



club Life

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

A monthly in-house newsletter for private circulation only

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Dear Member,

We have had a momentous month of April in every respect. There has been a plethora of activity- excellent theatre as well as very well attended banquets of every variety – Mexican, French and Grill. To accompany these, there has been some high quality entertainment. Much praise has been showered upon the GC, but I have to add that the staff, with their quiet efficiency, has in no small measure made effort in making these a success. It was heartening to see so many members attend these events, thus increasing the footfall and making the events financially profitable for the club.

Switching to the administrative sphere, we have had an Open Forum

on Saturday, the 21st April in the afternoon. I was pleasantly surprised to see such large and effective member participation at the meeting. The members, with their impeccable conduct, (except for a couple of moments), made it very easy for me to moderate the event and I have to convey my sincere thanks for that. The forum set forth the path the GC must take for the following months.

We have collated all the important suggestions and placed them before the General Committee during its meeting on 28th April. In the GC it was decided to allocate action to the relevant Sub Committees. For your information we have put in bullet points, the gist of members' suggestions in this issue of the magazine. A record of discussions will also be drafted by the Secretariat and kept for our record.

One of the major take away from the Open Forum was the need to have an Extraordinary Meeting of the General Body (EGM) to make the Articles of Association contemporary. We will work on this collectively and I appeal to members to send in their suggestions for modifications of text of the Articles of Association in order to bring them up to date- both on the

membership and the financial fronts. This would include subscriptions, entry fees et al. We may need to go back and forth amongst ourselves to arrive at the optimum and most acceptable formulations, after which we may need to have another final Open Forum, specifically to discuss these matters before a final GC approval, and then over to the EGM.

We have taken a few completely inexpensive steps towards improvement in the east side of the main club building. In the small cocktail bar, we have started a display of artwork painted by some of our very talented members. It has transformed the atmosphere in that bar, which was otherwise rapidlyceding ground to the more popular PUB-1913 and the Centenary Bar. We have also refurbished the adjacent Kashmir Lounge and provided it fresh air-conditioning and get up. Work on this modest scale will also be carried out in the cottages in a phased manner, keeping in mind the onset of monsoon. Our plan is also to revamp the gentlemen's change room in the club building for which I invite members suggestions.

I would also like to brief you on two other subjects. The Deloitte report on

Membership audit has been received and consideration of the report has commenced in the GC meeting of 28th April. Since it pertains to a lengthy time period covering decisions and actions of many General Committees through the years, it needs to be studied very closely by the GC. I will keep you informed of the progress. The second is that the Oversight Committee on Projects etc. under Mr. Pradeep Bhide has been regularly interacting with members and staff and would have its report completed within its specified schedule.

We have received many enquiries about when the new Swimming pool would open. We will obtain the license for the pool after clearance from two Government agencies. Upon obtaining these, the NDMC would accord its final approval. We are pursuing these agencies to expedite their clearances.

Many members are leaving for their vacations. I wish them safe travels and a happy vacation. In the meanwhile, the club management will not stop working for members especially at the areas I have mentioned above.

I wish you all the very best and wish my warmest regards,

Prashant Sukul
President

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Annual Sports Day- 07 April 2018



OPEN FORUM HELD ON 21ST APR'18 @ 1515HRS RECAPITULATION OF MAJOR SUGGESTIONS



- 1) Two major reports, ie, KPMG & Mazar should be made available to the members.
[Action by GC]
- 2) Status of membership audit report from Deloitte and actions being taken to be informed to members.
[Action by GC]
- 3) AGM and GC minutes should be available online and in time.
[Action by IT Core Group]
- 4) Financial Management:
 - Adverse state of club finances presently – Action to be proposed by the GC.
 - The financial condition of the Club is going down day by day. This needs to be reversed.
 - Suspected previous financial irregularities be looked into
 - No Investment through brokers and reasons for violations in past
 - Rs 100/- per month to be charged annually instead, for Staff Welfare
 - Subscription fee should be paid in full or in advance for future years
 - Introduction of Debit Card system.

[Action by Finance Subcommittee and IT Core Group]
- 5) Bhide Report for investigating major projects should be actioned and shared with the members.
[Awaiting receipt]
- 6) Employment Criteria for recent inductions into the staff. A Policy for selection & appraisal is required.
[Action by Adm Subcommittee and Secretary]
- 7) To ensure exemplary conduct of the electives in the AGM.
[Action by Secretary]
- 8) Action to be taken against defaulter members who don't pay their bills.
[Action by Secretariat]
- 9) Resolution of problems and irregularities in Aqua Spa.
[Action by Secretariat]
- 10) Membership issues:
 - EGM to amend AoA urgently
 - Green Card & UCP issues
 - Club usage right to members children over 21 & withdraw court cases
 - Breakup of members, category wise
 - Termination of membership of those defaulters brought out by the Deloitte committee
 - Next At-Home for Green Card to UCP

[Action by i) Membership Perspective Plan Panel, ii) Membership & Discipline Subcommittee, iii) General Committee]

NEWS AND UPDATE FROM THE DELHI GYMKHANA ORGANIC GARDEN AND NURSERY

Dear Members before we talk about the benefits of organic vegetables compared to non organic, perhaps refreshing our mind about the difference of those two products is highly recommended. It is true that the market trend shows that organic vegetable is becoming the new favorite but as a smart buyer you cannot just follow the market trend. You have to know exactly why organic vegetable is better than non organic vegetable.

WHAT IS ORGANIC VEGETABLE?

In general, organic vegetables are those where cultivation processes do not use any pesticides and chemical based fertilizer.

Besides that the products also do not use any synthetic compound to make them grow bigger or fresh longer. In other words, all processes are organic with an aim to promote ecological balance in the environment.

WHAT IS NON ORGANIC VEGETABLE?

Non organic vegetable are the opposite of organic vegetable where all the cultivation processes use pesticides and chemical based fertilizers. And some vegetables are even made to go through irradiation process to produce better, bigger and stay fresh-longer. At times it may seem that non organic products are more economically viable and profitable because of the cheaper rates and also at times look much more interesting compared to organic vegetables.

Furthermore, in long term, organic vegetable is actually much more profitable, not only for the customers and supplier but also for the farmer; especially the traditional farmer. Below are the explanations about the benefits of organic fruits and vegetables. These facts might open your mind and persuade you to start consuming organic vegetable and fruitsonly:

BENEFITS FOR CONSUMERS

Safe from Dangerous Chemicals: Since all processes are natural and organic, foods you provide for your family will be free from dangerous chemicals and hence considerably reduces the risk of causing serious diseases like cancer, cardiovascular diseases and in some cases, chemical compounds found in some fertilizer brands could affect human's immunity system.

Consumption of organic products in this pollution era specially in Delhi and NCR by the children is a must to ensure their healthy development since it will avoid adverse effects of dangerous chemical compound and toxins mostly found in non organic vegetables and fruits.

GMO-free: What is GMO? GMO or Genetically Modified Organism is the recent technology found to enhance the resistance of plants toward natural attack and herbicides genetically. So, is GMO safe to be consumed, since the DNA of the plan is already genetically modified? Since it is

still new technology, studies were conducted only in short term but some animal studies have shown that GMO could cause some serious organ damage as well as affect the brain growth.

Would you take that kind of risk? Of course not, no matter how delicious the look of squash with GMO is. Making sure that your family is only consuming organic product will protect them from the risk that might be caused by food products with GMO.

Organic Products Contain Higher Antioxidants

Compound: Recent studies have also found that organic vegetables contain higher antioxidants compound compared to non-organic products. Since there is no foreign chemical compound that will negatively interact with the natural nutrients contained in organic vegetables you don't need to worry if you prefer to consume them raw since all the benefits of nutrients might be higher than the cooked one. You just need to make sure to wash them completely clean with running water.

Tastes Better: As many members who have been using the organic vegetables from the Organic farm will bear with me, organic vegetables taste better. Why? Genetic modification ruins the original taste of vegetable and they are pesticide and chemical free.

Better for Environment: By buying or choosing organic vegetable mean you also have a big contribution for a better and sustainable environment. Organic vegetables are planted and cultivated in organic way which will protect environments from the harms of dangerous pesticides and chemical compounds found in fertilizers. Organic processes in farming provides sustainable farming practices which is not only good for you and your family but also the farmers. Besides that organic way means minimal pollution of water, soil and air.

You Could Have Total Peace of Mind: The very fact that you are consuming the organic vegetables from your own garden where you can personally visit and see the process yourself you are assured of what you are eating and hence leads to total peace of mind. What does one earn for? A good healthy wholesome meal... isn't it? You want the same for your family and friends and your garden produce will give you that and you are safe from dangerous chemical compounds found in non organic vegetable.

ORGANIC GARDEN PRESENT STATUS:

Your Organic Garden and Nursery is doing extremely well. The summer crop is already on sale. Details of the varieties available are given below :-

- Cucumber (Kakri) ---- 20 -25 Kg/day
- Cucumber (kheera) ----- 5 -7 Kg/day

- Okra ---- 10 -12 Kg/alternate day
- Brinjal ---- 15 -20 kg/alternate day
- Spinach ---- 20-25 Kg/two times in a week
- Coriander ---- one harvest we have taken – 4 to 6 Kg
- Basil ---- regular harvest
- Celery ---- 10 -15 bundle/day
- Mint --- 20 -25 bunch/day

In addition following will be ready for sell very soon:-

- Bitter gourd
- Bottle gourd
- Ridge gourd
- Capsicum
- Chilly
- Zucchini

Some glimpses of the farm:



FINANCIAL VIABILITY OF THE PROJECT

In the February edition where we had given the details of the winter sales and had promised that we will give the financial details of the project as on 31 March 2018 for purposes of transparency and to clear the lingering doubts of many members. Unfortunately some of the members have not even visited the farm ever and raise their concern only in the bar and at Open Houses for reasons better known to them. We are sure the following details will put their apprehensions to rest for the future.

CHART GIVING THE DETAILS

Nursery: Already existed in the club and malis alwere already assigned out of the total strength of the malis. The nursery has been revitalized. New pots and plants were purchased.

Both for sale and use in the club. Details are as under:

Cost of pots	71,977.00
Cost of Plants	481,201.00
	553,178.00
Sale of Plants	643,366.00
Profit from sales	90,188.00
Savings due to creating own saplings and transplanting the cuttings thereby generating own plants which were otherwise being purchased by the club	125,000.00
Total Profit from Sales and Savings	215,188.00
Summary	
Total Profit from Sales and Savings	9.99

From the above you can very well see, that the Garden Committee has not only saved money in the implementation of the project but have made a record sale of vegetables. In addition we have also effected savings in managing the maintenance of the overall gardening and ambiance of the club.

As you would see from the attached details the project is in a profit of Rs 9.99 lacs till March 31 .(This accounts for all establishment costs). This is despite all the delays and obstructions we have had from the PM’s residence. Going ahead, once the third shade comes up, the produce will be nearly one and half time the one that we got last season. From the above statistics any person with a basic economic sense will make out that the project is not only viable but a profitable one. Going ahead, if managed well ,it will be a successful revenue earning enterprise for the club.

As to the advantage and happiness quotient the project has given to the members in terms of availability of pure and authentic organic produce; it is not measurable. Not to forget that areas which were abandoned and full of muck and filth are now pleasurable sight to see.

Wishing all a very healthy and Organic way of eating and living in the coming summer season



BOOK REVIEW

A MURDER ON MALABAR HILL

PERVEEN MISTRY INVESTIGATES
Sujata Massey

There are some “whodunnits” that greatly benefit from a strong sense of place such as Sherlock Holmes’ fog-shrouded Victorian London of 1897 and the 1930s-1940s California of Raymond Chandler’s private eye Philip Marlowe.

Sujata Massey’s excellent *A Murder On Malabar Hill* set in 1920s colonial Bombay (now Mumbai) is just such a work. The sights, smells and sounds of this period are so richly evoked that this novel has the heft and feel of an epic, rather than just a simple mystery. The teeming city - with its evocative architecture and cuisine, its social interactions, complex ethnic politics, multi-faceted religious, caste and gender dynamics - is as much an actor as Ms. Massey’s varied cast of finely drawn characters.

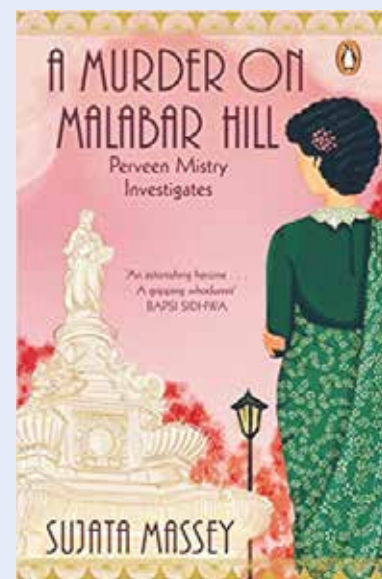
Chief among these is Perveen Mistry, the only practicing woman solicitor in this fictional Bombay of 1921. Oxford-educated Perveen works in the reputed law firm of her esteemed father, the eminent Parsi barrister Jamshedji Mistry. Despite her well-connected family’s wealth and prestige, feisty independent-minded Perveen is not allowed to appear professionally in court, then an all-male domain. This causes her legal training and fluency in several languages in being solely applied to casework within the confines of the offices of Mistry Law.

All that changes when Perveen receives a letter from the agent of a recently deceased wealthy Muslim textile mill owner. The letter bears the signature of the late Omar Farid’s three widows and appears to sign away their bequests to the family *wakf*; a trust under Islamic law to be used for specific charitable purposes – but one that would leave them destitute. Perveen’s keen eye for legal specifics and talent for sniffing out potential domestic abuse make her suspicious that these ladies - who live in the strict seclusion of *purdah* - might have been manipulated without knowing their rights under Islamic law.

Despite being legal executor of the estate, her father never met the widows due to their being isolated from men. As a woman, Perveen labors under no such constraints and decides to meet the ladies in person. The submerged tensions she senses in the seemingly placid tradition-bound household then rapidly spirals into the murder of the late Mr Farid’s agent, Faisal Mukri. As the true complexity of the case is revealed, suspicion is directed equally at the widows and their children, their servants and the employees of the textile mill; all of whom have their own motives and designs on the Farid fortune.

The character of Perveen Mistry is based on two real-life ladies from history; Cornelia Sorabji and Mithan Tata Lam. In her researches for an earlier historical fiction set in Bengal, Ms Massey came across the true story of Sorabji, the first woman to graduate from the University of Bombay, the first woman to read law at Oxford and India’s first female solicitor. Lam also studied at Oxford and was the first Indian woman barrister to be admitted to the Bombay High Court in 1923. The impressive research behind *A Murder On Malabar Hill* is derived from the author’s consultations with experts on everything from the role of Parsis in India’s legal history to Parsi cuisine – and is unobtrusively worked into the narrative.

Born in Sussex, England, of mixed Indo-German parentage, brought up in St Paul, Minnesota, USA, and with a stint as an English teacher in Japan, Ms Massey is clearly comfortable with fluid cultural boundaries – as is evident in her affectionate portrait of Raj-era cosmopolitan Bombay in *A Murder On Malabar Hill*.



Ravi Vaish (U-2869)



A young British Prince sent to a nursery school at a rather tender age to learn Grammar and punctuation would often return from school with an angry look and head straight to his father, the King to complain to him about the harassment he was facing from his Grammar Teacher who was forcing him to learn different ways of using a funny looking ‘curved dot’ which he referred to as a **“Comma”**.

The King would distract the child by diverting his attention to the tiny rabbits frolicking in the spacious Palace Gardens or to other objects of which the little fellow was fond of. The complaints of the Prince however continued to come with sharper vehemence on almost all school days. The King decided to make a surprise visit to the school one day and find out for himself what it is about an insignificant comma that the Grammar Teacher was trying to din in the years of his darling Prince.

The Teacher very humbly explained to His Majesty the King that the comma has the potential to alter the meaning of a sentence completely. The King asked him to demonstrate the point by an example.

The Teacher turned to the blackboard in the classroom and wrote:

“THE KING SAYS, THE TEACHER IS A FOOL”

The King’s nod seemed to indicate his agreement with the later part of the sentence which said **“the Teacher is a fool”**.

The Teacher then requested His Majesty to watch a humorous illustration on the blackboard of what difference commas could make by re-arranging them as follows:

“THE KING, THE TEACHER SAYS, IS A FOOL”

The illustration went home. The King grasped the importance of the comma and beamed his approval to the petrified Teacher to continue his efforts to make the young Prince, would be Prince of Wales and the future King understand the significance of a comma and not make faux pas in his public speeches that he would be inevitably called upon to make in his pre-destined role as the King.

I also recall reading a rhyme which helps one to remember what a comma is:

*“A cat has **claws** at the end of its **paws**,
a comma is a **pause** at the end of a **clause**”*

Aparna Joshi (U-0997D-1)

D/o. Shobha Joshi and Vibhas Joshi

Book Club -Col N Kumar - 13 April 2018





MOTHER OF ALL HOLIDAYS

August 2017, 6 of us – we are frequent travel buddies – decided to take a holiday. The other two men being busy corporate types and with our own restriction, due to family reasons, on the break being not more than 10 days, we had quite a tough time narrowing down on the dates and the destination. After much discussion and advice from 'region experts' it emerged that a trip to East Africa – to witness wild life up close – would be a good idea. Here again, we had to figure out the best places with a decent chance of witnessing the much fancied annual 'wilbeast migration'. Luckily, our children beat us to it – they quickly made a trip to Serengeti and Ngorongoro in Tanzania and gave us a firsthand – almost real time - account. So, we sealed our programme – it would be Ngorongoro and Masai Mara because at this Kenyan park we had a better chance of seeing migration.

Now, for the routing and selection of an airline. Despite it's dubious distinction of frequently delayed flights, we settled on Kenya Airways because (a) it's Mumbai-Nairobi flight is the quickest way to get there; just 6 hours against total time of nearly 12 hours on Emirates/Etihad/Qatar and (b) the clincher; their business class tickets were almost half the price of these other airlines! Our own preference for the Mumbai stop was the added bonus of spending couple of days with our 9 month old granddaughter and her parents – in that order!

29th August 2017 – day of the Great Mumbai Deluge - our flight was to depart at 4.40 in the afternoon. Being just 10 minutes from the international terminal, we would've normally left home at 3. However, looking at the non-stop rain since morning, our son decided to be cautious and we were on our way around 1.40. Highway traffic was still smooth and we found ourselves at the check-in counter at 2! Everything changed in the next one hour. Our friends – having flown from Delhi that morning - had already come into the lounge; and that's where we stayed till midnight. Sonny boy too made it back home around the same time – after wading through waist deep water for more than an hour. The 10 hour odyssey was just about getting over when our plane pulled out from the gate.

The much looked forward to 'First night at Nairobi' had been washed out. After a warm welcome, at the Jomo Kenyatta airport, we made it to the heritage Ole Sereni Hotel – at the fringes of the Nairobi National Park – only around 6; time

enough for breakfast and shower before our pick up arrived for the flight to Masai Mara. A ten seater Air Kenya Caravan plane, from Wilson airport, ferried us to the Mara-Musiara air strip in under an hour.

All fatigue was forgotten as we walked into the sprawling lawns of the beautiful 'Governor's Camp' – our home for the next three nights. Merely 150 meters from where the lunch tables were laid stood several giraffes, in a kind of formation, as if to welcome the guests with a grand salute. The scene was simply mesmerizing. Leisurely lunch, a short nap in our elegantly furnished 'tent' – front room with two day beds, spacious bed room and a huge bath with the lovely rain shower, clean towels, bath robes et all – and we were ready for our first safari.

Just a few minutes out of the Camp and our driver guide slowed down and stopped on a side, gesturing for us to be quiet and pointed to the left. At less than 100 meters was this beautiful sight that none of us had ever seen before – a family of lions lazing in the sun perhaps enjoying a siesta after their meal. We were awe struck and just didn't want to move but driver's promise of showing "many more like this" made us agree reluctantly. True to his word, in the next two hours this guy showed us several more lions, herds of elephants, wildebeest, zebras – these two invariably move together – wild buffalos, unmoving hippos submerged in a placid lake, a lone 'topi' on top of a small mound – as if keeping a watch all around – deer, gazelles, antelopes and many more. It was a great afternoon, in the savannah region, in the midst of world's greatest natural theatre of wild life. An exceptionally enjoyable and thrilling experience. We were back at the camp around sun set – tired but enthralled.

Seven thirty, we again got into our jeep and were driven back to wilderness. Few minutes later the vehicle turned to one side and another exceptionally beautiful sight awaited us – a football field size flat clearing, surrounded by a grove of tall thick trees, close to what sounded like a gurgling stream, a



hundred or more kerosene lamps on the periphery, beautiful dinner table laid out with fine linen, silver and crystal, full bar and barbeque grille on one side..... grand setting for a charming "bush dinner". This was yet another surprise that set us thinking about 'what next'? Satiated and physically very tired, we crept into blankets on our comfortable beds – only to learn next morning at breakfast that a lioness was sitting just outside our tent, protected only by a zippered down tent flap. Of course we had been warned never to venture out at night and, in case of any emergency, only to show our flash light through the flap opening. What a hair raising experience for us; but par for the course for the staff there!

Four more safaris, over the next two days, were even better than the first afternoon. We saw lions frolicking with their off spring at just about 10 meters from our jeep, thousands of migrating wildebeest and zebras suddenly caught midstream by the sight of a lion waiting at the other bank of the river, doing a 180 degrees turnaround and running for dear life, couple of them getting caught for the jungle king's dinner. There was even a 'bush breakfast' by the riverside, bonnet of the jeep serving as a beautiful table and an endless supply of goodies produced by the very efficient driver – fruit, cereal, eggs, several kinds of bread, pastries, cutlets and beverages. Many exhilarating, heart stopping, adrenalin pumping, breathtaking experiences in those 2-1/2 days at Masai Mara.

The move from Masai in Kenya to Ngorongoro (pronounced gorogoro) in Tanzania was yet another 'first experience' for us. The little bird from Mara, that we boarded half an hour before our scheduled flight was to come – instead of flying us to Wilson – flew for just 6 minutes and decided to land at the Olkiombo air strip. Apparently one of their planes had developed a snag, so this one – piloted by a college girl looking smart young native was summoned to do some emergency duty. Since we had deliberately boarded the wrong aircraft – hoping to reach Wilson earlier – we had



to wait at this strip in the middle of nowhere for full two hours. However, we were assured more than once that we won't miss any of our several connections that day! This is where we learnt a little about this amazing set up of small 12 or 36 or 50 seater planes, run by several small airlines, flying all over Kenya and Tanzania, very efficiently ferrying tourists to many little strips, with minimal ground set up, young pilots and co-pilots doubling up as check-in staff, loaders and even refueling their planes at such depots as the one at Olkiombo where trucks bring supplies in 200 litre barrels of ATF which is filled into these airplanes with hand cranked pumps. We have been wondering why this can't be replicated in India so that we can increase our tourist inflow many fold? Anyway, another 6 minute flight back to Mara, then Wilson, on to Kilimanjaro and another short hop to Manyara after more refueling at Arusha – a quaint little town where the airport has a prominent sign proclaiming it to be "Geneva of Africa" – and we started on the drive to Ngorongoro, with an excellent packed lunch that our driver had brought along from the hotel.

Sopa Lodge – altitude from sea level 2500 meters - at the edge of the great crater that is Ngorongoro – 650 meters deep at some points – is an exceptionally charming property, efficiently run by an expat manager and very courteous staff including a chef from our own Uttarakhand. Beautifully appointed large suits overlooking the valley, elegant dining room, well stocked spacious bar, big terrace, swimming pool – with an occasional wild buffalo climbing up for a drink – it was an excellent choice by our travel agent MakeMyTrip. Here we went out for day long safaris on both days. Coming back for lunch is not practical due to the long distance and the ascent involved. Hotel gave us very good packed lunches each day and we had a great time sighting several species of wild life in their natural habitat. This is where we were also witness to a gazelle delivering a child. Picnic lunch would be at a charming clearing with clean wash rooms nearby. Yet another great adventure, witnessing great wild life. And we got back to Wilson, once again, by hopping on and off 4 short flights.

Learnt a fact – we didn't know earlier – there are no lions in Ngorongoro and there are no tigers in all of Africa!

Last halt at Nairobi was yet another lovely experience. Our excellent hotel, Villa Rosa Kempinski, boasts of President Obama staying with them for several days and his four hour long lunch with his mother and other family members 'back home'.

"Mother of all Holidays" is the only appropriate title I can think of for this 9 night outing immensely enjoyed by all of us. We are already thinking of an encore!

Krishan Kalra (P-4530)



NURSERY ADMISSION – A FAIRY TALE

We are highly hands on grandparents . It is not because of lack of activity or inadequate knowledge on the subject that keeps us stubbornly pursuing this path. We are fully aware that the modern pundits and experts persistently advise against interfering in the manner children are brought up by their parents. We flout such advise with impunity. We also ignore tell tale sign that our children discretely keep the little ones at a safe distance from us without overtly offending us. Our reason: they violate some of the basic rules that we had followed while bringing them up. Thought often occurs to us that we may be a few decades behind time.

We were therefore fully involved, emotionally, when our littlest grandchild, a 3½ years old boy, came up for admission in a prestigious South Delhi School. A true story of our and the parents trials and tribulations unfolds hereafter.

Going by the previous years' records, the little fellow should not have had any problem getting through as his elder brother was already in the school. However due to the increasing number of toddlers - god bless them - the sibling category vacancies also came under immense strain. It must be emphasized that the system of computation of points to determine the order of precedence for admission is fair and as flawless as it can get. After nearly two months of speculation and state of uncertainty, the final list was posted on the school website. There were four vacancies and five little ones in fray in the 45 point category. We spent sleepless nights thinking about and empathizing with the one who

would miss the cut. We realized it could be us but the optimistic side never considered that outcome seriously. An open draw of lots was conducted on the appointed day. Each of the contending parents of the siblings put the chits of their respective ward in the box and then pulled out one by one. When only one slot was left, and our boy had not made it, his father picked the last chit out of the remaining two chits. Dear readers you can imagine the plight of our son in law when he could not pick the chit bearing his sons name. The news was flashed to us. We were shattered. I even forgot the only influence that I firmly believe I have, 'A feeble line with god.'

While we were in a state of shock and thinking of the available option of sending him to a school twenty five kms away, our daughter rang up again to give an amazing news. One of the mother whose little son had made it in the draw of lots told her that she was withdrawing from the list as they were likely to go abroad in a few months. They had planned to do so a few months later but seeing the plight of our daughter and son in law, she told her, " I would prefer to withdraw now as this vacancy a few months later may go to someone else and I want you to get it for all that you have done for me." My daughter had merely kept her informed of the latest information obtainable on the school web site. Accordingly, within an hour she had sent an email to the school with copy to my daughter.

As to us grandparents, we barely survived weeks of sleepless nights, surging and ebbing blood pressure and the age related medical problems to see this boy enter the school with his brother. It must however be admitted that being with little ones is a life enhancer. It keeps the old fogeys on their toes; physically fit to be able to run around with them and mentally alert to answer their unending questions.

Brig (Retd) Suresh Chander (P-0599)

SIR HARCOURT BUTLER TENNIS TOURNAMENT

This event which started in the year 2013 as part of the DGC Centenary Celebrations was held on the 14th of April 2018 at the British High Commission Tennis Courts. This annual event is held alternatively in the BHC and DGC and this year it was the BHC's turn to host.

The following players participated

BHC: 1. James Morgan – **Captain** 2. Gill Marks 3. Cedric Bernard 4. Lionel Chalke 5. Andy Cole 6. David French 7. Wendy Foy 8. Troy Arnold 9. Emily Groves 10. Tom Tanner 11. Ed Bastin

DGC: 1. CM Sharma - **Captain** 2. Raj Liberhan 3. AJS Chhatwal 4. Vivek Singh 5. Yogesh Prasad 6. Vijay Mathur 7. Deepak Kapoor 8. Ms. Sangeeta Badhwar 9. Ms. Kalpana Gulati 10. Ms. Patty Dhar

13 Matches were played, each match being of 5 games duration. The events were –

- 1. Men's Doubles • 2. Ladies Doubles • 3. Mixed Doubles

The total number of games won in all matches were counted and the score was 40-25 in favour of the DGC. Matchwise the score was 9-4. The trophy was retained by the DGC and received by CM Sharma on behalf of the DGC. The trophy is on display at the Reception, along with other trophies won by the DGC Teams.



CM Sharma receiving the trophy from James Morgan, Captain BHC



The Two Teams

Baisakhi - 13 April 2018





ACTS OF HISTORIC DEFIANCE OF THE MUGHAL AND BRITISH EMPERORS BY TWO INDIAN PRINCES

The Mughal Emperor Akbar who ruled over India in the mid-sixteenth century had subjugated almost all princely states of India as his vassal states barring Mewar, whose ruler, Rana Pratap rebuffed all efforts by the Mughal Courtiers to negotiate an alliance with him.

Akbar peeved by the Rana's defiance sent a large Mughal force under Raja Mansingh of Amber (now Jaipur) to subjugate him. A fierce battle took place between the Mughal and Mewar armies at Haldighati in Rajasthan on 21st June 1576. The numerical superiority of the Mughals prevailed. The Rajputs, heavily outnumbered, suffered huge casualties. Rana himself was severely wounded. He was moved, along with few of the survivors, into the Aravali Hills to fight another day.

THE ROYAL HEADGEAR

Folklore has it that a wandering Ministeral (Bard) arrived at the Rana's camp in the Aravali Hills and sang many Bardic poems of valour and heraldry composed by him in Rana's honour and courage. The Rana, in his royal tradition wanted to reward him but lacking any material resources in his hilly retreat bestowed his own headgear on the head of the Ministeral.

Touched by this gesture, he accepted the gift of the royal turban with much reverence. He then moved away on his wandering mission. Several months later he reached Delhi, the imperial city. His fame as a composer of Bardic songs of heraldry had preceded him. He was invited to the Imperial Court to render his compositions before the Emperor.

It is said that upon entry in the Imperial Court, he took off the Headgear and holding it aloft with his left hand, advanced slowly towards the Emperor doing **'bandagi'** (salutation) with his right hand.

This unusual method of greeting intrigued Akbar who enquired from him the reasons for this novel form of

salutation. The Bard very respectfully explained :-

Your Majesty, this head is my own and bows before you in 'bandagi'. This turban is, however, not my own. It is the headgear of Rana Pratap which does not bow before any human being. It bows only before God."

This startling explanation is said to have profoundly moved the Emperor who then shifted his focus away from Mewar towards the princely states of Gujarat.

THE TWIRLING WALKING STICK

Three centuries later, in 1911, the British colonial rulers organized the Delhi Durbar for the coronation of King George-V as King Emperor. It was an extraordinary spectacle of pageantry and pomp.

The durbar was a display of unparalleled grandeur attended by all the great and famous people. Each Indian ruler was invited to attend and pay their obeisance to the King Emperor by bowing three times before him, then backing away without turning.

The only India ruler who disregarded this humiliating protocol was the Gaekwad of Baroda, second in importance to the Nizam of Hyderabad.

He arrived before the King dressed in a simple attire, without his customary jewels and decorations, made a cursory bow, then wheeling round, turned his back on the royal couple and walked away from their presence, twirling a gold topped walking stick. He compounded his perceived insolence by reportedly **"laughing disrespectfully"** as he walked away from their presence.

It was one of the strongest gestures of dissent by a princely ruler which took place against the backdrop of growing support for India's independence and boosted the morale of all Indians working towards this goal.

R K PURI (P-1228)

Play - Mera Pati Salman Khan - 21 April 2018



Book Club - Pinky Anand - 27 April 2018



ACHIEVEMENTS OF OUR MEMBERS



Ms Kanwal Chaudri (P-3178) honoured with an award for 'Woman of Excellence' by the Women's Economic Forum for the role she played in developing the textile industry in India.

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH (APRIL 2018)



Shri Ram Adhar (Cook) presently working in the staff Canteen was appointed in the Club on 12th April 1991 as Pantry Man.

According to his Seniors, he is regular and fully devoted to his work. His general

behaviour with fellow staff members is also very cordial and cooperative.

Therefore Shri 'Ram Adhar' is being nominated as **Employee of the month** and an award of Rs. 750/- goes to him for his excellent services.

Keep it up '**Ram Adhar**'.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

Programme Name	Hours per day	Number of days	Age group	Max Enrolment	Programme Takeaway	Fee	Date and Time
Theatre Workshop By Barry John Acting Studio	3:30 hours	20 Monday to Friday	8-15	20	Certificate/Stage performance on culmination	8000/-	21 May -15 June
First Act Ten Day Theatre Workshop	3:30 hours	10 Monday to Friday	10-14	30	Certificate/ performance on culmination	8000/-	4 June - 15 June
Introduction to Calligraphy	2 hours	2 Saturday-Sunday	10-15	10	Calligraphy markers and Notebooks will be provided	1000/-	9 June-10 June

BRIDGE RESULTS APRIL 2018

TEAM OF FOUR

- 1st** Mr Sanjiv Bery, Mr Vijit Bery Dr R L Sanghi, Mrs Alka Jain, Mr R S Gujral
- 2nd** Mr Sidhartha Behuria, Mr Sutanu Behuria, Mr Ashok Singh, Mr Dilip Coelho
- 3rd** Brig D N Khanna, Mr Saran Dhupia, Mr Vishal Marwah, Mr Vikram Jain

PAIRS

NORTH-SOUTH

- 1st** Brig D N Khanna – Mr Vikram Jain
- 2nd** Maj Gen B K Kalra – Brig S K Wahi
- 3rd** Mr N N Khanna – Mr J K Khanna

EAST-WEST

- 1st** Mr Ashok Singh – Mr Dilip Coelho
- 2nd** Mrs Sneha Lata Singla – Dr Rajiv Anand
- 3rd** Mr Deepa Kapur – Mr Sunil Kumar

SUMMER

EDITORIAL



Summertime is upon us as we wake to earlier dawns and lingering evening light in the skies. We seek the shade now, the mangoes and the bel sherbets, the nimbu paani and the coconut water. Coffee is chilled and chaach follows light lunches. Afternoons are for siestas on weekends and staying indoors with books, movies or in the ever popular card and bridge rooms of the Club. The swimming pool is the preferred manner of exercise and the Kashmir lawns liven up in the evenings.

This is the time that many of us depart for holidays to cooler climes in the country and abroad where warmer weather means more outdoor activities and nature coming to life after a

long slumber in the winter. As migratory birds we chase the seasons of the sun.

India has always been a land of abundant sunshine yet we are getting increasing reports of health problems among both the young and old due to lack of vitamin D. It seems unbelievable that in the land that has worshipped the sun we should be lacking in the one essential vitamin that is free and available. Children no longer go out to play in the sun cosseted as they are in an air conditioned cocoon.

I remember childhood afternoons of searing heat as we chased each other on rickety bicycles, climbing trees for raw mangoes. Now schools have to mandate physical activity sessions as directed by the Government. The morning assembly is being organised, according to a news report, at 12 noon. Indeed it seems we are in a world turned on its head.

Remember the Beatles song 'Here comes the Sun' A wonderful melody hailing the brightness of a new day.

This month I saw a beautifully moving tv series 'The Handmaid's Tale'. Based on a book by Margret Atwood it is a tale of an imaginary state reduced by pollution and environmental degradation to a harsh dictatorial regime that denies the joys of simple human liberties. Seeing this story on a long plane ride somewhere above land and oceans it seemed that the recklessness with which we plunder our natural reserves could soon make such a world a possibility. Similar to this is the book 'Lincoln in the Bardo' by George Saunders winner of the Booker Prize for 2017 where ghosts suspended between life and death rue the time they were real people. In a hilarious tragic comic situation they are now only invisible, unseen and unheard.

So the past haunts us with its nostalgia.

As Margret Atwood says in her book 'We thought we had such problems. How were we to know we were happy'.

Mrs Neelam Kapur
IIS



On passing on of those cherished DGC Members who departed from the shores of life, the Club Fraternity solemnly pays its respects and condolences



Ms Arundhati Ghose
(L-0015)



CMDE P K Jain
(P-3333)



Justice O P Verma
(P-3455)



Lt Gen Nirmal Puri
(P-0148)



Mr Arun Anand
(P-4688)



Mr M Sankaranarayanan
(P-2064)



Mrs Raghbans Bahadur Shahazada
(L-0074)



Mrs Ravinder Kaur
(L-1830)



Mrs Vijai Laxmi Lal
(L-1706)



Maj Gen Surendar Kumar (P-1397)

CORRIGENDUM

A wrong photo was erroneously printed alongwith the name of Maj Gen Surendar in the Obituary Column. The error is regretted.

DELHI GYMKHANA CLUB STAFF WELFARE AND EDUCATION TRUST

The Club management has formed a trust for the education and welfare of the DGC staff children. Members desirous of contributing to the trust are requested to forward the cheques to the club in favour of 'Delhi Gymkhana Club Staff Welfare and Education Trust'. All contributions towards the trust are exempted from Income Tax u/s 80CC.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS



FRIDAY 18TH MAY 2018

A Play "Like Mother Like Daughter"

by Sohaila Kapur



SATURDAY 19TH MAY 2018

BOOK CLUB EVENT

'SURVIVE OR SINK' By Naina Lal Kidwai

at 6 pm in Centenary Bar (Tea at 5:30 pm)



SATURDAY 7TH JULY 2018

QUIZ WITH ORIGINAL QUIZ MASTER AMBASSADOR DEEPAK VOHRA

3 teams, 3 persons in each team
(Teams will be selected by draw of lots)

- Pioneers above 70 years • Seniors 40-69 years
- Greens 20-39 years

Please register with the Chief Librarian



SUNDAY 8TH JULY 2018

THE NINTH ANNUAL DGCL SCRABBLE COMPETITION

Eligibility: Interest in the game

All participants will play five games of Scrabble
(50 minutes each)

International Scrabble Association Rules will apply

Please register with the Chief Librarian

NOTICE

Wef JUNE 2018, the Club is going for e-version of Monthly Bills. Therefore, the hard copies of bills will only be forwarded to members above the age of 70.

Your cooperation is solicited.

Delhi Gymkhana Club Ltd

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