

A Report on Bangalore Banni.....

Friends, the weekend gone by was surely a wonderful one. The action was ON at Bangalore's Eagle Ridge..... Small cute little resort with cottages tucked away amongst many trees which was just about right as the Doctor ordered for all of us have a BLAST.

There were 13 of our batch mates (finally) at the event. Sequenced as per Roll No. (82xyz), the list read as :

Amitabh Satyam,
Ashutosh Bijoor,
Chishty,
Dheeraj Sanghi,
Jyoti Swarup,
KJ Singh,
Manoj Nair,
Pramath Raj Sinha,
Sharad Agarwal,
Suhaz Nerurkar,
Tripathi Dhirendra ,
Upendra Baghel and
Uttara

Apart from the above there were 4 families (including 8 Kidoos). Of course, we also had a guest appearance by P Kumar (with his wife and son) for the night function of 1st April.

Friday 31st March – Junta rolled into the resort at various times starting from the afternoon till late night. The early birds had a good swim and a short game of water volley ball. Evening, we had a great bull session around a bon fire – which became as “hot” as the topic of “hockey and how the game is dying because of European influence”. Trust us guys, it was just like the good old times. This was the time of “catching up” for most people.

And Lo –Behold - just like the “K” days, the bull session did not wind up with dinner, it merely shifted to one of the cottages. The late night (1 pm) walk around the nice venue was a neat reminder of the late night walks to tempo stand. Of course, the juices flowed softly and hence the thirst was always quenched.

Saturday 1st April – despite the very late previous night, the day started rather early. 7 am and everyone was up and about. After a quick chai shai, followed 2 rounds of Phatta Cricket – many old bones did creak – but it was great fun. Game 1 – saw The Bang Gang being narrowly beaten by Rest of the World team in a nail biting finish. And the Game 2 – which was a mix and match team also was full of fun. Despite the receding hairlines, grey hair, over the hill age, paunches and all that, there were many acrobatics and divings up on display. Phew, it was great news that no medical assistance was needed ☺ Uttara was the “balancing factor” and the sporting person that she is – also played with her heart (bowled and batted and fielded as well).

Phatta and Breakfast / refreshing done, we got into the centre piece agenda for the day. The “Brainstorming Session” was arranged in a formal Conference Hall and the session which was scheduled to be a 2 hour session pre lunch went on to a almost a 5 hour serious discussion / deliberation and was indeed very interesting. The great thing was that despite the group starting with each person having their own perspective / view on the issue, finally at the end of the session there was COMPLETE unanimity in the proposal which the BB team has come up with (attached as a separate file). **The icing on the cake was that we have come up with a pledge from this 13 member group to commit 50 L for this ambitious 5 Crore project outlay being proposed by the BBG (Bangalore Banni Gang).** With the lead having come from this group, we do hope that the rest of the journey would become that much easier to raise the funds needed.

After the satisfying “Brainstorming Session” the gang settled for some nice games and then the night party began. “Aur Bees Saal Baad” was the theme for the night. With the help of a make up artist who was available at site, all the members present got the touch up and the OLG AGE HOME was all of a sudden full of Oldies. It was great to see how each of us is likely to look in another couple of decades ☺ Photos of the same will follow shortly – rest assured.

The bhoole bichde photo viewing session was very interesting too – with some photos / individuals warranting all of us to rack our brains to answer “Hey Who is that???”.... The evening also saw a formalized “A glimpse into what I have been doing for the past 2 Decades” which was also extremely interesting. And like the previous night, one more major Bull Session moved over to the room. And once again it was not until 3:30 pm that the last of the BBG went to bed.

Sunday the 1st April – The departures started fairly early with the 1st check out being at 6 am. But most of the junta hung on till early afternoon. The Kids had a GREAT time, the ladies did not get too bored and of course, the BBGang – we all felt bonded extremely well. The bonding and friendships that we “renewed” would indeed be something all the 13 of us would cherish for very very long. Meeting old friends once again – the connectivity and bonding happened at a very pleasantly surprising HIGH level. That was possibly the biggest take away from the event.

Junta, it was also decided that this kind of a REUNION should be done more often (not like once in 20 years). **So, the BB Gang decided that the next Reunion is to take place on the 2nd Feb / 3rd Feb / 4th Feb 2007) – this time Sharad Agarwal (on behalf of the Delhi guys) has come forward to arrange and host the event.** So, PLEASE block these dates right away. Let us land up in BIG NUMBERS. Like the Olympics, we have already handed over the Reunion Banner (which we had at BB) to Sharad at the Closing Ceremoney.

And now we move Over to Delhi..... Lets meet next year and have some more greater fun.

Manoj Nair

On Behalf of the Bangalore Banni Gang (BBG)

PS to Junta : Please note that Photos shall follow shortly.

PS to BBG : All those whose cameras were clicking away, please have photos on their cameras please upload them soonest.....

Cheers.