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Record-breaking Strokes

Sriyash Kishorepuria reports on the Inter-House Swimming Competition, 2008



With the placement of the new turbulence-resistant lanes, the swimming pool, used usually for leisure, looked more like a gladiatorial arena. Last year, swimming ceased to be an optional sport, which led to more participation and a higher level of performance this year in the Inter-House Swimming Competition.

Eight records were broken this year, compared to four last year. In the senior category, the Jaipur House senior relay team broke the fifteen year old 4x100 freestyle record by over five seconds. Pratham Mittal broke Akshay Sikand's 50-metre backstroke record, which has been said to be one of the most difficult level records to break. Jason Toups, an exchange student from Chadwick, swam like a true Californian with praiseworthy technique and skill. He too broke two records in the 50-metre and 100-metre breaststroke events. Dushyant Raj Sapra and Devrat Patney displayed great proficiency and talent in the butterfly strokes. Pratham Mittal's backstroke employed what was possibly one of the best techniques the school has ever seen. Vishesh Kochher and Rahil Rai Puri too exhibited stylish breaststrokes, while Jason Toups's speed and stamina outclassed everyone else's in School. In the freestyle category, Varun Aggarwal emerged as the best swimmer, performing well in both the short and the long distances. His timing of twenty-four minutes and one second is the closest anyone has got to the 1500-metre record in the past five years.

The medium category, too, saw a high level of competition. Nikhil Narain, Sambuddha Naha and Apurv Aggarwal dominated the freestyle events. Netesh Dev and Angad Singh were the other commendable swimmers. Aditya Gupta and Aseem Kumar wiped out all competition in the breaststroke events.

The Juniors category was well-contested, with the quest for the Junior Cup being contested right to the final relay. Zorawar Whig emerged as the most talented medley swimmer by far that the School has seen in recent years in the juniors section. Besides breaking the 200-metre individual medley record by over an astounding thirty seconds, he also broke the 50-metre breaststroke record.

The 12x25 freestyle relay was the final and most exciting event. This year, we witnessed what was perhaps the most thrilling relay race in recent times. With the battle between Oberoi and Jaipur House continuing till the very last second, Jaipur emerged the winner of the event by 0.1 seconds.

Although at the Inter-House level the swimming did well this year, at the IPSC and inter-school level our performance falls short of winning a substantial number of medals. This is largely due to a short swimming season. However, encouraged by the this year's results in the pool and wishing to enhance them further, the Master in charge, Swimming, SJB, told the *Weekly* "We are looking at heating the pool, which would stretch the swimming season by four months, giving us the opportunity of training longer, holding, perhaps, inter-school meets and ultimately achieving even better timings."

News-in-Brief

SMASHING HIT!

The School table tennis team participated in the **4th Wasu Memorial Table Tennis Tournament** held at the Summer Valley School between August 21 and 23, 2008. The Senior team made it to the finals in the Singles category and the Junior team emerged runner-up. Congratulations!

DIPLOMATICALLY SPEAKING

The **Second Annual Doon School Model United Nations Conference** was held between August 22 and 24. The delegation of Russia (The Doon School) was adjudged the **Best Delegation**. The following are the various **Best Delegate** awards won :

Saurav Sethia and Dhruv Velloor (USA, Security Council)
Vishnukaant Pitty and Jayavardhan Singh (Russia, Security Council)

Arnav Sahu (Russia, ECOSOC)

Naveed Chaudhary (Pakistan, HRC)

Pranjal Singh (Russia, UNEP)

Saurav Sethia (USA, Crisis Situation)

Congratulations!

DIVE-ROLL

The following are the results of the **Inter-House Gymnastics Competition, 2008**:

Seniors:

1st: Tata

2nd: Oberoi

3rd: Kashmir

4th: Hyderabad

5th: Jaipur

Well done!

Juniors:

1st: Hyderabad

2nd: Oberoi

3rd: Kashmir

4th: Jaipur

5th: Tata

The Who

Who is Dmitry Medvedev?

Tom Cruise. - Rishiraj Neog

The guy who invented the periodic table. - Saarthak Singh

The Russian Prime Minister. - Shantanu Agarwal

Super-model. - Raghav Dhanda

Carla Bruni's boyfriend. - Arjun Sethi

Some UN gangster. - Arjun Sethi

Dmitry Medvedev is the current President of Russia.

Unquotable Quotes

Stop feeling jealous, you jealousy!

Vinayak Agarwal, the green-eyed monster.

It's oling!

Shantanu Agarwal, ducking from hailstones.

Not everyone has a good sense of nose.

Kanishk Gupta, the blood-hound.

It's not my fault that your pencil is leaking.

Arjun Sharan, we know.

Why didn't you wakes me up?

Varun Goel asks an unanswerable question.

Can I splash my eyes?

Ranjana Adhikari, go ahead.

The world's largest particle accelerator is in the city of CERN.

SSM, geophysical.

ERRATA

The article, '**England Cricket Tour**' (Issue No. 2193) was jointly written by Chetan Kaul and Aruj Shukla.

A Flying Time

Ritvik Kothiwala recounts his aeronautical trip to England

Early upon a Sunday morning, the three of us: Anirudh Gupta, Vishnuu Mallik, and I, escorted by SSM, left on a journey to Cranfield University, Bedford. We landed at London's busy Heathrow airport and moved further in a taxi. As soon as we arrived at Cranfield, we were pleasantly surprised at seeing the comfortable arrangements made for us. We were to stay at Mitchell Hall, a part of the University. The journey was very tiring, but the sight of so many participants from countries like Greece, Italy, Germany, Switzerland, South Africa, England, Spain, Austria, and Turkey drove out the exhaustion. This promised to be an experience that we would never forget.

With the rising of the sun the next morning, the workshop began. All we knew was: that we were to fly some planes. But believe me, that wasn't all. At first, we attended a lecture on basic aerodynamics, and why helicopters don't fly at high speeds. The talk was given by Dr. John Farley, a test pilot. The lecture was very informative, for we were made familiar with so many things that we didn't know anything about.

Next was an exercise to design a delivery system to drop an egg safely from a height of four metres, without breaking it. A bag of items was given to each team and the construction began. Our team decided not to take the classic method of wrapping the egg in balloons and dropping it: something Vishnuu suggested. We put in a lot of effort to make the system that we finally decided upon work, expecting that it wouldn't work. When it *did* work flawlessly, we were surprised. This got us the second position, in spite of the penalty, without which we would have won hands down. Another interesting session was when a research student, Dr. Rebecca Wilson, spoke to us on Airline Emergency Evacuation. There were many such talks, and we returned to Doon with knowledge we would never have acquired otherwise.

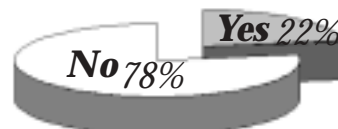
Career Call

The careers' notice board will focus on options relating to the field of **Mathematics**. All number-crunchers should look it up.



Opinion Poll

Do you think that the abolition of the House Cups in sports is a good decision?



(276 people were polled)

Next Week's Question: Can leadership skills be taught?

MUN REWIND

The Doon School Weekly looks at the various topics discussed, and the resolutions passed, at the recently-held Doon School Model United Nations Conference.

ECOSOC:

The global food crisis was met by most countries quite well and with a lot of common sense. Countries that needed food asked for assistance, countries that didn't, provided it. The FAO was revolutionised. It was empowered to monitor food aid and the market prices and had to periodically report to the UN. The FAO also built a global buffer stock in case of a future crisis. On the issue of drug abuse prevention and rehabilitation among the youth, there was a lot happening in the ECOSOC. Every delegate seemed to be willing to put an end to drug abuse, even if their country's farmers depend on it as their primary source of income. Not many countries were willing to contribute toward an ECOSOC comic book. Perhaps no one was inspired by the UNEP's *Ozzy Ozone*. When it came to the rehabilitation part of the challenge, everyone was looking for conventional rehabilitation methods. With a little help from Ayyappa (the Chair), the truth about methadone was out and the committee came to a nail-biting end with both resolutions first failing by one vote, then both passing by a vote; and in the last re-vote, the German resolution winning by one vote. The debates were 'literal verbal duels' as mentioned in a press statement.

DISEC:

The Disarmament and International Security Committee was perhaps the most exciting one with the meeting beginning with policy statement readings. As expected, all the delegates were well-versed with their country's foreign policy. There was intense debate throughout, especially on the resolutions, with Russia playing a very pivotal role. On the topic on WMDs, the major five were under immense scrutiny, as each one of them had violated the Non-Proliferation Treaty. All in all, the committee saw some fine debating and lobbying, resulting in some very comprehensive resolutions.

UNEP:

The United Nations Environment Programme was, by far, the most entertaining of all the councils, chaired by the 'full-of-surprises' Mansher Dhillon. The topics regarded an alternative to the Kyoto Protocol and the prevention of water pollution. All delegates spoke eloquently and with feeling. Some, such as the delegate of Russia, couldn't stop asking questions while others, especially the delegate of China, couldn't stop remaining silent.

Security Council:

Meanwhile, the Security Council had the very professional and dignified chairing of Abhaas Shah. The first issue to be discussed was that of Tibetan autonomy. Initially, there seemed to be some sort of consensus among the delegations of the council. Every country voiced similar opinions: that Tibet should remain culturally autonomous from China and should be ruled by a democratic government under the suzerainty and geographic boundaries of China. How-

ever, the major point of disagreement came up when delegations like the UK and Italy recommended placing a UN peacekeeping force in the region, which China felt threatened by and was unwilling to entertain. Similarly, the delegates from the USA also felt that, since China had already agreed on withdrawing its military from Tibet, they should not be forced any further. The issue concluded when UK vetoed USA's resolution on apparently shaky grounds, and Russia's resolution was passed instead, despite the fact that neither resolution had attained the majority required.

Next came the possibility of universal military service for the United Nations through a draft scheme. There was clear dissent from the very beginning, as the majority of the council appeared in favour of compulsory conscription, leaving only the USA, who argued that it was undemocratic, and undermined the sovereignty of the member nations, as the only opposers. When it finally came to resolution passing, the USA voted against Russia's resolution, though without the use of the veto power. On the whole, the deliberations of the Security Council were animated, intense and very exciting.

HRC:

This year, the school had new additions to the MUN committees, and The Human Rights Commission was one of them. It was chaired by Keshav Prasad who brought out the best in all delegates. Akshit Batra also had a stint as Chair and proved to be quite an entertainer, as he recognized delegates simply touching their placards. The Council had many tiffs as delegates such as the one from North Korea openly declared that it was USSR's and USA's fault for Korea breaking into two. The delegate of Pakistan showed skill by procuring resolutions out of nowhere.

Crisis Situation:

Right, so what was the crisis? An attack in the Panama Canal on a NATO and a US military vessel. That's as suicidal as it can get. Slowly, the plot thickened and we discovered the Libyan connection. Super-powers began taking stands. In the midst of all this, statements by the American government made them most susceptible to blame and *Points of Information* (credit goes to Saurav Sethia for their defence against all in-bound verbal matter). Once money-laundering came to light, everyone began questioning the United Kingdom and the actions it had taken. In between, Panama wanted continuation of trade through a ravaged canal. All countries looked to safeguard the various trade routes. The United States of America amended the resolution, allocating funds to rebuilding the Panama Canal; but, apparently, the terrorist threat was still their prime concern. But in the midst of all the chaos and crises emerged a most exciting series of debates and blame-games. The delegates were kept in the MPH for hours on end. Most of the meal-time was spent lobbying, caucusing, resolution writing and blaming. Through this display of diplomacy and sheer calm in the eye of the storm of an imminent attack on Panama (which the United States delegation was incessantly blamed for orchestrating), Saurav Sethia met all questions with commendable poise, proving once again that patience is the key to solving any crisis. The MPH, perhaps, never saw such a spectacle before.

I Live Today

Kenilworth Yambem

I live today, tomorrow perhaps.
But will it be the same me?
You know, the very essence.
But why such rhetoric?

Inverse your own sign,
What do you see in you?
A poet, sportsman and...
Definitions to live by.

That's what you're here for,
To be perceived, noticed.
Always, do you need
The spotlight of definition?

Then I ask, the breathing,
The sleeping, heartbeats and waking,
"What do you seek when not recognized?"
"Simply silence, the self."
Silence is always recognized.

Deceptive Perceptions

Kenilworth Yambem

Look at it.
"What?" If I may ask myself.
I am what I want to be.
I see me materially defined.

Besides me, there's something else.
Look beneath me,
You think it's something big.
Or maybe too small to fit the mind,
Or accept it the way you see it.

The glass is transparent as you know.
But how its tricks to deceive?
I mean, that all is not what it seems.
Deceive yourself though, if I may suggest.

Providence's Disfavour

Shashank Peshawaria

Today, I feel unlucky. The sun is scowling. The clouds undergo partition. The litchi tree is flat on the ground. The roses are blistered brown. It rained cats and dogs all of yesterday, but not a drop of water fed the earth when it was time for PT. Why did someone have to conceal my shoes only today? Why did the mishap of the previous night declare its result this morning? Yuck! The mosquito rash on my forehead has turned into a full fledged, apple-sized pimple. The eye falls on nothing but doom.

Doom is on my finger.

Doom is on my chin.

Doom is puffed out of my nostrils.

And doom is wedged even in my insipid grin.

Sometimes, the mind is saturated with thoughts of pessimism. One cannot even get close to the idea of a fruitful experience. It is not de-liberate. When someone tells me to twist my arm and haul myself into an optimistic mood, I just can't. All I am is fed up. The shutters of hope are tightly slammed. Everyone seems to point fingers: "You are the one", "Why can't you?", and "Why did you?", and "You spoilt it." There is nothing fresh. Everything happens over and over again: the same, monotonous litany of woe. A certain gusto kicks in, in fits and starts, but soon even *that* dies down. The reason: consequences of the past begin to haunt and daunt the mind once again. I wish I could just kill the past, and 'let it bury its dead'. Last night, I left the computer on. Why am I being chastised now? This is deplorable. This is pathetic. When everyone was cheeky the teacher, why was only I noticed laughing like a grinning baboon? It is my mistake, I know, but yet, I call it providence's disfavour: which indeed it is.

Freaky Facts

! Right-handed people live, on average, nine years longer than left-handed people do.

! In every second of every day, two Barbie dolls are sold somewhere in the world.

! Elephants are the only animals that can't jump.

! Tigers have striped skin, not just striped fur.

! The original name for Pepsi Cola was Brad's Drink.

! A goldfish has a memory span of three seconds.

! Our eyes stay the same size throughout our lives, but our nose and ears never stop growing.

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