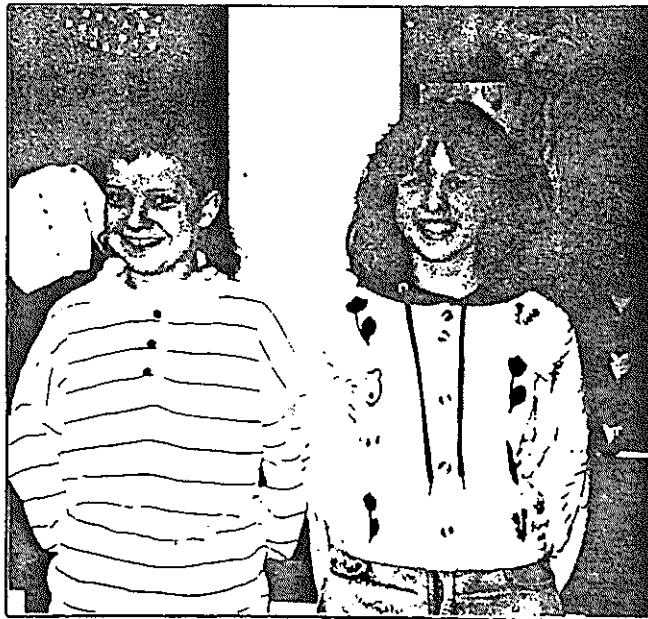


# UPDYCE DATE Academy

ISSUE NO.11

MAY 1990



Selena (left) and Louise

This edition of UPDATE gives congratulations and commiserations to two of our S3 pupils, Louise and Selena who on Monday 30th April flew to London to take part in the Rowett/Flora Nutrition Competition as the only Scottish representatives.

As most other participating teams had 4-6 members, the girls did very well indeed to come 4th out of 49 entries.

The girls, both taking Standard Grade Food and Nutrition, entered the competition in February of this year when given the opportunity to do so. Most other school teams had six months to prepare their submissions, so our girls did very well by winning the Scottish section to become the Scottish representatives.

The girls were initially given a selection of topics to choose from; their choice was Production of Meat in their Home Country compared with Overseas Countries.

Aided by Mrs. Robertson of the Home Economics Department, the girls put in a great deal of hard work and research, which included visits to farms, the Mart, and Clinterty Agricultural College; they interviewed foreign students, and did a tremendous amount of reading! They compared production in this country to that in Nigeria, Kenya, Mexico, Costa Rica and Spain.

The first round, which they won, consisted of a visit to the Resources Centre in Aberdeen to give a presentation of their work and to be interviewed by the two judges. Then as winners, it was off to London on the early morning plane on 30th April. They went to the Royal College of Medicine, where again they gave a presentation and were interviewed by national judges.

Their day finished with a photo-session and Award Ceremony. Prizes were presented by Duncan Goodhew.

# UP TO THE BIG SCHOOL

The move from primary school to secondary school has always been a little traumatic for some children, but schools generally try to make the transition as painless as possible. Here at Dyce we issue a comprehensive Pupil Booklet to Primary 7 pupils, the youngsters and their parents have the chance to see round the Academy at an Open Evening, Academy staff visit the primaries and the P7 pupils visit the Academy during the working day. There is also the two and a half day induction programme, this year to be held at Cullen Outdoor Centre. As well as all this, a group of third year pupils at the Academy came up with their own idea of how to help - they decided to make a video - and the result, 'Introducing Dyce Academy' has recently been shown to P7 pupils at Dyce, Newmachar and Fintray.

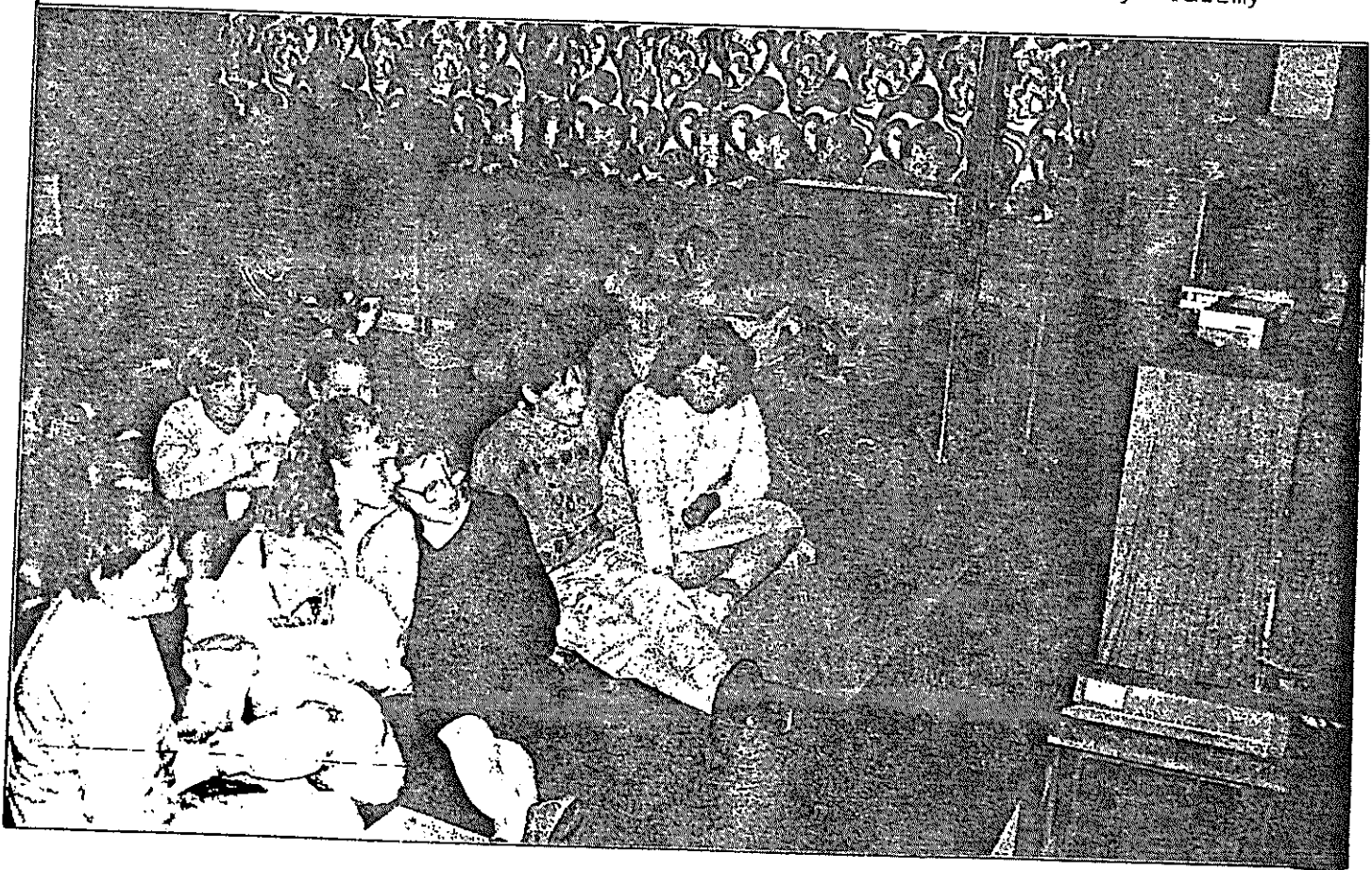
The third Year General Studies class, under the technical supervision of P.T. Drama, Laurence Young, conceived, wrote and presented the thirty-minute video. The pupils wrote to the primary 7 classes and asked, 'What do you want to know?' The pupils from all three feeder primaries wrote back with dozens of queries. The video makers chose the questions which were asked most often and set about making their

video. Some questions such as 'Why is Dyce Academy a good place to attend?' and 'What are the main differences between Primary and Secondary?' were answered by recording an interview with rector Mike Taylor, while answers to others such as 'What is a register class?' and 'What subjects will we do?' were presented in a documentary style.

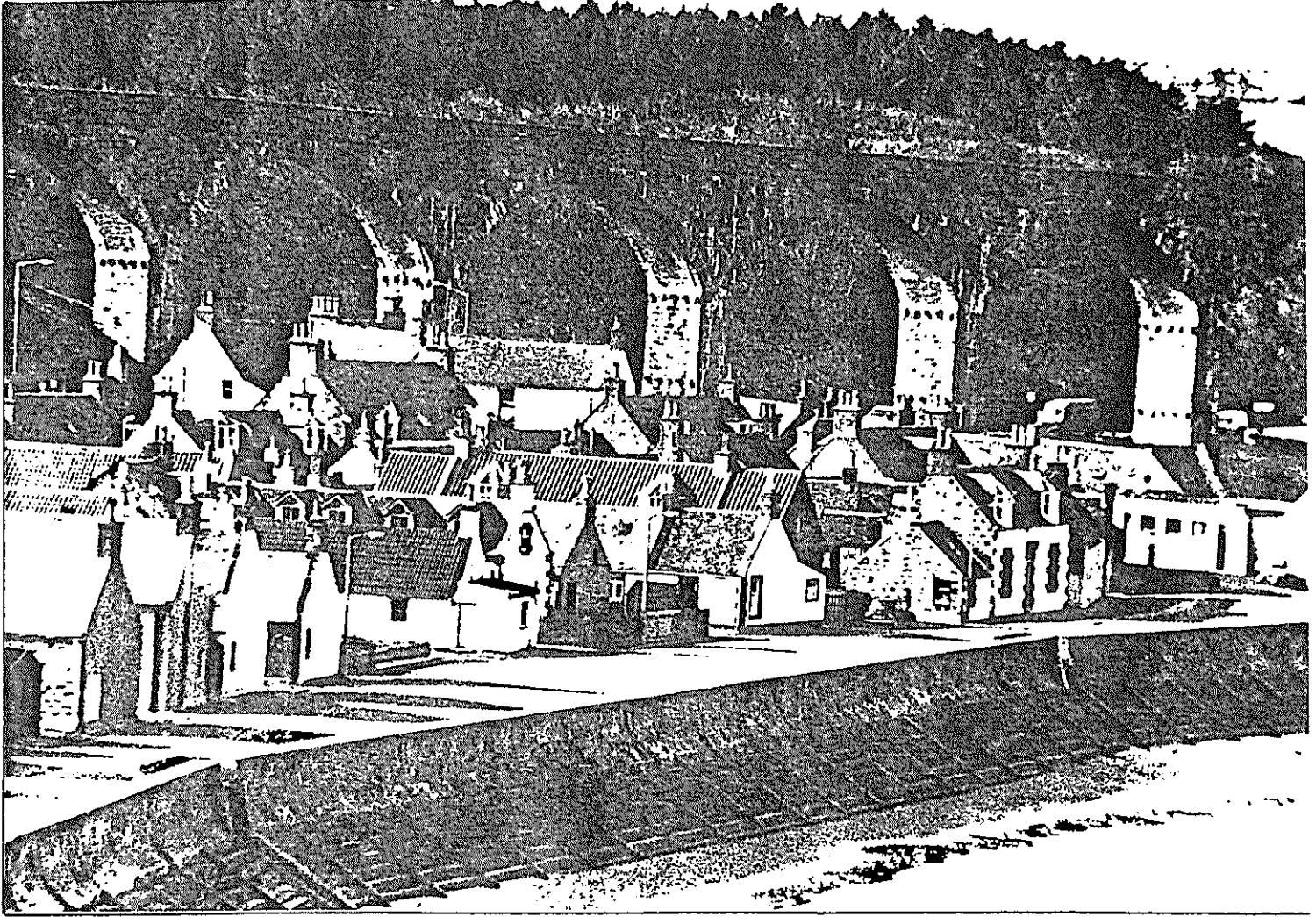
The imaginative film makers also used dramatisation and reconstruction to good effect to answer questions like 'What happens if I'm late?' and 'What do I do if I get bullied?' Interviews with teaching staff, the canteen supervisor and Academy pupils all helped to make this an entertaining and informative video which was very well received by the pupils and staff at the feeder primaries. Each school was presented with a copy of the video to give their P7 pupils the opportunity to see it again and discuss it with their teachers.

The pupils who made the video were: Richard Booth, Claire Cooper, Jenny Dodds, Jennifer Donald, Pamela Dyce, Nicola McKessar, Tracy Middler, Angela Park, Louise Parley, Nicola Penny, Craig Robertson, Kirsteen Smart.

Primary 7 pupils at Dyce Primary School watching the video made by Academy pupils.



# CULLEN, HERE WE COME!



Since 1982, we have regularly taken our new S1 pupils away from school for a residential stay early in the new term. Pupils have stayed at outdoor centres in the Crathes area, enjoying three days of outdoor activities and socialising, along with several members of staff and senior pupils.

This year, as an experiment, we have changed both the time and place. Arrangements are well under way to take our new pupils to Cullen Outdoor Centre this June, while they are still actually Primary 7 pupils.

We have made this change for several reasons. The youngsters will have met their classmates and several members of staff before the long summer break, which can be a period of anxiety for some. It will also mean that when they join us in August, pupils will be able to settle into the school routine and lessons without interruption.

Cullen Outdoor Centre is well equipped, while the town itself and the surrounding area have much of interest for a school party. We have planned a variety of activities which will introduce pupils to the techniques of field work and group activities which they will continue to use in lessons back at school.

But it will not be all work. If past history is anything to go by, there will be a great deal of fun as well. We'll let you know in the autumn how we get on.

 **GO**  
*with*  
**GLEN**  
DRIVING SCHOOL



**Proprietor: Ian McLean**  
**tel: 0224 723112**

# COMMENTS

At this time of year, our normally cheerful, energetic senior pupils look worried, pale - just not their usual selves. It's exam time.

Most societies have some sort of trial or test which young people have to go through before they are regarded as adults. In modern, 'civilised' society one such test is the school examination. Some children will be judged to 'pass', others to 'fail', but the examination is regarded as character-building for them all. The future prospects of some pupils depend upon gaining certain results, but many pupils will go on to lead happy and successful lives without achieving high grades.

Whatever we may think of the value of exams, most pupils do have the sense to do as well as they can - to make the best of the system. Most manage to keep the results in perspective, although the same cannot always be said for their parents!

It's not widely known that exams in Scotland are managed much more humanely

example:

- if a candidate is unable to take an examination because of illness, an award can be made based on the school's estimate of likely performance
- if a candidate can take the exam but is unwell or suffering from some serious personal problem, then the Board is prepared to take these 'adverse circumstances' into account when deciding on a final grade
- if a candidate's final result does not match the school's expectations, then an appeal can be made to the Examination Board to reconsider their award. A number of such appeals are successful each year.

In general, the Scottish Examination Board does everything possible to ensure that candidates are treated fairly.

Exams are a strain on everyone. They are regarded by some as a rather barbaric ritual. Modern society, however, chooses not to do without them. At least in Scotland, those who administer the exams do so in a sympathetic and fair manner. Let those of us involved with 'the candidates' make sure we give them the support they need - and keep their results in perspective.

## SURVIVORS OF TEN

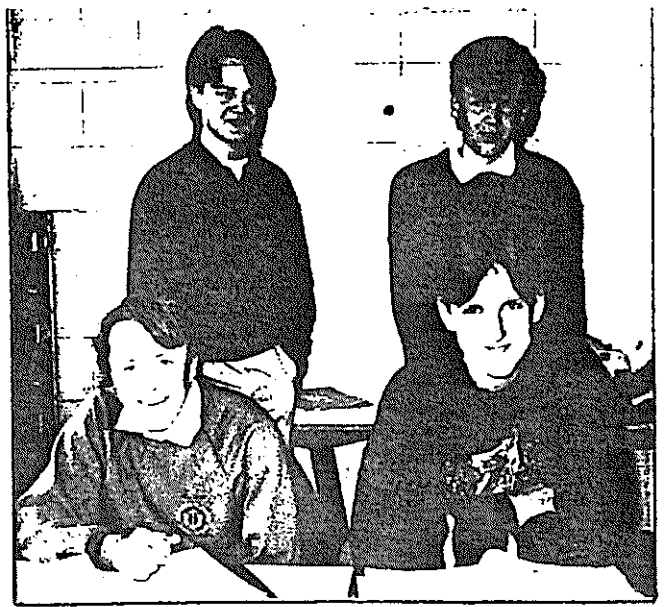
Staff, both teaching and non-teaching, at the school's opening.



Congratulations are due to Graham Reid, Charles Donald, Lawrence Wattie and Russell Taylor for winning The Business Game 1990 in a very competent fashion. They were complimented on the day of the final by the organisers for the efficient and methodical way in which they dealt with the problems they encountered. They became so proficient at preparing their information that the accountants came to them to see where they had made mistakes.

The Business Game is organised by the Aberdeen Branch of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants and is open to all schools in the Grampian Region. Preliminary heats took place over the period January to March where the game is school-based and decisions made are phoned to our controller. At this stage we had two separate teams competing, but unfortunately, only one team made it to the final.

The final takes place on a Sunday and this year it had to be the Sunday on which the clocks went forward, which made it very difficult to make the early morning start. It was hosted this year by BF at their Rubislaw offices, but turned out to be a bit of a disappointment, as the heating had not been switched on and there was a definite lack of food, which meant that the team were screaming for 'fish suppers' by 11.00 am.



However, battling against these difficulties, the team went on to face the problems faced by most businesses - what to produce, how much to produce, how to raise the funds necessary to produce it, how to price the product and how to market it to ensure that competitors could not better them. They were realistic in their decisions and were in the lead from the start and maintained that lead throughout the day. Well done!

## MRS AT DYCE ACADEMY

g, who have worked here since the



# CROSS-COUNTRY

On a cold and windy Saturday in February 300 pupils from 30 Grampian schools took part in the Grampian Secondary Schools Cross-Country Championships at Balgowrie Playing Fields.

Fortunately the snow and sleet held off until all the races were finished.



## DYCE RESULTS

### S1 Girls (35 runners)

Karen 21st  
Lisa 29th  
Sandra 30th

5th in the team event.

### S2 Girls (22 runners)

Alison 14th  
Karen 15th  
Carol 18th

3rd in the team event.

### S3 Girls (21 runners)

Heather 3rd  
Gillian 8th  
Morag 17th

2nd in the team event.

### S4/5/6 Girls (17 runners)

Susan 2nd

### S1 Boys (71 runners)

Barrv 12th  
Ray 31st  
Jason 51st

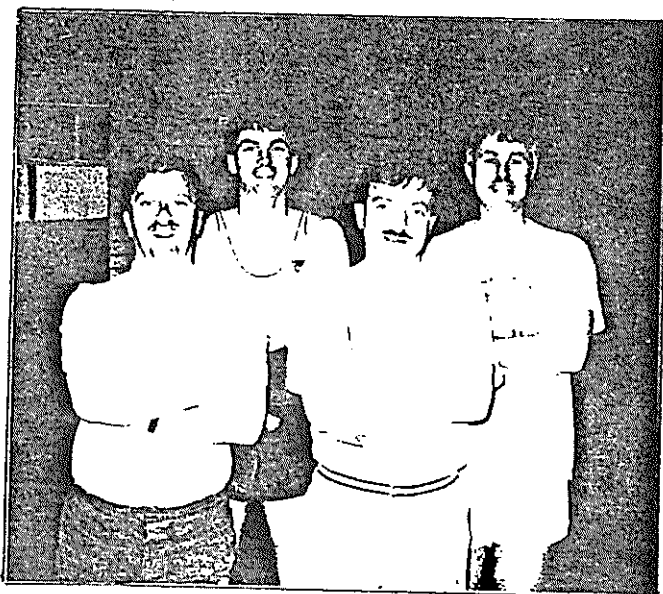
### S2 Boys (39 runners)

Craig 19th

Despite the gasps at the end of each race all the runners said that they had enjoyed themselves and would probably try again next year - it's taking part that counts, not winning! Most amusing comment of the afternoon was the advice given to one participant who was there, clearly not going to win but had decided to run anyway: 'Just stick close to the leader and then overtake him with just 50 yards to go!'

# NEVER MIND THE AGONY, IT'S THE GOALS THAT COUNT...

On Friday 23rd March five gallant members of staff agreed to play continuous games of 5-a-side football against eleven teams of pupils in aid of funds for extra-curricular travel. Each game was scheduled to last for fifteen minutes and the pupils were sponsored according to the number of goals they could score against the staff team. By the ninth game, however, the effect of all this exercise for the staff was becoming noticeable. Soon after, John Brady departed the field of play, muttering something about his approaching 40th birthday. Then Messrs. Lindsay, Gillies, and Littlejohn in quick succession all fell victim to either leg knocks or cramp. It was left to 'Mr. Superfit', Tom Ferguson, to play the full eleven games accompanied by various 'seconded' pupils. For those with a love of statistics, 102 goals were scored - 53 by staff - in the three hour marathon and, with the promise of more monies to come in, the total amount raised to date stands at £175. Thanks once again to all those who took part.



L. to R.: Raymond Dave Tom Kenny  
(John Brady can be spotted elsewhere in UPDATE)

## WANTED

BOOKS, BOOKS AND MORE BOOKS.  
(RECORDS AND TAPES ALSO ACCEPTED)

As part of the Dyce Academy Fun Day, we hope to have a bookstall. If you have any unwanted/unused books, tapes or records you would like to donate, we would be delighted to have them. Please send/bring any donations to Miss Smith, English Dept.

**What are you doing this weekend?**

If the prospect of mowing the lawn on Saturday afternoon and washing the car on Sunday morning doesn't exactly fill you with anticipation, why don't you give yourself a well deserved break.

With either a "Family Weekender" where children under 19 stay free, or "Two's Company" where couples can enjoy a romantic "get away from it all" weekend. And imagine one or two nights accommodation in a four star Holiday Inn with full breakfast. Plus use of all the facilities and entertainment offered by Aberdeen's leading hotel.

Children stay free if they share your room. 11 months - 2 adults, 3 children per room.

**Holiday Inn® Weekender**  
ABERDEEN  
Riverview Drive, Dyce, Aberdeen AB20AZ

## FOOTBALL REVIEW

Season 1989-90 now having finished as far as schools football is concerned, it is time to review how teams have fared over the year. Results are as follows:

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A
U-13	15	6	2	7	36	38
U-13 Res	5	3	0	2	24	20
U-14*	19	9	1	9	62	41
U-15	3	2	0	1	6	4
U-16	4	3	0	1	16	12
Senior	6	3	1	2	17	15

(\* includes 1 reserve game)

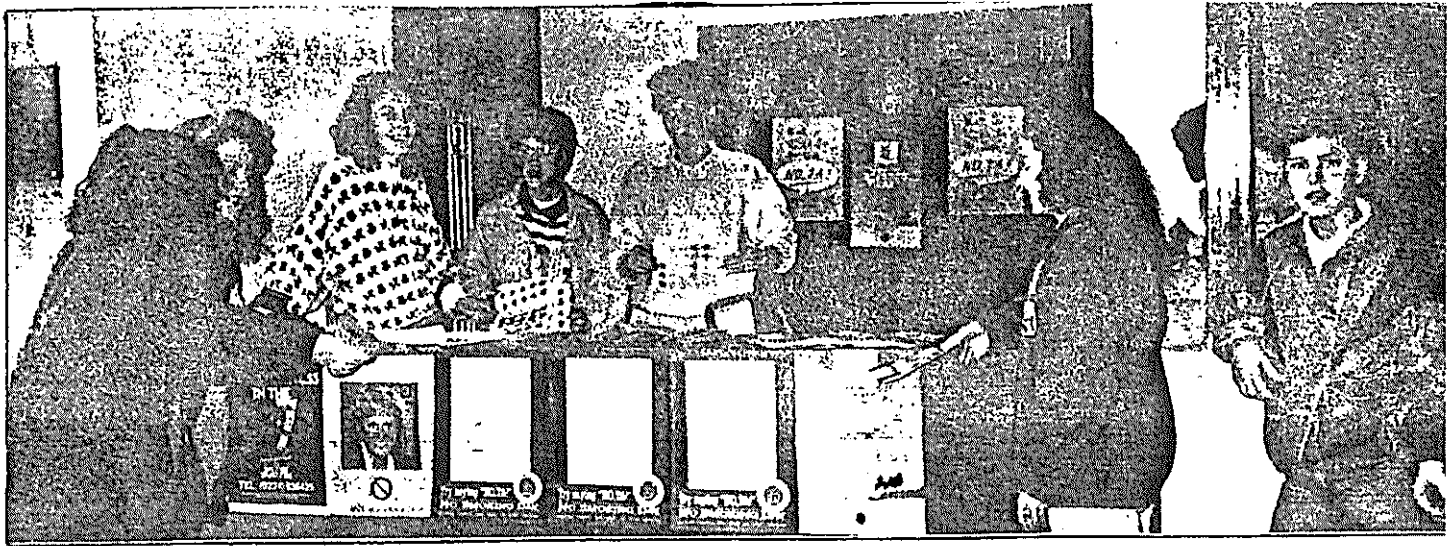
### Top Scorers

U-13: Brian Robb(15)  
U-13 Res: William Murphy(10)  
U-14: Derek Reid, Scott Crabb(13), Roy McGregor(12)  
U-15: Derek Watt(3)  
U-16/Senior: Roy McBain(8)

Both the U-15 and Senior teams reached local cup finals, only to be defeated by Mintlaw and Cults respectively, but overall the season was "somewhat disappointing", according to Raymond Littlejohn, PT of P.E., with the U-16s' high hopes of progressing further in the Scottish Cup being 'blown away' by Musselburgh in the last 16. However, there is the possibility of a strong Senior team next session if individual team members remain in school after the summer holidays.

## STOP PRESS

THIRD YEAR TEAM COMPETED IN INTER-SCHOOLS CURLING COMPETITION ON APRIL 12 AND WERE RUNNERS-UP. FULL REPORT IN NEXT EDITION.



Dyce Academy Smokebusters organised a 'No Ta' publicity stall in the foyer of the school on No Smoking Day.

## FUN AUCTION

Donations for our Fun Auction have been coming in thick and fast. At the time of writing this article, we'd over 130 'lots' ready to be entered into the catalogue. (This figure now stands at over 160) Now all we need is your attendance in school on the evening of FRIDAY 25TH MAY AT 7.30 to make it a special night indeed - and don't forget your wallets, purses and cheque books! Academy pupils can attend the Auction, but must be accompanied by an adult (over 18) and bids will only be accepted from the adults present. Of course we hope the young folk will encourage their parents to go 'Higher! Higher!' Tickets are available now from Mr. Young at the Academy (Adults £1, Pupils 50p), and although tickets will be available at the door on the night, we'd encourage you to buy them in advance, as we're providing refreshments during the evening free of charge and we'd like to know how many to cater for.

The Auction Catalogue gives full details of what will be up for auction, but we'll give you a taste of what's on offer. Local businesses have been generous in their support. We have a

weekend's car hire from Clark Autocentre, meals from the Holiday Inn, Skean Dhu, and Kirkhill Lodge, a flying lesson from Aberdeen Flying Club, writing paper from Wiggins Teape, a hairdo from Hair by Hazel (Newmachar), a football and sweatshirt from Dyce Motors and much much more. Staff at the Academy have also donated items and services: designer knitwear, keyboard lessons, wine and aerobic classes, while parents too have contributed. A case of Ginseng beer - a new beer from China - and grazing for a horse for a month are two of the more unusual donations. We also have a number of items for auction that are not readily available to the public. A number of film companies have donated posters of the type you see outside cinemas and which cannot be normally purchased. Walt Disney Productions have donated a video of 'Who Framed Roger Rabbit', which is not yet available for sale in this country, while heavy metal band Iron Maiden have donated a copy of the Soundhouse Tapes, the band's first record released in 1979 and which cannot be purchased through normal outlets.

Sports fans too are catered for in the auction with a pair of Charlie Nicholas' football boots, autographed photos from Nottingham Forest and Everton, and videos 'Aberdeen F.C. 1988-89', featuring highlights from nine matches, 'Scotland the Brave', which records Scotland's victories over England on the football field and '16 Days of Glory' about the 1984 Summer Olympics.

David Bellamy, James Bolam, Eric Clapton, Victoria Holt, Leslie Crowther, David Jason, Tim Rice, Cannon and Ball, Wet Wet Wet, Clive James, and Esther Rantzen are only a selection of the celebrities who have also sent items.

A lot of work has so far gone into gathering items for the auction - now give us your support on FRIDAY 25TH MAY - and help us raise money for school funds and in particular to fund our Grand Dyce Fun Day in June.

PLEASE SUPPLY ME WITH THE FOLLOWING TICKETS FOR THE FUN AUCTION ON FRIDAY 25TH MAY:

NO. OF ADULTS (£1 each): \_\_\_\_\_

NO. OF PUPILS (50p each): \_\_\_\_\_

I ENCLOSE \_\_\_\_\_ AS PAYMENT >

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_