



Madras College

Summer Newsletter

June 1994

Another session is all but over and the final newsletter once more reflects the wide range of school activities which Madras pupils are so fortunate to enjoy. There are successes, there are disappointments, but what is significant about them all is not the outcome but the level of involvement. It is a tribute to the dedication and commitment of staff and pupils that it is possible to achieve so much in the space of one term.

STAFF NOTES

Mr. Wills, Mrs. Halkett and Mrs. Masson retire at the end of the session. Between them they have given the school 55 years of outstanding service not only in the class-room but in a range of other interests and activities. They have each made their own very distinctive contribution to the life and work of the school and we are sorry indeed to see them go. They take with them our sincere thanks for all that they have done and our very best wishes for the future.

Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. Holmes and Mr. MacCrimmon make a welcome return from absence. We send our good wishes to Mr. Campbell and Mrs. Burns who have been absent for some time.

We congratulate Mrs. Rough on her appointment as APT Guidance.

We thank Mr. Blakey and his team of invigilators for the efficient organisation and supervision of SCE examinations.

As part of the routine broadening of their management experience and expertise. Assistant Rectors are moving to different year groups. The new arrangements are:

S1 Dr. Gilbert
S4 Mr. Bennett

S2 Mr. Edgar
S5/6 Mrs. Easingwood

S3 Mr. Halliday

ART

A large gathering of parents and staff from Madras and neighbouring schools attended the Private View of the Art Department's Summer Exhibition in the South Street Hall on Monday, 20th June. Councillor Joyce Smith, Convener of Fife Education Committee, expressed her pleasure in opening the exhibition and at the high standard of the work on display. An impressive variety of two and three dimensional exhibits drawn from the year's work in S1-6 gave a vivid impression of the activity of this vibrant department. Craft work of an exceptionally high standard from the departments of Home Economics and Technical were also on display.

Visitors were impressed not only by the skill and real promise of the work, but also by the evident enthusiasm and enjoyment of art which radiated from it. Mrs. Alma Smith and her hard-working team are to be congratulated on their achievement

One former pupil of this Department John Maclean, has gone on to outstanding successes at Edinburgh College of Art. He graduates this year and is among only twenty five students offered a place on the Post-Graduate M.A. course at the Royal College in London. This year he has won the Edinburgh College of Art Painting Prize, the R.S.A. Student Painting Prize, the Maclaine-Watters Medal and the R.S.W. Travel Scholarship. We congratulate John on his splendid year and wish him well in his future studies.

DRAMA

The Junior Drama Club's dramatisation of *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* made exciting use of music, dance and imaginative costumes, playing for three evenings to full houses in the

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Quad Theatre. Through this production, around 60 pupils from S1-S3 were given the experience of live theatre involvement. Mrs. Kirk, Miss Towler and their two Sixth year assistants, Lindsay Duckett and Diana Martin gave unstintingly of their time in achieving this, while special mention should also be made of Susi Kirk, whose invaluable support and splendid Albatross will be remembered by all involved.

Andrew Bell (S3) and Chads Melvin (S4) have gained places in the Scottish Youth Theatre and will spend five weeks on their Summer course in Aberdeen.

Meanwhile, Anna McElligot will be appearing in *Wait until Dark* and a number of other pupils will be appearing in *Our Day Out* both productions in the Byre Theatre's professional Summer Season.

MUSIC

Too late to be included in the Easter Newsletter was mention of the fine performance given by flautist Lorna McLachlan of S4 which earned her the position of runner-up in this year's Bell Baxter Centenary Music Competition.

As rumour spreads about the fact that Madras College boasts a Pipe Band - although this has now been in existence for three years - so does the annual number of engagements increase. Playing to a packed and appreciative audience of Rotarians at a local hotel during April was one example of this and they also played three *spots* at the school's Summer *Bazaar* this month. Outside engagements are now pouring in and the Pipe Band, along with the Wind Band, have just completed an engagement at a cereal factory open-day in the Cupar area.

Buoyed up by Festival successes, the Senior Choir settled down to final preparations for their tour of West Norway. A Parents' Evening was held during April to give full details of the twelve-day trip, and throughout May pupils attended special rehearsals for the very large touring repertoire. A band-night was held jointly with Waid Academy and helped raise funds. The many-talented pupils also prepared programmes of Scots bagpipe and fiddle music as well as traditional Highland and Country dancing displays. The tour itself involved visiting four main centres to give a total of 11 performances in local schools, shopping centres and churches. One of the most memorable venues was the Troldsalen at Grieg's home near Bergen where the singers were told they were the first Scottish choir to perform there. The weather was memorable for other reasons - it rained most days! However, the 42 pupils and 4 staff enjoyed their musical work even more without the distraction of sun. There will be an opportunity for the public to hear all the music of the tour at a special concert in early Autumn.

This month pupils of S1 and S2 provided evocative background music (written by former music staff member Eoin Hamilton) for three performances of *The Ancient Mariner*. The Wind Band, who also participated in the Summer Bazaar, are already anticipating a renewal of their link with Langenes in South Norway when the band exchange takes them abroad again next summer.

Most of the school's performing groups, including the now-revived Senior Strings, are to be heard at the Summer Concert on the last Monday of term although some other groups are keeping their powder dry for events planned in the new session.

SPEECHMAKING

High standards were attained by the participants in the St Andrews' Speakers Club Speechmaking Competition this year. While the deserved winner (for the second time) was Anna Scott (S6), it was pleasing to see several first-time speakers taking part, including the Runner Up, Rowan Gillespie (S4).

MATHS

Although our hopes for the UK Junior Maths Challenge 1994 competition were high, the results were, if anything, even better than anticipated. Ninety eight thousand entrants, from 1,300 Secondary Schools entered, including 32 S2 pupils and 25 S1 pupils from Madras

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Gold awards were made to the top 8% of candidates, who included the following: Neil Donaldson (Best in School), Jennifer Davie, Philip Reid, Anita Duncan, Graham Edwards and Philip Taylor from S2; Oliver Glidewell, Louise Rolfe and Emma Butt from S1. A further twenty eight Silver and fourteen Bronze awards were also earned.

Neil Donaldson and Jenny Davie, being in the top 850 pupils, were invited to sit the Junior Maths Olympiad, whose results are yet to be announced.

These are splendid achievements by pupils in S1 and S2, to add to earlier successes this year by older pupils.

Richard Alexander earlier this session was invited to sit the Intermediate International Invitational Maths Challenge as a result of coming in the top 650 of the UK Intermediate Schools maths challenge contest. He scored 10 marks in this further round which placed him around 150th in the UK. The cut-off for Certificates of Distinction was 11 marks!

Restricting ourselves to the Scottish scene, Richard came out in 3rd place overall, a truly magnificent achievement! Since Richard is in S3 and he was competing against those in the age range of S3-S4 this again reinforces how well he has done.

In the Scottish Maths Council's Maths Challenge Competition open to schools in Fife, Central and Tayside, Madras once again achieved an outstanding result, coming out well ahead of the field with 9 prizes and 7 highly commended entries.

The SMC Secondary Schools Maths Project Contest 1994 is an annual contest which is run by the Schools Maths Council and is open to pupils from all secondary schools in Scotland. There are usually prizes awarded in four categories: S1; S2; S3/4 and S5/6. This year 28 projects were submitted with only 3 prizes being awarded as no project in the S1 category reached the required standard. Of these 3 prizes, 2 went to Madras College.

In the S2 category Jonathan Ervine won the best project cup and prize with a highly entertaining project called *Snookered*. In the S5/6 category Kate Steven and Alison Story won the best project cup and prize with their *Peripatetic Polygons*. This was a thorough analysis of the consequences of rolling regular polygons along the ground! In the judges opinion this was a "truly outstanding" project. The pupils received their cups and prizes at a ceremony held at the University of Strathclyde on Friday, 24th June. Congratulations to all 3 pupils for their effort and enthusiasm. Kate and Alison won the best project prize last year in the contest and indeed Kate has been involved in a winning project for 4 years in a row! Special congratulations for this unique achievement

YOUNG ENTERPRISE

This year's company, *Genesis*, successfully produced and marketed calendars of famous scenes of St Andrews, making a profit. The group of twelve included Financial Director Mirelle Allan-Wheeler, Personnel Director Lois Bassett, Sales Director Neil McGrory, Managing Director Marianne MacKinnon, Company Secretary Lucy Robertson and Production Director Aimee Townsend. Their advisers were Mr W Beck (Link Teacher), Mr D Bradbury, Mr I Campbell and Mr P Crome of the Old Course Hotel. The Company's activities included participation in the Trade Fair 1993, the Young Enterprise Achievers Examination and National Conference in Glasgow as well as running their Company.

FUTURE COOKS

Jill Blair (S2) was selected from over 3,000 local entries for the prestigious Sainsburys Future Cooks Scotland Final. With two other contestants, she created a special two course menu for Madhur Jaffery in front of the judges Sue Lawrence, Nick Nairn and Wendy Godfrey Sainsbury. Her overall effort was highly commended and she has been asked to produce a video diary about her cooking and other interests for Scottish Television.

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ROTARY CLUB

This session the school has good reason to be indebted to the Rotary Club of St Andrews, who have been generous in their support in a variety of ways. They have sponsored two Camp Ryla awards which will allow Neil Lumsden and Russell Macfarlane to attend leadership courses at Abemethy Outdoor Centre. In the spirit of Rotary's aim of *Service* the Club has given a prestigious new award for service to the school. The first and very worthy recipient is Anna Scott. The Rotary Club's generosity also enabled all SI pupils to attend the Catch Theatre Company's presentation and workshop on the subject of solvent abuse. This complimented similar initiatives by the P.T.A. and the Crime Prevention Panel who organised seminars to make parents more aware of the dangers which young people face from drugs and alcohol.

Mr Angus Mitchell who has just completed his term of office as Rotary's Youth Convener deserves a special word of thanks for all his hard work on behalf of the school and for the great interest he has taken in our activities.

GIFTS TO THE SCHOOL

It is appropriate to take this opportunity to acknowledge several gifts to the school. Dr A. K. Robertson, a former pupil, has given the school an example of the pen-knife awarded annually to the winner of a competition in mental arithmetic which can be traced back to the earliest days of the school.

The well known local historian, Mr. Gordon Christie has given the school an original painting by Martin Anderson, a former pupil from Balmullo who worked in London in the 1890s, using the pen name Cynicus and achieving a considerable reputation as a cartoonist and painter of stage characters. The painting gifted to the school depicts the Shakespearean character, Viola.

There are two new golf awards this year. The P.P. Girls Club have very generously donated a trophy to encourage girls' golf. A trophy for junior boys' stroke-play has been given by Mr Harry Turner in memory of his grandfather. The trophy is unusual in that it incorporates the original medal won in a school competition by Mr Turner's grandfather. We are grateful for both these awards which will be greatly valued.

EXCHANGE WITH OHTAWARA

The exchange arrangements with Ohtawara City, sponsored by the New St Andrews (Japan) Trust, have been extended and the eagerness with which pupils viewed the possibility of visiting Japan created great difficulties for the selectors. David Clark and Margaret Christie who were already due to visit Japan this summer, will now be joined by Lois Bassett and Ian Whittaker. Adam Reid, Steven Whyte, Jenny Brown and Elizabeth Scott host the incoming visitors from Japan.

ENDOWMENT APPEAL

It is very gratifying to be able to report the success of the Endowment Appeal, launched by the Madras College Trustees. The various fund raising activities which have been held throughout the year culminated in a *Strawberry Bazaar*, jointly organised by the P.T.A. and the Friends of Madras.

Thanks to generous support from former pupils, parents, friends and many local organisations the appeal reached its £50,000 target which should considerably enhance the resources available to the school for extra-curricular activities. We take this opportunity to thank Dr. Archie Rennie, Chairman of the Appeal and all the other member of the Appeal Committee for the immense amount of hard work which they put into achieving this excellent result.

OUT AND ABOUT

The Ecology Club has flourished this year under the guidance of Miss D Kelly, including participation in a national Seashore Study and visit to the Sea Life Centre in St Andrews. Mr D Cleland led his ever-popular weekend trip to Hadrian's Wall with customary success. Easter holiday trips to the Mosel region of Germany and to the Battlefields of the 1st World War proved highly successful. The 38th exchange with the Kielergelehrtenschule has just taken place and pupils who took part gained benefit and enjoyment from the experience.

SPORT

Athletics

Results at the Fife Schools Track and Field Championships this year were excellent and included the following first places: Alistair Rough (S5) 400 metres and 110 metres hurdles, Michael Bruce (S4) 100 and 200 metres, Sean Berry (S3) 3,000 metres, Chris Seeley (S4) 1500 metres, Jamie Kilpatrick (S3) 400 metres and Rachel Edgar (S3) 800 metres. Michael Bruce and the rest of the Group B relay team. Peter Walker, Kevin Berry and Paul Brown (all S3) have been selected for the Fife inter-area match.

In the Fife Multi-Events, placings were earned in their respective groups by Jenny Farrow (S3), Alistair Rough and Craig Michie (S2). Craig went on to gain 6th place in the Scottish Schools Pentathlon Group C Boys. His crowning achievement however, came on 18th June, when he won the Scottish Schools 1500 metres tide. Craig is to be congratulated on his outstanding year and successes modestly borne.

Thirteen records were broken at the School sports which took place in conditions as near to tropical as St. Andrews is ever likely to see.

Tennis

The Senior Girls Tennis Team reached the finals of the Scottish Schools Tennis Championships for the fourth successive year. The team of Morag Campsie (Captain, S6), Nicola Payne (S5), Siobhan Grieve (S3) and Siobhan McGuire (S3) competed creditably, ending in third place.

Table Tennis

Grant Trewartha (S6) is the new Scottish Schools Over - 16 Table Tennis Champion, with brother Gary as runner-up. The twins will be representing Scotland in an international competition in Dublin later this month.

Golf

Ryan Lumsden (S3) won the Fife Schools Junior Strokeplay Championship for the second year in succession. The team event was also won by Madras and consisted of Ryan Lumsden, Ruairidh McQueen (S2), Graeme Edie (S2) and Jamie Farmer (S1).

This season saw the inauguration of the Alfred Dunhill Schools Team Championship, to be competed for by Madras College, Bell Baxter High School and Waid Academy. Madras organised the contest on the Eden Course and Waid Academy became the first winners of the team trophy, although Madras players featured prominently in the individual results.

On June 29th, Madras College Golf Club played the first Junior Mixed Foursomes for a Trophy donated by the New St Andrews Japan Golf Trust. The competition takes the form of an invitation mixed foursomes and the girls of Madras were joined by 8 girls from St Leonards to partner the boys in a Stableford over the Strathtyrum Golf Course. Presentations were made in the New Club after the event and prior to the annual Staff/Pupils match.

6. Football

The Madras College Under 13 Football Team rounded off an excellent season by reaching the final of the Fife Cup, where they were narrowly defeated 1:2 by Queen Anne High School.

In a more light-hearted style, a Charity Football Match between Staff and S6 raised money through the sale of programmes and was immensely enjoyed by spectators and participants alike. The S6 Mixed Team drew sportingly with the Staff Mixed Team 1:1, but the S6 1st XI Boys defeated the Staff Cup XI 3:1. However, the Staff XI should not be underestimated. This team has gained the respect of colleagues (and numerous injuries) in progressing through the qualifying rounds of the Fife Staff Summer Cup to contest the semi-final against Inverkeithing High School. There a 2:2 draw earned a replay, which they lost 2:6. A gallant defeat thus ended their run.

This term has also seen lively inter-class football matches organised at lunch times by Mrs Welsh, Girls' and Boys' seven-a-side teams from S2 and S3 have competed in four separate knockout tournaments which have proved immensely popular. The games have been played in an excellent spirit, supported by enthusiastic pupils, and partisan Register teachers. Miss Kinnear's vocal support of her class has naturally been quite outstanding.

The variety of extra-curricular sporting activities this year has been wide, including an active staff volleyball team, who have played some memorably sociable fixtures.

Rugby

Sunday, 1st May saw the grand opening of the new Madras P.P. Rugby Clubhouse at Station Park. Madras 1st XV played their last fixture of the session, narrowly defeating a strong Dunfermline High School 1st XV in a closely-contested game. Rugby enthusiasts who have followed the 1st XV's progress this year through Captain Matthew Easingwood's weekly reports in the St Andrews Citizen, will not be surprised to learn that the try which resolved the match was one last unstoppable charge for the line by prop forward Graeme Pardoe.

After a fine buffet lunch and the official opening by Jock Steven, President of the S.R.U., the large crowd enjoyed the fixture between two celebrity sides. The Madras President's XV and the S.R.U. President's XV, when internationals and local players joined battle to give an exuberantly high-scoring exhibition of quality rugby.

And Finally...

It only remains to express the hope that the next seven weeks will provide staff, pupils and parents with opportunities for relaxation and an enjoyable break from the usual routine.

Some Dates for Your Diary

School resumes on Wednesday, 24th August, 1994

There is a single day holiday on Monday, 3rd October, 1994

The October holiday runs from Monday, 17th October, 1994-Friday, 21st October, 1994

In-service Day for teachers Tuesday, 23rd August, 1994

A fuller list of dates will be issued separately early next session