

MAIN COMMITTEE MESSAGE



It has been a privilege to serve as Honorary Treasurer here at RAHRC for just over two years now, in what turned out to be a pivotal time in terms of funding and capital investment. Further changes are on the horizon, some you would have already experienced as the Club partners with third parties to enhance service offerings. Stakeholders are incentivized to see these pilots succeed, and these efforts will soon be supported by a booking and payment infrastructure to further facilitate member convenience and timely Club reporting.

From a financial perspective, with the close of this fiscal year upon us and the budget exercise to be kicked off shortly, we continue to be on an overall positive footing. As final design plans are being tweaked a lot of the funds earmarked in this year's budget for redevelopment will shift to next year, and the fruits of the new revenue streams implemented will also be felt as the programs blossom. The new sportsfield is up and running with rates and availability for hire to be communicated soon. Clarity on the impact the national Excise Tax will have on RAHRC operations is expected this month when product listings and rates will be published, with implementation in effect by mid-June 2019. VAT regulations shall follow eventually, and we continue to work towards ensuring our software is ready to handle the compliance requirements.

This month saw brilliant turnout for the Fahal Swim and Annual Badminton Tournament, with many other courses (RYA Powerboat, Laser Sailing Induction, and Mahjong being highlights) successfully attended. The Indian Cultural Production and "Beat the Heat" Community Band were absolute delights as well. "Get Golf Ready" is on-going until the end of May, and you can look forward to the Club's Eid Al Fitr Party in June Insha'Allah. Thank you to all the volunteers who make these possible.

I encourage members to consider RAHRC for professional and personal events. With the now enhanced collaboration with RAHGC, your next departmental "Away Day" can start at the driving range or a round of "foot golf" before moving to the Clubhouse for lunch or one of our meeting rooms to share key department messages, followed by a sightseeing boat tour with your teams. The scenic views are at our fingertips to enjoy.

On a personal note, what I found most inspiring in this role is witnessing the impact a group of dedicated volunteers can have. Not only on the Main Committee but across all Sections as well as those members who actively contribute and participate in AGMs and club events. Each advocating for lasting change that all of us enjoy, and sometimes take for granted. With a nod to the D&I wave sweeping PDO I have to mention how wonderful it has been to see the Committee grow - with priorities and dialogue surrounding particular member interests (like upgrading baby changing areas and toddler play corners at the Clubhouse and other facilities for example) taking center stage in our meetings. The drive to incorporate solar features and a plastics-free mindset in the new playground and other areas of the Club has also been rewarding.

As RAHRC embarks on what promises to be an exciting redevelopment I cannot help but reflect on how well the current facilities have served members over the years. Not many buildings of this age can boast such standards; Masha Allah the care taken in its maintenance speaks to an overriding "member-first" ethos. With demands for a more Commercial focus that core driving principle will not change; in fact it has informed key decisions made and will drive

those to come. Expense should not be spared in delivering a quality Club that stands the test of time yet again. The old facade will certainly be missed by those of us who have grown up within it, but I eagerly look forward to what our children Insha'Allah will learn to call "theirs" as well.

A new appreciation comes with having seen the behind-the-scenes of this operation, and I am humbled for having had the experience. I wish my successor, who shall take the seat in June, as well as the new faces that have and will be joining the Committee, the best. Sincere thanks to the staff at RAHRC and all volunteers. To all our practicing members a blessed Ramadhan, and those proceeding on summer break safe travels.

On behalf of the Main Committee
Saniya Alkharusi
Honorary Treasurer