Cricket Sunday

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

Arun 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 juggling.

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 as it got 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 Sanjeev Sethi who was soon bowled by Shrey in trying to hit 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 smacked hard off his 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 got 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 costly 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 Binjrajka 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, Azam joined Jain 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; Arun 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.

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, Sadman 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

Juniors:
1st: Utkarsh Jha
2nd: Shashvat Dhandhania
3rd: Vikram Aditya Kapoor

Congratulations!

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, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi, on April 21, 2009.

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

Bronze: Saab Ahmed, Millind Pandit, Ujjwal Khanna, Sachit Tanega, Nipun Batra

Silver: Arvind Sharma, Uday Shriam, Shekhar Bishnoi

Congratulations!

Opinion Poll

Does the Indian voter know whom to vote for?

Yes 18%
No 82%

(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 Se form Socials are over, and this means that the (in)famous pen is struggling to contain all the poison within it. So, ladies and gentlemen, stop your engines and strap on your seatbelts, because here come our first Socials’ Roving Eye, and the poison flood begins here.

Sorry about the flood. Things actually threatened to be anticlimactic, because our guests for the evening turned up half an hour late (we forgive them for the delay; because this allowed a few anxious Doscos 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, rima 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’ bulls, 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 sangeet night. Case 2: The chessmaster, who was seen praying that he’d make the right moves before Socials, de-
U/15 — VICTORIOUS

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

Overcast conditions and a light breeze nipped the spectacle of an interrupted game on the morning of April 5, as we set out to face Mayoar School, Ajmer. Buoyed by the high-quality playing field at Mayoar School, our boys looked forward to putting up an improved fielding performance. Having won the toss, Viahan 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 stood the swing and uneven bounce served up by the pitch, while Dokana enjoyed the benefit of the stars with three lives to his name.

No sooner had the openers started to play their shots, Dokana was struck on the pads and adjudged lbw. Viahan joined Kabir, whose touch materialized into some effortless drives through the offside field. While Kabir rotated the stike with ease, Viahan 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 Ujwal, Chandrachuda continued his onslaught and found support in his partner, as both rotated stike with alacrity. A lofted straight drive from Ujwal proved to be the shot of the day. Even though a bogey 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.

Mayoor began their batting smoothly, aided by some wayward bowling from Ujwal. 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. Mayoar’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 wkt; Prateek 3-16.
Mayoor: 77 all out; Ajay Raj 14; Gilhotra 3 7; Virya 2-18; Ujwal 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.
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, “Shhh”. “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 Boy form boys had never lived without running water or electricity for an entire midwinter. 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 bhauta hyena.” “Guys I could not sleep until 4:30 am, 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 Gupkashi is where he disappeared or became gapi, 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 oldest brother, Yudhisthir, 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 worshipped, 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 Kedars 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 ‘Mahadosa’ 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 adivat revived us all.

The following day, above the village Sar, we climbed a steep hillock, beyond which lay the Devital river, nesting among the hills. Tranquil and clean, its placid waters had plenty of trout. A breathtaking view of the Choukambha 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 fish 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 midwinter. Many things were fished out...however, the mermaid still escaped.