

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

I have known Udaya for 3 years towards the end of my career as Deputy Headmaster of The Doon School Dehradun, India.

Udaya's parents were concerned as diabetes ran in the family and they wanted him to keep fit and lose weight. Being a mountain cyclist myself I invited him to bring his cycle to school and ride with me and some other members of the teaching faculty after taking permission from his Housemaster. Thus started a long relationship built around cycling in The Doon Valley.

Udaya's dedication and single-mindedness was apparent from the beginning and so we put him in charge of the cycling club at school.

He kept the shed clean and tidy and helped maintain the bikes in ship shape. His drive and interest in the machines were developed through reading and his perpetual inquiries that often drove us teachers crazy.

Gradually as the months and miles ticked by Udaya's was able to attract other boys to the club that had been exclusively a staff group. Once the boys came in and the club grew we decided on our first expedition.

Udaya helped in the planning, preparation of our five day expedition. He helped load the accompanying van and was involved in loading the van, getting our meals ready at the end of each day and was the glue that kept our 10 member team together.

We rode 250 km in hilly terrain from Dehradun to Rishikesh and back through the forested foothills-and achieved an altitude of 2000 mtrs.

Over the next two years we did another two long expeditions in the hills where Udaya was the boy in charge and he helped me and two other faculty members in the organisation and execution of the trip. His leadership skills were exemplary.

I signed off from the school in 2018 with this being my last expedition and my most memorable because I had got to know this extremely driven and disciplined young man who made it all possible. In the course of three years Udaya had turned into a very fit and capable endurance rider and his blood sugar was well within limits.

I know he continued to ride after I left school as did I but I still miss those early morning training rides with Udaya and the boys.

I would recommend Udaya with enthusiasm for his dedication and spirit of adventure and his leadership abilities.

Philip Michael Burrett

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