

# CENTRAL TURF

PRESIDENT: RTN. Cmde AJAY CHITNIS | HON. SECRETARY: RTN. DELSHAD KARANJIA

EDITOR: RTN. VIPEN MALHOTRA | ASSISTANT EDITOR: RTN. JAYANT LUTHRA

**TODAY** The Annual General Meeting of our club will be held at 6.30 p.m. on Saturday, December 23, 2023 at Poona Club – Conference Hall 1.

The AGM's agenda includes presentation and approval of the Club and Trust Accounts for the year ended June 30, 2023 (Audit report has been already sent by email on December 13, 2023).

As always, there will be a half-hour pre-meeting Fellowship starting at 6:30 p.m., followed by the official meeting, which will be called to order at 7 p.m. As a mark of respect to our recently departed member, Late Rooma Dubey, there will be no Post-Meeting Fellowship.

## *From the President's desk*



We have had a hectic time over the last eight days, starting with gifting of Green PCs to the Ashram School at Wadki. This residential school on the fringes of Pune has no electricity, the connection has been cut off by MSEB. The school set up under the Central Govt. Scheme in 2000, stopped getting central aid in 2004, and were asked to approach the State Govt., which refused aid as it was not in their inventory of schools. Thus, the school runs only on donations from companies and individuals. The children sleep in the class rooms, and need a lot of support. They have a computer lab, which is non-functional due to lack of electric power. Gifting of Green PCs and a Solar Panel, has made their Computer Lab functional. The joy on the faces of the students, when they saw their computers working was extremely heartening. We thank Rtn. Pravin Nadkarni and his family members for conceiving this project and funding it.

On Monday we had the Interact Jamboree, an event in which all our Interact Clubs came together and spent the day together. Thanks to the help of fellow Rotarians and R'Anns, and the Teachers of all the schools, and our Past President Munir Chinoy, this event was a resounding success. The generosity of Mrs Sheila Mohanrao and Rtn Delshad Karanjia made this venture possible, and we are extremely grateful to them.

On Wednesday, we had our Annual Christmas Party, co-sponsored by the Inner Wheel Club of Pune Central. President Hutokshi Pundole and her team from Inner Wheel, many of whom are members of RCPC were present and actively participated in keeping the children entertained. Rtn. Anil Bora was a driving force for this event and the major contributor of funds required for booking of the venue and the catering. Also present from RCPC were Rtns Delshad Karanjia, Oni Kakjiwala (Santa Claus), Amita Munot and PE Rtn Brig PKM Raja. Another afternoon devoted to keeping the children happy through games, Magic Show and other activities.

Today, we have our Annual General Meeting, an important part of the Club's Calendar. It is the bounden duty of all members to attend the meeting and partake in the decision-making process. **It is your Club – you need to decide its future. Please Attend!!**

## *The Week That Was*

From Rtn. Delshad Karanjia

### **Remembering a Gracious and Vibrant Lady**

On December 16, 2023, RCPC's regular meeting was replaced by a condolence meeting on Zoom, in memory of late Rtn. Rooma Dubey, an Arch Klumph Society Trustee Circle Member, who passed away on December 13, 2023.

Paying tribute to Rtn. Rooma, President Ajay said: "Whenever one thinks of Rooma, the word 'vibrant' always pops up, and seems to be the most appropriate way to describe her. We met Rooma when we joined RCPC 10 years ago. She was the President of the Inner Wheel Club of Pune Central that year. I remember that under her stewardship, IWC Pune Central was adjudged the Best Club, and she was recognized as the best President that year. Besides that, she was a charming person, always willing to help and encourage people." He also spoke about Rtn. Rooma's contribution towards making RCPC a flourishing club.

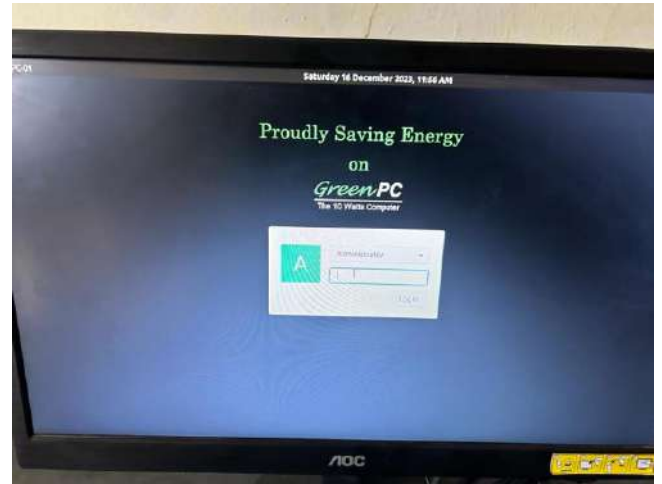
Members observed a minute's silence in Rtn. Roma's memory and prayed for eternal peace to be granted to her soul. Many members, including Rtn. PP Madhu Rathi, Rtn. PP Narayandas Rathi, Rtn. PP Rakesh Bhargava, Rtn. PP Suhas Merchant, Rtn. Dr. Shashi Saxena, R'Ann Jasma Asher, R'Ann Hutokshi Pundole, and R'Ann Smita Pingale paid tribute to Rtn. Rooma. President Ajay conveyed deepest condolences to Rtn. Rooma's family on behalf of the Club.

## *Green PC Project*

From Rtn. President Ajay Chitnis

Conceived about four years ago by Rtn Pravin Nadkarni, the Green PC Project saw the Pilot Phase being executed on Saturday, 16 December 2023. The Govt. of India promulgated the National Education Policy 2020, which stipulated compulsory Computer Education in schools. Many schools, especially in rural and tribal areas either do not have computers, or do not have assured power supply for running their computers. That's when Pravin started thinking about the Green PC, something that would help the schools where they had a power problem, to run the computers on Solar Power. A normal PC consumes about 150 W of power to mainly run its CP, and cannot be run on solar power generated by a single solar panel. Thus he came up with the idea of reducing the power consumption, and created this green PC, which replaces the CPU, and consumes only 10 W of power, which can easily be generated by a single solar panel. Rtn Pravin and his son Tanai Nadkarni, developed this green PC, which can be seen in the hands of Tanai, and is fitted at the back of the Monitor as shown in the second photo. Five of these Green PCs with Keyboard and Mouse for each, were given to Ashram School, Wadki, on Saturday, 16 December. This school does not have any electricity since their power connection has been cut off by MSEDCL due to some dispute. Rtn. Giri Sakhrani, Rtn. PP Ravi Kapoor, R'Ann Monica Nadkarni, R'Ann Dipti Chitnis and yours truly were present at the occasion, when Tanai Nadkarni and I re-Inaugurated their Computer Lab. The Children and the teachers were thrilled to see the computers working, and started using them right away.

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## Interact Jamboree

From Rtn. President Ajay Chitnis

During the Installation of our six Interact Clubs, I promised the Interactors that they would get a chance to interact with all others and learn what they are doing. Though I had made the promise, I had no idea where we would find the funds required to arrange this. During a casual conversation about what our club does, my daughter's mother-in-law said that she would like to donate some money to our club if it was possible, which I wholeheartedly encouraged her to do. When asked what project this money would be used for, I told her about my plan to have the Interact Jamboree. She increased her amount to Rs 1.5 Lakhs, so that it would cover the entire event. The wheels started moving and the planning got underway. Rtn Anil Bora, the force behind all youth activities informed me that they had done an event called 'Centrafun', some 15 years ago, and wanted to call this 'Centrafun 2'. Since all the Interactors, and most of the Teachers had changed, this name did not seem relevant, and we went ahead with Interact Jamboree. All the schools were asked to prepare a 15-minute long cultural item – dance, song or skit, and the theme was, 'Mera Bharat Mahan – Kaise Banega'. A debate subject was also announced; AI is destroying creativity. The plan was to get all the children together for the whole day, starting with Breakfast, and ending with a High Tea before departure. DG Rtn Manjoo Phadke agreed to be the Chief Guest, and matching her availability with the schools' availability was quite an issue. Eventually the date was fixed as 18 December. A number of Rotarians

**ROTARY CLUB OF PUNE CENTRAL**

B3/102, YOGI PARK, 12, KOREGAON PARK, PUNE 411001

T: +91-20-26154379 | M: +91 9527716505 | E: office@rcpunecentral.org

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and R'Anns helped with the planning process, and it was decided to involve some Rotaractors to help out with the execution. The most important factor was the help rendered by our Past President Munir Chinoy; he waived off the charges for hiring the Noorah Al Bassam Auditorium in the Anjuman-i-Islam Campus, which resulted in a saving of Rs 37,000/-. His only request was to make Anjuman-I-Islam a Co-Host for the event, to which I readily agreed.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> Morning, the first school bus to arrive was that of the Jagruti School for Blind Girls, and these enthusiastic young girls were all set for performing their dance and skit. The Registration Desk was manned by the Rotractors. All the schools arrived subsequently and after Breakfast, the event got underway in the presence of the Guest of Honour – Mrs Sheila Mohanrao, the donor. The schools put up dances and skits on the themes of Child Labour, Mobile Addiction as well as patriotic dances and songs. The cultural programme was followed by the Inter Club Debate; it was heartening to see the young students speaking confidently, without notes, and expressing their opinions. After a sumptuous lunch the children were divided into mixed groups and played some indoor games organized by the Rotractors. DG Manjoo Phadke gave a stirring speech, motivating the children to continue their Interact activities, and asked the Rotractors to visit these clubs during their meetings. On completion of the event all the Interactors were presented a Bag and a Water Bottle each, and sent home with a packet of eats for their return journey. The Water Bottles were graciously sponsored by Rtn. Delshad Karanjia.

I would like to place on record my thanks to Rtns PP Dr. Nasir Kazi, PE Brig PKM Raja, Delshad Karanjia, Nandita Khaire, Madhavi Kshetry, Ashish Goyal, Oni Kakajiwala and R'Anns Dipti Chitnis, Noorjahan Kazi, Jasma Asher, Nafisa Kakajiwala, and President IWC Hutokshi Pundole for their presence and help during the event. Rtns Anil Bora and Minal Kering were a great help in the planning process. Mrs Sakina Bedi, the Mentor of Jagruti School is always the driving force for the girls from Jagruti and was present for the event, and also one of the judges for the debate. Mrs Radhika Dalvie, the Campus Director of Anjuman-I-Islam kindly agreed to be the Convener of the Event, and was a solid support throughout. All the Interact Teachers who prepared the children for various activities need to be lauded for their active participation. Most of all thanks are due to our Past President Munir Chinoy, who not only gave us the hall without any charges and being present from the very beginning till everyone had left. In the end there was a feeling of satisfaction amongst all the organisers, mainly because the children had enjoyed themselves and went home happy.



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## She Can and She Will – An appeal

One of our star projects this year, this Women Empowerment project, under the stewardship of Rtn. PE Brig PKM Raja, is continuing to grab eyeballs. There has been a lot of coverage in the media, both Marathi and English Newspapers have carried article about this project. Some of the press cuttings are placed below. We now need to make this project sustainable by way of funding. Out of a total requirement of Rs 17.2 Lakhs, we were able to raise Rs 4.75 Lakhs during our Fundraising in September. We need Rs 12.45 Lakhs more for this cause, and that would have to come through members as well as CSR. The fact that this project has caught the attention of the media would ensure a lot of publicity to the CSR partners, and all of us need to make a pitch to any potential CSR partners we know. This is my sincere appeal to all.

- Pres Ajay Chitnis

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### Women boxers' success due to Indian coaches: Chandralal

**Tushar Dutt**  
@timesgroup.com

**Pune:** If there is one person in the boxing fraternity that can claim to have seen the transition of the sport in India, it is Dronacharya awardee D Chandralal.

Having served 38 years with the Sports Authority of India, the Kerala veteran is perhaps the longest-serving boxing coach in India. After retiring from the NIS Patiala job, the former India women's boxing coach has been working as high-performance manager at the Haryana sports department.

The former India youth women's coach is in Pune, albeit, for a different role this time. He will be training selected group of girls under a camp organized by the Rotary Club and Pune City Boxing Association.

"Technically, we had selected eight girls for the camp, but there are almost 50 more who came and requested to attend the camp. We couldn't say no and hence you can see so many young girls and boys outside the ring following the training. It is always a good feeling to connect with the budding boxers. I have been doing this for many years and I can never get enough of it," Chandralal told TOI.

Although he has served as a coach for many years, Chandralal didn't get enough to play when he began.

"I played in four senior nationals, but I come from a state which isn't strong in boxing. But I was very curious to know more about the sport. I used to observe others box and train. My curiosity took me to NIS Patiala, where I wanted to enroll for the trainers' programme, but since I was under-aged, it was difficult.

"But I was allowed to get into the institute for coaching diploma and I spent rest of my life there," he said.

Chandralal has worked with many Indian and foreign coaches, and he feels earlier Indians had reservations about working with the foreigners. "When the foreign coaches started coming in for men's boxing, everybody thought that Indian coaches knew better, and hence the Indian coaches used to fight with them. But I felt they knew many things that we didn't have exposure to. I went to Hungary in 1999 on a scholarship of IOC to study more about boxing and I realized there was a lot to learn from others."

However, the retired coach feels the credit for women's boxing's success should solely go to Indian coaches. "In men's boxing, we were nowhere in the fray till we won the Olympic medal through Vijender. But when we talk about women's boxing, we started with the rest of the world in the early 2000s. Women boxers always had Indian coaches and we proved our mettle by producing many world champions," he said. "I can say that in women's boxing, foreign coaches haven't done anything. It is only the Indian coaches who have worked on them and got the success."

Chandralal retired from the Indian team in 2018 and has been working with young boxers ever since. He was conferred the Dronacharya award in 2007.

# आंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रशिक्षकाकडून मुलींना बॉक्सिंगचे धडे

**'शी कॅन अँड शी विल' उपयोजना अंतर्गत असलेले आंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रशिक्षक डॉ. चंद्रलाल यांचा सन्मान कालाजा मध्यवर्ग**

**पुणे :** पुढारी वृत्तसेवा

कोविची लघुची वसताद झोडा संकुल येथे पुरवताल मुली आंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रशिक्षक द्रोणाचार्य पुरस्कारविजेते डॉ. चंद्रलाल यांच्याकडून बॉक्सिंगचे धडे घेत आहेत. रेस्टो क्लब, पुणे मंडळ आणि पुणे अर्थ बॉक्सिंग संघटना यांच्या संयुक्त विद्यमाने 'शी कॅन अँड शी विल' हा उपयोजने अंतर्गत बॉक्सिंग उपयोजना अंतर्गत असलेले आंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रशिक्षक डॉ. चंद्रलाल यांचा सन्मान कालाजा मध्यवर्ग.

कायमिरी केले.

या उपयोजनेकडे पुणे शहरातील खेळाडू यांच्या गुणवत्तेचे थर चढवून देण्यासाठी आयोजित करण्यात आलेल्या कायमिरी पुणे शहराच्या बॉक्सिंग विभागाचे उद्घाटन करताना उपस्थित असलेले आंतरराष्ट्रीय प्रशिक्षक डॉ. चंद्रलाल यांचा सन्मान कालाजा मध्यवर्ग.

कारणाचा प्रशिक्षकासोबत शिवाय काम करणारा सैमी पुणे शहरातील सर्व प्रशिक्षकांना सैमी शहरातील अखत्यारीत सहकारितेने सर्व बॉक्सिंग यांचा भविष्यात लाभ होईल, असा विचारता पुणे शहर बॉक्सिंग संघटनेचे कार्याध्यक्ष अजय चितनिस.

वार्डचे सैमी व्यवस्त केला, या चेजे रेस्टोचे निर्दिष्टीत सुरक्षितता राजा, अक्रश अर्थ वित्तियत, थर अर्थियता संघटनेचे मदन गारी, निमय गुर, अर्थीक मिशनचे, अर्थियत पुणे शहर, अर्थीक मोशनचे अर्थी वित्तियत सेते.

By Pune Edition  
Dec 20, 2023 Page No. 2  
newspaper.pudhari.co.in

Pune Mirror  
Sunday, December 17, 2023

## Packing a Powerful Punch

**Rotary Club organises boxing camp under 'She Can and She Will' initiative to train aspiring female pug**

**Prince Chaudhary**  
@timesgroup.com

**F**or the 18-year-old aspiring pugilist Prajwalika Lakshmi, the recent 10-day 'She Can and She Will' boxing camp at the 100% sports hall in Pune was an opportunity to hone up her boxing skills. Lakshmi, who is a state-level level athlete, won the state-level title in the 51 kg category at the national level, respectively and with a medal at the national level.

Lakshmi's father is involved with her and her mother. She and her mother live with their mother who is a contract worker in a government hospital. She was one of the girls who requested to join the camp organized by the Rotary Club of Pune Central (RCPC) from December 11 to December 15 as part of an ongoing project for women.

Aimed at providing exposure to high performance training to girls selected under the programme 'She Can and She Will', the camp was enthusiastically participated in by aspiring boxers who received guidance from Dronacharya awardee coach D Chandralal, a former national coach of the Indian Women's boxing team. He is currently associated with the Haryana sports department.

The camp commenced with a comprehensive

to paper the participants' baseline levels of endurance, speed, agility, strength, and flexibility. These assessments included a series of tests, including 5km sprint, sit-up test, hand and reach test, muscular test and isometric test.

The camp was attended by aspiring boxers from the city, including Vandana Kulkarni, Anjali Joshi, Swati Chougale, Riya Jure, Sonita Suryawanshi, Sarada Shri Suryawanshi and Harshada Lakat. In addition, 25 boys and girls from the Pune City Boxing Association joined camp as well.

The fourth day witnessed a full contact sparring session. The day was graced by the presence of the club's board of directors. Distinguished attendees included Commissioner Ajay Chitnis (president, RCPC), Brigadier PKM Raja (member, RCPC), Ravi Kapoor (director - CSR projects, RCPC), Madhu Khetkar (joint secretary, RCPC)

as the coach during India's visit to Bangladesh in 2004.

RCPC has collaborated with the Haryana Boxing Association to ensure the girls receive the best coaching in both national level competitions.

"Under the 'She Can and She Will' initiative, we hope to provide the girls with the best coaching and support them to become world-class athletes. This camp is a great start towards that goal. We will continue to provide the girls with the best coaching and support them to become world-class athletes."

The camp has been highly successful, with the girls showing significant improvement in their skills and fitness levels. The camp will continue to provide the girls with the best coaching and support them to become world-class athletes.

## *Annual Christmas Party for Children with Special Abilities*

Rotary Club of Pune Central along with Inner Wheel Club of Pune Central organized its 16th Christmas party for differently abled children this year on December 17, 2023, at the Ladies Club, Camp. As in the past, Former Rtn. PP Munir Chinoy and Rtn. Anil Bora arranged this fun-filled evening with active support from the Inner Wheel Club of Pune Central. A large number of organizations sent their children to attend the party. There were mentally challenged children and adults from Navkshitij, hearing and speech impaired children from the Bharari and Hadapsar Schools, and visually impaired students and orphans from Eklavya Foundation.

Music, dancing, a photo booth, balloon circus, and a magic show kept the children entertained. Ms. Parinaz Vaz, daughter of Rtn. Cawas and R'Ann Hutokshi Pundole, had set up a stall for food craft and art. Cookies and biscuits were painted with food colours and distributed to the children.

The entry of Santa Claus (Rtn. Oni Kakajiwala) added to the fun and excitement as he distributed sweets and cookies to the children and became the "Social Integrator" for the evening, binding all ages and backgrounds with a common bond.

The evening ended with a sumptuous spread of food consisting of noodles, fried rice, and veg Manchurian for the main course, and gulab jamuns with ice creams for dessert. At the end of the afternoon, each child left the venue with a gift handed over by members of Rotary Club of Pune Central and Inner Wheel Club of Pune Central.

RCPC members who volunteered and attended included Rtn. Pres. Ajay Chitnis, Rtn. Anil Bora, Rtn. Oni Kakajiwala, Rtn. Cawas Pundole, Rtn. Delshad Karanjia, Rtn. Dr. Shashi Saxena, Rtn. Amita Munot, Rtn Vanita Bajaj, R'Ann Nafisa Kakajiwala, R'Ann Suchi Bhargava, R'Ann Hutokshi Pundole, R'Ann Hina Shah and Inner Wheel members...

Our heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed, aided, and supported the organisers in making this annual endeavour a great success. Special thanks to:

- Rtn. Anil Bora and former Rtn. PP Munir Chinoy for their meticulous attention to detail.
- Pres. Hutokshi Pundole and her Inner Wheel Club of Pune Central members for gifts to the children, sponsoring the event planner, and for their presence in large numbers to show their support.
- The Management of the Ladies Club for generously allowing the use of their large hall free of cost.
- Mr. Bharda, Manager of Ladies Club, for all the arrangements and facilities in the hall.
- The caterer, Mr. Satish Shetty, for sponsoring the food for the 15th year in a row.
- Ms. Tina Yadav, for her enthusiasm in making the children fully involved and for choreographing the evening.
- All members and R'Anns from RCPC who devoted their afternoon and evening for the program.
- Gajanan and Hari from RCPC Office.

Not only was this a special day for the children but their smiles and happy faces made it a special day for each one of us.

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## From the Editor

Contributions from Rotarians, R'Anns and spouses are welcome! If you have an anecdote, a joke, a poem or painting or anything interesting, please feel free to mail to [vipenm56@gmail.com](mailto:vipenm56@gmail.com) with cc to Gajanan.

## Next in line

- **December 30** — New Year Holiday
- **January 7 (Sunday)** — 40<sup>th</sup> Club Birthday Celebration followed by Fellowship

## Birthdays & Anniversaries



### Rtn / R'Ann

R'Ann Shruti Jindal  
R'Ann Kiran Pallod  
Rtn. Juhi Mathur  
R'Ann Shweta Vijaivergia  
Rtn. Payal Rajpal  
R'Ann Rajashree Shah  
R'Ann Priyanka Banerjee  
Rtn. Jeevan Mahaldar  
R'Ann Ruby Jhunhunwala

### Birthday

December 17  
December 18  
December 19  
December 19  
December 21  
December 25  
December 28  
December 31  
January 3



### Member and Spouse

Rtn. Pradeep and R'Ann Deepa Dharane  
Rtn. Mukund and R'Ann Kokila Sheth  
Rtn. Anil and R'Ann Mangal Bora  
Rtn. Sunil and R'Ann Jasma Asher  
Rtn. PP Arvind and Rtn. Vidya Saraf  
Rtn. Pradip and R'Ann Nirmala Keluskar

### Wedding Anniversary

December 17  
December 18  
December 24  
December 27  
December 28  
January 1