



Meet HP Goel

Talk show hostess Oprah Winfree often commented that “everyone has a story”. That is certainly the case with HP Goel. Read on.

HP is a relative newcomer to the McKinney Duplicate Bridge Club. He was born in “a backward village of India with no roads, no electricity or running water”. His parents had no formal education and a few months before HP’s birth, his father migrated to the big city of Calcutta looking for job opportunities. It wasn’t an easy transition for his father who spent his first night sleeping on the railway platform because he had nowhere to go. A thief stole his sandals and meager belongings while he slept, causing him to travel into the city the next morning with no shoes, no belongings, and no money. In spite of that rough start, he eventually found work and was able to send for his family. He did very well for himself and was fond of narrating the story of how he arrived barefoot and penniless in the big city. Today that family remains close and numbers over 60 individuals. It is probably from his father’s work ethic and drive that HP has been so successful himself.

HP is the second child and oldest son in a family of 8 children. His father wanted him to have the education and opportunities he himself never had. Therefore, HP was enrolled in an English medium school even though he spoke no English at the time. Regardless of that handicap, he slowly picked up the language and excelled in studies, graduating with a commerce major and doing post-graduate work in business management from a premier college institution. It was during this period that HP first learned bridge but was unable to pursue that interest for many years.

Over the next few years HP “worked as a stockbroker making millions in the stock market, losing billions, and going broke,” he confesses. He decided it was time for a career adjustment and turned to teaching where he prepared students for college entrance exams (like our SAT) and then taught finance subjects to business management scholars at the post-graduate level. He continued a career in education for several decades.

HP married in 1976 and is still happily married to his wife Manju today. They have two sons who both majored in engineering at premier institutions in India. Both sons immigrated to the U.S. and did post-graduate business management programs, settling in the Dallas area.

Once HP retired, he and his wife came to Texas to be close to their sons and families providing them with 3 grandchildren. It was here in North Texas that HP was able to pick up bridge again two years ago. He found his way to the McKinney Duplicate Bridge Club where he plays twice a week and has quickly improved and extended his knowledge of the game. He got his Ace of Clubs (0-5 masterpoints) within a year and played on a Swiss team at the Dallas regional tournament in 2022 where they won first place on two consecutive days!

HP and his partners continue to do well at MDBC and often finish first or second in the standings. He also loves brain exercises like sudoku, wordle, riddles, and puzzles. He is a fun and warm person who has a life motto of "If you can't help anyone, at least don't hurt anyone." HP is a reminder to all of us as to what can be achieved in life with enough drive and dedication to succeed. His father would be very proud!

Submitted by Nancy Connors, MDBC Secretary