



Established in 1936

# The Doon School

# WEEKLY

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## The Legacy of Arthur Foot

*Saurav Sethia and Abhaas Shah interviewed Brigadier (retd.) Dennis Williams who recounted his schooldays when A.E. Foot was his Headmaster*

**The Doon School Weekly (DSW): What brings you to Doon?**

**Dennis Williams (DNW):** I wanted to see for myself the school in India where Arthur Foot had been Headmaster. He was also the Headmaster of my school, The Ottershot School. Foot came to India in 1935. He knew nothing about the country or the people or the language. All he knew was that it was a school amidst the mountains, and he was intrigued. A member of the 'Alpine Club,' Foot came to India and this school with the hope that he would be able to do some climbing, which he could not do back in England. Of course, later, he never had the time to climb or do any trekking anyway. He was just too busy for that and a very hard worker too. He left the country after Partition. Very recently, Gurdial Singh, a former teacher at The Doon School presented me with two *Weeklys*. In these were written some parting words to Mr. Foot, and surprisingly enough, what the teachers and the students had to say about him then, was what my colleagues and I felt in school, and feel today.

**DSW: Tell us about The Ottershot School.**

**DNW:** Arthur Foot started the school in Surrey and this school was unique; unique because it was not like the other public schools, which only rich people could afford. It was a school which children from a very broad spectrum could attend. There were people who were so poor that they wouldn't have to pay a thing at all, and there were people who were so rich that they would not mind paying a bit more to the school. This was the post-World War period, when our country was bankrupt. There was no money for the government to run the country, and in this school, there were children from completely different backgrounds and contrasting perspectives. Foot handled the school very well. Our school was beautiful. We held our assembly and schools in an Italian mansion.

**DSW: Have you travelled elsewhere in India?**

**DNW:** Yes, in fact, I met my wife first in India in the Nilgiri Hills. My wife is German. But, I didn't know German, and she had forgotten her English, so we spoke to each other in French (*laughs*). That was in 1969, actually, after which I came to India three more times. And

now, I am the first Old Boy of my school to have visited The Doon School.

**DSW: What was it about Arthur Foot that you really admired?**

**DNW:** I admired him for all that he was, and all that he inspired us to be. He was a man with a very strong sense of justice. I recall an instance when two boys were quarrelling with each other. This is one of those situations where you never get a satisfactory answer. One student blames the other, and the other blames the other, and the fight goes on. According to Foot, fighting was prohibited in school and he punished both the boys severely. He disliked boys who thought that they had an upper hand over the rest because of being born in a certain family or being good at sports. He would do everything in his power to squash that boy's pride. Ours was a school where everyone was treated equally. He always thought that public speaking was tough. He would look at the top left corner of the hall when he was giving a speech because he could never focus on any one person. But, it has to be said, he was a great public speaker too. He loved his gardens and tended to his roses regularly.

**DSW: Did you notice any similarities between Doon and Ottershot?**

**DNW:** Well, yes, though very few, since we are talking about a sixty-year time lapse. In our time, we spoke only when we were spoken to, whereas now, one may go to a teacher and speak at leisure. Besides that, well, we had toys like you, the concept of which was taken from Winchester. We also had the concept of social work. Our day always commenced with household chores (being a cricketer, mine always dealt with preparing the outfield or pitch) and we constructed our own pavilion, much like your Rose Bowl, which was, I am sure you know, constructed by your students. Apart from that, we were also given buff cards, very similar to your yellow cards. And, to tell you the truth, we never really developed any traditions. Thirty-two years is simply not long enough to develop any. In a way, it was a blessing in disguise, because nothing was imposed on us when we went to school and nothing was imposed on the new boys either. It is a sad thing that tradition often breeds bullies. Foot, through his lasting values of social service, always said that 'nobody is beyond help.'

*(continued on page 2)*

## REGULARS

### HINDI POETRY

The results of the **Inter-House Hindi Poetry Recitation Competition** are as follows:

**First:** Skand Goel (125 points)

**Second:** Kanishk Aggarwal and Saurabh Tiwari (118 points)

**Third:** Rohan Mehra (114 points)

**Consolation:** Shoumitra Shrivastva (111 points)

The following were the House positions:

**First:** Jaipur House

**Second:** Kashmir House

**Third:** Tata House

**Fourth:** Oberoi House

**Fifth:** Hyderabad House

### PAPER PROVIDER

Anant Johri has been appointed **Boy-in-Charge of the Paper Recycling SUPW**. Congratulations!

### LISTING THE SCHOOL

Ankur Saxena has been appointed **Boy-in-Charge of the School List** for the year 2007. Congratulations!

### TECH STUFF

Angad Singh and Naman Goel have been appointed **Boys-in-Charge of the IT Society** for the forthcoming year.

Angad Singh and Vinayak Thapliyal have been appointed **Boys-in-Charge of Website Maintenance SUPW**.

Congratulations!

### MUSICAL MUSE

The Music Society hosted a vocal recital by Ritesh and Rajesh Mishra. This **SPICMACAY** presentation took place on Saturday, March 3.

### WELCOME

We welcome to the school community, **Sanjay Sengupta (SSG)** who will be teaching Mathematics. He comes to us after a twelve-year stint at Mussoorie International School. We hope he has a fruitful tenure

### NEW RESPONSIBILITIES

At the beginning of this term, Pankaj Joshi took over as **Head of the Mathematics Department**. Harendra Chakhiyar assumed responsibility as the **Assistant Housemaster** of Hyderabad House.

On March 1, Vinay Pande took over as **IB Coordinator**, and Arvind Chalasani became the **CAS Coordinator**. We wish them all a fruitful tenure.

### ACADEMIC CUP

The following were the positions for the Academic Cup in 2006:

**First:** Oberoi

**Second:** Kashmir

**Third:** Hyderabad

**Fourth:** Tata

**Fifth:** Jaipur.

(continued from page 1)

**DSW:** Do you have any message for the community?

**DNW:** Yes, in fact I do. Today, I was sitting at one of the tables at the CDH and I asked a boy what he thought was most important thing about The Doon School, and he said "Friendship." I completely agree. I think friendship is certainly the most important aspect of school life. When we are friends, there is a synergy in our character and we readily help and cooperate with each other. Today, I would do anything to meet my old friends. The memory of my friends is what I cherish most about school.

### CAREER CALL

The Careers notice board will focus on **Bio-Technology** as a career option this week. All those interested should look up the board.

### beg your pardon by Tanuj Bhramar



### doonspeak

Serving at meal times is...

We can become waiters if nothing else. – **Vansh Nathani**

It brings in the value of service before self. – **Anant Jangwal**

It is a time-honoured tradition and should never be done away with. – **Rohan Gupta**

It teaches us community service. – **Angad Singh**

It is unfair and people should get food for themselves. – **Sudeep Pandey**



### Opinion Poll

Do you feel that boys serving at table in the CDH is a good practice?

Yes

49

No

57

106 students participated in the poll

**Next Week's Question:** Have you liked the selection of Saturday night movies so far?

# Trials and Tribulations

Armand Khambatta

“...The era of mass movements was initiated with the beginning of the third phase...”

Mass movements...third phase...Hmm...They have three phases...Hmm... mass movement. Three phases .Like VLCC. 18,000 bucks and you lose 15 kilos of mass in three weeks. I dunno...not worth it I guess....18,000 gets you an Ipod I think. Just the Nano version. Hmm...too small, too small.... But really, without the battery life it...

“A new political situation was maturing during the war years between 1914 and 1918... Nationalism gathered its forces. Leaders went blue in the...”

Blue. In the face. Blue. Hmm. God, Mr Burret had a horrible blue tie on at Assembly...I think it had spots and checks. Spots and checks. Spots and blooming checks? What kind of person wears spots and checks? But he wore a really nice maroon one with stripes the other day...

Why can I not concentrate?? I think it's the tea. But it was without milk. It was without sugar too. So it was without milk or sugar. That's right, no milk, no sugar. It was void of the substances referred to as milk and sugar. Mmhmm... I hate milk... It's too... milky...Stop. Twelve chapters to go. Twelve chapters. But I'm on chapter twelve. Good thing. But I started with chapter twelve...That's eleven chapters to go. Oh s\*\*t!

Must... study... need...more tea... “...Economic situation...”...sniff... “Post War Inflation...”... grunt ... snore...bang..damn it. Fell asleep...mumble mumble... Blundering nincompoop. It's only 2 am. Reassure, reassure... one chapter down, eleven to go...

What am I doing?

“Groaning under deepening poverty and high taxation, the peasantry led...increasing economic hardships compounded by droughts, high prices and epidemics...”

Wash, rinse, lather... got it. Snore...crash... It broke....I broke it...second damn cup...

What do I do? What do I do? I'm reading but nothing's going in....Look, look I'm reading ...then read, goddamnit.

This isn't funny anymore...

“... Vernacular literature played a major role in the rediscovery of India's past and in reaffirming the ability of self governance...”...profound, profound. “...in 1885 the Indian National Congress was formed after initiative from A.O.Hume...”

Hume...Hmm...Hume...*Dhoom machale dhoom machale dhoom*...What? My ears deceive me...Surely not Pranay singing at this unearthly hour...Aaaaaah...Rawat Band. Rawat Band? Who the hell gets married, tortured by this raucous troupe at two in the morning? I could tell them what to do with their trumpets... but...“The Indian Legislative Councils were to be...”...Surely there is some legislation on this ridiculous noise at this ridiculous hour...Mr Mehrotra wrote something about it in... No, no...That was that funny abstract poem...makes sense now, though. If I fail I know who to blame it on...

“A hugely successful uprising followed in '42”, wherein every single member of the disbanded Rawat Band was captured and tried for crimes against humanity. What?

Sigh...fighting a losing battle here. Just a few more

pages...

“At the stroke of midnight, when the world sleeps,” Mr Rawat and his band of social outcasts see it fit to disrupt the peaceful slumber of hundreds of...Enough about the blooming Rawat Band already, OK?...Er...right...let's try that again shall we....

“At the stroke of midnight, when the world sleeps, India will awake...”...Thud. Snore.

Huh?...no...No...Sigh....

Come, for the third Laertes....

“New era of self-determination...” Wait a minute, how on earth was there a “new era of self-determination” when they were still under...Oh, read between the lines, for crying out loud...But it's all white and empty between the lines...White...empty...blank...cloudy...dreamy...fences...sheep...beep...beep. Wasn't me...beep...mumble mumble...beep. Wasn't...I swear... He was smelling... Christmas tree...It was him... really... Idintdonuthin mumble....beep....slam...mumble...beep....slam....eight thirty....eight thirty?...holy s\*\*t.

Wheeze...brush...wash...gargle gargle... change... polish... breakfast...*Har jagah mere chamakne se ujaala ho jaye...*

Choose any 3 in Part A.

2b) “...that led to the rise of communism?” ...Communism...Hmm...Scribble scribble....Well, if you want the Commi, get the Marx I say...

Yes...Ranjit Singh was that one-eyed man, was he not?...Hmm....So he looked upon all equally, that's right.

2 c) “Why was agitation against the Viceroy a dismal...” Well, the man was getting too big for his boots, so they ‘shoe’d’ him out, really...fitting, I tell you...slump....ting a ling...tra la la...

Forty-six. Forty-six? I got a *fortysix*? Maaaaaan.....serves me right. Sigh.

Better go check out that VLCC thing...Or study for Pol. Science.

Decisions, decisions.

“We at VLCC are committed to making your body a fit and efficient....”

## Unquotable Quotes

*The mall has 9 floors above the ground, 9 floors below the ground and 9 floors on the ground.*

**Rohit Khandelwal** lives life king size.

*That corner is very talkative.*

**SDA** pin points.

*Do you have some hairy problem?*

**NTC** gets scary.

*I am not a Master to pass and fail.*

**Manuj Vyas** refuses to pass food at the table.

*I want to flew in the air.*

**Imaan Malhotra** takes wing.

*When I does this on my birthday.*

**Anindya Vasudev**, doing it all.

*I'll chaakoo myself.*

**Manuk Singh** in a murderous mood.

| Sport |

# School vs Old Boys Day-Night Match

Gursharan Singh

We travelled to Delhi and played this match under lights with coloured clothing and a white ball! The fixture arranged by Nalin Khanna is the first such experience for the school team. It turned out to be a cliff-hanger with the Old Boys scraping home in the last over with one wicket in hand.

The school batted first and opened with Dilsher Khanna and Itihaas Singh, to the bowling of Ashit Lamba and Manas. The opening overs were profitable for the school as the bowlers struggled with line and length, allowing both batsmen to get the school off to a rousing start. Dilsher drove powerfully in front of the wicket while Itihaas played a glorious square-drive off Manas and then made clever use of the pace offered him to keep the score-board ticking. With better running between wickets they could have totally overwhelmed the opposition in this period of the game, but it was not to be. Lamba did settle down to bowl three economical overs at the end of his spell, but Manas striving for pace was erratic, and was replaced by Raghav Malik who pinned down our leaden-footed batsmen with some accurate spin bowling. Meanwhile, Ashit who had acquired a measure of his usual form, fooled Khanna with a slower one and Arun Khanna pounced on him at extra-cover to make us 60 for 1 in the 9th over. Chitwanjyot joined Itihaas and was lbw to Lamba playing around his pads and missing the line of the ball completely. Itihaas, too, made an exit as Raghav induced a return catch. Bishnoi and Dilshad came together only for Bishnoi to shuffle across and expose his leg-stump to a turner from Raghav. Dilshad, who was playing a scintillating knock, lost another partner as Sengar drove a full-toss from Indu Shekhar obligingly back to him for a simple catch. Rajdeep joined Dilshad, who somehow managed to keep the momentum going as batsmen fell around him like nine-pins. His speed between the wickets had the Old Boys, or should I say 'Old Men', scrambling around the field in desperation. Fortunately, the tide turned in the school's favour and Dilshad found steadier partners in Rajdeep and Jai Sharma to move the score along before the skipper, Kapoor, came in and played an enterprising hand to boost the team total to 165 in 30 overs.

The Old Boys opened with Vipin Malhotra and Uday Bawa to the bowling of Tanveer and Shailendra. Vipin played some exquisite shots, including a thumping extra-cover drive before he was bowled by Tanveer. Bawa failed to make much headway and had his stumps rattled by Shailendra. Sandeep



Cricket gets short

Chandra was joined by Arun Khanna and Kapoor chose that precise moment to bring himself on and serve up several looping full-tosses to Arun Khanna, who sent them where they belonged: across the boundary and over it. The captain conceded 22 runs in 2 overs and wisely took himself off. In the meantime, Uppal got one through Sandeep and bowled him for 9. Nalin joined his cousin at the crease and Vivan Rai and Aruj Shukla took charge of the bowling attack. A keen tussle ensued between bat and ball. The clinical Arun and the dogged Nalin against the two flighty spinners was an interesting part of the match. Finally, Shukla bowled Arun as he tried to loft him in to the deep and was caught off Rituraj, who replaced Shukla. Vivan, for his part had, bowled with remarkable control and scalped the dangerous Hemant Bishnoi, clean bowling him and then having Manas caught to a brilliant catch by Dilshad Singh. At 80 for 7, the Old Boys were in serious trouble and the school had given a delightful exhibition of spirited fielding and some tantalising spin! Batsmen scrambled home as the school went for the run-out chance, failing narrowly. The school lost, but provided intense competitive interest to the match through a great display of spirit and grit. All in all, an enthralling match enjoyed by all. The school is indebted to the Old Boys for their wonderful hospitality and camaraderie. In particular, I must thank Vivek Seth for his generosity!

## SCORE BOARD

**The Doon School** 165 for 8: D. Khanna 23; I. Singh 26; D. Singh 34; A. Kapur 18; J. Sharma 18; R. Deobhanj 13. A. Lamba 2 for 28; R. Malik 2 for 16; I. Sekhar 2 for 18.

**Old Boys** 166 for 9: A. Khanna 46; A. Singh 30 (not out); N. Khanna 17; V. Malhotra 15. V. Rai 3 for 24; T A Singh 1 for 14; S. Uppal 1 for 10; R. Raizada 2 for 16; S. Singh 1 for 14.

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