



Established in 1936

The Doon School

WEEKLY



Saturday, August 7 • 2010 • Issue No. 2253

REGULARS

2

COMMONWEALTH

3

ART INTERVIEW

3

FLOUNDER'S
DAY

4

Editorial

And The Leaves That Are Green

We returned to a variety of brilliant shades of green, which reflected the brightness on our many faces. The grass on the Main Field and Skinner's was dense and even. Trampled tracks and patches had grown back considerably. The whitewashing was washed away, here and there. Buildings were damp. Moss discoloured the bricks and concrete. The plants and trees, much like our hair, were not disciplined in their growth and grooming. These pristine fields of grass, sparkling smiles and audacious growth are nothing a few days of term would not fix: a few days of football, classes, PT and the rest of the routine.

We found a few cosmetic changes around the campus. The HM's office, for one. Not too many construction barricades remained. The walls were higher, certainly, with paintwork resembling a Union Jack, but it was nothing we hadn't expected. There were also few surprises. Most of the news had already been broken to us over the holidays: changes in staff and the cancellation of mid-terms, for example. Of course, we on the Weekly had to find ourselves a new home, which may be more slick, swanky and professional than the one before, but it still needs to be broken in (figuratively speaking!). The new Art School is finally operational, something all of us have been waiting for. I'm certain many of us are also dying to see what the new auditorium looks like. The Headmaster has whetted our interest with the dos and don'ts regarding its use. Maybe we should make bookings sometime soon.

Preparations for Founder's are already underway: people have begun making plans (though, sometimes, making plans to make plans). Various auditions have begun. One can feel the pressure building. This year, being the platinum jubilee, calls for celebration. It is our School's biggest birthday to date, and we certainly have a lot to be proud of. One can always be critical (sometimes, even cynical) about the School and its functioning (of which, I confess, I am often guilty), but there is still no denying the many great things we have achieved as an institution. There's no denying that all of us would have been, on many levels, different people had we not come here. We are celebrating 75 years of our school, 75 years of the place we call home. All of us will inevitably be involved in these celebrations in some way or the other, publications, exhibitions, plays, the Music Production, DS-75 film, massive Pagal Gymkhana or other such showcases. Before we know it, we will be neck-deep in work (many of us, if not all, already are), balancing our academics, career plans, sports and other activities.

As a result of such a deluge of events, the School Calendar has become one of the thickest School publications (falling behind only the Yearbook and the School List, of course), with this term's being 72 pages long. But the Weekly, with its modest four to six pages every week, will be chronicling the days that go by. The plentiful monsoon and the lush greenery will soon pass and autumn will arrive. However, our evergreen enthusiasm will hold us in good stead through Founder's and after, as in the Simon and Garfunkel ballad "And the leaves that are green / Turn to brown."

Eighteen Holes and Counting...

Shashvat Dhandhan reflects on the School's performance in The Doon School Golf Trophy, 2010, held in Kathmandu, Nepal, on June 19 and 20.

Since boys started playing golf in School quite recently, we have not been playing regular fixtures! However, after making a good start in Chandigarh last year, made our hopes go up as we travelled with SJB to Nepal, to play golf with the British School, Kathmandu. This time the younger players in School were given a chance. This was – at least in my eyes – a way to make new acquaintances and expand our golfing circuit.

The tournament was held between June 19 and 20. We reached Gorkana Forest Resort on June 16, early enough to practise on the golf course we were to play at. We got ourselves acquainted with their course: the out of bounds, fairways, green locations and gauged its speed. We were not accustomed to playing on hilly terrain, which made it difficult to predict how hard we had to hit the ball. We would have to depend on our caddies. But on the whole, the course was well designed. On our first round, Jai, Yash and Devansh were having trouble finding their feet. The second day was better, as all of us learned from our mistakes and realized what we were up against.

At the end of the day's play, when all five groups returned to the club house, we felt we had had a reasonable day. Zahaan received the award for the lowest score of the day (at 20 over par) and I stood one stroke behind him. The others were still hanging in. But we had already conceded defeat, as we stood a whopping fifty strokes behind the British School. Our day didn't quite end then; we shifted hotels owing to an upcoming wedding (which, rumour had it, involved Bollywood celebrities).

The last day of the tournament was the most demanding, although we only had to play the first nine holes. All of us were tired. I finished my round at eight over, after two devastating triple-bogeys and only making one birdie out of my three tries. Devansh, Jai and Yash managed to finish the day with their best of twenty-one, twenty-four and twenty-six over respectively. Zahaan was the last one to finish. Everyone was waiting to see what was actually happening with the leader. But he had given up half-way. After putting four doubles in the hole he finished his round with fourteen over. I guess the pressure got to him. He finished fourth with a score of thirty-four over and I stood runner-up at twenty-nine over par.

Apart from playing golf, we did do the mandatory sightseeing of this historic Himalayan city. We went to the Darbar Marg, among other noteworthy places, where we saw the erstwhile King's Palace, which now serves as a museum. Alongside this was a local handicrafts market,

(contd. on page 3)

WELCOME

We welcome **Tapan Bariu, Lawanshaibha Kharmalwong, Anupam Choudhury, Banita Bhau, Sanjib Kalsi** and **Arnab Mukherjee**, who have joined the teaching staff as part of the Art faculty. We wish them a fruitful tenure.

We also welcome **Charlie MacKeith** and **Sam Noakes** from Eton College, UK, who are here on the Student Exchange Programme. We wish them a pleasant stay.

SPECIAL ASSEMBLY PRIZES

The following were the various prizes awarded during the end-of-term Assembly on Sunday, May 30:

Bakhle Memorial English Essay Prize Test:

Winner: Vivek Santayana

Runner-up: Revant Nayar

Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma English Essay Contest for Juniors:

Winner: Arnav Joshi

Runner-up: Kunal Kanodia

Hindi Short Story Writing Contest:

Winner: Prateek Agarwal

Runner-up: Mukund Nyati

The Mahindra Search for Talent Scholarship for securing the highest aggregate of marks in the November Trials, 2009, and in the ICSE (Std. 10) Board examinations held in March, 2010:

C form: Manas Poddar (94.7%)

B form: Ujjwal Dahuja (93.6%)

A form (ICSE): Spandan Gopal Agrawal (96.2%)

S form (Science): Aayush Jain (85.8%)

S form (Humanities): Prateek Agarwal (91.3)

The following members of the Support Staff were presented a silver salver for their long-time service to School:

Pritam Chand, who joined as a mason on July 1, 1985, and served the School for a period of 25 years, till he retired on January 3, 2010.

Sachidanand, who joined as a cook on February 1, 1964, and served the School for a period of 46 years till he retired on March 30, 2010.

Congratulations, all!

TEE OFF

Devansh Agarwal, Yash Dhandania, Jai Kairon, Zahaan Qureshi and Shashvat Dhandania participated in **The Doon School Golf Tournament** played with the students of The British School in **Kathmandu, Nepal** between June 16 and 21. The Doon School finished **runner-up** and Shashvat Dhandania was placed second.

Well done!

CAMPUS IN FOCUS

Work on the film for DS75 commenced on June 25 and will go on until August 8, in School. The film is directed by **Ashvin Kumar** (ex-271OB'91), with crew and cast taken from members of the School's student body and faculty. A report runs in a forthcoming issue.

TENNIS RESULTS

The following are the results of the **Inter-House Tennis Competition, 2010:**

Senior Cup	Junior Cup
1st: Hyderabad	1st: Hyderabad
2nd: Jaipur	2nd: Oberoi
3rd: Tata and Kashmir	3rd: Kashmir
5th: Oberoi	4th: Tata
	5th: Jaipur

Well done!

NEW PREFECT

Viren Kapoor has been appointed **School Prefect**. We wish him the best for his tenure.

CLIMBING HIGHER

Shivam Pal, Nilesh Agarwal, Jayant Mukhopadhaya, Prahlad Singh, Rishi Agarwal, Rohan Nath Behl, Dhruv Mahajan, Shubham Agarwal, Siddhant Dixit, Yash Madhav Johri, Alawi Singh, Abhijeet Karwa, Raj Surana and Animesh Jain along with PKJ and ASH attended a **mountaineering course at UCPA, Argentiere, France** from July 11 – 24. The team learnt snow-craft, ice-craft, canyoning, paragliding and rock climbing during the course. Seven members climbed **Mont Blanc**, the highest peak in Western Europe through the Cosmic route and eleven members climbed **Gran Paradisu**, the highest peak in Italy.

GOING ROUND ON SERVICE

Abhinav Kejriwal, Sahej Jouhal, Vikramaditya Kapur, Karan Pratap Singh Kairon, Ashutosh Goyal, Sartaj Singh Sidhu, Devesh Sharma, Divyant Sapra, Tanishq Agarwala and Chaitanya Fatehpuria represented the School in the **The Junior Round Square Conference** held at the **United World College, Singapore**, from June 17 – 29.

Smitha Nair, Apurv Agarwal, Khalid Amin, Prahlad Singh, Sachit Taneja, Varun Goel, Neelansh Khurana, Rohan Nath Behl, Vaibhav Bahadur and Arifeen Chowdhury represented the School in the **Regional Round Square Service Project** at **Pathways World School, Gurgaon**, from June 5 – 14.

Harsh Verma and Hemang Agarwal represented the School in **The Round Square International Project, Ladakh**, from July 9 – August 3.

The School organized a **Regional Round Square Project** at **Kata Pathar** from July 18 – 28. Itihaas Singh and Shubham Dhingra represented School in the project. Delegations from King's Academy, Jordan, Vivek High, Chandigarh, and Daly College, Indore, also participated in the project.

ERRATA

In the *90s Club* printed in issue no 2252, dated May 29, the names of **Sumaer Sandhu** (who scored 93.2%) and **Mohit Gupta** (who scored 90.2%) were omitted from the ICSE list. Also, the score of **Suyash Agarwal** was incorrectly mentioned as 93.2%, whereas he had scored 92.8%. In the ISC list, the score of **Aditya Sukhia** was incorrectly reported as 93.75%, whereas he had scored 95.75%.

(contd. from page 1)

full of exquisitely carved objects. We were fortunate (not being mountaineers ourselves) to be able to glimpse the snow-capped Mount Everest from a tourist aircraft.

It may have not been a successful tournament, but we surely did manage to establish relationships between the two schools. This bodes well for the future of golf in School, a game which has, without doubt, grown considerably in a short period of time.

| Interview | *Computer Canvas*

The Doon School Weekly's interview with **Arnab Mukherjee**, who joined the teaching staff recently as a part of the Art faculty.

The Doon School Weekly (DSW): Please tell us about your career in art.

Arnab Mukherjee (ARM): I honestly don't know why I chose art as a career although I was keenly interested in art since I was in school. It has always been my favourite subject. It started off with diagrams in geography and biology, and, eventually, I found myself teaching digital painting in School. I carried on with art after school and went to an art college called Rabindra Bharati University, where I did my Bachelor of Visual Arts and Graphics. I later went on to do my Masters from the Government College of Arts and Crafts, Kolkata. I started teaching visual communications at the Wigan and Leigh College, Kolkata. Later I went to the National Institute of Design to teach the same course, and eventually returned to the WLC.

DSW: Why did you choose to come and teach at Doon?

ARM: I have only taught in colleges before I came here. I think teaching in schools is more rewarding as the students are younger and have creative and impressionable minds. They have no preconceived notions and it becomes very easy to inspire them. My focus has always been graphics and design and I wish to take it forward in School as it is a new subject.

DSW: What are your interests other than art?

ARM: I have always liked photography, but I am not a professional. I like swimming although I do not think I will be able to save anyone's life! I like watching cricket and lawn tennis as well.

DSW: How do you plan to encourage art in school?

ARM: Today, with the improvements in technology, we are able to make our designs on the computer. We use the most basic tools to make the most complex of designs. I feel that the digital world is day-by-day manipulating our works, and this is what students must learn before they step outside the campus. We must teach students to fully utilize technology.

Opinion oll

Are the Commonwealth Games worth the resources invested?



(126 members of the community were polled)

Next week's question: Did you find your experience in the making of the DS75 film enjoyable?

| Viewpoint |

Not Game Enough

Kanishka Malik analyses the situation of the Commonwealth Games, 2010

In hosting the 2010 Commonwealth Games, the Government has not only forgotten its deadline, but also its priorities. We planned on hosting the Games with the hope of giving an impetus to sports and showing the country to be capable of hosting such an event. Unfortunately, we have failed to achieve both those goals in many ways.

First of all, there is a difference between giving an impetus to a sport and improving sporting infrastructure. The Commonwealth Games certainly saw the construction of some new stadia and sporting facilities. However, the prospects of these facilities improving the quality of sports are bleak. This is primarily because the facilities are only in the National Capital Region. Getting sportspersons to participate from around the country requires facilities to be spread out and not concentrated in one city. The stadia and the facilities may be world-class, but they aren't going to invite mass participation. Frequent sports programmes and convenient sporting facilities are the prerequisites for improving the quality of sports in the country.

The second critical aspect of the Commonwealth Games is the money that has gone into its preparation. The Games have cost our country over Rs 35,000 crore and a dozen other controversies involving bureaucrats and sporting houses. This money could have instead been invested in athlete training programmes. As Mani Shankar Aiyar remarked, had we spent that sum in training people, we could have had 35,000 gold medalists. Apart from spending the money only on sports, the Government could invest this money elsewhere, such as in implementing of the Right to Education Act or the purchase of new fighter aircrafts (a contract worth more than \$10 billion). Availability of primary education and national security are certainly more important than impressing the world with a few costly sporting facilities. Besides, basic urban amenities, such as a stable supply of electricity and water, are lacking in some of our largest cities.

Besides being proof of poor prioritization, the Commonwealth Games seem to be a victim of mismanagement and corruption. The facilities (which have already cost a lot more than the planned budget – about \$500 million more than the previous Games) aren't complete two months before the Games, while the London Olympics Stadium (which is to host the 2012 Olympics) has been completed two years before the Games. Our inefficiency and ineptitude on various levels: planning, development, logistics, infrastructure and execution, is disgraceful. The scandals that surround the Games are no less unpleasant to read and hear.

One is certainly disgruntled by our Government's priorities and the quality of our preparations. It is difficult to say whether the Games should be successful or not, because if they are, that would invite other such expensive events, compromising other important programmes. However, at the end of the day, the Games are around the corner and the baton is swiftly passing hands. We can do little but hope they are a success. For whatever it's worth, our nation's pride rests on it.

Roving Eye

Ch Ed's Flounder's Day Address

Ladies, gentlemen, Doscos and School Captains (real and otherwise),

It is indeed an honour to be addressing this august gathering. We have had an eventful term with the enthusiasm building up in a marvellous crescendo. It has been a long six days of School, full of 'action' and 'cut', which has brought us here, celebrating Founder's Day. In our eagerness, we decided to celebrate early this year, proving that Doscos can indeed turn the seasons around (though, unfortunately, not dry the weather). One of my greatest regrets about the monsoon is that I never learned how to swim. But I can see the rest of us are as like fish in water, especially in the events of the term gone by. So, as I address you all on this glorious occasion, the seventy-fifth Flounder's Day of The Doon School, I shall recapitulate the term gone by.

While for most of us the term has only been six days long, there are many who have been working through the summer holidays for the production of the platinum jubilee commemorative film. Some of the production work inevitably spilled over on term-time, causing mild, excusable inconvenience. We put up with such routine disruptions with little distress. (This time would have been *wasted* studying or working, anyway.) As for the cast and crew, we were considerate enough not to disrupt their busy schedule with unwelcome interferences such as classes, toys and assignments. We accommodated them and their frequent changes of plans. It was difficult, yes, and many activities came to a standstill, but everything has its reward: this film will definitely blow the box office, from what the rumours (or, rather, 'calculated leakages of information') suggest. Expectations are certainly rising. Personally, I cannot wait to see the film after such titillating sneak peeks. Besides, all of us feature in it (albeit as extras) and we look forward to earning our fifteen seconds of fame at Cannes.

There were a few changes in the prefecture, some more permanent than others. The new School Captain was appointed with much ceremony: he received our congratulations five times, although his new tie only once. There were, inevitably, many disappointed aspirants, and one can say it literally rained tears. I am sure you would have seen the new prefects patrolling the Rose Bowl during the Flounder's Day Play, the biggest event of the term so far. Boys walked into the Rose Bowl, wearing their pressed blazers, strong colognes, glittering badges, fancy cuff links and new ties, with a mixed sense of excitement and apprehension, but were overwhelmed by the dispassion with which the actors performed. We watched with great delight as the lit School lamp emerged from the great, silver globe centre-stage and Howly and his horde danced around the flame. Some laughed, some cried, some yawned, some looked perplexed and the rest tried really, really hard, but just could not arrive at any distinct expression or reaction (especially since we had to do the same thing again and again and again and again *ad infinitum*). The prefects outdid themselves in leading by example. Some of us were so overwhelmed, we had to leave the amphitheatre before the drama could conclude (though we saw a dozen curtain-calls). But as boys trickled out, the howling backstage grew louder and more frustrated. Perfection still seemed to remain elusive and the show went on till the early hours. However, despite such snags, the production earned (sorry, demanded) a standing ovation.

The following day was the grand Flounder's Day Dinner, wherein boys proved their gastronomical virtuosity. The rustic crockery, all polished in the trophy room, I guess, contrasted starkly with the modern look of the furniture and decor of the dining hall. Grace was said several times before we sat down to eat *normally*. But it was indeed a pleasure to chew regular CDH fare under yellow lighting! But overall, it was a gripping experience, and many of us refused to walk away (and it wasn't our love for food that kept us riveted, this time). This has been a memorable Flounder's Day. The commemorative football match the following day was most exciting and many prominent footballers of School scored repeatedly and in quick succession to please the camera.

The intensity of the term gone by will carry on through the months to come. We shall be joined by the many movie stars and celebrities in October (if they would be kind enough to spare time from their busy careers at Doscwood, that is) when we shall reconvene to celebrate the premier of the DS-75 film. This film is a showcase of The Doon School. It carries with it glimpse of our lives as Doscos. It carries with it our traditions and our legacy as an institution. It is not just a film. It is not just a story of two boys. It is not a mere documentary. It is our identity. It is an icon of The Doon School, Doscos and Doscodom. Let us congratulate the cast and crew. They put in such painstaking efforts in recording this film, one cannot praise them enough. They tolerated pain, went through rigorous punishment, risked catching the flu and survived torture, all as part of stunts for the film. It just goes to show how much into their roles they are. All this to show the world what The Doon School is like on the inside. All this just for us. As for the boys, such exposure at such an early age will certainly aid them in their future. And congratulations to you too, ladies and gentlemen, for being so patient with both, the film and my inane rambling. So until October, I shall bore you no further.

Thank you and good night.

Online Edition: <http://www.doonschool.com/publications/the-doon-school-weekly/latest-issue> weekly@doonschool.com



IPSS® All rights reserved. **Printed by:** The English Book Depot, 16 Rajpur Road, Dehradun, Uttarakhand – 248009, India. **Published by:** Philip Burrett, The Doon School, Dehradun.

Editor-in-Chief: Vivek Santayana **Editor:** Shashank Peshawaria **Hindi Editor:** Chandrachuda Shukla **Associate Editors:** Kanishka Malik, Abhinav Mittal **Special Correspondents:** Shashvat Dhandhania, Arifeen Chowdhury, Yuv Vir Khosla, Shivank Singh **Graphics Editor:** Madhav Dutt **Webmaster:** Vishal Mohla **Assistant Managers:** Stuti Bathla, Priya Chaturvedi, Arvindanabha Shukla **Technical Assistant:** KC Maurya