



BASELINE BUZZ

THE OFFICIAL TTC NEWS FEED

Special 4-page edition - 9 NOVEMBER 2025

WINDS OF CHANGE BLOWING FAVOURABLY, SAYS PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

I am happy to be addressing you in this special edition of Baseline Buzz, the newsletter that we are all now familiar with. This is perhaps a good time to review where we stand and where we hope to be in the coming months.



We are about a third of the way through our term as office bearers, and I must say that this EC has re-written the script and stemmed the trend of Cash losses, as seen in our half yearly audited accounts. A big cheer primarily to Suresh for his efficiency in managing resources and delegating wisely. It's also great that Sudeep and team have actually managed to get the April-Sept financials audited, which gives you a preview of our fiscal health, and gives us an opportunity to course-correct if necessary. We feel the winds of change are blowing favorably.

Tennis activities have perked up, trainee numbers have gone up and coaching team strengthened, thanks to the efforts of Visakh and the tennis sub committee with guidance from senior members. A spate of tennis tournaments have been approved, this is the result of our team mending fences with TDTA and KTA. We now have a head pro in Gulshan and are adding other qualified trainers. The drive to enroll juniors to learn tennis is in full swing. Our coaches and court staff have risen to the occasion especially during tournaments.

We have got 4 new clubs affiliated with us, noteworthy among them are Indiranagar Club and Secunderabad Club, thanks to the efforts of our members Harish Haridas and Varghese Jacob respectively.

My appreciation to Billu, Ranjit, Sriram and Mahesh for overseeing the Restaurant, Rooms, Halls, and Entertainment, all of which have done an about-turn and are no longer a financial drag on the Club. Thanks to all our kitchen staff and waiters for serving us better, and to the Admin group for their wonderful cooperation.

I am particularly eager to get our associate and corporate members to participate in more activities. Several events including in-house and open tournaments for indoor games are being planned by Aji, Manoj and team.

Our mission for the ensuing six months is to take concrete steps toward these following objectives.

- We will strive to improve on our budget for 2025-26 and avoid a cash loss.
- Will present audited accounts and conduct the AGM by 20th May 2026, which will be a first-ever to strictly follow the Club Rules.
- Stabilize the number of tennis trainees at 250-275, streamline the coaching system and provide them opportunities to move up the ranking ladder.
- Endeavour to enrich the experience of all members by encouraging them to involve and be a part of the various events that we will fill our calendar with, in sports, music, culture or just having a fun party.

Of course, maintaining good relationship with the Government remains top priority. The Empowered Committee is hopeful that the Club will be able to soon renew the lease arrangement on a long-term basis.

My special thanks to Mathew Eipe and S Rajeev for bringing out this digital newsletter regularly to keep our members informed and engaged, at zero cost. BB will hopefully remain a buzz word among our members and families.

The Executive Committee thanks our members who have volunteered to help in several fields, and the generosity of organizations who have sponsored and supported activities and events. We continue to seek the cooperation of each one of you in our endeavor to restore the club back to health.

Wishing all of you the very best.
K Nainan Mathew

AIMING AT GREATER HEIGHTS - SECY

Dear friends,



Glad to get this opportunity to communicate with all the Club members. I am able to report that we as a team have been able to do many of the things we aimed at when we took office mid-July. There was so much straightening out to be done, and with the cooperation I received from all quarters we have made a fair start and are looking at achieving greater heights in the coming months.

We have brought some professionalism into the Club's management and introduced best practices wherever possible, particularly in purchase and procurement. One of the positive results is a check on frivolous expenses. We have also managed to raise sponsorship revenues, which will definitely help improve our bottom line.

The number of tennis trainees has increased significantly and we are trying to improve the entire tennis eco system. I hope that our attempts at boosting quality of coaching will become a reality. The number of ranking tournaments has seen an increase. Our relations with the District, State and National associations are now excellent.

Regular entertainment programs and better food from our kitchen have been features of our first four months, and need to be maintained. I urge members to try our new offerings and also give regular feedback.

We took a considered decision to reduce tariffs of our guest rooms and meeting halls. Happy to report that occupancy is showing an upward trend.

I also hope that activation of the Grievance Redressal Committee is a positive step to address member complaints. We will also try and resolve all pending legal cases that the Club was fighting against some members.

A Rules sub-committee has also been set up to suggest any changes or additions, which can be put up to the General Body.

I do not want to dwell on the subject of the Lease issue, except to inform you that we are in constant touch with the Government on this. I have personally met the Revenue secretary, and the Empowered Committee members are also using their good offices to enable a satisfactory resolution.

I thank all EC members for their wonderful support to the office bearers and look forward to continue working with them to complete the task we set out to do.

Regards and best wishes to all members
Er. B Suresh Kumar, Hon Secretary

CASH PROFIT IN Q2 A MILESTONE TURNAROUND, REPORTS TREASURER

Dear members,

Delighted to report that the organised streamlining of our accounting systems and overall financial management of the club ever since we took over have started showing results. We have posted a cash profit of Rs 2.42L in Q2 of 25-26, as compared to an average quarterly loss of Rs 15L in 24-25.



Several areas of leakage have been successfully plugged, leading to stronger fiscal discipline. Most importantly, there is transparency and accuracy in all transactions.

The club's functions and tournaments, which previously operated at marginal or negative balances, are now profitable and contribute positively to our overall financial health. The canteen, once a cause for concern, has been completely revitalized through strict control measures and elimination of pilferage. It now functions as a profit centre, recording a gross profit of 16% in Q2, compared to a loss of 6% in Q1 before we took charge. Similarly, tennis profitability has risen sharply to 60% from 50%, providing a steady revenue stream to support the club's operations.

The cash profit in Q2 is a milestone turnaround after 8 successive quarterly losses from July 2023 to June 2025. For the first time the half-year accounts have been audited. All relevant financial statements and Audit report will reach members shortly.

Although payment of dues by members remains slow, we have maintained a positive cash-flow system by using a line of credit with the Bank, thus avoiding having to touch any fixed deposits.

We are proud to maintain salary payments on the first of each month. A robust credit control system has also been implemented, along with a significant reduction in cash purchases, further strengthening liquidity management and reducing operational risk.

All in all, credit for the turnaround has to go primarily to good intent and application. Cheers!

KV Sudeep, Hon Treasurer

THE MUSKETEERS WHO ARE DRIVING TENNIS DEVELOPMENT



Part of the Tennis Core group and the Coaching team members: (L to R) Prem, Binesh, Sriram, Jayprakash, Visakh, Sudeep (Treasurer), Suresh (Hon Secy), Gulshan (Head Pro), Nithin, Ajith, Rishi, Arun, Ratheesh

MINI TENNIS NOV 14-16

ALL KERALA OPEN CHILDRENS DAY
MINI TENNIS TOURNAMENT
From 14th - 16th November 2025

Conducted by
THE TRIVANDRUM TENNIS CLUB

CATEGORY OF EVENTS

- RED GROUP**
6 Yrs & Under Boys & Girls
(Each play both age group)
- ORANGE GROUP**
8 Yrs & Under Boys & Girls
- GREEN DOT GROUP**
10 Yrs & Under Boys & Girls

TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

- SRI. K. N. MATHEW
President, TTC
- SRI. SURESH KUMAR B.
Hon. Secretary, TTC
- SRI. SURESH K. V.
Hon. Treasurer, TTC
- SRI. PREM MATHEW
Tournament Director
- SRI. VISAKH V. S.
Tennis In Charge

ENTRY FEE
₹500/-

SIGN-IN : 13th Nov 2025 3PM to 4PM
Matches will start at 3pm on 14th November 2025.

Tournament Referee
SRI. GULSHAN KUMAR
Mob : 98885 55198

Tournament Co-ordinators
SRI. NITHIN M.C.
Mob : 86062 43961
SRI. ARUN MOHAN
Mob : 90483 20202

Tournament Calendar Nov 2025 to Mar 2026

- District Selection trials (All categories) Nov 7-9
- All-Kerala Mini Tennis Nov 14-16
- Kerala State Seniors Nov 29-30
- All-Kerala Mini Tennis Dec 6-7
- Hedge-KTA Ranking (U14/16) Dec 13-14
- TOTC (All categories) Dec 22-28
- AITA CS/NS U-14/16 (Nilakanta Pillay) Jan 5-11
- TPTL XI Jan 18-25
- AITA Men's (Chidambara Iyer) Feb 2-9
- All-Kerala Mini Tennis Feb 14-15
- ITF Masters (Seniors) Feb 23-Mar 1
- KG Menon (All categories) Mar 9-15
- AITA TS/CS U-12/14 Mar 23-29

Schedules and nature of events are subject to change

TENNIS COACHING

TRAINEE BASE

Advanced	38
Intermediate	34
Beginners	153
Total	225*

*Numbers are as on 31.10.25 and include 30 in the Community program

AN ODE TO TENNIS BY OUR MEMBER DR AQIB K SHAIK

Advantage Tennis



Advantage Tennis

Now the wind is holding its breath
Noisy Birds swallowed their chirp
Pin drop silence ensues, stage
Perfectly set for the show down.

Sphere of endurance in golden hue
Shears through the still air, music
Begins, players dance to the tune
Baseline to the net, back and forth.

Power and athleticism blend
Poise and artistry to slog it out
Top spin tries to bounce one out
Telling drops and slice test the other.

Someone's hope sails out, rally ends
So the dance and music pause
Audience let out wind of cheers
And players burp out screams.

Noise returns untill the Hawkeyed
Gentleman hoisted at the
Net commands. Back to the
Game as a golden hue rises in the air.

Dr Aqib

OUR PICKLEBALL CHAMPS DOMINATE STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS



Our squad totally rocked the Kerala State Pickleball Championships at the Golf Club! VS Visakh and Preetha Nair celebrated a double whammy of victories. Visakh bagged the Open Men's and 30+ Doubles titles, teaming up with Vineet Nair. Meanwhile, Preetha dazzled with wins in Women's 50+ Singles and Doubles, pairing up with Indira Sudeep. Not to be outdone, Sudeep and Aji claimed the 50+ Men's Doubles, while Mickhael Shiyad aced the Under-14 Singles. Sathy Sreejit (50+ singles) and Reji Verghese (50+ doubles) also put up a good fight, landing as runners-up in their respective categories. Go team!

CLUBBING AND ME



Mathew Eipe
Member, Exec Comm

Clubbing and tennis came to me late in life.

I spent my childhood in Bombay and studied in a 'convent' school – Don Bosco – run by the Salesians, a catholic fraternity with origins in Italy.

The fathers had great foresight and bought a huge tract of land in Matunga. The school had a huge maidan adjacent to the school building and plenty of space for hockey and football (and some cricket). The hockey ground was, over time, upgraded from grass to a synthetic surface, but individual sports like tennis and badminton found no place in the school.

Later, at IIT Powai, there were a couple of tennis courts, but these were cement surface courts, and the balls would wear out pretty fast. Many decades later, my hostel mate Prashant Ranade from the US donated a tennis court to IIT in memory of his late wife, Perlita Ranade.



At the Godrej Hillside Colony in Bombay where I lived, there was a tennis court, but again, with a cement surface. While in Bombay, I was a member of two clubs at different points of time: The Chembur Golf Club and later the Wellington Gymkhana at Haji Ali. Both were corporate memberships. Wellington Gymkhana had a few good tennis courts and I've played there a few times.

It is only after I moved to Trivandrum in 2013 that I started playing tennis regularly. Benjamin and I joined the TTC at around the same time and we would play singles in courts 7, 8 and 9 before they were covered.

Membership at the TTC has given me the opportunity to make many friends from diverse backgrounds and with so many 'stories to tell'. I enjoy the post game coffee breaks where we chat about everything under the sun in 'free flow' conversation.

I am truly inspired by the many senior players at the club, who despite their age, play an excellent game and use 'court craft' to outwit their opponents. I hope that, like them, I can continue to play and enjoy the game for many years to come.

DID YOU KNOW THAT

*TTC was inaugurated on Feb 1, 1938, two days after Trivandrum witnessed an exhibition match featuring 10-time Grand Slam winner Bill Tilden. The match was played at a specially constructed Stadium at the Travancore University (the old name for University of Kerala) in the presence of His Highness Sree Chitra Thirunal, Maharaja of Travancore, and members of the Royal family.

*The Club's first location was at a rented premise in Sasthamangalam. There were two tennis courts, a cement wall for practice and a small 3-room building. Col Goda Varma Raja was the first President. There were 11 members on the opening day, and 9 more members joined in 1938-39. His Highness Sree Chitra Thirunal consented to be patron-in-chief, and HH Sree Elayaraja and HH the First Princess of Travancore as patrons.

*The Raja of Pithapuram, President of All India Lawn Tennis Association, became the first Honorary Member of the Club in 1939.

*It was in 1949-50 that the then Travancore-Cochin Government, with the late KG Menon as Chief Secretary, granted the 4.27 acres of land at Kowdiar on free lease till 1975. The lease was extended later by the Govt of Kerala till 2025.

*The Club House construction was completed in August 1953, 2000 sq ft at a cost of Rs 1 lakh that was met entirely by contributions from prominent individuals in South Kerala. Life members were admitted at a fee of Rs 1000/-. The present version of the building was inaugurated in 1989.

*TTC was registered as a Charitable Society in 1982, when Dr PP Paulose was President and P Sreekumar was Hon Secretary.

*Our Court 1 hosted a Davis Cup tie in May 1966. India beat Ceylon in that Eastern Zone fixture. The Club has also organised several international events like the WTA Women's, ITF Satellite Men's, and ITF Masters.

*Apart from legends like Tilden and Henri Cochet, who figured in exhibition matches, Alex Metreveli, Ille Nastase, Ion Tiriac, Ramanathan Krishnan, Vijay and Anand Amritraj were some of the world's top modern players who have graced our courts for competitive matches.

*The Club got its first 2 synthetic courts in 1996-97, with courts 5 and 6 being converted from clay, when MR Ramesh was the Hon Secretary.

*It was for the National Games of 2015 that the Government invested in creating the roofed infrastructure and 3 additional synthetic courts, although TTC was designated only as a practice facility to supplement the main tennis venue at Kumarapuram, where the Government had set up its own new Centre.

DIWALI CELEBRATED IN TRUE FESTIVE SPIRIT

It was an enchanting evening filled with soulful ghazals and retro melodies by the ever-talented Padmakumar and his sons, performing across a delightful mix of genres as the Club lit up the festival of lights in true TTC style on 19th October. Members, families and friends enjoyed their favourite aperitifs and cocktails as the music lifted their spirits to another level. There were fun breaks at the Lucky 7 counter and for Tambola, cheerfully hosted by our Women's Forum. It was truly a Diwali evening to remember, filled with music, laughter, and festive cheer.



WHEN TTC BEAT THE RAIN GODS

Overcoming heavy rain all through the week, it was a testimony to the robust TTC infrastructure and support team that all the events of the Godrej-sponsored Sri Chitra State Championships were completed with just a day's overrun. KSEB Chairman Minhaj Alam, IAS, was the Chief guest at the finale on Oct 26.



ALL THE SINGLES WINNERS & RUNNERS-UP

MEN - Arun Raj JS / Ephinoah Oommen
WOMEN - Sreejana Thapa / AR Sreelakshmi
BOYS U-18 - Ephinoah Oommen / Sreenath VS
GIRLS U-18 - Sreelakshmi / Maria Nehal Mathew
BOYS U-16 - Sreenath VS / Mikhael Shiyad
GIRLS U-16 - Maria Nehal Mathew / M Pavithra
BOYS U-14 - Mikhael Shiyad / SD Abhinav
GIRLS U-14 - Ananya Binoy / Aishwarya Sajeer
BOYS U-12 - Prithvi Vivek / Neil K Mathew
GIRLS U-12 - Aishwarya Sajeer / Nithulya Nitheesh

715 MEMBERS NOW ON OUR ROLLS

	<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>As on 17.6.25</u>	<u>As on 21.10.25</u>
1	Life Members	109	112
2	Honorary Members	7	7
3	Members	194	190
4	Sr Associate Members	83	86
5	Associate Members	166	163
6	Spouse Members	36	36
7	Family Members	54	60
8	Temporary Members	3	3
9	Service Members	0	0
10	Student Members	9	9
11	Morning Members	6	10
12	Corporate Members	39	39
	Total no of members	706	715

Hon. members: Ramanathan Krishnan, Vijay Amritraj, Ramesh Krishnan and Leander Paes are among the Club's Hon. members

ABEL, ANANYA WIN AITA CS3 UNDER-14

Our budding stars gained valuable ranking points after an intensive 3 days of competition at the first-ever AITA CS3 event held at TTC last week.



Boys' final
 Abel George bt
 Mikhael Shiyad

Girls' final
 Ananya Binoy
 bt Saadhana
 Sampath

3RD ANNIVERSARY OF A LAUDABLE PROJECT

Every Tuesday, come rain or sunshine, for the last 3 years, a group of differently-abled children has been coming to our courts without fail for 2 hours of fun, some gentle tennis and light exercises.

An initiative taken in Nov 2022 by the then TTC Hon Secretary R Jayprakash, this community service project is in association with Samagra Siksha Kerala, and aims at improving the physical and emotional health of these children from different Government schools.

