

The Rose Bowl

NEWSLETTER OF THE DOON SCHOOL OLD BOYS' SOCIETY

JANUARY, 2012

If undelivered, please return to:

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Old Boys in the News

* **A.N.D. Sheel Haksar** (295-H '48)'s latest Sanskrit translation, "*Three Satires from Ancient Kashmir*", has just been published in India. It is his seventh Penguin Classic. The previous one was a new translation of the Kama Sutra which came out in London and New Delhi last spring and is due to appear in New York in January 2012. Sheel learnt Sanskrit at school from Mr. V. Shirodkar to whom he dedicated his earlier book "*Madhav & Kama*" (IndiaInk/Roli 2006), a first ever rendition from the Sanskrit.

* **Ramachandra Guha** (7 H '73) won the prestigious Sahitya Akademi award in 2011. He won it for his book of narrative history titled '*India after Gandhi*'. The Award in the form of a casket containing an engraved copper plaque, a shawl and a cheque of Rs. 1,00,000/- will be presented to the 22 winning authors at a special function to be held on 14 February 2012 at New Delhi during the Festival of Letters organized by Sahitya Akademi. Our heartiest congratulations to Ram for this much deserved honour.

* *Northeast Trilogy* by **Shiv Kunal Verma** (182 HB '76) was released on 15th January, 2012 at the Army Day Parade, by the three Service Chiefs at the Army House. Copies were presented to the President, Prime Minister and members of the Cabinet.



* Our congratulations to **Ashish Chandola** (344 H '70), winner of the Prithvi Ratna (Jewel of the Earth) Award, for his extraordinary contribution to wildlife film making and natural history, at the CMS Vatavaran Environment and Wildlife Film Festival in New Delhi, on December 6th 2011.

* **Sudhakar (Juggy) Pandit** (239 K '58) has presented the school library with his published history of Thorn EMI - "From Making to Music". The British conglomerate was in a vast range of businesses from defense electronics to music. Juggy retired as VP Finance some years ago. He is retired and lives in Barnes, London (UK) with his wife Sue. He has returned to painting and recently won an award for best painting at an exhibition in Richmond.

* **Inderjit Badhwar** (155 T '59) was the Chief Guest at the 16th Founder's Day Celebrations of the Assam Valley School on Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th November, 2011. Inderjit is an eminent journalist and prize winning author who is the Editor-in-Chief of the internet magazine on the Government which can be accessed at <http://www.gfilesindia.com>

* **Ranjit Khubchand** (315 J '59) aka Mony, has been running a buying office for exports, Indus Valley, since 1983 with his son Rahul (25 JB '89) and daughter Raleena. He also started a bed and breakfast establishment, BnB Chrysalis, just over two years back- but with a twist! He wants everyone who stays there to come out a better person- hence the final billing is also based on attitude/behaviour. It seems to have caught on - almost 80% of the guests are from abroad and it has been rated amongst the top 10 in Delhi by "Trip Advisor."

* **Dr. Vivek Bammi** (362 HA '71) is a faculty member at Jakarta International School since 1990, and has engaged actively with his host country. He wrote "Indonesia, a Feast for the Senses", a combination of text and photographs and, more recently, the text for a book sponsored by the Indonesian president, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, titled "The Wonders of Indonesia". This book was presented to world leaders, including Barack Obama, Hu Jin Tao and Manmohan Singh, at the Asia-Pacific summit in Bali in November 2011. An avid photographer, he is now preparing an exhibition called "China: Romantic and Poetic", to be held in Jakarta later this year.

* Our congratulations to **Vandan Shah** (729 H, '80) for winning the National Engineering Export Excellence Award (EEPC) for the 3rd year running--for his company, Sipra Engineers Pvt Ltd, in exporting automotive castings. The award was given away this year by Jyotiraditya Scindia (632 JB '88), State Minister for Commerce and Industry, Government of India.

Old Boys' News

Congratulations to **Ankur Bahl** (193-JA '76) and his wife Sangeeta for having scaled Uluru Peak, also known as Mt. Kilimanjaro, 5895m(19340 ft) in Tanzania. This is the highest point in Africa . He scaled this peak on 31.12.2011.

* Our congratulations to Abha and **Rakesh Kala** (191 H '66) on the wedding of their son **Ishan Kala** (361 HA '99) to Ravneet on December 4, 2012.

Births

* Our heartiest congratulations to Shivali and **Tarun Garg** (406 JA '99) on the birth of a baby boy, Aarav Garg, on 30th September 2011 in New Delhi.

* Our congratulations to Shalim and **Gaurav Dar** (575 H '88) on the birth of a son, Himank. The proud grandparents are Mrs. and Mr. AN Dar (ex Housemaster Hyderabad House)

Obituaries

* **Anand Swaminathan** (264 H '53) passed away on October 24, 2011. He was suffering from cancer and underwent surgery from which he never recovered. Our heartfelt condolences to his bereaved family.

* **Vidhu Raj Bhalla** (245 K '53) passed away on October 19, 2011. He was in the 4th stage of cancer which was diagnosed in August this year. Our heartfelt condolences to his sons Vineet Raj Bhalla (244 KB '79) and Viraat Raj Bhalla (521 TA '87) and daughter Vetika Raj Bhalla (Welhamite batch of '85).

* We are saddened to inform you of the untimely passing of **Ritu Bahl**, wife of Rajnish (Bunny) Bahl (620 HA '79) and mother of Pranay Bahl (340 H '04) on January 19th 2012. Our heartfelt condolences to Rajnish and Pranay.

* **Mrs. Darshan Singh** (wife of late Mr. Darshan Singh who was the P.T. instructor in School) passed away in Bombay on 16th November 2011. Our heartfelt condolences to her daughter Devinder 'Kattu' (396 TA '74) and son Rajdeep (186 TA '84).

* **Mrs. B.S. Sharma** (wife of late Mr. B.S. Sharma who taught Biology in School) passed away on 14th November 2011. Our heartfelt condolences to her daughter Latika (260 H '66) and son Sudhir (249 H '61)

DOSCO-Welham Tango



Jai Singh Rajwade (482 KB 1993), who won the Dosco Tango T shirt by being among the lucky 20 who paid their Rose Bowl subscriptions since the August '11 issue. Hurry and pay yours if you haven't as there are still a few to be won!

MOST SERVICE OFFICERS FROM THE CLASS OF 1951

Lalit Mathur [27H '51] has sent us this list. Can any other batch top this?!

Faujis from the Class of 1951:

- (1) Ambika P Bhargava 269 K - Army
- (2) Vijay N Channa 174 T - Army
- (3) Bhaskar Roy 215 J - Army (Deceased)
- (4) Brijesh D Jayal 101 T - IAF
- (5) Harpreet Singh 2 H - Indian Navy
- (6) Prakas Swani 98 T - Indian Navy
- (7) Ajay Sawhney 60 T - Indian Navy
- (8) SK Bhandari 70J - Indian Navy (Deceased)
- (9) Lalit K Mathur 27 H - Indian Navy
- (10) Mustafa Anwar Husain 82 J - Pakistan Army



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An Ode to Avi Bindra (42 T '68)

Manraj Singh Bindra (97 T '70)



Avinash, fondly known as Avi sadly succumbed to throat cancer on 29th November, 2010 at the age of 60. It's a difficult task to pay tribute to Avi and describe his versatility and many splendoured personalities. Not only was he my brother but a very dear friend,

since together we spent our formative years in Welham boys' school and Doon. Avi was made school captain in recognition of his academic and sports brilliance; evidence of the latter was seen when he beat Tiger Pataudi's batting record in cricket in Welhams. His English teacher, in an end of term report, remarked that he was gifted. Another teacher wrote that he would have made a scholar out of him if he had not been so fond of sports.

What happened to so much talent and so much promise? It was an anti-climax. In the liberal atmosphere of St. Stephen's college, Avi was drawn to a group, where drinking and smoking was considered the "in thing". Avi was fond of a good time. He was never keen on an academic career, although according to his college mates, he secured his BA Economics (Hons.) degree by studying a few hours prior to the exam. He tried his hand in business in India and Europe for which he was temperamentally, supremely unqualified and unsuited. He developed a lifestyle of a gentleman at large; being totally without malice, with his ever smiling face, his generosity, his fondness for company and being a spender by nature. Avi made friends in a matter of minutes. He did that regardless of anyone's age, nationality, religion or profession. He had an open house with all facilities provided where his friend and their friends, Indian and foreigners stayed even during his absence. He was somewhat sobered for a decade of his married life with an American girl.

Avi lived in two different worlds, a world of blood relatives and a world of friends wherein he spent more time. He was entirely devoted to his friends. He would think nothing of flying overseas for a party as was evidenced in attending his friend's 70th birthday in London! Avi wanted to drink life to the lees. He enjoyed partying and attended his birthday party in his flat a week before he passed away. It seems his life was scripted by a higher power; he acted the script and then faded away.

A noble soul, he had a very tender heart and could not see anyone getting hurt. He loved too much, though not wisely. His state is somewhat described in a couplet of Faiz:

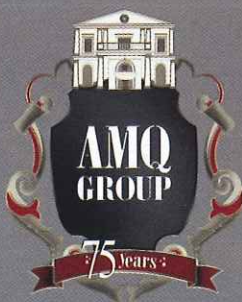
*"Gham-e-jahaan, rukh-e-yaar ho ke dast-e-uduu ;
Salook jis se kiya hum ne aashiqanaa kiya."*

"The travails of mankind on a sweethearts' beautiful face, or the enemy's hand; I have treated them all with the heart of a lover. "

WHOM THE GODS LOVE, DIE YOUNG.



Batch of '68, from left to right:
Deep Narain, Naresh Bareja, Arjun Raha, Dinraj singh, Vellayan,
Avinash, Madhur Bajaj, Vijay Mohan, Rajive Mehta and his wife Anila



Moin Akhtar Qureshi
467 K (1975)

Planning for the Fiftieth

Gautam Vohra (154 H '63)

The get-together of the Class of '63 was long overdue. We met last almost two years ago at Anu Kohli's terrace garden, an exhilarating event. We have of course been meeting one another at the more regularly organized gatherings by Darshan Singh, and more particularly Surinder Singh, for their respective batches. But our own class bash we have not had until Goby Singh Chopra took the plunge.

The fiftieth anniversary of our class, due after two years, occupied our attention for the better part of the evening. A tentative programme was fixed. In the case of our fortieth get-together, we spent two days at school, followed by two days river rafting. This time too we intend to spend two days at school, and another two days at another resort, perhaps the Keekar Lodge of which we have heard much praise. Sumanjit has been diligent about contacting the classmates on e-mail and the response has been encouraging.



The Delhi group of the Class of '63: Goby Chopra, Anu Kohli, Harish Sood, Sudhir Sahi, Sumanjit Chaudhary, Sheel Sharma, Harish Tripathi and Gautam Vohra

The other issue we discussed is the donation of money for a bursary for the fiftieth to the DSOBS so that a deserving student from a less affluent background is not denied admission. There was some talk of the Class of '63 playing a role in the selection of the candidate and disbursing the funds. In the two years since we last met there have been changes. Classmates have taken to new careers like Ramji Narayanan and Sumanjit; the latter has moved from health to education. Vishwajeet has become a significant Hindi poet and Raman Kapoor a pop star. Harish Tripathi has won his case against the Delhi Gymkhana Club. Ajai Tankha has emerged as one of the top players of bridge in the country. He has been ranked 14th in the national championship.

Ajai and Usha missed out on the get-together at Goby's place. So it was good to catch up with him at The Deck, the India Habitat Center, during a lunch hosted by Alok Chandola. Alok is back after another one of his tours and was telling me about his neglected orchard in Dehra Dun, and his farm near Sohna (Haryana) where he wants to live 10 days in a month, when the pressure of work declines. He intends to grow vegetables. Ajai is busy with his second book on micro-finance, and organizing the next

conference on livelihoods which I found to be a lively affair last year. The lunch was hosted by Alok in honour of Harsh Vardhan, who has been ensconced at Purdue University for a while now. He and his brother - a couple of years our junior now based in Germany, were en route to Bihar to sell their family property. We met him a year ago at Ajai Tankha's place. As a tenured professor Harsh has it good: he can teach physics for life. When he wants to visit India, he organises a lecture at one of the IITs and drops by.



Their better half: Half their number but twice their weight in diamonds: Tara Chopra, Shiela Bajaj, Priya Sen and Renu Kohli

While we tucked into our Salmon and Bass -we all chose fish for The Deck is famous for it - Harsh recalled Kobad as a low key individual. During the course of the dinner at Goby's this was a constant refrain. The dinner had been cooked by Goby and we were duly impressed: the vegetables were lightly braised, as they should be with Chinese food. But the meat took some extra chewing (Tara, when are you getting back into the kitchen!)

Kobad's case aroused a broad range of views. Reactions ranged from "India produced Mahatma Gandhi, the Class '63 produced Kobad Ghandy" (Harish Sood) to those who felt the Maoists violent methods could not be tolerated. The firm view of this group, that Marxism as a methodology, a scientific tool to analyse society, is fine. It is able to explain the exploitation by the capitalist system and the gathering army of the marginalized. But Marxism's resolution of the contradictions, the conflicts that the system gives rise to, and the violent overthrow of the ruling elite, was in no way acceptable.

A few days before Goby's party, we all met up at my book launch. I must thank my classmates not only for turning up in full strength but also for purchasing the Diary of An Organic Farmer. In fact, I was taken by surprise; almost all who landed up (college mates, NGO colleagues, media pals) bought a copy, so much so that towards the end none were left for sale. I autographed so many copies that my ballpoint went dry and I had to borrow Harish Nayyar's fancy pen to sign the rest of the books! The 154 hundred thousand rupee question is how many will go through the book, the Diary of An Organic Farmer?

Tihar Jail ruminations

Gautam Vohra (154 H '63)

shares a letter from classmate Kobad Ghandy (359 H)

Oct 16, 2011

Dear Gautam,

Just returned from yesterday's court hearing. It was such a pleasure to get your letter of the 4th and particularly the card with the 'Tree of Hope' (both received on Oct 15th). I was very touched by the messages on the card. It really helped to boost the spirits in this depressing environment. I am enclosing a reply.

On both the court dates, the Public Prosecutor (PP) turned up late. On the Sept date Rebecca came with her entire team, expecting to present her arguments after the PP. But the PP came about two-and-a-half hours late. She then left. Anyhow, in the two hearings the PP seems to have finished his arguments. Really he does not have any evidence on the main point of 'membership'. Normally, to prove this point the minimum they have is some underground documents etc (seized from computers etc), let alone weapons and other things. But here there is nothing. Yet, I do not know how the judge will act. It is a fact that in all such cases political pressure play a role. Anyhow, now Rebecca will present her arguments on Nov 1st afternoon. Let us see?

Yes, I received the copy of Action Now. In you edit what you said about the revolutionaries is true. Once again I liked the poetry corner. The article by Pande on the IAS was really excellent. The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) chief, Vinod Rai, also wrote a good piece in The Hindu showing the rot in the bureaucracy. Earlier, one would hear of many upright and honest people in the top echelons of the bureaucracy. Also of the humiliations they faced in the form of transfers etc. One such was B.D. Sharma. But now we do not hear much. That Bhopal couple in whose house hundreds of crores was found has quietly disappeared from the news. I hope some bureaucrats get to read Pande's insightful piece. Yes, on Watershed Management, I have so many ideas; but if I had done one of these IGNOU courses on the subject (and waste disposal / regeneration) I could have got a more scientific understanding of the subject, very necessary for evolving concrete methods of implementation. Must say Action Now has a good combination of insightful articles and local issues. The DRAG experience in slum

education and the Haryana environmental project were also interesting.

Regarding the eye, as I finally managed to get to AIIMS, I now feel more confident of reasonable treatment. As, for me, everything is in the eye - reading and writing my main activity. So, I got terribly worried when I saw my number increase from 0.75 to 2.5 in just six months. Never in my life has there been much change in my number. And with this, the pain. Now I find that the reason for the pain was that the jail doctor/ DDU had given the wrong number. Having once again changed the lens as per the AIIMS number, the pain is down.

I know that piece I wrote on childhood was terribly dry. One thing I just cannot remember things; second I feel very embarrassed to write on myself; and thirdly I have been quite an introverted person with little that is particularly exciting. Anyhow I will try and see if I can remember any anecdotes. Now, regarding the next phase—Doon School—it will be probably as dry. Regarding my experience there I feel there are two aspects. The elite atmosphere somewhat tended to cow me down, as we did not belong to such a background—my father being an employee in Glaxo (he became a director later). This is one aspect. The second and more important aspect was the liberal teaching models with so much focus on sports, P.T., cross-country. It really helped develop an all-round personality. Even the method of educating was never the cramming, learning-by-rote method, which seems to dominate most education systems. Of course the particular teachers made the difference—if I recollect correctly my favourite was Gurdial Singh who made geography so interesting: while I found History quite boring (was it Holdsworth). Also the school taught us some discipline, with strict timings. Overall, I think the entire model was every conducive for the development of an individual and his personality. Oh yes, I forgot about the mid-term treks—that too gave one a sort of spirit of adventure. Excellent concept. But then again in our days the general school atmosphere was so different from today--- with huge competition, guide/tuition culture and little or no extra-curricular activities (except watching sports, instead of playing it). I do not know why Vikram Seth felt it was negative? That I did not keep in touch (much) in the initial days after

leaving was more my failing and probably an aspect of my introverted character—Don't know. Later, of course, I went into a different world--- and in those earlier days tended to be intolerant of things perceived to be 'bourgeois'. Anyhow, I will try and continue the writing, keeping in mind the points you mentioned.

Now with one eye somewhat stabilized I am back to my study of philosophy, also Freud's 'Interpretation of Dreams'. But the pace is slow. Also keeping in touch with the world and Indian economy. And when I am confident of which direction things are developing, may write another article--- but, till now, things are not clear. In the long run the world economy (don't know about China) is bound to decline. Most economists are now openly talking about another Great Depression--- with regular comparisons with the 1930s.

Gautam any new developments on the farm? Must be quite difficult to manage those school kids--- now out in the open. And what a coincidence – talking of cats, a baby one came here a fortnight back. It was malnourished. We started nourishing it—more out of self-interest, as the mice had become a menace of late. It really loves its rats and only drinks the milk and biscuits when it cannot get any. Oh: it is 1 pm—there she is waiting for her milk. (Everyday at this time she drinks a little). And guess what--- I planted about 15 rose plants. So now looking after the rose and tulsi plants is quite a job as no one is particularly interested

except myself and a farmer from Punjab (learnt quite a bit of how to go about it from him).

Bye for now----- hope you get this letter a bit quicker than the last.

Regards
Kobad

P.S. Love to meet the others, but do not know if prison people will allow it.

Zarathustra (from TOI center page--- as I can remember it): Every day I try to be simple and truthful; and every day I come nearer to the reality; but people think us to be stupid.

(Sudheendra Kulkarni, the whistleblower in the cash-for-votes scam who spent 52 days in Tihar jail, has this to say about Kobad: "Then there is Kobad Ghandy, a former ideologue of the Maoist movement, who is lodged in the high-risk ward in Tihar. Widely respected for his gentle and sensitive conduct, he is called "Gandhiji" by both inmates and the jail staff. Meeting him, and knowing about his honest introspection into the reasons for the failure of the communist movements in India and worldwide, provided some of the happiest moments during my stay in jail. Since my interaction with Kobad deserves a comprehensive account, I shall keep it for another day."

You can read the full text of this article at <http://www.indianexpress.com/news/my-days-in-tihar-ashram/880879/9>

Golf: Not for Every One

Chudamani Ratnam (79T '49)

I spent over twenty years in Assam in the oil industry. People have asked me what I did there. Simple, I played golf 7 days a week; 9 holes Mon-Fri and 18 holes Sat/Sun. Apart from my home course Zaloni in Duliajan I had access to 10 other courses within an hour's driving time.

On one occasion I was playing on the Digboi course, then the only 18 hole course in Assam, with my good friend, the late Prafulla Chandra Barua of Assam Oil Co. (PC to all). The previous night a herd of wild elephants had crossed the course, but one adolescent got isolated and held up the game. Eventually he was shooed off and the game continued. However the elephant was creating a nuisance in an adjoining village and the villagers drove him back to the course. On the 11th hole, a par 3, I sliced out of bounds and stopped to look for my ball. Meanwhile PC had hit the green and was proceeding to put when the elephant screamed and charged at him I looked on in horror and yelled out to PC. Realising his predicament PC fled but not before retrieving his ball. Obviously the ball was more valuable than his life

On another occasion I was playing on a neighbouring course, Tingri with our Chief Medical Officer Dr. Bhuyan whose golfing skills as with mine left something to be desired. On the last hole as we sank our puts, I asked him "how many Doc?" and his response was "Let us not disgrace ourselves; put down 10." On a par 3 I didn't think it mattered much whether I put 10 or 20. However everybody was watching from the club house and I nearly got debarred from the Assam golf circuit.

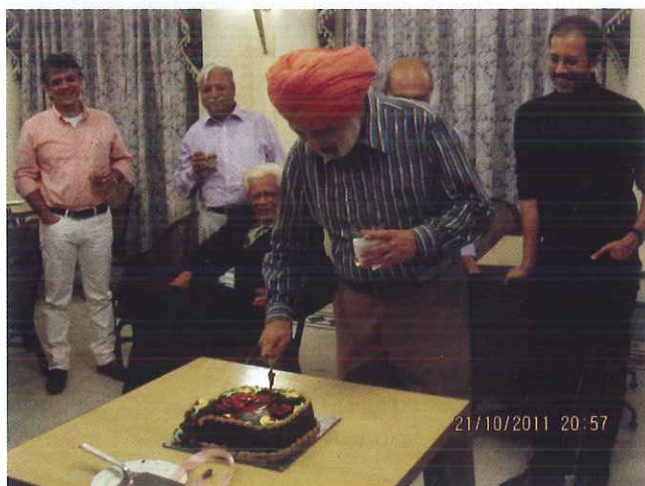
Class of 1951 turns 60

Lalit 'Hector' Mathur (27H '51)



The Class of 51 celebrated their Golden Jubilee year in October 2001 when they were ten years younger and that much more full of beans. At that time we were more athletic and I dare say, more frisky!! With youngsters like Charlie Kandhari, Shomic

Das, Suman Modwel and Chunti Harpreet Singh we were inspired to tackle the rapid white waters of Rishikesh in rafts. But that was a whole ten years ago in the year 2001. Since then Team 51 has lost three valuable wickets as Charlie Kandhari, Ashok (Chicky) Ranganathan and Subrata Roy returned to the celestial pavilion before the Class could score 60.



Samarjit cuts the cake as Rohit Badhwar, Sheel Sharma, Paramjit Badhwar and Karan Bhagat look on

At the very commencement of 2011, it was realised that the young bones of 2001 had begun to creak and groan in their 60th year and were no longer capable of any fancy adventurous feats in the Doon Valley----- we were just not going to be able to recreate another mid-term!! So, with this realization I floated the idea of my hosting a get together to mark our arrival at the 60th milestone in a more central place like Delhi. After considerable cajoling and coaxing, I got Paramjit Badhwar, Bhisham Bakshi, Ambika Bhargava, Shomie Das, Brijesh Jayal, Suman Modwel, Harpreet Singh, Jawahar Lal Agarwal, Jayant Kamat, Ambika Menon (Nair), Mukund Patel and Pratima Rao (Shirodkar) to agree in principle that they would assemble in Delhi before Founder's 2011. Accordingly I commenced making arrangements for this ambitious get together as early as April 2011. Most regrettably, with the passage of time and approach of D Day, the attendee strength began to peter out and eventually on Friday 21 Oct 2011, only Harpreet, Paramjit, Ambika Bhargava, Samarjit

Malik, Niki Bhagat (w/o late Vimal Bhagat) and I were able to get together with our families at the Naval Officers' Mess Annexe, Kota House, New Delhi to symbolically cut the 60th Anniversary Cake of the Class. We were honoured with the presence of Kishore Lahiri and Sheel Sharma, President and Secretary respectively of the DSOBS, who joined us in our celebration to not only give the function more colour but also a stamp of official recognition!!

To add life, glamour and spirit to a gathering of "oldies", we were very happy to have our families with us which included the following:

- Ambika Bhargava (269K), wife Asha, son Sandeep (738KA '80), his wife Jyoti and their son Tushar
- Harpreet Singh (2H) with newly married son Gaurav (114HA '97) and his charming bride Sumedha
- Paramjit Badhwar (229H) with son Rohit (11HB '83)
- Samarjit Malik (58K)
- Niki Bhagat (w/o late Vimal Bhagat 50K) with son Karan (98HB '83)
- Lalit Mathur aka Hector (27H) with his entire family i.e. Sanjay and his wife Kalpana, Vikram and wife Reema, daughter Tulsi and son Tanai, Vishnu and wife Charu with son Rohan (2 ½ yrs.)

The first cut in the Anniversary Cake was ceremonially inflicted by Niki Bhagat followed one after the other by Ambika, Harpreet, Paramjit, Samarjit and myself. All precautions for diabetes were cast in the wind and the "oldies" enthusiastically joined the younger lot in hogging all the goodies Golden Night style, washed down liberally with liquids that cheer.

The evening closed with a high sense of bonhomie and a resolve that the Class of 51 Family would become even stronger through our families well after we "oldies" had finally departed!!



In front: Tanai and Tulsi (Lalit's grand kids), 1st row (sitting): Samarjit Malik, Harpreet Singh, Asha Bhargava, Jyoti Bhargava, Niki Bhagat, Paramjit Badhwar, 2nd row: Charu Mathur, Sumedha Singh, Reema Mathur, Rohan, Kalpana Mathur, Lalit Mathur, Ambika Bhargava, Sanjay Mathur, Sheel Sharma, 3rd row: Tushar Bhargava, Karan Bhagat, Gaurav Singh, Sandeep Bhargava, Kishore Lahiri, Rohit Badhwar

Delhi DoscOs ride the India Cyclothon

Kunal Sharma (473 JB '93)

About fifteen DoscOs took part in the Delhi edition of the India Cyclothon on October 9th 2011. The ride route was set amidst the scenic Lutyen's Delhi, taking the cyclist past landmarks like Rashtrapati Bhavan, Parliament House and Connaught Place. Four decades of DoscOs were represented at the ride, with Gautam Thadani and Asad Nizam from the batches of the 1970s, and Vir Singh and Yadavinder Dhillon from the 1980s amongst the senior DoscOs present. Raghav Nayar, Sanjeev Singh, Gautam Agarwal, Akshay Modi, Joy Sahoo, and Tanveer Singh were among the other DoscOs that rode the event. Dosco T-shirts for the ride were generously sponsored by Globus Spirits (Ajay and Shekhar Swarup).

A much larger group of roughly sixty to seventy DoscOs, with a few family and friends, participated in the 2010 edition of the event. The Murugappa Group (A Vellayan),



makers of BSA Hercules cycles, sponsored Dosco participation and provided the stylish 21-speed Ryders ACT110 bikes, enabling the large turnout that was witnessed. Tishi Khanna from the 1944 batch was the senior most Dosco to participate!

In front of Rashtrapati Bhavan at the 2011 India Cyclothon (from left to right): Yadavinder Dhillon ('89), Sanjeev Singh ('94), Gautam Agarwal ('94), Raghav Nayar ('93), Kunal Sharma ('93), and Asad Nizam ('79)



The Dosco contingent after the 2010 ride



'My Reminiscences of the Art School'

Rathin Mitra, Art Master (1956-1981)



Today education is not conceived to be merely textbook-centered instructions in the so called academic subjects. The prevailing view is that 'Education is Life', and as such emphasis is being laid on the need for providing rich experiences for children through

creative activities and opportunities for expression and exploration.

There is no better test of good education than the extent to which it has equipped the boy to live every moment of his life fully, and to view everything around him with increased sensitiveness and interest.

The person who is trained for labour but does not know how to make use of his leisure is certainly only partially educated: and with increasing hours of freedom that we rightly claim, it is imperative that a boy should be taught how to make the most of them. At the Doon school boys are expected to bring the same intensity to bear on their spare time as they do their work. To our minds, to be free is not to be occupied—that is boredom; it is our being able to do what we want to, a fact which presupposes that we have acquired an interest. It is to meet this requirement that we have provided very fully for the study of arts and crafts. One cannot force interests on a child; all that one can do is to offer a variety of creative activities so that the child may be able to find some that meet his particular need. In the Art School for instance, boys are given facilities to try their hands in many creative artistic subjects rather than have only painting and drawing lessons.

What would be the role of the Art Master? Let me quote the words of John Martyn which he had written in the Doon School Weekly of Saturday the 3rd March, 1956. "In a newly started school what sort of man is it most desirable to have as Art Master? If it is desired that the life in the school should be full of many sided interests then it is important that the art master should not only be a good artist but also a stimulating and vigorous personality, capable of making everyone in the community interested in what goes on in the art school and inspiring enthusiasm in his pupils".

The school is extremely lucky to have had as its first

art master a personality like Sudhir Khastgir, who possessed much high qualities and ran the art school or eighteen years before I succeeded him in the year 1956.

Originally the Art School contained only the central room, now, perhaps which is used by the juniors. Later the hall was added on the east side where seniors work, then there was a shed for the stone-carving and wood-carving, and also a shed for pottery. Towards the west side the most important was the Ravindra Dhawal Memorial hall mainly for exhibition purpose. At first drawing and painting were the only activities; but on the persuasion of Mr. Khastgir, book-binding, stone-carving and wood-carving sections were also introduced. Mr Mumtaj Ahmed and shri Gulab Singh, stone-carver from Jaipur, assisted Mr Khastgir in these sections respectively.

Before I joined the Doon School in the middle of February 1956, I had taught in three different Public Schools of the country: Daly College, Indore, Lawrence School, Sanawar and St. Paul's School, Darjeeling. In the last two schools I had to build up the art section from scratch and there was only a small art room at the Daly College. Here in the Doon School I walked into a well functioning art school having two assistants, and it was situated a little away from the main building as an independent set up – 'a home for the artists.'

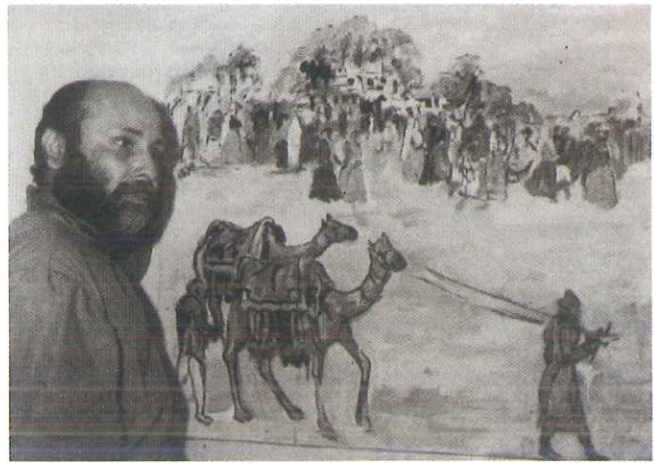


I was most fortunate to have a Headmaster like John Martyn. He was a great inspiration to many boys. He would often take a short cut passing through the Art School between his office and residence. He would pause to admire the new creations and move on. He would pause to admire the new creations and move on. He would pause to observe the creative side of each and every boy. Countless distinguished personalities visited the school in those days and they were especially brought to the Art School by Mr Martyn. His daily presence in the Art School cheered many boys. Sometimes he used to bring the canvas and paint 'still life' or 'flower study' along with the boys. Mr Martyn also painted during the holidays: Rome, England or in the Himalayas, wherever he visited. Some of his paintings were displayed in the Art School. The atmosphere of the Art School was an artist's paradise. Many hidden talents among masters came out openly. Some masters' wives also used to visit the Art School to try their hand at painting during their leisure hours. The Art school remained open on all days and a series of exhibitions were organized for these Sunday painters, among them an exhibition of S. P. Sahi's sketches which were displayed in the Ravindra Dhawal Memorial Hall.

I vividly remember, within a term of my arrival there was a hot controversy on the best artist's prize. An exhibition of my works was displayed in the Ravindra Dhawal Memorial Hall. I thought that boys should see what type of paintings I paint. It was also a sort of introduction to Chandbagh through my paintings. I belong to the Modern Group of Artists- The Calcutta Group. My works, in those days, were very much in the impressionistic style. I used thick paint freely with the help of the spatula on canvas, thick bold colour, having forgotten the conventional manner. This exhibition was organized on the same day when the Shah of Iran and Queen Soraiya were visiting the school. Mr Khastgir too was in town then.

A couple of months after my exhibition the annual display of boys' works would take place. In those days the annual exhibition was scheduled during the summer month, end of May. The art prizes and the Trophy for the Best Artist were awarded during this occasion. Some prominent figures in the art world were generally invited to preside over the small, neat and homely gatherings comprised of boys, local parents and the Chandbagh family.

I cannot say whether the boys were inspired after having seen my paintings and had painted in the unconventional way. Some senior boys produced paintings with very rich colours. I remember Jai Shankar Kala's (1950-1957) paintings. He painted



several such paintings and in one painting he used very bold colour and painted his horses green! This painting "The Green Horses and Trees" was chosen for the Best Artist prize. The selection was done by some important persons in the field of art. And Kala's painting was adjudged for the best artist's prize.

Mr R. L. Holdsworth, the senior most English Master, publicly criticized the Best Artist's painting and wrote a strong letter in the Doon School Weekly. (Mr Holdsworth's letter in the Weekly of 2nd June 1956 read, "I fear, Sir, that the award of Salim Ali Art Prize to a picture of horses that are green, pink, and blue with spots in a field shaded by doubtfully mesozonic trees can have only unfortunate repercussions on the other Doon School artists..... I do not deny that an artist has the fullest right to paint horses whatever colour he likes. I do not grudge him the right of self expression, but should he display them in public?Personally if I were to see blue and green horses I should go quietly to the hospital and ask for treatment for disordered liver." Mr Holdsworth's statement enraged the artist community of Chandbagh.

Arguments and counter arguments through a series of letters followed for weeks, much to the amusement of the entire Chandbagh fraternity. I had to summarize by saying that Vlaminck, the famous Fauvist, poured pots of mauve on green trees. So did Frans marc paint his famous "Three Horses" blue to give them not skin of blue, but something more-harmonized visual realization in colour. Art is not skin-deep. The Editor closed the correspondence after publishing my note.

I remember there were a few similar incidents. A volley of letters was published in September/October 1958 when a painting of Biswajit Roy, which had adorned the wall behind the Headmaster's platform in the then Assembly Hall in the main building above



the physics laboratory for over seven years, was replaced by a similar size painting done by Jyoti Sahi, a very promising artist. People did not like the change. A letter appeared under the name 'Annoyed' followed by R. L. Holdsworth's letter under the disguised name 'Green Horses' and the letters of Aftab Seth and Jai Shankar stimulated the air. Even an Old Boy, Ravi Mahay, who followed the context gave a reply and partly accused me for the replacement. I brought the argument to an end by stating "Can one appreciate a good piece of music everyday for seven years? Or in the matter of food, if one is fond of eggs, can one have them for breakfast, lunch and dinner every day of the month. For three hundred sixty five days, when one sees the same painting for seven years, a change would be welcome. The correspondence on this subject was closed in the Weekly of November 1st, 1958.

Again in April 1959 Swaminathan S Aiyar came out with a very thoughtful article on Art "Picasso vs Turner and Phides vs Epstein." Many intellectuals of Chandbagh came out with their views in support and against. A visiting master Mr A F Berdett, has attempted to write his own comments. For a couple of months there was an art wave in the school. Jai Shankar Kala had set the ball rolling with his famous 'Green Horses.' Definitely the healthy criticism and different views changed the outlook of the boys who, crossing the bar of conventional theme, painted more freely and produced some vigorous paintings for the following annual art exhibition. Mr John Martyn's review of the

Annual Exhibition in 1959 clearly mentioned the development of the creative expression of the boys. I quote from Mr Martyn's write up in the weekly: "The predominant impression is of great variety....This year there were no green horses; but there were a few abstracts which seemed to me well balanced in form and colour... On the whole there was tremendous variety and great deal of promise. Many boys show imaginative powers that I never thought they possessed."

No wonder these revolutionary boys later became well known artists of the country after pursuing their training in India and England from various art schools and colleges. Jai Shankar Kala painted a mural in the common room at Oxford. He was the first boy of Keble College, Oxford privileged to paint such a work of art. Vivan Sundaram, Robin Jind, Jyoti Sahi, Latika Katt and a few others had several solo exhibitions in the country and abroad. In fact two of them are National Award Winners. Vivan and Latika were selected as the members in the General Council of the Central Lalit Kala Akademi, New Delhi. Vivan was sent to Cuba to join the youth festival on behalf of the country. Jyoti Sahi is doing extremely well, decorating



the chapels in his own way. He has done several outstanding murals on Christian theme, he had published many books with his thoughts and illustrations; some in England. His decorations in the churches received tremendous applaud. All of them germinated in Chandbagh, where their Headmaster supported their creations, enjoyed their expressions and wrote about them publicly. No boy with such encouragement would hesitate to give his best.



Another wave in the art school was the cartoons where, as I recall, Prakash Joseph took the lead. His humour and solid draughtsmanship will be well remembered by the Doon School boys for years to come. His caricatures of the personalities of Chandbagh had distinctively accurate expressions. The school had already produced a cartoonist of national level in Vishnu Sharma, a brilliant Doctor turned Cartoonist. Prakash Joseph, later Subarna Sanyal, Tilak Mehra, Mohit Jayal, Nirula, etc. kept

Chandbagh in a lighter mood over the decades. A comprehensive book on Cartoonists of Chandbagh from 1935 to 1985 has been published on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the School. In the Hindi Magazine 'Arpan' produced by the Hindi Department of the School, one can see Subarna Sanyal's magnificent drawings of animals and figures. If he had taken up this line, perhaps he could have been one of the topmost cartoonists of the world. The number of boys had gone up since the Silver Jubilee Celebrations and it was felt that the activities of the Art School should also be increased by introducing a few more new media. In 1963 the Sculpture section was extended and a new section of artistic handicrafts was introduced under able instructors. When Gulab Singh, who was a very good stone-carving teacher, died having taught for nearly two decades, we had Dasgupta for a spell of five years. A full fledged sculptor having had formal training in the art college, Calcutta, he joined at the time when we were about to celebrate the Silver Jubilee in 1960. We thought of decorating the Chandbagh estate with cement-concrete sculptures all over the places including some bird baths. We had

The Greatest Painter of the Day

Shivv Kunal Verma (182 HB, '76)

1972, 1st term, perhaps the first day in school, us first generation doscos (most second generation types having come in from Welhams and having joined a year before) were getting the 'goodly feel of the gravel under our feet' while trying to figure out the intricacies of a time table that made zilch sense!

While other 'schools' were denoted by the initials of masters, there was no ambiguity about 'ART' and so it was that some twenty-plus boys walked into the rather quaint art school post-assembly. Walking in from the bright outdoors, some of us missed the Sheikh Abdullah like cap on a round bearded face that was sitting crouched in a corner watching the rank and file.

The cap/beard (and muffler) had our attention as Rathin Mitra belled out a question: 'Who is the greatest artist?' I don't think he added the word 'ever' but he might have. Nevertheless, the entire lot of D-formers (1st and 2nd generation alike) stared back at him, some like me with a slightly open mouth!

'PEE-KA-SO!' said Rathin Mitra, with the added emphasis of a resounding slap, catching someone or the other smack on the face. I think he repeated it a few times, each 'PEE-KA-SO!' adding to the collateral damage. Forty minutes later, a rather dazed lot exited the Art School, the walking wounded clutching a post card which had the main building beautifully etched in ink with the signature of Rathin Mitra on it.

Those who hadn't got inscribed postcards the first time around, got them later in the week as we trooped in for our second art class. The question 'Who is the greatest artist?' was met with a confident chorus 'Picasso Sir'. Those around arm range became candidates for postcards along with the information that Pablo Picasso was not the current favourite. If I'm not mistaken, through all the scrambling to get out of the way, the new name resembled the inscribed signature on the postcards!

Footnote: Last November, while shooting in the Nubra Valley, I spent a couple of nights with 102 Bde, also known as the Siachen Brigade. In the mess were some outstanding line drawings, the style of which looked very familiar. Sure enough, scrawled at the bottom were the two words - Rathin Mitra.

many competent sculptors and also developed their aptitude along with our painters. Romesh Kohli, Barun Basu, Pramod Chawla and Vidhu Bhai Randev etc. These outdoor sculptures added to the beauty of the estate along with already existing sculptures by Sudhir Khastgir. Later on when Dasgupta left for Nabha Public School we had Nikhil Biswas, an equally competent sculptor succeed Dasgupta and after the retirement of Mumtaj Ahmed, the book-binder. The book-binding section was discontinued and instead Batik and Leather Crafts were introduced. Goswami arrived for a short spell and later his place was taken up by Mrs Ina Mitra, who was not a stranger to the School. She was trained at the Hammersmith Hospital in England and succeeded Sister Gibbs at the Doon School Hospital. Later on after having qualified and taken a diploma at Kala-Bhavan, Shantiniketan, Viswa-Bharti University, she organized a new section- Batik, Tie and Dye and Leather Crafts along with other minor crafts. Biswas and Ina literally took the reign for more than 16 years. There was a great deal of new art activities in the Art School. The output of the sculptures was doubled. Drift wood and Twig exhibitions helped boy find beauty in natural forms and shapes. Heaps of such collections acquired during mid-term breaks flooded the Art School.

I remember Holdy's remarks "paintings like 'Green Horses' are to be confined to the artist's studio and they should not be displayed publicly. With this in mind I organized a symposium and the subject was 'Should Modern Art be communicative or not?' In February 1963 three distinguished artists and officials of the Art Academy - Shri Prodosh Dasgupta, Sculptor, Director of the National Gallery of Modern Art, Shri K. S. Kulkarni, Painter, Principal of the Faculty of Fine Arts, Benares Hindu University and Shri Richard Bartholomew, the Secretary of Lalit Kala Academy, New Delhi attended it. The Symposium was well attended. The entire school and local personalities like Mr. Ruskin Bond were invited. It helped the budding artists a lot specially the question and answer session. Many well known in the art world and historians like Dr. Mulk Raj Anand, Bhabesh

Sanyal, Pran Krishna Pal, Baroda Ukil, Shri Mukul Chandra Dey, Shri Rathindranath Tagore, Begum Hamid Ali, etc. and many more distinguished people visited the Art School to talk to the boys and give away the prizes. Many budding artists were inspired by their visits. I shall not be able to mention all the names but I must record some of them whom I thought of having possessed a great deal of talent. They are Martand Singh, Wajahat Habibullah, Navin Patnaik, Mahijit Jhala, Umaraman, Mantaj Singh, Madhukar Shah, Rajiv Vohra, Jimmy Modi, Rommel Verma, Krishna Chaudhury. We had more senior artists Babla Senapati, Jimmy Modi, Ravi Sen, Gilani, B N Roy and others.

I would like to record the outstanding designers produced by the Art School; some worked collectively and some individually. Martand Singh, Robin, Mahijit Jhala produced wonderful creative designs on garments and so did Rohit Khosla and Tarun Tahiliani. Later these boys made their name internationally through their creative garment designing. Anish Kapoor's sculptures too have won critical acclaim internationally and some of them were exhibited in Delhi and Bombay last year.

I had a long association with the Art School at the Doon school and it is really a difficult task to summarize my reminiscence of nearly twenty six years of the Art School activities in a few pages. In fact while sitting down with the pen many more nostalgic memories came to mind - enough for a complete book!

Many budding artists have passed through its portals in my time; I do not suspect their natural instinct of imaginative power, but owing to the lack of space I cannot mention all the names. However, they continue to be in my heart.

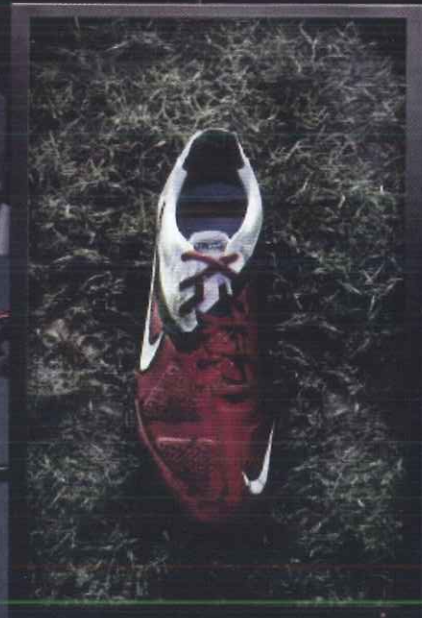
He can be contact at: **Rathin Mitra**
5th Flr., Manjusa Bhavan, P-15, Gariahat Road South,
(Dhakuria), Kolkata 700 068
Tel.: +91.33.24237810, Mobile: +91.9830584289

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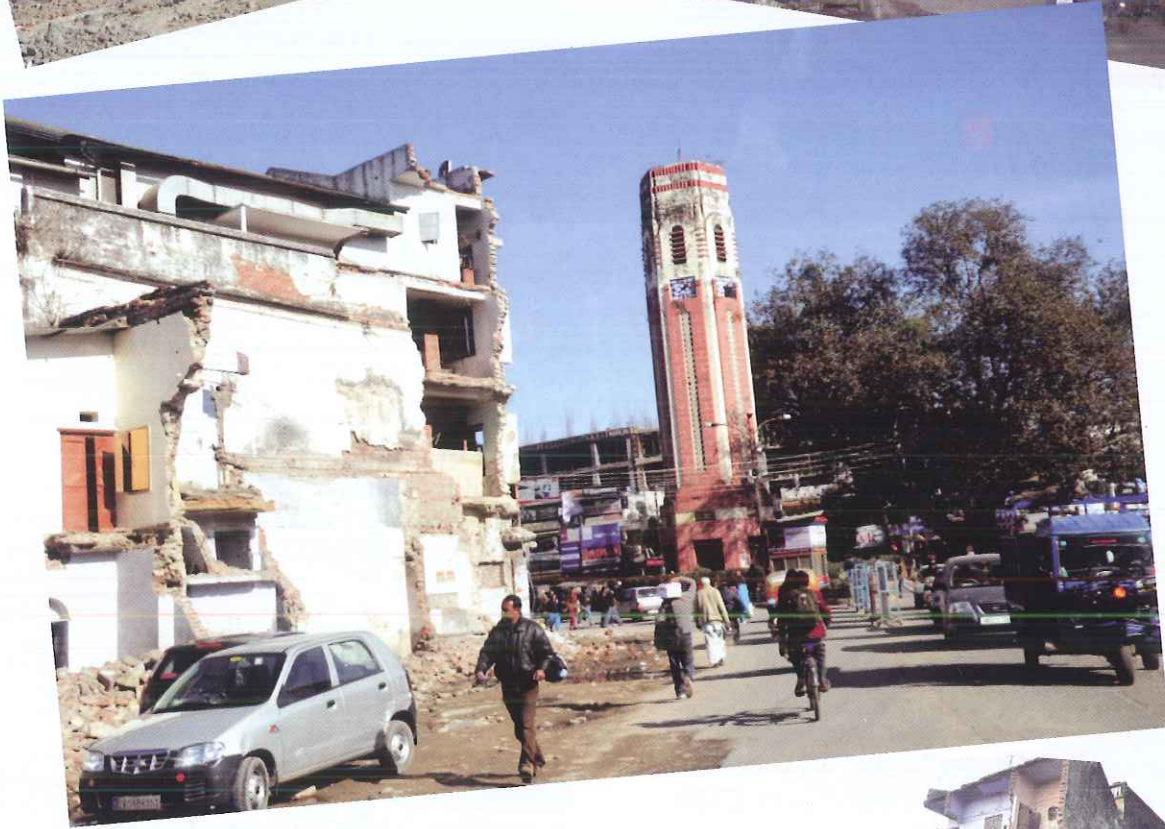
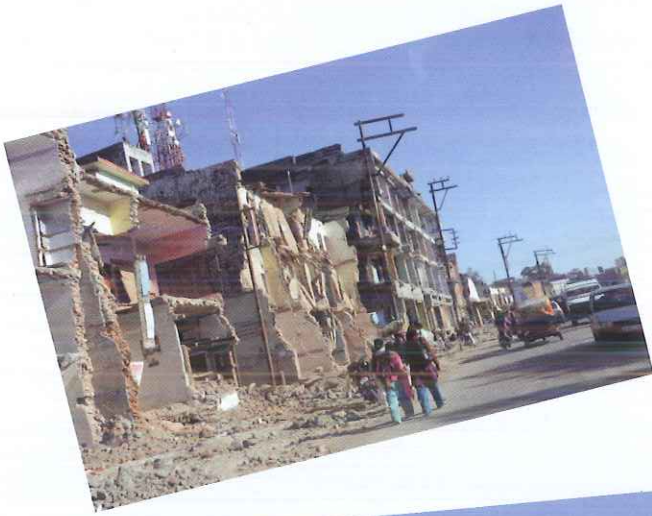
*Photographs sent in
by Sanjiv Bathla (158 TA '88)*



HM's new residence- work in progress

Widen!!!

'Suicide Alley broadening work starts



Shops from Suicide Alley have been moved to this building situated between the clock tower and Motimahal

Chhota Interview

Rohan Devgan (52 TA '02)



RB: What is your official title and where or with whom do you work? Name three key responsibility areas.

I work for Powerplay Sports and Events Pvt Ltd in Gurgaon. I have been with them from the day the company was incorporated (Oct. 2009). We are a purely sports marketing company who help corporates invest in various sports in India and in the international sector.

RB: How would you describe your day job in 4 lines?

My day usually revolves around keeping track of sporting events around the world, research on various corporates and their marketing campaigns, fixing up meetings with companies and presenting them with various marketing/sponsorship/investment opportunities in the sporting field.

RB: What's exciting about your job in five lines?

Sports have been a very integral part of my life right from my school days as a Dosco and I have been fortunate enough to turn this into a career. I get to interact with various celebrities from the sporting world, there is always something new and it never gets tiring or monotonous. The job helps me travel to various places and also witness sporting events.

RB: Name one or two highlights in your career so far that you are proud of naming brands, clients or events of note.

Working with all the teams in the IPL has been very exciting. Working on commercial shoots with various cricketers has also been a highlight. My proudest moment has to be working and being associated with the Blackburn Rovers Football club in the English Premier League.

RB: How did you get to this position – was it through your education or work experience or both? Give us the trajectory so Doscos can learn from you.

After searching for a career path, I realised that I had to pursue a career in Sports Management as sports was my passion and I wanted to do something I enjoyed. I was lucky to meet the right people at the right time who were looking for someone to help start their company.

RB: What advice would you give Doscos wanting to get into the same space in terms of what educational qualifications they need, institutions and courses in India and/or abroad that they should consider?

Sports Management is still at a fledgling stage in the Indian market; however the scope is phenomenal. With the IPL being such a success, it has opened up various other options in this field. Sports Management will, in the next few years, be a well established career path. There are limited options in India right now regarding a degree in Sports Management, but this is also changing. A normal degree and knowledge of the sporting world is enough to get started.

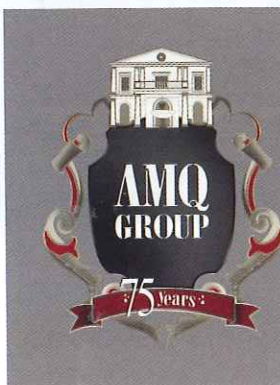
RB: What are you planning to do next career wise? Are you planning to study further for it and if so, what and where?

I am planning to stick to this profession. The scope of growth is great. I may pursue an MBA in the future. Our company is looking at bringing in sports education in a big way and I may base my future studies accordingly.

RB: Could you provide your contact details in case Doscos would like to speak with you about pursuing work in this field? Email, phone, website or all three are welcome.

Email: rohandevgan@powerplayworld.com
Website: www.powerplayworld.com
Tel: 91- 9582494008

[Chhota Interview is the career column for Doscos with information about a variety of jobs from Doscos with those jobs. Write to Govind Dhar at govinddhar@gmail.com with specific answers to the 8 questions above and do remember to attach a photograph with your mail]



Moin Akhtar Qureshi
467 K (1975)

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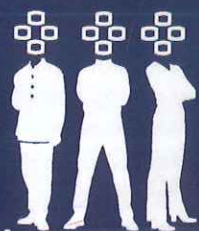
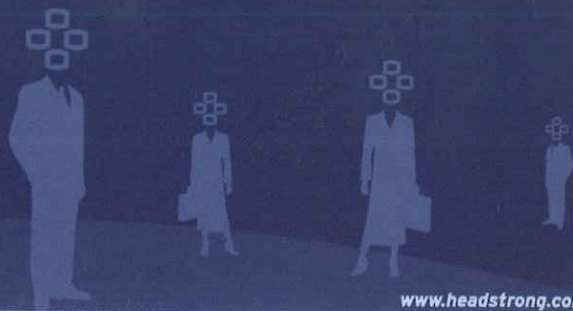
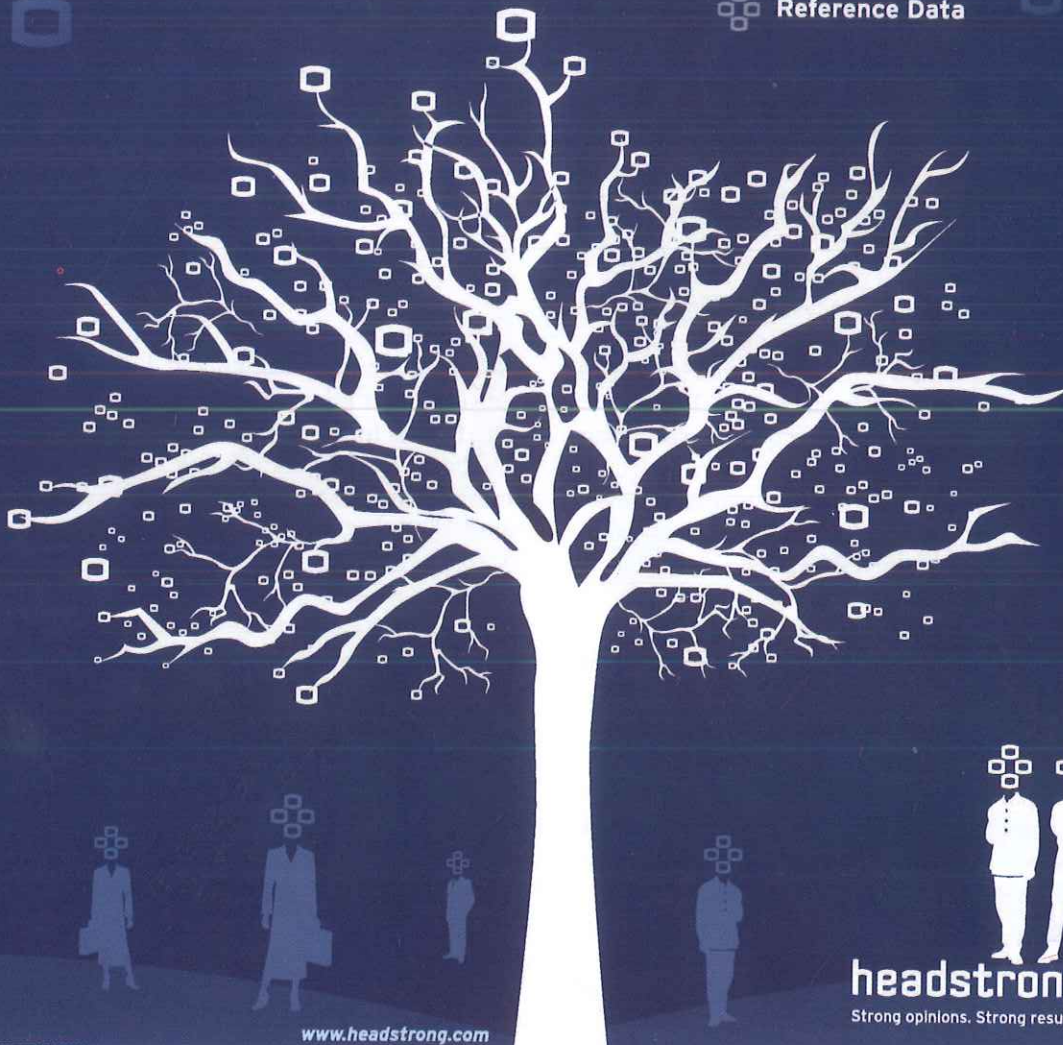
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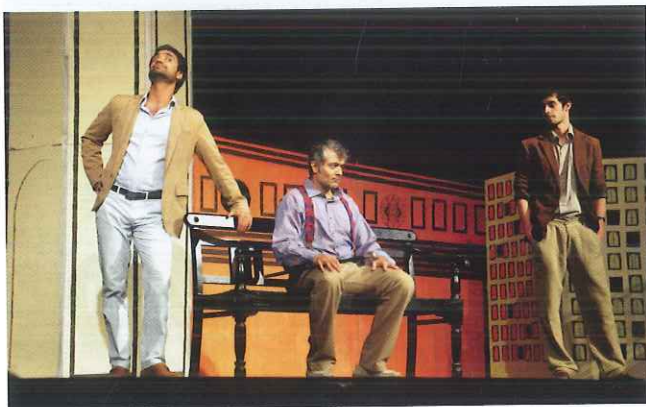
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MANDRAGOLA: BOMBAY PRESENTATION NEHRU CENTRE, WORLI

Harsh Rohatgi (509 H '93)

After the resounding success of the joint DSOBS and Welham Girls Alumni Association co-production in Delhi the last two years, it was time for the Bombay Chapter to also get into the act. As the hoarding on Pedder road courtesy Kekoo Nicholson (67 KB '70) proudly proclaimed, the evening of October 12th, 2011 was to see the first performance of Niccolo Machiavelli's Mandragola at the Nehru Centre in Worli. This was the first time after many years that the Bombay Chapter had attempted an event of this scale, and it was heartening to note the great turnout at the auditorium as well as the dinner post that, despite mid-week afflictions of professional commitments, traffic and the unseasonal downpour.



The play itself was very well received. Sharad "Sheroo" Sharma (334 J '85) as Messer Nicia, was impeccable, despite his tendency to flick his switch around. Daleep Akoi (646 T '95) was in his element as the dapper Callimaco. Nikhil Sardana (224 T '10) played his part stoically, despite being at the receiving end of Sheroo's switch. The other performances from Divya Sharma (F-614 '98), Simran Lakhanpal (F 489 '94), Priyanka Chowdhry Singh (W 423 '92) and Jai Sharma (279 T '10) were also great.

Subsequent to the play, the party moved to the Jade Garden next doors. Unfortunately, the venue had to be moved indoors from the terrace due to heavy unseasonal showers. Over 200 Doscocs, Welhamites, their respective better halves, cast, crew and other assorted fauna packed themselves into one of the many rooms and passages. Needless to say, the scrum at the bar was reminiscent of any other Old Boys' get-together. Many tales were swapped and each others' trips taken. All in all, it was a great get-together, with most of the booze having been polished off and the Old Boys' tottering off back home, some accompanied by threats and admonitions from their better halves. The WGAA contingent also seemed to be having a great time, with plans being made for the after-party.

The Bombay Chapter would also like to thank the contributions of our principal sponsors. Vir Advani (Blue Star), Malvinder & Shivinder Singh (Fortis Hospitals), Samir & Nikhil Kilachand, Rohit Amin & Narendra Malhotra (Pizza Hut - Dodsai Enterprises).



Organisers of the Delhi show: (L-R): Kishore Lahiri, President DSOBS, Moin Qureshi, VP, & EC Members Valentina Trivedi and Jaswinder Bull

Our sincere thanks also to the substantial contributions from Roopak Singh Saluja, Abhimanyu Singh, Arjun "Poky" Gupta, Gautam Khandelwal, Kishore Lahiri, Gopal Kapoor, Vivek Pandit, Prakash Chawla, Vikram Kalia, Nani Javeri, Vidhu Nevatia, Viren Popli, Sanjay Maliah, Rajiv Sarin, Ravi Khemka and Vinayak Bahuguna. A special thanks to Kekoo Nicholson, through Selvel Advertising, for ensuring that the event received substantial publicity.

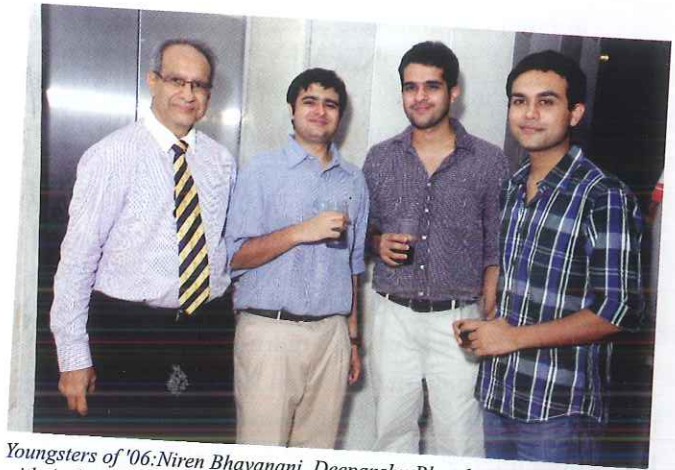
Finally, we need to thank and put on record the tireless efforts of Anil Bhavanani and Apurva Agarwal in ensuring that this event was staged without a hitch. Big thanks to Hema Badhwar-Mehra, Richa Lakhanpal & Bhavna Thakur at the WGAA for marshalling the troops at their end. Finally, everyone at the DSOBS Secretariat - Kishore, Sheel, Valentina, Narayanan and Sunil - a big thanks.



The Welhamites at the Bombay show



*A breath of fresh air: The Net Generation-Batches of '10 & '11
Hemang Agarwal, Ayaan Patel, Nandan Rai, Jai Sharma, Nikhil Sardana,
Tarang Khurana and Angad Bawa*



*Youngsters of '06: Niren Bhavanani, Deepanshu Bhandari and Agrim Joshi
with Anil Bhavanani*



Apurva Agarwal in conversation with parents, Puran & Jaimini Kumar



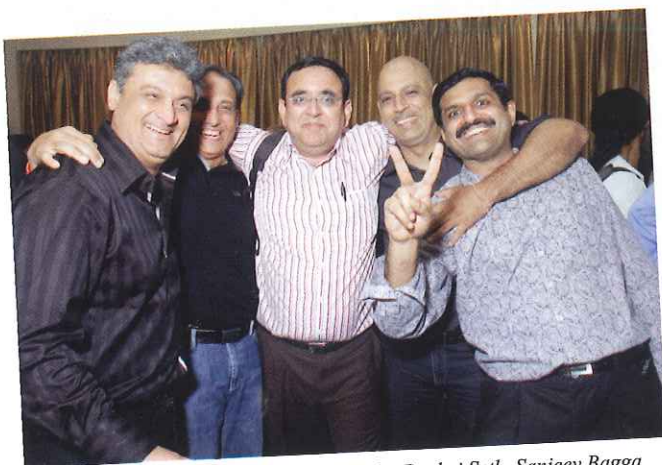
The 90's generation: Rajnish Mehra, G.J.Singh Bindra & Vinak Chak



*Across Generations: Mohini & Vikram Kalia ('74), Major Ravindranath
Wahal ('54), Sonya & Capt. Hemant Suri ('80) and Deepak Morada, father
of Vinayak Morada ('02)*



*Wrestlers Tilak Mehera & Sheroo Sharma with Arjun Gupta and
Sujoy Mishra*



*Batch of '83: Sanjay Maliah, Sunil Chawla, Pankaj Seth, Sanjeev Bagga
and Kaushik Deva*



The audience applauding at the end of the play

BATCH OF 1944

Saroj Kumar Mehera (122 K '44)

Rajib ("Jit") Gupta [145K '48] and I are early morning walkers in an area close to our respective residences. Invariably, when our paths cross, we stop and chat. On one such occasion, he suggested that as the class representative of the 1944 batch, I should provide The Rose Bowl with up-to-date particulars of surviving members, which, he felt, would interest Old Boys of the 1940s and 1950s. His interest seemed to stem from copies of the batch's souvenirs brought out at the time of its Golden and Diamond Jubilees, which I had given him after he read about them in The Rose Bowl. Copies of these souvenirs have been given for archiving to Ms. Abia Qezilbash at the School Archives. In the particulars, below, I have mentioned the exams taken in school after SC, also School/House Captaincy.

T Shaffi C. Tyabjee

Not contactable but believed to be living in Mumbai, in poor health. He left School in early 1946 and obtained qualifications in textiles from The City & Guilds, London, thereafter entering the textiles business in London. After retirement, he is reported to have gone into agriculture.

Chanderkesh Thakkar (11 K, Inter 1946)

After obtaining a BSc from Allahabad University, he went to the USA for engineering studies - a BSc in electrical engineering from Missouri - and employment, specialising in hydro-electric projects. On returning to India, he joined the Bhakra Nangal Dam project organisation. Thereafter, he joined Indian Railways and, having specialised in electric traction, he was nominated to British Rail in the UK in 1965-66. He retired from Indian Railways in 1985 as Additional Chief Electrical Engineer. His wife, Darshan, and he are settled in Dehra Dun, with their son, daughter-in-law and grandchildren. He attended the Golden and Diamond Jubilees of our batch.

Mohammed Afzal Khan "Affie" (17 J, HSC 1946), *School & House Captain*

Afzal is the most outstanding member of the batch, brilliant in the classroom and playing field. At Trinity College, Cambridge, he read mathematics and economics for his Tripos, 1950. In 1951, he joined Pakistan Shell, much to the horror of his family retainers who could not conceive of a gentleman

becoming a 'teli'! Leaving Shell after serving in West Pakistan, Dacca and London, he joined Pakistan Refinery, becoming General Manager in 1968. From 1972 to 1975, he was on secondment to the Government of Pakistan as a Member, Board of Industrial Management and, then, Chairman, Federal Light Engineering Corporation. In 1975, he returned to Pakistan Refinery as General Manager and, in 1979, he became Chairman, Pakistan Oil Fields, based in Rawalpindi. After retirement, he became Chairman of Oil and Gas Development Company Limited, and he continues as Chairman of Biafo Industries, a company making industrial explosives. He has been associated with The Chand Bagh School, at Muridke outside Lahore, founded by the late Lt-General Ghulam Jilani Khan (188 T '41), modelled on The Doon School but tailored to Pakistani requirements.

Afzal married Parveen in 1953 and they had two daughters. Sadly, Parveen passed away in September 2004. "Affie" has visited Doon a number of times, the last being at DS75, when he featured in an article in The Times of India and a write-up, with photographs, in The Rose Bowl.

Jagmohan Khanna "Dugga" (36 J, HSC 1946)

Jagmohan joined Government College, Lahore, early in 1947 but soon left, because of Partition, resuming college at St. Stephen's, Delhi, later in the year, to graduate in 1949 with a B.A. 1st Class in Mathematics. He started working the same year, in marketing, with ITC, then known as Imperial Tobacco Co. His job took him to various parts of the country, including Assam, where I was posted in the early 1950's. I would frequently meet "Dugga" and his company colleague, the late Surendra ("Bandy") Lall (107 J '41). The company head office being in Calcutta, he spent much time there, in Market Research, Corporate Planning and Exports, until 1976. That year, he started his own market research business and consultancy in New Delhi, which keeps him busy to this day. He married Lalie in 1955 and they had three sons, all DoscOs, all married and working abroad. Tragically, their middle son, Ashok Mohan Khanna, (461J '75), passed away a few years ago.

Accompanied by his wife, Lalie, "Dugga" has been a regular attendee at batch get-togethers. Both husband and wife are avid and accomplished golfers.

Bipin Sarabhai Haji (42 H, HSC 1946)

Bipin and his wife, Rita, live in Suffolk, some 3 hours drive away from London. Bipin retired from shipbroking in 1999. Rita and he lived in India for 8 years after marriage, moved to Japan for 6 years and then the UK. They have 3 children, 2 boys and a girl, all living in the UK. "Tishi" Khanna sees them from time to time and I had a chat on the telephone when I was in the UK in 2007.

Rajinder Singh "Jundi" (45 H, Inter 1946)

Not contactable but believed to be living in Delhi. A highly qualified chemical engineer, with degrees from the University of Texas in Austin and the University of Wisconsin in Madison, "Jundi" served the public sector Indian Oil Corporation from 1961 until retirement as General Manager, Mathura Refinery. He got married in 1983.

Satish Kumar Khanna "Tishi" (50 H, Inter 1946),
House Captain

"Tishi" joined Government College, Lahore in September 1946 and did virtually nothing but play cricket in college! Partition terminated any further studies. He joined Jessop & Co., Calcutta in March 1948 and left in 1960 as the youngest Departmental Manager in the company. He then joined George Angus, of Newcastle, England, as their Resident Overseas Representative in India. This entailed travelling extensively all over India, which enabled him to see the country as few are privileged in their lives. In 1970, he formed his own company, Fire Fighting (Delhi) Pvt. Ltd., retaining close contact with Angus, and doing the same work in India, as Chief Sales Promoter of Birla's Jayshree Textiles fire hoses. After 33 years, he ended the association with Birla's but continued in his field as the sole selling agent for an American organisation.

In cricket, "Tishi" represented Bengal and Delhi in the Ranji Trophy, 1948-60 and 1964, and played for India against Ceylon in 1956.

He got married in December 1956 to Leila ("Lily") and their three sons, Vinit [(50H '74), Dhruv (150H '76) and Nalin (563H '80) all became Captains of Hyderabad House, with Dhruv also becoming School Captain. All have inherited their father's cricketing genes and Dhruv, who owns a vineyard in California, has built a cricket ground within it. "Lily" passed away in January 2004 after a nagging illness. Her sons have named the new cricket pavilion after her. The best known of our classmates, "Tishi" is retired

but physically very active, bicycling and playing tennis and golf almost daily. More than any other of us, he has kept in touch with most of our classmates over the years, on visits and through telecommunication. "Tishi" is a regular attendee at class get-togethers and has featured in many of their photographic memoirs. He lives in New Delhi.

Vivek Yeshwant Nehru (82 J, Inter 1946)

After leaving School, Vivek joined the Indian Air Force and was decorated with an AVSM. He retired as Air Commodore, after having served as Air Attache at the Indian missions in Washington and London respectively. After a spell as director, Tourism Development in Srinagar, Vivek became Air Advisor to the para-military forces, based in Delhi.

Vivek and his wife, Annapurna ("Annu"), live in Hyderabad, close to their daughter and son-in-law. He has not been keeping well but has sounded cheerful in telephone conversations. Most of us have not seen Vivek since our schooldays but he is remembered with great affection. A classmate, the late Nazir Ali Jairazbhoy (275 J) and he composed a song about their housemaster, the late Mr. V.N. Kapur, "Maafi Mangte Hain, Mr. Vishwanath Kapur....."

Sidharth Kathju "Nunky" (87 T, Inter 1946)

House Captain

After a year in Srinagar, Sidharth went off to England in 1947 to learn wool manufacturing. Studies were not difficult and summer breaks were used for hiking and youth-hostelling, winters for playing hockey with a local club on weekends. He returned to India in December 1951. The original intention had been to go back to Kashmir where his father had an interest in a woollen mill but after Partition, the parent company was nationalised by Sheikh Abdullah and its expanded version which was to have been sited in Jammu, was instead metamorphosed into a unit in Jamnagar, Saurashtra, where he arrived in December 1951. He was there for twenty-six years, at Digvijaya Woollen Mills. In January 1978, he joined Reliance, to set up their worsted yarn spinning project, which was completed at the end of 1980, after which he left and started a consultancy, with friends in the same business, setting up new projects relating to textiles. This has been his line to-date.

"Nunky" and Jaya got married in February 1955; three children followed in four years. Husband and wife attended our class Diamond Jubilee. They live in Ahmedabad.

Saroj Kumar Mehera "SKM" (122 K, HSC 1946)
House Captain

Arthur Foot had sent applications to Trinity College, Cambridge in respect of Afzal Khan (see above) and SKM, for Mechanical Sciences Tripos, the term starting October 1947. As SKM's School exam results were not as good as Afzal's, he was offered a place in October 1948. His mother having died in January 1947, he decided to scrap the idea of going abroad and joined St. Xavier's College, Calcutta, graduating in 1948 with a B.Sc. (Hons.) degree in Chemistry. "Ghashti" had been an excellent Chemistry teacher in School! In the meantime, his father, too, died in October 1947. It became imperative that he start earning a living as soon as possible. Lack of parental guidance made a career choice difficult and it was eventually "an affair of the heart" that led him to seek and obtain employment, in 1949, as a tea planter in Assam, with James Finlay & Co. Limited, a Glasgow-based company with branches in India. Although Tea was a far cry from Mechanical Sciences Tripos and Chemistry, it proved a rewarding career, covering tea planting, tea tasting and trading, and general management. He became head of Finlay's Calcutta branch in 1972 and, thereafter, in 1977, when Finlay's Indian businesses became Tata-Finlay Limited, he was named Managing Director and, in 1979, President. In 1983, the company became Tata Tea Limited and he continued as President until retirement in 1985. He was a tea consultant until 2000 when he hung up his boots altogether.

On the extra-curricular front, he was involved in chambers of commerce, industry and trade associations and, through them, in Government of

India delegations to FAO and UNCTAD meetings. He has been a Governor of the School and had the honour of being Vice Chairman of the Board in the Golden Jubilee year of 1985. He was Honorary Consul of Finland in Calcutta, 1975 to 1998, being decorated in 1996 as Knight 1st Class of the White Rose of Finland, and Honorary Consul of Norway in Calcutta 1985 to 1999, being decorated in 1996 as Knight 1st Class of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit. As a Freemason, he was District Grand Master of the District Grand Lodge of Eastern India (S.C.) 1983-85. Never much of a sportsman at School, except for swimming where he made the School team, he took up golf at the late age of 38 and now plays a lousy game every weekend. He became Captain of the Royal Calcutta Golf Club for 1975-76 and President of the Indian Golf Union for 1982-84.

Of the masters in his time, three had the most influence on him, Foot for imbuing him with a sometimes obsessive sense of duty and discipline – he has never forgotten his exhortation to always remember that, whatever one undertook, "it all depends on me"; Vyas for making Mathematics seem so simple, and Jack Gibson for being in loco parentis and making him "a complete man".

The "affair of the heart" came to naught but, some years later, it was the lady in question who introduced him to "Minnie" (her real name is Savita), leading to marriage in December 1956. Their sons are Doscoc, Sanjeev (222 K '73) and Tilak (872 K '82).

Class representative, SKM and his wife, "Minnie", live in Kolkata and attended the Golden and Diamond

The International Western Classical Music Forum

In a fantastic collaboration between Doscoc and Welhamites, our last Founders weekend was the origin of a unique Russian-Indian Music Festival in February 2012 being held at Dholpur Palace. A group of internationally renowned pedagogues are coming to India to conduct the first International Music Academy. It will culminate with a spectacular concert at Teen Murti Hall in New Delhi on February 28, 2012.

The Forum will include lectures on music history, theory and forms of music along with private lessons, master classes and workshops. The students and teachers will stay and work at the Raj Niwas Palace, Dholpur for the entire duration of the program with the purpose of devoting uninterrupted time in their study. The program is open to all serious students of Western Classical Music in India who exhibit a strong dedication to their instruments. Students of the pedagogues will also be joining from Ukraine and other European countries thereby creating a vibrant international group of young musicians. The professors will be from the Tchaikovsky Conservatory in Kiev, Royal College of Music in London, Kharkov Specialist Music School in Kharkov and most likely the Mariinsky in St Petersburg.

Everyone is invited to attend the concert. For more information, please contact Welhamite Sumita Kumar (466 W '86) at kumar.sumita@gmail.com, or Doscoc Dushyant Singh (246 KB '91) at dushyant@dholpurpalace.com or Nikhil Sardana (224 T '10) at nikhilsardana2000@gmail.com



Calendar of DSOBS Events (February - June 2012)

Date/Month	Day	Event	Venue
09 February	Thursday	Dubai Chapter get-together and dinner	Residence of Mr. R Vikram Dhar
22 February	Wednesday	Induction of New Boys (Batch of 2012)	The Doon School, Dehra Dun
03 March	Saturday	Mumbai Dosco Golf Meet & Lunch	Willingdon Sports Club, Mumbai
03 March	Saturday	DSOBS Inter-House Hockey	Maj. Dhyan Chand Stadium, NSCI, New Delhi
17 March	Saturday	DSOBS Inter-House Cricket for the Sheel Vohra Memorial Cricket Trophy	Central Secretariat Grounds, New Delhi
17 March	Saturday	Cricket-Hockey Dinner	
24-25 March	Saturday & Sunday	Shomi Ranjan Das Cricket Friendship Cup 2012 T-20 format: Mayo, Sanawar & Doon Alumni	Police Gymkhana, Marine Drive, Bombay
13 April	Friday	DSOBS vs. School Team - Hockey	The Doon School, Dehra Dun
13 April	Friday	AMQ Dinner	Hotel Pacific, Dehra Dun
14 April	Saturday	AMQ Cricket – DSOBS vs. School Team	Abhimanyu Cricket Academy, Guniyal Gaon, Dehra Dun
25 April	Wednesday	April issue of Rose Bowl	To be mailed out to the fraternity
22-24 June	Friday to Sunday	Canada Chapter weekend and get-togethers	Toronto, Canada

For the Dubai event, contact the Regional Rep, Bipin Bhatia(bbhatia@enoc.com / 97150-456 7903).

For the Mumbai golf meet & lunch, contact the Mumbai Senior Regional Rep, Anil Bhavanani (dsobsbombay@gmail.com / 98-200-22645).

For the Toronto event, please contact the Canada Regional Rep, Ravi Chaudhary (ravichaudhary2000@yahoo.com / 416-605-5102).

Jubilees. He is retired and spends his time golfing, walking, reading & writing, doing cryptic crosswords and sitting at a computer. Pedantic and verbose, he needs to be gagged!

Humayun Mirza (279 H, HSC 1946)

House Captain

Humayun was always a fine athlete, in school and later, despite being dogged by injuries. He was in the School Cricket XI, Hockey XI and Tennis team. A fencing pupil of Jack Gibson while at school, he won several European fencing tournaments. Academically, after Doon, he earned an undergraduate degree in insurance in London, having been sent for training in commerce by the then Governor-General of Pakistan. Working in insurance in Karachi did not suit him and he opted for further education abroad – the USA, where he eventually earned a Masters degree from the Harvard Business School. Armed with this, he joined the World Bank where he worked for thirty years. Humayun and his Brazilian wife, Marilia, live in Bethesda, Maryland, USA, near Washington. Retired from the World Bank, he has led a peripatetic existence, travelling in North and South America and Europe, giving lectures as a historian and author. Authoring a book “From Plassey To Pakistan”, Humayun described, in great detail, the intrigues in the lives of his ancestors, the powerful Nawab Nazims of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, including Mir Jafar, usually derided as having betrayed Siraj-ud-daula at Plassey where the latter was defeated by Clive. In the

latter part of his book, Humayun's focus was on the career of his father, Iskander Mirza, who became the first President of Pakistan. While researching material for the book, Humayun visited Kolkata and stayed with us, during which time he was received with great veneration by beneficiaries of largesse from the Waqf of which he was the acknowledged head. When I visited the USA in 2007, I stayed with the Mirzas for a couple of days, recounted in The Rose Bowl at the time.

Azam Ghulam Hussain Ariff (141 H)

Azam, known as “Chhotey” to his close friends, and his wife Joann, live in Lafayette, in the Bay Area of San Francisco, California, USA. He is a retired architect, qualified at the University of California in Berkeley. At University, though with different disciplines, his contemporaries were Madhava Prasad (33H '44), Pilo Mody (255 H '43) and Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, all no longer around. Azam visits Kolkata almost every year in connection with family property. At Doon, he was in the School Cricket XI and was a boxer of some repute. His escapades of breaking bounds have been recorded in some detail in our Golden Jubilee souvenir! I stayed with the Ariffs in 2007 and was royally treated. Taken to Napa Valley wineries, followed by several wine-tasting sessions under the tutelage of a budding sommelier acquaintance of Azam's, I have acquired a healthy appetite for red wine, now being increasingly produced in quantity and quality in India.