

Rustenburg Times



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2011**

NATIONAL GIRLS SCHOOLS FESTIVAL REPORT 2011

The NGSF was hosted by Clarendon Girls School in East London from 26 – 29 April, 2011

RGHS was represented by the following groups of girls:

DRAMA

Hannah MacMillian
Catherine Paterson
Georgia Carstens
Amy Tanzer
Kayla-Paige Raper
Robyn Paterson
Keshia Samandan
Julia Holzberg

Director: Mr Adrian Skelly

DEBATING

Angeliki Carvounnes
Cara Mazetti-Claassen
Nicola Cilliers
Rebecca Furlong
Katharine Harris

Coach: Mr Cedric van Dyk

Managers: Ms L Bekker and
Mrs V Williams

HOCKEY

Samantha Newdigate
Nicola Barrett
Chloe Newlands
Rochelle Theron
Keren Dugmore (capt)
Kate Houliston
Emma Bergman
Alexandra Fuller(vice-capt)
Meghan Goncalves Toni Olsen
Gretchin Davids
Danielle Austin
Natalie Luyt

Coach: Colleen Matthews

TENNIS

Christy Vosloo
Kiana Neethling
Leanne Biccari
Amy Scholtz
Manager: Ms N Blayi

Rustenburg:
**a school of excellence where girls are leading courageously,
exploring their unique potential confidently
and serving the world compassionately.**

General News from the Festival

The Rustenburg girls stayed at the Windsor Cabanas and Courtyard on the East London beachfront.

Some of the senior girls stayed in amazing penthouse suites with sweeping sea views, while the junior girls and the staff stayed in very ordinary small rooms in the courtyard part of the hotel.

We were assigned two very pleasant bus drivers, brothers Dean and Donovan. They were responsible for driving us around and getting the various teams to their venues in good time.

The week started with Managers Meetings and an Opening Ceremony which was held at the Selbourne hall.

This was followed by arranged entertainment for the girls and a cocktail party for the staff. The girls were exhausted after a long day and

were in bed by 22h00, excited for the activities to follow.

Breakfasts and dinners were enjoyed at the Hotel Osner at the far end of the beach front. This meant that our drivers had to collect us for meals which were all at different times, depending on the group's activities for that day. The girls received packed lunches at the various venues each day.

A cold wind blew fiercely on Wednesday and Thursday, making it very difficult for the tennis girls to play.

Friday produced a beautiful sunny windless day and time to depart.

Rustenburg featured highly at the Final Prize Giving on Friday which took place on the Selbourne fields.

See individual cultural and sports reports

Debaters maintain exceptionally high standard at Festival

The 2011 Debating Team that participated in this year's Festival comprised a mixture of experience and developing talent.

Led by the experienced, passionate and talented Angeliki Carvounes and Cara Mazetti-Claassen, the debutants, Nicola Cilliers, Rebecca Furlong and Katherine Harris were introduced to the rigorous demands of this highly challenging competition. They all rose to the challenge and RGHS reached the finals for the fourth year in a row.

The competition consisted of five compulsory rounds, two of which were on prepared motions: "this house would genetically engineer its children" and "this house would apply a lower rate of income tax to women."

After the first five debates, eight out of sixteen schools were chosen to compete in the quarter-finals.

With three wins out of five debates, Rustenburg made the break and debated the motion: "This house would ban any scheme to cure homosexuality."

RGHS soon found itself past both the quarter and the semi finals, and competing in the final against Pretoria Girls' High School.

Rustenburg had to oppose the motion that: "this house believes that monarchies are outdated." Although both teams debated exceptionally well, the debate was awarded to Pretoria Girls' High School and Rustenburg came second in the tournament. Cara Mazetti-Claassen and Angeliki Carvounes, our current matrices, did us proud by both ranking in the top ten debaters of the tournament.

All members of the team agree that being able to attend the tour has increased their knowledge and experience.

What made the four days particularly enjoyable was our lovely accommodation where, at the end of each long day, the team could relax and prepare for the upcoming debates.

Rebecca Furlong echoes all our thoughts when she describes the tour as "an awesome and unforgettable experience".

Nicola Cilliers, C3

Tennis Report

Rustenburg tennis was represented by:
Kiana Neethling, Christi Vosloo (tour captain), Leanne Biccari and Amy Scholtz.

There were ten schools that took part in the tennis tournament. Rustenburg was placed in Pool B which was the tougher of the two groups.

The format was best out of three and a pro set for the doubles matches.

They had to battle strong winds and cold weather on Wednesday and Thursday, often wishing the tournament would be cancelled.

Rustenburg's first match was against Paarl Girls' High, the 2010 runners up. The team was nervous at the thought of playing Paarl but were quietly confident in themselves and their ability. They won the match 16-5.

Winning against Paarl was when they realised that they could potentially win their section.

The next match was against Clarendon, the host school. They enjoyed home support and were used to playing in the windy conditions. The young team proved to be our strongest competition.

Rustenburg had to dig deep and fight for every match point. They supported and encouraged one another throughout the match showing real team spirit. Rustenburg won the match 14-7.

Thursday was the team's longest day with matches starting at 08:00 until 17:30. They were tired from the previous day with sore feet and blistered hands.

The first team they faced was Pretoria Girls' High. They were opposition the team was familiar with. They knew that with patience and concentration they could win. They had to fight for every point and were rewarded with a 17-4 win. The team was in first place and had one match left.

They regrouped, had a team discussion and encouraged one another to do their best and win for Rustenburg.

The last pool match was against Parktown High School. A great deal was at stake for both teams. Rustenburg was fighting to stay 1st in the group and with a win Parktown could move to 2nd place.

Desperate for the win, the team continued communicating with one another during the singles matches and encouraged each other. They battled through and won the match 14-7.

Tired and sore, the team celebrated their victory and were ready to face the defending champions Eunice High School.

The team went into the finals wanting to play their best. Eunice were very strong and we lost 12-0. This was the best result for a Rustenburg tennis team at National level and the girls can be very proud of themselves.

Ms N Blayi



In high spirits, from left to right:

Kiana Neethling,
Christi Vosloo,
Amy Scholtz and
Leanne Biccari

First team hockey tour report 2011

This year the 1st hockey team had an excellent NGSF hockey tournament placing 5th overall, the highest the school has placed in many years. The team was made up of 9 matrics and 4 juniors. Each game was 25 minutes without a time out or half time.

Team spirits were kept high with many jokes and much laughter and each girl gave her all. The atmosphere on and off the field was exceptional and positive which lead to the success of the tournament.

Day 1 started with a 09h00 game where the girls had a very fast, first game and played well to beat Parktown Girls' High 2-0. With a win in the bag the spirits were high and the girls went into their next game confident.

The 2nd game for the day was Danville Girls' High which was constantly under pressure from the Rustenburg attack, which unfortunately could not convert and the game ended in a draw.

Soon the girls were back on the astro playing Queenstown Girls' High. After a breakthrough from Queenstown within in the first minute of the game the girls picked up their pace and focus and played an amazing team game to win 2-0.

We returned to the hotel for a short rest and then back to the astro to face the strong opposition of Pretoria Girls' High at 18h00. It was a long tiring day. The lighting at the astro was very bad but the girls still managed to stand their ground We drew this match 0-0.

After an exhausting first day, we went straight to Hotel Osner for dinner. On arrival at our hotel, we massaged each other's aches and pains, bathed, showered and into bed.

On Day 2, Rustenburg was on dawn patrol and played their first game at 07h00 against Afrikaans Hoer Meisies Pretoria and lost 2-0. Next were the most spoken of Eunice (who won the tournament). The girls all played their hardest match and managed to hold their own.

Unfortunately Eunice got a lucky short corner and scored off that and ended up winning the game 1-0. After two losses the girls were still positive and spirits were still high.

After a slow start to the game against Potchefstroom, Meghan Goncalves (top goal scorer of the tournament for RGHS) managed

to score 2 goals giving Rustenburg another 4 points for the win.

The 4th game, before 14h00, was against La Rochelle. For Rustenburg to be placed in the top four of pool A, they had to win this game so the girls were under pressure. The girls, however, did not allow this to affect their game.

Rustenburg scored the first with La Rochelle equalising it soon afterwards. Thanks to the extraordinary and superb back-stick goal in to the top left corner of the goal box from Alexandra Fuller, Rustenburg won the game and placed 4th in their pool.

Alexandra said it was like a dream moment and that she would love to see the replay because she did not really know how she did it. After quick celebration milkshakes the team watched the Rustenburg drama girls perform and soon after were back at the astro ready for their first play-off.

Playing out from 5th-8th with the first play-off against the host school, Clarendon, the girls were excited yet also very nervous. Alexandra, once again, scored the goal and thanks to great defence Rustenburg beat the host team 1-0.

This was the first time Rustenburg has won their first play-off game in four years. Once again the girls were extremely tired and got into bed as soon after dinner as possible.

Day 3, the final day, saw Rustenburg take their highest position at National All Girls' Schools' festival seen in the last few years.

The final play-off was played at 09h30 against Pretoria Girls' High. After 25 minutes there was still no score so the game went to penalty flicks. Alexandra Fuller, Keren Dugmore and Gretchin Davids were all under tremendous pressure but still managed to all convert their flicks. Two brilliant saves from Samantha Newdigate (goalie) kept us in the running and Rustenburg won the match 3-1 in penalty flicks.

Huge thanks to our coach Mrs Matthews who was so supportive and encouraging.

Words from our coach '*The girls can be very proud of themselves and their team. They all played their hearts out and it was an absolute pleasure to coach such a talented team filled with fantastic team spirit.*'

Mrs V Williams and Keren Dugmore
(Photo on Page Five)

Rustenburg Times



Rustenburg actresses lauded for “Who’s your Daddy?”

The Drama department of Rustenburg High School for Girls received top honours at the 2011 National Girls’ Schools’ Festival when its submission was chosen by theatre critics as Best Overall Production.

All Drama submissions were bound by a pre-determined set of criteria, the most important of which was that the shows hold relevance to the nature of the all girls’ competition.

Mr Adrian Skelly, Head of the English and Drama departments at Rustenburg, said that the cast purposefully avoided themes which would commonly be associated with the stresses of being a teenage girl, and instead opted for a topic far less spoken about and thus more tender, the complex relationships which exist between fathers and their daughters. The production was titled “Who’s your Daddy?”

Eight actresses were chosen to represent Rustenburg in “Who’s your Daddy?”. They were Georgia Carstens (Grade 12), Hannah MacMillan (Grade 12), Catherine Paterson (Grade 12), Kayla-Paige Raper (Grade 11), Amy Tanzer (Grade 11), Robyn Paterson (Grade 10), Keshia Samandan (Grade 9) and Julia Holzberg (Grade 8). All of the cast members also study Dramatic Arts as an academic, examinable subject at the school.

This was Hannah MacMillan’s third appearance representing Rustenburg in Drama at national level. She was also a cast member of “Miss Fortune and Miss Trust” (Best Overall Production, in Pretoria) and “Counting Sheep” (Runners-up, in Port Elizabeth).

Earlier this year, Julia Holzberg received a CATA (Cape Amateur Theatre Award) for her role as the title character in the Artscape production, “Annie.”

Rehearsals for “Who’s your Daddy?” began in December 2010 and thereafter continued each Monday afternoon and evening, and weekend, for several hours at a time. “A production of this intensity takes much time to refine.

The girls were emotionally committed to the show, particularly because the theme was so personal and poignant,” said Mr Skelly

Mr Skelly said that the premise of “Who’s your Daddy?” was for the actresses not to wear costumes, but rather the bulky and oversized garments of fathers. As each rid herself of her own “daddy issues,” she stripped herself of the weighty clothing to reveal herself as exposed and vulnerable. In the final scene the actresses were on stage in only flesh-coloured leotards.

Various other prizes were given at the awards ceremony in East London’s Guild Theatre, but when it came to choosing the final accolade, Best Overall Production, Chief Adjudicator, Mr John van der Walt, announced that the judging panel felt, “It simply had to be Rustenburg.”

It was noted that some audience members were moved to tears by the sincerity with which the Rustenburg actresses spoke about the influence of fathers on daughters.

Mr Skelly said that the success of “Who’s your Daddy?” was also attributed to the support offered by many friends of the Rustenburg community. Rustenburg Old Girl, Ms Carey Wallace, a graduate of the Cape Academy of Dramatic Arts, regularly offered advice during rehearsals. Ms Jenny Stretch was responsible for sewing the flesh-coloured leotards. Ms Anita Marshall helped to co-ordinate other costume requirements. Mr Guy Tanzer, a parent, taught cast members how to create a rugby scrum, a motif used to represent domestic conflict in the production. Ms Sylvie Hurford, make-up artist and brand ambassador for L’Oréal cosmetics, helped to style the ‘look’ which the actresses sported at the National Girls’ Schools’ Festival.

“Who’s your Daddy?” is going to be staged for Cape Town audiences as part of the Bishops Play Festival in September.

Mr A Skelly