



THE TERNION

Volume 8, Issue 3. June 2008

EDITORIAL

The Indian Premier League which was watched with great anticipation by many students came to an end early this month and more than just a few are disappointed. It was one of the greatest and most exciting tournaments cricket will (probably) ever see.

The rugger season is also in its latter stages and the rugger team will definitely be looking to end it on a high by winning the highly anticipated Roy-Tho rugger match – good luck to them.

However, despite all of the excitement surrounding the rugger season the second term is generally known to be a term of hard work with very few holidays peppering the large number of school days. With it also comes one of the biggest events of the year, the annual Prize Giving which is to be held on the 18th of July.

On a more serious note, there have been many people around the world who have great hardships brought on by natural disasters, especially in Myanmar and China. We should not forget them while we go about our daily lives.

Things continue to look rather grim on the home front as the frequent explosions around the city have driven fear into the hearts of many. People also are struggling to deal with the issue of the rapidly escalating cost of living and we as Thomians should strive to remain sensitive to the feelings of others around us during these trying times.

Esto Perpetua!

The House System

Since its inception during Warden McPherson's time, the college House system has played a great part in many students' lives and also the school itself. A House system has two main functions: to involve more students in a wider variety of activities within the school; and to create a spirit of unity within students of the same House.

However much has changed from the time the House system was instituted. In previous years the House system was seen as a method of breaking down the age barrier and students of the lower forms got to know college form and upper school students. Also there was a certain spirit of unity among students of the same House.

In years gone by the Inter-House events were conducted less seriously and the students were not as competitive as today. The Inter-House debates however were a slightly bigger event as debating tournaments were more for exposure with other schools. Today however debating has become a very popular activity and there are many Inter-School tournaments and because of these new opportunities perhaps, the Inter-House Debating tournament hasn't been held for some time. It is good to see that the Inter-House Debates are being revived by the Debating Society. This sort of inter-house activity is particularly

important as it helps students tolerate and respect dissent as well as embrace pluralism, which is very important in today's context.

It is also a heartening sight to see that the Inter-House Drama competition was revived in 2006. Not many students get the opportunity to take part in a school production, and this competition will prove to be a useful method of finding new acting talent, while also providing opportunities for students to get involved in acting.

Today however the House system has changed greatly but it still proves to be effective. These days the House system is focused almost entirely on Inter-House competitions rather than on developing relationships within the House, though this is not entirely bad either.

A fine example for this is the House matches a majority of the sports organize. When S.Thomas' plays another school it is an "us vs. them" attitude that players have. However during Inter-House events it is an "us vs. us" attitude that the players have; this helps develop better sportsmanship and fair play among students as their "opponents" in these fixtures are their own classmates.

Other than this many of today's sports depend on House matches to find new talent and many sportsmen have represented College after successfully representing their House. The House matches are useful not only for this, but also in enabling students in the same sporting team to compete with each other and improve their own standards.

Today the Inter-House sports meet is one of the main occasions in the school calendar, and it is at this event that any visible evidence of camaraderie among students of the same House can be found. For one day, be it any of the five Houses, you see students of all ages cheering and supporting their House mates under one tent. It was also good to see the Inter-House swimming meet being organised as a big event this February. It will serve as yet another opportunity for boys from various houses to get to know their house mates better.

However despite all this, there is no real sense of camaraderie to be seen among students of the same House. Students barely know who their Housemaster is or who in their class belongs to their same House. This is probably because there aren't many House meetings each year and also, they see who belongs to which House only if they themselves get involved in any type of Inter-House activity. As a result of this there has been a growing "lukewarm" attitude towards Houses among the students.

On a more positive note, several improvements could be made to the existing House system for more effectiveness. The first is that more effort should be put in to making the prizes for good performances by Houses (such as the "Lawrence Arndt Memorial Shield for the Best Day House" and the "Arasu Thuraiappa Memorial Shield for the Best All Round House") appear prestigious in the eyes of students. These prizes should not be something that only the House Masters, Captains and Prefects of various Houses are concerned about. Instead, efforts must be

"There are worse crimes than burning books. One of them is not reading them"

made to make the students of each House actively involved in trying to win them.

As a matter of fact, these prizes may be too far off in terms of rewards for students to be interested; it is almost impossible to inspire a boy to do something for the sake of a prize that will be awarded a year later and will be collected by the House Captain. Perhaps a system of House points would serve such a purpose better. By doing so one could address one of the main problems faced at present, which is the lack of attention paid to which House a student belongs to, every time a student wins an award or performs well at exams. If such performances were shown to be linked in the short term to rewards for these students' Houses, students of the same House would definitely be inspired to emulate that performance while getting to know more people who belong to their House.

The House system could also be used to strengthen student discipline using these awards as incentives. We are not suggesting a "Harry Potter" like school (where minor offenses will see a

House losing points), but rather one where serious offenses will result in a loss of points for Houses. This will serve as a good way of improving the discipline in the school and could also make students help maintain discipline themselves by encouraging their Housemates to stay away from trouble.

More visibility should be given to inter house events. For instance, if the Finals of Inter-House events like Singing, Drama & Debates were held during school hours for the senior classes to watch, it would motivate more to take part and thus get to know their seniors and strengthen the sense of unity within a House. Houses should also encourage students to get involved in Inter-House activities rather than wait for students to nominate others to take part in the Inter-House events.

In closing we would like to encourage all of our readers to participate in at least one of the many House events, as the House system needs the support of the students as well to grow and develop.

Notices

- A new batch of House Prefects was appointed on the 11th of June.
- A.P.S. Dias and V.R. Ladduwahetty have been appointed to the Editorial Board of the Ternion.
- The annual Junior Science Day will be held on the 27th of June

“Reading is to mind what exercise is to body”

Sir Richard Steele

Cricketers in peak form

The College under-15 team is captained this year by M.S.G Pieris with A.P Wickramanayake as his deputy. They have had success in 5 of the 7 practice games they have played.

The Thomian under-17 cricket team has had a fair amount of success in their friendly matches. Having played 6 matches, they have won 4 of them, which included wins against St. Sebastians' College and Prince of Wales College.

We wish both teams the best of luck for their upcoming tournaments.

Water Polo Team emerge runners up

The College Water polo team participated in the annual Inter Schools Water polo championships which were held at the Sugathadasa swimming pool on Saturday the 31st of May.

The College team advanced to the final of this tournament trouncing the Royal College 'B' team 15-0 en route. In the final they were unlucky to lose out to Royal 'A' after being in control for over three quarters of the game.

The game went into extra time with the score at 4 all and the Royalists just managed to scrape a 6-5 win in the second period of extra time.

The College team also emerged runners up to Royal in the under-20 water polo championships held a few weeks prior to this event, the score line on that occasion was 7-5.

High altitude training

The College swimming team traveled to S. Thomas' Gurutalawa to participate in a high altitude training camp from the 17th to the 20th of May.

The College swimming team which recently won the 'Novices' swimming meet after a lapse of ten years are currently training hard for the upcoming Public Schools Swimming Meet.

Tennis team does well.

The College tennis team participated in the U-19 Public Schools Tennis Championships held at the SLTA courts on the 26th to the 30th of May.

The team was drawn into a tough group consisting of tennis heavyweights like Royal, Ananda, and CIS. However despite this the tennis team did remarkably well to win their matches against St. Sebastians (4-1), St. Benedicts (5-0) and the strong CIS team which had the first and second ranked players of the age group.

The team ended up being placed 3rd in their group, which is quite commendable given the difficulty of the group.

Cricketers perform at District level

Five cricketers from College were selected to represent the district of Colombo at the on-going district cricket tournament. The players were M.F. Saleem, D. Walpita, H.A.T. Fernando, H.N.C. Fonseka and R. Nirrushan who also captained the team. The matches, which began in May, ended in success for the Colombo District team, which powered through to the semis which are to be held in mid-June.

"Never judge a book by its movie."

J.W. Eagan

Athletes cruise through Zonals

The College Athletic team emerged runners up at the Zonal athletic meet which was held from the 7th to the 9th of May at the S. De S. Jayasinghe MV grounds.

The results are as follows

Under 11

D.L. Welgama 2nd in 75m and 100m

Under 13

D.E.U. Wijesundara 2nd 100m

4x100 relay 2nd

Under 15

E.B. Wickremanayake 2nd in 100m and 200m

N.C. Yattigala 3rd in 100m and 200m

S.S. Rosa 1st in Javelin, 3rd in High Jump

D.D.C. Ferdinando 2nd in Discuss

R.M. Paranagama 1st in Shot Putt

D.N. De Mel 3rd in Long Jump

4x100 relay 1st

Under 17

W.A.I. Fernando 1st in 400m, 800m and 3rd in 200m

S.C. Makalanda 1st in Long Jump, 2nd in Triple Jump

G.J. Arumugam 3rd in Long Jump

D.N. De Mel 2nd in High Jump

4x400 relay 1st

Under 19

L.R.F. Beruwalage 1st in 100m and Long Jump

S.M.D.A. Sangakkara 1st in Discuss, 2nd in Shot Putt

P.L. Nallaperuma 3rd in 1500m

4x100m relay 2nd

Under 21

R.N.De Mel 1st in 200m, 2nd in 400m, 3rd in 100m

Rugger

No doubt the highlight of these past few weeks have been the ongoing Singer Division 'A' rugger fixtures. This season College has been hosting rugger matches for the first time in over 30 years, which has seen the 1st XV team get some good support in their home matches.

After a tragic loss to Kingswood at home, the College team was looking to bounce back when they took on the Isipathana team on the 31st of May. The game turned out to be a really close, with the Thomian team scraping through with a 2 point win. The College team had a healthy lead of 12-0 when the half time whistle was blown. The Pathanians managed to give the Thomians a bit of a fright, coming back strongly in the 2nd half, but our team managed to hold on to win 17-15.

The team then took on Vidyatha on the 7th of June in what was to be their last game at home. The ruggerites succeeded in giving a performance to be remembered as they annihilated the Vidyarthans 64-0, scoring 2 goals and 10 tries in the process. The college team will play St. Josephs before finally taking on Royal at the Royal Sports Complex on Friday the 20th.

“The man who doesn't read good books has no advantage over the man who can't read them.”

Mark Twain

Oarsmen excel

The College rowing crew participated in the recently concluded “Joes’ Scull” regatta held at the Colombo Rowing Club. The crew did excellently to win the U-19 overall trophy. M.S. De Silva was awarded the prestigious “Joe Blue” award for his brilliant performance. The crew consisted of D. Jayanetti, E.L. Goonawardane, M.S. De Silva, J. Peiris, D.J. Harold, A.S.A. De Silva and S. De Livera. The results are as follows:

U-19 and U-17 single sculls placed 1st
M.S. De Silva

U-19 double sculls S. Thomas’ placed 1st
and 2nd.

U-19 quadruple sculls S. Thomas’
placed 3rd

U-15 sculls A.S.A. De Silva placed 1st

U-24 single sculls D. Jayanetti placed
2nd.

The Ternion congratulates the rowing crew on their good performance and hopes they keep performing as well throughout the year.

Inter House debates concluded

The inter house English Debating Tournament (which was revived after several years) was concluded on the 11th of June during the Current Affairs session. The tournament produced excellent debates and the semi-final debate which was held between the Buck and Wood ‘A’ teams was by far the most exciting debate during the preliminaries. In the final Buck ‘A’ debated against Wood ‘B’ and won the debate while opposing the topic “The war against terrorism has been counter productive”. The winning team comprised of V.R. Ladduwahetty and R.J.W. Weerasinghe.

**‘Satsuki Oiwai’-
Japanese Cultural Day**

The Interact Club conducted its International Understanding project, titled ‘Satsuki Oiwai’ on the 10th of May at the College Hall. This project was based on the experience gained by the Interactors who visited Japan and was the completion of their International understanding Project. The College Hall and the path leading to it were decorated in a traditional Japanese manner. There were several exhibitions on the process involved in bonsai as well as Japanese cuisine along with origami and face painting competitions.

Interactors from several other schools were invited to take part in this event, which was fun and informative, while also giving a good insight into Japanese culture.

Library Club Bookmarks

The Library Club conducted a successful sale of bookmarks on the 3rd of June to raise funds for their future projects. These bookmarks carried picture of the College Library along with the College Crest.

Red Cross AGM

The College Red Cross Society held their Annual General meeting on the 28th of May and the following were appointed office bearers;

President- M. Jathurshan
Vice President- D.C. Jayasundara
Secretary- C. Dhivaagar
Treasurer- P.S. Thiagarajan

“People say that life is the thing, but I prefer reading.”

Logan Pearsall Smith

The experiences of a Thomian cricketer

Cricket is one of the most important and popular sports at S. Thomas' College. It has a very long and eventful history which spans over 125 years, and has great influence in the upbringing of every student at S. Thomas'. It's not surprising therefore that the Big Match takes its place next to the Prize Giving and Carol Service as one of the most important events in the school calendar.

My best experience as a cricketer include (obviously) playing in the Big Match and playing at the Asgiriya Stadium (which was one of the few times we played at an international cricket stadium) against Trinity College this year. The Big Match in particular was an unforgettable experience- just the feeling of playing in the match, let alone winning it, is superb.

Even before the Match begins the pressure you feel is enormous; how good we are as a team is usually decided solely (and a bit unfairly) on our performance in the Big Match. One is also weighed down by the hopes of a holiday on the following Monday. The pressure becomes even more extreme on the day of the match as you walk onto the field to face the thousands of eager fans screaming out their support. Suddenly you are among the twenty-two players who are the center of attention, with almost every move under the microscope.

The feeling in the middle is even more awesome because of how chaotic it is: various papare bands blaring out music at the same time, thousands of people

cheering fro the stands, the entire stadium a riot of colour: blue, black, gold. Batting in the middle is unlike anything you've done before, since you can hardly hear what someone a few feet away from you is saying!

Sledging is also something you get used to while playing cricket, though it isn't at the same level as what the Australians engage in. In fact, a very amusing incident related to sledging occurred at Trinity this year. A senior Trinity cricketer, who had been sledging us while we were batting, was unable to take a dose of his own medicine. He got so worked up that he complained to the umpire, at which our captain at the time Jehaan Thahir offered him his handkerchief and advised him to stop blubbering and start batting!

Playing cricket is not always this entertaining, as there are very demoralizing matches and seasons as well. However all in all, my days as a cricketer have been hugely rewarding. Even though the years of tight schedules and tough seasons are just the stepping stones to the 1st XI ream, and once and once you're in things are still very hectic, in the end it's all worth it. The brilliant experiences both on and off the field outweigh by far any disadvantages or difficulties you may face in the process. By playing cricket not only do you get to play a wonderful, exciting and challenging team game, but you also make great friends and great memories which remain with you for the rest of your lives.

A 1st XI Cricketer

“Literature is news that stays news.”

Ezra Pound



Editors

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