

Established in 1936
The Doon School
WEEKLY



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Two Etonians...Ten Questions

Shaurya Kuthiala and Ashish Mitter in a lively Q&A session with the visitors from Eton

The Doon School Weekly (DSW): In what capacity are you here at Doon?

Henry Mostyn and Rhydian Emlyn-Williams (H&R): We are supposedly here as teachers, but feel that we're on the way to becoming Headmasters. We like to have bits of fun here and there and do so.

DSW: How does Doon compare with Eton?

H&R: Doon has a campus, which Eton does not. Doon is smaller than Eton in terms of the number of students. Doon is spacious and has large buildings, which completely remove any sense of claustrophobia. As there are fewer students at Doon, everyone seems to know each other, which we really like. Doon has a very friendly environment because of this, too. The rules and regulations of Doon are much stricter than those in Eton. Seniors at Eton do not wield the power that senior DoscOs do. A new concept of equality at all forms has been implemented at Eton quite recently. However, Doon and Eton do have some similarities with respect to distribution of boys into Houses, having House Captains, using Masters' initials etc.

DSW: What factors do you think have led to Eton being regarded as one of the best schools in the world?

H&R: Eton had developed a reputation earlier which has stuck. Some of the old traditions have remained. A couple of members of the royal family also came to Eton which gave it quite a lot of publicity. Eton is now a figurehead. It is quite similar to many other public schools in England.

DSW: Etonians are widely perceived to be snobs – do you think that this presumption is valid?

H&R: No, Etonians are not active snobs. They are snobs to others as DoscOs are perceived to be snobs in Dehradun. Both Eton and Doon will have some students who fall under the snobbish stereotype, and this is undeniable.

DSW: Do you think that the idea of a boarding school is still valid in the 21st century?

H&R: Yes, definitely. In boarding schools, friendships are very strong, much stronger than friends made in day-schools. Also, a boarding school encourages the development of students in every field – sports, co-curricular activities, social-service and of course, studies. Why would the idea not be valid?

DSW: Is Eton still a preserve of the aristocracy, or are more students coming from working-class backgrounds?

H&R: Eton provides scholarships and most of the students who study there are from upper middle-class families. However, Eton is still quite expensive.

DSW: Keeping all factors in mind, is it possible for Eton to turn co-educational?

H&R: In our belief, it is just not going to happen. There is support for Eton to turn co-educational, but it is not on the agenda. It doesn't really fit the image of Eton and is not considered very seriously, which it should be.

DSW: Doon is privileged to have an influential 'Old Boys' community. Does Eton have such a community? How powerful is it, if so?

H&R: Eton is quite similar to Doon in that respect. Teams of the Old Boys do come back to play cricket, football and some other sports. The community is not very influential in altering or making decisions about the school, but they do give donations, hold talks, and, as we said, play sports against the school. Many of them send their sons to Eton as well. It is also a rather large community.

DSW: How did it feel to have Prince William and Prince Harry in school?

H&R: We never really interacted with them. They didn't have an impact on us. We would see them moving

about, but they acted like they were just like any other Etonian. One noticeable change was that security had been strengthened.

DSW: Many boarding schools face the problem of having to keep up with the times without letting go of their traditions. Does Eton face this problem, and if so, how does it cope with it?

H&R: We have got a progressive Headmaster at Eton. He has retained most of the standard traditions, but is doing away with the bad ones. The school is becoming more liberal in these matters, but is firm when certain traditions like attending the Chapel and wearing school uniforms are concerned. The Headmaster has done a good job, though he is becoming more removed from the boys. In some ways and traditions, Eton is still considered eccentric.

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Regulars

Laudable Effort

The Doon School was represented by Kushagra Kumar, Aditya Ajmani, Rijul Kochhar and Shilavadhra Bhattacharjee at the **IIPM Debate** held in New Delhi. Aditya Ajmani was adjudged the Best Speaker in the first round of the debate and was among the top thirty in the country to qualify for the final round. At the same event, Kushagra Kumar took part in a Creative Writing Competition and was placed third. Well done!

Basketball Brief

In the **Golden Jubilee Basketball Tournament** hosted in Welham Boys' School, the School played again. The School lost in the first round to Sri Ram School, 42-43, and won against Blue Bells School, 45-17. In the quarter finals, we played The Kirpal Sagar Academy and won convincingly, 50-31. In the semi-finals, our match was against Modern School, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi, where we lost, 62-39. Congratulations to our team on a well played tournament!

Unquotable Quotes

You are one times my size.

Sachin Batra being pummelled by his equal.

I'm the senior-most violinist player.

Vansh Bhatia, the maestro.

Right Now, Right Now.

Vinayak Paliwal borrows a tune from Bluffmaster.

Have you seen 'Courage the Cowardy Dog'?

Vinayak Paliwal strikes again.

She is posting you.

Saksham Sinha effectively 'machising'.

I went a surgery.

Sahil Jain, terribly injured.

No, that is wrong. He undergone a surgery.

Pratham Mittal attempts to correct his friend.

Which class did you have after this?

Yash Agarwal, back to the future

Career Call

The Careers' Notice Board will focus on fashion design and career opportunities in related fields this week. All boys keen on fashion should check it out.

Baski Bonanza

Mansher Dhillon rewinds to the XVIth Afzal Khan Basketball Tournament, held from April 8 to 12. Everything was new about the Afzal Khan Basketball Tournament this year. New baski courts and even a new school team, The New Public School...OK! OK! I am getting a bit carried away.

The Doon School team (of which eight were A formers) had a lot to live up to from the last team's performance which went unbeaten and who won every tournament they entered.

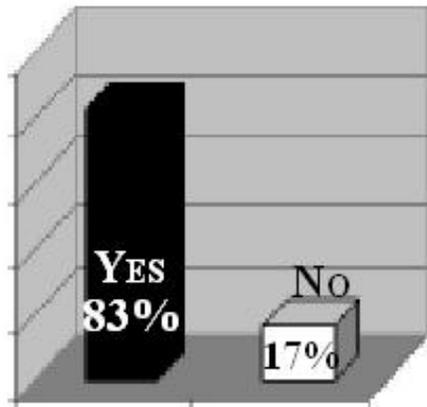
Surprisingly, our new team more than just lived up to our expectations by winning their first four matches comfortably. Chirag's dribbling and passing, Eeshan's jump-balls and Pranav Kapoor's three-point shots made the Doon's army's adrenaline surge. Our team was young, but had this aura of invincibility about them, making it impossible to ignore their determination.



The BKSP semi-final match was a very close and nerve-racking encounter for us Doscocs. Needless to say, the grit and fighting spirit displayed by our team was such stuff that heroes are made of. The jaws of defeat found us hard to chew, for we grabbed victory in the end and did it in style, with the last minute seeing us score six points.

OPINION POLL

Do you think the prefects' powers have been curtailed gradually over the years?



Next Week's Question: Would you like to have dance – western/Indian – introduced as an STA in school, or not?

Our stomachs, which were tied in knots finally let loose. Getting to the finals was as rewarding to us as being in the finals.

In the finals, we faced the New Public School team, whom we knew would be daunting adversaries and tough to beat. We played hard, they played hard, they won, but we won the hearts of those around us. In the end, the team members were consoled with the award of 'Most Promising Player of the Tournament' going to Rishabh Bir Singh. The team left the courts knowing they had more matches to play, skills to hone, and more tournaments to win.

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Cricket Continues...

School vs Lalit Hari Sugar Factory, Pilibhit
Gursharan Singh continues his reports on this season's cricket fixtures

The School turned out for the second match of our Pilibhit tour against the mill-men in good spirits and in a better state of preparedness. The mill-men won the toss and elected to bat to the bowling of Gurshant and Jaiveer. Both bowlers were extremely erratic. Gurshant bowled six wides in 3 overs and made no impression on the batsmen. Jaiveer was equally inconsistent and ineffective. We summoned our spinners and, sure enough, Anirudh had Rajesh snapped up by Shukla at mid-wicket almost immediately. The mill were one down for 36, as Goldy joined Kanhaiya and the pair put on 80 enterprising runs for the second wicket, before Goldy was stumped by Ajmani of Amritesh for 35 well-made runs. The mill-men lost wickets at regular intervals after this, and at 169 for 9, with Baheti having bowled a beautiful spell to support Amritesh, we thought we had pegged them down to a manageable score. At 199 for 9, with one over to go, disaster struck! The captain gave the ball to leggie Anirudh, and the unfortunate bowler conceded 25 runs in the over, including four sixes, all hit by Rajan! Our spinners bowled a consistent and nagging line and almost put us in a winning situation. They were backed up by some enthusiastic fielding, and but for that one disastrous over, had achieved more than we thought possible against a very experienced and aggressive mill batting line-up.

A score of 225 to win in 35 overs was a bit on the high side but I am glad to report that the school chased the runs in realistic and positive fashion with Samridh leading with a brilliant and strokeful 81, including 11 hits to the fence! Unfortunately he had only desultory support and the constant changing of partners, due to falling wickets, must have been unsettling for him. Only the Captain, and to an extent Shilavadra, Abhimanyu, and later Dilshad, provided any support. At 141 for 5, we had a chance, but lost Samridh! From 164 for 6 we petered out to be 183 for 9 when the overs ran out.

Despite losing both the fixtures the school team showed fighting spirit, and played their hearts out. That is all one can ask for! We were pitted against seasoned professionals at the district level and there were no free lunches on offer, except in the confines of the pavilion. I must record the exceptionally warm and lavish hospitality of our hosts the Pilibhit family, descendants of Shri Lalitha Prasad and Shri Hari Prasad, after whom the Lalit Hari Sugar Factory is named. The end of proceedings on the cricket ground was followed by a guided tour of the sugar mill. It was a treat to see, first hand, the manner in which a mill that began operations in 1914 or so, has been modernised and refurbished to become a flourishing commercial viability in 2006. That evening, our entire contingent, which included KPB, DKS and Mrs. Sandeep Singh, had the divine opportunity of offering prayers in the precincts of the private temple maintained by the Pilibhit family. Later, we dined in regal splendour inside the magnificent and exotic haveli of the Prasads! A memorable three days in Pilibhit were capped by a further bonanza, as we travelled to Corbett Park and were guests of Mr. Madhav Prasad and his sons, Tappu and Mukund, at their jungle resort! A glorious safari and a plethora of sumptuous meals alleviated the pain of our cricketing losses!

Scores: LHSF 224 all out; Kanhaiya 52, Goldy 35, Rajan 52 n.o.. Amritesh 3 for 43, Baheti 2 for 23, 1 for 46, Nangia 1 for 16.

The Doon School 183 for 9 in 35 overs; Samridh 81, Avyay 19, Shilavadra 19, A. Raj Singh 14, Dilshad 13.

School vs Mayoora School, Ajmer

Neeraj Bedhotiya, former Housemaster of Oberoi House, fearsome fast bowler and charismatic teacher of Physics, now the Principal of Mayoora School, Ajmer, came down with his cricket team, and played the school on Sunday, April 16.

Mayoora won the toss and batted first. They began well, and the two openers looked accomplished against Gurshant and Siddarth Sharma who bowled well, maintaining the parameters of conservative aggression! Pranay broke the shackles of the first few overs with a lovely on-drive, and soon followed up with a scintillating straight drive, both of Gurshant. Geet, too, joined in the action, and picked off Sharma for a couple of leg-side boundaries. The score mounted ominously towards the 100 mark as Amritesh and Shukla operated in tandem. At 95 for none in 22 overs, the batsmen were well-entrenched and in position to go on the rampage, but Amritesh struck, bowling Geet for 23 steady run! Left-handed Nitin came in and showed himself to be of the attacking mould with some free-flowing shots. He was taken by Kocher off Shukla as he tried to sweep an arm. Mayoora soon lost Pranay, the mainstay of their batting, who was the victim of a ball from Shukla that stood up on him. Thereafter the innings was in disarray and Mayoora folded up in the 33rd over for 137, a modest score at best!

The school opened with Samridh and Ajmani. Ajmani played extravagantly at a ball on his middle stump and

was bowled for a duck of the fourth ball of the innings, putting the team under enormous pressure. The

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Mayoor bowlers, Pranay and Kunal, bowled an impeccable length and had Samridh groping for the ball on several occasions! Our most accomplished player was in too great a hurry, and did not inspire any confidence with his incessant flourishes outside the off-stump. Kocher, on the other hand, was a model of solidity and played a fantastic hand for the school. Samridh's death-wish was granted by the cricketing gods and he finally succeeded in nicking one from Nomman to the keeper! Avyay joined Kocher and the two Nizam stalwarts combined well, rotated the strike, and took us within reach of victory before Avyay was bowled by Pranay for a rollicking 43! We were in sight of victory and after Pulkit held the fort for a while, Sharma joined Kocher and the two helped themselves to the runs required. The school cantered home in the 32nd over for the loss of four wickets: a comprehensive win! Kocher played a match-winning knock, anchoring the side, and absorbing the pressure of early setbacks!

Scores: Mayoor School 137 all out; Pranay 51, Geet 23, Pulkit 4 for 13, Amritesh 2 for 27, Shukla 2 for 27, S. Sharma 1 for 32.

The Doon School 138 for 4; A.Jhunjhunwala 43, K. Kocher 39 n.o., S. Sharma 14; Nitin 2 for 16, Prannay 1 for 13, Naman 1 for 20.

Free-Wheelin'

Samkit Sethia recounts his latest tutorial outing

There was a sudden uproar of excitement at the H House CDH table when the A formers heard that they were going to go cycling. So much was our excitement that we test-rode our cycles in school on Saturday itself.



We started early on Sunday morning and headed for Doiwala. Immediately after consuming a hearty breakfast, we were all geared up for cycling. We strapped on our elbow and knee guards, fastened our helmets and hit the road. Within five minutes of our starting, the well-known 'jam-up' Akshat Khandelwal, had his bicycle chain come off, thereby delaying us by twenty minutes. We raced across the rural terrain and crossed many bridges. Vansh and Batra entertained us with nose wheelies and other stunts. SJB kept cracking jokes to keep up our spirits.

We rode past small, fast-flowing streams and at one point of time were cycling parallel to the high-voltage electric fences of the Rajaji National Park. Armaan Malhotra, so scared of getting electrocuted hit a boulder and performed a 'fried egg'

on the ground. Tired and exhausted, we went to a rest house and followed it up with a swim in a close-by stream. We played and enjoyed ourselves in the water. SJB also joined us and a few snaps were taken. Back at the rest house, a very interesting lunch comprising Maggi, garlic bread, watermelon and Frooti awaited us. This was followed by a jungle safari, during which we saw a horde of monkeys, a few tuskers and a member of the deer family, the cheetal.

This marked the end of our outing as we headed back for school. All in all, it was a wonderful experience which we hope to repeat soon.

Letters to the Editor

Way To Go, CDH!

This is to comment on the improved quality and variety of food being served in the CDH. There was a time when the word roti was preceded with 'bullet-proof'; these are now much softer and the CDH is even occasionally serving different types of rotis such as rumali and missi roti. Besides all this, a number of new dishes have made their appearance and have been greatly liked by DoscOs. The new sweet dishes and salads are particularly worth a mention. I think it is time that we stopped cribbing and started appreciating the efforts of the CDH staff - very commendable indeed! Kudos to Mr. Makhija. He has succeeded in actually satisfying the Dosco stomach with his creativity and resourcefulness.

(Naman Goel)

This is to commend the CDH on the improvement in both quality and variety of food this term. It also seems that the bird flu scare has been a blessing in disguise for us DoscOs. Fresh strawberries, poha and flavoured yogurts are definitely preferable to cold omelettes and greasy fried eggs. The 'new' menu is both healthy and flavourful. Even if eggs and chicken reappear on the menu, I hope the high standard is maintained.

(Soumitra Srivastava)

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