

UPDYCE DATE cademy

ISSUE NO. 19

JUNE 1991

YOUNG FARMERS' SUCCESS



Last September we received a competition entry from the Scottish Association of Agriculture through Mrs Giles, our English Teacher. For the next few months we followed up the challenge by a series of questionnaires, a visit to Inverurie Young Farmers Club and also a straw poll which many third years may remember. At the end of May we were informed that we had been chosen to participate as one of the seven finalists at the final in Edinburgh.

On 6 June we were picked up at about 6.45 pm by our personal chauffeur, Mrs Giles. On the way down to Edinburgh we stopped at Dundee for a bite to eat at the trendy Garfunkels. We set off again at about 9.45 pm, thinking we would be there before it got dark. How wrong could we be! Mrs Giles obviously didn't take geography, and our map reading skills were zero, as we had no sense of direction and ended up nearer to Glasgow than Edinburgh. So, back we went to cross the Forth Road Bridge yet again and pay another 40 pence.

At about 11.15 pm we arrived at our destination - five hours after Mrs Giles had left her home! Our destination was a farmhouse B & B but when we arrived we were pleasantly surprised as it was not your everyday farmhouse B & B but a small Pittodrie House. We also had our own private wing - nothing but the best of course!

Next morning at breakfast everyone was quiet and off their food; we must have been nervous! After a brief photo session we set off to the Highland Show Grounds where we were to give our presentation in front of an audience of between 30-40 people, including our competitors. To our relief we were first on out of the seven finalists. This way we got it over and done with. After listening to the other finalists we had tea and biscuits and waited for the judges' decisions.

To our delight the judges announced that we were runners-up, only to be pipped at the post by Mary Erskines School in Edinburgh. But we didn't come away empty-handed. We received a £100 cheque, a framed certificate, a small trophy and book each, not forgetting free tickets to the Highland Show which we will put to good use.

After the prize-giving, we ate a quick finger buffet before travelling up the road to be ready in time for our ball at night.

Jennifer Lees
Kerry Walker
Amanda Whittle
Susan Whyte



Congratulations to Hilary of 3D who last month took part in her first skating competition - the Murrayfield Open in Edinburgh. Competing against skaters from all parts of Britain and Ireland, Hilary was placed 7th in a field of 56 competitors in the Free Skating Competition.

The event took place over a two-day period, 25 and 26 May.

Hilary began skating at the Dyce Rink about eight months ago and has been training there with coach, Elaine MacKenzie, usually for about 3 hours per week.

In company with other young hopefuls from Aberdeen, Hilary is looking forward to the opening of the new Aberdeen Ice Rink in a few months time, when she hopes to get in much more practice and training. She is currently in training for her next competition - the Scottish Championships held Ayr in August.

LIFE HAS MEANING

Mission 91 with Billy Graham took place in Aberdeen between 30 May and 1 June. Over the three nights at least sixty pupils and staff from Dyce Academy made their way to Pittodrie, helping to push attendances over the 37,000 mark.

Friday evening was primarily youth night and, whilst the two buses from Dyce joined the congregation of coaches parked bumper to bumper along the Beach Boulevard, it was with a sense of pilgrimage that the Dyce contingent joined the throng going over the Broad Hill.

Once inside the stadium the service began to take shape with times of praise, prayer, testimony from Brian Irvine, an offering, followed by Billy Graham's simple Christian message explaining how Jesus brings meaning into life. Whether one was curious, committed or searching for answers, the 1½ hour meeting was low-key - disappointing those looking for a bit more American razzamatazz perhaps. However, one thing on which everyone did agree was the wind-chill factor - it was freezing!

However, when this 'ordinary preacher' - to quote the Scotsman newspaper - called upon people to publicly respond to Christ, over 1000 people did so by walking forward onto the tarpaulin-covered pitch. Of course, some came forward for doubtful motives, but substantial numbers did come forward for genuine reasons. For them many will now be taking part in local church discovery groups to find out what it means to be a Christian and in Dyce Academy you, too, can find out by coming along to Scripture Union each Tuesday lunchtime at 12.15 pm in F8.



Jennifer (6B) is a member of the Beacon Ladies Volleyball team, who competed in the National Volleyball Championships during 6 and 7 June held in Perth. The team were runners-up in Division 2.

Currently they are in training for their next competition, an open event hosted by the Beacon Centre, which is held at the end of June. The home team were placed first last year, so are hoping to hold on to their lead this time.

green news

For the third year running, Dyce Academy has gone on tour with an environmental display in the BP Community Bus. This year we have taken the results of an 'environmental audit' of the school carried out by fourth year Environmental Education classes throughout the year, around our associated primary schools and a few neighbouring secondaries.

The results of our attempt to find out 'How green is Dyce Academy?' were quite interesting. Surveys of how we use resources and of staff and pupils' opinions came up with such results as,

- Whilst a number of departments believe they address environmental issues in class, the pupils do not always remember this.
- A great majority of pupils say they are concerned about the environment, would like to learn more about the environment in classes and would like the school to 'do' more in relation to environmental issues.
- Whilst we use recycled paper in the school, we do not recycle our own paper because of storage and collection problems.

The carrying out of the survey has raised staff and pupil awareness of the issues in Dyce Academy and will, we hope, lead to some positive action. We also hope that taking our findings around other schools will encourage the pupils and staff in these schools to start to think about how green they are.

If all goes to plan, the display will be taken to an international conference organised by a group called 'Caretakers of the Environment' in Peru at the end of August. A group of two staff and two pupils from Dyce Academy hope to represent Scotland at this conference, provided the last few hundred pounds required to finance the trip can be found. Any offers of help will be gratefully received!

COMPETITION!

Can you answer these 10 questions? Fill in your answers on the page, cut out the form as shown, and post your entry in the box in the front hall. Valuable prize for first correct entry (properly spelled!) drawn. Closing date 28 June. Winner's name in next Update.

Cut along dotted line

.....

Exploding sandwich filling (6)	-----
Current pupil fashion garment (5, 4)	----- / -----
He invented a sieve not recommended for cooking (12)	-----
Popular local employer (3)	-----
Mr Brady's favourite fruit? (7)	-----
He makes your hair stand on end (3, 2, 5)	----- / ----- / -----
Meant to be picked up but often found in corridors (6)	-----
Paris suburb known to S1 pupils (7)	-----
Sometimes seen rising from even top floor classrooms (11)	-----
Ancient Greek well-known in computing department (10)	-----

Name _____ Class _____

.....

CHANGES

A couple of changes have taken place over the last few months -

Gina Clark, of the Drama Department, returned from her secondment for only a couple of weeks as she had gained promotion to Principal Teacher (Drama) at Mackie Academy and took up her post shortly after the Easter Holidays.

Isabel Masson returned to us at the beginning of June as permanent Principal Teacher (Religious and Moral Education). She spent some time with us as Acting Principal Teacher when Mrs Muncer was away from school on secondment.

HOLIDAY SNAPS

Most of you will be having some sort of holiday over the next couple of months and are very likely to be taking the usual holiday photographs.

Update is offering a mystery prize - Is it a voucher for the school shop, an evening out with the teacher of your choice, or what? - for the the most outlandish / humorous / unusual holiday photograph we receive from any reader of Update, before the end of August.

A copy of the winning photograph and maybe some runners-up will be published in Update. Please send copies of your photographs to the Editor, Update, Dyce Academy, Riverview Drive, Dyce, Aberdeen, by 31 August 1991.

DYCE ACADEMY

NETBALL CLUB

The Netball Club has been branching out in all directions. For the past few weeks Primary 7 girls from our feeder primaries who will be attending the Academy in session 91/92 have had the opportunity to learn and play netball on Mondays from 4.00-5.00 pm in the Academy Games Hall. This has been a popular club attracting about twenty-five Primary 7 girls. This club is still running (until summer) so any new pupils are still welcome.

At a recent meeting of secondary school netball representatives it was decided to run both a Junior and Senior League next session. This will involve teams playing other schools twice throughout the year on a home and away basis. About ten schools have shown an interest; however, final numbers will not be known until the start of next session. Early next session we hope to have an S1 tournament followed by a combined S2/3 tournament and a senior tournament.

Following the recent success of the Academy's Junior team who won the Aberdeen Secondary Schools Netball League, a team has been entered in the Adult Netball League. At present there are three divisions and new teams are entered in the third division. This will involve playing against older opposition which hopefully will benefit the club, as as it will increase confidence and tactical awareness of the game. Eventually we hope to equal the success of Dyce Academy's first outing in the adult league about seven years ago when we finished high in the 1st Division. Only Dyce Academy pupils playing in either junior or senior teams will be eligible to play in the adult league team. However, as we are always on the lookout for friendly matches it would be great if some of our former pupils who played in the netball teams when they were at school could get together and form a team to play against us

So, if any of our former pupils are interested, get in touch with Audrey Farquharson at the Academy and she will give you details. We look forward to seeing all our old team-mates - Susan Barron, Carole Colville, Ann McPherson, Jane Robertson, Elaine Work - and any others.

Finally, the club would like to thank the school for kindly donating the money to purchase a new strip - jade shirt, purple skirt and bib. Dyce Academy netball players are looking forward to a successful 91-92 session - playing good, feeling good and looking good!

DRAGON CLUB

Take a walk along the first floor corridor most lunchtimes and you might encounter Orcs, Dragons, Mystics, Werewolves or even the odd space marine. No, you won't have entered some time warp which has transported you through time and space to another dimension; you'll have simply come across the Dragon Club, a group of pupils who enjoy playing role-playing games.

The club was started by two former pupils - Steven Blair and Chris Smith (he's now at Leicester University and involved in 'live action' role-playing games) and it has a regular attendance of more than a dozen members. They meet at lunchtimes in an English Department classroom and the members run the club themselves. When I visited them, two games were in progress - 'Advanced Dungeons and Dragons' and 'Star Wars'.

So why do they spend nearly every lunchtime taking part in exciting adventures in fantasy locations? One member summed it up - "It's a lot better than wandering about the Asda complex. It's a very sociable activity, it's good fun and it really stretches your imagination."

Most of the club members first got involved in this hobby through Fighting Fantasy Gamebooks and many of them continue their hobby out of school at the weekends. Many of them are regular visitors to 'Plan 9', the major supplier of role-playing games and accessories in Aberdeen, although Dillons bookshop and Beattie's toyshop carry a limited range.

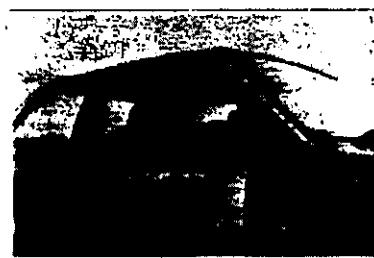
You don't have to have experience of any of this, however, to join the club - you just have to turn up and the more experienced members of the group will tell you all you need to know to get started and then they'll keep you on the right track. They would particularly like to see more girls

coming along - at present there's only one regular female member. "Girls seem to think it's all about bloody battles and violence, but there's a lot more to it than that", says club leader, Graeme Veitch. "I think a lot of girls would enjoy this hobby - if they just gave it a chance."

L. YOUNG


GLEN

DRIVING SCHOOL



Proprietor: Ian McLean
tel: 0224 723112

THE RUSSIANS HAVE LANDED!



Pupils and staff from Dyce and Bankhead Academies have been playing host this month to a party of pupils and teachers from Moscow. Contact with School 34, which specialises in the teaching of English, was first made when a holiday group from Bankhead and Dyce visited Russia last autumn.

A programme of visits and entertainments was arranged for the Soviet visitors including outings to the theatre, to Cawdor Castle, Crathes Castle and Balmoral (via the Lochnagar Distillery!), to Clinterty, to the Satrosphere and to other places of interest. Grampian Regional Council and the local Chamber of Commerce generously supported some of these outings, and also provided pupils with opportunities for industrial visits. A Civic Reception was given by Aberdeen City Council who also sponsored bus travel and leisure passes. While the Soviet pupils attended classes with their pupil hosts, the Soviet teachers were encouraged to see as much as possible of the Scottish education system, and there were visits to primary schools including Fintray and Newmachar. The teachers were astonished by the standard of accommodation, books and equipment, and impressed by how confidently very young pupils handle computers. (We were told that in the Soviet Union a computer costs 'as much as ten cars!'). Most of all, the teachers were struck by the relaxed atmosphere in our schools and the emphasis in primary schools on

an individual pace of learning, and on learning through play. (They didn't necessarily approve of this, but their eyes were undoubtedly opened!).

Soviet pupils normally attend one school from 6-16 and School 34, which has 1500 pupils, is so much in demand that there are two shifts of the secondary age pupils from 8.00 am - 2.00 pm and from 2.00 - 7.00 pm. In School 34 English is learned from age 8, and homework, which **MUST** be done, takes several hours a night. Examinations are taken every two years and are very important. The formality and intensity of the Soviet system clearly leads, in some subjects, to the achievement of an advanced standard of work at a younger age than in Scotland - some of the fourteen-year-olds were quite at home in a Bankhead Higher Maths class!

Clearly, in terms of education systems and other aspects of our societies, there are big differences between Aberdeen and Moscow; but are teenagers in the two places otherwise so different? Judging by the number of school dinner tickets spent on pizza, chips, hamburgers, Coke and Pepsi; the longing for stereos and cassette recorders; the liking for denims and trainers and chocolate - and the dislike of getting up in the morning - there seems to be a lot in common too!

CULLEN TRAINING WEEKEND



The first weekend in June, several intrepid senior pupils accompanied by Ian McLean and Morag Forrest set off for Cullen to prepare for the Primary 7 visits later in the month.

All the assignments to be undertaken by the P7s in two-and-a-half days had to be completed in just over one, so straight after tea (prepared earlier in school by the girls) we headed down to the graveyard. The first hazard of the weekend soon became apparent - Ian McLean and his camera ready to snap anything in sight.

Saturday dawned dry and bright. We set off into Cullen to complete all the assignments there. The senior pupils entered into the spirit of things, even attempting one of the art worksheets and leaving behind a sea monster named Riccardo!

In the afternoon we set out on the seashore walk which soon took its toll on the party. Morag Forrest struggled on, sniffing and sneezing, the 'fit' seniors moaned incessantly about how far they had to walk, whilst Ian McLean continued to educate us all with his snippets of 'useless' information.

After a short rest and tea we set off to 'crack the Cullen clues'. With just a little help the seniors managed to complete the treasure hunt. We were then joined by Mairi Steele - just in time for the evening entertainment, most of which was provided by the senior pupils. No more will be said!!

Toast was on the menu for supper and Ashley volunteered to make it. After a valiant battle with the antiquated toaster - and one blackened loaf later - he had to admit defeat. The toast was made under the grill and consumed when the breathing apparatus could be removed.

Sunday was torrentially wet. Fortunately we had completed all the outdoor tasks which only left us clearing up and to wait on Davie's bus. All agreed that the younger pupils would enjoy their trip to Cullen - and would be fortunate in having the help of such able senior pupils.

LETTER

June 1991

Dear Dyce Update

We happened to get a hold of your last edition and noticed your fire quiz team on the front page. We managed to beat them through a tie-breaker. We wanted to bring this to your attention. Good try - better luck next time!

From - 2368 (Aberdeen Airport) Squadron

PS LPG stands for Liquid Propane Gas - not Liquid Petroleum Gas



The 'Winners'

M FORREST