

The Rose Bowl

NEWSLETTER OF THE DOON SCHOOL OLD BOYS' SOCIETY 1 - 12+3

31st December, 2000.

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OLD BOYS IN THE NEWS

➤ Maninder Singh Sawhney [ex 293-JB '91] has been appointed the Hon. Consul. General to Eritrea. He is the youngest diplomat in the country.

➤ Aftab Seth [ex 189-J '59] has been appointed India's Ambassador to Japan. He was earlier the Ambassador to Vietnam.

➤ Amitav Ghosh [ex 226-HB '72] has recently brought out "The Glass Palace" a novel which has received favourable reviews.

➤ Dr. Mahinder Lall [ex 120-J '45] has received the Year 2000 Australian Achiever's Award for Melbourne's Health Services

Category for Services to Patients.

➤ Dr. Karan Singh [ex 259-K '45] chaired the first Plenary Session of the historic Millennium World Peace Summit of Religious and Spiritual Leaders in the General Assembly Hall of the United Nations on 29th August, 2000.

For the Record

CAREERS

✦ Sarabji Walia [ex 60-KB '96] is now working as a software consultant. His address is: Voxtron Design Lab (Pvt.) Ltd., 104, Greater Kailash - I, New Delhi.

✦ Noel Hensman [ex 765-HB '82] is working in Munnar with a glove manufacturing company and is looking after their rubber processing plant and marketing of gloves in South India.

✦ Ravin Khosla [ex 661-HB '81] is serving as a major in the army and has been assigned a United Nation mission in Congo as a military observer.

✦ Kunal 'Fauji' Verma [ex 289-OB '96] has launched a website "<http://www.kaleidoindia.com>" to coincide with his magnum opus, the wildlife cd-rom. The website carries information on the cd-rom, information on the films he has made for the Army, the Navy and the Air Force.

✦ Jatin Berry [ex 582-KA '91] is in Hong Kong with Chase Jardine Fleming in the Investment Banking department. He can be reached at "jberry@hotmail.com".

✦ Uttam Hazarika [ex 582-KA '88] graduated from the Stern School of Business, New York and joined the investment banking business of Salomon Smith Barney in New York. He can be reached at "uttamh@hotmail.com".

✦ Gaurav Dewan [ex 149-TA] is an architect with his own architectural practice. His companies Design Hub is based at Noida.

✦ Kanti Bajpai [ex 264-TB '72] Professor of International Relations at Jawaharlal Nehru University, is presently a visiting fellow at the Brookings Institute, one of the best known 'think tanks' in USA.

✦ Rongom Mukherji [ex 171-JA '97] is now a production executive of Global Knowledge Portals and is involved with the production of the Bournvita Quiz Contest.

✦ Vinay Mittal [ex 76-H '69] is the Chief Manager of Passenger Transportation at the Central Railway in Mumbai.

✦ Gautam Khanna [ex 37-K '39] and Ashok Khanna [ex 29-K '67] have established Indian Hotels and Health Resorts to build a Rs. 50 crore Resort cum Spa at Narendra Nagar in Garhwal called "Ananda in the

Himalayas" to provide facilities for Ayurvedic treatment, Yoga and all facilities in a modern Spa. They have recently also established a Joint Venture Management Company with Mandarin Oriental from Hong Kong, which will manage the Resort. The Joint Venture will also manage other hotels in India.

ACADEMICS

✦ Vipul Swarup [ex 438-KA] is currently studying software Engineering at Monash University in Melbourne. His address is: 1760, Dandenony Road, Clayton - 3168, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia.
Email: vipulsi@hotmail.com

✦ Adnan Shaikh [ex 442-HA] is currently studying Drama and Computer Engineering at Luther college, Iowa and Iowa State University respectively.

Email: adnan442@hotmail.com

✦ Karan Vir Puri [ex 435-JA '00] is currently studying Bsc. Management at Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio. His address is: 11447 Juniper Road #320, Cleveland, Ohio 44106-3976.

Email: camay@hotmail.com



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✚ Faiz Tajuddin [ex 418-TB '99] and Udayan Das Roy [ex 505-HB '00] were selected for admission to the National Law School in Bangalore. Both were placed within the first ten positions in the competitive entrance examination.

✚ Avinash Pawah [ex 576-KB '00] is currently reading B.E. (Mechanical Engineering) at the Manipal Institute of Technology. His address is: Room Number 328, Vth block, M.I.T. Hostels, Manipal - 576119, Karnataka.

✚ Nitin Budhwar [ex 8-TA '00] recently finished his Residency in Family Practice at St. Eliz NY (affiliated to Columbia University). He is currently starting a fellowship in Faculty be reached at "nbudhwar@yahoo.com".

BIRTHS

Our congratulations to the following Old Boys and their wives on the birth of their children:

✚ A son, Vishvajit to Cherry and Vickram Singh [ex 597-HB '78] on 24th May, 1999.

✚ A son, Rohan to Archana Singh [ex 187-TA '84] and Kuldeep Singh on 18th July, 2000.

✚ A daughter, Aanya to Rajni and Vikram Khanna [ex 216-TB '84] on 29th August, 2000.

✚ A son, Fatch to Priya and Abhimanyu Khanna [ex 192-JA '90] on 24th September, 2000.

✚ A daughter, Elainia Asha to Jennifer and Prashant Gupta [ex 241-KB '91].

A daughter, Rhea to Tarika and Maninder Singh Sawhney [ex 293-JB '91] on 25th October, 2000.

MARRIAGES

Our congratulations to the following Old Boys on their marriages:

✚ Yadivinder Singh Dhillon [ex 73-HB '89] to Sonal Chaudhary.

✚ Pran Mehra [ex 110-JA '90] to Devika Daulat Singh on 2nd November, 2000.

OTHERS

✚ Rohit Amin [ex 192-K '66] has been elected as Captain of the Bombay Presidency Golf Club (BPGC), Chembur in Mumbai.

✚ Mr. U.C. Pande [ex Housemaster of Hyderabad House] has been appointed as Director of Manav Kendra Gyan Mandir School. His Address is: Manav Kendra Gyan

Mandir School, P.O. Kandari, Taluka, Karjan, District. Baroda, Gujarat.

DEATHS

Our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families of the following Old Boys who have recently passed away:

• Mr. Virender Singh [ex 142-K '48] passed away in January, 2000.

• Mr. Manmohan Malhotra [ex 182-T '42] died on 2nd September, 2000.

• Mr. Ramesh Malhotra [ex 183-T '43] died on 15th September, 2000.

• Mr. Tajbir Singh [ex 10-H '52] died on 19th September, 2000.

• Mr. Dinesh Moudgill [ex 85-J '70] passed away in September, 2000 in Calcutta.

• Mr. Arya Shah [ex 253-K '59] died on 3rd October, 2000

• Mr. Keshab Narayan Chowdhary [ex 144-K '55] passed away.

• Mr. Nirbhay Paul [ex 369-T '64] died in Saharanpur.

• Mr. M. Ramachandra Rao [ex 157-T '45] died on 11th December, 2000 in Bangalore.



Dear Dosco,

It is indeed a pleasure and honour for me to be elected the President of the Doon School Old Boys' Society at the AGM held in Dehradun on 20th October, 2000.

"The Economist" magazine had a survey of various School/College Alumni Associations worldwide some years ago, and the DSOBS figured among the top 10 Alumni Association! This is no mean achievement, and credit for the same must

go to each and every Dosco who made the effort to participate in the activities and keep in touch with other old boys. In various discussions I have had, it is clear that the objectives of the DSOBS are :

1. Working for the Old Boys
2. Working towards helping The Doon School.

The Executive Committee of DSOBS will continue to put strong emphasis on these objectives. One of the very important pre-requisites for improving camaraderie and contact between old boys is to have the correct contact address, phone number etc. Unless these details are available, individuals will lose touch with each other, with the Society and with the School activities. I would earnestly request each and every Dosco to send their personal details to the DSOBS office so that the old boys register can be updated (a form is enclosed with this issue). A more practical way would be if you send your e-mail address to doonschool@usa.net - who will get back to you for updating your personal details.

One of the activities we will like to pursue and complete is finding a permanent home for the Society. Even though Mr. Arun Bharat Ram has kindly provided an office, having our own office to house the growing infrastructure is essential. This office can be a meeting place for visiting Doscos, to catch up on DSOBS activities, see the Memorabilia range etc. The "Rose Bowl" is a wonderful

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

publication, updating all of us on what is happening. The more information we get, the more interesting the Rose Bowl will become. I will request all Doscos, specially the Regional and Class Reps. to please send information for the Rose Bowl regularly.

The Golf Tournament held every year has become an extremely popular event, with tournaments being held in many cities, including outside India. In our recent Executive Committee meeting, we all agreed that having the tournament with more participation in more cities can be a wonderful event for bringing Doscos together. This will be our attempt in the future. For the information of everybody, the Executive Committee Sub Committees, with the members responsible, are given below.

Last but not least, Deepak Nirula has done a great job for the last 2 years, and the time and effort he has put in will be difficult for anyone to match. I look forward to the Society's activities growing further in the future with the active involvement of all Doscos. The Regional and Class Reps. specially, can play a very positive role in further strengthening the Doon School Old Boys Society.

Wishing you a very Happy New Year.

Ajay S. Shriram

[ex 161-K '70]

Sub-Committees

Bursary
Credit Cards
DSOBS Register
DSOBS Secretariat/Offices
Dosco Club
DSOBS Website

Education/Training
Job Placement
Memorabilia
Rose Bowl
Sporting Activities

Member(s)

Mr. Chudamani Ratnam
Mr. Anoop Bishnoi
Mr. Ajai Singh, Mr. Nalin Kahanna and Mr. Raj Bir Singh.
Mr. Ajay S. Shriram and Mr. Nitán Kapoor.
Mr. Chudamani Ratnam and Mr. Raj Bir Singh.
Mr. Ajay K. Swaroop and Mr. Hemant Sharma.
Mr. Pranav Sahai.
Mr. Rahul Prasad
Mr. Raj Bir Singh
Mr. Nitán Kapoor
Mr. Samir Kuckreja and Mr. Ratan Kapoor.
Mr. Chit Ranjan Bakhshi and Mr. Gautam Chadha.

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OBITUARIES

Brig. Yashpal Dev

[ex 16-K '42]

Son of Dr Karan Chand Dev, Polly was born on 24th July 1926. His mother died when he was very young. He joined he Doon School in 39(1) and was admitted in Kashmir House. He played and studied with equal zest and was very popular with his class and house-mates. Scheduled to take his SC in '41 had to miss out owing to the unexpected death of his father. Subsequently he passed with credit in '42.

After his B.Sc., he joined the navy and later on joined the IMA, where he passed out as JUO. Commissioned into the Regiment of Artillery where, apart from all the routine courses was selected for the Defence Services Staff College. Had a wide

spectrum of experience in Staff and Regimental appointments including a posting to the Staff College. Achieved the coveted Command of his own Regiment - First Field Regiment. In the 1965 operations, for his actions, he was "Mentioned in despatches". After Commanding an Artillery Brigade he retired from the Army in 1979, as a Brigadier. He then joined the United Services Institution (USI) as the Chief instructor, bringing fresh impetus into courses and examinations. In every assignment he had undertaken, he showed exemplary dedication and that urge to improve, with great elan; was known for his honesty, integrity and plain speaking apart from the ability for sustained hard work.

At the Memorial meeting, held in Som Vihar Apartments in Delhi, many of his contemporaries were present (Air Marshal Brar, Gen. Nanda, Sundaram, Nandi Khanna, Premi Khanna, Avinash Khanna and Bawa Guruvachan Singh) and some younger DOSCOs (Bhargava, Harpreet Singh, Harish Bahl) were present Col Attri, ex-Bursar of the School was also present. The USI also held a special meeting of condolence where high tributes were paid. May his soul rest in peace.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family and pray that God give them strength to bear this loss with fortitude.

Brig. V.M. Sundaram (Retd.)

[ex 216-K '41]

Mr. S. Muinudin

Muin Sahib as he was affectionately addressed on the Chandbagh Estate, and his friends.

Obituaries have already appeared in the earlier issue from friends enumerating his association with the school, since its inception in 1935, and stay until 1950.

Through this column, I would like to highlight some notable contributions he made to the school, and in other spheres.

Scouting was looked after by Mr. V.N. Kapur whereas 'Cubs' were enrolled by Mr. Foot and Mr. Muinuddin who ultimately rose to the rank of scouts.

He played a major role in the establishment of the Dehradun District Sports Association. At school he was incharge of Athletics, and he introduced this sporting activity in Welham Boys School established by Miss Oliphant one time Matron of Hyderabad House. He continued to lend a helping hand as and when required by her.

During the troubled days of partition when riots broke out in Dehradun he played an important role in suppressing them at the risk of his life. He was of course ably assisted by Mr. Foot. Not many know that under family pressures he was compelled to migrate to Pakistan after 1947, and had actually gone to Lahore to

settle there.

Mr. Martyn was sent by Mr. Foot to Lahore to persuade boys to return to School after partition but this mission did not meet with any success.

I happened to be in Lahore at the time, and met Mr. Martyn at the Lahore Gymkhana Club when I learned about the object of his visit. I had gone there to recover

some of our belongings, and instead of returning immediately stayed back to assist him in this task. At that point of time both of us were able to persuade Mr. Muin to return. His heart was always in the school, and he agreed to return to Dehradun.

He remained at the School until 1950, and finally left for Pakistan, and settled at Lahore.

I did not meet him again until 1978 when I went there to watch the Test matches between India and Pakistan at the invitation of my old cricketing friends in Lahore. When I telephoned Mr. Muin he immediately asked me to come and spend the evening with him. As soon as he embraced me he wept and then after a while reconciled himself. Throughout he talked about the school, and his friends in Dehradun.

I next met him in 1985 accompanied by Lalit Thapar, Gulab, and his wife Ratna. We went to Pakistan to invite old school friends to come for the Golden Jubilee celebrations



L to R: Kanwar Prem Lal and Mr. Gulab Ramchandani escorting Mr. Muinuddin (in the centre) to the Morning Assembly during the Golden Jubilee in 1985.

of the school. We were received at the Lahore Airport by Ghulam Jilani then Governor Lahore, and other friends including Mr. Muinuddin during our stay we enjoyed his hospitality which was full of affection.

At our request he readily agreed to come for the Golden Jubilee. Old Boys also responded, and came in large numbers along with their families. I remained in constant touch with him through correspondence. One of his desire was that at the inauguration of the Chandbagh School in Lahore we should come in large numbers, and be amongst them. Some how this has not happened so far, and his desire could not be fulfilled during his life time.

The first photograph is of the school Athletics Team of 1942 who were the Champions of Dehradun Olympics. The second one is when Gulab, and myself escorted him to take the morning assembly on the occasion of Golden Jubilee in 1985.

Muin Sahib you will always remain in our hearts, and our collective prayers are for your noble soul to rest in peace.

Kanwar Prem Lal

[ex 155-H '43]



Mr. Muinuddin with the School Athletics Team in 1942

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Mr. D.N. Varma

It is hard to think of my father in the past tense. He was a constant factor in our Dehra Dun lives - a living embodiment of unruffled and unharassed retirement, secure in the knowledge that all his debts were settled - in Eliot's words, someone who lived with quiet satisfaction after 'he had paid the rent'.

It is an irony of life that a man whose life had been devoted to the imparting of knowledge had to battle with brain disease at the end. However, come what may, he took everything in his stride, never losing his sense of satisfaction at a life's work well done.

His life had revolved around The Doon School and teaching. Nothing, but the contentment of being able to impart knowledge to his students mattered. Not for him to hanker after lucrative assignments - I had asked him once if he did not consider taking up any other assignment (he had been offered headmastership of other schools) - he laughed it off. He was totally dedicated to his profession and the joy of his life was

his class and his lab. Nothing else mattered for him - his reward was the progress of his students and the books he had authored, which were a constant source of pride to him.

One of the greatest joys for him was the mention of some old pupil. For someone who had gone through five years, post-brain disease, he had an amazing memory of students, with their records and nicknames. He would revel in the progress of any student of his whose achievements were mentioned to him. Unmindful of the act that he had lost contact with many of them, just news of them brought a smile to his face and heart. Their progress was his *guru-dakshina*.

And, of course, the school was his pride and joy. I always noted the possessiveness and bonding he felt whenever he was in the surroundings of the school - that was the reality of the past that overshadowed all else. His total delight in meeting old colleagues, ex-students and participating in school functions was a tribute to the bonding of the Dosco family.

In the fast moving scenarios of today's world and changing perceptions, he may have felt out of place. But the Chemistry icon of yesterday would not have minded that - all his needs had been met - his ambition was his ward's progress.

There are few men of that mould today.

Vandana Prakash (nee Varma)
[ex 906-TA '82]

Excerpted from The Doon School Weekly.

ERATTA

In the Last issue of Rose Bowl dated 31-8-2000

(a) The name of the daughter of Shivani & Amir Singh Pasrich [ex 443-TA '86] was printed as Ameena by mistake on page 1. Her name is Ameera Nanki.

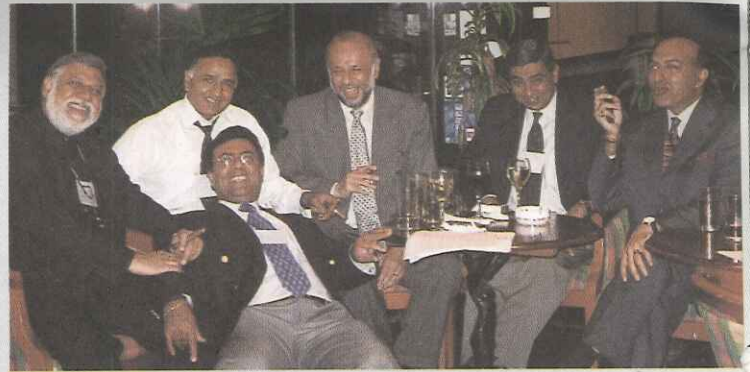
(b) Some of the names of the persons in the group photograph of the class of 1959 were inadvertently left out on page 4.

Our apologies for the errors.

LONDON GET-TOGETHER
held on 8th September, 2000
at The Vice Roy of India, Glentworth Street



Left to right : Sunny Nanda (non-Dosco), Sheila Nanda, Vijay (Tanz) Thapar, Haran D'Silva & wife



Left to right : Nitán Kapoor, Vijay Thapar, Sanjeev Ghai, Anil Sabharwal (Sabby) Harash Sethi (Bittoo), kneeling - Suveen Kapoor



Left to right : Daman Raj Singh, Vihar Thapar, Ravi Kurien



Roshan Sethi holds Court !



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OLD BOYS DINNER AT FOUNDERS DAY ON 19TH OCTOBER, 2000



Front row (L to R) : Sima Gill, Samir Kuckreja & Khushwant

Back row (L to R) : Abha Kapoor, Hari Maira (Parent), Haripal S. Gill (Bull), Woody Junior, Sangeta (hidden), Eckhard (Ekki) Schuetze, Ratan Kapoor, Tilak Bhadwar (Tote) and Amarjit Singh Talwar (Supersonic).

- * House Feast Menu
- * Beverages generously sponsored by United Breweries
- * Music sponsored by Eckhard Schuetze



L to R : Kuldip Shiva, Ashok Mehra, Haripal S. Gill, Tilak Bhadwar, Michael Delvi & Indrave S. Mann



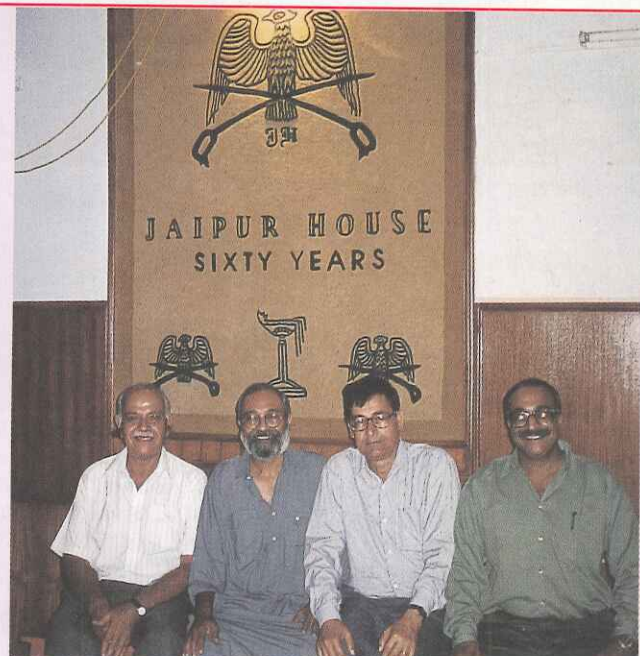
CLASS OF 1963 GET-TOGETHER AT RAMAN KAPOOR'S FARM HOUSE

Standing (L to R) : Surinder Singh (Sundy), Raman Kapoor, Anu Kohli, Nirmal Gaur, Sumanjit Chaudhary, Ajay Kapoor, Gautam Vohra, Karanjit Singh (Kote) Harish (Johnny) Tripathi, Arvind (Tatu) Sabharwal and Gobinder S. Chopra (Gobi) Sitting (L to R) : Kote Junior, Sheel Sharma & Ramji

INNAUGURATION OF THE JAIPUR HOUSE READING ROOM



Left to Right : Anil Kamat, Jayant H. Lal, Nitan Kapoor, Philip Burrett, Rohaan Kapoor and Pratik Khurana



All JB Housemasters — Mr. S.K. Vohra, Mr. Sumer B. Singh, Mr. Sunil John David and Mr. Jayant Harihar Lal



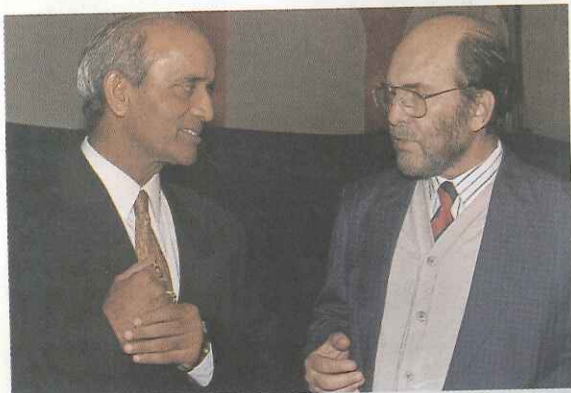
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CLASS OF 1939 GET-TOGETHER

The class of 1939 started the ball rolling, having he first class diamond jubilee celebrations at the Gymkhana Club, New Delhi on 26th November 1999. The previous classes of 1937 and 1938 could not meet formally, so we decided to invite them as well as the first termers who had passed out after 1939. Invitations were also issued to Mr. Muinuddin, the only survivor of first term of teachers as well as the Chairman, Board of Governors and the Headmaster. The "old crocks" decided on New Delhi as the venue instead of Dehra Dun to reduce the strain of travelling.



R.C. Bhargava & John Mason

The total number of OB's eligible to join the meeting was 92 out of which the known survivors were only 46. There was no response from 12 OB's, namely B.K. Sinha [89-K], P.S. Modi [14-H], K.K. Verma [68-H], Jal Murzban [230-T], Mahesh Sharma [9-T], Rahimtoola [54-T], A.S. Pannu [80], J.K.A. Marker [126-J], R.K. Ray [25-T], Mohsin Ali [254-H], S.W.A. Meerza [148-J],

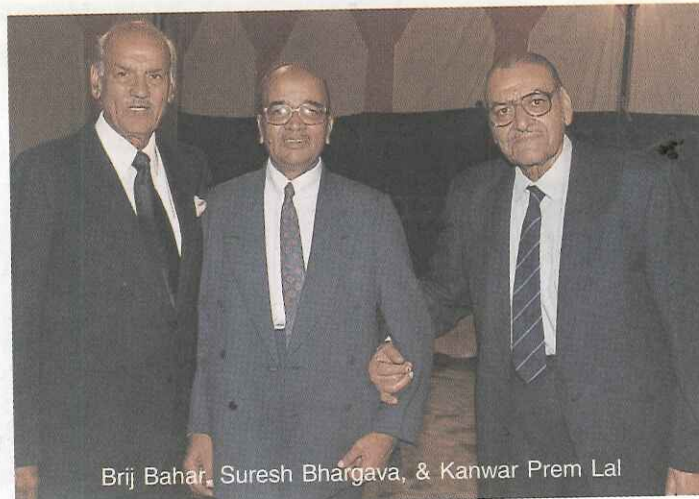
and Mohd. Ali [102-J]. It is requested that these OB's send their latest addresses for any future get-togethers.

Unfortunately, a number of other OB's could not attend due to ill-health or pre-occupation. The gathering included 9 OB's with their wives namely Hari Shanker

[48H], Yeshwant Desai [61-T], Nilamani Tripathi [179-T], Mahesh Chandra [38-J], Gautam Khanna [37-K], A.G. Singh [134-J], Surendra Sahai [35-H], Brij Bahar [56-T] and Suresh Bhargava [181-T] while Vasant Rajadhyaksha [97-K] and Yugal Puri [44-H] came alone. Mr. R.C. Bhargava, Chairman Board of Governors and Mr. Mason were special invitees. Kumwar Prem Lal, who had made special efforts for

organising the meet was present as the class representative.

The meeting started with informal introductions of the ladies and a brief recounting of the activities and experiences of the OB's in the last 60 years. These varied from World War excitement of Hari Shanker to mundane activities of the business executives and professional. Old memories of school were revived by



Brij Bahar, Suresh Bhargava, & Kanwar Prem Lal

recounting incidents like lichi looting in Mr. Gibson's garden and the dose of castor oil administered by Sister Welby to boys not wearing hats. Vasant gave a first hand account of the Civet cat incident involving Mr. Martyn and Mr. Gibson. The nostalgia generated by the recounting of incidents brought back memories of school.

Mr. Bhargava and Mr. Mason gave a brief resume of the reconstruction and modernisation work being carried out in the school and the future direction towards which the school would be moving.

The meeting concluded with the lavish dinner which had been organised by Kunwar Prem Lal. Our thanks to our class representative who had spared no effort for the success of the meeting.

We hope that the Diamond jubilee celebrations would be an annual affair. Our experience indicates that considerable advance planning is required for organising the meet. Please do remember that the participants would be in the 75+ age group and the venue and programme should be convenient for all.

Suresh Bhargava

[ex 181-T '39]



Left to right : (standing): Gautam Khanna, Kanwar Prem Lal, Vasant Rajadhyaksha, A.G. Singh, Yeshwant Desai, Mahesh Chandra, R.C. Bhargava, Hari Shankar Kapur, John Mason, Brij Bhar, S. Sahai, Nilamani Tripathi, Suresh Bhargava & Yugal Puri. Left to right (sitting): Mrs. Swaraj Khanna, Mrs. Singh, Mrs. Desai, Mrs. Mahesh Chandra, Mrs. Usha Khanna, Mrs. Suresh Bhargava, Mrs. Sahai & Mrs. Brij Bahar

PLACEMENT CELL

The Doon School Old Boys' Society runs a Job Placement Cell. All those Old Boys who are interested should send their bio-data to the Secretariat by post or e-mail on info@dsobs.org. The matter received will be kept confidential.

Raj Bir Singh
Hony. Secretary



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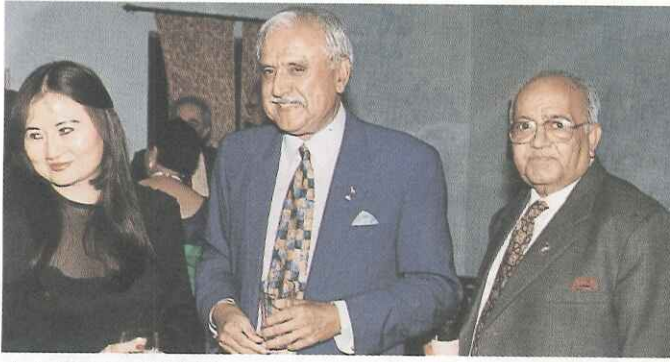


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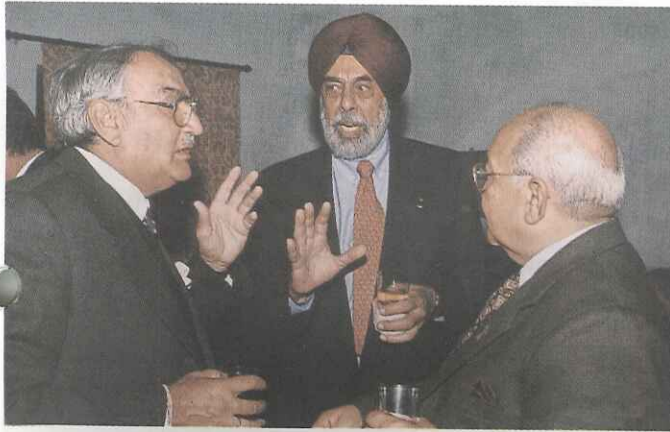
CLASS OF 1950'S GOLDEN JUBILEE GET - TO - GETHER
AT FOUNDER'S DAY 2000



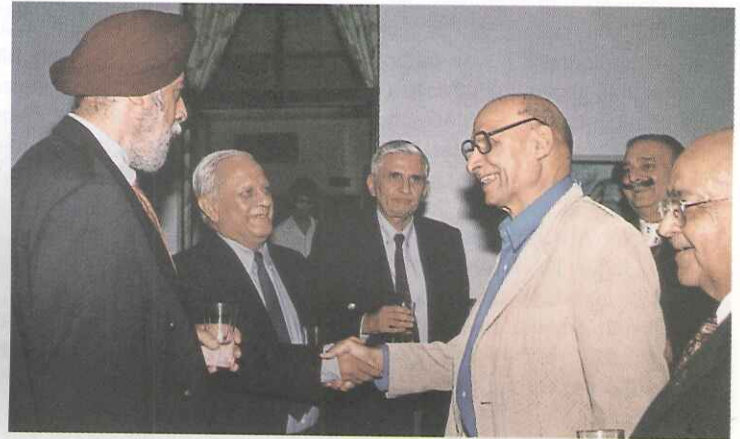
L to R: Mrs. M.M. Thapar [ex 99-J], Sukhbir Grewal [ex 278-K], & Sushil Jain [ex 221-H]



Mr. Gurdial Singh, Sukhjit Singh, Sushil Jain & Mr. Hari Hoon.



L to R: Subhjit Singh [ex 128-T], K.S. Madan [ex 318-J], & Sushil Jain [ex 221-H].



L to R: K.S. Madan [ex 318-J], Hari Hoon [ex 261-T], Lalit Chopra [ex 5-J], Mr. Gurdial Singh, Harinder Singh [ex 31-H] & Sushil Jain [ex 21-H].



Back Row (L to R): Sharwan Swarup [ex 43-K], Rattan Lal [ex 262-H], Lalit Chopra [ex 5-J] Sukhbir Grewal [ex 278-K], Baljit Malhotra [ex 307-T] & Shiv Bhadra Singhi [ex 117-H]. Middle Row (L to R): K.S. Madan [ex 318-J], Hari Hoon [ex 261-T], Ab Hoon [ex], Sushil Jain [ex 221-H] & Mrs. Sushil. Front Row (L to R): Biswajit Chaudhry [ex 61-T], Mrs. Biswatjit Chaudhary, Mrs. Baljit Malhotra, Mrs. Sukhbir Grewal, Mrs. Shivbhadra & Mrs. Lalit Chopra.

*It is not the critic who counts;
not the man who points out how
the strong man stumbled,
or where the doer of deeds
could have done them better.*

*The credit belongs to the man
who is actually in the arena,
whose face is marred by
dust and sweat and blood:*

*who strives valiantly;
who errs and comes short again
and again;
who knows great enthusiasms
the great devotions;
who spends himself in a worthy cause;
who at the best,
knows in the end the triumph
of high achievement.*

*and who, at the worst,
if he fails, at least fails while
DARING GREATLY
so that his place
shall never be
with those timid souls
who know neither victory nor defeat*

Theodore Roosevelt

VISIT TO THE CHANDBAGH SCHOOL IN PAKISTAN

It all started with a casual remark from Dr. Santokh Singh, a surgeon friend, asking me whether Rita and I would be interested in attending a wedding in Lahore? I gave him an equally non serious 'yes', not half expecting that it would actually work out. But, lo and behold not only did we get our visas, but we were even allowed to cross by road. Mr. Gurdial Singh gave me the address and phone numbers of Maj. Gen. Mustafa Anwar Hussain, and also mentioned that Mogeesh, Mr. Muinuddin's son was based in Lahore. I did know that Gen. Jilani and Mr. Muinuddin had passed away.

We were the guests of Dr. Rashid Latif Khan whose daughter was getting married. He was until recently Professor and Head of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Lahore Medical College. He retired a little while ago and now runs a very efficient establishment of his own. Surprisingly, OB/GYN is still a male preserve in Pakistan, unlike in India. Dr. Rashid had known Mr. Moinuddin quite well and offered to get me in touch with any old boys in Lahore.

With help from our hosts I tried to get in touch with Gen. Mutafa Anwar Nussain, but to no avail. None of the three numbers that Guru had given me would answer. However, the next morning, the day of the 'nikah', one of Dr. Rashid's colleagues brought the information that Gen Hussain was not in town as he had been appointed Pakistan's ambassador to Indonesia. But, my disappointment was short lived, thanks to T.C.! T.C. is Tabassam Chaudhry, her maiden name; alias Tabassam Rana, after her marriage. Her husband is a retired army officer. She is the principal of Lahore

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The main building with the bell-tower

Grammar School which has four branches and she looks after all 4 of them. When TC heard from Rita during the course of their conversation that I was desperately looking for a way to visit the Chandbagh School, she promptly offered to drive me there the next morning. Pakistani hospitality is legendary and we had a first hand experience of it. They are really wonderful people.

The Chandbagh estate lies a little off the new Lahore - Islamabad Expressway, near Sheikhupura. Before I knew it, we were at Gate 2. We were expected as TC with her usual efficiency had called the HM and taken an appointment.

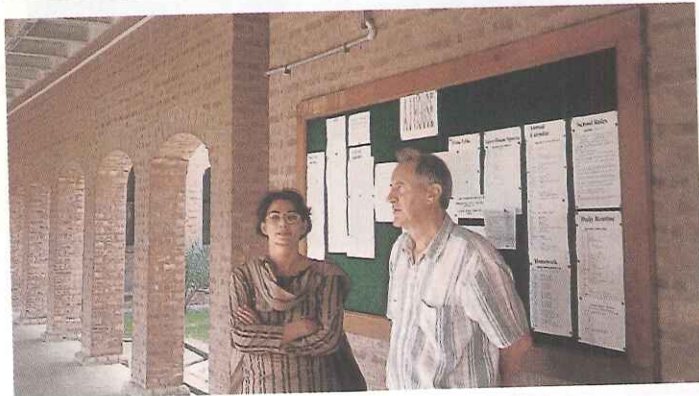
As we entered, my first impression was of a vast, neat but still developing estate with brick buildings and trees breaking the monotony of the typical Punjab landscape. Unfortunately it was a weekend when the boys had been allowed to go home. I would have loved to meet and talk to the boys, exactly the sentiment the Headmaster expressed. I'm sure the boys would have liked to meet somebody from the old school as well, but that "Inshallah" will have to be another time.

To Doscos, the first impression is likely to be a little disappointing because we are used to a much greener estate where the overwhelming impression is of tall trees, flowering plants, ivy on the walls, leech orchards and the crunch of bajri under your feet. But as you look closer, you start

noticing the hundreds of saplings that have already been planted and are steadily growing, the vast green lawns, the massive green playing fields and when one sees the architect's model displayed in the HM's office one can visualize how beautiful the Chandbagh School is going to be in time to come. But one thing Chandbagh Lahore will never have what Chandbagh Dehra Dun will always have is the view of the Himalayas from the classrooms in the main building, (even as Mr. Nair's chalk comes flying at you as you gaze out of the window instead of concentrating on the blackboard), and the twinkling lights of Mussoorie at night.

It was a warm day and Mr. Andrew McLehose, the Headmaster was waiting for us at his house. He is a tall strapping Scotsman and being a holiday he was informally attired in faded blue jeans and a striped cotton shirt. He came across as a very friendly person and it was fun talking to him over 'nimbu pani' and biscuits.

The HM walked us around the school. Since the boys were away we peeped into their dorms, the dining rooms and the Toy rooms. They have house dining though the food is cooked centrally. The term Toy has been retained. I was at a loss to explain where the term came from though I had a vague idea that it's been borrowed either from Eton or Harrow. We went around the classrooms, the lecture theatres, the labs and the art room. Hopefully in time to come



The Headmaster with TC in front of the main Notice Board



The 'Rose Bowl' with Masters' Houses in the back ground

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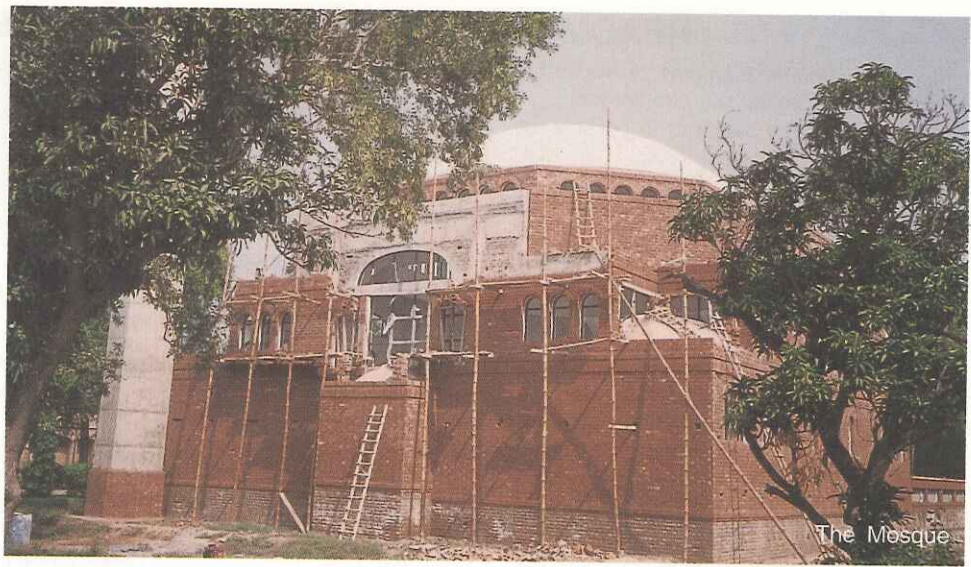
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they will have a separate art school and a music school.

One place that reminds you of Doon is the main notice board. It's a little like the notice board out side the office near what was in my time SC's (Mr. S.C. Roy's) classroom. The HMs office is at one and of the main building and it has a bell tower. General Jilani was a regular visitor to the school, but he couldn't make it in his later years, yet he would ring up from Lahore sometimes to find out if the bell had rung. It reminds us old boys of how bell oriented we were and how bell oriented we remain even in our twilight years.

The tour of the school ended with a visit to the Chandbagh School's Rose Bowl. They have not been able to use it yet because during the excavation they struck water. If only it had been oil! For the moment all the plays and entertainment are held in one of the school courtyards with the corridor being used as a stage.

On the way out I stopped by the school mosque. It's still under construction and all the trees around it have been preserved, which makes it look a little like the new auditorium near the HM's residence at Doon. I believe it's based on a Turkish

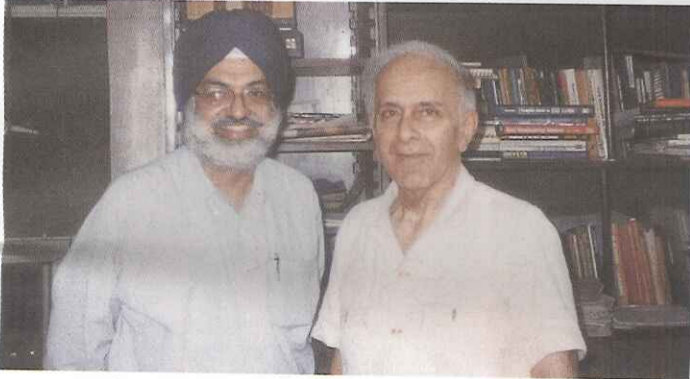


design and even at this stage it looks majestic.

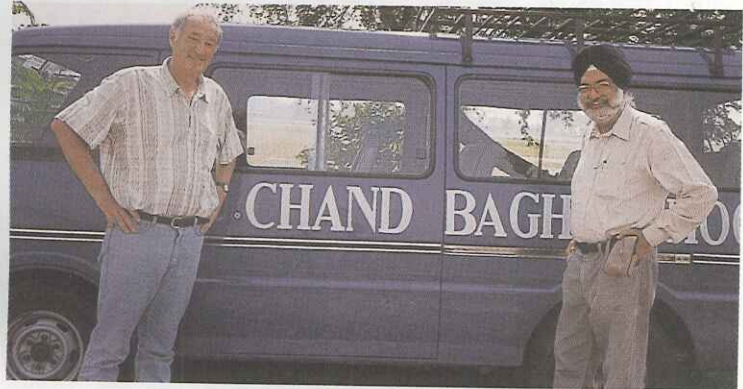
My Chandbagh pilgrimage culminated with a visit the same afternoon to meet Mr. Masood Hasan [ex 146-J '36] who heads the Chandbagh Foundation today and looks after it's various affairs. He talked about Gurbaksh Singh who I did not know and Ranjit Singh Grewal, who I did - Avi

Grewal's dad. The visit ended with my asking him to autograph a copy of the school prospectus for me. He wrote - For Rajbir Singh, from Masood Hasan, Oct. 06 2K. "All the best!" How typically Dosco. It felt wonderful.

Rajbir Singh
[ex 229-H '60]



Rajbir Singh with Masood Hasan [146-J '36]
President of The Chandbagh Foundation



Mr. McLehose with Rajbir Singh

John Martyn Memorial Trust—an appeal to all DoscOs

Dear Old Boy,

When John Martyn died in 1984, Mrs. Indira Gandhi suggested that a trust be founded in his name. Thus was born the John Martyn Memorial Trust with founding Trustees Mady Martyn, Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit and Gulab Ramchandani.

Since 1986 the Trust been running a free primary school at Salangaon, a village off the Dehra Dun - Mussoorie diversion road. Currently it has 118 children from KG to Class V from three nearby villages. They are getting an excellent basic education free of cost and a visit to this cheerful school is truly heartwarming.

The Trust has no income of its own but through its efforts and the generosity of well wishers continues to collect donations, invest them and use the returns for running the school. The Trust has now started a scheme to sponsor up to five bright children annually to pursue studies to class XII in local private schools. The first batch of children has completed the first year and has settled exceptionally well in an English medium school environment. The Trust proposes to set up a corpus of Rupees fifteen lakhs to support this innovative scheme. Those associated with the Doon School have contributed a great deal to the promotion of good education in this country. On behalf of the Trustees, I would appeal

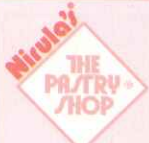
to DOSCOS to donate generously towards this great cause. A cause that will benefit those not as fortunate as most of us have been. The Trust is a registered Charitable Trust to which donations are exempt from Income Tax under Section 80 G of the Income Tax Act. A Bank Draft Payable on any bank in Dehra Dun in favour of The John Martyn Memorial Trust will bring you the blessings of Salangaon village. Correspondence may be addressed to: John Martyn Memorial Trust C/o. the Doon School, Dehra Dun.

E-mail queries may be made to me at: bdjayal@vsnl.com

Yours sincerely,
Brijesh Jayal
[ex 101-T '51]

Trustees: Gulab Amchandani (Managing Trustee), Bhai Manjit Singh, Brijesh Jayal, Dilsher Singh Virk, George Verghese, Florence Pandhi, John Mason, Kr Prem Lal, Lalit Nirula, Saroj Srivastava, Shomie Das, Princess Sita of Kapurthala, Veena Soni, Ravi Narang, and Man Mohan Ghai.

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HEADMASTER'S FOUNDER'S DAY SPEECH - 2000

Mr. Arun Shourie, Members of the Board of Governors, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It gives me much pleasure to present my report for the year 1999-2000. I will start with examinations and move on to more pleasant things. In March this year we presented 65 students for the ISC examination of whom 64 were successful. 7 boys were awarded aggregate marks above 90%. Udayan Das Roy placed first with 94%.

A feature in the performance of this batch was the good result secured in Science: 37% students obtained the top grade in Physics and 48% obtained the top grade in Chemistry. In the ICSE (Class X) 99 students took the examination and all of them were successful. 10 boys secured above 80%. Sudhanshu Kasewa placed first with 92.8%. The school recognised the abilities of the following boys with the award of the Scholar's Blazer: Bharat Kejriwal, Hari Inder Singh Jaaj, Spandan, Archi Rastogi, Keshav Baljee, Anant Prasad and Abhyuday Prashad.

While there has been an increased emphasis on academics we continue to work towards a better learning base at school. Among the initiatives being projected by the academic council for the coming year is the pragmatic provision of more time for teaching, in all classes.

The school is doing everything in its power to provide opportunities for the admission of talented and motivated children from all sections of society. The Scholarship Awards Committee consisting of Justice Leela Seth (Retd), as Chairperson, Mr. Vikram Lal, Mr. R.C. Bhargava, Chairman of the Board and the Headmaster and Controller, met twice last year to approve the award of scholarships for 78 boys of the school amounting to Rs. 23 lacs. In a significant decision the Board of Governors recently also approved the institution of 10 full scholarships for boys of merit in the school with effect from academic year 2001.

Our Teachers' Centre has a membership of 40 schools in the Dehra Dun and Mussoorie district and has been serving teachers with regular educational programmes, as well as conducting school surveys and inspections. The Centre is now assisting La Martiniere, Lucknow to open a similar centre for teachers in Lucknow.

Further to the emphasis the school has placed on academic work, is a heightened initiative on career guidance. We have received the assistance of a well-known career counselling organisation in carrying out aptitude tests and providing advice on vocational choices for senior students. Parents have also had an opportunity of dialogue with qualified advisers on campus in the last two days.

We firmly regard our complex network of extra mural activities as essential education. It is in such transaction that a boy discovers his gifts, draws confidence from his abilities and develops a breadth of interests. This liberal curriculum is also ideal for the inculcation of positive values,

and you may be sure we lose no opportunity in drawing lessons from everyday examples of struggle and triumph, that surface in school life.

A recent strategy has been to give enhanced opportunities and training for junior teams in sport. The idea goes beyond the obvious 'catch 'em young' notion to a more realistic objective of giving young members of this community an equal sense of belonging. This is an emphasis that is carried beyond sport to every activity practised, so that the school can cherish the individual and nurture his gifts, whether sporting or aesthetic. If any school in the country can truly individualize, we can, having a pupilage of just 500.

Fundamental to this practice is the assurance that every child has a right to grow in self-regard. I believe that we have made some progress in recent times in introducing a mutually respecting culture in the domestic life of the school.

Sport functions as the man recreational activity of the school. Our basketball team won the 10th Afzal Khan Basketball Tournament as well as the District Basketball Tournament and enjoyed the distinction of sending Anant Prasad, Punet Sadanan and Cabit Maira to represent Dehra Dun in the Under-19 Basketball Championship. The school hosted the UP State Table Tennis Championship in November '99. Rajat Jain and Vidit Nagory represented Dehra Dun in the UP State Table Tennis Championship. Rajat Jain is a member of the regular UP Team.

Efforts continue to encourage specialization in sport by boys of exceptional merit. We have coaches for practically every sporting activity and it has been possible in individual sports to encourage specialization among a few seniors. Our athletes showed exceptional form in the District Championship last December winning the trophy for the Best Performance in the men's category.

Tennis is coming up to a good standard. We fared well in the recent IPSC Tennis Tournament held in Hyderabad recently. Awaiting implementation in the next year is the Sports Complex, consisting of six tennis courts, two basketball courts and two squash courts to come up in the area behind Kashmir and Hyderabad houses.

Awarded the Games Blazer for their exceptional abilities in sport were Dwij Chatterjee, Hari Inder Singh Jaaj, Adnan Shaikh, Naaji N. Shah, Arush Sogani, Rahul Chaudhary, Akshay Chowdhury, Jubaran Borogohain and Deep Singh.

The International Award for Young People has been a means of challenging boys in different types of endeavour. This year 27 boys were awarded the Bronze, 19 the Silver and is the Gold Standards. This along with Games & Scholars' Blazers, are coveted honours that boys strive and yearn for, as they are reliable, consistent symbols of excellence. With considerable pride we place on record the unique achievement of Hari Inder Singh Jaaj, last year's School

Captain, who achieved the triple award of Games, Scholars and IAYP Gold Blazer.

We had a feast of drama in the Spring Term this year. Our Mr. Hamaad Farooqui's town production of 'Khubsurat Bahu' was staged in February. In April, Dehra Dun citizens, with a taste for western music had a special treat when Dalip Tahil's troupe stage their production of 'The Man of La Mancha' in our auditorium. We thank Mr. Tahil for introducing the community to a genere of professional theatre and helping us raise substantial funds for our social service work in Orissa. We did something new in March when Zarin Chaudhuri, Director of the Action Players in Calcutta, spent a fortnight here working with our boys on mine, including a Showcase that amply demonstrated the power of this medium. For the summer production in May we presented a delightful satire, 'Taj Mahal Ka Tender' in the Rose Bowl.

The Vimal Bhagat award for contribution to theatre in English was made to Uday Singh Jhala and the Superama Award for contribution to Hindi theatre was made to Naved Farooqui.

Quizzing saw a year of somewhat diminished fortunes compensated however, by the stellar success of Mr. Anand Banerji, Mathematics teacher, Master in charge of Quizzing, who shot into the national limelight by winning the BBC Mastermind (India) Contest in Jaipur in December '99. In order that every boy be sufficiently inspired by Mr. Banerji's exceptional feat, the school celebrated his success in time-honoured manner with a big feast.

Music continues to do more than provide solace to the savage breast. Our music competition in September, while undoubtedly sharpened by the DOSCO's zest for house competition revealed a versatile range of talents.

If there is an area in the school's activities which has won respect both in and outside, it is our social service programme. The year under review saw a proliferation in the number of projects undertaken and we are proud of the commitment shown by our boys in this regard. In April a contingent of 35 boys accompanied by Dr. Joshi and Mr. Chalasani, worked in Batoli village towards building a community centre with the assistance of members of the Himalyan Trust. We have an ongoing interest in this village and are working in liaison with the NGO in acquiring land for resettling displaced villagers and arranging means to generate a sustainable livelihood for them. Another group of 16 boys accompanied by Dr. Saraswati and Mr. Dargan, went to Orissa in aid of people affected by the Orissa cyclone in April 2000. Participants built a classroom and carried out community services in the area. We also surveyed the area for the next phase of our project in December, when we will be joined by representatives of Round Square Schools around the world. We had the assistance of Round Square International

With best compliments from

Maninder S. Sahni

[ex 293-JB '91]

in district Ukhimath last December and worked on building an earthquake resistant hall for use as a class room and vocational centre. I would like to place on record our appreciation of the initiative shown by Dr. Madhav Saraswat, of our teaching staff, in coordinating all these welfare projects.

In September this year Dr. Saraswat and the Headmaster accompanied by 7 boys were delegates at the Round Square Conference in Apple by College, Canada, between the 29th September and 5th October. The valuable experience of interacting with communities from five continents was augmented by inspirational talks by speakers who had faced personal challenges and initiated change around the world.

Exploring the value of exposure overseas 18 boys undertook exchange programmes with schools in Australia, New Zealand, UK, Canada, Germany and Cyprus and we received students from UK and Australia. Among teachers Miss Jenifer Hewson, formerly teaching in the Netherlands, is teaching English in our D and C Forms. We had a brief reciprocal exchange program with Millfield School in the UK when Dr. Jeremy Hill taught Chemistry here in August and Mr. Deepak Sharma of our Economics Department was at Millfield for a month.

Continuing another cherished tradition of the school, a mountaineering expedition set out on its annual adventure at the end of May. On the 12th of June Justin Burrett, Sahil Kapoor, Pranav Chanchani and Tapas Biala, along with Dr. S.C. Biala and Mr. Pankaj Joshi, climbed a peak at 19000 feet. The following day the seniors, Karan Singh and Varun Sharma, accompanied by Dr. Biala and Dr. Shukla climbed Kalidhang at 20,8000 feet. We would like our boys and masters to know how deeply our community appreciates their commitment to mountaineering. It will be recalled that half a century ago masters and students of the school were the pioneers of Indian mountaineering. We will shortly be able to commemorate 50 years of mountaineering. We will shortly be able to commemorate 50 years of mountaineering with the Doon School in a book that is to be published at the initiative of Mr. Nalni Jayal, and edited by Amir Ali, entitled, 'For Hills to Climb'.

An Assembly Prayer asks for hills to climb and hard work to do. So we have been engaged actively over the last four months in a massive overhaul of the kitchen of our Central Dining Hall. I do believe that our unflinching Catering Manager, Sanjay Makhija, has logged a few bonus points for his next Avtar by working over that time under very trying circumstances, and yet keeping the six hundred diners fairly content. Our appeals to mothers (and the occasional fathers) to send us recipes to alleviate the predictability of CDH meals have not been answered, which may suggest that everyone is happy with the food. Of course, we are aware now that, with a spanking new kitchen, expectations will be soaring.

We have also managed to deal with the problem of antiquated electrical

installations through a major over haul of the external connections in the school. Neither the kitchen nor the electrical project would have been implemented with half the quality had it not been for our dynamic Controller, Brig. B.N. Singh. Over a tenure of seven years Brig. Singh as Controller (which is a more intimidating name for Bursar) has been a centre of major infrastructural change and renewal at the Doon School. An old boy himself and a formidable wrestler in his day, he has grappled with huge administrative challenges and almost succeeded (but not quite) in making the work of the Headmaster a sinecure. Brig. B.N. Singh leaves us in December this year with the finances in good fettle, the buildings in good shape and the administration running smoothly. Ladies and gentlemen join with me in thanking Brig. B.N. Singh for his faithful service to the school and wishing him continuing happiness and fulfillment in the future.

At the same time to give me much pleasure in announcing the appointment of Mr. Samir Katre as Controller at the Doon School from December 2000. Mr. Katre comes to us with the rich experience as an administrator having worked as Bursar of the Assam Valley School from its inception.

We had a few changes on our teaching staff this year. Mr. P.N. Mahesh of the Physics department resigned for personal reasons in December '99 and Mr. D.M. Sharma, Commerce teacher and Housemaster KB, resigned in June 2000, to take up the post of Vice Principal in a Delhi School. Mr. G. Daniel of the Physics department designed in June and accepted a post with Lawrence School, Lovedale.

We welcomed to the school Mr. J.T. John in the Physics department in March and Mr. A.T. Bhowmick as Art teacher in April this year.

The last year saw the demise of a number of well loved former members of our staff: Mr. A.Z. Khan who taught Art in the Doon School from 1981 to 1999, on the 3rd November, '99, shortly after retirement. Mr. C.J. Miller, former Headmaster of the Doon School from 1966 to 1970, on the 11th December '99, Mr. S. Muinuddin who joined the school with the first batch of boys in 1935 and left in 1940, this summer in Lahore, Mr. D.N. Varma who taught Chemistry from 1962 to 1991 and was Housemaster of TB and later Dean of Studies, on 12th September 2000.

The school was saddened to hear of the passing away of Mr. Mumtaz Ahmad on the 9th of January 2000. Mr. Ahmad was a member of the Board of Governors from 1990 to 1997 and Chairman of the Board from 1995 to 1997. He is remembered for his initiative in augmenting the Doon School Scholarship Scheme and for his leadership in completing a number of key projects in 1997.

Founder's Day is a sentimental occasion for the Doon School as it brings the past and present together. Our good wishes are extended to the Class of '50 and the Class of '75 who celebrate respectively their

Golden and Silver Jubilees this year. We greatly appreciate your presence here and trust your return to the school will be filled with nostalgia and joy.

Two years ago the Class of '75 decided their gift to the school would be an Archives section. Today, our Chief Guest inaugurated this ambitious project. The archives consists of a records room containing reference material filed for easy access and selectively covering the period 1922 to the present, and a computer section, where at a touch one may recall personal records, and pictorial and written reports of school events from the beginning of its time. This prodigious effort of collation was only possible because the batch was unrelenting in their resolve to give their school the best, and the most sophisticated way of preserving its records. Selected by them to coordinate the work was Dr. Siddiqui, former Regional Archives Officer, UP State Archives, Lucknow, whose expertise and sincerity have been invaluable in establishing standards and defining objectives. Dr. Siddiqui and his team of assistants deserve praise for the quality of the Doon School Archives section today and the Class of '75 our thanks for this magnificent gift.

At this time it is my joyful responsibility to acknowledge the many ways in which the old boy community contributes to the growth of the school. I would like to thank Mr. Deepak Nirula, President of the Old Boys' Society for his concern for the school during his tenure as President. We acknowledge the generous contribution of Rs. 17 lacs to our scholarship fund from old boys in the United States of America, received recently through the DSOBS.

As the school gears itself preparing young people for the millennium we are fortunate to have a dynamic governing body that works like a think tank. Board meetings at least one item on the agenda has a futuristic application. Each Board member makes an individual contribution in the planning of initiatives and it is, therefore, unavoidable for us to feel a sense of loss when they complete their tenure and move on. This is how we feel now as Mr. Madhavrao Scindia, Vice Chairman, leaves office. Despite his many responsibilities Mr. Scindia has been regular at Board Meetings and a great help to the school. We will miss his inspiring leadership.

We are also losing Mr. Harpal Singh who has completed his tenure as Governor. In his role as Hony. Treasurer he has brought the school finances on to a sound footing and given us the confidence to challenge the future boldly with our enterprise.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all parents for their positive interest in the school and their confidence in the decisions we take a move the school forward. We are fortunate to have a good teaching faculty and a deeply loyal service staff. And with boys such as these what more can we wish for than the opportunity to serve them all our days.

John Mason

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NOTE ON THE DOON SCHOOL

During the last several years, the IPSS and the Board of Governors have been grappling with various urgent issues relating to the School. One set of problems related to the infrastructure. For a long time, very little money had been spent on the proper upkeep and maintenance of buildings and fixtures and fittings. The earthquake, which took place about 6-7 years ago, did a lot of damage and highlighted the urgency of implementing remedial measures. Since then all the work required for strengthening structures, both in the School building, as well as the Houses and residences have been completed. The recent earthquake did very little damage. Facilities for hot water, and fittings and fixtures in the bathrooms have been upgraded. The electrification within the Campus which was dilapidated and a safety hazard has been redone. The kitchen for the Central Dining Hall has been modernized with technical help from Nirula's. All this work has been done from the School's internal resources.

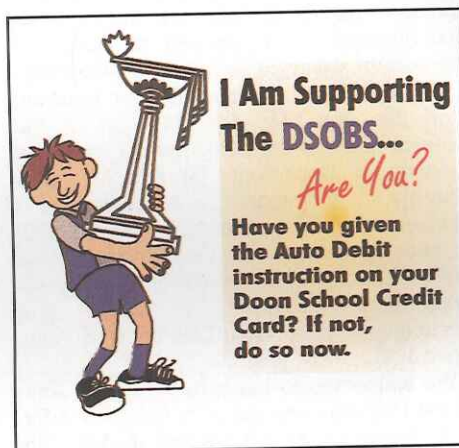
With donations from some well wishers, we have not only a multi-purpose hall, but new laboratories for science, and a computer center. A new music school is expected to be built soon. The Project Committee exercises good supervision over projects, which are now completed within budget and time.

The financial system for budgeting and expenditure control is now not only largely computerized, but based on modern business lines. There is thus much greater transparency, as well as effective financial control. All investment of funds is made with the approval of the Finance Committee of the Board, and as a result returns are higher and there are no bad debts. The library is also computerized. The menu for students is based on the advice of a qualified nutritionist.

The importance of improving academic standards has been recognized and various steps have been taken. Good results are being achieved, but more needs to be done. Teacher salaries have been improved very considerably, and are now as good as in any school in India. The performance of teachers is being objectively evaluated and their annual increments and promotions are based on such evaluation. A teacher training center has been established in the School, where teachers from other schools are also trained. Rising costs due to inflation, and the need to generate funds for the activities described above, have resulted in a steady increase in fees. The Board had also decided that the infrastructure and facilities did not justify a student strength of 560,

and this was reduced to 480 a few years ago. The fees from this term would be Rs. 95,000 for the year. This fee is not high, when compared to other good schools in India.

One consequence of the increase in fees has been a gradual reduction in the number of boys entering the School whose parents have a salaried income. Thus, parents from the armed forces, civil services etc. are finding it very difficult to send their children to the School. The withdrawal of the Government of India scholarship scheme a few years ago, also resulted in children with academic merit, but limited means, not coming to the School any more. This trend, if not corrected, would make it impossible for the School to meet its fundamental objectives, including providing leaders for modern India. Even today, the School is considered to be a place only for the rich elite. It is



becoming increasingly hard to attract children from areas other than North India. By confining the selection to children of affluent parents, a very large-maybe 98% - segment of talent is excluded from entering the School. This is not only bad for the School, but it is also tragic that so much talent cannot access the best educational facilities in India.

The Board considered this matter and concluded that the only solution was to offer scholarships to talented boys of limited means. Attempts are being made to build a corpus for scholarships. The amount is now about Rs. 25 million and this will provide about Rs. 2.5 million a year for scholarships. The annual fees being about Rs. 46 million, it means that scholarships can meet only about 6% of the fee. This is so inadequate that the School cannot advertise about the availability of scholarships, and thus enable a much larger number of children to compete for entrance to the School.

The Board has formulated a scheme for

the award of scholarships, based on a boy securing admission on merits, and then on the means of his parents. 80% of the funds are reserved for children of salary earning parents. The Scholarships are awarded by a Committee headed by Justice Leela Seth, and includes Mr. Vikram Lal (Eicher Group), the Chairman of the Board and the Headmaster. This ensures total transparency and objectivity.

The Board has also decided that next year, 10 students of high merit, to be selected after wide advertisement, and approved by the scholarship committee, would be given full scholarships out of the School's own resources.

Future programmes would include providing computers to all students, providing professional coaching where it appears that the School can produce champions, finding ways to enable children with talent in music, art etc to specialize, and attracting good teachers to join and stay in the School. Of course, improving academic performance, without diluting the fundamental values of Doon School education, would be the core objective.

A substantial increase in the funds for scholarships will be critical for success. Unless the School is able to attract more talent, by widening the field of selection, it will be near impossible for the School to become a center of excellence in academics, sports or other activities. If the School can attract talent irrespective of means, it will lead to the School's infrastructure being used most beneficially and creating real leaders and champions. It will become much easier to attract sponsors and raise funds for up granting infrastructure if the School is not perceived as the play ground for the rich, but a center of excellence, open to all with talent.

Old Boys generally lose touch with the School. The fault lies, to a large extent with the system of communication between the School and OB's. This is what the Board is trying to remedy. This brief note is an attempt to communicate in the hope that OB's will start thinking about the years they spent in the Doon, and within their means, find ways of funding the corpus for Scholarships. This could be through one time donations, regular monthly payments of small amounts through their banks, or any other way. For those living outside India, a system for tax benefits could also be worked out by the OB representative in that country.

R.C. Bhargava
[ex 154-T '50]

Chairman, Board of Governors

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