



club life

April 2017

Vol. 04 • No. 21

Delhi Gymkhana Club, 2, Safdarjung Road, New Delhi 110011

A monthly in-house newsletter for private circulation only

FROM PRESIDENT'S DESK



Dear Members,

Summer has set in rather quickly and surely with March recording unusually high temperatures. As the sun beats mercilessly outdoors, winter lunch venues have shifted indoors in the comfortable air conditioned environment. Joie-de-vivre continues, as it should!

As usual there were a number of programmes in the area of sports as well as cultural and social events in the month of March. The club championships for all sports disciplines, barring swimming, have since been completed well before the on-set of the summer season. The championships were conducted professionally and I congratulate the Sports Committee and the coordinators of the respective sports for the same.

The annual bilateral match between the British High Commission Tennis Club and the DGC for the Sir Harcourt Butler Trophy was played this year at our own courts. The DGC retained the trophy for the fourth year running.

The sports dinner was held on 25th March marking the culmination of the sports championships when the Army's Symphony Orchestra played to the delight of the members present! The trophy for the sportsperson of the year was jointly awarded to Sankalp Anand, a budding squash player, and Rohan Mehra, an outstanding tennis player. My congratulations to all the winners!

Our readers would be pleased to note that once again our club conducted a well-orchestrated bridge tournament from 3rd to 5th March 2017. This tournament now finds a permanent place in the Indian Bridge Calendar by the BFI. My compliments to the organisers, Maj Gen Billoo Suri and his team. The club members will be pleased to know that our members, Mr Kawaljit Singh and Mr S. Sundareshan, have been elected as Vice Presidents of the BFI, thereby adding yet another feather to our cap.

The Book Club events by Tilak Devasher on 10th March and by

Blossom Kochhar on 24th March were well received by the members.

The members will be happy to learn that the inauguration of the much awaited Jamun Tree, in its new and stylish avatar, is planned for mid-March.

The DGC Theatre Festival kick-started with 'Badshah Rangeela' - a historical play on the life and times of Mohammad Shah Rangeela. It was much appreciated by the club members. For the theatre lovers there are many more treats in store keeping in view members' varied tastes covering diverse genres, viz, historic, satire and Broadway. We look forward to the members enjoying the theatre extravaganza under the starry summer skies in the Kashmir lawns.

"Love is to the heart what the summer is to the farmer's year — it brings to harvest all the loveliest flowers of the soul", wrote the famous bard; and in that spirit we too look forward to Baisakhi, Ugadi and Bihu. Make the most of the season by chilling out at the bar and by the poolside!

Jai Hind!

**Lt Gen IJ Singh,
AVSM, VSM (Retd)
President**

PREVIEW

KELVIN BRIDGE BLENDED SCOTCH WHISKY PROMOTION	2	SIR HARCOURT BUTLER TROPHY	5	BRIDGE RESULTS FEBRUARY 2017	11
BOOK CLUB MEETING - TILAK DEVASHER -	2	BOOK REVIEW PREMCHAND KI JAPTSHUDA KAHANIYAN	6	FIELD MARSHAL MANEKSHAW : TIMELESS QUALITY OF WIT AND HUMOUR	12
SPINE AND ORTHO CHECK-UP CAMP	3	2016-2017 DELHI GYMKHANA CLUB TENNIS CHAMPION - ROHAN MEHRA	7	ANNUAL SPORTS DINNER	14
LABEL 5 CLASSIC BLACK BLENDED SCOTCH WHISKY PROMOTION	3	GENDER BENDER	7	EDITORIAL	15
AN EVENING OF AROMA MAGIC WITH BLOSSOM!	4	ETIQUETTE IS THE SINE QUONON OF A CLUB	8	THEN... AND NOW	16
BOOK CLUB MEETING - BLOSSOM KOCHHAR	4	DEVOTION TO A DOG	9	GUIDELINES FOR SPONSORSHIPS	16
		DGC ALL INDIA ANNUAL BRIDGE TOURNAMENT 2017	10	FORTHCOMING EVENTS	16

Kelvin Bridge Blended Scotch Whisky promotion - 9 March 2017



Book Club Meeting - Tilak Devasher - 10 March 2017



Spine and Ortho Check-up Camp - 17 March 2017



Label 5 Classic Black Blended Scotch Whisky Promotion - 23 March 2017



AN EVENING OF AROMA MAGIC WITH BLOSSOM!

The Gymkhana Rose Garden came alive with aromatic magic as dispensers diffused the smell of roses and ylang ylang aromatic oils for this special Book Club Event, spreading a feel of relaxation and romance. **Dr Blossom Kochhar**, iconic beauty professional and therapist who is a world-renowned pioneer of Aromatherapy with over 35 years of experience and a double doctorate, shared tips and experiences with a mesmerized audience.

She was in conversation with **Vinita Dawra Nangia**, Associate Editor & Columnist, Times of India. The Chairman Library Sub-Committee set the pace for the evening with a lively introduction of the panelists. Vinita introduced Aromatherapy as a science that uses the powerful tool of smell and harnesses it to trigger real physical, emotional and psychological benefits. She also talked about the senses as involuntary memory triggers – stressing that our olfactory sense is the most important of all senses.

Blossom then talked about Aromatherapy as a way of life and how it can be used to enhance self-confidence, sensuality, romance, good relationships and even more importantly, a healthy life and a more beautiful you! She shared interesting, practical tips for everyday life from her book and experience as a leading Aromatherapist.

Both Blossom and Vinita led the audience through an interactive experiential session that left the Club Members entertained and rejuvenated. In discussion were the history of aromatherapy, tips and secrets, interesting

snippets from history and literature, information about our physical and psychological needs and the availability of natural aromatherapies all around us – from the garden to the kitchen!

What got the audience excited and energized was a hand massage exercise under the expert guidance of Blossom in which all participated. Vials of aroma essential oils were also distributed by Blossom as she explained the uses of each to the audience – giving them tips to take care of headaches, daily stress, digestive problems, memory issues, problems of romance and break-up! She also shared exclusive tips on how to engage a romantic partner! Interesting passages were read from Dr Blossom Kochhar's book – **'Aromatherapy – A Way of Life.'** The book contains recipes to help you create your own aromatic oils apart from the various uses and effects of aromatherapy in our daily life for purposes of beauty, health and rejuvenation.

The evening ended with people queuing up to get Blossom's autograph on their copies of her book and to get some personal tips from the normally reclusive therapist who prefers to have her work speak for her.

Also present in the audience and happy to share a word with us was the lady responsible for the inception of the Gymkhana Book Club, Ms Dipika Nanjappa, former Chairperson Librery Sub-Committee. She spoke briefly of how proud and happy the progress of the Book Club makes her.

Book Club Meeting - Blossom Kochhar - 24 March 2017



SIR HARCOURT BUTLER TROPHY

SATURDAY MARCH 25, 2017



The members of the club are aware that Sir Harcourt Butler was the founding President of our Club. To commemorate the Centenary of the Club, in a magnanimous gesture, the British High Commission instituted a Tennis Trophy to be played between the Delhi Gymkhana Club and The British High Commission Club. The trophy was christened as Sir Harcourt Butler Trophy. The first match between the two clubs was played in 2014 at the British Club located within the compound of the British High Commission. The inaugural match was won by the Delhi Gymkhana Club. The annual fixture for Sir Harcourt Butler trophy is played alternatively at the British High Commission and at the grass courts of the Delhi Gymkhana Club. The Delhi Gymkhana Club has so far retained the trophy with matches played in 2014, 2015 & 2016. The 2017 match was played on Saturday March 25, at the Delhi Gymkhana Club. The 11 member team of the British High Commission was lead by their captain Mr Andy Cole. The Gymkhana team was led by Lt Gen I J Singh (Retd) President of the Club. The other members of the Delhi Gymkhana Team were Mr A J S Chhatwal, Mr V Ahuja, Mr Daljit Sihota, Mr Karun Khanna, Cdr Ashok Sinha, Maj Yogesh Prasad, Mrs Manju Verma, Mrs Patty Dhar, Ms Gulati, Mr Yadu Bhide & Mr Sanjeev Kassar. This year it was mutually decided that matches will be played on 7 games basis in both mens doubles, ladies doubles & mixed doubles events. And the team winning maximum number of games will be the Winner. The Delhi Gymkhana Club scored 53 points as against 43 by the British Club. The Sir Harcourt Butler trophy thus was once again retained by the Delhi Gymkhana Club. The prize distribution ceremony was held at the Court side and the Chairman of Outdoor Sports, presented the trophy to Lt Gen I J Singh (Retd) the captain of the winning team.

Chairman
Sports (Outdoor) Sub Committee



BOOK REVIEW

PREMCHAND KI JAPTSHUDA KAHANIYAN

HIND POCKET BOOKS, NEW DELHI

I visited the Jaipur Literary Festival in January this year. There was a nice book shop in the festival from which I picked up this slim volume about which I was told by my batch mate and friend I.C. Srivastava, who lives in Jaipur.

According to the blurb, the author's collection of short stories called "Soze Watan" was published in 1910. The book was banned as seditious. The author changed his name to Premchand to hide his identity from the government so that he could continue writing his stories which contained strong anti-British sentiments. At that time he was a Government school teacher. The blurb says that another collection, Samar Yatra was banned in 1932. The blurb goes on further to say that this book contains the stories of those two banned collections.

My first reaction was that the blurb is unfair to Premchand. It assumes that he was so naïve as to believe that he could hide his identity as the author of published works simply by writing under another name. I decided to cross check with his biography, "Kalam ka Sipahi" written by his son Amrit Rai. Luckily, this gives a much more nuanced version of the change of name.

When the child was born in 1880 his father named him Dhanpat Rai but his uncle called him Nawab. He was educated and took employment as Dhanpat Rai.

In 1910 Dhanpat Rai was posted in Hamirpur. In those days he used to write as Nawab Rai. He had information that the police was trying to identify Nawab Rai. He was summoned to meet the Collector. When he met the Collector, a copy of "Soze Watan" was lying on his table. He was asked whether he had written the book, and the author said yes. The Collector (obviously an Englishman) asked him to explain each story. At the conclusion of the exercise (in a movie this scene would have rich comic possibilities), the Collector said that the stories were seditious. It was decided that all copies of the book were to be surrendered to the Government, and in future he will publish only with the Collector's permission.

Later, it was discussed between the Collector, S.P. etc whether any further action should be taken against him, but it was decided against it. The author heaved a sigh of relief that he had got off lightly. In fact, he gleefully told a friend that he was lucky that he was not sent to Mandalay. (Tilak had been sent to Mandalay jail in 1908 and continued there till 1914).

He continued writing. There were several factors behind this.

The mere rap on the knuckles, he thought it was a "cat and mouse game", "all is fair in love and war", and the fact that it took months for drafts to come back from the Collector. I suppose he must have had to tone down stories so that they could be approved by the Collector.

In October-November, 1910 he decided to write under the name of Premchand, and the first story published under this name was "Bade Ghar ki Beti". He expressed regret that the 5-6 years of labour spent on establishing the reputation of Nawab Rai had gone waste.

It is clear that Premchand had no realistic hope that his identity will remain hidden. The name change was more of a ploy to get around his word given to the Collector about prior permission – it was like a fig leaf. He was, of course, ready for the attendant risks. As we have seen above, he was also able to rationalize his action. But undoubtedly, the most important reason was his urge to keep writing hard hitting stories against the colonial government.

Premchand thought many times of leaving government service. Ultimately, he did so in 1921 after 21 years of service.

I did not find any mention of any book being banned in 1932 but it seems that a security of Rs. 2000 was demanded from Saraswati Press and a periodical, Jagran which were managed by Premchand. He wrote in a letter that he had to rush to Lucknow to meet Mumford, the Chief Secretary and explain the whole thing to him. In the letter, he expressed the hope that the adverse order about security will be withdrawn.

So, we see that there was no effort to conceal his identity. In fact by now Premchand, though never financially comfortable, had become a public figure and he was an active and prominent participant in literary conferences. There is no hint of any secrecy.

The collection contains 12 stories. All except two are about the freedom struggle. Of the two stories referred to above, one is "Thakur ka Kuan". It is about the caste system and relates the distress of a lower caste woman who can not fetch water from the Thakur's well even in a crisis.

The other story is called "Lanchan". This is perhaps the most haunting and touching story in this volume. It is about a middle class married woman, Devi. She is pretty, perfectly sensible except for the kink that she allows the sweeper to flirt with her. As I read the story, I had the feeling that Devi does not ring true. Her child dies in a traffic accident; her

husband upbraids her for her behavior toward the sweeper. The upshot is that she runs away from home and finds shelter in the home of a friend of the sweeper. Premchand merely hints at her dark fate.

Even though I had felt that Devi was not lifelike, her tragedy kept haunting me for some time, to the extent that I had to tell myself that it was only a story.

Anna Karenina, Madam Bovari and Becky Sharp (Vanity Fair) are woman characters with classically tragic stories. But these ladies were inveigled into adulterous affairs by riches and glamour. Their troubles are described in detail. These ladies are most unlike Devi, and Premchand draws a curtain over her travails, with the result that the reader is prey to

imagining all kinds of terrible situations. This is a master story teller at his best.

I have long been an admirer of Premchand but I always thought that he leaves nothing to imagination. With "Lanchan" I am happy to have been proved wrong.

The stories of the freedom struggle convey wonderfully well the fervor and, dare I say it, the madness of those days, the dilemma of students torn between completing their education and plunging into the freedom struggle, the dilemma of government servants and the effective way in which the foreign government used to squeeze the dissenters within the system.

A.K. Srivastava (P- 3862)

2016-2017 DELHI GYMKHANA CLUB TENNIS CHAMPION - ROHAN MEHRA

14 year old Rohan Mehra is the men's Singles Champion this year, the youngest ever to win the event. He also bagged the Open Doubles title partnering his father Arun Mehra. At the age of 5, none other than Mahesh Bhupati, the current Captain of the Indian Davis Cup team, spotted talent in this child and sponsored him for advance coaching. He has not only excelled at the School level Tennis viz Public School meets, but has also secured a high ranking in his age group, at the national level.

Rohan owes his achievement to the excellent facility provided to him by the Gymkhana Club which helped him to hone his skills and it is hoped that with continued dedication and hard work he will bring laurels to the Club in the years to come. He is a class 9 student at the Delhi Public School. Incidentally he is a fourth generation representative in the Club with his 94 year old great grand father Mr SK Sethi, who is a very senior member of the Club and a regular in the Bridge Room.

Yogesh Prasad (P-1227)



GENDER BENDER our ladies speak!

Sir,

As a Dependent Member of the Club and Student of class X of the Sanskriti School New Delhi, I thank you for encouraging children of club members to contribute to the esteemed newsletter of the club - CLUB LIFE.

I have been keenly interested in learning in the club's library about etiquettes in clubs of various countries about which I have written an article captioned: **ETIQUETTE: SINE NON QUA OF A CLUB.**

Aparna Joshi (U-0997D)



ETIQUETTE IS THE SINE QUANON OF A CLUB

Early on as a young dependent member the significance of etiquette to be observed in Clubs fascinated me and, I learnt a lot while browsing in the well stocked Club library about the etiquette observed in Clubs in several countries in Europe and elsewhere.

In an old issue of The Spectator I read that the world 'etiquette' was first used by Phillip Stanhope, 4th Earl of Chesterfield in his *Letters to His Son on the Art of Becoming a Man of the World and a Gentleman*, written from 1737 to 1738 describes the restraint of the polite Victorian Era Society;

"I would heartily wish that you may often be seen to smile, but never heard to laugh while you live. Frequent and loud laughter is the characteristic of folly and ill-manners. It is a manner in which the mob express their silly joy at silly things : and they call it being merry. In my mind there is nothing so illiberal, and so ill-bred, as audible laughter. I am neither of manically nor cynical disposition, and I am as willing and as apt to be pleased as anybody: but I am sure that since I have heard the full use of my reason nobody has ever heard me laugh."

Good manners in Clubs are the same as good manners elsewhere – only a little more so. I learnt that while a Club is for the pleasure and relaxation of members, it is also a place where a person had a greater need of consideration for the rights of others. In most Clubs there is a reading rooms or a library where conversation is not allowed and it is an unbreakable rule not to talk loudly or speak to anybody who is reading or writing.

The fundamental rule for behavior in a Club is a same as a drawing room of a home. In other words, heels have no place on furniture and books should not be thrown about. The perfect Club member is a gentlemen or a lady who never shows irritability to anyone and makes it a point to be courteous to a new member or a member guests.

The European civilization especially of the medieval times has been glorified for its scrupulous etiquette to be shown in society. Europe was brought under the influence of Victorianism – an idea of custom introduced and propagated by Queen Victoria. On the hand, in Europe,

sumptuary laws were at their peak, there was a law, which dictated the etiquette of social inferiors.

STREET ETIQUETTE

In 19th Century England, women were the one to be bound by the maximum etiquette laws. A woman in Victorian England must always be accompanied by another member of her family. If she sees a man she recognizes, the women must not first acknowledge the man's presence, till he lifts his hat with the hand nearest to the woman and takes her hand with the other hand. If, a man was smoking a cigar, he would have to douse the cigar to talk to a woman. This was because, it was deemed extremely rude to smoke in the company of women.

UNBREAKABLE RULES

Failure to pay ones debts or behavior is unbecoming of a Club member and can be a reason for expulsion.

Victorians had a royal framework in place. These were called presentation ceremonies and were held several times a year for men and for women separately. The ceremonies did not lack Victorian pomp and show. Men were introduced wearing knee breaches, short coats and required to carry swords. Women had to wear corsets and cradlings, and ball gowns consisting of 6 yard trails! As fascinators, they stuck feathers in their hair.

In England and America there are Country Clubs which are less exclusive and less expensive then the City Clubs. Occasionally there could be Country Clubs like the Myopia Hunt, the Tuxedo, The Saddle and Cycle, The Hurlingham Polo Club, which are more expensive than any Club in London or New York. Most Country Clubs have however, had open door policy for granting "season privileges" to residents having houses in the neighbourhood.

The other Clubs in western countries include Golf Clubs, Hunting Clubs, Sports Clubs, Women Clubs and Political Clubs. All Clubs however have private dining rooms in which members can host dinners.

Clubs in India were essentially a British creation for a place of relaxation for those working in India in the service of the Crown to get-together for relaxation and bon-homie. Later they have also opened for select Indian bureaucrats and defence officers. Many of them continue to follow the practices and conventions established then with modifications commensurate to the changes that took place post-Independence.

Aparna Joshi (U-0997D)



DEVOTION TO A DOG

When we consider how much happiness, security and comfort a dog can give us it is a wonder that people do not pray to dogs instead to their huge assortment of deities, prophets, sages, saints and gurus. But then... 'dog' may be just 'god' spelt backwards and... from the other end of the telescope, the qualities of this loving animal often become easy to condemn as definitely not divine.

Divine or not a dog has many heavenly attributes. It always greets you with enthusiastic joy. It will not blame you for any injury or neglect. It does not expect you to do anything for it except to give it a little love and care and its willingness to play brings out the joyous, childlike core of our hearts that we so often hide from our friends and even ourselves. We may rejoice in the playful spirit of the young deity Krishna but seem to sometimes be ashamed of surrendering to the joyful spirit of a dog. Like Krishna, Jesus, Ram and all the other deities of worship a dog will never reproach you. It will wag its tail but never its tongue. And unlike the miraculous protection that you believe your deities can provide your dog will actually be a real protector warning you of danger and will even try to pull you or your child away from a fire or other calamity. Its presence will fill your house with warmth and when it goes to its 'happy hunting ground' it will leave an empty space in your house and in your heart.

A dog has an acute sense of smell many times as sensitive to that of human beings and it will race out of your house every morning to sniff at the four corners of its territory and get the morning news about all the creatures that had dared to enter its domain. It will then lift a leg or squat to sprinkle its own calling cards to boldly reclaim the rights to its property. Once its magic markers are set it will defend them fearlessly. Almost miraculously even the biggest and baddest canine will lose heart once it has crossed the magic line and will allow itself to be ignominiously chased out by a dog a tenth its size. The unwritten laws of the canine world are stronger than any temptations of greed or opportunity.

Dogs are great romantics and everyone loves a lover. They will try to enchant their mates in many cute ways blithely disregarding all human conventions about race, color or

size. They can however be so intent about their romance that they become deaf and blind to all things else and will often not hear the sound of a fast approaching truck or other danger. Dogs also have quiet courage and fortitude with the discretion to retreat in the face of real danger. But dogs are not perfect. Claude Monet the great painter once said a great painting must have a flaw to bring out the beauty of the rest. So if your dog tracks in some dirt or some smelly object you will love it even as you admonish it.



There are many famous dogs in history. Yudishtar, the leader of the Pandava tribe in the epic Mahabharat, had a faithful dog and he alone was allowed into heaven unlike his four heroic brothers who went somewhere else. The prophet Muhammad had a faithful dog and used to pat it on its head as it was a place where its tongue could not lick. The dread of rabies must have overwhelmed all other sentiments. The pundits, mullahs, padres and priests of all religions have disliked dogs because they wanted no rivals for the deities that they wished to promote. They knew that fear made people God fearing while dogs made people happy. Devotees had to make a huge effort of concentration with prayer, penance, pilgrimages, hymns, mantras, sacrifices and ceremonies before their imaginations were able to conjure up a feeling of God's presence unlike the instant comfort of a dog's cold nose or its friendly wagging tail. Your deities may make you feel virtuous but your dog will make you feel happy.

Despite these and other testimonials the dog was regarded in ancient Egypt and in India as the companion of the angel of death who guided departed souls to the other world. People in all cultures spend small fortunes to help their dear departed to the next world but seldom spare a thought for their faithful four legged friends who are happy to guide them everywhere. If you meditate before a picture of a dog and consider its countless marvelous qualities you will probably get a greater sense of security, peace and happiness than from your attachment to any Other Worldly deity.

Murad Ali Baig (P-0845)



DGC ALL INDIA ANNUAL BRIDGE TOURNAMENT 2017

Bridge is a fascinating game. Two facets stand out. It gives you an opportunity to embark on a lifelong ego trip. An erstwhile partner of mine would always gainfully use the few spare minutes available, after two deals are over in a Pairs Event by first attempting to bring home my serious lapses both in bidding and play; thereafter he would subject the opponents to the same treatment and time permitting move to the adjacent table! This is followed by the eternal problem of how to deal with or manage your partner. A married couple are not speaking to each other after a stressful game in a friend's house. They pass a field which has many donkeys. Husband remarks "relatives of yours?" "Yes", she says, "In-Laws".

Notwithstanding, it has been medically proved in a conclusive manner that Bridge is the best antidote both to avert or at least delay the onset of Alzheimers. Speaking on behalf of the ageing community of Bridge players in DGC, this game also provides you an excellent opportunity to forget the toils and troubles of daily routine for a few hours. It is very regrettable that the induction of the younger generation is negligible as quite possibly they are not in a position to spare the time that this game demands. Vijit Berry has been attempting to fill this lacuna by conducting classes and has succeeded upto a limit; more so in respect of the ladies.

In the first week of this March we had a Bridge jamboree lasting three full days. There was a fairly good response with 58 Teams and over 160 Pairs participating in over thirty hours of competitive play with some of the best Bridge Players in the Country. The Bridge Federation of India (BFI) is facilitating the organisation of large Tournaments by making available the services of competent and dedicated officials who assist in the conduct of all aspects of such events. Over 3000 deals were dealt and slotted in bidding boxes by a Computer, managed by an expert, who does know anything about Bridge. Our event was also one of the first in India which was available for viewing online, worldwide. Two of our senior members have been elected as Vice Presidents of the BFI; Mr Kanwaljit Singh and Mr S Sundaresan; a rare honour.

Competitive Bridge in India and possibly all over the world has progressed from being a game for amateurs to professionals whose sole or main activity is to compete in the large number of Tournaments being conducted. Possibly, because of this, the comparative performance of our Club players in such tournaments has suffered. DGC has, however, acquired a status in respect of the conduct

of such events in India. The credit for this goes to the large numbers who put in their best.

Brig S K Sapru (Retd.), Chairman, In-door Sports Committee ably assisted by Col M L Nasa, contributed substantially. Our new Secretary, Air Cmde Harjit Sassan (Retd.), always available to solve problems in a cheerful manner. Mukesh Shivdasani, who is an infallible sounding board to obviate slipups. Vijit Bery assisted by organizing Bridge Times, a supplement, on all three days; both the content and production values were of a professional standard. The main credit however goes to the staff of the DGC who must be the most competent, dedicated and sincere lot amongst all the Clubs in the country. Surinder, who can organise any Club event singlehandedly; in his lexicon two words do not exist, NO or NOT POSSIBLE and our "Ann Data". Mr Bhatnagar, F&B Manager, who shares two traits with me; love of good food and a common profile.

It would have been impossible to name all those, without whose active support and assistance it was possible to organise this event. Hence, a combined thanks to all on behalf of all the members of the Club.

DGC has been slotted for this event by the BFI in the first week of March every year.

Maj Gen AL (Billoo) Suri (Retd.) (P-0640)





DGC INDIA OPEN BRIDGE TOURNAMENT - 2017

TEAM OF FOUR

Winner : Bangur Cement
Runners-Up : Formidables

LOSING SEMI FINALISTS

Rohit Wrappers, Midnight Craving

LOSING QUARTER FINALISTS

Hemant Jalan, Dhampur Sugar Mills, Poddar Housing Ltd

BRIDGE MATES - DGC

Yogesh Tiwari, Anil Gupta, Sudhir Nayar, Sanjiv Very, Vijit Bery, Ashok Singh

OPEN PAIRS

First : Ashok Girdhar - V K Mutreja
Second : Sukumal Das - Satyabrata Mukherjee
Third : Rana Roy - A N Banerji
Fourth : Anal Shah - Jitendra Solani
Fifth : Srinivasan Iyengar - Animesh Raj
Sixth : Subhash Gupta - Sapan Desai

IMP PAIRS

First : K C Kumar - Vijay Ranjan
Second : Dr R L Sanghi - S M Moin
Third : Sunil Kumar - Rajesh Jain
Fourth : Sheena Khorana - J Singh
Fifth : S S Gupta - S P Mehta

GYMKHANA SPECIAL PAIRS

First : Sham Sharma - Lt Gen C B Vijan
Second : P C Gupta - Vijay Kumar
Third : Sultan - Bashir

BEST GYMKHANA TEAM OF FOUR

First : DGC Kings
Siddharth Behura, Puneet Gangal, Surinder Hooda, Sarthak Behuria, Dr Sutanu Behuria

Second : Gym Dandy Lions
Dr A R Anand, Gen A L Suri, Veena Vishwanathan, Ravi Batra, Col R Vasudeva

Third : DGC Aces
Brig Sawhney, Arun Jain, S Sundarshan, Arjun Sawhney, Mukesh Shivdasani, Dilip Coelho

BEST GYMKHANA PAIRS

First : Mukesh Shivdasani - Arun Jain
Second : Col L K Chopra - D B Ahuja
Third : Sarthak Behuria - Sutanu Behuria

UNDER 35 PAIR

Anindra Kumar Sarkar - Aritra Bhattacharya

BRIDGE RESULTS FEBRUARY 2017

TEAM OF FOUR

Joint Mr V K Sawney, Mr Mukesh Shivdasani,
1st Mrs Gopika Tandon and Mr Dilip Coelho
Mr Rajiv Anand, Mr A L Suri, Mrs Tara Laroia,
Mrs Rita Bhagwati, Mr Ramesh Vasudeva and
Mr Ravi Batra
3rd Mrs Sneha Lata Singla, Mr Dinesh Jain,
Mrs Sunita Singh, Mr Narjit Singh

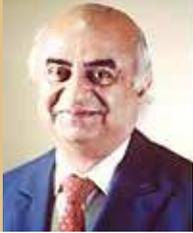
PAIRS

NORTH-SOUTH

1st Mrs Sheena Khorana – Mr Jasjit Singh
2nd Mrs Meera Bakshi - Col L K Chopra
3rd Mr H D Bhalla – Mr Sanjiv Bery

EAST-WEST

1st Col Ramesh Vasudeva – Mr Arun Kumar
2nd Mr Ashok Singh – Mr Siddharth Behura
3rd Mrs Shamsheer Singh – Dr Rajiv Anand



FIELD MARSHAL MANEKSHAW : TIMELESS QUALITY OF WIT AND HUMOUR

"If you can meet with triumph and disaster and treat these two imposters just the same" – Rudyard Kipling had perhaps such a one as Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw in mind when he penned these lines.

Sam Manekshaw was endowed with an extraordinary gift of spontaneous wit and humour which endeared him to all and enabled him to relate to people of all ages.



President of India V V Giri awarding the rank of Field Marshal to SHFJ Manekshaw

I was assigned to the Army Headquarters in April 1971 to assist the army authorities in planning and implementing rail moves of large military formations, tanks, troops and armament to the eastern, western and northern sectors in preparation for the impending war with Pakistan, which began on 3rd December 1971 and ended on 17th December, 1971. I remained in the army headquarters till the repatriation of 93,000 Pak Prisoners of war in 1979.

The assignment offered me opportunities of observing during meetings, Manekshaw's visionary style of leadership, grace, humility and humour. I also gleaned numerous anecdotes about him from published material and those doing the rounds in army circles. The anecdotes admirably portrayed his character and personality.

In 1942, Sam as a young Captain participated in the Second World War



Field Marshal Manekshaw with the author next to him on his right

in Burma. He led a successful bayonet charge against the Japanese in the Battle of Sitang River and was severely wounded, hit by 9 bullets in the stomach. His General-Officer-Commanding, Major General DT Cowan who witnessed the action recommended him for the award of Military Cross (MC) for exceptional bravery and had him evacuated to the field medical camp for emergent surgery. An apocryphal story recounts that the Surgeon, looked at his wound and enquired what happened to him. Sam replied ***"a bloody mule kicked me"***. The Surgeon gave a hearty laugh and said ***"By jove, you have some sense of humour and deserve to live"***. He operated upon Sam as best as he could. Sam survived and lived to wear the coveted Military Cross.

In the period preceding the Indo-Pak war, rumours were rife that the Indian army may seize power, just as the Pak army had done in the neighbouring country. An American diplomat who visited India around that time called on the Army Chief Sam Manekshaw along with the US Ambassador Kenneth Keating. In the course of conversation he casually asked Sam when he was going to take over. Sam's riposte ***"As soon as General Westmoreland takes over in your***

country" gave Ambassador Keating a hearty laugh.

In 1946, Sam Manekshaw and Yahya Khan, in the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and Major respectively, became the first two Indian Army Officers to be posted to the Military Operations Directorate of the Army Headquarters, the preserve of British Officers till then. By a coincidence during the Indo-Pak war of 1971 Field Marshal Manekshaw was the Chief of Indian Army and Field Marshal Yahya Khan was the President of Pakistan. After the war at a celebratory function in Delhi, Manekshaw related an amusing anecdote that ***"in 1946 before leaving for Pakistan, Yahya Khan persuaded me to sell my red motor cycle to him for a thousand rupees. I agreed and Yahya took away the motorbike promising to send the money after reaching Pakistan. He never sent the money and now he has paid me with half his country"***.

Another famous quip of Sam circulating in South Block before the Indo-Pak war was about Sam's habit of addressing Indira Gandhi as ***"Prime Minister"*** instead of ***"Madam"***, which most senior bureaucrats were used to doing. After a briefing session with the Prime Minister, Sam and the group of Secretaries met in the Cabinet Secretary's office to discuss the inputs required for the defence forces for the impending war. During the discussion, one of the Secretaries remarked about the rather odd practice Sam followed while addressing Mrs. Gandhi. Sam's reply that ***"in the school he attended, his English teacher taught the students that the term 'Madam' denotes a lady in charge of a house of ill-fame and he has too high a regard for the Prime Minister to address her by that nom-de-plume"*** left the bureaucrats speechless.

After the war, Sam visited Lahore for the

delineation talks. While there, he was invited to an officer's mess where he asked General Tikka Khan why he always wore dark glasses and added *"you don't smoke, you don't drink and neither do you like pretty faces. I do all these things and still I don't hide my face"*.

While inaugurating a new wing of the Defence Services Institute, Mhow, Manekshaw noticed that the new wing had not been properly furnished and pointed it out. He was promptly requested for additional funds. Sam agreed to a generous grant from the Chief's Welfare Fund and then remarked *"I just don't know how to say no. Sometimes I thank God for making me a man and not a woman. Can you imagine my condition if it had been otherwise. I would have been always pregnant"*.

The Field Marshal's sense of humour was legendary. While delivering the First Field Marshal Carriappa Memorial lecture in New Delhi in 1995 he said "a lot has changed in the 60 years since I joined the army including the English language. When in my days someone said that *"Capt. Manekshaw was 'Gay', he meant that he laughed and joked a lot. If an officer was being 'Queer' it meant he would rather read Milton than join his friends for a hunt and General Officers were the only ones who had 'Aides'"*.

He had a rather dim view of politicians and once remarked that *"I wonder whether those of our political masters who have been put in-charge of the defence of our country can distinguish a mortar from a motor, a gun from a howitzer; a guerrilla from a gorilla, although a great many resemble the latter"*.

His penchant for quips ultimately became the cause of his undoing. His larger than life image as a victorious Army Chief caused nervousness in political circles and politicians were looking for a chance to cut him to size.

Sam unwittingly provided it in an impromptu interview he gave to a newspaper's lady reporter who asked Sam at some event, *"if Jinnah had offered*

him a high rank in the Pakistan army and if so, why did he not accept it?" Sam's reply that "had I led the Pak army in the war, India would have been defeated" made him persona-non-grata with the members of Parliament. Questions were asked in the House about the propriety of Sam's remark. It caused an uproar against Sam in the Parliament. Prime Minister Indira Gandhi chose to remain silent.

The Government withdrew his facilities of a Field Marshal including office, AsDC, Bungalow, car etc. and his pay was reduced to a nominal pension although a Field Marshal is created for life and draws full pay till he lives.

Sam left Delhi on 15th July, 1973 with his wife and returned to Conoor. He was offered some diplomatic and gubernatorial appointments which he declined. He however accepted a few Directorships and Chairmanships of leading Companies.

He was a Director on the Board of Escorts when Lord Swaraj Paul, a London based businessman, made a bid to take over the Escorts with the support of a few well placed politicians. The Government decided to reconstitute the entire Board with new nominees by ousting the existing Directors including Sam and appointed a retired bureaucrat, Mr. Naik, as the Chairman. On knowing this, Sam with his inimitable wit remarked that *"this is the first time a 'Naik' has replaced a 'Field Marshal"*. Naik being a rank equivalent to a Corporal in the Indian Army.

In the twilight of his life, at the age of 94, his health deteriorated and he was admitted to the Military Hospital in Wellington, Tamil Nadu. President Dr. Abdul Kalam visited him there to enquire about his welfare. After meeting Sam, the President inscribed in the visitors book: *"Doctors please take good care of the Field Marshal. The country owes a debt of gratitude to him"*.

President Dr. Abdul Kalam was pained to learn that Sam had been denied the Field Marshal's pay. On return to Delhi, he spoke to Prime Minister Manmohan Singh about it and had the full arrears of pay due

to Sam as a Field Marshal restored. Prime Minister agreed and a senior Defence Ministry official was flown to Wellington to hand over the cheque personally to Sam. On receiving the cheque in his



President of India, Dr. Abdul Kalam with Field Marshal Manekshaw

hospital bed, Sam smiled and in a feeble voice asked: *"Are you sure, it will not bounce"?*

Sam Manekshaw's qualities of head and heart have been best described by former Army Chief, General (Retd.) KV Krishna Rao, later Governor of Jammu and Kashmir in his foreword to Major General (Retd.) Shubi Sood's excellent book on *"Leadership –Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw"* :

"India's greatest military leader during the worst crisis that the country was forced into and how he emerged totally victorious, changing the course of history and elevating the Nation to a significantly high level where it is taken into consideration as a country that matters much on international relations and is respected. It is not merely meant for the Armed Forces but also for political leaders, administrators and indeed the general public, who are all responsible for the security and future of the nation".

The lessons that emerge from the life of Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw are that his visionary qualities of leadership, integrity, decision making and concern for humanity are inspirational for character building of the coming generations of future leaders and citizens of India.

R K Puri (P-1228)

Annual Sports Dinner - 25 March 2017



HAPPY BAISAKHI



EDITORIAL



The culmination of the March 'exam-fever' had our Club precincts humming with activity in all sphere---sports (particularly Tennis), entertainment fixtures and of course, our Library and Book Club events. **The Bridge Tournament was also a resounding success**, as brought out in the write up carried in this issue. Upgrades to infrastructure continued at a frenetic pace to meet forthcoming deadlines of inauguration(s).

The noteworthy cultural event of the month was the commencement of the Theatre Festival, with a Peter Bedi – starrer play! Additional events are planned for theatre lovers, as highlighted by the President in his foreword. **Here I must add for the members' information that guidelines for sponsorships for such events have been finalized by the Chairman, Finance, as**

carried in this issue.

One end of the spectrum of the Book Club events the past month had Lt Gen Rajender Singh, PVSM, SM, VSM in an animated conversation and discussion with Tilak Devasher on his latest book on our neighbor; highlighting Jinnah's legacy to our obtaining status with Pakistan. Seeing the audience interactive Q&A focused on Jinnah, **we have scheduled a more personalized account on Jinnah's life during a Book reading by Ms Sheela Reddy this coming month!** She will be in conversation with Mr Robin Gupta.

The other extreme of the genre of topics was Ms Blossom Kochhar's interactive session with Ms Vinita Dawra Nangia, as lucidly narrated in this issue. To cap it all, **we had Ms Nanjappa, the Founder-Chairman of our Book Club honouring the author and discussant on the 17th Anniversary of our Book Club-AND Ms Dipika Nanjappa's**



75th birthday!! The snap carried in this column encapsulates the Library Staff's spontaneity at having her do a surprise cake – cutting in the Readers' Panel Lounge in the Library!

The Indian Army Orchestra regaled the audience at the Annual Sports Dinner; while **we have a repeat (thanks to the British High Commission AND Major Kinny Khanna (HH), Retd) British Gurkha Band performance in the ensuing month.**

We also look forward to the Annual Swimming gala, already being planned by our very innovative and enthusiastic swimmer-members. With Baisakhi around the corner, the Entertainment Sub Committee is already agog with interesting plans during April. The Bar Sub Committee's promos were well received, **as evident from the 'spirited' bonhomie on display in the snaps carried in this issue.**

A rather fun-filled activity-intensive month gone by indeed! We look forward to a fun-filled AND festering summer ahead---bring on the mangoes, lassi and nimboo-pani; **Not to forget the beer!**

Jai Hind!

**Lt Gen Anil Bhalla (Retd)
PVSM, AVSM, VSM**

THEN... AND NOW



Madhu & Lt Gen Mohan Tuli (P-1167) on 25th January 1957



Abha & B P Singh (P-0666) on April 1963

GUIDELINES FOR SPONSORSHIPS

Sponsorship is a business relationship of mutual benefit to Delhi Gymkhana Club Ltd and the sponsor which satisfies both the parties. The following are broad parameters for procuring sponsorship:

1. Sponsorship should be received preferably three months prior to commencement of the event in the Club in sync & co-ordination with the calendar of events in the Club and close liaison with the relevant sub-committees.
2. Sponsorship should be specific to the event and be used as core-funding mechanism.
3. Sponsorship when it implies endorsement to a product should be under-played & discreet viz a viz the branding and advertising material used.
4. There should not be any overt commercial advantage to the Sponsor.
5. The status of the sponsor should be commensurate to the status & benefits accrued to the Club.
1. The Club is an established brand and attracts sponsorship. This fact should be played upon. Sponsorship should not be a rule, it should be an exception.
2. In return, the sponsor can be benefitted as under:
 - (a) Depending on the nature of the event, the variety and the amount of sponsorship benefits can differ.
 - (b) Naming rights- placement of Logo, standees, signs.
 - (c) Exposure.
 - (d) Promotion of the sponsored event via Newsletter and / or website.
 - (e) Celebrity benefits – Sponsor can be given the benefit of being introduced by them.

Dr Jayadev Sarangi, IAS,
Chairman, Finance, Tendering & Purchase Sub Committee

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

DELHI GYMKHANA THEATRE FESTIVAL

7:30 pm onwards Kashmir Lawns

22nd April 2017 - "Big B" No, No, not Mr. Bachchan.

It is the dramatic version of Munshi Premchand's short story 'Bade Bhai Saheb'.

Director: Dr M Sayeed Alam & Niti Sayeed

Star Cast: Ahmad Omair, Taney Tarny & M Sayeed Alam



29th April 2017 - "PARDEY KAY PEECHEY". This is a Hindi adaptation of Michael Frayn's very famous and humorous play called Noises Off.

Director: Chittaranjan Tripathy

Star Cast: Rashmi/Shivain Vaidialingam, Pradeep Kuckreja, Kimti Anand & others



6th May 2017 - "MEHERNAMA" Play based on the love story of Nurjehan and Jehangir.

Director : Aamir Raza Husain



13th May 2017 - PLAZA SUITE is a comedy play by Neil Simon. **Director:** Nayana Sagar



Friday 7th April 2017

'MR & MRS JINNAH: THE MARRIAGE THAT SHOOK INDIA' By Sheela Reddy (In conversation with Mr Robin Gupta, IAS (Retd)) at 6:30 pm in Rose Garden (Tea 6:00 pm).



Friday 21st April 2017

'CLOUDS END AND BEYOND', Sensitive, thought-provoking poems by Rajni Sekhri Sibal at 6:30 pm in Rose Garden (Tea 6:00 pm).



20-25 April 2017

A NATIONAL LEVEL SQUASH TOURNAMENT, 'The Gymkhana Classic Championship'.



Sunday, 14th May 2017

JUNIOR'S SWIMMING GALA FOR DEPENDENTS
from 10 am to 7 pm.
Registration open at Swimming Pool.

Delhi Gymkhana Club Ltd

Registered Office : 2, Safdarjung Road, New Delhi -11 • Tel: 91-11-23015531-35, 23010588, 23010614 • Fax: 91-11-23019709
Email: secydcg@gmail.com • secretary@delhigymkhana.org.in • Website: www.delhigymkhana.org.in • CIN U93000DLI901NPL000024

Editor:

Lt. Gen Anil Bhalla (Retd)
PVSM, AVSM, VSM
anilbhalla89@gmail.com

Views expressed in the articles are those of individual members and not the official views of the Club.

Designed and Printed by
Benchmark Graphic Pvt. Ltd.,
benchmarkgpl@gmail.com