



# Karnataka Golf Association

Date:18/06/2022

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ON RECENT INCIDENT**

Dear Members

On behalf of the Managing Committee, I would like to share details on the serious issues that the MC and the club have faced and continue to face over the last few days. A few points are omitted as the matter is sub-judice.

### **Background and Details:**

Mr Suresh Raj was an LTA member and had also applied for Life membership. He was suspended on disciplinary grounds during his LTA term for a period of 6 months from 14/03/2019 to 13/09/2019.

He appeared for the Life membership interview on 22/09/2020 and this was ratified as rejected at the interview held on the 13/10/2020 MC meeting.

Following this, we faced pressure from various sources, including a few of his member friends and nominees of the MC to reconsideration of his membership applications. We explained our inability based on the rules and bye-laws of the club.

As per our rules, the option of reapplying for membership after 6 months of rejection was explained to him. His application was returned along with the entrance fee of RS.2500000 on 14/10/2020.

On 19/10/2020 he filed a complaint under section 25 of the Karnataka Registration act against us. An order was passed to hold a fresh interview in the presence of all 8 government-nominated members. We challenged this order, and this is when Mr Suresh Raj asked for issuance of the cheques as the earlier cheque had lapsed. This cheque was encashed on 13/04/2021.

He filed a suit against us on 20/04/2021 challenging the rejection of his membership. This continued with another suit on 31/01/22 in the high court and the court directed this to the Registrar of Societies to deal with it, without our knowledge. The registrar of societies sent a notice to us to explain and appear before them. Even after hearing all our details and reasons for the rejection and our inability to reinstate his membership based on his 22/9/20 interview. However, the ROS passed an order on 19/05/2022, (which we received only on 13/06/2022) to call for a fresh interview and admit him as a member within 30 days.

Mr Suresh Raj came to the club a few times with the order and even submitted a letter showing the order and admitting him as a member. He also met me and some of the office-bearers and we did mention to him that we will discuss this with our legal advisor and take the necessary steps.

As you are all aware our relationship has always been cordial and friendly when we meet members, guests, or visitors anywhere in the club. There is no element of discrimination heard or seen anywhere in the club.

On 14/06/2022 during the MC meeting, Mr Suresh Raj barged into the committee room with the order and wanted to meet us. We decided to meet him in the committee room. He was received cordially, and he then started making allegations that the Office Bearers and CEO were abusing him. This is despite the officer bearers, CEO and the members saying that we have not discriminated or shouted at him by giving him membership and not following the orders of the ROS.

We calmly told him we will take necessary action after going through the details of the ROS order. He did misbehave and then left the room. Within 15 minutes he came back with two police people and once again started the same tirade. We were reliably informed that he had called 112, based on which the police responded. They left after seeing the meeting

He announced that he will act against all of us by sending us to jail for atrocities done to him

He filed a police case on 15/06/2022 against us the office bearers, the CEO and all the committee members taking the SC and the ST prevention of Atrocities ACT.

We informed our members in the government and police and were reassured that nothing will happen, and we need not get pressurized by this.

The police along with him and his group came to the office on 16/06/2022 and made enquires and discussions with the staff and took photographs and videos to get the details. This is a routine procedure and there is nothing to be perturbed about. However, he has by his actions put staff and all of us under tremendous stress.

None of the MC members was present with the threat of arrest. Some of this has been published in the media and circulated by Suresh Raj's group to the members.

We were able to get a stay in the high court with the support of everyone on this order yesterday, 17/06/2022.

For the present, we are back to normalcy and this case will continue in the court later. As this matter develops we will update our members.

Sd/-

Dr. M G BHAT

PRESIDENT

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