IN SAINT-GOBAIN INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED. A VIVID SPORTS ENTHUSIAST AND HAS BEEN A ROWING MEMBER SINCE THE 80s. STARTED WITH M&B REGATTA AND BECAME A REGULAR ROWER. PLAYED IN TNCA LEAGUE CRICKET FOR MANY YEARS. INTERESTED IN PROMOTING YOUNGSTERS IN SPORTS AND IMPROVING THE FACILITIES OF THE CLUB FOR MEMBERS.



DESIKAN KRISHNAN

MEMBER IN CHARGE – BAR AND CATERING

WORKED AS THE PHOTO EDITOR WITH THE HINDU NEWSPAPER. HAS COVERED SEVERAL MAJOR NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SPORTS INCLUDING THE ASIAN GAMES, OLYMPICS, AND CRICKET WORLD CUPS. PRESENTLY INVOLVED IN TEACHING AND CONDUCTING PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOPS.



S. SRINIVASAN

MEMBER IN CHARGE – SPORTS

IN THE APPAREL EXPORT INDUSTRY FOR THE LAST 25 YEARS. HAS A PENCHANT FOR SPORTS AND FITNESS. KEEN ON IMPROVING THE FACILITIES OF SPORTS, OTHER THAN ROWING AT MBC, AND EAGER TO GET INVOLVED IN OTHER AREAS OF DEVELOPMENT IN THE CLUB.



S. SRIRAM

MEMBER IN CHARGE – ENTERTAINMENT & EDP

CONTINUING AS MEMBER IN CHARGE ENTERTAINMENT & EDP. AN MBA FROM IIM CALCUTTA AND A CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT BY QUALIFICATION. INVOLVED IN THE FILM INDUSTRY AS A PRODUCER AND HAD THE OPPORTUNITY OF PRODUCING FILMS LIKE BOMBAY, AASAI, SAMURAI ETC. AT PRESENT ASSOCIATED WITH A FEW BUSINESS VENTURES.



PRAVIN M. AIANA

MEMBER IN CHARGE – HOUSE AND NEW PROJECTS

AN ARCHITECT AND INTERIOR DESIGNER PRACTICING SINCE 1978. HAS BEEN ON THE MBC BUILDING COMMITTEE EARLIER AND WAS CO-OPTED AS MIC HOUSE LAST YEAR. EAGER TO SEE MBC AS ONE THE BEST CLUBS IN THE COUNTRY. PASSIONATE ABOUT YOGA, NATURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT. A QUALIFIED TEACHER OF YOGA FROM THE KRISHNAMACHARYA YOGA MANDIRAM DURING THE MID 1980s.

TRIBUTE TO V.J. BHARATH



Mr. V.J. BHARATH (RB 019)

It's with great regret that we at MBC announce the sad demise of Mr. V.J. Bharath (RB 019).

Bharath, our former president, passed away after a brief illness on 09th September 2017.

He joined the club as a rowing member in the late '60s and has served in many committees over the years, with his last stint being honorary treasurer as a part of the presidents committee between 2007 and 2011.

Bharath, an architect by profession, started Bharath and Associates in the late '60s. Bharath and Associates under his leadership rose very quickly

to be one of the top architectural firms in the city. Bharath had a very easy way of running the firm and his easy-going nature and ready wit made the work place a fun place to be. He was a very quick-witted person and there was always laughter in any room in which he was and the best part is that his wit was never directed at others in a hurtful manner.

For Bharath fair play and equitable sharing was the done thing. No wonder the sport closest to his heart was golf - a sport where the rules are sacred but the responsibility to observe the rules and penalize oneself if the rules are broken rests with the player himself.

His sense of humor is well known in all the circles he moved, be it at the various clubs that he was a member of, the masonic lodge he loved to be a part of, the golf course, or the architectural community at large.

Bharath was never one to bemoan his woes or dwell on the negatives in life. Even after being diagnosed with cancer, he refused to let it dictate how he should live and continued to be his charming, quick witted, positive self right up to the end.

May his soul rest in peace.

SWIMMING IN CHEMISTRY



Our swimming pool, at the roof top of MBC, is a joy to behold. The water is at once calming and inviting. The water's blue colour gives a reassurance of the inherent cleanliness of the pool. Many in Chennai would envy the luxury of having a 25 x 10 metre clean pool while most of the general population is languishing without water even for basic necessities. Our pool attendants, Chandru, Dhina, and Venkatesh are veterans in the fine art of pool maintenance. Quietly and systematically, they have been monitoring the condition of the pool, although mostly by 'feel'. When the water becomes somewhat turbid or we have had high patronage over weekends or when sufficient time has lapsed, a substantial amount of water is replaced, chemicals are added, and the pool is made to look 'good' once again.

We may not have paid too much attention to the swimming pool till now. The recent water crisis in

Chennai created a problem of not getting tankers for water replacement. The input quality of the water itself was questionable. A tame approach would have been to shut down the pool facility till the water shortage situation went away. However, we in MBC, are fortunate to have an energetic committee that has decided to take a closer look at mechanisms to save water and keep the facility running, without feeling a sense of guilt. It was clear that we had to save on water being replaced. Hence some of us have been studying the issues involved.

The need for replacement is due to usage especially during the summer months, when the swimming pool is often viewed as a cool-off zone. In order to keep the pool safe, chlorine is added. But as we shall see here, the addition of chlorine to water is a tricky business. When it is added without calculation, and when we do not have a measure of its adequacy in a dynamic environment, water quality can take a nosedive resulting in replacement of

large quantities of water to restore the pool to a 'clean' state. Most of us think that clarity of water or the 'blueness' of water is an indicator of its cleanliness. It is, of course, but it is an effect of cleanliness and not a measure of it. Water with germs will still be blue. Germ-free water but with algal growth will be green. A case in point was the embarrassment suffered in Rio, where the diving pool turned green overnight, postponing many events.

It is the objective of this article to provide an insight into the challenges faced in keep our swimming pool clean and safe. We propose steps to continuously monitor water quality in a scientific manner and minimize the need for replacement of water without compromising on hygiene.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

The swimming pool manager has a variety of problems. Firstly, the quantity of water to be monitored is about 400,000 litres. This is not lab scale. Secondly, the swimming pool is open to sky. It is well known that ultraviolet light in sunlight degrades the effect of chemicals such as chlorine or ozone. Last, but not the least, a club like ours has a heterogeneous crowd of users. Every person brings in a certain level of contamination - sweat, urine (usually kids and yes, it does happen), skin oils, saliva, hair, perfume, and pathogens.

CHLORINE TO THE RESCUE:

Fortunately, the problem of contamination can be solved through the use of chlorine. Well, it's not really chlorine because you don't see somebody bubbling chlorine gas into the water. We call it chlorine because a chlorinated pool reminds us of the smell of chlorine. We have all witnessed the lab prep of chlorine in high school – the greenish yellow gas with a pungent smell. The chlorine

that we use is, in fact, a chemical compound containing chlorine. It is a liquid called sodium hypochlorite (NAOCl). This is the same ingredient used in household bleach and does a great job of killing bacteria and germs. However, visualizing ourselves swimming in a dilute solution of bleach or ingesting it, is a bit disconcerting. Several questions spring to mind. How much chemical is necessary to ensure killing of all germs? How much of chlorine is there in the water? What happens to the reaction products between chlorine and the contaminant? When do we add more? Etc.

pH TALK

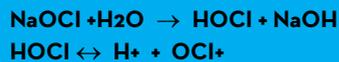
The measure of sodium hypochlorite (NAOCl) is done indirectly (and easily) by measuring a well known parameter called pH. PH measures the level of acidity or alkalinity of a solution. To give an idea of the values that pH can take - water (pure distilled) has a pH of 7. Anything below 7 is acidic and anything above 7 is alkaline. A strong acid has a ph of 1, Coca-Cola is 3.5, Beer is about 5, sweat, urine, milk (forgive the grouping of liquids) have a pH around 6, soapy water is highly alkaline with a pH over 11. NAOCl (our savior chemical) at 5% concentration has a ph over 12. NaOCI 'basically' becomes a base (sodium hydroxide) when added to water. The bleach solution, being so alkaline, cannot be added recklessly, and is added in such a way that the end pH of the pool water is around 7.5. Ideally, the pH of the swimming pool water is to be maintained between 7.3 And 7.8.

Unfortunately very few swimming pools in the city take the trouble of measuring pH accurately and neither do we. We measured the pH of the water over several days and found large swings in values indicating the need for tighter quality control. Maintaining the pH at the level of 7.5 has a two-fold advantage - it is close to the most comfortable level for the human body (coincidentally it is the same as that of saliva or blood) and it is also the

most optimal level for the sodium hypochlorite to kill bacteria.

SWIMMING POOL CHEMISTRY

Studies have shown that the killing of bacteria by sodium hypochlorite is mediated through the formation of a weak acid called hypochlorous acid (HOCl) as shown below. Thereafter, like most weak acids, HOCl dissociates to form the H⁺ ion and the OCl⁻ ion.



The double-headed arrow on the reaction depicting HOCl dissociation is to say that the reverse reaction also occurs – again a characteristic of weak acids. For the purposes of killing bacteria, HOCl is the preferred state rather than the dissociated OCl⁻. In order to keep the HOCl from dissociating, chemists add more H⁺. When more H⁺ is added on the right side, the reaction tends to go, from right to left – it encourages the HOCl to stay as HOCl (a consequence of the enchanting Le Chatelier's principle studied by all high school students). Adding H⁺ is the same as adding more acid, which is the same as lowering the pH. At a pH above 7.8 (slightly basic), the dissociation of HOCl is almost 75% and is therefore not desirable. One of the ways of lowering the pH (apart from the diluting the bleach) is to add acid (HCl). This has to be done by an experienced chemist as the pure acid is highly corrosive and poses a serious inhalation hazard to the person dispensing it into the water. An automated acid dispensing mechanism is being designed for this purpose that will provide continuous precise feedback on pH changes with addition of acid.

NEED FOR MEASUREMENT

It is also proposed to use a pH meter to monitor the pH to the first decimal place rather than using pH paper which can only show macroscopic changes in pH. The pH sensitive paper turns

colour based on the pH. It is probably good for distinguishing between a strong acid and a strong base. For our measurement, the use of pH paper depends on the skill of distinguishing between violet, indigo, magenta, and lavender and is something that most men (usually colour blind) would shy away from!

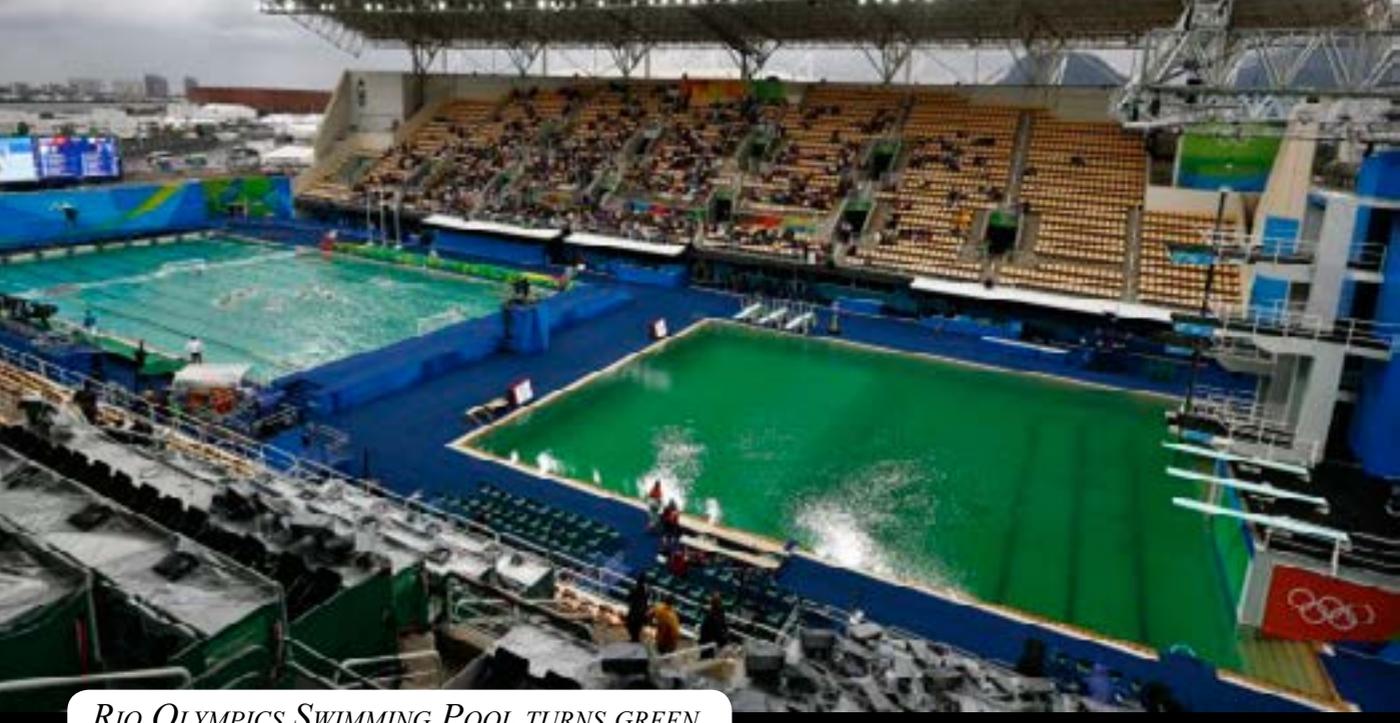
ENTER THE KING OF POOL CHEMICALS

The open air swimming pool presents another challenge to the pool chemist who is trying to control the level of 'chlorine'. Sunlight, particularly the ultraviolet component of it, causes a breakdown of the hypochlorous acid and undermines its ability to kill bacteria. Chemists have come to the rescue by recommending the use of a fairly efficient chlorine producer, popularly referred to as Trichlor that releases chlorine slowly into the water and stabilizes the level of hypochlorous acid in the water.

Trichloroisocyanuric acid - A pretty molecule that slow releases chlorine! The use of trichlor is also pH dependent and works best when the pH is bordering on being acidic. The quantities to be used are also to be carefully controlled as it forms a by-product, cyanuric acid, which is really not quite so tasty or nutritious. Accurate weighing of trichlor has now been recommended to prevent overuse. Ideally, the two useful chemicals that we add to the pool – sodium hypochlorite and trichlor, the useless reaction products like sodium hydroxide, cyanuric acid have to be kept in check with sensors. If online checking is difficult to monitor, it is at least important to exercise control of what is added and minimize reaction products.

THE FINAL STRAW

To add to our problems is the quality of input 'fresh' water. Is there something like that in this city of ours? Water that comes in tankers is a soup of chemicals. Most water is brown (high



RIO OLYMPICS SWIMMING POOL TURNS GREEN.

iron content) or really ‘hard’ (high levels of carbonates and sulphates of calcium and magnesium). All of these chemicals interfere with the measurements of pH that we consider so paramount to our dream of having a ‘squeaky ‘clean pool. We need to install water softeners prior to admitting water into the pool in order to keep our chemical calculations in proper order. Recommendations will be proposed as we come to grips with the challenges.

In summary, it is not enough that we see a blue pool filled with clear water. To de-romanticize this notion, we wish to remind our readers that the blue colour is a direct consequence of the absorbance of light by water of a certain depth and has nothing to do with purity. Further, the well known

smell of chlorine on our bodies need not be a reassurance that the pool was sufficiently chlorinated. The smell is from the reaction of chlorine with the amines in our body forming compounds called chloramines. Chloramines stink! Ironically, hypochlorite (or chlorine) at the levels we add, cannot be identified by the nose.

OUR RESPONSIBILITY

Cleanliness of the swimming pool can only be guaranteed by understanding the chemical nature of the problem. We owe it to ourselves to minimize bodily contamination by thoroughly showering before entering the pool. Sprinkling water on one’s head, as you would a potted plant, does nothing to get rid of adherent skin oils. We also need to watch out for others not heeding the numerous

warning signs, especially our younger swimmers who may tend to skip out of the cleanliness requirements. Footwear is brought in. Caps are not worn. Dedicated swimming attire is not used. Our attendants can only enforce rules to a certain extent and in many instances they find it delicate to bring up topics related to personal hygiene.

It does not take much to contaminate but it is a huge effort to remove the contaminant from the large body of water that is such a precious commodity. Whether it is for saving the planet or to continue to have a good time in our swimming pool, let us resolve to keep the cleanliness standards of our swimming pool equivalent to a place of worship or that of a kitchen.



**IT'S WITH GREAT REGRET THAT WE AT
MBC ANNOUNCE THE SAD DEMISE OF
MR.M.K.MENON (LM049) ON 11TH
OCTOBER, 2017.**