



# Riverside

Founder's Day Issue 2017



August 17, 1883 - September 20, 1962

**MISS HERSILLIA SUSIE OLIPHANT**

# CONTENTS

03

**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

04

**BATCH OF 1991 CELEBRATES THEIR SILVER JUBILEE YEAR**

06

**WOBS ACTIVITIES 2016-17**

11

**UNITED FOR HOCKEY**

12

**THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE YOU CLIMB MT. KILIMANJARO**

17

**EXPLORING LEH-LADAKH ON A MOTORCYCLE**

21

**MOVERS AND SHAKERS**

22

**OBITUARY**

23

**MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT**

---

Editor:

Siddharth Rakshit, WOBS Secretariat

---

President

Rupinder Thind (302/ C, 1988)

Vice President

Mohit Saigal (30/ K, 1990)

Treasurer

Gurjyot Singh (230/ C, 1991)

Secretary

Pavitra Arora (79/ K, 2004)

Members, Executive Committee

Arun Khanna (202/C, 1984), Anurag Chadha (348/G, 1988), Rohit Jaiswal (509/C, 1995), Vivek Bansal (637/ C, 1997),

Ajeet Bajaj (855/K, 2000), Ajitesh K Kir (255/C, 2007), Dr. Rohitash Sharma (55/ G, 1992),

Sudipt Juneja (334/C, 2008) & Keshav Agarwal (718/C, 2014)

Secretarial Officer

Siddharth Rakshit

Ex-officio Members

Darshan Singh (67/J, 1962), Haripal Singh Gill (1967), Raju Verma, Tanuj Sethi, Mohit Jain,  
Nikhil Kripalani (210/J, 1990), Lokesh Vashist (391/ K, 1991) & Prashant Kochhar (364/G, 1992)

*Dear Friends,*

*At the outset I thank you all for enthusiastically engaging with the Society over the years. As I step back and make way for Mohit Saigal to take over as the President of the Society, I am humbled by your good wishes, love and support that I have received over the Years. All that has been accomplished, however modest was not possible without your involvement. I have therefore a list of Thankyou's for a whole bunch of people for their time, effort and good work done in these past few years.*

**A. My team on the elected council for a job well done**

- Website redesigning
- Member enrollment drive which saw numbers on the Register of members grow exponentially.
- The Riverside Team for a fantastic 2016 & 2017 issue.
- The Society Re-registration.
- The Income Tax compliance.
- Internal Communications at the Wobs Office.
- Record Keeping.
- Press Interactions.
- CSR Activities.
- Memorabilia
- Rough Book Screening.

associated with the Society and subsidized the expenditure is worthy of applause. The Batch consistently thru the Year participated in innovative ways and not only contributed to the School in various forms but also helped in increasing the Corpus of the Society.

I am hopeful that in the Years to come there will be a larger participation of the Alumni across all age groups. I wish Mohit Saigal and his team the very best of luck for a successful tenure and may the Society grow from Strength to Strength.

**B. Chandigarh Alumni Golf invitational**

Although the Tournament is at its nascent stages a fantastic effort went into organising both the editions of the Alumni tournament. Kudos not only to the ones who organized the Tourney but to the Alumni who made an effort to participate and mark their presence.

**C. United for Hockey**

The Maiden effort is much appreciated wherein the Alumni interacted with the School Teams participating in the Tourney at New Delhi.

**D. Silver Jubilee Batch of 1991**

The manner in which the Batch



Rupinder Thind.  
President  
2015 - 2017  
Vice President  
2013 – 2015





*Gurjyot Singh  
Batch Representative 1991*

---

# HOW THE BATCH OF 1991 CELEBRATED THEIR SILVER JUBILEE YEAR 2016

---

During their Silver Jubilee Year in 2016, the sporty Batch 1991 made many significant contributions. Thanks to the enthusiastic efforts of their Batch representative, Gurjyot Singh. His patience and endless pursuit for ensuring donations have earned him a temporary nick-name – Vasooli Bhai.

#### INITIATIVES SUCH AS

The 1st SUPW activity of the year 2016, by the WOBS, held at Raphael Home, where the Batch of 1991 donated 100 Bed sheets and Pillow Covers to the students of the Home.

Being a sporty Batch, they went on to donate 25 world class hockey sticks to the school. The donation has been made in the fond memory of their friends Marghoob Hussain and Dhananjay Bahadur Singh.

The Batch yet again showed their sporting spirit by donating 50 international quality soccer balls to the school. The chief Guest for the occasion of the Presentation Ceremony was a retired Sports and Math teacher of the school, Mr Alfred Singh. Mr Singh served in the school from 1962 to 2002 and looked fit as ever.

They also contributed towards the 2nd SUPW activity organized by the WOBS at PremDham, an Old Age Home, in Dehradun, distributing






ration for the inmates of the Home.

The Batch also sponsored the Musical Band, which performed at the Delhi Get Together, at the Delhi Golf Club, in October 2016.

As part of their Silver Jubilee Celebrations, the batch donated 25 Basketballs to the school, during the 79th Founder's Day in 2016.

Also during the same Founder's Day Celebrations, they hosted gala events such as the Annual WOBS Dinner as well as another celebratory dinner for all members of the WOBS.

And the final feather in their cap was the generosity they showed, by contributing Rs 19 lac to the WOBS corpus.

Thank you very much Batch of 1991...Our hats off to you..



After completing a year of hectic activities in 2015-2016, the **Welham Old Boys' Society** continued with the same vigor to organize a series of events in 2016-2017.

# WHAT WE HAVE BEEN UPTO DURING 2016-2017

## PRESENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL QUALITY SOCCER BALLS TO THE SCHOOL

The Chief Guest for the occasion of the Presentation Ceremony was a retired Sports and Math teacher of the school, Mr Alfred Singh. Mr Singh served in the school from 1962 to 2002 and looked fit as ever. After handing over a soccer ball to the school soccer Captain, VikramVardan, Mr Singh took the Ceremonial penalty kick and scored.

A day before the Presentation Ceremony the Batch of 1991 presented a Soccer Ball to the Principal of the school at her office. She was all praises for the effort of the 1991 batch.



## A BRAND NEW KITCHEN FOR PREMDHAM, AN OLD AGE HOME IN DEHRADUN



The symbolic curtain opening ceremony of the inauguration stone was done by Ms. Shashi Kanta Chopra, a former History and Political Science teacher of Welham Boys' School, on 17th August, 2016.

The Kitchen is a gift to the residents of the Old Age Home from the Welham Old Boys Society on behalf of Ms. Hersilia Susie Oliphant, the Founder of the school. The date 17th August 2016 also marked the 133rd Birth Anniversary of Ms. Hersilia Susie Oliphant.

Ms. Shashi Kanta Chopra was overwhelmed with emotion and was thrilled that her former students were living up to the values and ethos of Welham Boys' School. Ms. Gunmeet Bindra, Principal, Welham Boys' School, was also present for the occasion.



## MUMBAI GET TOGETHER 2016

Ek Shyam Mumbai Ke Naam. The Get Together was organized at the C'est La Vie, (Pool side) - Bandra, Mumbai on 13th August. Shaad Ali an Ex Welhamite of 1994 Batch and also a Bollywood actor, graced the occasion.



The Delhi members got together for dinner at the Delhi Golf Club, on 15th October. There were more than 100 members along with their wives. A musical band was organized by the Batch of 1991 which kept the Welhamites in Great Spirit.



## DEHRADUN GET TOGETHER 2016

The Home Crowd had a quiet and relaxing evening on 24 September, at Iida Hotel and bonded with each other.

# THE 79<sup>TH</sup> FOUNDER'S DAY DINNER, 2016




It was the Silver Jubilee Year of the 1991 Batch. The sporty Batch donated Basketballs to the school. Mr Vinod Vachani, Ex Basket Ball Coach of the school was also felicitated at the dinner.

A Silver Plaque was presented to Mrs Kiran Segra, House Mother, in appreciation of her long standing services in the school.

For the first time, the Welham Old Boys' Society presented a cheque of Rs 11,000/- to a long serving Support Staff. Mr Rajender Prasad, Peon, who has served the school for 41 years, received the cheque.



# KOLKATA GET TOGETHER, 2017



# 2<sup>ND</sup>



## EDITION OF CAGI CHANDIGARH ALUMNI GOLF INVITATIONAL 2017





Like all other years, Brothers in Arms, Harsh Bansal (1996) and Vivek Bansal (1997), yet again hosted the Kolkata Get Together in January, 2017, at their residence. The Kolkata Welhamites, as always, made the best of the occasion by bonding with each other.



The 2nd Edition of the CAGI was held on 24th February, 2017, at the Chandigarh Golf Club. The Bishop Cotton School lifted the coveted Winner's Trophy, while Doon School and Welham Boys School came 2nd and 3rd, respectively. His Excellency The Governor of Punjab gave away the prizes in the evening. Capt Amrinder Singh also graced the occasion. The Welham Team was lead by Param Sandhu. A special prize was given to Welhamite, Arjun Mallik for the longest drive on the fairway. Way to go Arjun.





# DELHI GET TOGETHER 2017



The Delhi Get Together on 29th October was also organised, to welcome the fresh Batch of 2017 into the WOBS. And what a welcome party they had. A warm welcome to Batch of 2017.

## SUPPORTING AN NGO, THE DRIBBLE ACADEMY.

The current President's last official initiative was to lend support to an NGO called the Dribble Academy, which, through the sport of basketball, teaches less fortunate children to aim high.



# UNITED FOR HOCKEY (UFH)

The ONGC sponsored, UFH Invitational 2017 hockey tournament was held at the Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium from April 14 to 16, 2017. Six teams participated in the inaugural edition of this tournament, which included teams from four of India's most eminent public schools. They were, The Doon School and Welham Boys School from Dehradun, Mayo College from Ajmer and The Scindia School from Gwalior. In addition, United for Hockey (UFH), a Delhi based hockey club consisting predominantly of alumni from these four public schools featured two teams.

The Chief Guest, Shri Zafar Iqbal, a former India hockey captain, Olympic Gold medal winner and a current national selector, praised the high quality of play, commenting that the level of hockey he witnessed surpassed that from his days of playing at the school level.



Over 300 spectators witnessed the matches over these two days and finally, in an exciting and eagerly watched final, Mayo College were crowned champions after their win over The Scindia School. The final standings were as follows:

- WINNERS: MAYO COLLEGE**
- RUNNERS UP: THE SCINDIA SCHOOL**
- THIRD PLACE: UFH BLUE AND UFH RED (SHARED)**
- FIFTH PLACE: WELHAM BOYS SCHOOL**
- SIXTH PLACE: THE DOON SCHOOL**



The members of United for Hockey (UFH) acknowledge the generous sponsorship of ONGC towards organization of the ONGC-UFH Invitational 2017 hockey tournament.

A person wearing a dark jacket, a beanie, and sunglasses stands on a rocky ridge. They have two trekking poles. In the background, a large mountain peak is visible, partially covered in snow. The sky is bright blue with a large, bright sun or moon creating a lens flare effect. The overall scene is a high-altitude mountain landscape.

**THINGS TO  
KNOW BEFORE  
YOU CLIMB...**

# **MT. KILIMANJARO**

Aatir Ansari 2003 (Ganga 25)



10

## CHOOSE THE ROUTE AND SEASON CAREFULLY

There are seven established routes to the summit, but most climbers pick among three. The Rongai route takes six to seven days and approaches the mountain from the east. Compared to the other two, this route lacks on the scenic factor. The Machame Route charges up the southern flank of the peak in six to seven days and has good views of the mountain. The Lemosho Route is a scenic journey up the long western ridge of the mountain and relatively new, lasting from seven to nine days and has a high success rate. Remember, fewer than half the climbers who attempt a five-day ascent successfully make the summit, so choose wisely.

There are two rainy seasons on Kilimanjaro – March through to end of May and mid October to early December. The south is wetter than the northern slopes, making the Rongai route, a favourite during the rainy months. Typically rain is less prevalent above 3,000m, which means you are only likely to experience rain on Day 1. You may however experience snow and sleet on the upper reaches of the mountain

9

## CHOOSE OPERATOR PROVIDING PRIVATE TOILET TENT

Always choose a tour operator who provides you with a zippered, waterproof, and portable bathroom tent - a convenience that people do not realize how important it is until they camp on the mountain. Having a private group toilet can sometimes make or break your experience. Otherwise, you are stuck with the scant shelter of volcanic outcroppings, and the old hole-in-the-floor wooden outhouses that are scattered around each trail camp.





8

## WEIGH YOUR BAGS

The general rule on the mountain is that no porter should have a load of more than 15 kg (33 pounds) per porter. It's a rule strictly enforced. Your bags will put on scale when you arrive and on each time the porter leaves the camp on the mountain. Therefore, pack well and light and your bag should not be more than 15kgs or you will have to pay for an extra porter. The rule is in force to protect the porters from being forced to carry too much. Your daily usables, camera, etc, can be carried in your day bag. Try to keep the day bag under 5kgs. Most operators will provide you a list of items to pack with you for the trek, you would be wise to follow their advise.

7

## FITNESS

You do not have to be "super fit" to climb Mount Kilimanjaro. Of course, having good level of health and fitness is important but you do not need to be an experienced ultra-marathon runner to climb it. In fact, many fit people struggle to reach the summit because they exert themselves too much during the early stages of the trek and therefore don't give themselves enough time to acclimatize during the ascent. On Kilimanjaro you will be trekking approx. 5-7 hours a day (summit day being a lot longer). Preparing for these treks through practice hikes in your home country is a great way to build up your fitness level or through cardiovascular exercises at the gym, such as running and cycling. Only the summit day will truly test your fitness – both physical and mental.

6

## TAKE TIME TO ACCLIMATIZE

Acclimatizing well to the mountain and the high altitude is like getting a key to the door. "Pole pole" (pronounced po-lay po-lay) is a Swahili phrase meaning "slowly slowly," and you will hear these words repeated throughout your journey. You will be quite surprised with the slow pace set by the guides but slow and steady should be your mantra on the mountain.

It is always wise to add an extra day to the climb and choose a route which follows the 'walk high, sleep low' formula. If you climb too fast and exert yourself at high altitude, then your body will have difficulty in adjusting to the thin air and low oxygen leading to altitude sickness.





## Riverside

Water is critical on the mountain and helps with the acclimatization. Every day you will be given 2-3 liters from your guides and you should aim to finish it by the time you reach your camp. Dehydration is a key cause of AMS so make sure you remain hydrated. Not being well hydrated will also result in headaches, something you don't want on the last day. So hydrate up! You should probably buy some flavoring or energy tablets to your water to make it more palatable.

### WATER ON KILIMANJARO

5

Never take the mountain lightly. The walk up the mountain is demanding and at high altitude it gets even more difficult. Don't forget you are climbing from almost sea level to 5900m above sea level. This is the highest free standing mountain in the world!! It requires determination and effort to get to the top and across the exposed mountainside, you may encounter wind, rain, snow, and scorching sun. Guided tours make for a safer trek, but this is still a challenging endeavor that is not to be taken lightly. Only about 60 percent of climbers are able to successfully summit the peak. Keep that in mind when you are preparing for the trek, as this will help ensure that you are one of them.

### RESPECT THE MOUNTAIN

4

### KILIMANJARO GUIDES AND PORTERS

3

The Kilimanjaro guides and porters are your greatest asset on the mountain. Most guides and porters are locals who speak Swahili. The Guides usually have a good command of the English language, so communication should not be an issue. Typically, every climbing group has at least 1 guide, and each climber has three porters. Porters carry all gear, tents, cooking supplies and water. Over the course of your climb, you will learn to respect these guys – each porter carries approx. 15 kg of kit on their back and still comfortably “overtake” you every day!!

Keep at least USD 250-300 per person in the group for the tips to guides, kitchen crew and porters. Good companies have a protocol and tipping ceremony on the last day of camping.



2

**DETERMINATION** Getting to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro has a lot to do with determination. There will likely be a point during the summit attempt where you might feel like giving up – typically around Stella Point or Gilman's Point. You might be feeling awfully sick and/or exhausted. At that lowest point, it is important that you remain determined to get to the top – one step at a time! However, your determination must not supersede your health. Monitor AMS symptoms closely and talk to your Guides if you feel something is wrong. More often than not, these can be easily resolved, but **ONLY** if you communicate it to your Guides.

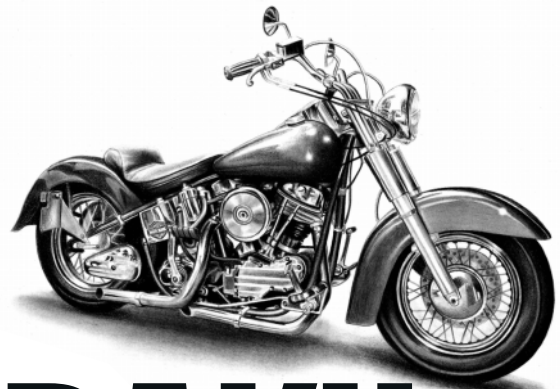
1

**ENJOY THE EXPERIENCE** It isn't every day that you get time to get away from the rigmaroles of your daily life. Even if it is only for a week, once you are on the mountain you are free and alone with nature. Listen to the quiet noise of the forest. Smell the godly scent of rain on dry ground. Feel the air brush your cold cheeks. Taste it's freshness. Stare at the breathtaking views above the clouds. Stargaze at night. Relish the company of your solitude. **LIVE. BREATHE. ENJOY**

**AATIR REACHED THE TOP OF MT. KILIMANJARO  
AT 6 AM ON 9TH OCTOBER, 2016. A TRUE ADVENTURER,  
HE ALSO PROMOTES AN ADVENTURE TRAVEL COMPANY  
“ULTIMATE FRONTIER OUTLANDS”**







# EXPLORING LEH-LADAKH ON A MOTORCYCLE

Arjun Mallik 2010 (Krishna 430)

**There are things that make us happy and put a smile on our face. And then are things and experiences which teach you what adrenaline rush is. The feeling of the heart throbbing really fast and a chill running through your bones. A sensation or a feeling that stays forever and is not temporary. Most importantly, it makes you a storyteller and I feel very lucky to have experienced it and felt it for myself. For the adventure motorcyclists, there's no better feeling than packing their bags, fueling up the motorcycles and begin a journey into the unknown.**

After travelling and discovering Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand & Rajasthan, my batch mate **Naveen Gupta (Jamuna 463)**, a common friend Dhruv and I, decided to cover the region of Ladakh in the summer of 2017. We always had a common liking for the Himalayas. After months of planning and preparation we rode on towards the world's highest mountain passes and the Great Himalayan highways. On the dangerous roads, or I'd rather say 'no-roads', the challenges that came was quite a package.

The journey started almost 2 months before we actually kick started our motorcycles for the road. Riding to Ladakh requires extensive preparation and preparedness of the worst. Like, breakdowns, rapidly changing weather, closure of routes due to landslides, water rapids and snow. With preparations done, supplies procured and the petrol tank fuelled up, we finally left for the Higher Land (also known as Ladakh) with our motorcycles weighing a total of 250kgs for the next 20 days.

Passing through the highways of Haryana and Punjab, had a brief stop at the Golden Temple in Amritsar and reached Pathankot at midnight, our destination for the first day. The next day, we hit the road to the troubled Srinagar when curfews and unrest were at its peak. After riding for 11 hours nonstop we decided to halt at a small town called Qazigund. With no one willing to accommodate us for the night we ended up spending the night in a small dhaba and set out for Srinagar the next day. Hundreds of army trucks passed by and the roads were lined by army men with their weapons ready to shoot. At Pahalgam, Faizan Hanief (2008), a senior from school, made our stay for the night very comfortable.

The next day was a big day and we were all set. The first and one of the difficult Himalayan passes of the trip was on the menu card. The mighty Zoji La, the divider between the Kashmir and the Ladakh valley is known for its famous traffic jam, black ice and slush. Riding became very difficult as tires skidded constantly and that too



moving uphill. The feeling was awesome as we crossed Zoji La and saw the board which read 'WELCOME TO LADAKH'. We had finally reached the High Land and reached Drass, a town that claims to be the second coldest inhabited place in the world. The night in Drass was comfortable. Visiting Kargil War Memorial the next day took me back to history. The road from Drass to Kargil was the best I'd ever rode on, with Tololing peak and Tiger Hill visible right in front. The recently laid tarmac had us cruising at 100km/hr. with zero traffic. After a lot of bad roads we got a patch to zip our bikes on and we weren't expecting better roads for the rest of the days.

We had fitted 2 days for Zaskar in our trip and it was the most

beautiful place I'd ever seen. There were no roads at all. The water crossings were as deep as our headlamps. Two people pushing one guy on his motorcycle, puffing for oxygen and the shivering cold. We rode constantly at 30km/hr for 7 hours. The condition of the roads didn't permit us to go faster. Middle of nowhere, we finally pitched our tents on a patch of grassland late night right under the Nun-Kun Glacier and the milkyway looked so clear and close to us. The first time in the trip we cooked our own food. Two days in the valley were the most peaceful and serene out of the entire twenty and the day after while returning back to Kargil to head further towards Leh, the first big adventure hit us.

Dhruv had stopped at one of the places to click some photographs and asked Naveen and me to head front. The two of us kept on riding and realized after 20 kms that Dhruv still hadn't caught up. I decided to go back and look for him. There was no one on the road and we three were at separate places in the valley now without any network connections. Trying to speed up to find him, I hit a patch of mud where the tires of my motorcycle lost traction and I collided. I didn't get hurt but lifting the goddamn motorcycle alone became a challenge with the cliff on one side and the mountain on the other. I kept on waiting until I saw a truck approaching and stopped him for help. To my surprise, I saw Dhruv sitting in the truck. His bike had not started after his photography break. He had loaded his bike on to the truck. Once again, reunited we got the motorcycle off the truck and tried changing fuses and finally the engine was roaring again.

After spending the night at Kargil, We had to ride to Leh the next day early in the morning. We were off before visiting Hunderman Village just 8 kms from Kargil. Hunderman was the last Indian Village from this front of Kargil. Just after Pathar Sahib Gurudwara, Naveen had a flat. With no mechanic around and 30 kms to reach Leh we rode with one bike being punctured. It took us 2 hours to cover that 30kms on fantastic roads! We visited Alchi and Lamayuru monasteries, the famous Magnetic Hill and Pathar Sahib en route Leh. We were finally Leh'd!

Leh was like Paharganj in Delhi. A lot of tourists, bikers from all over India and abroad. Finally a chance to have bath. It was the second time we bathed in 12 days, since we had not found hotels. It was only camping in the wild till now. Spending two days in Leh, getting our bikes fixed and serviced after the horrifying Zaskar track it was finally the day to ride to the Highest Motorable pass in the World-KHARDUNGLA. A different feeling hit us in the stomach to imagine riding to 18000 feet.

We didn't know another adventure was making a plan for us. Reaching South Pullu check post and 18 kms short of K-top we realized Dhruv's petrol tank had been leaking. It wasn't possible for us to reach Khardung La, as there were no petrol pumps for the next 80 kms. So, we decided to head back to Leh. We got the bike repaired that day and decided to head for Khardung La the next day. The butterflies in our stomach were back, and the roads had big craters and slush on

them with snow all around us. 12 kms short to the Top today, and the petrol tank started to leak once again! We tried all temporary hacks but had no other but to go back to Leh and buy a new one or get this welded. It wasn't easy going back again for the third time in 2 days because of the low oxygen levels and road conditions. Dhruv forced Naveen and me to head to Khardung La and went alone to Leh to fix up the tank. A guilty moment dawned on Naveen and me as he forced us to keep on moving and we decided to meet in Hunder that night. We had phones with Zero network, one out of us was separated and the roads getting worse. After all we were doing one of the toughest road circuits in the world and riding on the HIGHEST MOTORABLE ROAD. Few kilometers ahead, A yellow stone board was in front which

#### read-KHARDUNG LA TOP

Naveen and I looked at each other with tears of joy and achievement in our eyes. That's when we hoisted our WELHAM Flag on the highest motorable pass. A feeling similar to hoisting the flag on Everest. Welham was the reason we both had met 18 years back and our brotherhood had got us here together. There were riders hugging each other celebrating the realization of a dream of every motorcyclist.

Reaching Hunder our destination of the day was Nubra valley-The desert in the mountain. We kept worrying about Dhruv. He had to cover Khardung La and the wind was picking up speed. The weather could get nasty suddenly. After finding a perfect place to pitch our tents, we heard a motorcycle which sounded like Dhruv's, a similar helmet with red blinkers and a very distinct pressure horn. We finally reunited and he told us that he had sped on those dangerous roads to meet us as soon as possible. That moment made all three of us even thicker and closer to each other for the rest of our lives. After all that's what a journey does!

We rode on next to Turtuk, the last village on the other front and the stories of the locals with the local cuisine was really a refreshing experience. We were in a desert

and now had plans to move towards the Highest Lake. Moving to Deserts and Lakes that too in Great Himalayan Ranges was like being a part of a Fairytale. The landscapes that make you fall for real natural beauty. Yes, the Pangong Tso Lake is what I'm talking about. The lake runs into China and nothing seems more beautiful while standing on its shore and staring into it.

Excited, we pitch a camp on the shore of Pangong Tso and woke up to the best view the next day. We left for Sumur. On our way to Pangong, we had hardly travelled about 2-3 kms when we spotted a big group of riders crowding up the way. On enquiring we found out that the route towards Pangong has been shut by the authorities because a water crossing on the road. Being a typical Welhamite, fearless and adventurous we decided to atleast check out the water crossing. With no Police personnel there and just a barricade, the three of us started moving on the road which was officially shut. As we approached it, we saw that the road wiped out with water from the Shyok River. It could have taken hours or even one full day to clear and safe to move. We however saw a JCB crane parked on the other side. We paid the driver and asked him to airlift us on to other side. Never thought of being airlifted by a JCB





over water with my motorcycle in my arms and the both of us parked in the carrier bin of it. Turn by turn we got on to the other side and we were told we wouldn't face water anymore on the route. We started again and discovered the common AgamShyok route was also closed due to a landslide.

That day we discovered a Himalayan pass called Wari La which we had never even heard of. Not a very famous route among travelers Wari La became our favourite pass due to its difficulty and challenges because of the steep climb and snow covered roads. The oxygen levels were so low that our motorcycles were running only at 40km/hr on Full throttle. We had to take off air filters for the engine to run at a huge risk of the engine ceasing with slightest amount of dust. The motorcycles refused to climb up at a point and we were pushing each other manually to get through. Our motorcycles couldn't breathe and neither could we. After a while since we were almost on top of the peak at 17000 feet with snow all around. Since the route was closed and we had come on it illegally we three were the only moving creatures on it, apart from the Yak and mongooses. Battling out the mighty Wari La, we reached Sakti after a long day of adventure and spent the night in a Dhaba on the highway.

Twenty four hours later we pitched our camps at Pangong Tso after a long day's ride covering almost 250

kms. We stuck our heads out of the tents and was amazed to see the sky so clear. The blue water of the Pangong Lake shone like a silver sheet at night. At about 3 in the night there was massive rain and a feeling of a storm approaching with the winds gusting. Our tents swung like a hyper pendulum and the three of us laid in them terrified communicating with each other about how scary it was.

We started our return journey from Pangong Tso. The trip was slowly coming to a close now with only 5 days left. There were mixed feelings, both happy and sad. We started moving towards home now after having covered most of the circuit and the journey was slowly ending. Hold on, not so soon.

Chang La, the second highest Himalayan pass of the world sat waiting for us fiercely that day. Chang La was about 50 kms from Pangong just after a small town called Durbuk. The rain from last night had not had its full effect it seemed and the cloud thundered once again with massive rain. Most of the riders there decided to not move from Durbuk towards Chang La because of the horrifying weather and an obvious assumption of wild water crossings. The three of us on the other hand being too courageous and adventurous or too foolish and overconfident headed in front in spite of everyone asking us not to. But we had to, we didn't have days in hand. They say, 'Himalayas show you the best views you can

ever see but at the same time, it has the power to take over you and destroy you if you get too over confident and cocky'.

Chang La showed its true colours that day and we realized it was a mistake to have headed out. We were only 5 riders at Chang La on that day as other motorcyclists had decided not to ride. The water level on roads was up to the headlamp at some places, thick slippery slush, constant rain, hailstorm and the elevation continuously increasing. Our fingers of the hands and feet were slowly losing sensation because of the cold. It came to a point where we got off our bikes and held the burning exhausts of our motorcycles to give a little heat to our hands and to actually be able to feel the handlebars. The fabric of the gloves burnt off totally with the exhaust heat and that's when there was relief.

**There's no better life than the one which makes you a storyteller!**

*ROUTE: Delhi-Amritsar-Pahalgam-Srinagar-Drass-Kargil-Zaskar-Kargil-Magnetic Hill-Leh-Nubra Valley-Pangong Tso-Upshi-Pang-Sarchu-Manali-Delhi*



# MOVERS AND SHAKERS

## **GUNJAN SAHA** 2015 (Krishna - 5)

You may recall that Welham actively took part in contributing towards community development. What would then be our CCA and SUPW today? This enabled Gunjan to design a 5 year long women empowerment project aiming to provide skill development and micro-entrepreneurial support to 50,000 women over a period of 5 years. Keep up the good cause, Gunjan.



## **PRANAY DAWAR** 2014 (Cauvery - 746)

'Byru' is Pranay's first fiction film which he directed since graduating from school. Byru is a Sikh nomad living on the streets of the urban society. For the moment, alcohol makes him the happiest person. But is it all that he's about?

We wish him many more successful films.



## **RAJNISH GOSWAMI** 1992 (Cauvery-208)

Congratulations for finishing yet another Ironman challenge. An Ironman Triathlon is one of a series of long-distance triathlon races organized by the World Triathlon Corporation (WTC), consisting of a 2.4-mile (3.86 km) swim, a 112-mile (180.25 km) bicycle ride and a marathon 26.22-mile (42.20 km) run, in that order and without a break. Rajnish also completed the IRONMAN on 2nd April in South Africa. The race includes a 3.8 kms swim; 180 kms cycling and a 42.2 kms marathon. The cut off is 17 hrs. and he did it in 14 hrs 56 mins. Cheers to Rajnish.



## **GURJYOT SINGH** 1991 (Cauvery - 230)

First Non Mayoite to be felicitated with Golden boot by Mayo alumni for 15 years of assistance to Mars (An event encouraging sporting activities and felicitating Teachers/class 4 employees). Keep the sporting spirit alive, Gurjyot.



## OBITUARY



### **Miss Hersillia Susie Oliphant**

On Thursday September 20, 1962 she passed away peacefully at the home of her niece, Mrs Louis Morris, Montpelier Square, London S.W. 7, in her 79th year.

Elder daughter of Mr and Mrs H.W. Oliphant of Playworth Hill, Redford, Nottinghamshire. Founder and Principal for 25 years of Welham Preparatory School, Dehra Dun, U.P. India.

## GONE BUT NOT LOST

After a protracted illness **Mr. Rajnish Yadav - 1992 (Ganges -195)**, left this world on 26th July 2017, for his heavenly abode. Our prayers are with the family and the Batch of 1992. May his soul rest in peace.

**Mr. Harpal Singh Dhaliwal - 1988 (Jamuna – 170)**, also after a protracted illness, left this world in the early morning of 3rd September 2017, for his heavenly abode. Our prayers are with the family and the Batch of 1988. May his soul rest in peace.

## DEAR FRIENDS

Hi

Let me first introduce myself. My name is Mohit Saigal, I have been the Vice President of WOBS for the last 2 years and in December this year I take over as the President of Welham Old Boys Society for the next 2 years.

For those of you who do not know me, I graduated from Welham Boys Schools as part of the class of 1990 (to the younger alumni: yes, some of us got through school/college without the Internet or smart phones). I received my bachelor's in Commerce and made my way into the world. I am currently running a manufacturing unit of Inorganic Pigments and am also an importer of Pet Food and Pet Grooming Products.

I thank Rupinder Singh Thind '88 for all his hard work as President these past two years. It was an absolute pleasure working under his Presidency. He gave more than a hundred percent in every task that he did. He certainly set a high bar and I hope to continue his standards. Rupinder will continue to serve as past president on the Alumni Executive Council, so he will be able to keep me from straying too far afield.

I also want to acknowledge the Executive Committee Members for their relentless effort and support these past 2 years. The WOBS secretariat under Mr Siddharth Rakshit has been doing a phenomenal job for the society. There has been an individual who has worked diligently and always in the background for the growth of the society and has helped to get our systems in place. You know who you are and thank you for everything. Finally a shout out to Gurjyot Singh aka 'Vasooli Bhai' !!! I have been fortunate to know Gurjyot over donkeys of years now and he is everywhere he is required and then some. His energy, drains ours trying to keep up pace with him.

I look forward to working with the

entire Welham Old Boys Society during my presidency.

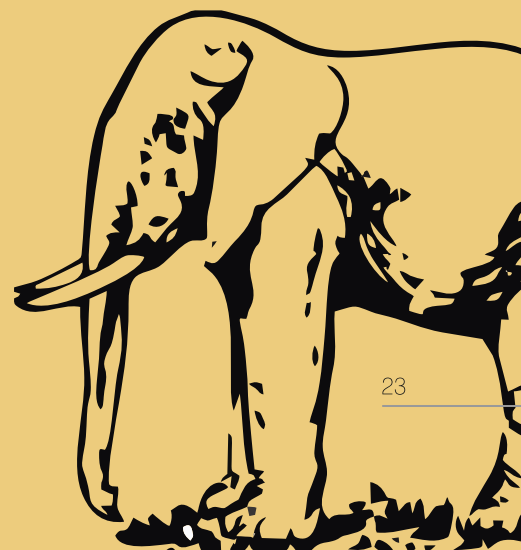
People ask why I volunteer my time to WOBS. When I was a younger alumnus, I did not fully realize the impact Welham Boys School had on my life. It was through WBS that I came to understand one should take advantage of opportunities, always challenge oneself, and always learn. Doing this has helped me achieve personal and professional success, and motivates me to give back — to the alumni and to the students.

I would be remiss in my duties if I did not mention the various WOBS Funds. Donating to the Funds is not just “sending money to the School” — it is an investment in the future of our community and world. We have now started a fund for the retired teachers and retired class 4 employees of school. It will be implemented soon. There is a small fund kept aside to take care of SUPW/CSR events that take place from time to time. Every Silver Jubilee passing out Batch has made a contribution to the Endowment Fund. There are many students at Welham who would not be able to attend without the assistance of the Endowment fund. If you have not visited Welham Boys School recently, I highly encourage you to do so, especially when students are on campus. I believe you would agree with me how passionate and incredible the students are these days, and that supporting them is a very worthwhile cause. I like to think of our donation to various causes as “paying it forward” and assuring that our school can continue to be a high-quality institution.

I consider the presidency as an honor because I get to represent all of you. I look forward to it. To that end, if you have any topics you would like to discuss with us, please feel free to reach out to [office@wobs.in](mailto:office@wobs.in)



MohitSaigal  
Vice President 2015 - 2017



THE PRESENT DINING HALL,  
**BETHANY**  
WAS ONCE THE HOSTEL FOR  
JUNIORS, BACK IN 1937



Published by

**Welham Old Boys' Society**

Write to us at

**riverside@wobs.in**

Design & Print

Xpressions Print & Graphics Pvt Ltd