

up *you* Academy Date

Issue No 50

February 1996



PLASTERED!

The first few weeks of the new year have been marked by a succession of strains, sprains and broken bones amongst staff and pupils. Our School Nurse, Linda [redacted], is ready to give advice to our walking wounded shown above: (from left to right) Mike [redacted], Frances [redacted], Peter [redacted] (S2), David [redacted] (S1), Samantha [redacted] (S4) and Philippa [redacted] (S1).

SCHOOL BOARD

The re-establishment of the Dyce Academy School Board was mentioned in the last edition of Update.

The official duties of the School Board are :

- To promote contact between school, parents and the community and to encourage the formation of a parent-teacher or parents' association.
- To find out parents' views, agree to parents' requests for meetings and to consider any resolution passed at a meeting with parents.
- To report to parents at least once a year.
- To make documents relating to board meetings available at the school.
- To participate in the selection of senior promoted staff.
- To control the use of school premises outwith school hours.
- To encourage community use of school premises.
- To set occasional holidays during term time.
- To provide the education authority, if requested, with information on the Board's activities.
- To consider the advice of the head teacher and education authority on any matters.
- To take account of the authority's statutory duties.

The School Board is agreed that its most important function is as a link between the school and parents. School Board members are, therefore, very happy for parents to get in touch with them to discuss anything about the school. A School Board member will be present at all parents' evenings and meetings held in the school or they can be contacted at home :

Elaine Borisewitz, 8 Disblair Avenue, Newmachar
John Flett, 7 Glenhome Walk, Dyce
Shirlee MacDonald, 176 Victoria Street, Dyce
Denise Marshall, 16 Tornashean Gardens, Dyce
Sally Mortimer, 7 Burnwood Drive, Newmachar

Tel (01651) 862581
(01224) 723250
(01224) 723844
(01224) 723177
(01651) 862118

LARGE AS LIFE !



One of our Senior Teachers, Keith [redacted], took early retirement at the end of last term. Keith had worked in the Biology Department since the opening of the school in 1980, coming back to Aberdeen after a stint at Caldervale High in Airdrie.

Keith willingly accepted the challenge of a new school with progressive ideas, and was involved in the early years of Dyce Academy in trips to far-flung places : he was a member of a party which took pupils to Iceland on a camping expedition, and also to Norway ski-ing.

Over the years Keith himself has visited many parts of the world to pursue his interest in the local flora and fauna : Texas, Germany, Australia (3 times), the Canadian Rockies, Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands have all been explored.

Now that he has more time on his hands, Keith intends to pursue his interests in biology, fishing, gardening and travel. Both staff and pupils wish him well; his hallmarks (the pipes, the unforgettable laugh, the cowboy boots and his own particular sartorial style) will not be soon forgotten.

ENTERPRISING MATHS COMPETITION



The results from the Scottish Finals of the Enterprising Maths Day Competition arrived in school recently. Congratulations are due to the team from Dyce Academy - comprising Ryan , Clarke ; Richard and team captain Kellie Dyce was the top Grampian school - coming in a creditable 15th place out of 32 teams in front of The Gordon Schools Huntly in 16th place and Inverurie Academy in 27th place. The competition was won by Madras College in St Andrews.

THEATRE VOUCHERS

Discount theatre vouchers are available to Grampian Region pupils for the following productions in March at His Majesty's Theatre.

A Passionate Woman (£2), The Rocky Horror Show (£1.50), Scottish Ballet (£3).

Further details are available from Mr Young in the Drama Department. Sadly it looks like this Regional initiative will cease once the Region ceases to exist at the end of March. As yet, the new Aberdeen City Authority has not given an indication that it intends to continue this worthwhile scheme of encouraging young people to go to the theatre.

DYCE'S KARATE KID

Kristin Macdearmid in fourth year has been achieving exceptional success with her karate recently by gaining her black belt.

For over six years now Kristin has been training; her initial interest being prompted by her mother and brother's participation. Now she has left them behind as they are only (!) brown belts.

The family train locally in Bucksburn Primary twice a week with Duncan McPherson, a former Scottish champion; however, Kristin has also had to travel to Edinburgh to have more specialist training. The black belt exam was in November 1995. Kristin mentions with pride that Hamish Addams and Colin Clapperton were her examiners; they are the heads of the Scottish Karate Federation.

Kristin is now on the path to her next Dan in March '97 - unfortunately there is a minimum two year wait between each grading at this stage.

Meanwhile Kristin will continue to compete in fighting and kata competitions. It's no surprise that she has already acquired seven medals and two trophies from these.

We wish her every success.

ASDA'S GREAT COMPUTER CHALLENGE

From 22 January - 12 April 1996 Asda will be issuing one computer voucher for every £25 spent. To allow the school to obtain a free COMPAQ multimedia computer we need to collect 4000 vouchers. If you buy a COMPAQ multimedia PC from Asda for home use then Asda will give you 400 vouchers to give to your school.

Schools don't need to send away the vouchers until the beginning of June so keep collecting during the Easter Holidays and hand them in when the pupils return in April.

PATRICIA MITCHELL

OXFAM UPDATE

In the last edition of Update we reported that pupils in Dyce had raised between £800 and £900 for Oxfam; we are now pleased to confirm that this has been considerably added to and the final total is £1030. A certificate from Oxfam acknowledging this tremendous effort has arrived in school and will be displayed in the cabinet in the front foyer.

FROM BALL BOY TO ROCK STAR



Another interview in the occasional series on former pupils who have gone on to achieve success in 'unusual' fields.

"I had to behave when I was at Dyce - my mother worked here!" So begins my interview with 21-year-old Jonathan who plays bass guitar with The Lorelei, an Aberdeen band on the move.

The band was formed in February 1990 while Jonathan was still at school. Two other ex-pupils were in the early line-up - from the start Martin Watson (acoustic guitar and vocals) who was a fellow Venture Scout with Jonathan, and Keith 'Beefy' Allardyce (electric guitar) who joined the band in the autumn. Another original was William 'Flossie' Leys (mandolin). "We had a whole pile of drummers and backing singers in the early days," says Jonathan, "and one early drummer was Tony

Le Plant who played in a band with other former Dyce pupils."

The band's first real gig was a birthday party at Champers in January 1991. This was followed soon after by another at the RGIT Union. "We attracted a huge crowd for what was really a first-time-out band and it was then we realised that we had something people wanted to hear. We got really good reviews in the Evening Express and in the RGIT newspaper. It all helped."

In July, Dianne Beattie (viola) joined the band, as did current drummer, Keith Grant. "We very quickly built up a following and before long we were doing three or four Aberdeen gigs a month."

The next stage was to slowly expand out of Aberdeen. The Glasgow area proved to be

lucrative ground, as did student unions at the likes of Dundee and St Andrews Universities. Their popularity spread and things just grew from there and now the band are soon to set off on a tour taking in venues in London, Liverpool, Cardiff, Southampton, as well as early stamping grounds on the west coast of Scotland.

A big break for the band occurred when they produced their first CD 'Headstrong' in June 1994. Promoters became more interested and that led to tours in Scotland and in England. At the end of last year their second CD 'Progression' hit the shops and Jonathan tells me it's available from One Up, Virgin, Our Price and HMV - NATIONWIDE!

So what of the future? "Well, making millions would be nice, but just making enough to pay the rent and have something to eat would be fine. Above all, it's got to continue to be fun." It's certainly this idea of fun and of enjoying themselves that comes through strongly when chatting to Jonathan about The Lorelei. I've known Jonathan since he was a wee boy (I don't know if he really wanted to be reminded about his role as 'ball boy' during a Dyce Academy tennis match) and he certainly hasn't lost any of his warmth or friendliness and thankfully there's no sign of any pretension. He and the band are doing well, they're having fun and they're realistic. "On the strength of the two albums and the forthcoming tour we'd like to be picked up by bigger promoters or a record company. But we'll just have to wait and see. We can play to an audience of 300-400 as far away as London. No other Aberdeen band is doing as well just now. No others play much further south than Glasgow. But we'll just have to wait and see."

And what if the band doesn't make it bit? "Well, I've always promised myself that if things don't

work out by the time I'm 25 or 26, I'll go back and finish my education." Well, that'll please all the Dyce staff who tried to encourage him to give up 'daft notions' and go on to university. And what about mum and dad? "Well - I believe they're proud of me but I also believe they think - 'you're not going to get anywhere - get a job'. But then that's what mums and dads think, isn't it?"

Then the questions that many bands hate. What kind of band are you? What kind of music do you play? I suppose I can understand Jonathan's reticence about being pigeon-holed or categorised but he eventually settles for - a rock band with folk influences. A big like Runrig, I suggest. "Yes," says a fan of The Lorelei who happens to be sitting with us, "but for a younger audience."

"We were once described as an adventure band," adds Jonathan. "I rather like that - a band that goes off on adventures. Another time we were described as a cross between Led Zepplin, Slayer and The Water Boys." Now I've heard of Led Zepplin but the other two ..? I realise that perhaps it's time to bring this interview to a close before I embarrass myself with my ignorance of current musical trends. Anyway, Jonathan has got to get back to his work at Shepherd's in the mall - well, even an up-and-coming rock star has to earn some pennies when he's not on the road.

LAURENCE YOUNG

LATE SPORTS NEWS

Congratulations go to Scott Shand in S4, who won the bronze medal in the 15/16 age group 200 metre Individual Medley at the Royal Bank of Scotland Scottish Schools Swimming Championships at the Commonwealth Pool in Edinburgh at the weekend.

BURNS SUPPER & DANCE

Having never been to a Burns night, Dyce Community Music Group's promise of a traditional Burns Supper and Dance sounded enticing enough

to attend with an open mind. Saturday evening, 3 February 1996, proved to be very traditional, highly entertaining and great fun. Many kilts and tartan skirts also helped to make the evening an exceedingly colourful event.

Director of Ceremonies, June Smith, welcomed everyone and provided a helpful commentary on events to follow.

The solemn moment, eagerly awaited by the assembled diners, was announced by Alan Scott as he expertly piped in the haggis, ably and proudly carried by Alister Florence. The 'Address to the Haggis' was made with great reverence by Robert Ingram and 'The Selkirk Grace' was given in the eighteenth century manner by Andrew MacDonald.

There followed a simple but welcome meal of Scotch broth, haggis, neeps and mashed tatties, aided by mince sauce and completed by trifle, coffee and shortbread.

The talk invoking 'The Immortal Memory' was given by Dr Jim Webster, who, as instructed, gave a short but all-embracing and humorous snapshot of Burns' life and times.

Alex Matthew gave an amusing 'Toast tae the Lassies', praising and defending Burns' attitude to them. However, his address was superbly matched by Angela Cheyne's original and highly entertaining 'Reply fae the Lassies', much to the hilarious delight of the female diners.

The speeches reached a climactic end when Lawrence Young stood up to recite Tam O'Shanter. He did not just faultlessly recite it. He

lived and breathed the moment, acting the part so vividly and convincingly that the Oscar-winning performance would not have been out of place in a Hollywood blockbuster movie. A fitting tribute to the master wordsmith - Robert Burns.

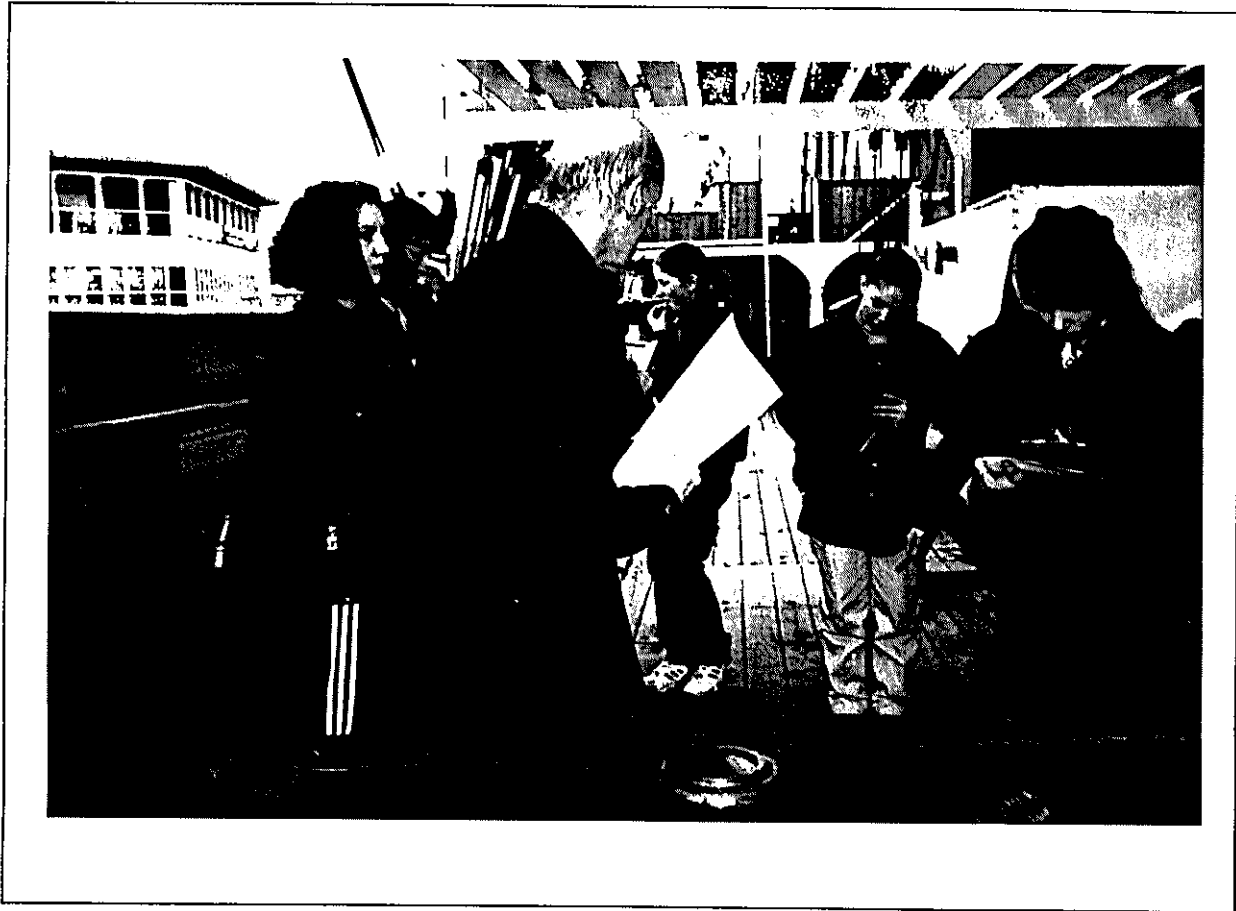
These formalities gave way to some lively Scottish dancing aided by a traditional family band who initiated a rip-roaring time with the Gay Gordons and later with several eightsome reels. Thanks to Brenda Urquhart and collaborator who demonstrated several other dances in a thoroughly professional manner, the mix of dancing tunes was well balanced. Fittingly, the dancing came to an end with a mournful rendition of 'Auld Lang Syne'.

Despite the very welcome snippets of information about Burns given by Jim Webster and Lawrence Young, one nagging question remained unanswered throughout the evening: who started the Burns Supper evenings and when?

Possibly Mrs Burns on the first anniversary of his birth, after his death, say 25 January 1797, thought that a supper evening with the family, filled with thoughts about Robert Burns and his works would be a fitting tribute to him. Quite possibly after this event, news of it spread, and his children spread the practice far and wide until it took hold and gained a momentum of its own. Who knows? It remains a splendid idea. And, it was a splendid evening.

Andrew Trybalski

DISCOVERY



On Monday 15 and Thursday 18 January all S2 Social Subjects classes travelled to Dundee to visit "Discovery".

Each class was given a tour of the Exhibition and the ship itself. They were also given a talk on navigation methods over the years and especially during Antarctic expeditions by an expert from the USA.

On their return everyone felt that the visit had been a worthwhile experience.

BADMINTON

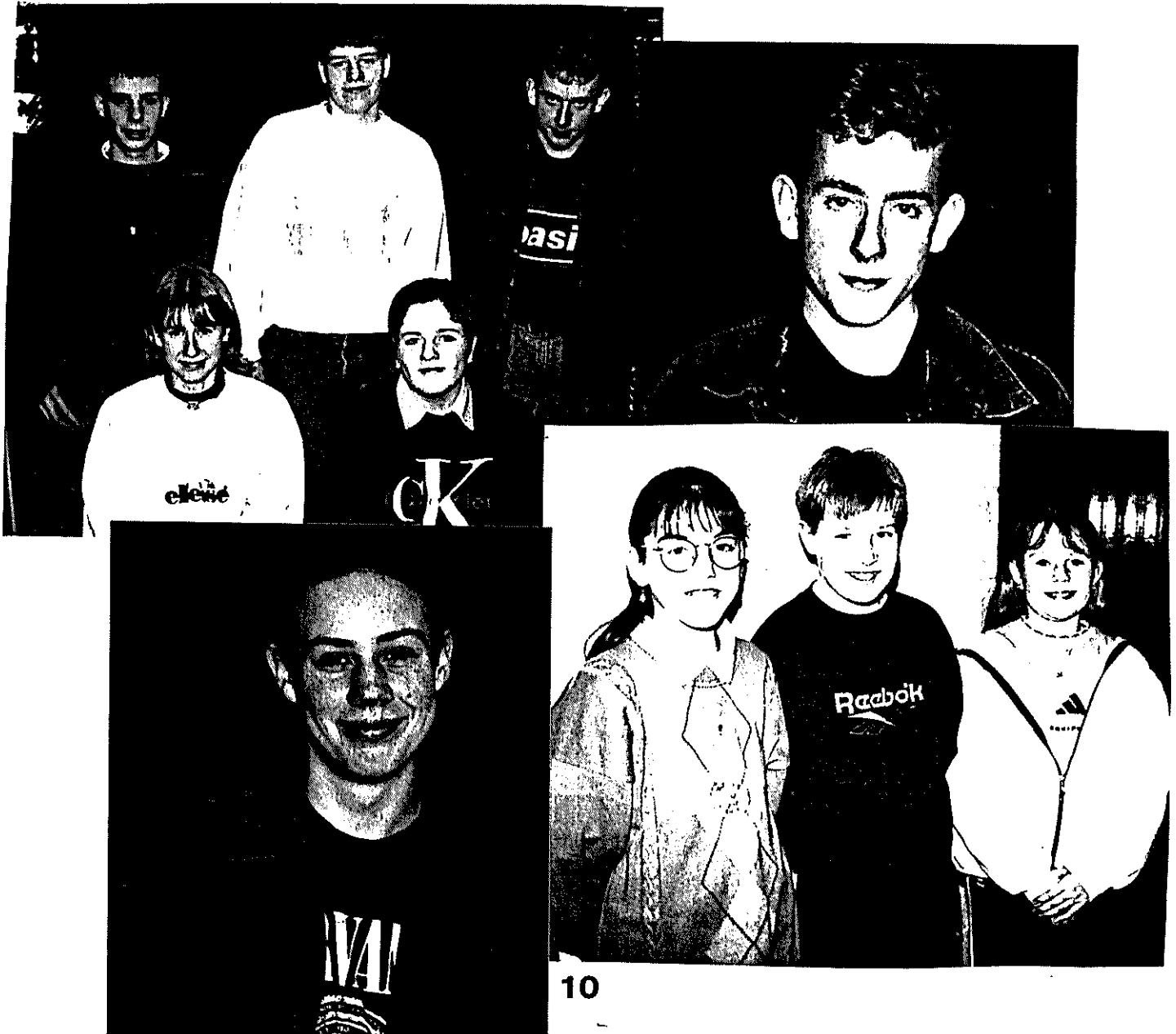
Dyce pupils did well in the recent South Grampian Secondary Schools Badminton Tournament held at the Beacon Sports Centre, Bucksburn.

The U-18 Boys Singles was won by Keith [redacted], with Kevin [redacted] getting through to the semi-final. The U-18 Boys Doubles was won by the above pairing. In the U-18 Mixed Doubles Keith [redacted] and Lindsay [redacted] won in the final, and the U-18 Girls Doubles was won by Lindsay [redacted] and Rhea [redacted].

In the U-15 section, the Boys Singles was won by Rob [redacted], with Steven [redacted] getting through to the semi-final. The Boys Doubles was won by the above pair, and Rob [redacted] and Rhea [redacted] were the beaten finalists in the Mixed Doubles. Rhea was also the beaten finalist in the Girls Singles in this section.

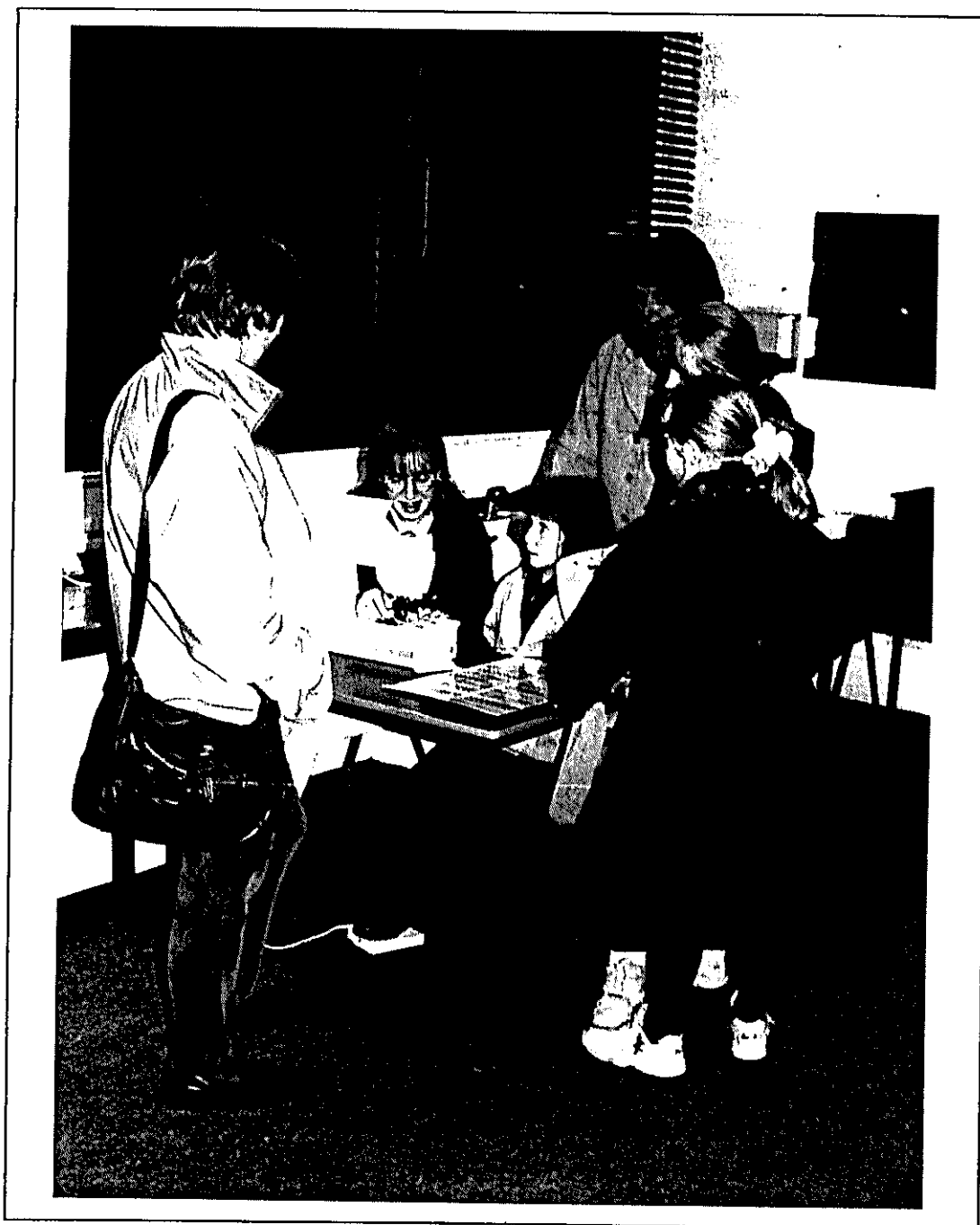
In the U-13 section, Lyndsay [redacted] got through to the semi-finals of the Girls Singles, and Lyndsay and Emma [redacted] were beaten finalists in the Girls Doubles.

Well done to everyone; some of those who took part are shown looking suitably modest below.



P7 PARENTS EVENING

There was a good turnout for the above evening in January, and some of our S1 parents of next year will now be fully in the picture as to helping youngsters with homework, etc! One of the evening's moments in the Home Economics department is caught below.



COURT REPORT

Basketball continues to boom at Dyce Academy. Our most recent success lies in capturing new coach, Janice Moir, from Oldmachar Academy where she organised all age groups. Janice especially hopes to develop basketball for girls at Dyce and we wish her and the girls' teams every success.

Results continue to improve for all teams. Our S1 squad travelled to Ellon Academy early in January and, given the luxury of playing on a full size court, gave a tremendous display of passing, shooting and dribbling. This excellent performance reflects the acquisition of basic skills in S1 PE where basketball has recently been the main sport being taught. We now have strong pool of about ten S1 pupils getting ready for their next festival later this month.

Our S2/3 team recently hosted a four way tournament against Kincorth, Banff and Aboyne. In the team's best display so far, they finished with three victories out of three, the best being a closely fought battle against Banff. For the record, the results were 24 - 8, 12 - 7 and 10 - 6, the last game being curtailed due to lack of court time. The enthusiasm and determination in our S2/3 squad is now producing the kind of results they should have had at the start of the season.

At the end of January, our senior squad entertained Kincorth and Banff and

played two very close encounters. In the first game, the score ended in an 18 -18 draw and so went into sudden death play-off where Dyce were just able to sneak the winning basket. In this game the players showed great character in coming from behind to win eventually. In our match versus Banff, we were not so fortunate however, losing out eventually by 13 - 8. Our strength in these games is mainly in defence. Perhaps in our next tournament we can turn more scoring chances into points. We also have a slightly depleted player pool and our best wishes go to David Orr who has missed most of the season because of a back injury.

On each side of the Christmas break, we organised 3 v 3 inter-class tournaments for S1, S2 and S3 over a series of lunch breaks. These were very popular, especially with the younger pupils and proved to be very exciting and great fun. Congratulations to 1C and 1D who shared top spot in S1, 2A who pipped 2B in S2 and 3A whose power was too much for the silky skills of 3E. Thanks to Mr Littlejohn who helped with the refereeing. We hope to run a similar event some time in the future.

Tom Ferguson