

## ONA Day “Interaction 2001” (Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2001)

The morning of 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2001 was quite breezy. It threatened to blow away the *Shamianas* set up for the reception and registration counters outside the Pavate Hall (Auditorium). However, the young schoolgirls and boys who looked after different counters, did a good job of sticking to their seats. The Old Nabhaites trickled in gradually and the proceedings of the day began by 10.30am.



*The Girls & Boys did an excellent job at the Reception*

The audience consisted of Old Nabhaites and their families, the students passing out of School (classes X and XII), the staff members of the School and the ex-teachers of PPS.

The day started with the school assembly and prayer, conducted by **Mr GS Punia, Ex Headmaster, PPS**, followed by the school song.

A two minutes silence was observed as a mark of respect to the Old Nabhaites who left us during the year, namely **Mrs Gen Kulwant Singh**, Member, Board of Governors, **Lalinder Singh Dhindsa (B-52,1967)**, **Tarif Singh (J-53,1967)**, **Harpreet Mand (B-137,1969)**, **Dr Parminder Singh Pannu (B-840)**, **Dr Anoop Singh Dhindsa (B-281)**, **Jasbir Singh Gill (J-43,1966)** and **Laxmi Narain Bansal (J-83,1969)**.

The first part of the morning session was conducted by **Naveen Talwar (S-71)**, President, ONA. He focused his address on the students passing out of PPS. The thrust of his talk was that ONA was not just a simple association of individuals but it signified an association of individuals with a particular spirit inculcated in them while in PPS. He gave numerous examples of the spirit of bravery shown by Old Nabhaites when duty called. Whether it was **Rajwinder Cheema (R-8,1964)**, **Capt Manjinder Singh Bhinder(R-505,1984)**, **Capt Harjeet Aulakh (S-297,1978)**, **Harpreet Mand (B-137,1969)**, **Maj Harpal Singh(R-173,1973)** or **DSP Rupinder Teja (J-139,1970)**, they all exhibited the finest qualities that can be asked of an officer. They all became martyrs to noble causes. This is the type of spirit Old Nabhaites possess and the ONA is an association of such people.



*Pictures of the audience and the stage. The families of Capt Harjeet Aulakh and Harpreet Mand are seated in the front row on the left.*



*View of the Stage*

The Headmaster **Mr MS Bedi (J-82)**, in his report, gave a very encouraging account of the School in the past one year. The School has shown allround progress in sports by winning the Inter Public School Hockey and Athletics Meets and also the Sub Juniors Hockey Meet. In academics the School has produced the best

results in the last decade and more. The School children have exhibited a very good performance in debating skills and horse riding etc. in various competitions.



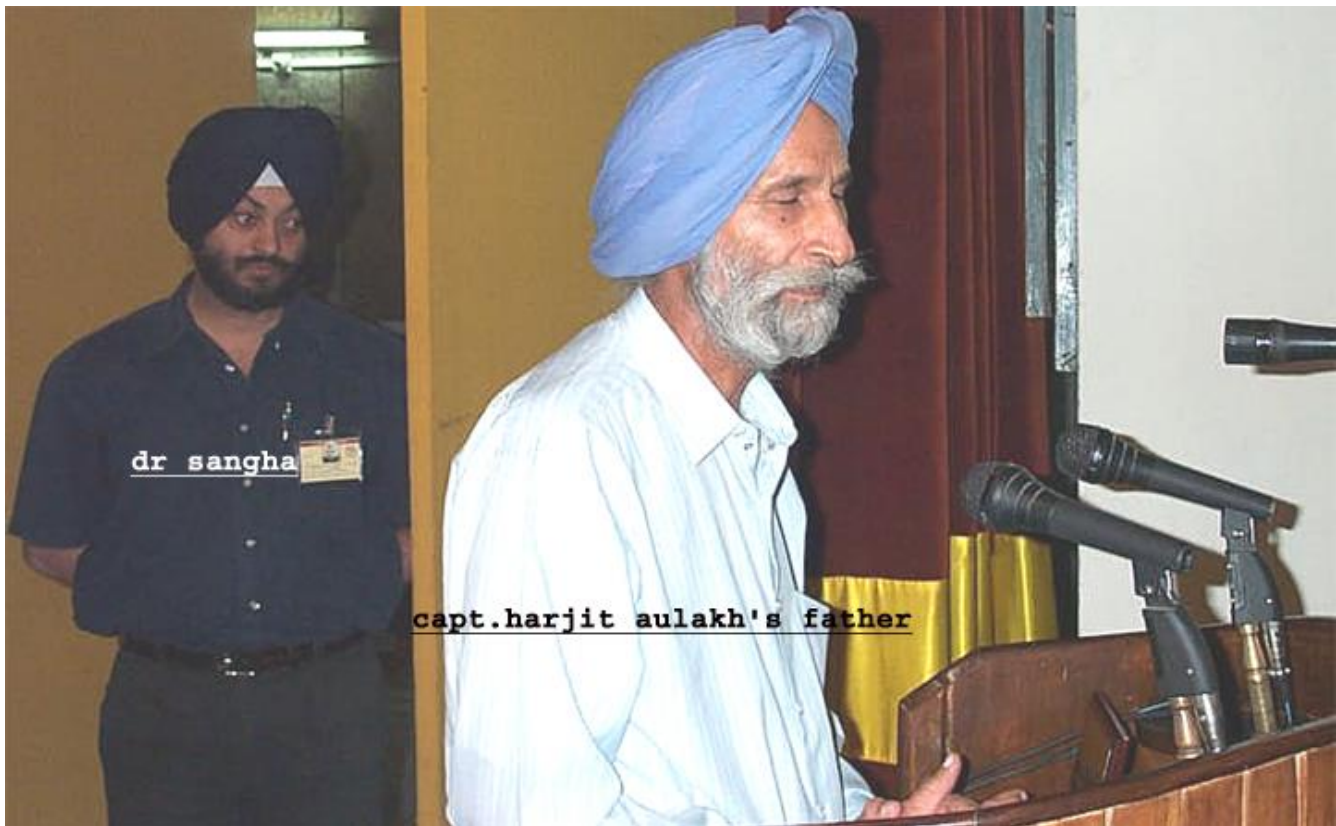
*The Headmaster Mr MS Bedi (J-82,1969) addresses the audience.*

The keynote address was given by **Kanwar Sandhu (J-106)**, Editor, Hindustan Times, Chandigarh and Member of the Board of Governors of PPS. His speech was full of wit and humour. He recited small incidents and anecdotes, which happen in the dining hall, in the dormitories, playing fields and elsewhere, which help the School students in becoming what they are, when they pass out of PPS. All these are great learning processes outside the classroom, which only a residential school like PPS can provide. His speech was acknowledged with a thundering applause from the audience.



*Kanwar Sandhu (J-106, 1970) delivering the Keynote address*

The last part of this session was dedicated to honouring martyrs **Harpreet Mand (B-137)** and **Capt Harjeet Singh Aulakh (S-297)**'s families. The citations were read out by **Naveen Talwar (S-71)** whereas **Kanwar Sandhu (J-106)** and **MS Bedi (J-82)** honoured the families with plaques, which read, "*The Old Nabhaites Association is proud of the achievements, dedication, commitment and sacrifice made by Capt Harjeet Singh Aulakh / Harpreet Mand.*"



*Aulakh's father said some touching words to the audience*

**Capt Harjeet Aulakh (S-297)**'s father made a short but touching speech saying that his son could have died due to sickness or any other cause but they were proud that he had died for his country. He said death was something which lay in the hands of "Waheguru".

**Harpreet Mand (B-137)**'s family donated a trophy to the School in the memory of **Harpreet Mand (B-137)**.

After tea break, the Old Nabhaites reassembled for the closed-door ONA general body meeting. The account of this is given elsewhere in this issue.

As the ONA Day had been given a theme name "Interaction 2001", an Inter House contest of Old Nabhaites was conducted by **Dr Jashanjot Singh (S-52)**. A Questionnaire had been prepared which was distributed to the four Houses - Suttlej, Ravi, Beas and Jumna. The team or House, which submitted the maximum number of correct answers by dinnertime, was to win the contest. The Questionnaire, which is printed in this issue was so prepared that it tested the knowledge of Old Nabhaites from different batches on their awareness and knowledge of PPS and its history. It was interesting to see the Old Nabhaites taking this contest very seriously and running around the School campus looking for clues and answers. The contest was not confined to a single place or short duration.

During the second session, the ladies of the School led by **Mrs MS Bedi** conducted Tambola for the families of Old Nabhaites.

After the second session everyone moved to the dining hall for the **Headmaster's Lunch**. The aroma of food emanating from the dining hall brought back memories of the School days and had the gastric juices of the ONs' running.



*Moving for Lunch from Auditorium to JK Kate Dining Hall*





*Old Nabhaites having Lunch with Schoolboys waiting for guests to finish*

After lunch, on request of the Headmaster, **Mr MS Bedi (J-82)**, Old Nabhaites went to their respective Houses with their families and spent some time talking to the present students of the School.

At 3pm, the Old Nabhaites and their families were treated to an excellent display of Horse-Riding skills and a wonderful performance by the School Band on the School grounds.





This was followed by a traditional Past Vs Present Basketball match at the new complex built next to the new Junior School Dining Hall. Although the Old Nabhaites were huffing and puffing, they did show sparks of talent and brilliance here and there during the match. With the joint effort of many Old Nabhaites and the obliging umpires, the Past was able to beat the Present as usual. The teams were introduced to **Jora Singh Bhullar (J-16)**, the most senior Old Nabhaite present at the occasion. An Aerobics display by the School girls on the Basketball courts added a lot of colour and vibrancy to the occasion.



*Teams met by Jora Singh (j-18)above and Match in progress*





*Match and aerobics display by girls*

The high tea was held in the Junior School lawns. It provided ample opportunity for interaction amongst the Old Nabhaites themselves and with the staff and students of the School.



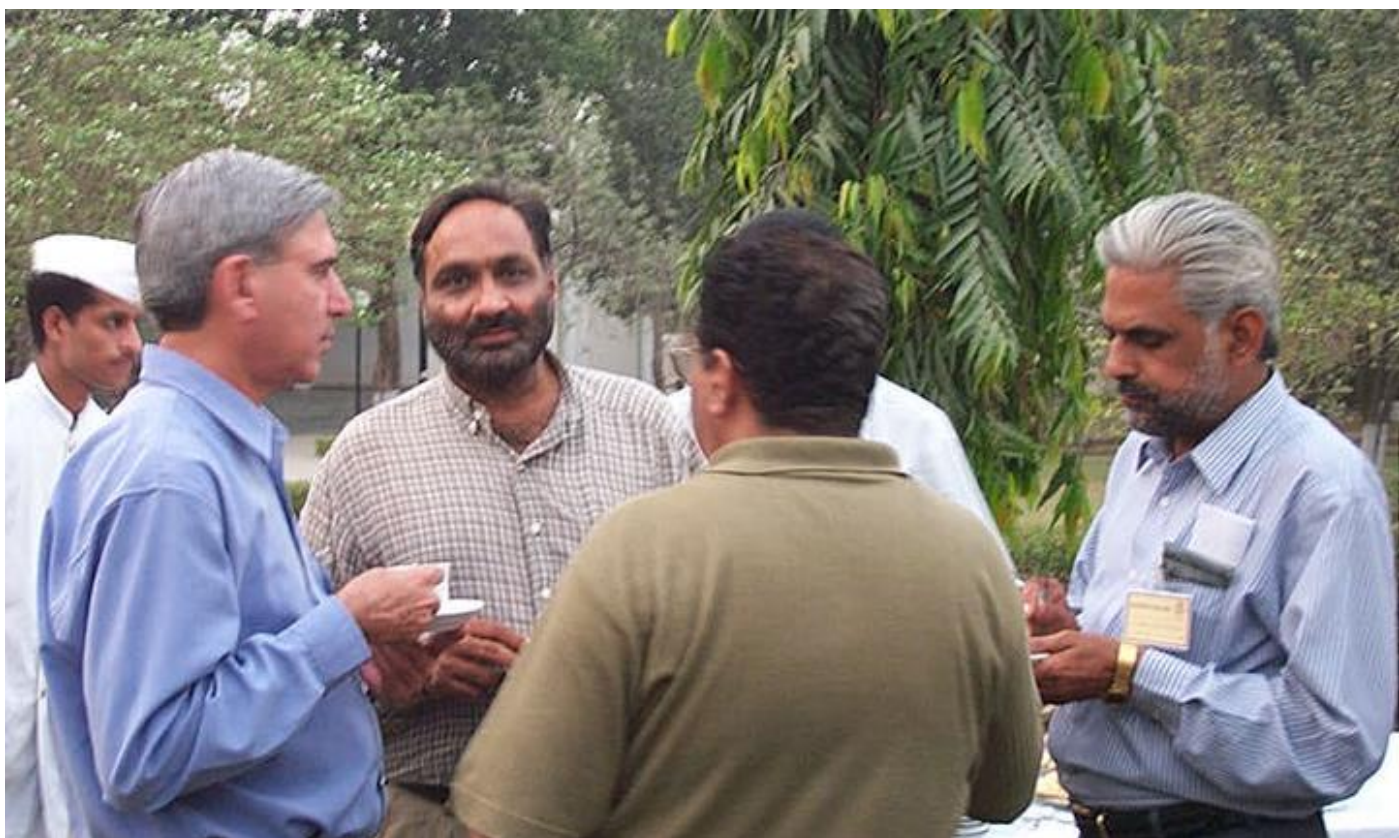
*Ex-President Navin Talwa(S-71)r and Jasbir Rayait with wives at tea*



*Guests having tea*



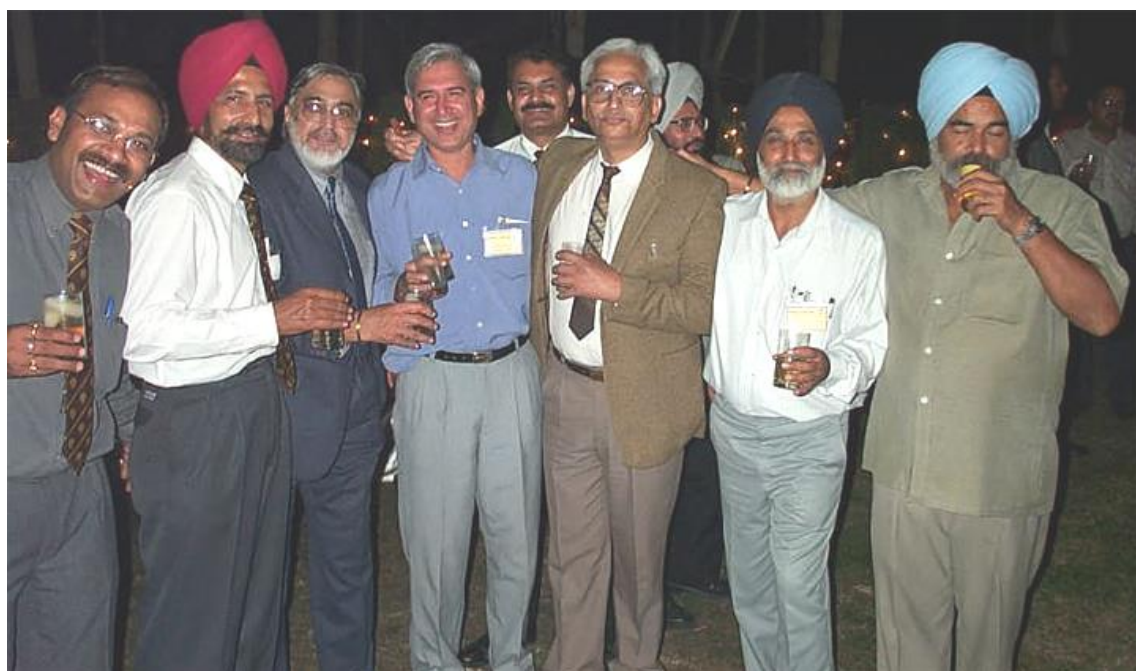
*Jagmohan Raju (S-125) with Iqbal Kooner (R-18)*



*Gen Secretary Col BS Grewal(S-50), Col Bhagwan Singh R-16)and Jaivir Dhariwal (R-51)*

In the evening, dinner was held at the ONA Complex next to the School grounds. It was a splendid affair. Old Nabhaites and their families and the School staff with their families were smartly turned out. The spirits were high. There was a Slide Show sponsored by **Gurdarshan Singh Gill (S-587)**, Bhatinda, of all the ONA meetings held during the year. An excellent DJ arranged by the Nabha Chapter, livened up the atmosphere. Soon everyone, including the ladies, was on the floor. The judges **Mrs Bedi** and others found it difficult to judge the best dancers, as there were so many good dancers on the floor. The results of the Questionnaire were announced on the floor. Ravi House bagged the first prize, thanks to **Iqbal Kooner** (ON and School teacher). **Anil Choudhary (J-20)** who worked very hard for Jumna House could not believe that his House got Second Prize and that Ravi had beaten them. Sutlej House was Third, with Beas House failing to submit its answers even after extended submission time.

*Below Pictures are from the evening dinner and fellowship among Old Nabhaites*







*Enjoying the good times with DJ ,Dinner, Drinks and Dance*

Time flew quickly and soon we were bidding good-bye to each other promising to meet again. The seniors left early while the youngsters continued to dance to the tune of the DJ well past midnight.

Adios “**Interaction 2001**”!

Hope to see you on the next ONA Day.

*Gurdarshan Singh Gill (S-587)*