

UPDYCE Academy

ISSUE NO. 4

MAY 1989

LOADED DYCE IN BUSINESS GAME!

In December 1988, the school was invited by the Institute of Management Accountants to participate in their annual 'Business Game'. Although we were unaware of what was involved, there was so much enthusiasm that we entered two teams and found ourselves competing against teams from most of the secondary schools in the Grampian Region.

Then we received the rules of the competition and it proved to be a real test of our intelligence trying to understand what was really involved. At last we realised that we were manufacturers of hi-fi equipment (in theory only) and that the game was very true to life. We had to make lots of management decisions - quality of product, size of production, price, how to advertise our product, how many salesmen to employ and where they should work, how much to pay our workforce, and last but not least how much money to borrow. At one stage one team had a loan of £480,000 - frightening!

The preliminary stage of the competition took place over two months with the teams getting together every week, to make decisions which had to be

sent to our controller. A few days later the controller would let us know how many hi-fi units had been sold and from that information we had to prepare our accounts to calculate whether or not we had made a profit.

Although it was our first attempt at the competition, both teams qualified for the final. This took place on a Sunday in the Shell offices in Aberdeen. It was a very nerve-racking experience as decisions had to be made every hour and the market situation kept changing; our workers threatened to go on strike and we never knew if they would be happy with what we offered.

Both teams did well from the start, having learned from our mistakes in the previous rounds, and as other teams became bankrupt around us, we knew we were in with a good chance. It was a pity that one team had to lose as both teams did so well. However, the winners came away with a very large cup and a cheque for £200 for the school. Well done!

The teams: Dyce 1: John Milne, Keith Allardyce, Sheena Fraser, Corin Gunnis, Lawrance Chessor, Craig Smith. Dyce 2: Susan Cantlay, Tim Palmer, Denise Hendry, Graham Reid.



COMMENT

If the sarcastic comments about "yet more holidays for teachers" are anything to go by, then the reasons for holding in-service training days - when staff but not pupils come to school - and early closures for full staff meetings are not well understood.

Whilst it is probably recognised that the provision of education is considerably more complex now than it was a few years ago, the implications of this complexity are not always thought about. In particular, the need for co-operative planning, preparation and assessment of pupils' work and for regular and frequent training of teachers is not so well-known.

All of these activities cannot be fitted in to "all that free time" teachers have. The great majority of teachers already take up more than enough of their time outside the classroom and at home just to keep up with their existing work. New courses and new methods require new time.

Our masters realised that, if the additional demands of the modern curriculum were to be adequately catered for, time would have to be found during the normal working day for all the teachers in a school, or groups of teachers from a number of schools, to get together. One tidy, efficient way of doing this is to close the school to pupils occasionally for a day or a part of a day. During this time, a wide range of activities are possible, sometimes involving teachers travelling to other schools, often involving the use of 'experts' to train or work beside teachers.

One of the inevitable outcomes of this arrangement is that pupils spend a little less time at school than they used to - at present, about five days per year. It is to be hoped that people will recognise that quality of education is at least as important as quantity. If we are to offer high quality education, teachers need time, without their pupils, to organise this. This time is anything but a holiday!

OUR GIRLS LOOK AFTER THEMSELVES

Due to demand from several girls, Dyce Academy has been running a short course in self-defence at lunch times. This is in addition to the General Studies course that is already operating for S3 and S4 pupils.

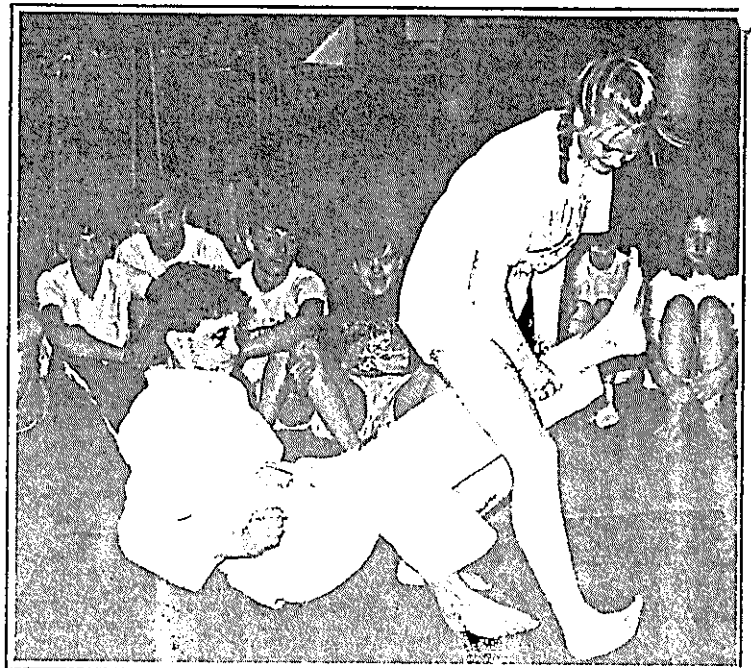
The pupils on these courses are expected to show a high standard of self-discipline. It is explained that self-defence is not just about getting away from your attacker; avoiding a confrontation in the first place is half the battle. For example, you can be at your most vulnerable walking home at night, so keep on well-lit streets, walk towards oncoming traffic, etc. The courses cover techniques in karate, judo and aikido, which are martial arts devised for self-defence purposes only. Judo can help you get used to close personal contact. Aikido will improve your evasive movements, and karate will help you deal with strikes and punches.

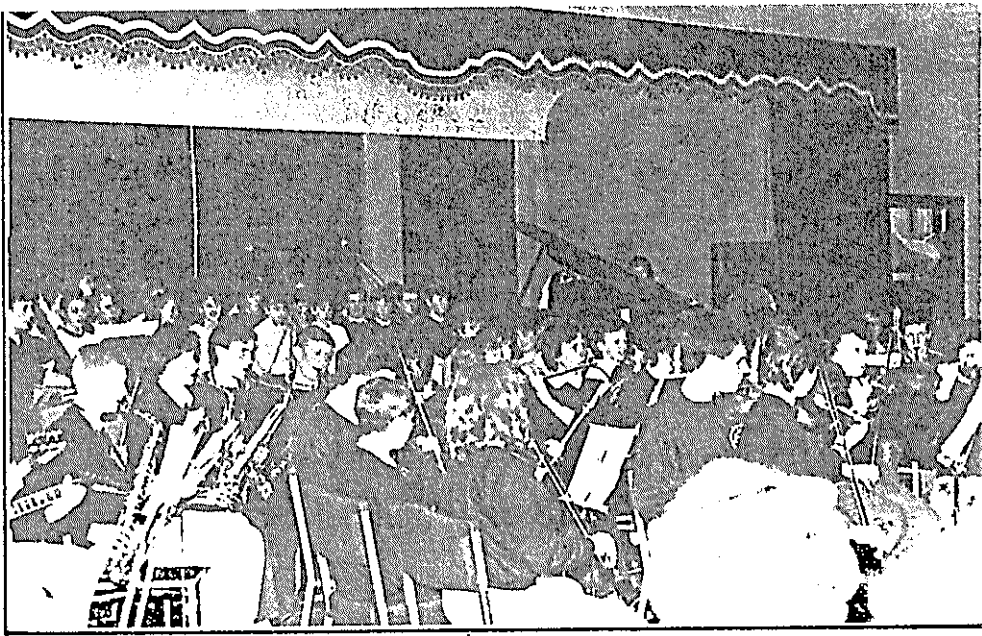
The pupils are also taught in detail the present law regarding self-defence: if you are attacked, you have a right to defend yourself with 'reasonable force'. This means that you should use only as much force as is necessary to repel the attack. What the law does not allow is the carrying of anything that could be described as an offensive weapon, like a knife. This includes anything specially adapted to cause injury, such as a sharpened comb. It is hoped that there will be a six-week refresher course for girls run later this term.

Pupils in the area can further develop their self-defence skills in the community with the successful and well-organised Dyce Karate Club run by Jim Welsh. For further information see Ian Campbell of the P.E. Department, or Russell Lawrence or Angela Hutcheon of S3 who have been centrally involved so far.

Ian Campbell

1st Dan Black Belt





MUSIC IN OUR TIME

Over 360 adults and children attended 'Music in our Time', a concert in aid of transport for the disabled in Dyce and district on the evening of Saturday 22nd April in the Skean Dhu Hotel in Farburn Terrace.

Under the excellent musical directorship of June Smith, (P.T. Music Dyce Academy), the audience were entertained by the Dyce Community Orchestra, the Dyce Community Choir, the Dyce Academy School Choir and the Dyce Academy rock band, Vision.

The concert was a two hour musical journey through popular music of the 20th century and ranged from Gilbert and Sullivan to heavy metal; included were pop favourites from the 60s, television theme tunes, and songs from stage musicals. The evening was compered by Laurence Young (P.T. Drama at Dyce Academy) who linked the musical items and kept things moving with many 'interesting' facts and historical notes about the music being played and the songs being sung.

It's always difficult and perhaps unfair to single out particular items but the Orchestra's version of the 50s

'Rock Around The Clock' was superb. It was vibrant and exciting and the audience needed little encouragement to call for an encore.

The ladies in the choir delivered an excellently entertaining arrangement of Irving Berlin's 'Alexander's Ragtime Band', while the School Choir's 'Barnum' selection, accompanied by Anne Cattnach, held the audience spellbound. Choir soloists Dawn Easson, Suzanne Milligan and Hazel Reekie and the boys' quartet deserve special mention and praise.

The school rock band too, with 'Shirley' written by themselves, made quite an impression on the audience.

The concert was followed by a supper/dance with about 150 attending, and it was fine to see a number of the young performers from the concert staying on to dance to the Bob Sandiman Band.

The whole evening raised more than £770 for transport for the disabled in Dyce and district, the Skean Dhu provided their facilities free of charge and I think it fair to say that the audience left saying: "Roll on next year!"



A SPLASHING SUCCESS!

Yes, the second Swim into Spring event was a great success. A host of local organisations took part at some point over the 24 hours of this sponsored swim to raise money for the Dyce Community bus. Those involved included the Toddler Group, the playgroups, the Nursery School, Dyce Primary School, the Academy, Dyce Disabled Group, Dyce (Aberdeen) ASC, Dyce Academy pool staff, the Centre Youth Club, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts (and their parents).

Once again the most pleasing aspect of the event was the obvious enjoyment of the participants. This was particularly true of the overnight session where folk of all ages mixed very well.

Apart from all the members of the College Council who staffed the event we were fortunate to have so many other volunteers helping out at both pools. We are most grateful to all those who counted lengths, served hamburgers at 4 o'clock in the morning and added up all those sponsor forms (those calculated at 4 in the morning might have had the occasional error in them!) We must also give special thanks to the

Dyce Academy Swimming Pool staff who not only swam for 12 hours but also provided voluntary life saving cover for the 24 hours of the event.

At the time of UPDATE going to press the final total of money raised is not available but if all the sponsor money comes in, we expect to raise in excess of £4,000. Half of the sum raised will go towards the bus and half to the local causes and charities nominated by the organisations taking part: e.g., Dyce Primary School entered a team of parents, teachers and pupils and raised over £600 for PTA funds in half an hour and the various Scout groups raised approximately £550 towards their new Scout hut.

Thanks are due not only to McIntosh of Dyce, TSB Dyce Branch, Skean Dhu Hotel (Farburn Terrace), and Glen Driving School for their support, but also to all who contributed in whatever way.

David Montgomery
On behalf of Dyce Academy
College Council.

SUPERFIT!

Swim into Spring included valiant efforts by both staff and pupils of the Academy. The staff team pictured swam non-stop through the night on half hour rotas, with each member completing three shifts, apart from the outrageously fit Iain Campbell who managed an extra session.

Thirty-eight pupils took part under the banner of the school and were sponsored according to the number of lengths they could swim in one half-hour session. All the participants

performed creditably with the 92 lengths swum by Ailsa Campbell (S5) being the best, although mention, too, must be made of Gillian King (S2) who achieved a worthy 84 lengths. The senior girls, ably organised by Carron Arkley and Gayle Frew, even had a Bankhead pupil, Nina Longden, in their squad - further evidence of the co-operative link between the schools! The total money raised by Dyce Academy stands at over £500, with Mary Small (S5) having collected the largest amount (£42).



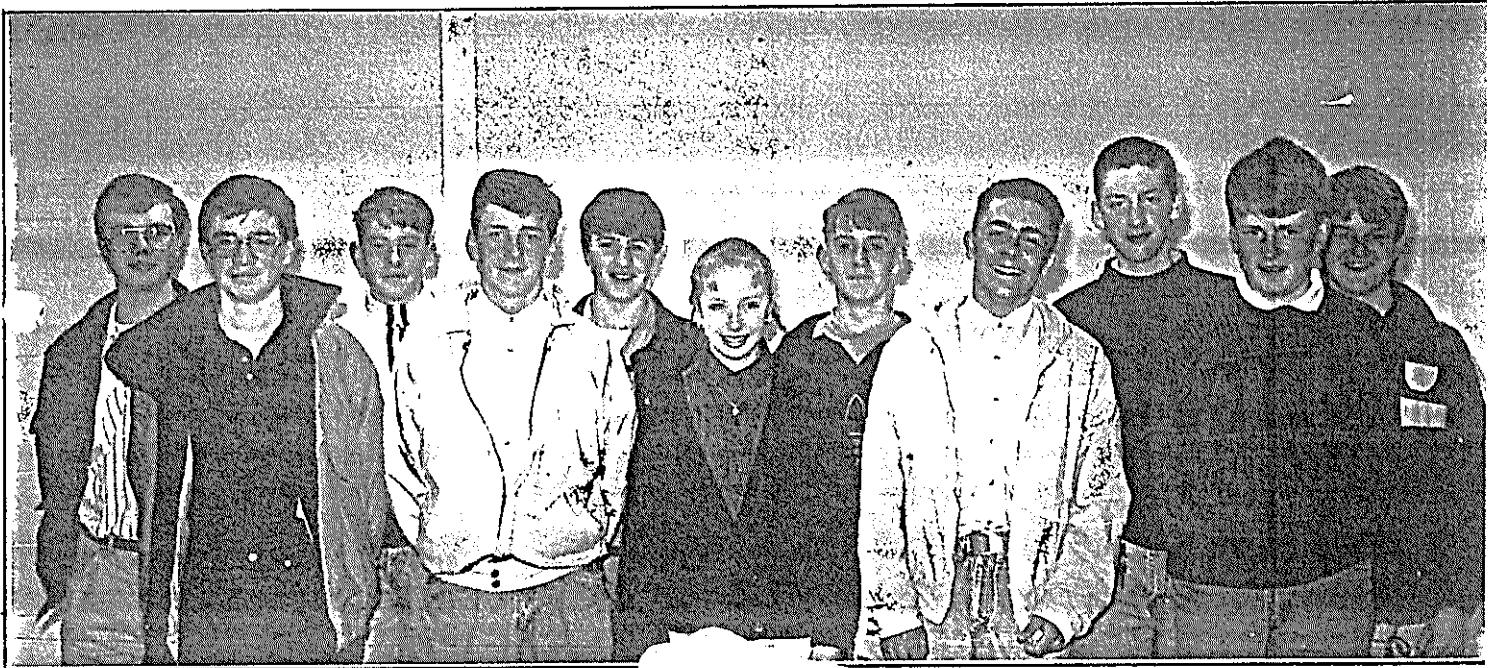
CURLING

During the Easter vacation an Inter-School Curling Competition was held at Stoneywood Curling Rink. The match was sponsored by the Ice Rink and a shield was donated by D.M. Wood (Chemists).

The pupils taking part were all fourth year and had learned to curl during the past season during General Studies classes.

Everyone enjoyed the day, especially Craig Carnie who came to spectate but was called upon to play as were short of a team member!

The competition was keen and Dyce narrowly missed winning the shield, Hazlhead were the worthy winners after a very enjoyable day.



Curling Teams

SKI TRIP

On Monday 27th February twelve Dyce pupils and two teachers, Mrs Urquhart and Mr Thorn, along with a group of Bankhead pupils and teachers, set off on a twelve hour journey to Morillon, a ski resort in France.

The next morning, after a good night's sleep, everyone was eager to collect their skis and head for the slopes. With fantastic instructors and fairly good weather everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves, apart from Lynne Wilson who had a most unfortunate accident on the second day's skiing.

Apart from skiing we also enjoyed the nights' events which ranged from tobogganing to discos and the Miss

Morillon competition, where Mr Thorn made his debut as a most unusual blonde.

The last night's entertainment was a presentation disco where everyone was presented with a medal and certificate and there was a small bonus for the females, which was a kiss on each cheek from the handsome male ski instructors.

Overall the holiday was a big success which everyone thoroughly enjoyed. The pupils from Dyce Academy who took part in the trip would like to thank all the teachers who made it possible.

Jennifer Ritchie
Sonya Lind

FOOTBALL FOCUS

It's been a mixed season for our Under-15 footballers. Inconsistency in the League has been combined with the joy of reaching the final of the Gerard Trophy, but disappointment at being beaten in the final. Nonetheless, hopes are high for settled and successful performances in the matches which remain this season.

SCORERS TABLE

D. Weaver : 8
 A. Baldwin : 4
 S. McVey : 4
 K. Small : 3
 A. Wood : 2
 G. Crabb : 1
 S. Western : 1

OPPOSITION	FIXTURE	SCORE
Bankhead	League	1-4
Cults	League	1-3
Northfield	League	4-3
Oldmachar	League	6-0
Bridge of Don	League	0-1
Forres	Scottish Cup (1st Round)	3-0
Golspie	Scottish Cup (2nd Round)	3-6
Bankhead	Gerard Trophy (Quarter Final)	4-2
Bridge of Don	Gerard Trophy (Semi Final)	1-0
Cults	Gerard Trophy (Final)	1-2



COMIC RELIEF

Friday March 10th - Comic Relief Day 2 and the country once again put on red noses and raised lots of money for charities at home and abroad.

Many of our pupils took up the invitation to attend school that day dressed up in an unusual or funny way. Pupils turned up in their pyjamas, in outrageous fancy dress, with their clothes on inside out.....but most importantly we earned 'loadsamoney' for Comic Relief.

In total we raised £470 and this was achieved in a number of ways: a Staff/Pupils basketball match (£181.41), the sale of red noses (£100), an S4 pop group performance (£63.20), a Newmachar v. Dyce football match organised by 1C (£52.72), an impromptu collection by 1CD3 (£27.00), a donation from the School Shop (£20.00) and various donations and smaller collections (£25.67).

Well done to all who participated in the events and who contributed time and money to this worthwhile cause.



Two members of staff caught deep in discussion on Comic Relief Day

COMIC RELIEF BASKETBALL MATCH

Towards the end of 1st term two of our S2 pupils, Mark Hoggins and Lee James, approached A.H.T. Ricky Marioni enquiring about the possibility of staging a PUPILS v. STAFF basketball match in aid of Comic Relief. In brief, the match did go ahead and the magnificent sum of £181 was raised by the twenty or so pupils who were involved.

As has become usual in these challenge matches, skill was much less evident than enthusiasm, but the pupils, for a change, showed more of both, leaving the teachers struggling to keep their dignity. However, with each basket the pupils scored earning money for Comic Relief, the teachers weren't too ashamed having 22 baskets scored against them. Final score: Pupils 44, Teachers 40. It's to be hoped that this event becomes an annual feature in our calendar.



DIARY UPDATE

MON 22nd MAY: Environmental Education display in the BP Community Bus at the Academy (p.m.)

Art Gallery Mobile Exhibition - North Pole and Eskimo Culture (outside main entrance of the Academy)

WED 24th MAY: Sl Parents' Evening

FRI 26th May: In-service Day (school closed to pupils)

FRI 2nd JUNE: School Excursion Day

MON 5th JUNE: Start of new timetable

THU 15th JUNE: Art Gallery Exhibition - Fashion of the 20s and 30s

MON 26th to

FRI 30th JUNE: School involvement in Environmental Education Conference in Chicago

WED 5th JULY: Terms ends

EXCURSION DAY

Once again staff and pupils look forward to the delights of Excursion Day, which this year falls on Friday 2nd June. Parties will be setting off to Aviemore, Edinburgh, Perth and Dundee amongst other places, to spend the day fishing or golfing, hillwalking or ponytrekking, cycling or sightseeing. Excursion Day has proved to be a rich source of memorable incident in the past - let's hope that June 2nd turns out to be an enjoyable day for all concerned.

POSTBAG

Do you have any comments or queries on articles in this issue of UPDATE? Are there any other topics you would like to see covered? Would you like a chance to air your views? If so, please write to: The Editor, UPDATE, Dyce Academy, Riverview Drive, Aberdeen AB2 0NF.

YE OLDE SCHOOL SHOPPIE Draws the lunchtime crowds

