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THE STAFF



Prefects, Monitors and Table Monitors

THE HIGHLIGHTS OF 1978

The year followed the usual pattern with Republic Day as the first big occasion. This is a National day with flag-raising and speechifying both by the Principal and later by Senior boys. It is also an important day in the school as the Head Boy, Vice Head Boy and Prefects are commissioned and the Monitors and Assistant Monitors are appointed, all at an impressive parade.

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The Second event of the year was the Long Distance runs on the Race Course. These went off well on Feb. 3rd and the Division 5 record was broken.

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Easter came on almost the earliest possible date - March 26th. So Ash Wednesday was also early - Feb. 8th - and Christian boys went to Church. A week later, sport heats began. As all boys take part, these have to be during school hours. Then there was March Past practice to be done, ready for the sports finals, and there were two afternoons spent on Tug of war heats and finals. Class-work seems to take a back seat in February!

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As there were State Elections on the Saturday fixed for Sports Day, we had sports the day before (one more day lost to studies!). Happily, the weather was rather cloudy and the finals were run in less hot conditions than normal. We were glad to have Brigadier and Mrs. F. O'Leary as guests of honour for this enjoyable occasion. Being a Friday, there was a film show in the evening, which brought the day to a pleasant conclusion. After the film, the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme boys left for Matheran, returning by 11 p. m. on the Sunday. In fact, the DEAS has been quite active throughout the year.

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From March 6th till the end of term in April, there was morning school, starting earlier than usual and finishing at 1.30, to avoid classes during the baking hot afternoons.

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Monday, March 13th, ended a period of anxious waiting when the ICSE results came. Out of 88 boys, 78 passed. The remaining ten would have got Statements in previous years as they all passed in four out of the required six subjects. As usual there were some surprises, but generally speaking the result was pretty well what we had expected - neither very good nor very bad.

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Two weeks before this, classes 8 to 10 had enjoyed an hour and a half of scenes from A Midsummer Night's Dream, the Merchant of Venice, Julius Caesar, and Twelfth Night (the last two by popular request), put on by Geoffrey Kendal and Laura Liddell. We should have liked more but "Time and Tide (represented by Cama and other buses)

wait for no man (or boy)", and so we were unable to see the Brutus and Cassius quarrel scene. Perhaps they will be able to fit it in next time they come.

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Eire's national day - St. Patrick's Day, March 17th - saw a lot of early morning activity with three groups leaving - the Hockey team for Panchgani, later the Scouts also for Panchgani, and the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme Bronze medal boys for the railway station, with six masters involved. There was wild excitement in the Dining Hall that evening when it was announced that we had beaten St. Peter's 1-0 and that our team would therefore be going to Bombay later. The boys then went to enjoy the Friday film show in high spirits, little knowing that Mr. John John the Catering Superintendent, after supervising supper had gone for a quick trip to the bazaar and complained of chest pains on his way back. He was taken to the Military Hospital at about 8-30 p. m. and six hours later he died there of a massive heart attack.

The sad news spread round the dormitories early next morning and Saturday, March 18th, was a day of deep gloom. All the boarding side had loved him, and boys, staff and servants felt a sense of personal loss coupled with great sympathy for his widow and family - sympathy that was shown practically by a generous donation to help pay for the funeral that took place at Hadapsar that evening, attended by almost everyone who lives in the school, including several boys who had hurried back from Panchgani.

It was our second staff death in six months, Mr. (Bill) Wright having died equally suddenly the previous September. There were to be other deaths in the school later in the year, when Mr. Nair's mother passed away, and Mr. Donoghue's mother, who used to sell in one of the Tuck shops, also died. Bachu, one of the old school servants, after a long illness, died during the ICSE exams. Life is a transient thing and we all have to be prepared for it to end sooner or later. Meanwhile, we all extend our sympathies to those who have recently suffered bereavement. To end this section on a less sad note, it is nice to be able to say thank you to Mr. Balakrishnan and Mr. Jamadar who have each offered the school a gift as a memorial to their sons K. Balakrishnan and Anis Jamadar. The details will be given later; for the moment we merely accept the generous gifts gratefully.

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Good Friday and Holi coincided on March 24th, and many boys who had not gone home for the long week-end brushed up on their geography as they watched the lunar eclipse in the evening.

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Rarely has the Harding Hall been so clean as it was for the two Prize Days at the end of March! This was because the Head Boy (Ayaz Gadhiya) had recruited a large volunteer force from the boarders and given it a real 'Spring Clean' the day before. It was a pity that this did not shame or inspire the Hall bearer and other servants into keeping it clean and tidy afterwards, but it has given us all a concrete example of what can be done.

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The Prize days went off very well. The first of the two was the Junior one, with Mr. and Mrs. I. Coltart (from the Wadia Hospital) as Chief Guests, and the following day was the Senior one with Lt. Gen. and Mrs. A. M. Vohra as Chief Guests. Full reports on both the events follow later in the magazine.

March was comparatively cool, but April decided to make up for it! The end of term tests were thus held in hot and oppressive weather, with a welcome and entirely unexpected downpour on April 10th to bring the temperature down a bit. The boarders had quite a lot of swimming and there was an inter-class Basketball "Cake" tournament conducted by the Head boy after the tests. Teachers went through their papers with their classes, and the PTA organised a G. K. Competition on one of the post-exam days. It was a relief to put one's feet up for a time when the school closed for the hot - weather holiday on April 21st.

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The boarders returned for the monsoon term to find that the lighting in the dining-hall had been changed from overhead to the sides. Besides improving the lighting, this meant less insects dropping from the lights on to the table. This re-wiring and re-positioning was done at the same time as the installation of new cables and modern fuses for most of the school and the electrification of the new Junior School block. This has removed much of the overloading that led to frequent current failures in the recent past.

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During the year perhaps the most welcome event for some of the senior boarders was the opening of bathrooms and toilets attached to the Cambridge dormitory. As a result, there is no need for these boys to wander round the school in various states of undress for baths. The Staff also have a new toilet in the same block.

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The first week of the monsoon term was highlighted by the welcome annual visit of Mr. Rod Gilbert for three days during which he met the boys in four different groups each day and visited the dormitories in the evening.

The A S P T always invite some boys and staff to their Annual P. T. Display in June, and the high standard of the P. T. and gymnastics gives inspiration as well as mere enjoyment to those who go. We are very grateful for these invitations.

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The P T A meeting in the monsoon term is replaced by an open day on a Thursday when parents are invited to visit the classrooms and consult their sons' teachers there. This arrangement suits the Junior School well as in each class one person teaches nearly all subjects, but in the Middle and the Senior School, parents find it rather inconvenient since as many as ten different people teach their sons and at any one time, these ten are in ten different places, entailing a lot of walking round the school in search of them. The Harding Hall meetings are more convenient for all save the Junior school, the only disadvantage — if it is one — being that the boys are not there to join in any discussion between their parents and their teachers.

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The Monsoon term is basically a term for studies, but this is not to say that there are no other activities. Inter-Class and Inter-House football competitions were played and the Boxing competition was held. Table Tennis and Badminton competitions, both Individual and Inter-House, were played too. Visits were exchanged for football with St. Peter's, Panchgani, their Seniors coming here and our Juniors going there.

Another activity of this term was the Elocution Competition held for the Middle and the Senior School on August 15th after the flaghoisting by the scouts and the special Independence Day Assembly and Commissioning / appointment of further prefects / monitors. The Juniors had held theirs a few days previously, but one of their youngest prize-winners came and stole the limelight with a performance of his party piece during this competition. Congratulations, young Mark !

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The last two activities of this term were the Junior and Senior Inter-House G. K. Competitions organised by the P T A and conducted in a lively manner by Mrs. Aga on the last two days of August. Every one seemed to enjoy these, and the participants answered everything with great gusto, especially the " catch-questions " put in to try out their intelligence.

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17 boys and 3 staff members went to Barnes School, Deolali, for the first few days of the monsoon break. In football they reached the final, in which they lost to Barnes 0-1.— a very creditable effort indeed.

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Very few boarders remained in the school for the Monsoon break. An extra film show " Do Phool " was arranged for them and this was also enjoyed by the servants. It was a pity that the end of these holidays and the Diwali holidays was spoilt by so many boys returning late for unacceptable reasons. One of the things that we aim to teach the boys is reliability, and late return from leave shows that they have not learnt this.

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The stage in the Harding Hall had been getting weaker and weaker for a long time and when the back part of it gave way, under the weight of folding chairs stored there, minor repairs proved impossible. Instead, starting in September, the whole floor was re-built on metal beams with a spacious store room at the back. At the same time the Staff toilet next to the Hall was enlarged and modernised for use by visitors.

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There were some heavy thunder-showers in September. The monsoon all over the rest of India was said to be a good one, but here, though it started on time, it was rather weak and we had fewer rainy days than usual, though there were some unexpected showers in late October and November.

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At the end of September, the zero period was introduced again to allow time for rehearsals for Founder's week P. T. display and the Thanksgiving Service. As the Week drew nearer, periods got more and more upset, as boys were wanted for further practices in gymnastics and so on. How badly the rehearsals went! Yet on the day, Tuesday, October 24th, all went smoothly and well. The P. T. display was held at a later hour than last year so as to avoid having half the spectators being roasted in the hot sun. As a result, half of the display was in daylight and half by artificial light, and this proved to be very successful. The final item was Torch Drill, done in the pitch dark and very impressive to watch as the kerosene flames flared when the boys did their club drill in perfect timing.

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After the success of the Independence Day Elocution competition some of the boys decided to enter the Inter-School Elocution Contest organised by the Lioness Club, Pimpri. The team - A. Vaidya, C. Shetty, and K. Ghosh - won the 1st prize, and the first two boys also came first in their divisions. So they returned very proud of themselves! The rest of us gave them a good clap next day at the Assembly.

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During the unusually long Diwali break, it was not a holiday for everyone as the ICSE examinations began for those taking French and Portuguese, and all the ICSE boys had the thought of the Science practicals due to start the day after the holidays.

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Mid-November brought, as usual, the Annual General Meeting of the P. T. A. This was very poorly attended, many parents meeting their boy's teachers during the hour which preceded the A. G. M. but leaving before it.

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On November 22nd, the main written papers of the ICSE started. This is the last November ICSE, because, as parents were informed in a circular sent out in October, in future the ICSE will be in February. As a result of this decision of the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations, all ICSE schools are changing their school "years" so that they will end in April and begin in June. This means that there will be no ICSE exam or promotions in the year 1979; the "year" that begins on Jan. 15th 1979 will continue till early April 1980. The first reaction to this has been the obvious one that the boys have "lost" several months. In fact they have not, as the Colleges open in July, and, in the past, boys have had a rather unprofitable six or seven months' wait between the end of the ICSE and going to college. This period of waiting has now been reduced, and parents will be relieved to have their boys unoccupied, with school or college work, for a shorter time.

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A day or two after the ICSE examinations were over, there was a special Farewell Tea at which the Principal and the teachers of Class X said a good bye and thank you to the prefects and monitors of all categories. Now some rather self-conscious acting prefects from Class 9 took over the running of the school!

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Class 9 took over from Class 10 in the Harding Hall too, as they had their exams there. Throughout the school, the end-of-year exams were on. On December 9th, a group of boys went off with Mr. H. O'Connor to Singapore—missing the end of term “functions”. At the end of the term, another group left for Goa under Mr. D. Choudhary. Reports on these two groups’ experiences are sure to appear later in the magazine. The vast majority of boys came away from the final markreading relieved, as promotions were very lenient this year and few boys were detained. However, the edict has already gone out – this leniency will not – repeat, not – be repeated in March/April 1980 – you have been warned !

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ARNOULD HOUSE NOTES

House Masters : Mr. N. V. John
Mr. A. K. Thakore

House Captains : Neville Mehta
Munir Asharaf Aly.

House Prefects : M. Mogre
S. Addagarla,
S. Bahl,
N. Malkani
R. Sydney
R. Van Eyk

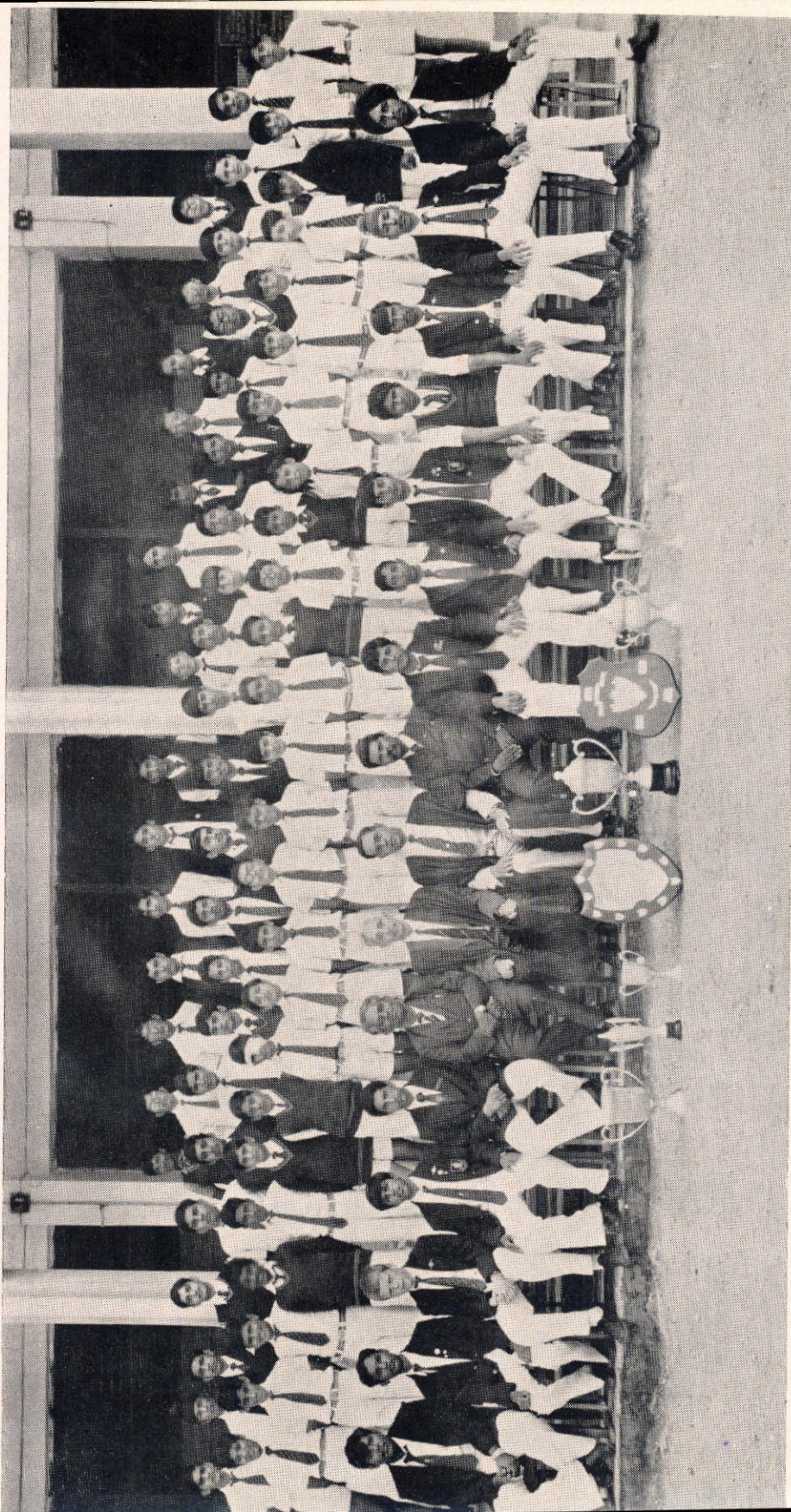
Hey boys, we have done it, we have done it, our colours are flying again, we are the Cock House !

This year started very well for us, with Long Distance runs being held at the race course. In this competition we came out victorious, securing the first place. Our Sub-juniors contributed the most points.

Athletics followed the Long Distance runs. The heats and the finals were held at the Sub-area ground. Arnould stood first, thus breaking the long era of Mansfield. It was here when we first got our lead for the inter-house championship.

Hockey was our game this year. We outclassed all the other houses in all three sections. Arnould stood first everywhere achieving the maximum number of points possible (21 points).

When the second term began, the football season arrived. For the last three years, Arnould had been coming first. This year too, we would have come first, save for certain mistakes. The other houses had boys playing in wrong divisions but action was not taken against them because the boys themselves were not at fault as they go according to the house lists. Due to this Arnould was literally prevented from being first and please, dear Reader, do not think that this is meant as an excuse. Let's hope that this kind of error does not occur in our school in the future. Arnould stood third in football after all the problems were settled.



Cock House, Seniors (Arnould)