



Established in 1936

The Doon School WEEKLY



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Boxing *Madhav Dutt and Vikramaditya Kapur report on the recently-concluded Inter-House Boxing Competition* Highlights

Results:

Senior Cup: Tata House

Junior Cup: Jaipur House

Most Scientific Boxer: Shantanu Seth

Best Loser's Trophy: Nivit Kocchar

Total number of RSCs: 8

Total number of boxers: 38

Despite the intense preparations for DS-75 and numerous Inter-House events, the Boxing tournament did not lack zeal. DS-75 preparations certainly reduced the hours of practice and there was a possibility of the event getting cancelled. Fortunately that situation did not arise and only the Super-Heavy Weight category was cancelled.

Skill and talent could be seen from the very first day. We saw boxers like Sidharth Sarin and Suraj Bishnoi emerge and showcase their talent in the juniors' section.

Though some bouts on the first two days were disappointing due to inexperienced and disadvantaged boxers facing experienced ones, nevertheless, it was worth witnessing the never-say-die attitude of the boxers, especially those who continued in the ring despite their injuries. That is probably why a large section of the audience was so supportive.

The third day witnessed the veteran boxers having their final bouts and the juniors trying to prove themselves worthy of the School team. Though we saw some spectacular bouts, we were all disappointed that we didn't get to see Arvind Sharma display his skill as he ended up getting two walkovers. Here is an over-view of the final day's bouts:

Mahanaaryaman Scindia vs. Akshay Sarawgi (Midget Weight): A very well-contested bout but from the first punch it seemed as if Scindia would emerge victorious. Though he was a junior, Sarawgi put up a great fight and gave all he had. It was an ideal way to start the final day of boxing, by showcasing some of the upcoming talent.

Siddhant Sachdev vs. Sanat Garg (Gnat Weight): Even though Sanat Garg had a clear advantage due to his height, he was too slow for Siddhant Sachdev's flurry of punches. Siddhant got the victory he deserved.

Nivit Kochhar vs. Shantanu Seth (Light Fly Weight): Clearly the most entertaining bout of this season and so did the judges think, as both the Best Loser award and the Most Scientific Boxer award went to Nivit and Shantanu respectively. The fact that Shantanu won through a split decision shows us how marginal the victory was.

Abhinandan Rajan vs Vigya Singh Dhiman (Fly Weight): A one-sided bout even though both the boxers were very experienced and they both fought technically. Rajan had a certain flair which gave him the edge over his opponent who was a bit slow.

Aditya Gupta vs. Prahlad Singh(Feather Weight): Both the boxers fought conservatively but in the third round they both started punching harder and with more frequency. This led to the referee stopping the contest as Aditya had injured Prahlad.

Vahin Khosla vs. Pranoy Bohara (Light Weight): We had seen Vahin's skill and speed in the bouts before which helped him in overcoming larger opponents. Even though Vahin had more experience, Pranoy put up a good fight and his performance was laudable. Both the boxers landed some telling punches but eventually Vahin won.

Vikram Kejriwal vs. Ashwin Dokania(Light Welter Weight): Both the boxers were exhausted before the end of the bout but the doctor stopped the bout as Ashwin Dokania was bleeding profusely. The referee stopped the contest and Vikram Kejriwal was declared the winner.

The boxing competition ended on a high note with the Chief Guest's (PBR) speech and the prize distribution. With some words about boxing in his school, the Chief Guest said that while passing out of School those who had not boxed would regret it. The Senior Cup was won by Tata House and the Junior Cup by Jaipur House.

The 72nd Boxing Tournament was the last for talented boxers such as Arvind Sharma and Vahin Khosla, but it will be a new beginning for emerging boxers who will take their place.

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Nivit Kochhar



Knocked out!

INDIVIDUAL COMPETITIONS

The following are the results in the different contests held this term:

Dipankar Sen Individual Science Quiz Contest

Juniors:

1st: Anshul Tibrewal

2nd: Lanka Adarsh

Seniors:

1st: Aayush Jain

2nd: Virein Chabra

B.G Pitre Short Story Writing Contest

Seniors:

1st: Shivam Goyal

2nd: Varun Gupta

Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma English Essay Writing Contest

1st: Revant Nayyar

2nd: Vivek Santayana

Bakhle Essay Prize Test

1st: Vivek Santayana

2nd: Revant Nayyar

Samarth Jaiswal has been awarded **School Dramatics Colours**.

Well done all!

MORE APPOINTMENTS

Aashray Batra has been appointed as the Boy-in-charge of the **Implement Store** for the coming year.

Anmol Jamwal and Sharan Seth have been appointed Boys-in-charge of the **Stage Committee** for the coming year.

Saransh Seth has been appointed Boy-in-charge of the **Design and Technology STA** for the forthcoming year.

The following have been appointed Boys-in-charge for **Hindi publications** and **Hindi dramatics** for the year 2011:

Yuv Arpan: Uma Shankar Goswami

Srijan Prayas: Sanat Kumar Thakur

Hindi Dramatics: Saud Khan

Public Speaking: Uma Shankar Goswami

We wish them all a fruitful tenure!

IH TOURNAMENTS

The following are the results of the recently-concluded Inter-House Badminton Competition:

Seniors:

1st: Jaipur

2nd: Hyderabad

3rd: Oberoi

4th: Kashmr

5th: Tata

Juniors:

1st: Jaipur

2nd: Tata

3rd: Hyderabad

4th: Oberoi

5th: Kashmir

The following are the results of the recently-concluded Inter-House Boxing Competition:

Seniors:

1st: Tata

2nd: Oberoi

3rd: Hyderabad

4th: Jaipur

5th: Kashmir

Well done!

Juniors:

1st: Jaipur

2nd: Hyderabad,

Tata and Oberoi

3rd: Kashmir

MUSICIANS, 2010

The following are the form-wise awards for **Best Musician** of 2010:

D-form: Shourya Kishorepuria and Umang Gupta

C-form: Suyash Raj Shivam

B-form: Shreshtha Khetan and Harsh Singhania

A-form: Yuv Vir Khosla and Yash Mitt

S-form: Akshay Sharan and Pranoy Bohara

Sc-form: Uddhav Prasad and Arpan Agarwal

Well done!

OBITUARY

The School community mourns the passing away of one of its Old Boys and former master, Bidhu D Jayal (ex-10 T' 38) on November 5, 2010, in London. Mr Jayal was among the first few students to join the School when it first opened in September, 1935. Our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

| Report |

Performing for a Cause

Rahil Badhwar reports on the School's participation in a programme 'Raahat', held for raising funds for the cloudburst victims

On September 20, 2010, many districts in Uttarakhand were struck by a cloudburst. Over 60 people died and Uttarakhand appealed to the central government for Rs 5000 crore to aid monsoon-hit victims.

This year, to contribute to the cause, Hopetown Girls' School hosted a fundraiser in St. Joseph's School, initiated every year by a Uttarakhand project known as *Raahat*, which aims to generate money that can be spent towards those affected by natural calamities.

The Doon School played its part as well. The School Dance Troupe led by Anmol Jamwal, along with the School Popular Band led by Arpan Agarwal, sacrificed hours of their time to participate in the fundraiser on the eve of Trials.

Day in and day out, we practised for the event. We even went for a dress rehearsal to St. Joseph's and although one of our lead dancers (Agni Raj Singh) missed the practice, it was a good opportunity to understand the stage.

On Sunday, November 19, escorted by AMB, ABC and PRY, the School Dance Troupe went to St. Joseph's School (and this time with everyone on board). We saw many schools from all over Dehradun, including the hosts St. Joseph's and Hopetown, readying the stage, doing their bit for the concert's preparation.

By nightfall the stage was ready, and we recalled every practice, focusing on fixing every mistake, making sure to perfect every move with coordination and synchronisation.

The concert was kicked off by the Hopetown Girls' Orchestra, following which we performed. With tracks like *DJ Got us falling in love*, the Dance Troupe put up a great show, fuelling the Dosco lamp in front of 3000 people.

The School Popular Band, with singer Shatrunjai Rai Dewan accompanied by guitarists Arpan Agarwal and Imaan Pariat Mehta lit the show with high-octane performances of *Knockin' on Heaven's Door* and *Fix you*.

That night, the youth of Dehradun felt united for a cause, helping those affected by the natural disasters.

At the end, it was less of a performance and more of an experience where we saw all schools joining hands in supporting such a noble cause (by raising Rs. 4 lakhs). Emotions ran high on our way back to School, and I hope *Raahat* never dies, and our contribution remains everlasting.

| Interviews |

VISITORS AND NEW-COMERS

The Doon School Weekly interviewed **Stephen Hailey**, from Williams College, USA, who has been in Doon as a gap-year teacher, and **Sandeep Khanna**, who is a new Physics teacher

DSW: Please introduce yourself briefly.

Stephen Hailey (SHL): I was born and raised in Arkansas, in the American South. I love hiking, fishing, playing American football and reading.

DSW: As you teach both TOK and take SAT classes, how challenging do you think both are?

SHL: I think TOK is an excellent course and is important for anyone's intellectual growth. SAT, however, is limited in its scope. It has been demonstrated that it advantages privileged socio-economic groups. Nevertheless, it is important to realise that it is not about learning by rote, but is about the full compass of secondary school education.

DSW: What is the importance of TOK? Do you feel it should be included in the core of IB?

SHL: TOK makes you think critically and hence should be a part of the IB programme. IB helps to develop a holistic perspective of what you do in class practically.

DSW: In context to Obama's visit, what do you think about Indo-US relations?

STH: I am a realist about international relations. What I feel about Obama's visit to India is that both the USA and India will use each other to further their own interests. I do not idolize Obama. I voted for Obama but do not like him because he has not lived up to his socially-progressive image.

DSW: How do you find India and Doon School?

SHL: As for India, it is my first visit. India is too diverse and complex to describe in one go. On the other hand, Doon is extremely hospitable. The traditions in Doon have both negative and positive sides, the negative side being that some values in Doon prevent the students from cultivating themselves as thoughtful individuals. The positive side is that it gives one an experience of growing together.

DSW: What do you think about having both Boards - ISC and IB?

SHL: It is tough for a school to handle two Boards. For people who have taken ISC, they need to go to the best Indian universities. For people who have taken IB, it is best if they want to go to some foreign university. So, it's important to have both Boards and they should continue in School.

DSW: Do DoscOs have the capability to jump from ICSE to IB?

SHL: I do not doubt the DoscOs' capabilities. They have to adjust. It takes time to adjust and that is why DoscOs do lose out during the transition.

DSW: Williams College is rated number one in Forbes' ranking of colleges and universities in the US. What is it like to study there?

SHL: Intense. Students have to work 50 hours a week outside of class to keep up with their courses. The classes are very small so you can learn a lot directly from great professors.

DSW: Tell us something about your career as a teacher.

Sandeep Khanna (SPK) I have been working in Welham Boys' School for the last 17 years. My first Principal was Surinder Kandhari who used to be a Housemaster in the Doon School. I was the Housemaster of Kaveri House and also a Deputy Housemaster.

DSW: What are your interests?

SPK: I have held various positions. I organized talks and career fairs where students from various schools came to meet the representatives from different universities and institutes. I managed the Nature Club, was teacher-in-charge of the *Wavelength* and also helped the school in fundraising projects and was involved in environmental projects. I was given the Teacher of the Year award.

DSW: What do you think is required to score well in IB?

SPK: I feel the boys should be inquisitive and research-oriented, so that they are able to develop their minds and prosper in future.

DSW: Can you compare CBSE with ICSE?

SPK: Last year I had the opportunity to teach both the Boards, ICSE and CBSE. I taught classes 9 and 10 the CBSE syllabus and class 10 and 11 the ICSE syllabus. Somewhere I feel that ICSE does a thorough study, whereas in CBSE, due to a combined Science book, there is not much emphasis on every topic. ICSE has a more extensive curriculum. The grading system of the CBSE is entirely different. They have a different kind of evaluation method called CCE. Certainly, you do not have marks, and due to this, there can be a lack of competitiveness.

DSW: What have you planned to involve yourself in School with?

SPK: It's too early to say! I am waiting for the next term. I would love to work with the Nature Club and environment-conserving related projects and activities. I was really lucky to join The Doon School before the School's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. I thank the Headmaster for this. I still have fond memories of the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of Welham Boys way back in 1987. I observed that the Old Boys contribute a lot to this event and that shows their dedication and love for their alma mater.

DSW: Have you been associated with The Doon School before ?

SPK: I have been associated with The Doon School for a long time. I have been in the Teachers' Centre for workshops and was also an examiner in the Biology Department. I also attended programmes such as *Kids for Tigers*. Many teachers who have taught here were in my previous school.

Opinion oll

Do you pay attention to Assembly talks?

 Sometimes 30%

 No 32%

 Yes 38%

(288 members of the community were polled)

Next week's question: Do you think DoscOs can deal with disappointment?

Under the scanner INDIA

Yuv Vir Khosla remarks on the Land Acquisition dispute in Haryana

The plight of farmers is that most of the fertile land of Haryana has been usurped by the Government. The predominant source of income is being denied to them and they feel that any amount of compensation would not suffice for this. As for the growth of the State, the farmers see no signs of advancement and moreover, their lands are not being used for any other purpose.

The Land Acquisition Act was first enacted by the British government as far back as 1824. The British saw this as a method of enforcing their authority over India and legally having control over their land. Also, for the development of the railways, there was a need for legislation for acquiring land. The Act empowered the Government to acquire immovable property for public purposes. After Independence, the Indian government adopted the Land Acquisition Act of 1894 as a tool for the validation of certain acquisitions. The Act was intended for public welfare, and legalized the usurping of privately-held land by the State, giving the owners adequate compensation, which included an additional sum of money to the market value of the acquired land. Over the years, this Act has been used by some government officials to exploit vulnerable and helpless farmers. A number of Amendments have not been able to ensure the security of the land of farmers. The Act has only jeopardized the private interest of farmers for public interest and hence, denies an individual his right to property. This has caused much uproar and agitation among farmers in North India against land acquisition. Recently, the movement has received the importance due to it, and the relatively new Land Acquisition (Amendment) Bill 2007, controversies surrounding the Bill and the inordinate delay in its tabling in Parliament stand testimony to this.

Under the stipulation of the Bill, the Government's role is limited only to helping the industry with the acquisition of 33% of required land after the industry has already acquired 67% through direct negotiations with the farmers. Recently, the Uttar Pradesh government acquired a vast area of agricultural land for the setting up of industries, not for the defence or infrastructure projects. With unjust compensation to farmers, there was a sense of retaliation

building up among them. Soon the farmers took to the streets and this agitation gained publicity. To this, the Centre cited the example of Haryana where, supposedly, the implementation of the policy was ideal and the compensations were adequate. This was far from true and the farmers in the region were astonished to hear of it. They said that their lands had been acquired without their consent and that the compensations where carried out, were inadequate. The farmers are forced to live in utter misery due to these policies of the State Government. Rightly, they are not willing to part with even an inch of their land, and are forced to protest against the policies. The question of such Government policies and their implementation is debatable. Are we overlooking the fact that industrialization is causing distress to farmers? Is it that the Government is sacrificing development in the agriculture sector and rural economy for industrial development and increased export?

There have been a number of protests in Haryana against the 'unethical' acquisition of land. The government is acquiring vast areas of agricultural land in the name of industrialization. The plight of farmers is that most of the fertile land of Haryana has been usurped by the Government. The predominant source of income is being denied to them and they feel that no amount of compensation would suffice for this. As for the growth of the State, the farmers see no signs of advancement, and moreover, their lands are not being used for any other purpose. Also, whatever little monetary compensation is given is not adequate. Due to the inflation of land prices, they are unable to buy adequate land in other areas. Even then, the yield takes a certain period of time to generate income. For most, farming is the only occupation that they are skilled at and with little alternative resources they are forced to borrow money from money-lenders, who charge high rates of interest. Also, land-for-land compensation is not adequate as the land in Haryana is very fertile.

Another concern in the minds of the farmers, regarding the compensation is that disparate rates are given for different areas coming under the National Capital Region (NCR). The rates range from Rs. 1 crore an acre in Gurgaon to less than 55 lakhs an acre in Faridabad. Some of the farmers accept these low rates thinking that there is no option, but others are refusing to budge. The farmers do not appreciate that the land price of areas is different in different parts of the country.

A pertinent question is: why should the Government have any role to play in acquisition of land for private industry? The problem concerned with the market value and fertility of farming land needs to be resolved immediately, considering that a majority of our population is employed in the agricultural sector.

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