



The logo is a shield-shaped emblem with a black background and a white border. At the top, a white triangle points upwards, with white dashed lines radiating outwards. The text 'AIZAWL THUNDERS' is written in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font across the top. In the center, the number '20' is rendered in a large, white, outlined font. Below the '20', the word 'YEARS' is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. To the left of the '20' is the text 'GOOD VIBES' and to the right is 'SINCE 1999', both in white, sans-serif font. At the bottom of the shield, there is a white icon of two crossed pistons. At the bottom of the shield, white dashed lines radiate outwards.

AIZAWL THUNDERS

GOOD VIBES

20

SINCE 1999

YEARS



FOREWORD



20 years, two decades, is a long time. So, it's indeed a blessing that the wheels of the Aizawl Thunders continue to roll on, through good times and bad. Aizawl Thunders, the Aizawl Bullet Club, is the oldest existing Royal Enfield Club in the country, and that by itself is a massive accomplishment. The journey of the club did not start with a fixed destination, but the journey of the club is the destination in itself. Where will this road take us? We don't know about tomorrow, but with this book, we welcome you to join in our journey so far.

I have seen and experienced much down the years in my journey as a member of the Aizawl Thunders. The club started when Royal Enfield 'Bullets' were not popular and anyone who owned one was the butt of many a joke. Yet we hung on. We decompressed our engines, we kicked them to life and we rode on. Each time we wanted to give up, we rode on. We stuck together, and rode on. This is the spirit that has brought us this far. We don't know if it has inspired others, but it sure has inspired us. The dreams we made a reality, the joys we experienced and the sorrows we had to embrace in this 20-year journey, have been worth every second.

This book is an attempt to relive those moments. Moments that made us grow up, that struck a chord within, and reminded us of our humanity. Emotional, exciting, unforgettable moments. It is when you string these together that you see that the Aizawl Thunders is more than a motorcycling club; it's a family. It's the very heartbeat of our lives.

This book is dedicated to all those that added colour to this club, those that have gone before and those who are still here. And to those who come after us: I hope it serves as an inspiration to you.

Aizawl Thunders. Forever Young.

"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me."

Lalrinchhana Tochhawng (R.Cho)

Chairman – North East Alliance of Riders (NEAR) 2019

Chairman – Editorial Board, Aizawl Thunders 20th Anniversary Souvenir Committee

20th Anniversary Souvenir Committee

Lalrinchhana Tochhawng

J. Lalmuanpuia

Lalbiaksanga

Keddy Malsawmtluanga

Lalrindika

Zoramthanga

Jire Lalawmpuia Sailo

Manliana

T.B.C. Lalniliana



THE AIZAWL BULLET CLUB



Aizawl Thunders – the Aizawl Bullet Club is the oldest existing Royal Enfield Bullet club in India. The first official and recorded ride was on the 5th of November 1999 that is now recognised as the Rising Day. To sound savvier, they adopted the moniker Aizawl Thunders in 2003. The club did not have anything formalised in its initial years; it was a place where the few Bullet owners of Aizawl got together, shared their experiences, talked about motorcycles and rode to random destinations. There were no set rules. It was a place where members helped each other with the technicalities of their motorcycles and sourcing rare spare parts.

The first election to the Offices of the club was held in 2003. For two years, the

club had a President, a Vice President, a General Secretary, an Assistant Secretary, a Treasurer and a Financial Secretary. In 2005 the members decided that the set-up was too clichéd and decided to elect three Chiefs. It has remained so to this day.

In 2004 the club set down its first set of rules and a Constitution drafted by a few members of the club. The Constitution of the club has since, seen numerous amendments and additions probably making it one of the longest Constitutions of any biking club.

On one of the rides in 2003, a collection was made for refreshments on the road and there was leftover money after all the expenses. Two members suggested that they contribute a little more and give whatever

they collected to an orphanage on the way. This started what Aizawl Thunders is known for all over Mizoram – Charity Rides.

The Aizawl Thunders did their first official charity ride on Independence Day 2003, to Kolasib, a town 90kms away from Aizawl to visit and make donations to the Salvation Army Blind Home and the Audrene Schism Children's Home. Over time, the Aizawl Thunders came to be known for their Charity Rides done on Independence Day, Christmas, Mizoram Peace Accord Days across the state. Today Aizawl Thunders is seen as a group with a purpose to serve and help in whatever ways they can, however small it may be. The club's rides, astride their Royal Enfield steeds, have become more purposeful every passing year endearing

them to the public and the different departments of the government. Though the Aizawl Thunders have come to be known for their Charity Rides, at heart they are still bikers seeking adventure. The rides have become longer and gone further. The Aizawl Thunders now regularly ride beyond the state, and even country borders; testing the machines and themselves to the limit.

A well-known painter of the state once observed, "Aizawl Thunders to me was a laughable entity when they started out. My whole take on it is completely different now, it has surely earned my heartfelt respect".

Since 1999, the Aizawl Bullet Club has evolved and it will keep evolving, their wheels rolling to the beat of thunder.

An individual can register himself with the club and become an ad-hoc member.

For an ad hoc member to become a Full Member, he/she must compulsorily participate in at least 5 (five) rides undertaken by the organisation. Taking into consideration the participation and exhibited behaviour on such occasions, the executive committee is empowered to accept or reject the status of full membership to such ad hoc members. The installation of full members is to take place on the occasions of Hmelthar Lawm Ride and Rising Day where a newly installed member is required to pay the membership fee of Rs 1000 (one thousand) after which he may, and is expected to, purchase and don the exclusive Aizawl Thunders Outfit (Waistcoat, T-shirt, Sticker, Flag, etc).

The executive committee is empowered to bestow a lifetime membership to members it considers worthy of the title. It may also bestow 'Honorary Lifetime Membership' to non-members of the organisation should it deem fit.

An annual election to three posts of leaders, each designated as 'Chief' will be held annually in the month of January.

Only a member who has been a full member for five consecutive years and a member of the executive committee for at least three terms preceding the election may be elected as Chief.

The fate of members who are found exhibiting undesirable behaviour in an intoxicated state in any Aizawl Thunders programme may be considered by the

executive committee if judged necessary.

The fate of members whose behaviour is deemed discreditable for the Club or whose actions are considered to have brought dishonour to the Club will be decided by the executive committee.

Membership of persons who fail to participate in three consecutive activities of the Club or fail to make three consecutive compulsory contributions will be revoked.

A member of the Aizawl Thunders is strictly prohibited to become a member of any other Royal Enfield Club.

The family of any deceased member will receive financial help (inralna) of an amount fixed by the executive committee to be contributed by all the members.

A member faced with insurmountable circumstances or debilitating illnesses may be aided by the Club at the discretion of the executive committee.

A member with grounds for congratulatory or felicitous actions may as such be done so with an amount decided beforehand by the executive committee. The nature and participation of such felicitous nature is to be decided by the executive committee prior to the event.

The finances of the Club are to be audited before the annual election of Chiefs. Auditors will be appointed by the executive committee.

Any change in the club logo or its colours at one's discretion is strictly prohibited.



The founder President of Aizawl Thunders - the Aizawl Bullet Club **James Lalhmingliana** was the very first person to be conferred a lifetime membership of the club.



Rockfeller Zothanpuia



Jeffrey Zohmingthanga



R. Thanpuia



John V. Royte



The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) set up its first center in Northeast India at Aizawl to help combat the scourge of AIDS. They had started a three-year project called the Co-ordinated Response to HIV/AIDS through Capacity Building and Awareness (CHARCA). The Aizawl Thunders were requested by this body to have a rally on June 26 to commemorate and spread awareness about the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. The members of the club rode for the cause, bearing all the expenses themselves.



2013 saw the flag of the Aizawl Thunders fly higher than ever before, or since. David Zohmangaiha, the first Mizo Everester, unfurled the flag of the Aizawl Thunders at the summit of Mount Everest.

The year also saw the usual flurry of rides including a ride to Rider Mania at Sohra in Meghalaya, a new member initiation ride to Lungleng Village and the Independence Day Charity Ride to four villages and towns.



