Dear Dosco

Pull up those socks, shine those shoes and dust off that blazer because it’s Founder’s Day! Every ‘skrich’ and ‘krich’ of bajri is but onomatopoeic punctuation in a flood of Chandbagh-burbling memories. I can’t walk past the Kilachand Library without remembering how we broke into it one night from Tata house, just for a lark (it wasn’t to steal books that’s for sure). Or walk past the former music school and not remember ghost stories of everlit-candles by graves, the awesome ‘mashal’ man and the chudels who inhabited Jaipur House’s lychee trees farther afield. The buildings always seem smaller and neater, and the boys, never as put upon as we seemed to be. But I guess perspective and cantankerousness are the hard won badges of the ‘old’ boy. Take selfies with impunity (and send us some), dress up for Pagal Gymkhana, and ponder how this campus inducted you into that tribe we call Dosco.

The Founder’s issue is always tricky. Emotions run high; bad singing voices run higher. Everyone wants a memory or seven of masters, nostalgia, mid-terms and runny egg omelettes. Well, it took over a year to get, but I managed to get Yuvraj Talwar to corner former headmaster Shomie Das in Dehradun for a lengthy gupshup. And that’s not all, Mr Das happened to have a special diary in his possession: that of his famous founding grandfather – SR Das. Consider the axioms the senior Das reproduced in his diaries from 1885-86 on self-reliance and morality, in that slender cursive writing. Were his hopes far off the mark? Did you become a living example of the words he committed to paper?

"Of all the elements of success, none is more vital than self-reliance - a determination to be one's own helper and not to look to others for support."

We have a host of Doscos to be proud of in this issue. Several have won accolades in their work, others undertake great social responsibility, selflessly, and others yet receive honours from institutions and countries near and far. But to top it all, literally, is Ankur Bahl who becomes the first Dosco to climb Everest. After a near-fatal start last year, Ankur goes back to Everest this year, all to keep his promise of a story for the Rose Bowl (I wish). This issue is also the ‘Doscos in the Limelight’ edition – a showcase of some of the young whippersnappers who inhabit our living rooms, our playlists, our theatres and our magazines. They make up the zeitgeist of the Dosco in the larger world, and despite the constant public attention, one characteristic ties them all together, and proudly I can claim that to be: humility.

Nothing says Founder’s Day like a short, sharp whack from an old master (thankfully in the form of spirited anecdotes at this age) so what
a joy it is to reminisce with Janajit Ray, our dear English teacher who is remembered for feeding this Dosco and friends, past midnight, with hand-cut chips (thank you Mrs Rupu Ray!) during our board exams. Nalni Jayal writes in on V Charry, Toby Dhar shares his memories of RL Holdsworth, Shomie tells us about Foot and Martyn and Arijit Banerji takes us on an enlightening journey of chemistry, despite a churlish teacher who nearly put him off it for life.

I’d like to welcome Abhimanyu Singhi and Faiz Tajuddin to the editorial board of the Rose Bowl, and thank them for all their help so far. Abhimanyu even got Mastermind India winner, Old Boy and former math teacher at Doon, Ajai Banerji to put together a Founder’s Day quiz for all of you. Lots of googlies in there, but please, no Googling!

One story stands out for me in this issue, and that is from a Dosco who is a professor at a nigh-impoverished state university in the US. He makes a sobering case for why we should be proud and humble about the experiences Doon gives, and affords us. Take a moment to ponder that story, give thanks, and then see you at President’s for a bucket of butter chicken and a truckload of naan.

Spirit forth Dosco!

Govind Dhar
192 T, 1997

Blast from the past!
The 1976 Batch celebrates 40 years’ of school leaving

Letter to the Editor

Dear Govind

Although what I am writing dates back to 1952 or 53, the entire episode is so vividly inscribed on my mind that I can recall even the minutest detail. It was the spring term and the Inter-house cricket tournament was on. Dandi, who was the spearhead of our batting and bowling force in Juniors 1, had contracted flu. You might say all hell broke loose. To say that a pall set in over the entire house would be a mild understatement. After all, we were playing Hyderabad house, our arch rivals for the Juniors Cup. To be without Brahmanand Singh would be like a submarine without a torpedo. Fortunately, this happened on a Saturday afternoon so we could keep it under wraps. Had he missed school the word would have been out that Dandi was out of the match. We had to keep the Dame, Miss Mati, in the dark too, as otherwise she would have hurled him off to the sick room. Or even worse – to the School Hospital! Just the thought sent shivers down our backs.

At around five in the evening, Dandi was fed with several doses of the infamous coryza mixture (a favourite of Dr Sikand) surreptitiously procured from the ‘Hospi’ with the connivance of Shafi and Mohan Singh, two kind-hearted bearers of the hospital. As night set in, considerable efforts were underway to keep Dandi warm from bitter cold that was gradually replacing the nippy evening. It was decided to fortify Dandi’s two blankets with additional cover, and volunteers were sought to sacrifice ‘razais’ and blankets for the sake of Tata House cricket! True to the cause (read True as Steel) seven blankets and four razais were offered to ensure we won the Juniors Cup. When these additional supplies were loaded upon Dandi, a new complication arose. Dandi was having breathing difficulties! After much consideration, we decided that four blankets and two razais would do.

While the seniors held court about future proceedings, we the youngsters were asked to standby and fetch water and refill cups of coryza mixture. The night passed without any serious setbacks. As the first bell rang the next morning, Dandi opened his eyes and smiled weakly. We were thrilled. It meant Dandi could deliver his fiery opening overs with speed and gusto, and also dispatch to the ropes anything bowled at him. News spread through Tata House, that the captain of Juniors 1 was ready to take on Raibir Singh’s (4 H) team in right earnest.

As expected, the match was tightly fought. Dandi took four wickets and scored a gallant 41 not out, as he ran out of partners. Tata house won the juniors cricket cup, beating H house by eight runs. But alas the storm clouds had not entirely blown over. Our dame, the generously-built Miss Mati had come to know about Dandi’s tryst with destiny the previous night, and threatened to report it to Sister Pearce at the hospital. It took the house captain and cricket captain several sessions of pleading to defuse her penchant for discipline. Dandi survived any strictures and we all celebrated the cup with an enormous gateaux desesrt, created especially by the kind (though strict) Miss Mati.

Well I met Dandi nearly 40 years later while on an official visit to Dehradun. I went to Chandbagh, where he was Financial Controller I think, and he’d accomplished much good for the school. Everyone who knew him will remember him as a kind-hearted, affectionate and ready-to-help boy who never hurt anyone. Perhaps his rustic background (he came from Faizabad) had a lot to do with it. Urbanites don’t always blend with nature so completely as Brahmanand did. His simplicity was so profoundly reflected in his brilliance both in academics as well as sports.

The fact that after nearly 60 years and more, I still remember this particular incident, is in itself an acknowledgement of the respect and awe in which we held this man. My older brother Arun Mukherjee (213 T) referred warmly to Dandi whenever we spoke about School. Thanks Govind for allowing me to write this piece about a childhood hero. Someday I will put pen to paper about how the concept of ‘EB’ was coined by Holdy, especially in regard to Brahmanand Singh.

Ashim Kumar Mukherjee
44 T, 1958
R C Bhargava (154 T, 1948) was awarded the Padma Bhushan by the President of India earlier this year. This is in addition to his receipt of the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star, by the Emperor of Japan. Both awards have been toward Mr Bhargava’s work leading Maruti and the Indian automotive industry. Taaliyaan all round!

Shatrujit “Shorty” Singh (564 T, 1980) was awarded France’s highest civilian award the Chevalier de la Legion d’Honner on March 17th this year. One hopes that came with Champagne. Salut mon ami!

Samrath Bedi (471 T, 1993) was named amongst the ‘50 Most Influential Young Indians’ by GQ magazine for his steering of Forest Essentials. Smashing stuff Sam!

Alok “Owly” Ahuja (741 K, 1980) and Rajeev Sikund (580 K, 1980) were awarded ‘Icons of Health’ awards by The Times of India on May 29th this year. Dr Ahuja even scored an accolade from the Garhwal Post with an ‘Outstanding Achievement’ award. Our most hale and hearty congrats to both batch of 80-ers!

Vandan Shah (729 H, 1980) was given the ‘Emerging Entrepreneur’ award by India Today magazine in June this year for his work with Sipra Engineers and automotive die casters. Congratulations Vandan!

Shivinder Singh (406 J, 1993) was conferred with an honorary doctorate degree by the prestigious Chitkara University. The Governor of Punjab and Haryana presided over the ceremony. A huge congratulations to Shivi and the clan for this superb honour!

Randhir Singh (508 H, 1994) whose work graced the April issue this year, won an award in the visual design-interiors photography category of Home & Design Trends magazine. Randhir’s first exhibition at the Pondicherry Photo festival with PHOTOINK exhibited his Water Towers series from August -September this year. Well done Randhir!

Mohit Agarwal (214 K, 1997) has moved to Los Angeles to take up a new job on the 'buyside' with Distressed Capital Management, and for a bit of corporate management at the parent company Plutos Sama. Doscos in the area shout out to Mohitk_Agarwal@yahoo.com.
BIRTHS

Varun Chadha (451 H, 2000) and Bani welcomed Ummed into the world on March 14th. Congrats guys!

Arush Sogani (600 H, 2000) and Disha have been blessed with a baby girl on October 17th, 2015. Happy first birthday Dinaira! Well done both of you!

Amit Verma (486 H, 2000) and Radhika have been blessed with a baby girl on March 15th. The have named her Adira. Shabaash and taaliyaan!

Karan Badhwar (7 H, 2002), son of Sangeeta and Tilak Badhwar (178 H, 1966) has been blessed with a baby boy, Ayaan on May 23rd in Dubai. Congrats to wife Nirali and the clan!

Abhishek Singh (150 K, 2003) and his wife Manisha were blessed with a daughter Tarani on April 15th. Heartiest congratulations to them and Nalini and Amrendra Nath Singh (34 K, 1964) on the arrival!

OBITUARIES

Bhupendra Nath Bhagat (143 H, 1941), father of Arvind Krishna Bhagat (637 K, 1988) passed away on August 26th. Our heartfelt condolences go out to all members of their family. Arvind can be contacted at arvind@bhagats.com.

Shravan Swarup (113 K, 1950) passed away on Saturday August 20th. He was the elder brother of Govind Swarup (242 K, 1967) and father of Harsh Swarup (663 K, 1981). Our deepest condolences go out to his wife Asha and the Swarup family.

Rajiv Lal (103 K, 1966) passed away on August 12th. Our heartfelt condolences go out to his wife Sunanda, son Raghav (523 K, 2001) and daughter Aparna. May he rest in peace.

Our deepest condolences go out to Gautam Thapar (200 H, 1979) and Karan Thapar (63 H, 1973) whose father Brij Mohan Thapar passed away on September 12th. May his soul rest in peace.

R S Wallia passed away on Aug 30th. He was 79 and had been ailing for some time. Mr Wallia worked at Doon from 1970 to 1998. He joined as the catering manager in 1970, taking charge of the Central Dining Hall (CDH) which started in 1971, when the era of the house dining room came to an end. Our heartfelt condolences go out to his wife, and sons, Vikramjit (604 K, 1995) and Sarabjit (60 K, 1996). He will be missed, and remembered by many.
Luxurious stays.
Unforgettable moments.

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Arte Central Park, Call: +91 820 4216666 | Email: gstrel.artemnipal@1589hotels.com | www.1589hotels.com
New York Chapter Dinner

Amit Sawhney again hosted the annual drinks and dinner for the New York chapter on June 29th. This year we bade farewell to outgoing HM Peter McLaughlin and his wife Elizabeth McLaughlin, who were also present. The event got louder and more fun as the evening progressed, on a balmy summer evening in the Big Apple with friends, fun, Kwal toffs, Scotch and butter chicken...all the ingredients that make for a great Dosco get-together!
President's Dinner

Tandee, Geetanjalei (the hostess), Rishab, Samir, Donny, Avneesh Sangwan

Matthew Raggett, Bull, RPN, Arun Kapur

Mrs Chopra, Apurva Agarwal, Vishal Sinha, Mrs Pammi Sharma

Between bites, words of wisdom from Arun Kapur

Pammi and Sheel Sharma, Melly and Laxmi

Thanks RPN for a job well done

The Presidents’ Collegium: Pushpinder Chopra, Bhai Manjit Singh, Vijay Kapur, Dhruv Sawhney, Jaswinder Singh Bull (VP)

Puneet Sharma, Rishabh, Vivek Sehgal, Donny, Avneesh Sangwan

Vivek Seth, Valentina Trivedi

Jaswinder Singh Bull and Geetanjalei, Sonia and RPN Singh
A dinner hosted by The Collegium of Presidents, the Vice-President & the Executive Committee as a farewell for RPN Singh, President DSOBS and other outgoing EC members, and to welcome the new Headmaster Mathew Raggett
It is with much sadness we learned that our batch mate Harsh Bhargava (25 H) passed away unexpectedly on June 3rd in San Jose, California. He is survived by his mother Vimla, his wife Rita, his daughter Vani, and his son Yash.

Harsh was born in Rewari and after School went on to complete a master’s degree in Statistics from Lucknow University and an MBA from San Jose State University. He was a chartered and financial accountant by profession.

We recall Harsh as being diligent, punctual and law-abiding, resulting in him being awarded the fewest yellow cards among us. In his final year he was appointed School Prefect for his contributions to the house and the School, including serving in the School XI hockey team as goalkeeper.

Aero-modelling was Harsh’s passion at School. He messed around with small 5cc and 7.5cc engines that ran on a mixture of ether and kerosene oil. It kept him engrossed for hours on end. Getting those engines to work, while being attached to a workbench, required immense persistence. When the engines worked, the whining sound they made was deeply satisfying. Very occasionally, when he succeeded in getting his model planes to fly without immediately crashing to the ground, the sheer joy on his face was indescribable — probably comparable to what the Wright Brothers looked like when they achieved manned flight.

With his mechanical skills, he was the first boy at School to succeed in building a working model hovercraft in his penultimate year. This was quite an achievement given that the hovercraft was debuted only a decade earlier, in the mid-1950s in the UK.

Harsh had some amusing idiosyncrasies. In the mid-to-late 1960s when most of his batch mates were into The Beatles, he remained loyal to Elvis. Every day without fail he would Brylcreem his hair into a two-inch high puff above his forehead, that made him look taller. He enhanced his Elvis look by wearing tighter trousers than the rest of us — no mean feat given the extra time it required for him to get into them while maintaining his excellent record for punctuality. His good behavior also meant he did not have to wrestle those tight trousers off during changes-in-break, which the rest of us on blue or yellow cards frequently suffered in our junior years.

Harsh enjoyed being well-dressed especially during Socials with Welham Girls. Some of us recall that even during our final ISC exams, he was perfectly attired while the rest of us could not care less what we looked like. For good measure, Harsh gave himself an extra dousing of strong smelling Brut cologne. Clearly there were no girls to impress in the exam hall, but it probably boosted his self-esteem. His exam results would testify to this, despite his scent irritating the hell out of those of us sitting closest to him during exams.

A fine, upright person bearing malice to none, Harsh will be dearly missed by his loving family and friends throughout the world.
Mr RS Wallia passed away on August 30th. Having joined school in 1970, he was involved with the design and commissioning of the Central Dining Hall, which remains a watershed moment in Doon history for the big leap from house dining halls. He ran the CDH as the man-in-charge of what Doscos ate, till 1998.

Though most Doscos would have interacted with Mr Wallia during meal times when on his rounds in the hall, for bricks of ice cream at a birthday treat, or for asking favour with house feast menus, I got to know him outside of the CDH. One reason was our common interest in cricket and his house being open to boys for watching the one-day matches live (still a novelty in the 1980s). We would often place bets for fun, irrespective of the outcome. Notwithstanding, I was usually the beneficiary to extra treats from the day’s rations in his office cabin in the CDH. The second way I got to know Mr Wallia was when the kitchen staff went on strike in 1986. Not wanting to be held ransom by the walk-out, Mr Wallia assured Headmaster Ramchandani that the kitchen would run as usual. He rallied 15 boys, masters’ wives and a few hired cooks to run the CDH flawlessly till the staff returned. “The show must go on,” he would keep telling us.

Beyond his role in managing the CDH and his expertise in food and catering for everything from chhota haazri to Golden Night, Mr Wallia was a very interesting person. He was an avid reader and a very well-travelled man who’d seen the world. He was very knowledgeable about, and interested in the outdoors and adventure too. Mr Wallia was one of the first few gents from School to have rafted the Ganga in the early years of rafting, and had travelled all over Ladakh on his scooter.

Mr Wallia’s health had been deteriorating in the last few years and he passed away peacefully in his house in Prem Nagar, not far from School in Dehradun. Condolences to Mrs Wallia and their sons Vikramjit (604 K, 1995) and Sarabjit (60 K, 1996). He will be missed!
Anant Tyagi works as a football anchor, commentator and producer with Star Sports. He hosts a number of shows including their flagship football show Let’s Football. He also does Hindi and English live commentary for Indian Sports League and other football tournaments.

We have a number of Doscos in media but few in sports media. How and why did you choose this field?

Sports is probably the easiest thing to be passionate about. We have all stayed up late nights and woken up early to catch our favourite teams and stars in action. I was no different growing up and I just took it a step further by studying it passionately. I always wanted to be a sports media broadcaster but had no clue how to get there. I got a few degrees in media and management and made sure the focus in both degrees remained on sport. I continued studying sport as a hobby and luckily Star Sports came calling. I started as a football commentator covering the Premier League across the 20 stadiums in England and then moved back to India to work more closely with Indian football and the Indian Super League.

We see the glamourous side to your job but what is it like behind the scenes?

It is all about three things: Focused research, tireless practice and personal well-being that includes fitness and ample rest. There is no end to the amount you can invest in all three.

How did school prepare you for this?

School set sporting benchmarks. It gave me the ambition to strive for awards like the Games Blazer and Gentleman Sportsman of the Year. In the process, it also gave deep insights into what goes on in the mind of a sports professional. It was this exposure to sports that gave me the ability to choose it as a career with some degree of confidence.

How did you get here?

The career path was rather topsy-turvy. After School I got a degree in economics and a double Masters in media and management. I got a job as a business analyst at British Gas in England.
and was quite unhappy there, always looking at moving to the world of media. I was at a curry house in London where I luckily met some people from ESPN Star Sports who were doing a talent hunt for football commentators. I auditioned for the role and lucked out.

**How does India rank as a footballing nation?**

When you look at Indian football in the 50s and 60s we were right up there with the world heavyweights. It’s just unfortunate that our infrastructure and interest did not grow the way it did in Europe, South America and other parts of Asia. The aspirational value for cricket as a result was always going to be higher than football. The Indian Super League is looking to change all of that. It works both at the grassroots level as well as the top tier of Indian football. In only two seasons, the groundwork and infrastructure building has resulted in the national team winning the SAFF Cup final against a superior side like Afghanistan, with several ISL stars performing well. Coupled with this is the exposure Indian players get to marquee players, managers and international stars who rub shoulders with them in the ISL. All of this bodes well for the future and we have to back Indian football to come out of its extended doldrums, one step at a time.

**When do we get to see you covering the EPL with John Dykes (lead anchor for sports broadcasting of the English Premier League)?**

Honestly, no one can replace the inimitable John Dykes. He’s one of the few presenters globally who does not use auto-cue or a teleprompter, something we strive to achieve as presenters in Star Sports as well. I have worked very closely with him but it is virtually impossible to replicate his craft. I do hope, however, that I can make a small but significant contribution to the way Indian football is perceived. Let’s hope we take similar pride in talking about Indian football the way we do when we don our favourite EPL jerseys on match day weekends!
A Soldier’s General

Raj Kanwar

A book review of ‘Lt Gen Bilimoria – His Life & Times’ by Maj Gen Ian Cardozo (Centre for Armed Forces Historical Research, United Service Institution of India 2016)

Endearingly called Billy by his friends, Lt Gen Faridoon Noshir Bilimoria, PVSM (76 K, 1948) was undoubtedly one of the most distinguished and dedicated soldiers in the Indian Army. His family lineage too was uniquely illustrious. Among his preeminent forebears was a naval chief, a vice chief of the army staff, an army commander, a corps commander, a governor, an ambassador, an inspector general of police and a chief justice. Faridoon Bilimoria himself retired as an army commander. If all this high ranking ancestry was not enough, Bilimoria’s older son Karan added a unique niche to the family lineage by becoming a peer – the youngest and the first Parsi to enter the House of Lords in the UK.

In a simple but fascinating narrative, Maj Gen Ian Cardozo writes about the Life and Times of Lt Gen Bilimoria. I can do no better than reproduce this quote from the book’s blurb “It is the story of the soldier who by his personal life and example extolled the virtues of the army and his regiment. He lived life to the full in keeping with the values given to him by the simple Gorkha soldiers from the hills of Nepal.”

Bilimoria’s love affair with the army began when he joined, in 1949, the 2nd Course in the Joint Services Wing – a forerunner of the National Defence Academy in Clement Town, Dehra Dun – and continued virtually over much of his life, from the Joint Services Wing to the Indian Military Academy. He was not even 20 when he was commissioned into the 2nd Battalion of the 5th Gorkha Rifles. The ‘Second Five’ was proudly known as the ‘VC Battalion’ as three of its soldiers had won the Victoria Cross during World War II, the highest gallantry award in the British Empire. Two of the proud winners were Gaje Ghale and Agan Singh Rai. It was thus a fortuitous happening that these two Victoria Cross winners were in the ‘Second Five’ Battalion when Billy joined it. It was therefore no wonder that the two VC winners became Billy’s mentors; he was a great learner and these two helped him further hone all the skills needed in commanding troops.

As a young captain, he was chosen as the ADC to President Dr Rajendra Prasad. It was during that tenure that Billy happened to meet his future wife, Yasmin, at a function during the President’s visit to Hyderabad. Yasmin greatly captivated Billy, and in January 1960, the two tied the knot at Secunderabad. Yasmin was a great pillar of support to him; she happily and graciously immersed herself in the role of an army wife. Her role became more and more pronounced as Billy rose higher and higher in the army hierarchy.

Over the years, Faridoon achieved several distinctions. One, was being appointed president of the Gorkha Brigade. Much later, he was
Bilimoria had also developed a pronounced liking for Dehradun. He was just 11 when he enrolled at The Doon School. After five years, he joined the Joint Services Wing and the Indian Military Academy. It was also home to his battalion and the Gorkha Brigade. He was also the deputy commandant and chief instructor at the Indian Military Academy. Settling down in Dehradun after retirement was an obvious choice. He meticulously built a beautiful house in Vasant Vihar – in close proximity to his alma mater, the Indian Military Academy. He died, aged 72 on August 31st, 2005.

Yasmin Bilimoria is still socially very active. She lives here with her younger son Nadir who is in publishing business.

Maj. Gen. Ian Cardozo deserves compliments for the painstaking research he reproduces in this book, that must have taken a good deal of time. This well-written biography brings to life the many qualities of head and heart that Gen. Bilimoria embodied. In fact, if there ever was a soldier’s General, it was Faridoon Bilimoria, more or less the mould of Sam Manekshaw.

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Raj Kanwar is a Dehradun-based veteran journalist and author. rkanwar_in@yahoo.co.uk

Down Memory Lane

Lord Karan Bilimoria, Yasmin Bilimoria, Nadir and Lt Gen FN Bilimoria taken in their Vasant Vihar Dehra Dun House

School Athletics Team 1949
The much awaited 2nd edition of the Sheel Vohra Memorial Cricket Match was played vs The Doon School XI at the picturesque ACA ground in Dehradun during the third weekend in April. Incidentally, it would also have been Bond’s 80th birthday.

The DSOBS fielded a strong team. On being put in to bat first, the OBs started on a brisk note. Young Aditya Vir Roy 26 played the role of the aggressor and Kabir Sethi settled in to play the long innings, creating a strong partnership for the Old Boys. Raghav Mallik came in at his customary no. 3 position and played a positive innings. It was Rishabh Saklani 38 n.o. and Kabir 117 partnership that enabled the Old Boys to reach a formidable total of 212 in 25 overs. In fact, we put on close to 100 runs in the last 7 overs. Tom, Viksit and Sikandar took the wickets.

The School Team opened with Suryansh Agarwal and Divij Kapoor. Our bowling attack of Aseet Lanba, Rishab Saklani and Kabir Sethi, proved difficult for the Doon team initially. It was their captain Ashwin Agarwal at no. 3 who slowly
built his innings and started to play his strokes all around the wicket. He was ably supported by Ajatshatru Singh and Viksit Verma. They were on target till they lost a couple of crucial wickets and the chase petered out. The spearhead of the Old Boys' bowling was Pratyush Vaishnava getting a 5 for 39. Asheet, Gautam Agarwal and Kabir chipped in with a wicket a piece. In the end the target of 212 proved too much for the School, with the Old Boys winning by 21 runs.

It was a spirited display by both the sides. A special mention must be made of the seniors in the OBs side, namely Sandeep Vij, Raghav Mallik, Asheet Lanba and Donny Singh, who formed the core of the team.

The MVP awards sponsored by Mr Vohra’s family, Manu and Anuj Vohra, were awarded to Kabir Sethi for the OBs and Ashwin Agarwal for the School Team.

**OLD BOYS: 212 for 3 in 25 overs** (Kabir Sethi 117, Rishabh Saklani 38*, Aditya Vir Roy 26, Raghav Mallik 18 - Tom 1/26, Viksit 1/43, Sikandar 1/46)


Shabaash Dosco!
Inter-House Hockey 2016

Ben Franklin once said “out of adversity comes opportunity.” Having been shut out of the finals for the past two years, this mantra rang true for Tata, Kashmir and Hyderabad houses. Each took to the field this year with their own strategic ‘wrinkle’, trying something different, to throw Jaipur and Oberoi off their game. Would it work?

**Tata v Oberoi:** Without an experienced goalkeeper, Tata started with a kicking back, rather than condemn an unlucky junior to don the pads. An additional man in the field can be an offensive advantage, but also a defensive liability. It turned out to be the latter as Oberoi scored through Kshitij and Vahin. Tata relented and opted for a keeper after the break. The fightback was on and goals by Amit and Anirudh levelled the scores for Tata. However, a brilliant solo run by Arshad clinched the win for Oberoi in the dying moments. (Oberoi 3 – Tata 2).

**Kashmir v Jaipur:** Kashmir dispensed with its “foreign” coach this year and the skilful Sanjeev was pushed up to the forward line to create a goal-scoring threat. Goals had been in short supply for Kashmir in the last two years. Jaipur struck early through Kunal, benefitting from poor defensive play by Kashmir. In the run of play, Vikram suffered a dislocated finger, but having flown in from Mumbai he soldiered on after the Fortis medics popped it back in place! Jaipur scored again after the break through Kunal and Waseef to complete the win. Jaipur 3 – Kashmir 0.

**Hyderabad v Oberoi:** Hyderabad took the field with an extremely defensive setup as they were determined not to let Oberoi score. “You shall not pass” was the message that the five-man back line sent to the Oberoi forwards. Gandalf would have been proud! Oberoi tried their best. The Hyderabad defence bent but did not yield. A draw was a great result for Hyderabad, a win over Kashmir in their next game would potentially send them through to the final. (Hyderabad 0 – Oberoi 0).

**Jaipur v Tata:** Tata needed a win to have any chance of making the finals. The game was keenly contested with chances falling to both sides. The difference was that Jaipur converted theirs through Kunal and Waseef on either side of the break, which was enough to secure the win. A collision involving Nikki (Abhinav), Jaipur’s keeper, and the Tata forwards left Nikki with a hairline fracture in his shoulder. He was in extreme discomfort, but there was no way he would miss the final! (Jaipur 2 – Tata 0).

**Kashmir v Hyderabad:** A win for Hyderabad with a large enough margin would see them through to the final. But these two sides had produced some of the most memorable scoreless draws in recent years, so the dice was loaded against Hyderabad. Finding it difficult to get away from their defensive roots, yet needing to attack, Hyderabad took the field with what effectively worked out to be a 1-5-1-4 formation. Johnny manned the midfield and the rest were either in their own 25 or in their opponents’! The gamble did not pay off, and while there were exciting moments, the game ended scoreless. (Kashmir 0 – Hyderabad 0).

**FINAL**

**Jaipur and Oberoi:** met in the final for the third year running. Jaipur possessed experience, with the evergreen Deepak and Vimalendu from the batch of 1982 in their ranks. Oberoi, the much younger team, had been growing stronger over the years. This was likely to be a very competitive game, and so it was. There were good early exchanges in front of both goals. Jaipur opened the scoring when a quickly taken free-hit and pass by Gopal caught out the Oberoi defence and Kunal was through to beat the keeper. Oberoi soon responded. A poor clearance by the Jaipur backs allowed Vahin to run around the Jaipur keeper and level the scores with a well-taken goal. There were no more goals after that. Penalty strokes would decide the winner. Missed chances from Vahin and Adhiraj handed Jaipur the win and their seventh title on the trot!

The trophies were handed out by DSOBS Vice President Jaswinder “Bull” Singh. Well done all!
This year the Old Boys football team also played a match against the current School XI of Sela Qui International School, who graciously hosted the Old Boys on the request of their headmaster Mr Rashid Sharfuddin a former house master of Jaipur house.

The Old Boys team emerged victorious against a hard fighting Sela Qui XI, beating them 4–1. Two goals from Vahin Khosla (O, 2011) and one each from Yuv Khosla (O, 2013) and Sharan Seth (J, 2012) saw the Old Boys secure victory.

A huge thanks to Jaswinder Singh Bull, VP DSOBS, who helped organize such a successful and enjoyable weekend, and for the old boys, to Vivek Seth for a wonderful and nostalgic kit.
Aristocracy of Service

Avinash Singh Alag
160 H, 1984

Our founding headmaster, Arthur Foot had said “Truly, we mean, that the boys should leave the Doon School as members of an aristocracy, but it must be an aristocracy of service inspired by the ideals of unselfishness, not one of privilege, wealth or position.” While setting this benchmark, Mr Foot was looking way into the future, viewing a largely defunct education system in India that would deprive of, more than provide its youth, a meaningful education. And clearly, in making social service a vital part of Doon’s curriculum, his intention must have been, to imbue the qualities of sensitivity and responsibility towards others, in every Dosco.

Making it mandatory for every Dosco to share his learning at Chandbagh, with those who are not so lucky, is critical. This one obligation I feel could bring about a sea change in this country.

My confidence stems from very pleasant memories of my recent visit with the former headmaster Dr Peter McLaughlin and a group of Doscos, to the two slum centres that our boys serve in, at Bindal Bridge and Nanda Ki Chowki. The work that our boys are doing there for the upliftment of the marginalized, is phenomenal. The sights brought back vivid memories of my own SUPWs as a schoolboy in beautifying the area between the Rose Bowl and ONGC, and teaching children of staff at the Panchayat Ghar and Main Building.

Subsequently, I founded and headed a school called Blossoms in Meerut in 1996. I left behind a thriving law practice. I had nurtured a dream of becoming headmaster of a school in my D or C form days. No doubt my headmaster had had an effect on me. Every morning, standing solemnly in line in the auditorium, I felt the waves created by Gulab Ramchandani as he walked past in his headmaster’s robes, to conduct the morning assembly. That gown today is safely in my possession, hung in a glass case!

And then, need one guess?

At Blossoms, social service was made a compulsory part of the student curriculum. Rugged as it might sound, every class of the initial batches of Blossoms were visiting orphanages and homes for the aged, destitute, hearing impaired and so on, from their very first term. In the winter of 1996, when dengue fever had broken out in Meerut the entire Blossoms school community comprising 16 toddler students and three teachers, were out in a slum distributing awareness pamphlets and holding meetings on dengue prevention – door-to-door! After Blossoms became a full-fledged primary school, I found myself free past 1.30pm. So what does a Dosco do with all that energy? Gyanoday. That’s what came about.
A study we conducted revealed that most children living in slums were deprived of education - formal or informal. They mostly worked as beggars, rag-pickers, gamblers and shoe-polishers, to supplement their family income. Often victims of sexual abuse, they were also involved in petty crimes and drug peddling and therefore, generally dispossessed of the basic joys of their childhood. So if children didn't go to school, we would bring the school to the children. We called it Gyanoday Vatika.

Whether it was a hut or a shed, the shade of a tree or the edge of a road, Gyanoday's vatikas began to spread. They became a sound medium of giving back to the slum-dwelling child, a substantial part of his childhood; putting him through an engaging learning process comprising the 3 Rs, art, value education, life skills, health, hygiene, environment, general awareness, games and activities. All of this was conducted under the care of supportive and understanding adults. Gradually, we added scholarships to formal schools, training for vocations and livelihood, special skills development and handicrafts.

Gyanoday currently runs 13 Vatikas and 3 Vyakti Vikas Kendras in Meerut, and 2 Vatikas in Dehradun, in partnership with The Doon School, in which approximately 476 children receive informal education. It assists 126 children to get into mainstream education by way of scholarships and admission to formal schools. Gyanoday has 3 Vocational Training Centres, where approximately 102 learners learn stitching, embroidery, beautician's work and basic computer skills. It also runs a handicraft centre and extends support for livelihood generation to the less fortunate, through self-employment and professional training.

In April 2008, I bumped into my former Hindi master, Dr MC Joshi. He inquired about my work and we struck corresponding chords! Without delay, surveys and recces were held in different slum areas of Dehradun. On July 26th, 2008 came into existence The Doon School-Gyanoday Balbir Road Vatika in Dalanwala - yet another endeavour in The Doon School's rich repertoire of social service projects.

At Nanda Ki Chowki, the boys contributed to the area by aiding the underprivileged children in matters of education.

Allow me please to boast a little, by inserting here, the ultimate Trophy for a Dosco – a mention in the HM's Founders Day Speech! Dr Kanti Bajpai called Gyanoday “the most important new initiative this year.” Soon enough, the following year, we inaugurated The Doon School-Gyanoday Sapera Basti Vatika. I’m reminded of the poem Abou Ben Adham by Leigh Hunt – a man who sought to be remembered for loving his fellow men rather than god. I hope all Doscos continue to love their fellow men, and become Abou Ben Adhams all.

“Nispaksh” is an innovative social service initiative that aims at empowering women and children through government schemes and legal remedies.
Soccer Punch!

The Doon Cup, an invitational football tournament initiated by Prithipal Singh Dugal (588 T, 1980) was a summer success!

I have been working with School for nearly two years now to recreate a prestigious football tournament that used to exist in the Doon valley during the days of the British in India. It took a lot to get School to agree to the present Doon Cup as they were apprehensive about logistics and scheduling given how busy their annual calendar is. However, we got a window in early April this year to hold our very first edition for a girls’ tournament. We only had girls participate this year as School could not give us a date for boys. We expect to have around 500 boys and girls play in the Doon Cup in April next year.

From our perspective, we want to invite as many schools including non-boarding schools to an All-India Invitation Cup that would offer them a feel of boarding life and to see first-hand, the splendour of Doon.

Doon Cup 2016

The format was to have two pools of five and seven teams each, play-off to a final. The girls’ schools that participated were DPS Ghaziabad, Salwan Public School Gurgaon, Modern School Vasant Vihar Delhi, HBGIC School Ujhani, Mody School Lakshmangarh, VDJ School Hisar, KHFC Pune, PSS Chennai, Woodstock School Mussoorie, Doon Football Academy Dehradun and Hope Town Dehradun. The first pool was won by Woodstock School which beat Dehradun Academy, and the second was won by PSS Chennai.

We had 120 girls participate in The Doon Cup in the end. They stayed in Oberoi House and ate in the CDH. I requested Aslam Khan, father of Afzal and Assad Khan, and an old friend of School to...
be Chief Guest, and he very graciously accepted. The eminent athlete of his era, current VP in the Indian Olympic Association and Secretary of the International Hockey Federation enthralled the girls with his presence and rose to the occasion like a true Dosco. Headmaster McLaughlin too spent a good amount of time with us and was a superb host. Mr PK Nair, Sam Katre, Mr Mukhija (catering) and Piyush Malviya too were on hand and played their parts superbly in supporting the tournament and welcoming the teams.

As a result of The Doon Cup held at School and the Imphal Cup held in Manipur, 18 players were chosen to represent India at the DANA Cup in Denmark in July. Over 5000 teams from 50 countries participated in the 36th edition of the annual cup in Denmark this year.

Our aim is to build our tournament into a gala of up to 5,000 boys and girls from across India and selected countries to play and intermingle, within a week. Since School cannot provide every facility for such a large event, we need to partner other schools while keeping main matches at Doon. The format will be seven-a-side with ten in a team roster. FIFA guidelines and 15-20 minutes playing time per half on smaller pitches. We use this format for our Dosco OBs Inter-house fixture. Like this, School can provide 10-12 pitches and we can squeeze in 15-18 matches every hour.

School has offered to annualise our tournament and dates between April 2nd and 6th every year. These dates fall outside term times and do not impede any School activities. By establishing this tournament, we stand to extend the scope of what The Doon School can stand for outside its boarding school legacy. We look forward to working with the School and its team next year and in the years to follow.

Old Boys are welcome to support or sponsor teams by getting in touch with me at pepe_dugal@yahoo.com for more information.
A Dosco on Everest – Part I

Ankur Bahl
193 J, 1976

Disaster Strikes
April 25th, 2015. It was a windless and overcast day. Haze brought visibility down to a mile. We were climbing on the western cirque (a half-open, steep-sided hollow at the head of a valley) between Camp 1, located above the ice fall, and Camp 2 at 6500m which is spread across the base of the Lhotse face. The western cirque is shaped much like our Rose Bowl when viewed from the stage. The theatre was bound on the left by the south face of the mighty Everest above us. The Lhotse face was in front and curved into the sharp ridge of the majestic Nuptse on the right. This was our first rotation on an expedition led by Madison Mountaineering to the summit of Everest. Our entire team of 30 climbers, Sherpas and guides trudged slowly along, labouring to breathe - step-by-step and in single file.

Without warning, an avalanche rumbled down the face of Nuptse. And then the sound - a massive roar let off by another avalanche from the south face of Everest. The earth shook violently and it felt like a rug was being pulled from underneath our feet. I then realized that we were in the middle of a massive earthquake. With remarkable presence of mind, my Sherpa pushed me ahead so that we could join a bunch of 15 ahead of us. Snow dust engulfed us. The unnerving experience lasted a minute. The earth was finally settling down. We were safe and unscathed!

The avalanches had not reached our team and the icy ground had not opened up any crevasses below us. It might have been because we were on the thickest part of the glacier. After ensuring that all of our team was safe, we climbed quickly towards the ostensible safety of Camp 2.

Getting Back
What followed was a harrowing two days as we were rocked by several aftershocks. Nearly 200 of us from various teams were stuck at Camp 2, riddled with uncertainty. Fortunately, the weather cleared. Team A Dosco on Everest – Part I

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Reaching an hour, we were met by the pale faces of an advanced team of Sherpas. The news was devastating. The epicentre of the earthquake was located near Kathmandu and thousands were reported dead. Parts of the Everest base camp had been completely razed to the ground by the explosive effects of a major avalanche off Pumori, which towered over the camp sites including ours. Our team doctor had been killed. Several support staff were severely injured. I was able to make a quick call back home to Sangeeta, my wife, with a borrowed satellite phone, stating that we were all unhurt. It was obvious that we could not continue climbing. We soon learned that the route through the icefall had been completely destroyed and we would not be able to make our way down.

Mission accomplished: Scaling the summit
leaders organized a massive helicopter rescue from Camp 1 and everyone stranded, was brought down safely to base camp. We were shocked with the sight of the mayhem caused by the avalanches. Gathering whatever equipment and gear we could find, we quickly made our way down to Gorakshep where it was announced that all the expeditions were to be called off. This was extremely disappointing even though we were thankful to have survived. Everest was not going to allow any summits in 2015. Despite the earthquake I was determined to return. I would have to wait another year, as Everest can only be attempted during spring.

Even though Sangeeta and I had decided to attempt Everest on alternate years, we agreed on my returning in 2016, as the Nepalese government said it would honour our permits for the next couple of years. I turned the hiatus of waiting another 11 months to my advantage, working harder on my fitness and studying the route by poring over reviews and videos.

Round Two
The year whizzed by and I was back in Kathmandu on April 2nd, 2016. I appeared at the Yak and Yeti, all set for a two-month expedition. I was part of an entirely new set of climbers but with the Madison mountaineering again, as the logistics of the previous year has been extremely well-organized by them. Their efficient rescue highlighted their ability to act swiftly in dealing with an emergency. Our team leader and part owner, Garret Madison, a veteran of six summits on Everest and the assistant guides Conan, Billy and Fred were unchanged. None of the climbers from our expedition in 2015 had returned to Everest except Rozier, a Brazilian who had chosen to climb from the North via China.

After a couple of days of briefing sessions, group gear checks and oxygen mask orientation, we flew out to Lukla, the world’s most dangerous airport at 2860m, in a primitive 18-seater plane in the early hours of the morning of the April 4th. The climbing
team consisted of six Americans - Joe, Michael, Jim - all 50 plus in years, the 40-something Lisa, Jeff a 35-year old single leg amputee with a carbon fibre leg below the knee, the millionaire Canadian, Stuart, Marcelo from Argentina, and Nick, an ex-Navy marine from London. Kent, another climber from the USA had chosen to pre-acclimatize for several weeks in an altitude tent back home. The idea was to halve the time required to summit, a practice not yet fully proven to achieve the desired result.

As we set out from Lukla on the Everest base camp trail the team was upbeat, excited and full of energy. The trek through the valleys up to base camp was uneventful, and the entire team fared well, sizing each other up based on daily performances. The group turned out to be uncharacteristically cohesive, ready to assist one another in times of need.

Beyond Base Camp
Leaving Lukla we spent the first night at Phakding at 2610m, located on the Dudh Kosi river and entered the Sagarmatha National Park the next day, trekking up steep trails amidst the beauty of the lush forests to the famous Namchebazaar. We spent two days acclimatizing around Namche and visited the Hillary School at nearby Khumjung, home also to a monastery where a skull claimed to be that of the legendary Yeti (now proven false) is displayed. We got our first breathtaking view of Everest from the Everest View Hotel at 3880m on our second acclimatization day. After picking up last-minute mountaineering equipment, we felt strong after climbing high, and sleeping low for two days, which is a well-known formula that aids acclimatization. We left Namchebazaar and climbed up to the site of our next camp at the Rivendell Lodge in Deboche after stopping at Tengboche to offer our payers in the famous monastery which is located on a hill at the confluence of the Dudh Kosi and Imja Khola rivers. The imposing sharp outline of Ama Dablam 6812m, would now follow us all the way into the Death Zone begins at the South Col...(a tent overturned a night before)
valley of the Khumbu glacier. From Rivendell Lodge, we climbed along the Imja Khola river and halted at Pangboche, where we were blessed by Llama Geshi in an elaborate ceremony as is the tradition for all the climbers attempting Everest. After receiving a thread tied around our necks and a sacred scarf which I fastened to my backpack for good luck we arrived at Dingboche, 4410m, the highest village in the Khumbu with permanent inhabitants and our fourth halt along the scenic route. We spent another two nights here, climbing to about 5000m on the first active rest day, to build more red blood cells which would help us at higher altitudes. Here, we took in stunning views of Makalu, 8418m, the fifth-highest mountain in the world and Island peak 6189m in the foreground, which Sangeeta had climbed in 2013.

An early departure from Dingboche led us back again along the Imjo Khola river and up the steep Thokla pass. At the toe of the Khumbu glacier are monuments to mountaineers who have perished in their quest to climb Everest, and its surrounding peaks. We also paid homage to Eve the doctor of our team in 2015. It was a poignant moment for me, as I remembered being confronted with death and destruction only a year ago. But I felt that I had survived so I could come back and give it another try. Leaving aside painful memories we entered the magnificent valley of the Khumbu glacier with several 6-7000m peaks looking down upon us. Lobuche East 6150m, which I had climbed in 2013 on my first trip to Everest base camp and Pumori, 7161m on our left; Baruntse, 7129m up ahead, and the ridges leading up to Nuptse 7861m, on our right. Trekking through the moraine and glacier, we reached the lodges of Lobuche 4910m. It had been a long day and we settled down to get some sleep after an early dinner. My roommate Marcelo, was beginning to feel the effects of altitude with a headache and mild nausea, but he felt better after copious amounts of water and a Diamox. The next day was a short trek to Gorak Shep, 5140m, at the base of Kala Pathar 5643m, which we climbed in the afternoon to help us acclimatize. A clear azure sky allowed us to get fantastic views of Everest, Lhotse 8516m, Changtse 7543m, and the ice fall. In the distance we could see specks of what was base camp. We were close to our first goal: to reach base camp in a healthy state.

We sauntered into Base Camp, 5380m, on April 12th and were welcomed with steaming hot tea brought by our Sherpas, as is the custom when climbers and trekkers arrive. Base camp had been laid out compactly, including luxuries such as instant hot showers, freshly baked pizzas, five-star food, desserts and even a communications tent. Evenings were spent watching Hollywood movies in the mess tent, or playing Scrabble of which I was the unofficial champ. This was going to be our home for the next six weeks and the mountaineering company had ensured maximum comfort in an otherwise hostile environment. On April 13th, an auspicious day, a puja ceremony was organized by the Sherpas and it was presided over by a lama who blessed all the climbers and their equipment. The ceremony culminated in Sherpa dances and pegs of whisky, marking our readiness for the icefall and beyond. It is considered unlucky to climb above the base camp without this puja.
Shomie Das (165 H, 1951) has the distinction of being an Old Boy, former headmaster of Doon, and the grandson of the school’s founder - Satish Ranjan Das. We sit down with Mr Das at his home in Dehradun to talk about his journey at Chandbagh, from man to boy. In this interview we learn about Arthur Foot, congealed fried eggs, stealing lychees and the giving and receiving of yellow cards.

What do you remember of School life in the 1940s?

I was a bit afraid of the seniors. That was the only thing. We dined in our own houses, so there was great competition as to who had the best food. To this day if I get a fried egg that was made in the way it was made in the Hyderabad House kitchen – sort of a congealed mess, and the brown bread that came with it – it is a delicious meal for me! That taste is just unbelievable! I do not think it would pass muster in a jail, but it remains in my mind as one of the best dishes. My cooks can’t do it. They don’t know how to do it. It came naturally to the dining hall cooks.

For what did you go busting bounds in your day?

Seekh kababs at Bindal Bridge! The sons of the owners of Kwality’s were at school with us, so we could get murg masala too. It took us maybe five minutes to get to Kwality’s. We would go down the Bindal and up, and there was Kwality’s on the other side of the river. I got two yellow cards when I was in school. One was for stealing lychees with three other boys, who have sadly passed on. There was Chotu Hussain, Amir Zaib from Swath and another boy whose name I forget. We went to Skinner’s where the lychee trees are. I, being the tallest, was asked to climb up and bring the lychees down while the others waited below with pillow cases. Unfortunately, we got caught and were taken to the headmaster - Arthur Foot. We were 11 or 12 years old then and he absolutely terrified us. He said that we were going to jail where we would get only bread and water! We said that we would never do it again, but he gave us YCs because the lychees were contracted and the contractor had caught us.

The other YC was for breaking bounds. Someone had ten rupees hidden in the ‘nevad’ of his bed. We decided we would eat something with it. Off we went on our bicycles and coming in the opposite direction was Sardar Mohammed – one of our very good teachers. I shouted a warning to the others “Sardar Mohammed” and we all
lifted our hands up to hide our faces while still cycling. And Sardar Mohammed went past, with us hiding our faces. So he knew it was us and we were punished for that. That was great learning. But I was quite a good all-rounder. I played soccer in the school team as a goalkeeper and I signed the Honours Book several times. If you signed the Honours Book thrice in a row, you got a book of Shakespeare. I think I got two or three Shakespeares. I got the Marker Cup in Maths and English also, I think.

Any other stories of mischief from your days as a Dosco?

There was a Prosun Kumar Goswami (1 T, 1953). In those days it used to be a two-night journey to School. There were no sleeping bags so we were given bedding rolls by our mothers, which would have ‘razais’ and pillows in them. All of us carried this bedding onto the train and Goswami had a brand new set. On our way back, we started discussing what would happen if you pull the chain of the train. Someone said that a flag comes out. And in those days there were no corridors - it was all compartments. So if you were on one end you could not go to the other end. And someone said that the flag comes out at one end, so we went ahead and pulled the chain. In those days you were fined 500 rupees, which was quite a lot of money then, or 1 year in jail. So the train started stopping. We told Goswami that we were going to jail, so the best thing would be to throw his bedding out of the train. As it was brand new, the authorities would realize that it was a very precious thing that we had to pull the chain for! So the train stopped and this Anglo-Indian guard came and asked “Who pulled the chain? Why did you pull the chain? Come with me.” And we replied, “Sir, his bedding fell out.” And he replied “I have been 30 years in the railways. I have never heard of bedding falling out and in any case the window has got bars so how did the bedding fall out?” “Sir it was near the door,” we replied. He responded “I see. Alright. Doesn’t matter. I am not taking the train back two miles to pick up the bedding.” Thereupon Goswami started crying and said “But you told me that we will go back and get the bedding.” This was between Jaunpur and Lucknow. When we got to Lucknow the guard came in and said that now we all had to go to jail. Fortunately, Itaat Hussain (176 H, 1951) was coming onto the train at Lucknow and his father was Police Commissioner there. When he got to know, he was furious and said “This time I am saving you, but next time you will all be in jail.” Goswami never got his bedding back.

What do you remember of Arthur Foot?

Arthur Foot was a slightly forbidding figure – very tall with a booming voice – and was quite unlike the next headmaster John Martyn. He taught us General Science and English. And he was very keen on seeing that the boys were given responsibility. Once he was invited by the Arts Council in England to give a talk on the Doon School and he couldn’t go. One of his senior boys was in Cambridge – Jamsheed Rahim – and he wrote to him, “I am sending you my speech. You please read it there.” So that was the kind of man he was. He put a lot of faith in his boys. He really got the best out of every kid because of his slightly distant nature. Yet he was keen in seeing that his views were implemented.
Think, in my soul, devoutly think,
How with affrighted eyes,
Thou causest the wide extended deep
In all its horror rise!

Confusion dwelt in every face,
And fear in every heart,
When waves on waves, guls and gulfs
Vomced to the phils to arts.

Yet then from all my griefs, 0 Lord
Thy mercy extend free
Whilst in the confidence of prayer—
My faith took hold on Thee.

For though in dreadful we hung
High on the broken wave,
I knew those were not close to hear
Nor important to save.

The storm was laid, the winds retired
Obedient to Thy call;
The sea, that roared at Thy command,
At Thy command was still.

Addison.
Self Reliance

"Every person has two educations: one which he receives from another, and one more important, which he gives himself."

Of all the elements of success, none is more vital than self-reliance, a determination to be one's own helper, and not to look to others for support. It is the secret of all individual growth and success, the master key that unlocks all difficulties in every profession. It's called, "Help yourself and Heaven will help you," as the French say, should be the motto of every man who would make himself go ahead in the world. He who begins with crutches will generally end with crutches. Help from within is always stronger, but help from without is invariably unstable.

It is said that a lobster, when left high and dry among the rocks, has not instinct and energy enough to work his way back to the sea, but waits for the sea to come to him. If it does not
What do you remember of our second headmaster, John Martyn?

John was my housemaster to start with and then he became headmaster. A very fine man and a very good headmaster. In fact, I don’t think I know of another headmaster who allowed students to flourish like he did. He never curbed a single person. He allowed people to do things they wanted. He was a humanist and probably a little soft in the sense of not being strict. Lenient he was. But what a fine man. I learned so much for him. I became a prefect under him. And he would have us over to his house to talk. But we were also given a lot of terrific things to do like “Go and climb Nagtibba,” or “Go and do this rafting.” So all these things were encouraged by John.

Any other teachers you remember?

Jack Gibson [Housemaster of Kashmir house and later principal of Mayo] would come and say, “Look, what are you doing in the holidays?” and I would say “Nothing sir.” And he would say, “Look you come with me for a ‘shikaar’.” He took me and Chikki Ranganathan (33 T, 1953) all the way south of Nagpur to some of the densest jungles of the Central Provinces where tigers abound. We spent 15 days with him. That was the kind of master there was at Doon then. John Martyn would take you climbing. They were all so hands on. I wanted to be very much like John Martyn.

How did you draw the line between Old Boy and headmaster when you took over in 1988-1995?

That wasn’t difficult, but it was sometimes problematic because several Old Boys were friends of mine. They were quite senior, well-placed, and were on the governing body for School. But at the end of the day your professional work takes precedence over everything. I don’t think it was ever a real problem.

As the grandson of SR Das, what was it like, figuratively speaking, having his watchful eye on you?

I was always conscious about what my grandfather actually wanted this school to be. And it still worries me because very often I feel that we are not going along that way. But look at how things have changed in India and the world! He could not have foreseen those changes. He was however very keen on producing good people – academically sound, administratively sound and thinking people.

In retirement, Shomie is an avid gardener

How did you carry the torch, so to speak, after Mr Ramchandani’s tenure as headmaster?

Gulab was sent here with a particular purpose. He came straight from a corporate life with Blue Star into a headmaster’s role. It had never happened before. He was sent with the objective that he must put the school’s administration and finances back on track, and the rest would follow. He achieved those goals 100 percent. I ran three schools in the country [including Sanawar and Mayo]. The Doon School had enormous momentum of the first headmaster, still carrying it through. And to this day it still does. Gulab did a fine job as a headmaster. He started construction
of the sports centre, the multi-purpose hall (MPH) and Oberoi House, in a time when there was no money to even build a bathroom. But I was worried about the school and the academic results it was getting, and the general overall level of competence of the teachers. In my five years I think I empowered the teachers quite a lot. I empowered them to take decisions and to develop themselves. And I was able to instil in the boys the need for really hard academic studies, which had become somewhat loose. I had very clever boys, so they got down to work, but nevertheless there was sort of that feeling that you can still get by without much study. That was still possible in the old days when I was a boy, but had to be, no longer possible.

What did you want to bring back from your day when you became headmaster?

In my day, School gave me so many opportunities and I made full use of them. I wanted to go back to some of that. I felt a lot that was once voluntary was now mandatory. ‘You must do this! You must do that!’ I wanted boys to go of their own accord to the workshop or art room. In my time, we couldn’t go out on Sundays so we stayed in school and played some sport, went to the art school or the library. I wanted the boys to do these things voluntarily rather than always being told what to do. That was my Old Boy thought.

What was your guiding principal on errant boys?

I didn’t like anything that was unethical or immoral, but anyone who took a risk to let’s say break bounds was never someone I objected to, despite making a noise about it. I used to break bounds myself! Not a single naughty boy has let me down outside The Doon School. My thinking was always that a naughty boy is also a risk-taker, which is very good for this world because you have to be a risk-taker today to get ahead. So I scolded them and gave them yellow cards, but it was a question of getting the boy to understand what was right and wrong. And I always said, let them make their mistakes with me. I may punish them, but if they make these same mistakes in the wider world, they won’t get a second chance.

As HM, you once got the boys to do a peaceful march in support of the creation of Uttaranchal. Tell us how that came about.

I was very concerned that the school was distancing itself from a political movement that was to do with where the school was geographically. We were in Dehradun and ours was an important school. I was very sure that we had to make a statement. At the same time, some hundred people came and stood in front of the Main Gate and started shouting slogans for Uttaranchal. They wanted me to shut the school. I said “I can’t shut the school. This is a boarding school. Kids are here. We can’t just send them home. Five of you, come inside and meet the boys. Talk to them and tell them why you want to shut the school.” I told them then that school would not shut but that we would show our solidarity by going on strike and actually walking to demonstrate our support. And I asked other school headmasters to do the same. Other schools joined, but not on that day. I got into serious trouble with my Board of Governors!
Why did the Board of Governors object?

They told me we had no business in this. I explained we were not supporting any party, but a movement of having an independent Uttaranchal. I maintained that what we had done would stand the school in good stead in years to come. We demonstrated that we were a part of Dehradun. But they were very angry. I thought I would lose my job. Three years later the city of Dehradun gave the school and me the Doon Ratna for having supported the movement.

During your time as HM was there ever an instance of people stealing exam papers?

Can’t remember. Papers came and they were locked up in the Bank.

Did you ever feel stumped as HM?

Once, while Mulayam Singh Yadav was Chief Minister, he wanted to shut the school because it was an English-speaking school. This, despite his own son being in a military school which was English-medium! So he sent a lot of people to the Main Gate to shout slogans. Because we were then in UP we received no police protection. I did not know what to do.

The man leading the agitation was a man called Swami Agnivesh. So I said to him “Don’t shout in front of my gate. Come inside and have lunch with me.” While he was having lunch, I told some boys that he would speak to them in the lecture room upstairs in the Main Building. He addressed the boys in Hindi. And every boy spoke back - in Hindi. So we demonstrated that we could speak Hindi as well as he could. One of the Old Boys, Abhinav Kumar, who is now an IPS officer, was teaching in school at the time. He stood up and said in pure Hindi “I am also from Arya Samaj like you and I speak in Hindi. My parents sent me here and because I learned English, I am studying at the University of Oxford, which is one of the best universities in the world. But I am still an Arya Samaji, and I still speak proper Hindi.” Swamiji was stumped. He said alright, thank you and left. I didn’t do anything; the boys did.

How did your wife, Pheroza ma’am, involve herself with your work?

She was an extraordinary person because she never openly interfered in my work. In her own quiet way, she would work with people on campus who had issues, and bring them around to thinking differently. Secondly, she was extremely good with dramatics and she produced two or three very good plays. She used to get boys to act in her plays and spent hours training them. I found that she gave herself to every school that I worked in, in a manner that I thought was selfless and unique. I was always very grateful for that.
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Humour that allows people to laugh at themselves and others without any malice, coming from an inborn humbleness, has always characterized the best of educators at The Doon School. It is this polished sense of hilarity and fun that has also helped the majority of Doscos to overcome the toughest challenges smilingly in their lives. Living in a residential commune concentrated entirely on the systematic growth, maturation and transformation of young students isn’t easy at all, with constant possibilities of human friction.

Everyone knows that in a community of learners, making mistakes and overcoming them is essential to the processes of meaningful learning. But the ability to accept this fact sportingly is different with each person. Familiarity has the habit of breeding contempt. Cultivating a sense of sophisticated humour is the only balancing factor that keeps things happy and amusing. Having fun at the expense of others that never hit below the belt was an intrinsic part of life at Doon. I was there for nearly 11 years. However, as I recall a few such incidents here, I may not name each person involved as levels of tolerance are varied.

Mind Your Language

As a large section of us amongst the Doon teachers came from non-Hindi-speaking regions, our Hindi was often the butt of ridicule ... and for valid reasons too. I remember accompanying one of my colleagues from Tamil Nadu, Mr Mariadhasan (MHV), who at least at that stage knew no Hindi, to a super specialty store in town run by a person who spoke English. MHV asked him for a newly launched cheese called Mast. Neither the bewildered shopkeeper nor I had ever heard of such a product and my friend had to come away without his coveted cheese that day. Later, we realized that MHV had heard the then new Hindi film song, ‘Yeh cheez badi hain mast,’ and concluded that it was an advertising jingle for a new brand of cheese.

Then, a statement made by the lovely wife of another colleague from Tamil Nadu acquired legendary status. Clothes, in her well-organized home, meant to go to the washerman or dhobi were kept in a basket in her room. Once when the dhobi turned up while she was talking to some people outside her house, she is supposed to have instructed him, “Tum andar ja ke kapra utaro, main aa rahi hoon.” The same lady is also famed for labelling the school barber as the sarkatnewala rather than a nayi.

Rarely would Bengalis fall behind South Indians in matters pertaining to their Hindi faux pas. A senior colleague of ours had acquired a large, colourful golf umbrella from England which caused quite a sensation on Chandbagh estate. One rainy evening the gentleman’s wife brought it to the Masters’ Dining Room (MDR) at dinner time. A new science teacher from Bengal was so smitten by the umbrella that he told the elderly lady, “Apka chhati bohut sundar hain, itna bara chhati hum kabhi nahi
dekha.” The young bachelor miraculously escaped unhurt that night most probably because the lady must have known that in Bengali an umbrella or chhatri is called a chhata or chhati. No wonder he didn’t last long at Doon.

Then, of course, my dear wife, Rupu, who for some years taught Bengali as a second language only to Bangladeshi students – Indians from West Bengal at Doon had to take Hindi as their second language – had an ‘amazing’ command over Hindi. Once, when Rupu decided on giving us home-made curd or dahi for health reasons and needed a tiny amount of curd to start the process of setting it (which we learnt later is called jamun in Hindi), and asked our milkman to fetch some. As a result of that conversation, the milkman went missing for the next three days. On the fourth day he returned with the three days’ supply of milk transformed into curd! The quintessential problem-solver that my wife has always been, it took her moments to turn that not inconsiderable amount of dahi into ghol – a rather watered-down Bengali version of lassi – and get the boys of Foot House next door to drink it up. The well-mannered boys, mainly from the north Indian states, who knew lassi to be a thick and filling drink drank the insipid beverage served to them with kind faces and left. Only one among them came up to Rupu and said, “Thanks for the treat, ma’am, but please don’t give us such frightful lassi the next time around.” This 11-year-old boy – Rushad Nanavatty – grew up to be the School Captain of his batch.

Another time, while I was away in Kenya on school work, the school gardener who tended our garden decided to go on French leave for a few days. One evening, while having coffee on the verandah with her closest buddy Bani Lal, Rupu spied the errant gardener cycling past our residence and in order to rebuke him called out to him loudly, “Maliji, maliji, mein kab sey kamrein mein aap ka intezar kar rahi hoon aur ap aa-i nahin rahe ho. Baat kya hain?” The man fell off his cycle and ran for his life.

Janajit Ray (JJR) taught English at Doon, has been principal of Oakridge International School, Hyderabad and Yadavindra Public School, Mohali. Presently he is Director Principal of The Espee Global School, Roorkee and Chairman of Ray Educorp. Write to him at johnojit@gmail.com.
Starry Mr Charry

Nalni Dhar Jayal
100 T, 1945

Shri VS Siddharthacharry was assistant master-cum-English faculty head at The Doon School from 1942–1945. Mr Charry, as his name was more simply abbreviated, had returned to Chennai in November 1941 after graduating in English Language and Literature from Oxford University. I had the good fortune of being taught English during my, and his, last year at Doon in 1944-45. I have no hesitation in stating that in all my nine-and-a-half years at Doon Mr Charry was by far my best teacher of English. He did not tire one’s patience with the technicalities of prose and grammar. With consummate ease he would inspire us by reciting poetry to rapt student audiences. Shakespeare being his self-confessed icon, he states: “Already, in my early teens the magic of Shakespeare’s diction had me spellbound, not his fiction.” Even to this day, after the lapse of 72 years, I am able to recite Macbeth’s soliloquy that I first heard in Mr Charry’s singing voice, supported, as was his wont, with waving arms, “Tomorrow, and tomorrow, and tomorrow, Creeps in this petty pace from day to day, To the last syllable of recorded time..”

During his time at School, Mr Charry also brilliantly directed several plays by Shakespeare as well as others. I clearly recall the final one, Flecker’s Hassan, in which I delightfully played a supporting role.

In a recently published autobiography, Shri Charry included a foreword by Dr Karan Singh, whom he perhaps taught for a much longer period than he taught me. In expressing his deep admiration for Shri Charry’s English teaching, Dr. Karan Singh described him as the most outstanding teacher he encountered during all his school years in words which merit being quoted in this brief moving cameo:

“Among all the teachers that I encountered during those four years, Shri Siddharthacharry was, by far, the most outstanding. His classes were not dry discourses but presentations full of passion and energy. He was particularly fond of poetry and would read long poems which the class, uncharacteristically, heard in complete silence. The fact that now seventy years later I can still recite poetry in several languages is, I think, due in a large measure to Shri Siddharthacharry’s influence.

“One year he invited me to visit the estimable Institute that he has set up in Mysore called...
‘Acharya Vidya Kula’ which is envisaged on the lines of the ancient ashrams, with special emphasis on Sanskrit and spiritual values. I was deeply impressed with this Institute and it is good to know that at 93 Shri Siddharthacharry is still actively managing it.”

Extracts from Shri Charry's excellent autobiography are included in four following 'Vignettes' that cover his very interesting period at Doon. This is being done with the approval of the author through his son, S Mahavir Acharya, whose email letter to me dated 16 April 2016 reads: "Mr. Charry was conveyed your request and has allowed me to inform you that you may use excerpts from his book in the magazine The Rose Bowl."

Extracts from 'Brahmanic Vignettes: Diplomat’s Nostalgia.'

‘The teacher and the taught both become noble in character, and accomplished in their careers. Professional achievement of every student is the teacher’s guerdon or recompense. When his pupils reach their apices, he rejoices, even more satisfied than when he reached his own apex.'

‘Living in the Doon School was idyllic. Except when asleep, all work was play. My suite was one of three rooms on the first floor of Jaipur House. The weather was pleasantly warm in summer and un-harshly cold in winter. On the northern horizon, 4000 feet higher than Dehra Dun, Mussoorie was visible. Before we left for the holidays, we would see Mussoorie wearing a snow-cap; in the nights its lights were like a galaxy in heaven.’

‘When I reached Dehra Dun I was summoned by the Headmaster, Mr Foot. He said, “According to our rules, laid down by his Excellency the Viceroy, the Block-Head of our School Faculties has to be the best qualified in the subject. I see you are the one best qualified in the English Faculty. Therefore, you have to convene a meeting of all our English teachers in the teachers’ common room. Somewhat amused, I asked ‘Block-head? What do you mean?’ ‘The Head of the Block,’ he said somewhat sharply. ‘Would you like to look it up in a dictionary.’ Peevishly he did so and burst out laughing. ‘Which idiot suggested that term? I hope it wasn’t me! What should it be?’ ‘Faculty Head would be the proper term,’ I replied. ‘Thank you,’ he said. ‘You will be the head of the English faculty.’

1966 Rewind
Historically, The DSOBS is committed to alumni integration and fraternity-building in a community of Doscos who are spread out across the globe and span generations. Not an easy task, but we have done quite an admirable job of it so far. However, with today’s technology we have a historically unique opportunity to create a more immediate connect with our far-flung diaspora and, to this end, some years ago, we setup an internet outreach initiative, the Website Subcommittee.

Initially this subcommittee created The DSOBS Website, a Facebook page and a Twitter feed, with essentially different functions. The website is conceived, primarily, as an archival node, but surfing it, one can read the latest Rose Bowl or read through every Rose Bowl ever published. The site also offers a “Find a Dosco” function, to locate a long lost friend, post an activity or exhibition, or find out about scholarships and bursaries The DSOBS runs, and how alumni can avail of them. The Facebook page is intended to keep Doscos abreast of the day-to-day events in the fraternity - sporting activities and interhouse competitions, announcements of achievements or awards, interesting articles, images or stories by, or about Doscos and Doon. The Twitter feed mirrors some of these announcements.

The App we are launching today is to be an amalgamation of our website functions, FB page and Twitter handle and the aim, as with all of them individually, is fraternity-building. The app will post all alumni activities with photographs and reports and have at-hand, an interactive calendar of events which will remind you to attend an inter-house match or a friend’s exhibition. Doscos can also comment on stories and features, use the ‘Find a Dosco’ feature, book in to visit Chandbagh and much more. Additionally, the app will give alumni the opportunity to give back more easily to School or the community when we run a donation campaign as we did for Kashmir and Nepal, with a few simple clicks and taps. We launch this initiative now with the School’s smart-classroom appeal.

We have worked very hard with Squaredog Solutions to bring you, the Dosco alumni, this app and we do hope you will enjoy using it. There are numerous upgrades planned so stay tuned for those too. Just get onto the App Store or Google Play and look for ‘The DSOBS’. We look forward to your comments and do let us know how we can enhance our outreach programmes too. Write to me at rahulkohli@yahoo.com.
I thought chemistry was a fun subject and I did my homework assiduously. My good friend Ram Kumar Gupta (267 K, 1952) sat in the next toye. In collusion, I would let him copy my chemistry homework and we collaborated with great diligence. This worked quite well and we thought we had the system worked out except that when the books came back after correction, I found he would regularly get 9/10 and I would get 2/10. This was an amazing revelation. I then carefully observed how the corrections were done in class and found the name on the book would be checked first, then marks given and then the pages would be turned over to do the corrections. I was snookered. This did not endear me to chemistry, which I then blanked out from my mind.

Thereafter I spent most of my working life in ICI (Imperial Chemical Industries), the huge multinational chemical conglomerate which has now disappeared in its original form, though some parts now belong to Tata. Here I was taught chemistry all my waking moments, including all about many esoteric products such as sodium tri-nitrozo pentamethylene tetramide. Poetic justice.

When I joined ICI in 1958, the norm for new entrants in any company was to stay on till retirement. This was seen as a sign of loyalty. I suppose today this would be considered not enterprising enough and one would change many jobs, climbing higher each time. In ICI one got the chance of working all over India and England and learnt about every industry where our chemicals were used, which included more or less every industry there was, plus agriculture and medicine. Those were much more leisurely days and it was very purca British stuff, starting with black tie dinner jacket functions at the palatial Bengal Club of old, and training courses at stately homes in England that ICI owned. We were on top of the world! ICI was also big in petrochemicals so after retirement I was involved in setting up a petrochemical complex at Haldia in West Bengal. The revenge of the God of Chemistry was total.

In case you are getting the impression life was easy, you have a guess coming. In those days, competition was less stiff, but there were brand new kinds of challenges to be faced. Many new industries were starting up and India was opening businesses away from traditional industries like textiles. ICI had a leading role in this and progressively started local manufacture for the first time of several products that we now take for granted. These included plastics, paints, rubber chemicals, explosives, fertilizers, agricultural...
chemicals, pharmaceuticals, pesticides, dyes and polyester fibre, to name a few. Finished products and raw material would first be imported to seed the market and create a demand. Local entrepreneurs would then be encouraged to take an interest in these new lines and ICI would start local manufacture of the raw material.

I was involved in the initial start-up of the plastics industry, in particular polyethylene (LDPE). When I joined ICI in 1958, LDPE was imported and we were trying to build up a market in advance of local manufacture. India’s market for LDPE in 1958 was less than 2000 tonnes a year (tpa) and in 1960 ICI put up a 6000 tpa LDPE plant at Rishra, West Bengal. Our raw material was alcohol, a by-product of sugar distilleries, from which we made ethylene because there was no petrochemical industry in India then. Imagine that today the LDPE/LLDPE market alone is over 4 million tpa in India, leave alone the rest of the huge family of plastics!

The enterprise shown by our potential customers from all over India was amazing and they were very keen to learn what this new class of product was, and where it came from. We had to explain that this was a new commodity called “plastic”, never made before, it was neither wood nor metal, had a new set of qualities and could perform many of the functions of traditional products. We had brainstorming sessions in-house and with customers to try and work out the type of products one could make using a material with these new attributes. We also worked out the energy savings in using plastics, which were considerable, compared to traditional materials.

A major concern for our customers was of course what these plastics were made from and whether they were vegetarian products. A delegation came to see me and said they were all vegetarian, many were Jains, and they were very suspicious that these hard white granules of LDPE were actually

Kashmir House athletics team. I am standing in the last row second from the right.
pieces of bone. I had to explain these were fully vegetarian and a by-product of the sugar industry.

Our plant at Rishra was inaugurated by Mr Morarji Desai and he said he was very happy to see an industry that had found an alternative use for alcohol. From these baby steps, we in India now have a massive, world scale, plastics industry. Maybe there are several hundred Old Boys today involved in this industry. But in 1958, as far as I know, I was the only one.

Gradually these pioneering entrepreneurs, some from established industries, started film extrusion, pipe-extrusion, cable-manufacture, moulding, blow-moulding, film-applications such as packaging, irrigation, drip-irrigation, canal-lining, and the vast range of uses we take for granted today. For example, the electric cable industry was started by people from the zari industry diversifying and using their skills in wire drawing to produce LDPE and PVC insulated and sheathed electrical cables. Many of the large cable companies today, such as Delton if I remember right, were originally zari manufacturers. In the end zari was overtaken by polyethylene’s cousin, metallised polyester!

We had to tour all over the country, introducing this new product more importantly, new thought processes to farmers and potential users, starting with simple things like gud packaging, to replacing GI pipes for irrigation, water supply and tubewells, electric cable including power cables, carton packaging, wrapping, injection moulding and bottling applications, shrink film, stretch wrap, pharmaceutical strip packaging and poly bags for nurseries. I could write volumes on the vast range of applications where we slaved to introduce plastics. We constantly had to stretch our minds to see where this product could find a use. The use of plastics is now so ubiquitous that there are people who want to ban it! This of course is not practicable, but requires lots of attention being paid to disposal and recycling systems. It is not biodegradable, they say, but people forget – it was designed with that intention in mind in the first place!

As an aside, ICI in England made a memorable decision when Margaret Thatcher applied for a job after finishing her chemistry degree. Her home was near the ICI Dyes Division at Blakeley, Manchester, and quite logically she applied to ICI Dyes for her first job. After she was interviewed, the Personnel Manager wrote in his report "This candidate is very headstrong and opinionated. She will not make a good employee. Rejected". Many years later when Prime Minister Thatcher visited Blakeley to give ICI the Queen’s Award to Industry, she referred to this interview in her speech. In return ICI gave her a framed copy of the rejection slip.
CANDID CAMERA

Shubhojit Chatterjee
319 K, 2008
Shubhojit’s stunning photos have graced the Rose Bowl in the past. He writes in with these beautiful images of Doscos in action, from a short trip he made to School recently. Write to him at dosco319k@gmail.com
"There is only one thing in life worse than being talked about, and that is not being talked about."

- Oscar Wilde

Where’s my Indian Lord of the Rings?

Vineet Sinha
425 O, 2005

Filmmaker

I didn’t act or direct at Doon, yet I find myself a filmmaker. I produced the O-house one act play but honestly Mohit Kukreti, Ali Fazal and Sagar Kukreja were the real heroes. I was busy with the Echo, DSIR, and the Weekly. Making movies was not in my horizon during Doon. My heart was set on print.

Leaving Doon I realized that the strongest mediums for storytelling and influence were movies and television. Every metric on the planet points in this direction, and I quickly decided on going to USC for film, having never filmed anything before in my life. I was surprised they admitted me. I learned later that knowing how to make films wasn’t the prerequisite needed, but rather knowing what to say with films. Let this sink in with an analogy: a great storyteller who can’t write is worth more to the world than a grammar Nazi with not much to say.

Setting my sights on filmmaking as the instrument for delivery, I wondered what stories I would write, and what that means to me.

For an institution with heavy British influences, Doon turned out to make me more Indian than I give it credit for: I grew up mainly in the US, so much of my reality of India and what it means to be Indian was shaped by Doon - the twice a year mid-terms, yoga class in C and B form, songs during assembly (we’re considering using Hain Jag Trata in our trailer, but I digress). Conversely, I noticed an abundance of western storytelling but a dearth of classical Indian literature taught in Doon, and India in general. We read Shakespeare but never once did we read the Ramayana, Mahabharata, or the Upanishads, mainly because it was not part of the curriculum.

Doon works very hard to remind us that we’re India’s future, and being constructive patriots is indexed highly. However, the systemic dismissal of Indian storytelling by the boards sets us back. Cultural awareness through literature at the formative years must include ancient Indian mythology. Indian writers from Tulsidas to Tagore should have had more stock with Indian exam setters during my years, and contemporary writers shouldn’t have been absent.

Fortunately, Kilachand Library was there for me. Besides reading Wilde, Keats, Tennyson and Auden upstairs in the back near the archives (good times, indeed), I dove in to contemporary Indian writers and artwork from our caves and temples.
However, novelized versions of Indian epics were hard to find - there was no abridged version of the Ramayana for young adults.

This learning informed what films I would make. Western filmmaking techniques are refined and cutting edge. Indian stories have survived empires through millennia. Bringing Hollywood quality to Indian stories became the mission.

A Lord of the Rings style adaptation of the Ramayana was the natural answer. Peter Jackson’s films retained the poetry of Tolkien’s books while the practical effects give it a timeless feel. The Ramayana has similarities a global audience familiar with Lord of the Rings would appreciate: Ram and Aragorn are both heroes deep in exile. Their brothers Laxman and Legolas remain loyally by their side. The wise wizard Gandalf or rishi Vishwamitra guides their journey, and an army of Rohaan and Vaanars go from mild reluctance, to full support of their hero’s war efforts.

Our mission goes beyond bringing our stories to accessible formats for young Indians. The Ramayana needs to command the same cultural capital a Marvel Studios or Star Wars film does. Currently, the Ramayana project is engaging producers and studios to bring this story to global audiences yet still maintain authenticity. It’s a long journey convincing studios that India is ready for a project of this size, but Bahubali’s success helps us make a strong case.

The Ramayana team, currently camped in Mumbai, has put together early rounds of a script for a pilot (short film), story bible and character art. Having scoured India for possible locations including Meghalaya, Assam, Sunderbans, Hampi and our own Doon Valley, they’re exploring South East Asia as well for places that feel otherworldly and ancient - think Angkor Wat in Cambodia. There’s also the desire to balance the film’s budget with green screen and miniaturized sets or to shoot offsite. Authenticity is a huge deal for them, going deep into paintings, photographs, and Valmiki’s description to answer simple things like how big is Hanuman’s gadda and what should be inscribed on Ram and Laxman’s bow. We also envision female characters as three dimensional beings, and are casting as such. For example, Surpanakha, now reads as a sort of Cersei Lanister, trying to get Ravana to kill Ram, or vice versa. There’s a lot of depth in Valmiki’s writing; he filled three books and we’re parsing it into three movies.

Get in touch with the author at hello@ramayanfilm.com.

Where Eagles Dare

Amitoj Johnny Singh
285 H, 2004

NDTV News Anchor

It was around 1 a.m. I was on the prowl in Punjab, working surreptitiously to expose illegal sand mining in a state where elections are due in less than five months. Elections which, if the Aam Aadmi Party wins could change the face of national politics, as it would give Arvind Kejriwal’s anti-corruption crusade wings to fly.
My editor had warned me. “Be extremely careful Johnny!” he said. “If they catch you, they could bury you in the very sand you’re investigating. You’ll never be found.”

We did the story. We captured substantive video evidence of illegal sand mining from river beds in Punjab. And it got scary! Men in a Bolero chased us from a river bed, tried to stop our car, honked incessantly at us and tried to block our escape. Real journalism is thrilling, with danger as a professional hazard! In 2011, it struck me that nobody had ever done an investigative show on the controversial BCCI. The arrogance of the Indian Cricket Board (BCCI) had frustrated many so it seemed one of the richest cricket bodies in the world was ripe for prodding. My lead story was controversial to say the very least. It ruffled a few feathers, but editorially it got the backing of another Dosco, the man behind NDTV, considered the father of modern Indian television journalism, Dr Prannoy Roy. My faith in journalism was revitalized!

There is a lot that is difficult in journalism. But presenting the news and I mean earth-shattering, breaking news, can steamroll complacency, and throw trepidation out the window. Whether it be the most recent terror attack in Kashmir, Paris, Dhaka, Pathankot, Baghdad under siege, or the stupidity of Brexit! Yes, we have teleprompters, but they mean little in a world where 144 characters on Twitter give you the latest updates while you’re live on air. So how do you hold your nerve when you need to evoke the urgency of a story? You have to juggle the facts, what’s not officially been confirmed while being mindful of not creating panic for viewers.

I think that’s where Doon comes in for me. I was never a public speaker back in school. Probably the only time I spoke on stage was when I awarded colours for cricket to some of my teammates. I think they found valid reasons to laugh at my speech later. What Doon did, was teach me that I could do just about anything I put my mind to. So it gave me the confidence to be a journalist despite never being a debater or actor. I learned quickly to think on my feet and present a balanced perspective to viewers - whether in front of a TV camera in a silent studio, or with instructions being shouted in my ear and information flying left, right and centre, with combative guests who needed to be checked on facts simultaneously.

And to think, what really led me to journalism was my love for sport! My torrid affair with sport was nurtured royally at Doon! As a sports journalist for most of my career with NDTV, I’ve covered two cricket world cups, Sachin’s last series in Australia, CWG 2010, three Olympic Games, eight IPLs, a few T20 World Cups, and many other events. Doon had been a sporting paradise for me. As ‘Gentleman Sportsman of the Year’ in my time, I had literally had a ball at School and now I was continuing the thrill through my work. As a journalist I’ve also attempted to ‘Save the Tiger’ with Chitrangada Singh and saluted the Indian Jawan with Alia Bhatt but I have to say it’s the stories we bring to the everyday viewer that stand out for me.
For example, the Indian ice hockey team needed money to go abroad for a tournament and I’d just finished a story on their plight. An hour later, Indians from ice hockey-loving Canada, called in and contributed lakhs of rupees. Journalists can make a difference!

I remember the biggest high at School used to be breaking bounds and coming back to tell everyone that you hadn’t got caught. For TV journalists, it’s often thought that the biggest high is breaking news live from a dangerous or risky situation. But let me tell you, in a world full of negativity, fear and terror, there is no better high for me than being the person to tell the world first that something good has happened. The biggest high for me is breaking good news to India, and the world.

All That Folktronica

Hari Inder Jaaj
467 J, 2000

Musician

It’s easy to get into music. There are so many ways. As a listener or a performer. As a kid, I often participated in musical performances all the way through college. It seemed a natural progression to study sound engineering even though I read maths at university.

I’ve had three life-changing musical experiences. The first was going to Goa for my first rave. Second was meeting my partner Sukhmani. The third was rediscovering my guru, Sardar Gursharan Singh.

As a band, Hari and Sukhmani don’t have a calculated musical style. We make music according to the aesthetics of the tune and the lyrics of a particular song. Yes, music is bigger than all of us, so it deserves the respect of being made from the heart and with pure intentions. Of course old Punjabi folk music is close to us. People often refer to our ‘genre’ as folktronica.

We have just come out of a very hectic season. By season, I refer to the wedding season (October to March) which has coincidentally become a regular space for us to perform. In India, people do weddings in style. So we end up playing at a lot of destination weddings, across the world. So busy have we been with playing live, that we have only recently (after eight years) managed to release our first track on iTunes, called Yariyaan - a collaboration with a Pakistani band called Noori.

One thing I’ve learned along the way is that it’s easier becoming a ‘star’ than a musician. I say easier because the music scene in India today is growing at a very fast pace. People want to hear music and want to see musicians on stage. Bollywood now isn’t the be-all and end-all destination for Indian music. It’s a very forgiving situation. I only recommend doing music for the sake of music. Everything else is a byproduct of just channeling your musicality into something reasonably unique. You can be generic too, make a quick buck and get famous - but that’s a personal call.

www.harisukhmani.com
Born for the Stage

Nitin Sukhija
209 O, 1996

Stage Actor

"All the world is a stage" said Shakespeare but even when I didn’t really have the world, I was happy enough with the Rose Bowl and the multipurpose hall.

I was only 12 when I first went on stage to perform in a Founder’s Day play at School. A small role for a C former, but it was so powerful that it shook the world. That night, the walls next to my bed cracked and Uttarkashi was devastated by an earthquake. Some debut.

Mr Shomie Das, who was headmaster while I was at School, let me do extra plays (apart from those slated in the term calendar) and since these were productions which were not budgeted for, I had to use help and jugaad to see them through. The coffee was complimentary from Mr Wallia. The costumes were Mr Joshi’s jugaad from Bindal police chowki. Late night chutney sandwiches came from Mr Farooqui’s house, and Mr Vohra gave us cash to officially go to Praddu’s for bulls after the performance. And yes, Mr VM Pokhriyal did tell me to shift my bed to the Rose Bowl.

As I write this piece, I am currently part of a production where we tell Indian folk stories. I don’t get any money out of it and it takes a lot of time.

Why am I writing all this? Only to emphasise one thing – Doon and the people there gave me all the space to express myself. Did it make me the man I am today? Yes, it did.

In a world bombarded by all sorts of devices, technology and information, it is the stage that lets me imagine. I agree with Einstein when he said, “Imagination is more important than knowledge.”
The ABCs of EDM

Sahej Bakshi aka Dualist Inquiry

Electronic Musician

Sahej Bakshi is leading the Indian electronic music scene globally. A mainstay at most electronic dance festivals and gigs in India, he has opened for Basement Jaxx, Deadmau5 and Fatboy Slim and regularly tours the world paying his brand of electro-synth dance music with some of the biggest names in EDM in the world. His second album Dreamcatcher is out now. [I first met Sahej in Dubai when he performed with the Doon Orchestra at Modern High School. He still wore a turban at the time and sported the beginning of a wispy beard. When he told me he wanted to be a musician in his career, I remember thinking “Poor chap!” How wrong I was. How happy to be wrong I am. – Ed.]

I started learning the guitar at the age of 9, just a few years before I joined Doon. It was after I got to Doon that I got serious about music. Till today, I have the firm belief that Doon is where I set my musical foundations and became a serious musician for the first time. Mr Gursharan Singh (GSS), who was the head of the music department was the best teacher and mentor I could have asked for. He saw potential in me and nurtured it by giving me opportunities, but he also never allowed me to behave overconfident or entitled, which has really served me well in the long run. When Mrs Priya Chaturvedi (PCH) joined Doon a few years into my school life, I found an equally influential source of guidance and support. She always encouraged me to achieve my musical goals, and really understood me as a musician. Mr Abhijit Chattopadhyay (ABC) and Mr Ram Avtar (the technical custodian of the music school) are friendly and supportive individuals whose presence played a very positive role in my life.

I have to admit that I never expected music to become the career that I enjoy today. At the time, all our role models were from abroad, and it didn’t seem possible that I would be able to make it as a musician. And as for my genre, electronic music only happened to me when I was 20 years old - and that was another unexpected change in direction that defined my future.

When I tour the world, playing live shows, one common misconception about Indian musicians is the expectation that all Indian musicians will play Indian classical or Bollywood music. I don’t blame them. After all, Indian-electronic musicians are a relatively rare breed that only emerged in the last decade. It’s fun though, being able to change people’s mindsets about what it means to be Indian. It’s the kind of big-picture challenge that I really enjoy. The Indian music industry has a lot of room for different kinds of music. We’re seeing a growing interest and support for indie music, which is defined by its emphasis on originality and quality rather than commercial viability. Electronic music has also spread beyond the big cities and into every corner of India (and the world), and even Bollywood and commercial music has started to borrow a lot from the underground electronic genres.

I’m touring within India from about September to March next year, and internationally from May-
July. Life as a touring artist is mainly about learning to cope with a major lack of sleep and being fully functional in the face of a really hectic travel schedule. I'm not going to lie - it's rather tough on a psychological and physical level. However, I love the time I get in the studio, because it’s the opposite of the strenuous routing that comes with touring. I get to flourish on a personal and creative level. I can only create new music when I'm in my studio. I find it nearly impossible to hear my own thoughts if there's a lot of external noise while touring. For this reason I tend to isolate myself to write new music. I use software like Ableton Live and Logic Pro to produce the music. In addition to that, I have synths like the Moog Sub 37, Nord Lead A1 and DSI Prophet, which are some beautiful analogue synths. I also use the Fender Telecaster guitar a lot. It goes a long way in defining my sound.

The most embarrassing snafu on stage for me was probably when I forgot what city I was in while playing. I think it was my fourth city in four days and I had to be reminded that I'm in Bangalore, not Delhi. The crowd didn’t seem to mind too much, they were enjoying the gig and didn’t take it personally. One funny incident was when I met Deadmau5. He had just finished driving around in a Lamborghini with Daler Mehendi, and he couldn’t stop talking about it. There have been a few times where some fans were a little too enthusiastic with their compliments. Once, a car full of fans followed me and my team back to our hotel after a show. No big deal - I ended up having a drink with them to make their efforts worth it.

I’d say the most important thing to keep in mind while starting out as a musician is to not follow trends and to focus on originality instead. It helps to know an instrument, and to understand the basics of music performance and theory before setting out to produce electronic music. It’s also important to take your time as you get your skills up to the mark and not rush to the internet with your first few attempts at making music. That’s what all those years in school and college are for. Also, it’s important to do what you enjoy, because that’s the only way one can put in the amount of work that’s necessary to be an artist. Even though it’s a dream job, the pressure and 24/7 nature of being an artist can be quite difficult, so it’s always a good idea to be ready to put in a lot of hard work, regardless of what you do.

https://www.facebook.com/dualistinquiry/
Inconvenient Truths

Shiv Pandit
385 T, 1999

Bollywood Actor

As an artist you are constantly in search of material that brings out sides of you that you didn’t know existed. Where the audience’s tastes have become so varied and demanding, filmmakers and actors have to break the mould to engage with moviegoers worldwide. I was in a similar frame of introspection when I happened to get a call from a Dosco, Sudhanshu Saria (2002) who said he was new in town. He suggested coffee. I couldn’t quite place him. Being three years junior to me, we must hardly have interacted in School. ‘Suds’ had just come back from the US after working behind the scenes as an executive on a show called ‘The Tudors’ and had finished directing his first short film ‘His New Hands’. He was in town to cast his first feature. Someone had suggested that he look me up.

A few days later, Suds admitted he was ‘possibly contemplating’ me to play a part in his film. I had no idea what his film was about. Our next phone call was more definitive. He said I was not the right fit for his film. My curiosity levels went steroidal. Did I not look the part? Had he found someone else? I actually sent him a text like a teenager suffering heartbreak. I felt I deserved to know what his project was about, if I wasn’t the right fit for it. After a little goading, he gave me a narration of the script “against his better judgment.” ‘Loev’ is a story of friendship, a story of those feelings which sometimes can’t surface; a story of angst and passion. It is a somewhat unorthodox one for India in that it deals with same-sex relationships. This was unknown territory for me, but it would challenge me as an actor, and I decided to go for it. Despite originally not being the right fit, I was able to convince Suds that I would give it my best shot.

Shoot for the Stars

With extremely limited funds and favours to pull, we soldiered on and shot this film in 17 days flat, in May of 2014. We had to shoot it in secret because of the subject matter, making things trickier. Pain is temporary, but film is forever, I reminded myself. At points we had to execute 17-minute long takes without a single cut! We had no choice...we didn’t know when Suds would call cut. He didn’t like us looking at the monitor afterwards to see how we looked, or if we could act scenes out better, either. This process had me...
on my toes as a performer and made me become even more measured in my actions. Suds usually took about 15 to 20 takes before feeling satisfied. It was an exhausting, but enriching experience.

**Losing Dhruv**

My co-star in the film was Dhruv Ganesh – a young and extremely talented actor who’d worked with Amitabh Bacchan and Ben Kingsley in what was set to become a big acting career. Dhruv passed away from complications of tuberculosis in January 2015. I still cannot come to terms with the fact that he isn’t around. His performance in the film ensures that his light remains bright. This was to be his first and last performance in a leading role - one he smashed out of the park.

**World Tour**

At points we thought this film would never see the light of day, but we got selected for our world premiere at POFF (Pimedate Ööde Filmifestival) – Talinn, Black Night’s Film Festival in Estonia! POFF gave us a springboard to the heavyweights out there...which led to a domino effect and opened up avenues for sale and selection in other festivals of repute. We got picked up by Wide Management in Paris and from the sub-zero temperatures of Estonia we soon found ourselves in Guadalajara in Mexico for the FICG (Festival Internacional de Cine de Guadalajara). Since then, Loev has been selected and screened at about 20 film festivals including Copenhagen, Toronto, Austin, Toronto, Melbourne, Jeonju, Brighton and The Hague.

**The gay question**

At film festivals, it is routine for a round of Q & A to follow the screening of a film. Being part of a gay film, people wanted to know about my sexuality. My answer was simple - to me this was a story about two people being in a relationship of unrequited love. Gender and the sexual politics of it was the least of any of our concerns. You could literally mix the genders of the characters and the essence of the story would remain the same. I walked up to Suds post the Q & A in Guadalajara and said "Suds, I just realized that I am acting in a gay film and we are both Doscos!" He simply responded with "Dosco ka tempo high hai." It was a hilarious moment for both of us, especially after growing up in such a consciously homophobic environment like Doon...but let’s table that discussion for some other time!

**Urban India**

While Indians are still dealing with same-sex relationships and are going back and forth on the legality of it, from a western standpoint, our film was being hailed as a ‘progressive Indian film’. What seemed to intrigue people was the ‘urban India’ aspect of the story. People who have not visited India are not aware of this side of India. We always made it a point to underline this at every Q & A; that this is the India we grew up in.

**SxSW**

Next stop was SxSW (South by Southwest) – the global byword for where contemporary culture is on the bleeding edge of the industry. This festival is divided into three sections – music, film and interactive (technology). From bumping into Judd Apatow, to hanging out with Don Cheadle at a Getty Images photo-shoot, to getting a drink with Rami Malek (Mr Robot) we didn’t let a second go waste.

Loev won the audience award for ‘Best Feature’ at the Tel Aviv International LGBT Festival this year and at the time of writing this piece, it has been slated to come home for an Indian debut at the Mumbai Film Festival (MAMI) on October 18th.

Wish us luck and loev!
I Act

Asheesh Kapur
407 H 1999

What do I do for a living?
I act.
What is it to act?
To do.
Therefore, am I a doer?
Yes, and a collaborator.

I adapt to the numerous mediums that lie before me. Personally my ‘Main Field’ is the motion picture, ‘Upper Skinners’ the theatre and ‘Lower Skinners’ television, documentaries, audio plays... the list goes on. Each medium has its own set of challenges. Like water, the actor must take the form of the vessel he occupies.

Many years ago I asked a famous actor whether it is important to be a good human being to be a good actor, to which his response was - no. After some thought, he went on to tell me that if he or she were a good human being, it would only help in the evolution of an artist. I agree with this view. I believe each one of us takes on a unique path. We all have a destiny to fulfil. Our professions are not just an end in themselves, they are actually the foundation for instilling in us qualities that help us evolve.

The true pursuit of any artist, including the actor, is truth. How we look at life, the choices that living things make, the emotions that are manifested, the beauty that surrounds us and the traits that diminish our stature are but a few important areas of the actor’s study.

I have been fortunate to come across individuals who have dedicated their life towards excelling in their craft so that they are able to see, feel, explore and create, deeply.

From my experience so far I would simply like to reach out to those young hearts that are looking to explore acting as a career. If you are still reading this article, know that there is an artist in each one of you. You need to nurture this part of yourself to the best of your ability without compromising your responsibility towards your parents and society’s aspirations for you.

How do you do this? Study. Complete your formal education and continue to study in the area of your interest. Some of the most respected senior actors I know still consider themselves pupils of the craft and continue their study in theory and practice. Today you have the option to specialize in creative courses offered by good universities at home and abroad in the form of diplomas and degrees. There are acting conservatories, laboratories and schools dedicated to various techniques and forms of acting. Know that the nature of the arts is unpredictable in terms of employment. You may see days, even months of unemployment. Hence, be emotionally and physically resilient. How you choose to spend your hours is important. Anything and everything you do will impact your nature as an actor. Every skill set will add to your responsiveness on stage or film. Your biggest lessons will be from the
mistakes you make. You will also at some point realize that there is no formula to acting. It is more a cocktail of the knowledge you gather and the experiences you undergo.

The actor as I said earlier is a collaborator. The idea and words of the writer and the vision of the director are brought to life by them. New opportunities await the actor in the form of stage, film, television and the internet. Science and art go hand-in-hand. With the digitization of film, more content is being developed and more parts are being written for the actor.

You will come across all kinds of specimens in this field. Some will be true seekers of the arts and some will be imposters. Some individuals will become powerful allies to you, yet some people will always try to bring you down with their limited vision. Some colleagues will become inseparable friends and family, and some will only wish to use and abuse you. You will see all this unfold before you in varying degrees from time to time. Just be true to yourself and surround yourself with positive energy.

I have little else to share because like you I am still learning, sometimes hitting my mark and sometimes missing the point altogether. Yet I know I am on the sunlit path and I aspire to give my best with each step forward.

Asheesh is a freelance actor working in Mumbai. He is a life member of the Cine & Television Artistes’ Association and an associate member of the Film Writers Association. He recently acted in a play for Writers Bloc 4 and a feature film titled ‘Shambhala’. He started acting during his days at Doon and considers the Rose Bowl his Mecca.

Follow him on Twitter at @asheeshkapur.

Ebony and Ivory

Nikhil Sardana
224 T, 2010

Western classical music promoter and publisher

I remember the first time I visited Doon. It was during the inauguration of the new Music School in 2001, and my father’s batch was celebrating its silver jubilee. My father took me on a tour of the new space and I was completely awestruck by the variety of options, instruments and facilities on offer. One tiny room in particular caught my attention: it was at the end of a long corridor, with tall windows overlooking pine trees and a sculpture forever frozen in a one-legged dance. It was the piano room. At that moment, I felt instantly that I had to learn this instrument. Little did I know then, that that tiny room would become a second home.

Priya Chaturvedi, the present Head of Music, remains, to this day, a mentor and supporter of my work. She was there through the countless hours of helping me interpret Bach and Beethoven, Chopin and Tchaikovsky. She prepared me for intra-mural piano competitions,
chamber music ensembles, and orchestral productions. She trained me for the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Arts Grade 8 examinations, where her endless support and tutelage led me to secure a distinction, further guiding me when I completed the final grade in the Trinity College London Examination, after I’d left School. There are memories of School that stick with you long after you leave. There are some faces that you never forget, and there are moments that squirrel their way into your minds repeatedly. My time with PCH was all this and more. Thank you, ma’am.

My love for music led me to gain a master’s in music business management, teach at the Australian High Commissioner’s residence and perform with a college ensemble. I worked with one of Europe’s largest talent management agencies Influence Digital, L&F Music, and Soho Sonic Studios. I returned from England in January 2015 and set up Sardana Creative Consultancy, with a vision to promote the performing arts and related ventures in India. I also launched India’s first western classical music portal – Serenade.

People often ask me why the arts are important? Anoushka Shankar, in an interview for Serenade put it more vividly than I ever could. She said, “In the West, there is a space created for every genre thereby allowing it to exist on its own...opera, classical music, electronic music and rock music. Everyone has got their space and there is a setup for each thing.” Such a structure does not exist in India. Indian authorities barely even account for the arts and its independent economic potential, clubbing it generally into the wider services and entertainment industry. This is why the arts are important. People want opera houses and symphony halls, but instead of having the option of ready intellectual nourishment are faced with a popcorn flick at the local PVR.

Serenade is an attempt to encompass the dynamic world of Western classical music in India and abroad. A highlight of 2015 was working as the head of marketing for the Zubin Mehta and Australian World Orchestra concerts in Delhi. The concerts were of course hugely successful with sold out shows and over 4000 people in attendance. I am privileged also to have worked with the towering talent that is soprano, Patricia Rozario OBE. In 2015, Patricia performed the British national anthem at Wembley stadium for prime ministers Narendra Modi and David Cameron.

I hope this article will serve as appeal to the larger Dosco community to consider music and the arts for a moment longer - just as a little bespectacled Dosco considered them all those years ago listening to PCH playing Schubert’s ’Serenade’, with an awe and wonder that threatens to last a lifetime.

If you’d like to consider working in music or music reportage write to me at nikhil@sardanacreative.com.
Although I was at Doon for just four years, the life lessons I learned there have lasted a lifetime. I am a third-generation teacher and professor from both sides of my family, and I always knew I would eventually go into teaching. After graduating with my PhD in 2009, I moved to Texas where I have been teaching for almost eight years. People like to say that being a teacher is the toughest job on the planet. While I can’t vouch for it being the toughest, it is certainly one of the toughest.

I teach both undergraduate and graduate students in the social science field. The university where I teach has a 3 percent graduation rate in the last four years. It is the second-lowest in the state of Texas. We have a 60 percent transfer rate for first year freshmen. Last year, my university had five campus shootings with several injured and two students dead. As a state of Texas public servant, serving minority and underserved students (first generation Black and Hispanic students primarily, 93 percent of whom are on federal financial aid) staying motivated, passionate and enthusiastic at work is extremely difficult.

It’s been estimated that for the average person, 10 percent of our worldly knowledge comes from books, 20 percent from classrooms and 70 percent from our life experiences. The majority of my students’ life experiences have been bad: awful public schools; uncaring or absentee parents and relatives; teachers who didn’t care, never taught and in some cases berated and broke down students in front of others; and a political system in which if you aren’t rich or White, you will likely never be truly comfortable, wealthy or safe.

Unfortunately, the American public school education system has too many flaws to correct in one generation. It will likely take three, perhaps four generations before inequity and inequality in the education system is righted. Our public school system is an outdated, 1930s model of anachronistic educational attainment, built to turn out students for jobs in farms and factories - not for 21st century careers. Consider this: only 1 percent of public high school graduating seniors can write at a college-level.

The idea behind any and all efforts in the United States is one of an individual, self-made, confident mindset and if you fail in school, you are said to have failed because you simply didn’t put in enough effort, or were just not intelligent enough to graduate.

Budget cuts through the state legislature and a nationwide federal financial cutback have harmed us, as well as other state universities. For example, my desk computer is almost eight years old and there are no plans to replace it anytime soon. I haven’t had a raise in almost six years and neither have most of my academic brethren.

There are those who believe that there is a third path - one which public policymakers are calling for - that the teacher might also be the problem. For almost 20 years, teachers have been under attack and in some cases entire states and even the federal government have passed laws designed to eliminate teachers whom are not exemplary in their teaching. Professors and universities are likely next, and several state laws have already been proposed and implemented to measure effective teaching, learning and retention techniques.

The future of the customer service model, serving higher education is being taken more seriously.

Why do I share all this with the Dosco community? It’s because I am grateful and humble even today for the life lessons and skills Doon imparted to me all those years ago - lessons on compromise, friendship, hard work, getting along with others despite differences, being bi-cultural, the inability to give up, and thinking and acting critically and creatively.

Often when I am lecturing, I can always sense when students aren’t really paying attention. So sometimes I’ll stop the lecture and start telling them my stories from Doon. My students have never heard of chhota haazri or Holi; they’ve never done a change-in-break or celebrated a birthday, Dosco-style on campus. Nor have they any idea how tough our bulletproof chappatis were (no disrespect to Mr Wallia, may his soul rest in peace)! My students have no idea what a Doon bull is. In Texas, a bull has four legs and snorts on approach.
For me, Doon made an incredible difference to my life. Doon was where I published my first article when I was just eleven years old. Doon was where I rarely, if ever, felt as if I was asking stupid questions during my classes. That is something I have always tried to highlight with my students. I will never forget the emphasis teachers at Doon would place upon me to produce excellent work or how they were always around if I needed to speak to them. I have strived to place these same values in my own students, throughout my career. I know that without the lessons Doon gave me, I would not be where I am today. I know that Doon will always be a place where these types of values are upheld and imbued upon future graduates.

The name of the author has been withheld by request.

Hazy About Holdy

PM ‘Toby’ Dhar
108 T, 1950

We try to capture glimpses and memories of masters and boys past from Doscos who remember little details probably lost to time. In this edition, we remember deputy headmaster RL Holdsworth, via Toby Dhar.

Deputy headmaster, RL Holdsworth or Holdy, instructed senior boys to present themselves at his parlour for a talk on reproduction. We surmised that it must have been on the HM’s orders! Once assembled, Holdy went into an elaborate description of human anatomy. At the end of this lengthy talk, one of the boys raised a query, which caused Holdy to go through the entire rigmarole again. At the end of the repetition, he concluded, "...and after nine months, out came C______R______!" I will not name the pupil who is no longer with us, but suffice it to say, the whole room broke into peals of laughter, much to unsaid boy’s embarrassment!

On a huge Peepal tree at School, hordes of flying foxes would gather at dusk which was a sight Holdy relished! Boys were called over, handed his matched pair of Holland & Holland rifles, given a few no. 6s and asked to shoot as many of the pests as possible. Whilst we all liked using those beautiful guns, everyone tried their best to miss their targets. It wasn’t just a question of kind-heartedness for all creatures great and small, Holdy would insist we join him in eating those revolting creatures! His cook had got the hang of how to cook them! Ugh!

Though everyone knows of his prowess at cricket, soccer, mountaineering and boxing, few knew of Holdy’s angling or athletic skills. Holdy often told us he could have got a third Blue at Oxford, (Wikipedia says he had three. Perhaps his fourth? – Ed.) It didn’t stop him from boasting that he ran the 400 metres at 53 seconds, without practice!

If you think you can spot Holdy, find a British Pathe Video on YouTube called ‘Oxford V Cambridge Cricket aka Battle Of The Blues (1922)’. He was part of the Oxford side.

If you have any memories of teachers or headmasters, however small, send them to therosebowleditor@gmail.com
Founder’s Day Quiz
Heads, masters, myths and legends

Ajai Banerji
397 H, 1972

From the India Mastermind winner himself, here’s a bunch of questions to bamboozle you as you walk around Chandbagh. Write your answers directly on your Rose Bowl, photograph it and e-mail the answers to therosebowleditor@gmail.com. We’ll trust you not to Google the answers! Good luck Doscos!

1. After Mr Foot, who was the next headmaster with a science background?
2. In the late 1960s, Mr Holdsworth (who had recently retired) lost a bet to a senior boy. Name the boy, and
3. What was the bet about?
4. Which headmaster's background was in geography?
5. Name the only Canadian university where one of our headmasters studied.
6. We often refer to Mr John Anthony Mason, but what was his actual first name?
7. In which country was Mrs Mady Martyn born?
8. Mr SK Vohra played in exactly one first class match for UP in the Ranji Trophy. What did he play as? (eg batsman, bowler, opening batsman...)
9. Apart from Mr Holdsworth, which other British teacher at Doon played Ranji Trophy cricket?
10. Which short-term teacher in the late 1960s later became a senior correspondent in the BBC and wrote a biography of Rajiv Gandhi?
11. Which British teacher was a retired ICS officer who had served mainly in Bengal?
12. In which well-known school in Scotland did Mr Shomie Das teach?
13. Which teacher of the 1940s later became a well-known film director and producer?
14. In which 1985 Hindi film is Mrs Jean Simeon listed as an actor?
   Hint: it is connected with Goa.
15. In around 1970 a short-term Bursar had a pair of dogs named Kitty and Kachorn. This shows a connection with another Asian country. Which country?
16. Which short-term teacher of the 1990s had played cricket for various age-group teams for Delhi and later became a TV commentator and later senior figure in a large broadcasting group?
17. The Chuckerbutty debate is named after a teacher of that name who died during an expedition in 1956. A distant nephew of his was born around the same time and later studied at the School and still later, taught there for several years. Name the latter.
18. A daughter of one of the teachers studied at the school and is now a senior scientist with IBM with several patents to her credit. Give her maiden name.
19. What was Tata House initially known as?
20. For many years there was a yellow-painted aircraft stored in the workshop area. This was apparently used by the Indian Air Force as a training aircraft in the 1940s. What was the name of this model of aircraft?
21. In which year were students last admitted in E form?
22. In which year was the last 11th grade ISC held at Doon, before the 10+2 system came into being?
23. What was Martyn House earlier known as (up to the early 80s)?
24. If Abhinav Bindra had stayed on in school, which ISC batch would he have been in?
25. Which trophy has a connection with the Fulbright scholarship, (which was once considered to be very prestigious)?
26. What was the main reason why "The Merchant of Venice" was staged at Founder's in 1985?
### INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT (01.04.2015 TO 31.03.2016)

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<td>275,107.00</td>
<td>122,500.00</td>
<td>IPSS Grant</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>311,417.43</td>
<td></td>
<td>70,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Donations</td>
<td>5,310,000.00</td>
<td>2,231,534.00</td>
<td>Membership Subscription</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,500,050.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,956,884.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establishment</td>
<td>1,240,220.00</td>
<td>138,101.35</td>
<td>DSOS Play (2011)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,019,100.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Rent - Premises/equipment</td>
<td>990,000.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>Rental Income</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,211,349.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>630,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Maintenance</td>
<td>369,183.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>Rose Bowl NL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>205,638.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>262,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postage</td>
<td>25,525.00</td>
<td></td>
<td>Class of 1990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>5,808.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rose Bowl Newsletter</td>
<td>1,133,529.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess Income over Exps</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>8,165.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>carried to Gen. Fund</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess Expenses over Inc.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>999,538.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>carried to Gen. Fund</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>9,692,744.45</td>
<td>4,597,973.03</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>TOTAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9,692,744.45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In terms of our separate report of even date

For V. SAHAI TRIPATHI & CO.
(CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS)
FIRM REGN NO: 0000262N

NEW DELHI
(EXECUTIVE SECRETARY)
(PRESIDENT)
(MAHESH SAHAI)
PARTNER
Membership No. 6730
## BALANCE SHEET AS ON 31 MARCH 2016

### THE DOON SCHOOL OLD BOYS’ SOCIETY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GENERAL FUND</th>
<th>LIABILITIES</th>
<th>AS ON 31.03.2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opening Balance</td>
<td>28,423,041</td>
<td>28,423,041</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: Excess expenditure over income</td>
<td>999,538</td>
<td>27,423,503</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CORPUS FUND</td>
<td></td>
<td>8,421,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General - Recd during the year</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bursary - DS OBS</td>
<td>25,088,675</td>
<td>25,088,675</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add: Donations during the year</td>
<td>225,000</td>
<td>25,313,675</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calamity-Relief Fund</td>
<td>256,542</td>
<td>256,542</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add: Contributions-Chennai Fld Relief</td>
<td>1,183,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: Donations given</td>
<td>(1,050,000)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Add: Contributions-Nepal Earthquake</td>
<td>1,657,698</td>
<td>1,657,698</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less: Donations given</td>
<td>(1,520,907)</td>
<td>526,333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gurudakshina Fund</td>
<td>2,673,691</td>
<td>2,673,691</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rose Bowl Newsletter corpus</td>
<td>10,355,996</td>
<td>10,355,996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bombay (Mumbai) Region</td>
<td>429,275</td>
<td>429,275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chennai Region</td>
<td>171,490</td>
<td>171,490</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vyasrati Consultancy P Ltd - Rent Security</td>
<td>140,000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax Deducted at Source</td>
<td>77,713,557</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opening Balance</td>
<td>1,629,458</td>
<td>1,629,458</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TDS on current Income</td>
<td>629,137</td>
<td>2,258,595</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>69,028,168</td>
<td>69,028,168</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**In terms of our separate report of even date**

For V SAHAI TRIPATHI & CO.,

(CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS)
FIRM REGN NO. 0000262N

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

Place: New Delhi
Date: 23/9/2016

**PRESIDENT**

(MAHESH SAHAI)

PARTNER

Membership No. 6730
## The Doon School Old Boys' Society

### Balance Sheet as on 31 March 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>AS ON 31.03.2015</th>
<th>AS ON 31.03.2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fixed Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flat 1007 Bhikaiji C.Place, N.Delhi</td>
<td>2,627,899.15</td>
<td>2,365,109.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer and Fax</td>
<td>6,891.54</td>
<td>2,756.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Furniture &amp; Fixtures</td>
<td>81,822.01</td>
<td>73,640.01</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Investments</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A. General Fund</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FDR with HDFC Bank</td>
<td>20,800,000.00</td>
<td>31,500,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Corpus Fund - Synd BK/HDFC/CBI</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bursary</td>
<td>25,000,000.00</td>
<td>25,200,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chennai Region</td>
<td>46,146.00</td>
<td>46,146.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gurudakshina Fund</td>
<td>2,600,000.00</td>
<td>2,600,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rose Bowl NL Fund</td>
<td>10,156,581.72</td>
<td>10,200,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Misc Funds</td>
<td>2,496,419.98</td>
<td>1,300,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Advances</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doon School Current A/c</td>
<td>85,093.31</td>
<td>110,902.31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security - Rent</td>
<td>132,000.00</td>
<td>132,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security - Fixtures</td>
<td>33,000.00</td>
<td>33,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Tax Deducted at Source</strong></td>
<td>1,629,458.15</td>
<td>2,258,594.79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cash &amp; Bank Balances</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syndicate Bank - S/B A/c - Delhi -1</td>
<td>2,236,827.96</td>
<td>865,861.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syndicate Bank - S/B A/c - Delhi -2</td>
<td>536,697.18</td>
<td>446,499.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDFC Bank - Delhi</td>
<td>110,411.89</td>
<td>106,926.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDFC Bank - Bombay</td>
<td>322,610.43</td>
<td>335,556.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Union Bk of India S/B A/c - Chennai</td>
<td>43,808.08</td>
<td>45,578.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central Bank of India C/A-Chennai</td>
<td>81,535.42</td>
<td>85,539.42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash in hand</td>
<td>965.00</td>
<td>5,446.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>69,028,167.82</td>
<td>77,713,557.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In terms of our separate report of even date
For V. Sahai Tripathi & Co. (Chartered Accountants)
Firm Regn No: 0000262N

**Balance in Savings Bank A/c with Syndicate Bank includes Rs.1,24,313.4 relating to CORPUS funds.**

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY (PRESIDENT) (MAHESH SAHAI)

Partner
Membership No. 6730

New Delhi
22/9/2016
Agenda for the 77th Annual General Meeting of the Doon School Old Boys Society being held in Doon School, Dehradun on Sunday October 23, 2016 at 10:30 am

1. To pass a condolence resolution in the memory of the following members who have passed away.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl.No.</th>
<th>PREFIX</th>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>SURNAME</th>
<th>ST_NO</th>
<th>BATCH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>MR</td>
<td>B N BHAGAT</td>
<td>BHAGAT</td>
<td>143-H</td>
<td>1941</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>BRIG</td>
<td>AMARJIT SINGH</td>
<td>SINGH</td>
<td>185-J</td>
<td>1941</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>LT COL</td>
<td>HARISH BAHL</td>
<td>BAHL</td>
<td>204-K</td>
<td>1946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>MR</td>
<td>AKHILESWAR P N</td>
<td>SINGH</td>
<td>146-J</td>
<td>1946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>MR</td>
<td>ROOPINDER LALL</td>
<td>LALL</td>
<td>104-J</td>
<td>1947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>MR</td>
<td>SHRAVAN KUMAR SWARUP</td>
<td>113-K</td>
<td>1950</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>CDR</td>
<td>LALIT K MATHUR HECTOR (HECTOR</td>
<td>027-H</td>
<td>1951</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>MR</td>
<td>JAGDISH NATH</td>
<td>NATH</td>
<td>285-J</td>
<td>1952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>MR</td>
<td>ARSHAD RASHID (SUFI)</td>
<td>233-K</td>
<td>1954</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>MR</td>
<td>RAJ BIR SINGH</td>
<td>SINGH</td>
<td>004-H</td>
<td>1954</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>MR</td>
<td>JITENDRA PAL SINGH (JOHN)</td>
<td>041-H</td>
<td>1957</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>MR</td>
<td>S ASKARI IMAM</td>
<td>IMAM</td>
<td>068-T</td>
<td>1959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>MR</td>
<td>RAJINDER SINGH BHAGAT</td>
<td>139-K</td>
<td>1960</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>MR</td>
<td>RAMAN VIRMANI</td>
<td>VIRMANI</td>
<td>274-J</td>
<td>1963</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>MR</td>
<td>RAJEEV LAL</td>
<td>LAL</td>
<td>103-K</td>
<td>1966</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>MR</td>
<td>HARSH VARDHAN BHARGAVA</td>
<td>025-H</td>
<td>1967</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>MR</td>
<td>LAKSHMAN RAI</td>
<td>RAI</td>
<td>124-H</td>
<td>1968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>MR</td>
<td>RAHUL S DESHPANDE</td>
<td>908-J</td>
<td>1982</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>MR</td>
<td>MAYANK SHARMA</td>
<td>SHARMA</td>
<td>297-J</td>
<td>1997</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>MR</td>
<td>KARAMVEER SINGH CHHABRA</td>
<td>102-T</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>PADMASHRI HARI DANG</td>
<td>ASSOCIATE</td>
<td>MEMBER</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. A report by the President on the activities of the year
3. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 76th Annual General Meeting held on October 18, 2015 at the Doon School, Dehra Dun
4. Any matter arising from the Minutes
5. Approval of Accounts as on 31st March 2016.
6. A report on the DSOBS APP.
7. Discuss the Internship Program for school boys.
8. Election / Re-election of Office bearers
9. Appointment of Auditor
10. Any other matter with the permission of the chair.

Sheel Sharma
Executive Secretary
Draft minutes of the 76th Annual General Meeting of the DSOBS held in The Doon School, Dehradun on Sunday October 18, 2015

The meeting was attended by 76 Old Boys. The President welcomed the assembled Old boys.

1. To pass a condolence resolution in the memory of the following members who have passed away.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Father's Name</th>
<th>Batch Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>MR GAUTAM KUMAR</td>
<td>KHANNA</td>
<td>037-K 1939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>MR KESHAV BHALCHANDRA</td>
<td>GOKHALE</td>
<td>223-K 1942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>BHANWAR RANJEET</td>
<td>SINGH</td>
<td>194-K 1942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>MR BOOBLI GEORGE</td>
<td>VERGHESE</td>
<td>150-J 1942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>BRIG R K KOCHHAR</td>
<td>KOCHHAR</td>
<td>037-T 1943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>MR SIDDHARTH</td>
<td>KATHJU</td>
<td>087-T 1944</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>NAWABZADA MIR AZIZ ALAM</td>
<td>KHAN</td>
<td>058-K 1945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>MAJ SOM</td>
<td>NATH</td>
<td>284-J 1945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>MR P</td>
<td>SRINIVASAN</td>
<td>256-T 1945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>MR HARI</td>
<td>SONI</td>
<td>004-T 1946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>GP CAPT G K</td>
<td>BAKHLE</td>
<td>085-H 1949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>MR ASHOK M</td>
<td>BHAVNANI</td>
<td>231-T 1949</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>MR RAJENDRA</td>
<td>SINGH</td>
<td>083-T 1950</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>MR BHISHAM KUMAR</td>
<td>BAKHSHI</td>
<td>168-J 1951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>MR J K</td>
<td>LALWANI</td>
<td>015-T 1953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>DR BEHMAN MINOO</td>
<td>DAVER</td>
<td>220-H 1955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>MR HASSAN</td>
<td>BILGRAMI</td>
<td>102-T 1958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>MR RAJENDRA NATH</td>
<td>SINGH</td>
<td>294-K 1958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>MR AJAI</td>
<td>KUMAR</td>
<td>283-J 1960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>DR B ASOKA</td>
<td>RATNAM</td>
<td>327-T 1960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>MR PAVAN K.</td>
<td>HARI</td>
<td>258-K 1961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>MR SAMIR</td>
<td>LANBA</td>
<td>220-T 1961</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>MR HARISH KUMAR</td>
<td>NAYAR</td>
<td>287-T 1964</td>
</tr>
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<td>24</td>
<td>MR RAJINDER</td>
<td>DESWAL</td>
<td>062-H 1967</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>MR ARJUN</td>
<td>RAHA</td>
<td>180-T 1968</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>MR NADIR ROHINTON</td>
<td>BABAYCON</td>
<td>103-KB 2002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>MR CHAND NARAIN</td>
<td>KAPOOR</td>
<td>121-T 1941</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. A report by the President on the activities of the year.

A warm welcome to all of you especially to those celebrating anniversaries including the Class of 1955 who celebrated 60 years, Class of 1965 who celebrated their 50 years, Class of 1975 their 40 years, Class of 1980 their 35 years, Class of 1990 their 25 years and all other classes who celebrated their batch year. I congratulate you all for having achieved these landmarks. I also extend a very warm welcome to the Headmaster Mr Peter McLaughlin. On behalf of all the old boys present I'd like to thank Headmaster Mr Peter McLaughlin, Mr Gautam Thapar, Chairman of the Board of Governors, masters and boys of the Doon School.
for the most wonderful three days of celebrations of the school’s 80th Founder’s Day. We greatly appreciate your efforts and would like to thank you for your warmth and hospitality. I would also like to thank the class of 1990 for hosting the fraternity over a very long evening. I also attended the parties organized by the class of 1955 and 1965 and I must say these two were really rocking.

I just wanted to say that this has been a very productive year especially as it was the 75th year of The DSOBS. We achieved many things thanks to the Vice President Jaswinder Singh and all the members of the Executive Committee. The most important thing to happen is that the school, the Board of Governors and the DSOBS are all on the same page.

I did not realize how challenging this task would be. In some ways it made politics look easy. I was surprised by the needless distance between these three groups. We have started to work together as a group and this is certainly showing.

There seems to be a general feeling that if the DSOBS was to work in unison with the Board or the School, we would lose our identity. I can assure all the Old boys that this is not the case. We are too distinct a society, too strong a society to lose our identity. We can have differences, we can have deliberations, but the only way forward is if all three wings of this school have a dialogue, and that has begun. The Chairman has said that we must have a written statement as to how the three of us must work towards the improvement of the school. And if there is any doubt in our members of our losing our identity, I assure you that we will not lose our identity, we will be distinct and more vibrant.

We have been trying to establish a system within the DSOBS. The DSOBS needs to be run more professionally. I am trying to put in place a template so that other Presidents who will come after me will have a system to follow. We must have a general consensus as to where this society will go. For this we had a vision statement prepared by a group that had very senior and eminent Doscos. Since this is an item on the agenda we will take it up at a later stage.

The Society has increased its charitable work considerably, which I think is essential to further the values School has taught us. Both after the Kashmir floods and the Nepal earthquake relief has been contributed in a major way. For the Kashmir floods we had organized a musical evening called Encore in which Doscos took part, many who have attained high professional standards in the singing and music world, and who came from far off places like Dubai, London, US and it was one of the most enjoyable musical evenings I have attended. All this was possible thanks to Gursharan Singh, former music teacher of School, and his son Amitoj Johnny Singh who put together this wonderful show. Among many who attended were Dr Kanti Bajpai and Mr Peter Mclaughlin who also greatly appreciated the show and at the end joined in singing Lab Pe Ati Hai Dua...I must add they both sang very musically.

Regarding the Nepal relief effort, it was indeed very heartening to find other organizations join hands with us because of the credibility we had built. We had collected money, blankets, food, tents and many other items. Even a school from Dehra Dun wanted to send relief material collected by them, through us. This I thought was a great achievement attained by the society. For the Nepal relief two boys did a lot of work. Varun Chaudhary who lives in Nepal and Nauhar Rana were the people who ensured that the relief material sent by us reached the deserving people. We collected approximately 15 lakhs for this relief. With this money we are building houses for people whose houses have been washed away. Each house will
bear a plaque stating “Donated by DSOBS”.

I have been thinking of how the amazing talent School produces can be utilized in a meaningful way, which benefits future generations of young Doscos. I would like to propose a Dosco mentorship or internship programme. The Doon School has produced leaders in every field be it business, NGO, films, politics, sports, news, art. We can mentor a young Dosco and give him an insight in a field he wishes to choose. I remember giving internship to a young Dosco who wished to join politics and wanted to get the feel of it. He worked with me for two weeks and at the end I gave him a glowing report which he told me did help him get admission to the college he wanted. This is what I would like to leave as my legacy as DSOBS President. Doscos like to party and play hard, but let us make the DSOBS responsible for passing the baton of knowledge from generation to generation

Now I will run through what the society has gone through in the last one year.

PREMISES
We had our office at D-318, Defence Colony. Mr. Lalit Nirula had at the last AGM had raised an issue that we should change our office and move to a better place. I like to inform the house that we have now moved office to C – 574 in Defence Colony. People had asked why we were not using our premises at Bhikaiji Cama Place. The reason is that there were far too many problems at that place, especially parking and the general cleanliness. The smell was terrible. For the new office we are paying rent which was lower than the previous place and it was also offset by the rent we are receiving from the Bhikaiji Cama place. There is hardly any difference in the two rents. Thus the issue of accommodation is over.

We had a lot of Do’s this year. The Dubai get together was held in January and hosted by Ashish Sharma. The other Do’s were held in London, New York and Toronto. Malvinder Mohan Singh is in charge of all overseas events and I will like him to give us a brief.

Malvinder Mohan Singh

We had organized this summer three get togethers, one in London, one in New York and one in Toronto. The Headmaster was very kind to join us in London and also in New York. We had close to 250 Doscos join us in London at an event hosted by Christie’s in their premises. It was perhaps for the first time that the members of the fraternity did not have to pay anything, and enjoyed a wonderful afternoon. We have, courtesy the Vice President Jaswinder Singh, a host who will be completely sponsoring the event next year. We will have to work out the logistics like date, time etc. This year the event was attended by Doscos not only from London but other places. The next one was at New York which was also well attended. This was followed up by the get together in Toronto. I know that many smaller get togethers were held in other cities all over the world and in India. I hope to bring out a calendar of all these events so that they may occur on a more regular basis. And by bringing out this calendar at the beginning of the year may help those travelling to fit their travel plans to enable them to be part of the event being held in the area of their visit.

SPORTING EVENTS
Hockey was played at the National Stadium under floodlights. The participation was very encouraging. Around 90 boys took part from the batches of 1980 to the new batches. The game itself was very competitive and there were times when tempers had to be cooled. I have asked the Headmaster to allow the school team to come to Delhi and play on the Astroturf under flood lights and get the experience and feeling of playing under such conditions. I’d like to thank Kunal Sharma for organizing the
Hockey event. Football was organized by Karam Mehra and Abhinandan Sekhri. The highlight of this tournament was the video clip of the tournament put on Whatsapp. Shlok Chandra and Shivraj Palta organized squash at the Delhi Gymkhana Club. Golf this year was organized at the Delhi Golf Club. It was very heartening to see the large number of Doscos turning up. A special mention must be made of Col A K (Nandi) Khanna who completed the round at the age of 90. We had two more stalwarts Mr Tishi Khanna and Mr Jag Mohan Khanna both in their late 80s. Another exceptional thing was that the best score to be carded at the tournament was by a boy still in school. A large number of cricket fixtures were organized by Donny Singh and I will request him to give an update.

Donny Singh

The following fixtures were organized this year.
1 Old Boys Triangular between Doon, Mayo and Sanawar was organized at Doon School. The hospitality shown to the visitors was absolutely great and it floored them
2 Mr Sumer Singh wanted Daly College, Indore to be also part of these fixtures and so organized a quadrangular between the alumni of Doon, Mayo, Sanawar and Daly College. It was a very successful tournament.
3 The Shomie Das Friendship Cricket Tournament was held in Bombay. This year we won the tournament
4 The Sheel Vohra Memorial Cricket Cup was held in school and we won.
5 The Bangalore Chapter annual fixture against Mayo was held in June in Bangalore.
6 The annual R L H Cricket Cup was this year won by the Old boys
7 Next year the Quadrangular Cricket Tournament will be held in Mayo College, Ajmer.

Vivek Sehgal

What is required is that we utilize the services of Consortium Gifts for all our memorabilia. We hope that the batches celebrating their various jubilees get their memorabilia through our approved vendor. Presently the batches are not conforming to this rule with excuses that the quality is poor, prices are high etc. They must realize that by using our vendor they help the DSOBS also as from every sale there is a cut for the DSOBS. Presently the memorabilia are on the website. We will make it available on the App also. Memorabilia is shipped anywhere in India free of cost and abroad at a price. We are venturing into new items. Recently the original games shirt was introduced and was the official tee shirt at the inter house golf tournament. A new tie has been introduced.

ROSE BOWL
The next point is the Rose Bowl. I must thank Govind Dhar for the excellent work he has done in keeping up with the tradition of the Rose Bowl. Each issue has been excellent. Also I would like to thank Mr Gautam Thapar for the paper he has provided us. Now we are getting even better
paper than before and this helps in enhancing the finished look of the Rose Bowl. Our Bursaries have gone up substantially. Our endeavour is to ensure that no old boy’s son is denied education in school for lack of funds.

We now move on to the next point on the Agenda

3 Confirmation of the Minutes of the 75th Annual General Meeting held on October 19, 2014 at The Doon School, Dehra Dun

The minutes of the 75th AGM had been circulated earlier in the Rose Bowl. The President requested that if there was no objection then the minutes could be approved. Brig B N Singh proposed that the minutes of the 75th AGM be passed, seconded by Subir Hari Singh. Accordingly the minutes of the 75th AGM were unanimously passed.

4 Any matter arising from the Minutes

There was no matter arising from the minutes.

5 Approval of Accounts as on 31st March 2015.

The Accounts for the financial Year 2014-15 had been audited and verified by Mr Mahesh Sahai, CA. Though there were some issues that needed to be resolved, Mr Mahesh Sahai assured the house that these would be resolved. He himself has been to the tax office about 15 times and is sure that by the end of the month an order in our favour will be passed. The President has himself talked to the Income Tax authorities and something positive will come out. Donny proposed that the accounts may be passed, seconded by Mr Satyajit Majithia. Accordingly the accounts for the financial year 2014-2015 were unanimously passed.

6 Approval of the Vision Statement

The President thanked the Vision Committee for the yeoman service they provided in bringing out the Vision Statement. They were Lalit Nirula, Chairman, Vikram Lal, Harpal Singh, Sumanjit Chowdhry, Kamal Bhagat, Ravi Chaudhry, Arun Kapur, Vivek Pandit, Rahul Kohli and Abhinandan Sekhri. By and large every aspect had been carefully studied and a comprehensive Vision Statement put forward for the house to approve. Shahshank Vira was happy with the proposal as the Vision Statement put forward the guiding principles of the Society. Vineet Khanna felt that the primary responsibility of maintaining the ethos of the Doon School lies with the school and the IPSS and needs to be supported by a wider community. He felt that the vision statement for the DSOBS should be to support school, foster fraternity amongst Old Boys and to serve society. Pramod Chawla felt that the present need is to serve society first and then foster fraternity and therefore points b and c should be interchanged. Mr Sumanjit Chowdhry stated that all over the world the primary aim of an alumni association was first to foster fraternity, then to support the school and then serve the society. Ravi Chaudhry felt that there was a distinction between an old boys association and an alumni association. Olds Boys association is a family and let us keep it that way. Shahshank Vira wished to know whether the approval of just the vision statement was being sought or of the entire page. He felt that presently the approval of just the vision Statement should be sought because the rest of the page may need a bit of word smutting to get the actual wording correct, and also that some of this is the prerogative of the EC to take an administrative decision. It was decided that the vision statement is one part and the rest is the guidelines to help achieve the vision statement.

Ravi Bir Singh proposed that the Vision Statement be passed, seconded by Prithvi Singh Gill. The following Vision Statement was unanimously passed.
VISION STATEMENT

There have been great changes in India since 1939 when the Society was started. Most Old Boys now are under 40 years of age and spread all over the world.

Arthur Foot, Headmaster, had said at the official opening of the School on October 27, 1935 - “Truly, we mean that the boys should leave the Doon School as members of an aristocracy, but it must be an aristocracy of service inspired by the ideals of unselfishness, not one of privilege, wealth or position”

The committee felt that it was no longer enough to have activities within the Old Boys community and help only Old Boys and the School. We should also look at how the Society could contribute to the country and work for greater causes. Once a student of the Doon School has finished school, it is the DSOBS which should remind him of the ‘aristocracy of service’ to which all Old Boys should belong - service to Old Boys, the School and to all others in our Nation.

Hence, apart from events that bring old boys together, fundraising and other activities to assist the School, the DSOBS should have activities that engage old boys in service to Society and also act as catalysts for positive change. Different initiatives should be started by the DSOBS and once started it is quite likely that many old boys will take them up and get others involved as well. That should, of course, be encouraged.

We recommend that the vision statement should be

“To foster fraternity amongst old boys, support school and serve society”

The following are the guidelines of the vision statement:

1) Ensuring all old boys children and grandchildren, if admitted to The Doon School, be able to receive financial assistance if the need is established.

2) The Old Boys Society will undertake work for the benefit of society and it will encourage efforts by old boys and others to join in these endeavours or to undertake them on their own.

3) Recognising the importance of fundraising in achieving the objectives of the School and of the Society, The DSOBS and The Doon School should work together for fund raising for mutually agreed objectives. The annual plans should be discussed and agreed to with responsibilities and fund division clearly demarcated, before the beginning of the year.

4 a) The DSOBS should focus on being self-reliant. An estimate of the budget for all events of the DSOBS needs to be worked out on a three year rolling plan and finances arranged in advance.

4 b) The DSOBS should not have to subsidize any event, except in very, very few cases where there may be a need at times. Fraternal and fund raising functions could be separated.

4 c) Membership Fees for the Old Boys Society will be charged from eligible Boys in School and to keep up with inflation, increased in the same proportion as the school fees.

5) The Old Boys Society should develop and set up a system for mentorship of Old Boys - after graduating from school, through University and into Careers.

6) While there had been a suggestion that Gurudakshina could be a trust started by DSOBS to give financial aid to the staff of the school for medical purposes, it was felt that we did not want
to create an obligation as health matters were highly sensitive and costs could escalate quickly. Furthermore, we wanted to avoid any interference on the school’s salary structure, pension/health plan - which is a matter for the School and BOG/IPSS.

7) The committee suggests that the following points need attention of the Executive Committee of the DSOBS and should then be reviewed every 5 years:

i) The DSOBS should make an inventory of all current initiatives under three areas:
   a) Foster Fraternity
   b) Support School
   c) Serve Society

ii) When they do so, three questions should be asked for each of these three areas:
    • Where do we stand today?
    • What does success look like? (over 1 year, 3 years and 5 years)
    • What do we need to add or modify to meet our definition of success?

Lalit Nirula
Convener, Vision Committee
20/09/15

7 Approval of changes in the process of elections

The President put forward the amendment to the Rules of the Society wherein point 5-2(h) had been modified to now become points 5-2(h), (i) and (j) and point 6-2(i) had become 6-2(i), (j) and (k). As per this modification rules 5 and 6 now become as follows.

5. OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY:

(1) The officers of the Society shall consist of a President, a Vice President and a Secretary/Treasurer, the last named not necessarily being a member of the Society. The election/selection of all officers shall be ratified at the Annual General Meeting.

(2) Insofar as the election of the President and Vice President are concerned, while the Vice President will automatically be elevated to the post of President after he has served as Vice President for two years but the new incumbent to the post of Vice President shall be elected in the following manner:

(a) The process for the election of the Vice President will be initiated by the 31st of January of the year in which the vacancy is to arise. Notice of the vacancy will be posted on the Society’s website, sent by e-mail or other means of communication and also published in the appropriate issue of the Rose Bowl.

(b) Those individuals from amongst the DSOBS who wish to offer their candidature for the post of Vice President shall confidentially send their applications to the President of the DSOBS through any member of the DSOBS as a proposer and two other members of the DSOBS (from different age bands) as seconders. The proposer and the seconders shall be from each of three age bands prescribed for this purpose, namely, 39 years and below, 40 to 49 years, 50 years and above. While forwarding the application of a prospective candidate, the proposer and the seconders shall briefly state as to why they feel that the candidate they recommend should be the Vice President of the Society. No other recommendation in favour of a prospective candidate apart from the one sent by/through the proposer and two seconders referred to above shall either be considered or given any weightage. The proposer and seconders of one candidate cannot nominate...
or recommend the name of any other candidate that year.

(c) The applications shall be accompanied by the following, which should also reflect the key elements stipulated in Rule 5(2)(d), namely:

(i) A brief Curriculum Vitae.

(ii) The candidate’s contributions to the Doon School and the Doon School Old Boys’ Society in the past.

(iii) The candidate’s strengths and the areas in which he expects to contribute to the Doon School and the Doon School Old Boys’ Society in particular and the society at large in general.

(iv) The candidate’s Vision Statement for four years and beyond.

(v) The Batch or Class to which the candidate belongs.

(d) The following key elements are required in a candidate who offers himself for the post of Vice President, namely:

i) He should have commitment to the objectives of the Society,

ii) He should be able to devote time to its functions,

iii) He should have a good standing in Society,

iv) He should have reached a certain level of achievement in his profession,

v) Membership of the Executive Committee of the Society would be desirable, though not mandatory, and

vi) He should be able to travel outside New Delhi to meet OBs and carry out the work of the society in a suitable manner.

Provided that inability to [in the context of Rule 5(2)(d)(vi) above] shall not be considered as reason to debar an interested individual so long as between the President and Vice President, at least one of them is able to represent the society outside New Delhi, as needed.

(e) All applications in conformity with Rule 5(2)(b), (c) and (d) above shall be submitted on or before the 30th of June of the year the vacancy for the post of Vice President is to arise. This date will be prominently indicated in the notice prescribed by Rule 5(2)(a) above.

(f) Once the nominations for the post of Vice President are received by the President, the President shall constitute a Committee to examine the applications and deliberate thereupon with the objective of arriving at a consensus to recommend one name for the Executive Committee to place before the House for approval at the Annual General Meeting.

(g) The President shall constitute this Committee by the 15th of August of the year in which the vacancy arises.

(h) This Committee shall comprise of the President and the Vice President of the DSOBS. The Chairman of the Board of Governors shall be requested to nominate one Old Boy Governor to be a member of this Committee. The President will also request two Past Presidents to join this Committee as members. Of the two Past Presidents, one shall be in the age group of 65 years and below while the other will be in the age group of 66 years and above. Apart from these five members of this Committee, five members will be
chosen from the three age bands of the DSOBS referred to in Rule 5(2)(b) above who volunteer to work for this Committee. Two (2) volunteers shall be selected from the age band of 39 years and below; two (2) from the age band of 40 to 49 years and one (1) from the age band of 50 years and above. Requests for such volunteers will also be posted on the Society’s website, sent by e-mail or other means of communication as also published in the appropriate issue of the Rose Bowl by the last date of February of the year in which the vacancy arises.

(i) The names of such volunteers shall be received by 30th of June and placed in a sealed box. All applications by volunteers to serve on this committee shall be sent in writing. If sent by Registered Post, Courier, hand-delivery or other means (apart from electronic form), the application should be duly signed by the applicant. Alternatively, such applications can be sent by email from the applicant’s own email address. All applications, whether in print or electronic form, shall clearly state the name of the applicant, his School number, House, year of passing, telephone numbers, both mobile & landline, postal address and e-mail address. On receipt of such applications but before being placed in a sealed box, the President/Vice President/Secretariat of the DSOBS shall scrutinize as to whether the applications were received by the due date, and whether the applicant has himself bonafide volunteered to serve on the committee and that the application has been received by the due date, shall place the name of such volunteer in the sealed box referred to above. Defective or incomplete application(s) or application(s) considered not to have been made bonafide by the applicant, shall not be placed in the box. The President/Vice-President/Secretariat shall have sole discretion in this regard which shall be final.

(j) At an Executive Committee meeting to be held by 15th of August of the concerned year, the President will, in the presence of the Executive Committee members, draw five names from the said box containing the names of volunteers. All members of the DSOBS will be at liberty to attend this meeting. The first name drawn from each age band will be selected for the Committee. Any vacancy caused by lack of volunteers from a particular age band shall remain vacant. Any person whose relative, whether by blood or marriage, is a potential Vice Presidential candidate shall automatically stand disqualified from being a member of such Committee. Similarly, any person who has been a proposer or a seconder of any candidate shall also stand disqualified from being a member of such Committee. Any person, apart from the President and Vice President of the DSOBS, who has earlier been a member of this Committee shall also stand disqualified from being a member of such Committee for four years. Such Committee members shall also stand precluded from applying for the post of Vice President or Executive Committee member for a period of four years.

(k) This Committee will on its constitution begin the process of examination of the details of the prospective candidates and deliberate on their suitability. During such deliberations, this Committee will be at liberty to ask any candidate or candidates for further information and/or data for further consideration.

(l) All proceedings and deliberations of this Committee shall remain confidential. To further ensure such confidentiality, the President will select one of the members of such Committee to act as the Secretary of the Committee.

(m) After such deliberations, the Committee shall
by 15th of September recommend one name to the Executive Committee for being placed before the House at the Annual General Meeting.

(n) The name recommended by this Committee to the Executive Committee shall be considered at a meeting of the Executive Committee to be convened within two weeks of 15th of September and in any event by or before the 5th of October of the given year. The recommendation of the Committee will be reviewed by the Executive Committee and after consideration be placed before the house at the Annual General Meeting for approval by the House.

(3) The Vice President will serve a two-year term and will subsequently (automatically) assume the position of President for two years. Both the President and the Vice President shall serve in their respective positions for two years each without the requirement for re-election for the second successive year.

(4) No person who has served as President of the DSOBS shall be entitled to ever apply again for the post of Vice President which would consequently lead him to once again becoming the President of the DSOBS.

6. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

(1) The management of the affairs of the Society, its investments and the power of development, payment and disbursement of its funds and properties shall vest in the Executive Committee, which will consist of the President, the Vice President and not less than six or more than twelve other members. All members (except the President’s nominees) will be elected at the Annual General Meeting. The Executive Committee will comprise of the following representatives:

(i) Age group 60 years and above will be represented by one member

(ii) Age group of 50 to 59 years will be represented by two members,

(iii) Age group 40-49 years will be represented by three members,

(iv) Age group 30-39 years will be represented by three members,

(v) Age group 20-29 years will be represented by one member; and

(vi) In addition, each incoming President will have the option to nominate two persons as Executive Committee Members who shall not be required to be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

(2) Selection of new Executive Committee Members

(a) The process of selection of Executive Committee members will be initiated by the President by or before the 31st of January of the year in which the vacancies are to arise.

(b) All such vacancies will be posted on the Society’s website, sent out by e-mail or other means of communication and also published in the appropriate issue of the Rose Bowl.

(c) Those individuals from amongst the DSOBS who wish to offer their candidature for being a member of the Executive Committee shall confidentially send their applications to the President of the DSOBS through any member of the DSOBS as a proposer and two other members of the DSOBS as seconders. The proposer and the seconders must be from the same age band (but not the same batch) as the candidate. The five age bands are 29 years and below, 30 to 39 years, 40 to 49 years, 50 to 59 years and 60 years
and above. No other recommendation in favour of a prospective candidate apart from the one sent by/through the proposer and seconders referred to above shall be either considered or given any weightage. The proposer or seconders cannot nominate or recommend the name of any other candidate that year.

(d) The proposer and the seconders alongwith their recommendations should also briefly state as to why the candidate they are recommending should be a member of the Executive Committee.

(e) The applications should be accompanied by the following:

(i). A brief Curriculum Vitae.

(ii). The candidate’s contributions to the Doon School and the Doon School Old Boys’ Society in the past.

(iii). The candidate’s strengths and the areas in which he expects to contribute to the Doon School and the Doon School Old Boys Society in particular and the society at large in general.

(iv). What the candidate proposes or expects to achieve in four years should he be selected as a member of the Executive Committee.

(v). The Batch or Class to which the candidate belongs.

(f) All applications shall be received by 30th June of the concerned year.

(g) On receiving all such applications by 30th June of the concerned year, the President shall constitute a Committee to examine the applications and deliberate thereupon with the objective of arriving at a consensus and recommend the name(s) of one or more candidates as vacancies permit for the Executive Committee to place before the house for approval at the Annual General Meeting.

(h) The President shall constitute this Committee by 15th August of the year in which the vacancy or vacancies arise.

(i) This Committee shall comprise of the President and the Vice President of the DSOBS and two members of the Executive Committee as decided by the Executive Committee. The said two Executive Committee members shall be ineligible to apply for the post of Vice President for a period of four years thereafter. Apart from these four members of this Committee, six others will be chosen from the five age bands referred to in Rule 6(2)(c) above. One (1) volunteer will be chosen from the age band of 29 years and below, one (1) from the age band of 30 to 39 years, two (2) from the age band of 40 to 49 years, one (1) from the age band of 50 to 59 years and one (1) from the age band of 60 years and above. Requests for such volunteers will be posted on the Society’s website, sent by e-mail or other means of communication as also published in the appropriate issue of the Rose Bowl by the last date of February of the year in which the vacancies arise.

(j) The names of such volunteers shall be received by 30th of June and placed in a sealed box. All applications by volunteers to serve on this committee shall be sent in writing. If sent by Registered Post, Courier, hand-delivery or other means (apart from electronic form), the application should be duly signed by the applicant. Alternatively, such applications can be sent by email from the applicant’s own email address. All applications, whether in print or electronic form, shall clearly state the name of the applicant, his School number, House, year of passing, telephone numbers, both mobile
&landline, postal address and e-mail address. On receipt of such applications but before being placed in a sealed box, the President/Vice President/Secretariat of the DSOBS shall scrutinize as to whether the applications were received by the due date, and whether the applicant has himself bonafide volunteered to serve on the committee and that the application has been received by the due date, shall place the name of such volunteer in the sealed box referred to above. Defective or incomplete application(s) or application(s) considered not to have been made bonafide by the applicant, shall not be placed in the box. The President/Vice-President/Secretariat shall have sole discretion in this regard which shall be final.

(k) At an Executive Committee to be held by 15th August of the concerned year, the President will, in the presence of the Executive Committee members, draw six names from the box containing the names of volunteers. All members of the DSOBS will also be free to attend such meeting. The first name(s) drawn from the age bands of 29 years and below, 30 to 39 years, 50 to 59 years and 60 years and above shall be selected for the Committee. Similarly, the first two names drawn from the age group of 40 to 49 years shall be selected for this Committee. Any vacancy caused by lack of volunteers from a particular age band shall remain vacant. If this Committee is one of even numbers e.g. ten (10) or eight (8) etc., the President of the DSOBS shall have the casting vote in case of a deadlock. Any person whose relative, whether by blood or marriage, is a potential Executive Committee candidate shall automatically stand disqualified from being a member of such Committee. Similarly, any person who has been a proposer or a seconder of any candidate shall also stand disqualified from being a member of such Committee. Any person, apart from the President and Vice President of the DSOBS, who has earlier been a member of this Committee shall also stands disqualified from being a member of such Committee for four years. Additionally, the said six Committee members shall be ineligible to apply for membership to the Executive Committee or for the post of Vice President for the next four years.

(l) The recommendation of the Committee will be reviewed by the Executive Committee and shall after consideration be placed before the House at the Annual General Meeting.

(3) No person who has been an Executive Committee member within a period of eight years before the vacancy arises (unless the person was a President’s nominee) shall be eligible to again apply for being a member of the Executive Committee.

(4) Vacancies among officers or the Members of the Committee occasioned by death, retirement or refusal to serve shall be filled up in the same manner as prescribed by Rule 6(2) above.

(5) The business of the Society may be transacted by correspondence.

Jaspreet Singh proposed that the changes in the election rules be passed, seconded by Jagdish Reddy. The changes in the election rules were unanimously passed.

8 Rose Bowl Subscription for hard copy

Everyone was of the opinion that in future the Rose Bowl should be printed as per demand. There should be a regular subscription for the printed version of the Rose Bowl. Some time back a proposal for payment of Rs 5000 was made for subscribing the Rose Bowl. To date so far only 900 Old Boys have paid this subscription. There was a
lot of discussion on the subscription of the Rose Bowl. Going digital was the way forward but those who wished to receive their hard copy should pay subscription. The EC was asked to see how this could be worked out.

9 Election / Re-election of EC Members

This year the following members have completed their first two years as members of the Executive Committee as per the norms laid down they are eligible to seek re-election. They are

1. Anil Malhotra  505 H 1975 group A
2. Jatin Bobb  411 T 1993 group C
3. Gaurav Sondhi  387 K 1986 group B
4. Dushyant Singh  246 K 1991 group B
5. Maninder Singh Sahni  293 J 1991 group C
6. Narinder Singh Vasisht  370 T 1973 group A

Of these Gaurav Sondhi has informed us that he would not like to seek further election.

If all the members present feel that the remaining five may be given a further two period extension then can I have a proposer and a seconder.

Gurmeet Singh proposed that Anil Malhotra, Jatin Bobb, Dushyant Singh, Maninder Singh Sahni and Narinder Singh Vasisht be all given a further two-year membership of the Executive Committee of the DSOBS. This was seconded by Vinit Khanna. Accordingly, the five mentioned above were unanimously elected to the EC for a further two-year period.

10 Appointment of Auditor

Mr Ravi Chaudhary proposed that Mr Mahesh Sahai should continue to be the Auditor of the DSOBS. This was seconded by Samir. Mr Mahesh Sahai said that his office will continue to audit the accounts of the DSOBS, free of charge, and that henceforth his assistant, Mr Rajan Sachdeva would be handling the affairs. This was unanimously accepted.

11 Any other matter with the permission of the Chair

1. Mr Dilsher Singh Virk (Lollipop) wanted to thank everyone on behalf of the John Martyn School for all the encouragement and support that had been given to the school, a school that was build to bridge the gap between the rich and the poor. He was very pleased to announce that from this school 5 boys were now studying in the Doon School on scholarship and 1 girl in Welham Girls school.

2. The class of 1990 wanted one of their class mates to be allowed to become a member of the DSOBS. He had completed only 5 terms and so was not eligible. However, they all passionately wanted him to be accepted. His not completing his term was because of family issues. The President said that a decision at this stage could not be taken but the matter will be taken up subsequently and a decision taken

3. Mr Ashutosh then presented a portrait of the headmaster Mr Peter Mclaughlin, made by an artist Ashutosh had invited from America and who had come and spent time in Art school with the boys. HM thanked everyone for this very touching gesture.

Sheel Sharma
Executive Secretary