



Established in 1936

The Doon School WEEKLY



Saturday, October 22, 2011 - Issue No. 2296

Regulars

2

Grand Slam

2

Doon and India

3

Designing Issues

4

We came, We saw, We conquered

Arjun Parmar reports on the IPSC Soccer Tournament held between October 7 and 13, at Rajkumar College, Raipur

After a disappointing result in the annual RIMC Football Cup, the School Soccer team looked forward to participating in the IPSC Soccer Tournament; this was the first time our School was taking part in the event.

The tournament was scheduled shortly after our mid-term break, so we got the much required rest after a hectic Inter-House Soccer Competition. The flipside was that we had limited time for training in the days leading up to our first few fixtures, so we used every day effectively.

We left early in the morning on October 7. Although we received everyone's good wishes, I am confident that nobody in School expected what was to transpire in the course of the five-day long tournament. To top it all, the team was not travelling full strength, missing key players and we feared that their absence would be keenly felt. By the time we arrived in Delhi, everyone was feeling the goose bumps that always precede a big tournament.

After arriving at Rajkumar College (where the tournament was being held), we took a brief look around the campus, did some light training before it got too dark and headed back to our room, where we took a note of who we were to face in the first round. Our group was probably one of the toughest in the tournament, comprising Donyi Polo School, Itanagar, The Lawrence School, Lovedale, Motilal Nehru School of Sports, Rai, and the hosts, Rajkumar College.

We played the inaugural match immediately after the opening ceremony against Donyi Polo from the North-East. Our opponents possessed great pace and skill, but were clearly caught out by the high temperature and seemed to be overwhelmed by the occasion. We made an early breakthrough, and from then on, there was no looking back. Shivaan Seth gave us the lead, followed by a spectacular second by Sharan Seth, who dribbled past five members of the opposition before slotting one home. Siddhant Sachdev scored a quick fire double in the second half to end the game 4-0 in our favour. The next day proved to be rather taxing, as we played our second game against MNSS, Rai and drew 0-0. This result was favourable though, as we already had three points under our belt and did not over exert ourselves before our third match, which was to be played later that day. Our third encounter was against the hosts, who we easily brushed aside by a convincing score-line of three goals to one. Shivaan Seth and Ahaan Menon scored the goals. Having already qualified with a game to play, the team did not rest on their laurels. We knew that winning our group could give us a more favourable draw in the following rounds. Our last group match was against the Lawrence School, Lovedale, who gave us a stiff fight. Fortune smiled on us; the constant pressure being applied to their defence line forced them to concede a penalty with only a few minutes of play left. Sharan Seth converted the resulting spot kick to book us a place in the quarter finals against The Scindia School, Gwalior. We did a lot more work during the group stages, watching matches and finding faults in the game play of other teams, in case we encountered them in a later leg of the tournament.

We played our quarter final early next morning, and found ourselves in a situation we had not faced previously in the tournament. We conceded early, and even though we were consistently piling on the pressure, it seemed as if it might just not be our day. Largely due to a radical tactical change by our coach, Mr. Dorjee, we initiated an improbable fight back, with Aahan Menon netting the equaliser with ten



(contd. on page 4)

WELCOME

We welcome **Ms Anamika Ghose (AGS)** to the school community. She is going to teach Psychology and will also be carrying out the duties of a counsellor. Her interview follows on page 3.

COLOURS

The following boys were awarded **Soccer Colours**:

Half Colours: Ayush Tripathi, Arjun Parmar, Rahil Badhwar, Aahan Menon, Aaryaman Scindia and Ashish Rao

Half Colours (re-awarded): Yuv Vir Khosla and Udai Bothra

Full Colours: Sharan Seth, Tushar Gupta, Dhruv Aggarwal and Shivaan Seth

Rohan Shriram, Prannoy Bohara, Yuv Vir Khosla, Akshay Sharan and Vigya Singh Dhiman were awarded **Music Colours**.

Kanishka Malik, Piroune Balachandaran and Sachit Taneja were awarded **Debating Colours**.

Congratulations!

SNAPSHOT!

Dr Negi conducted a workshop on **photography and creativity through photography** in School on Sunday, October 9, 2011.

UN

John Renminger, the former **Director of Asia and Pacific Division in the Department of Political Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat**, interacted with the boys of the School. He addressed pressing issues concerned with international affairs.

POET LAUREATES

Poems written by **Vinayak Bansal** in English and **Advait Jha** in Hindi were adjudged **Second Best** in the **District English and Hindi Poetry Writing Contest**, organized by **The Doon Library and Research Centre** (a government organization). The English poem has been published below:

The Better Half of Me

Vinayal Bansal

A voice called from inside me,
Recited the poet's name,
To my wondrously amused eyes,
It now seemed like new pain.

The grief allotted,
The disbelief distorted,
The mental substance,
The loud politeness.

Why did it happen so?
Even when I loved you,
Sacrifice forgiven for free,
I loved you, believe you me.

Now I gaze at the stars,
The flowers' lust lost bloom,
Love disappeared far off,
Left me in a bachelor's trove.

Poetry was never so pure,
The surreal plundered logic,
Out of me it tried recklessly,
All because of you.

It is not blameful,
Intricate however in self it may be,
Recited heartily deceitful,
Set my thoughts out irrationally.

ERRATA

In Issue No. 2295 of the *Weekly*, dated October 15, 2011, the results of the Quarter-final and Semi-final rounds of the IPSC Soccer Tournament, 2011, were published incorrectly.

The correct results are given below:

Quarter-final round (against The Scindia School): 2-1; Aahan Menon and Sharan Seth scored one goal each.

Semi-final round (against The Phoenix School): 3-1; Aahan Menon scored two goals and Anmol Jamwal scored one goal.

The *Weekly* regrets these errors.

GRAND SLAM



The Grand Slam Trophy: The Grand Slam Trophy was presented by the old boys of Tata House in 1986. The Trophy is awarded to the winners of House Cups for Cricket, Hockey and Football in one calendar year.

The first Grand Slam was achieved by Hyderabad House in 1953, quickly followed by Tata House the following year. Then, after a gap of ten years, Kashmir House pulled off the feat in 1964. In 1989, twenty-five years since the Grand Slam Trophy was last won, Kashmir House once again managed to achieve a Grand Slam. Then it was the turn of Hyderabad House to join the elite club of Grand Slam winners, winning the trophy in 1995 and 1999 respectively.

In only one instance did the Grand Slam winner also win the House Cup for Athletics. This was Hyderabad House in 1953. This year the Grand Slam Trophy was won by Jaipur House. Congratulations!

doontoon

Madhav Dutt



| Viewpoint |

Doon and India

Vikramaditya Kapur draws parallels between The Doon School and the Republic of India

Doon remains one of the most respected boarding schools in the country. It has its traditions, its ethos, its own style of working and a beautiful campus. Moreover, unlike most other schools, the workings of Chandbagh are a reflection of the make-up of Indian society, or atleast the political aspect of it. With the systems of democracy and judiciary firmly in place, along with their problems and the inevitable heirarchies, Doon is definitely a representation of present day India.

Looking at Doon from a political lens, we have our prefects as the council of ministers (headed by our elected School Captain, the Prime Minister) and our S formers as the contestants who have already started canvassing and garnering support for the coming appointments (most have made promises that will be fulfilled during their tenures, that is if they are elected and if they then remember the promises). We also have the minor population comprising the D and C form students who are on the fringes of our political set-up, simply because they are so new that they still haven't formed opinions on most issues. The B and A form students are the *aam aadmi*, the *janta*, which votes for the government and is then content with going about its routine work, too busy to be bothered by anything else. The Central Government is represented by the School Council. Whether elements like corruption are present in Doon or not, like they are present in the politics of our land, well, I don't know. After all, I'm an *aam aadmi*, and if there are elements of dubiousness, then I must profess ignorance. Though, I must say, I quite doubt that corruption has found its way in Doon (unless you label raiding juniors' tuck and strong-arm tactics as corruption rather than boarding school pranks).

I'm sure that all Doscocs and ex-Doscocs reading this article will agree that the Supreme Court has the power to declare any policy formed by the Central Government (the School Council) null and void. In the case of our school, the Supreme Court would be The HM, DHM and the Deans. The various cards are like jail sentences usually given out by the judge(s) of the Supreme Court. Here, however, our judicial system is different in one respect; unlike the Indian judicial system which allows the guilty the right to have representation, in school the lawyers are usually present only on the side of the prosecution! Among other things, we also have our own form of capital punishment-expulsion.

In this replica of India, school houses mirror the states. The states are the five main houses and the Union Territories are the holding houses. The House Captain is the Chief Minister and his prefects are the council of ministers; the Housemaster is the Governor. In the past we have seen various states where the Governor and the Chief Ministers don't get along, reinforcing our view of Doon being a replica of India.

Like India, we have our lapses. Like any other *aam admi*, I am compelled to point out the social and economic issues of my country. Like India, even we are going through huge changes and like the reaction of the Indian public, we see mass opposition to some policies here at Doon too. But in the

grand scheme of things, I do appreciate my School's achievements, the way I appreciate my country's achievements. Most of all, I appreciate the freedom to voice my concern regarding any problem, be it in School or in the country.

There is one issue I have not addressed however – the position of the *Weekly* in this hierarchy. Well, our position has varied in the past and this variance has received flak, or commendation, depending on whose side we have been and on which issue. As for how the *Weekly* contributes to this model of India at the moment, I leave that for you to decide.

| Interview |

A Warm Welcome

The Doon School Weekly interviewed Ms Anamika Ghose, who recently joined School

Doon School Weekly (DSW): Could you tell us a little about yourself?

Anamika Ghose (AGS): I was born and brought-up in Calcutta and went on to study in Pune. I did my Masters from Calcutta University and a MSD course from Bombay University. I'm very involved in social service. In the past I have worked with deaf children, done arts and crafts with destitute girls and helped bring about awareness on health and hygiene in pavement schools. Before joining Doon I have worked in a Co-educational school and also had my own practice.

DSW: What are your feelings about Doon?

AGS: I've been in school for less than a month and the schools magnanimity has been great. The children are like those in any other school. The greenery of the school is amazing.

DSW: Before coming here did you have any thoughts about how Doscocs would be?

AGS: I have many friends that are ex-Doscocs and I was fairly certain about what they would be like.

DSW: At Doon, which activities do you see yourself getting involved in?

AGS: In sports it would be basketball as I played it in school and am familiar with the game. I would like to get involved in the social service activities that the school offers. I also paint and feel that I could get involved in that as an activity. I have been to the Art School and feel it is a great place.

DSW: What has been your most interesting moment in School?

AGS: Once, while in class with one of my senior forms, they tried to scare me by telling me that my house was haunted. They told me that a baby was buried in the garden and that people came every other day to visit the tombstone. I've lived alone before so I was not scared but that was an interesting day.

DSW: Is there anything in Doon that you haven't enjoyed?

AGS: I'm still very new but I feel that the students, a majority being boys, underestimate the capabilities of a woman. I understand this and I'm sure this will change over time. Being a good counselor requires trust and confidence and also requires one to be a good listener. I hope I am able to do well with the students here.

| Viewpoint |

DESIGNING OVER WRITING

Utkarsh Jha sheds light on the growing importance of designing in School publications, and remarks on the ramifications of this trend

Most board members of the *Weekly*, and hopefully some members of the School community must have observed the fate met by the *Weekly*s once they have been distributed and quickly glanced at. You find most strewn all over the School, or utilized for achieving new heights in aeromodelling. Though the causes of this rather frustrating phenomenon are manifold, one cannot discount the paper quality or dry presentation of the *Weekly* as being few of the reasons. After all, there must be some reason why copies of the *Echo*, *DSIR* or the *Yuv Arpan* do not meet with the same fate. Presentation is undoubtedly the saviour of all these publications. These publications have glossy paper, are often coloured, and use larger font sizes. Although designing is expensive and time-consuming, their efforts bear fruit with the readership they attract.

Today, a student does not have the attention span to read through eye soring articles if the publication lacks graphics or humour to bring his wandering mind back. Not a single boy would even glance at certain publications if the publication stopped publishing issues with eye catching graphics, glossy pages and entertaining illustrations. Similar to how designing is critical for popular tabloids and magazines like *The Week*, designing is the chief determinant of readership amongst School publications. Regrettably, (for the board of the *Weekly*) gone are the days when students would be satisfied with photocopied *Weekly*s. Even the *Weekly* uses features like blurbs, pictures and cartoons to improve its presentation. In order to lighten things for the reader, we try to keep our reports and articles short and use features like 'Doonspeaks'.

However there is a flipside here. You need to cut the time spent on writing, if you want to divert your energies in designing. Even in the *Weekly*, nearly half our time is spent on designing (and arranging information). The quality of articles, though difficult to judge, does become questionable when such less time is devoted to writing. With glossy paper and a high resolution picture, the average piece of junk is impressive. With this I believe most publications find themselves at a juncture where they need to strike a balance between presentation and quality writing. We cannot afford to let the quality of writing degrade while we constantly improve our skills on Photoshop and push for higher budgets for fancier paper. Moreover, it is grossly unfair on our part to then ask for higher budgets in order to bring out publications that would give fashion magazines a run for their money. Pumping in so much money to come out with designer publications which will be read only once a year is not only foolish economically, but also, inadvertently conveys the message that one must judge the publication by its cover. The ultimate goal of a School publication should be to act as a forum for expressing views on a subject, not to worry about those who get taken in by the looks instead of the content. After all, we are not commercialized, profit-oriented publications and need not worry about attracting readers in this manner.

(contd. from page 1)

odd minutes of play left. Sharan Seth extinguished the opposition's hopes with a majestic header in the dying moments to put us through to the next round. We were to play against the winner of the Phoenix vs Welham Boys' match, which was a well fought match. The game went down to penalties and eventually sudden death, with Phoenix emerging victorious.

The semi-final was where we really had to step-up our game. Phoenix had been proclaimed the strongest team in the tournament by coaches and players alike, and everybody (aside from the team, of course) expected them to show us the door without any particular difficulty. Again, our coach's strategy to contain them, tire them, and ultimately move in for the kill worked flawlessly, and we took a two goal lead, goals being scored by our captain, Anmol Jamwal and Aahan Menon. Phoenix got a goal back soon after, due to a rare defensive lapse by our otherwise unbeatable defence line. A fantastic team goal in the last few minutes silenced all doubters and put us into the Final Round, something we had only dreamed of.

The tension in our room before the Final Round was palpable. We were to face Lovedale yet again, and knew how badly they wanted revenge after our group stage encounter. One could sense a little bit of nervousness amongst the ranks, but also a hunger for victory and the thirst to prove ourselves beyond any doubt. The confidence of the team right from the kick-off was evident, and we took the lead early in the first half itself, with Aahan Menon catching the keeper off guard with a sweetly struck effort into the back of the net. From that moment on, there was no looking back. There were a few moments when we all had our hearts in our mouths for sure, but that is what makes for a good final. It was keenly contested, but we put in our all till the final whistle and ensured that we took the trophy home.

The emotion in the bus taking us to the airport is not something that can be explained in words, and it was truly a special moment. History had been made, and we were the ones to make it. We had taken the tournament by storm in our debut appearance, and put a lid on all the criticism we had faced earlier. Apart from that, we had a great time and truly enjoyed ourselves. It was really a once in a lifetime experience. But what our critics await is next year's tournament, to see whether we will be able to replicate this year's result. The one thing we learnt as a squad is, that if there is anything that matters, it is the way the eleven players play on the turf, as a unit to support each other.

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: Kanishka Malik Senior Editor: Raghav Puri Associate Editors: Shashvat Dhandhania, Yuv Vir Khosla, Mahak Sharma, Aakansha Mohan, Ujjwal Dahuja Hindi Editor: Shivank Singh Special Correspondents: Madhav Dutt, Vikramaditya Kapur, Raniz Bordoloi, Kunal Kanodia, Utkarsh Jha Correspondents: Arjun Kamdar, Aditya Bhattacharya Junior Correspondents: Akshaj Garg, Devansh Agarwal Webmaster: Vishal Mohla Assistant Managers: Shrey Nagalia, Rashid Sharfuddin, Arvindanabha Shukla Technical Assistant: KC Maurya Photo Credit: Arjun Parmar (page 1)