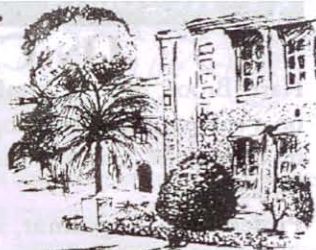


The Doon School WEEKLY

Saturday, April 25, 2009 • Issue No. 2217



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Cricket Sunday

Gursharan Singh reports on the cricket fixture played on Sunday, April 19, 2009, between Roshanara Club, Delhi, and the School

Aruj won the toss, for a change, and put the visitors in. His decision evinced complete confidence in his team's ability to deliver the goods in all departments of the game. As events proved, he was not mistaken!

Harpreet and Tulsi, experienced campaigners both, opened for the Club while the spearhead of our bowling in recent times, Tushar Gupta, shared the new ball with newcomer, Shreyvardhan Swarup. Harpreet was circumspect, but Tulsi looked aggressive and was eager to go over the top at every opportunity, a venture for which the wicket was hardly ideal. After some initial success he tried to go inside-out over the in-field and was snapped up by Jai Sharma at extra-cover on the second attempt, displaying a tantalizing piece of unnecessary jugglery!

In the meantime, Harpreet had played a brilliant, effortless, cover drive of Shrey with a dead straight bat from middle-stump and continued his safe, silky and superlative batting in complete comfort and command. Roshanara were determined to stamp their authority on the game with the now conventional limited overs play of hoisting the ball and clearing the in-field. In just such an attempt Dr. Ravi mistimed a Shrey delivery in to the covers and Uddhav made a fine sliding catch of it to get the visitors down to 28 for 2 in the sixth over. This brought in the captain Sanjiv Sethi who was soon bowled by Shrey in trying to lift a ball that was too full, over the bowler's head.

Spin was introduced from both ends and Roshanara continued their slide with wickets falling regularly. Anand was smartly taken low down off his own bowling by Archit while Shukla from the CDH end spun a web of uncertainty and unease around the batsmen, netting four wickets, including that of Harpreet, whom he bowled with an arm ball that beat the batsman's effort to drive him through covers with a straight bat. The Club innings folded up for 117 in 26.3 overs. A brilliant take of his own bowling by debutante leggie Siddhant Sachdev to get rid of a dangerous-looking Neeraj in the Roshanara middle order, deserves special mention.

We opened with Archit and Har Naresh despite the misgivings of my associate, the indefatigable RSF, and the two batsmen opened on a brisk note, exuding a confidence born of the memory of several fruitful partnerships for the school this season. Unfortunately, despite shaping well, Archit hit a full toss on leg stump straight to square-leg and the fielder took a splendid catch.

Itihas joined Har Naresh and the two took the score to 55 for 4 with some patient and judicious batting in complete contrast to the slam-bang tactics of the opposition. Itihas played a memorable cover drive and Har Naresh executed an on-drive, bisecting mid-wicket and square leg with precision and power. For the rest they were content to guide the ball in to the gaps and nullify the portly attempts of the fielders to run them out. These tactics served us well till Itihas became impatient and jumped out at Jain to be stumped. Rajdeep joined Har Naresh and ran himself out at the earliest possible opportunity to reclaim the shade of the pavilion. It was left to Prannoy Bohra to carry matters towards a conclusion with a mixture of patient watchfulness and blistering attack that were refreshing to see in one playing only his first season for the School. Bohra lost Har Naresh for a well-made 38 with the score at 80 for 4.

Reddy joined Prannoy but perished after a few lusty blows and Prannoy was run-out. We were almost home but Binrajka and Uddhav arrived at the crease on separate suicide missions and achieved their inexplicable goal in the space of three balls, creating a stir in the Club ranks. Fortunately, Aazam joined Jai and settled the issue in our favour with a minimum of fuss--running the ball down to deep-backward square-leg and running four!

The School won by three wickets after a period of six years over one of our oldest and strongest opponents. The visitors failed to tailor their game to the demands of the slow and uneven track. Our players on the other hand played with the skill, composure and aplomb of veterans, to pocket yet another victory in what is turning out to be a golden patch in School cricket history!

Scores in brief:

Roshanara Club: 117 all out; Harpreet 45, Neeraj 14, Tulsi 13; Aruj Shukla 4 for 21, Siddhant Sachdev 2 for 15, Archit Kumar 1 for 17, Vidur Yadav 1 for 7.

The Doon School: 118 for 8; Har Naresh 38, P. Bohra 22, I. Singh 17; S. Anand 2 for 14, P. Anand 1 for 15, Dr. Gupta 2 for 16, R. Jain 1 for 17.

ON CAMPUS

Harry Brook, from **Columbus School, Ireland**, is here on a student exchange programme. He will be with us till the end of May. We wish him a pleasant and comfortable stay.

Professor C. Rajkumar, alumnus of Oxford University and Harvard Law School and presently Vice-Chancellor of O.P. Jindal Global University, gave a talk on the 'Career Opportunities in Law' in the AV room on Saturday, April 18, 2009.

Mel Britmon, Director, Canadian University Application Centre, held a seminar on the various options of studies, scholarships and career opportunities in North America.

BOWLED AIM!

Over the weekend, The School cricket team played matches against **Roshanara Club, Delhi** and **LHSF, Pilibhit**.

In the first match the School team defeated Roshanara Club by three wickets. A report runs in this issue. In the match against Pilibhit, the School won by five wickets. Aruj Shukla took a hat-trick in the match.

Well done!

CRACK!

In the **Council's Schools Tournament**, The School hockey team played The Col. Brown School, The Guru Nanak Academy (GNA) and The Moravian Institute (MIS). The School beat The Col. Brown School 1-0 and The GNA 3-0. The School lost to MIS 4-2.

SECURITY MEASURES

General Khanna (retd.), former Commandant of the **Indian Military Academy, Dehradun**, gave various talks about security issues in the Houses and to the faculty.

HAPPY FEET

Anmol Jamwal has been appointed the **School Dance Coordinator** for the current year.

Congratulations!

TOUR DE FRANCE

Nilesh Agarwal, Saadman Chowdhry, Shashank Peshawaria and Ashvath Singh Kunadi along with PMV represented the School at the **Sciences Politique Europe Asia Conference, 2009**, at Le Havre in France.

Shashank Peshawaria was adjudged **Best Speaker**, for speaking on the topic *Environment Development – Can we sustain it or are we witnessing an economic suicide?*

Ashvath Singh Kunadi and Shashank Peshawaria were part of the team that was adjudged the best for speaking on the topic *Culture, Belief and Gender in Asia and Europe: a need for change*.

Congratulations!

GOMBAR WINNERS

The positions of the **Gombar Speech Trophy Competition** are as follows:

Seniors:

1st: Rishi Sood

2nd: Abhinav Mittal

3rd: Yashvardhan Jain

Congratulations!

Juniors:

1st: Utkarsh Jha

2nd: Shashvat Dhandhania

3rd: Vikram Aditya Kapoor

IAYP AWARDS

Vinay Pande received a Certificate of Recognition for special service to the IAYP in India. This was presented to him by Sue Walker, Chairperson, Asia-Pacific, Duke of Edinburgh Award, at a ceremony held at Modern School, Barakhmaba Road, New Delhi, on April 21, 2009.

The following have completed various standards of the IAYP (The International Award for Young People):

Bronze: Saib Ahmed, Milind Pandit, Ujjwal Khanna, Sachit Taneja, Nipun Batra.

Silver: Arvind Sharma, Uday Shriram, Shekhar Bishnoi. Congratulations!



Opinion Poll

Does the Indian voter know whom to vote for?



(347 members of the School community were polled)

Next Week's Question: Do you think that the heat justifies shifting Games' time to a more appropriate hour?

Roving Eye

Ch. Ed. and Black Mamba

After last year's *explosive* turn of events, the School administration couldn't help but keep us in guarded anticipation. The first Sc form Socials are over, and this means that the (in)famous pen is struggling to contain all the poison within it. So, *lady* and gentlemen, start your engines and strap on your seatbelts, because here comes our first Socials' *Roving Eye*, and the poison flood begins here.

Sorry about the flood. Things actually threatened to be anticlimatic, because our guests for the evening turned up half an hour late (we forgive them for the delay, because this allowed a few anxious Doscors time to re-gel their hair, and practise that 'fake' smile). But when the tadpoles finally entered Chandbagh, they were greeted by a group of boys with shorn, *rimo* hair, wearing the whitest clothes possible. (The flood actually starts now.)

Our dear George wasted no time in putting his School Captain counterpart to the test (or was it the sword?) during the opening dance, twirling her around without any clue as to what exactly he was doing. We soon realised that the sound quality left a lot to be desired, because someone had 'pinched' the speakers.

The Socials then got into full flow, courtesy 'our very own' *bulb*, who, despite not dancing himself, said "Hi!" to every Welhamite in the MPH with his 'flashy' smile and then encouraged them to dance. Though this didn't quite work out, a lot of people did break the ice and start talking, which could not be said of last year. What was more noticeable was that it wasn't only the usual suspects who got going. Take Case 1: Our unofficial Hindi Ed. smelled the sweet *scent* of the sanguine night. Case 2: The chessmaster, who was seen *praying* that he'd make the right moves before Socials, de-

cided to try his hand at a new language – Sanskrit. Case 3: A group of six girls clustered around a small, tech-savvy little piggy (what happened once they found out he'd Websensed their minds is a different matter). Case 4: The writer amongst us made the entire form eNVious after some soul-searching, by spending the entire evening with one person only. Case 5: The School T.T.T.T... Case 6: The resident phonebooth-mullah was busy chatting 'up' an interested Welhamite. As for the Kothi from K...well, let's just leave that for another issue.

Of course, we couldn't possibly exclude the 'centres of attraction', now, could we? Our art secretary, the 'versatile' one, tried his luck in every corner of the MPH (word has it he was successful, and sent a 'stunner' later on). The Barbie Girl was forced to shift his gaze downwards while talking, after the School Fish got serious feedback while jumping junior hurdles. Meanwhile, three large guys (one turbanator included) got a girl so excited about their *bhangra* that she almost fainted. The Bengali vocalist from Kashmir was another such busy one. And then, we had the star of the show: the First-Aider, whose reputation before Socials stretched ahead of him for a mile, and during Socials...hmmm...*baaki aap samajhdar hain...*

For some, things didn't go as planned. The School Orchestra leaders kept to themselves due to their similar preferences (they wanted Socials with Welham Boys', instead). The *Chhoti Bong Bachcha* looked so disoriented while he danced that it prompted the girls around him to request that he receive some (medical) attention. The Tata House cricketer seemed bored...no prizes for guessing why. Our *aashiq* lost his 'vision', because of which nothing else was reported missing later. The Tata House dance coordinator burned the floor with his explosive dance moves, but was too shy to speak with anyone. He thus searched for the next best thing around – the food. Two *gujjus* (one of whom enjoys living in Buckingham Palace and eating *Bingo* chips) managed to make absolute fools of themselves, which seemed to be a great achievement for them. The third member of the same party, it is rumoured, failed in his attempts at committing suicide.

Then we had Pullun, the dog from Hyderabad, who proved to be a real 'mover': every time he approached girls, girls 'moved' away. And the cherry on the icing – the *maharishi*, fresh from his Gombar win, tried to be exceedingly verbose with the 'plethora' of females present, and requested each one, in turn, to dance. But sometimes facing eight left feet is too daunting a task for even the most daring lady.

During all the action, there were also a few who went unnoticed (almost!). PS], our DJ, in his attempts to call people to the dance floor, barked out the following announcement a hundred times during Socials: "Doscors and Welhamites, you have ten minutes left!" And there was also the judges' panel observing proceedings: the Oberoi House Captain (booted later by the Foot House Captain, who had been sleeping till then), our master-in-charge (who constantly retrieved hordes of lost ladies and shunted them back onto the dance floor), and last, but not least, Mr. *Raunight*, about whom this article is not allowed to say anything further, except that he was complimented on his hair by a lady on a dare.

As Socials neared its end, we could see that people on both sides were frantically trying to make up for lost time. As the Welham contingent said their goodbyes and departed, so very punctually (very unlike the way they arrived), hordes of Doscors were seen dashing madly in the opposite direction to grab as much food as was humanly possible. With *kathis* and *calzones* spilling out of our pockets as we left, that 'wrapped' it all up for us. Social No. 1 is over. No. 2 is next, and we're all waiting for it.

U/15 – VICTORIOUS

Deep Singh recounts the match the School Junior Cricket team played against Mayoora School, Ajmer

Overcast conditions and a light breeze raised the spectre of an interrupted game on the morning of April 5, as we set out to face Mayoora School, Ajmer. Buoyed by the high-quality playing field at Mayoora School, our boys looked forward to putting up an improved fielding performance. Having won the toss, Vihaan unexpectedly chose to bat on a green top with variable bounce, owing to his confidence in the ability of our spinners to outfox the opposition. Kabir heeded advice as he steadfastly withstood the swing and uneven bounce served up by the pitch, while Dokania enjoyed the beneficence of the stars with three lives to his name.

No sooner had the openers started to play their shots, Dokania was struck on the pads and adjudged lbw. Vihaan joined Kabir, whose Midas touch materialized into some effortless drives through the offside field. While Kabir rotated the strike with ease, Vihaan Khanna came a cropper as an off-cutter shattered his defences. This sent shudders down the collective spine of the team as we strove to muster together a strong partnership.

Chandrachuda joined Kabir to dexterously negotiate the bowling while not failing to punish the odd ball. Both Kabir and Chandrachuda built an enterprising partnership that ended in the twenty-third over as Kabir stepped out of his crease to be stumped.

Chandrachuda was joined by Abhishek and he, too, was soon stumped. Panic set in as Adhiraj and Siddhant threw away their wickets in the flurry of the chase for runs. Joined by Ujjwal, Chandrachuda continued his onslaught and found support in his partner, as both rotated strike with alacrity. A lofted straight drive from Ujjwal proved to be the shot of the day. Even though a slog attempt by Chandrachuda cost him his wicket, the boys put on a formidable 155 runs in 30 overs, which I thought was a laudable effort.

Mayoora began their batting smoothly, aided by some wayward bowling from Ujjwal. Viren Chhabra, on the other hand, bowled with exactitude and finesse, keeping a lid on the scoring rate. It wasn't until the first bowling change that Siddhant clinched the crucial wicket of their captain, Ajay Raj, turning the game upon its head.

This started a domino effect as their batsmen fell like ninepins to our spinners. Mayoora's batting folded as a result of some mesmerizing spin bowling by our bowlers, and deft fielding as Naman returned to the pavilion, in the form of their last recognized batter. A stupendous effort by our boys in the form of adroit batsmanship and secure fielding achieved a 78-run victory for the School.

Scores in brief:

Doon: 154 all out; Kabir Sethi 43; Chandrachuda 36; Manan 4-18 runs; Prateek 3-16.

Mayoora: 77 all out; Ajay Raj 14; Gilhotra 3-7; Vigya 2-18; Ujjwal 2-10.

CAREER CALL



The Careers' noticeboard will feature **Real Estate Development** as a career this week. All budding estate agents should look it up.

Campfires and Temple Tales

Sanjiv Bathla

Once upon a time, in a cheval glass, something was seen moving. A reflection, a blur, a wave of hair. Then there was eye contact. Was it a ghost? There was silence around our campfire. The boys were quiet and somebody whispered, "Sshhh". "I think that is the shadow of a bear," said one. "I can hear feet crushing dry leaves," said another. "Oh! Is it a lady bear?" Yet another wondered aloud, "What if a leopard walks through the camp?" "Hey! No... nothing can happen as long as our campfire is lit." "Guys, has anyone ever seen a ghost?" And so it went on.

More wood was added to the fire, as we huddled around it, our tents forming a crescent behind us.

It had taken twelve bone-rattling hours by bus to reach Duggal Bitta, at 9,000 feet. The fabulous view of the snow peaks surrounded us, the drive through a dense red rhododendron forest was divine, and pitching tents in the midst of a pretty meadow of excelsia pines and pencil cedars had washed away every bit of fatigue. Firewood had been quickly collected, vessels and bottles filled from a spring nearby, our only water source. Some of the B form boys had never lived without running water or electricity for an entire midterm. We thanked God for the moonlight, the stars and the warm fire.

The morning came quickly, the snow peaks ablaze in the fresh light. A chirping of little birds replaced the WorldSpace music that I often enjoy with my first cup of tea. The other sounds of the forest around filtered through. Soon, the murmur of sleepy voices became wide-awake chatter, as the tents overflowed with stories. "Yaar, the bear was outside our tent!" "The hyena came by ours." "Yaar, it was a mixed-up *bhutia* hyena." "Guys I could not sleep until 4:30 coz the bear was there...I was so scared!"

The plates clanged at the announcement of food; our CDH cook Raju and the Jaipur House linen room staff accompanying us were soon churning out hot omelettes for breakfast. We left for Chopta to trek and climb further to Tungnath. At that height (12,000 ft), a breathtaking view of the mountains covered with untouched snow met our eyes. We thronged around the bells of the temple of Shiva and Parvati. Tungnath is the highest shrine among the Panch Kedar. It is the

source of three springs which forms the river Akash Ganga.

Our Uttarakhand tourism booklet explains, "The local tales are associated with the *Mahabharata* and the adventures of the Pandavas when they were in exile. It is considered that the Pandavas felt guilty for having killed their own kith and kin after the great battle at Kurukshetra. They needed the blessings of Lord Shiva for their redemption. Lord Shiva was not willing and so eluded them. The place Guptkashi is where he disappeared or became *gupt*, and took refuge at Kedarnath in the form of a bull. Being followed by the Pandavas, he dived into the ground, leaving his hump on the surface. The eldest brother, Yudishtir, built a temple and worshipped at the holy spot. The remaining portion of the god reappeared at four other places. The head appeared at Pashupatinath which is in Nepal, the thighs at Tungnath where Arjuna built a temple and wor-

shipped, the middle portion at Madmaheshwar where Bhima built a temple, and the lock of hair at Kalpeshwar where Nakula worshipped. These are known as the Panch Kedar and are places of worship for the locals".

The boys were not too interested in temple tales; the bells, the slate roof and the gray stone didn't say much to them. Instead,

they engaged in sliding on snow slopes. Cannonball-sized snow-balls were seen to fly in our own 'Mahadosco' battle of laughter and fun. The boys climbed onto the temple roof like snipers. The teachers were bombarded from every angle. Through snow and thorny bushes, paths were redrawn, each taking the shortest cut back to the camp after the long and tiring day. The piping hot *adrak chai* revived us all.

The following day, above the village Sari, we climbed a steep hillock, beyond which lay the Dayrital Lake, nestling among the hills. Tranquil and clean, its placid waters had plenty of trout. A breathtaking view of the Choukhamba Peak seemed so close that we felt as if we could reach out and touch it. Most of the boys took a great interest in learning how to fix the tackle to catch the fish, how to reel and cast the fly and how to let the fish go, after having caught one. It was a fine finale to an eventful midterm. Many things were fished out...however, the mermaid still escaped.



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