

ABINGDONIAN

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Editorial

The proverbial Jack (who works all day and never plays) had ever and in a UCCA form he would certainly have been dismayed by an ominous-looking section of five or six lines officially known as 'section 17c' which is where the potential University candidate writes down his hobbies, achievements and responsibilities in the school and, generally, any activities which may be to his advantage in university entrance. Well, Jack may have had no opportunity to pursue any of his interests or gain authority in a tweed jacket and frock-coat nineteenth century public school. Today the situation is very different and there are innumerable areas in school life where it is possible to participate from a small to an influential extent, and the world that moves so fast the necessity for a comprehensive preparation for the outside world—horrid phrase though it is—becomes greater and greater.

Almost every sixth-former comes to the stage when he is faced with the prospect of filling in a UCCA form, and in an effort to give as true an indication of his capabilities and achievements he will, if he has not done so before, just how little GCE exam results tell of a person.

The list of responsibilities and major positions in schools like this are all frequently shared by too few people. It seems impossible to give the opportunity for the ordinary hard-working boy at the back of the class to obtain some office, however small, which if nothing else allows him to play a much greater part in the running and organisation of the school, and gives the school more than just an academic association with the world.

But at the other end of the scale we must be careful not to assume that every opportunity available must be grabbed with the sole object of gaining a position in section 17c.

We come now from the question of balance of responsibility to that of the choice of curriculum. Jack, even though he might have been head of the school and captain of all games would still have been a dull boy if his timetable was solely concerned with his 'A' level subjects. There must be areas of the timetable reserved for what could be called 'interest subjects' or options. These are concerned with non-'A' level topics and are intended to find the balance between essential work and casual interest. The choice of these options could be made wider—they would

indeed be more popular if the subjects were even further away from 'level work than they are now.

But both the options and the non-timetable activities do have a purpose—one not always recognised—and that is to help educate in the real meaning of the word. 'A' levels are an instruction, not an education. Education is the result of all that is gained from the school and there is plenty there for the taking.

Michaelmas Diary

Obituary

Regretfully, we have to record the death of Mrs WA Rudd early last term and we offer our condolences to Mr Rudd.

Salutations and Congratulations

Our best wishes to Mr and Mrs Robbins, whose marriage last August somehow escaped the Abingdonian net; and congratulations to Mr Taylor and Miss Wells, and Mr Harmsworth and Miss Hubbard, who announced their respective engagements towards the end of the term. It is pleasant to find there are still such 'internal' marriages in a small community like this.

Mrs Leigh-Bennett has left the lodge, and we wish her well in her forthcoming marriage. We welcome in her place Miss Ruth Broad, who has been running a YWCA hostel in London.

During the latter half of the term, we benefited from the economic history and midi of Miss Suzanne Hughes, and the Music Department helped by Mr Smedley. We are also grateful to Messrs Arguile, Luckhurst and Packer, who were borrowed from Ripon Hall.

We have welcomed as student masters this term Mr KPG Curtis, who will teach Religious Education, and Mr DV Crow, who will help out with the economics teaching.

We now seem to have an annual place for an Oxbridge mathematician to spend nine months working for Euratom in Germany; we hope Scott Cross is enjoying himself as much as Chris Nicholl did last year.

Simon Whipple orienteered with considerable stamina and sagacity on October 18th to become the Oxfordshire Junior Champion; well done!

Congratulations to these successful Oxbridge candidates: NJ Beecham (Exhibition to Balliol), IC Browne, JM Dyke, SB Gray, DC Henderson, Macmillan, JK Ridge, PJ Todd (Oxford); SP Loosemore, HJ Mann (Oxford); NJ Minns and RC Newall (Cambridge).

Entertainments

The entertainment lectures last term were given by Mr Murray Smith, who spoke about 'African Wild Life', by Mr RF Monk, who initiated us into the joys of 'Colour Photography', and finally by Colonel Spencer Chapman 'Living Dangerously'. The films were 'The Sons of Katie Elder', 'Opera House Crossbow', 'Morgan—A Suitable Case for Treatment', 'The Importance of Being Earnest', and 'The Battle for Anzio'.

Odds and Ends

Mr Warmesley, an inspector of Russian, visited the school in September and was apparently pleased by all he saw and heard.

A trip to Russia is being planned by Mr Taylor. School parties will be going to Italy with Mr Woodgett, to Béziers and to Bielefeld.

There were some very worthwhile sixth-form lectures last term. The Rev WAB Barham gave two fascinating talks; one to the Lower Sixth on 'Para-Sensory Perception', and another, to the Upper Sixth, on 'Psychic search'. These inspired considerable thought and discussion, which should be the object of these lectures. Dr Allen talked on two Saturday mornings to the Upper Sixth on 'University Interviews'; we are very grateful to him. The Rev Robert Browell spoke to the Lower Sixth on 'Underprivileged children', and Mr Charwood, of Lloyds Bank, further informed them on how to use a bank account'.

Speakers for this term include Sir Knox Cunningham (at one time Lord Macmillan's Parliamentary Private Secretary), who will give a talk on 'Ulster', and Dr Betz, a distinguished American lecturer, who will speak once on 'Ecology' and once on 'Religion in America'.

The Old Boys challenged the school to a golf match, and, despite the nearance of the Headmaster and the Chairman of the Governors in the school team, won 3—1. This was such an enjoyable event that Mr Hooke,

Vice-Chairman of the Governors, presented a cup for annual competition.

As usual, we put our metaphorical oar in at the Remembrance Day parade; our effort was duly recognised by the Mayor afterwards.

The School Chapel was packed on December 5th for the wedding of Mr Lacey-Johnson, OA, and Miss Louise Greenwood. Our best wishes for their future.

The Headmaster offered a prize this year for the best Christmas card design, which was won by WJ Packer. PRV Clarke and TJ Crome were runners-up.

When the brave men of the Common Room challenged the Dragon School to a football match, the more skilled preparatory school side held somewhat larger men of the Common Room to a keenly fought draw.

Christmas Celebrations

The carol concert on the last Sunday of term was well above its usual standard, with the Carol Suite, now traditional, an effective finale. Two original carols were played by Nicholas Talbot and Simon Clift.

For the first time there was a Christmas lunch instead of the normal supper, and the term again ended with the Carol Service.

Outside Visits

There was a gratifyingly large number of visits 'abroad' last term. Some Upper Sixth Historians went to a conference in Oxford to hear Christopher Hill speak, and the geography departments sponsored a trip to the Bristol and Avonmouth docks. The annual pilgrimage of Lower Sixth chemists to Ireland's brewery took place, and economists had an informative day at a conference on Trade Unions at Windsor, where they heard Jack Dash speak. Four sixth-formers went on a Challenge Weekend, and there was a outing to see England play basket-ball against Oxford University. But most pleasing of all, we record no fewer than ten visits to the theatre. Three were to the metropolis, and one to Stratford, to see the RSC production of 'Hamlet'.

Chapel Notes

Once again the Michaelmas term concluded with a most successful service of Nine Lessons and Carols in St Helen's Church. An additional element of excitement this year was added by uncertainty as to whether the lights would be blacked out or not. A piano and torches were ready in reserve as well as an abundance of tapers for lighting the massive candelabra of the parish church. Fortunately they were not required, but it would be pleasant one year to recapture the atmosphere of a couple of centuries ago with such services, if they were held, must have been held by candlelight. Musically the carol service is always a thrilling occasion from the moment when the Director of Music names the chorister who is to open the proceedings with the solo first verse of "Once in Royal David's City"—verses sung this year by Richard Holder. We had two original carols: one Jere Pike's setting of "Let Christmas all with joyful mirth", and the second, Anthony le Fleming's delightful Christmas Lullaby. There were a number of new settings, principally by David Willcocks, perhaps the most notable being "The Cherry Tree Carol". But without question the most successful of all was John Rutter's "Shepherd's Pipe Carol", which was beautifully sung while Bernard Hall-Mancey's delicate organ accompaniment was admirably played. We are greatly indebted to the readers, Mr le Fleming and to all the choir for the very considerable hard work that goes into a carol service. It was also a great joy to have David Robbins and the brass section playing some voluntaries.

The major event of the term was the Confirmation on 29th October by the Lord Bishop of Oxford, the Right Reverend Harry Carpenter, the first occasion on which he will visit us as our Diocesan Bishop. There will be twenty-one candidates: Steven Bowkett, Nicholas Clark, Russell Collier, Iain Cowan, Michael Crofton-Briggs, Peter Dell, Christopher Driver, Timothy Hallum, Duncan Herbert, William Little, William Packer, Simon Pallett, Simon Potter, Marcus Richards, Keith Rigby, Trevor Roberts, Christopher Stockwell, David Thomas, Colin Todd, Simon Walker and Peter Webster.

Once again we are grateful to the Society of St John the Evangelist for supplying the facilities for the Quiet Half-Day and the Reverend Fr Naters, SSJE, for conducting it. All boys appreciate this brief period of peace and quiet for rest and reflection before the great event. The first Communion of the newly confirmed took place the following Sunday. This was the first occasion on which Mr Randolph assisted with the chalice, permission having been given by the Bishop for him to do so when necessary.

Our visiting preachers this term have been: Mr Dennis Silk, MA, the Warden of Radley; the Reverend DJL Agassiz, MA, of St Matthew Church, Southampton; the Reverend AO Dyson, MA, Principal of Ripon Hall; the Reverend WEG Payton, CB, MA, the Vicar of Abingdon. In addition the Reverend WAB Barham, Secretary of the Churches' Society for Psychological and Spiritual Studies gave talks to the sixth forms on extra-sensory perception and survival after death.

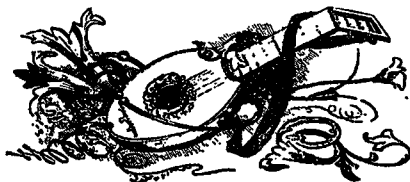
Collections during the term have been as follows: Chapel funds (New Boys service), £21-13-7; St Helen's Church (beginning of term service), £6-9-0; New Guinea Mission, £8-4-4; Chapel funds, £7-16-6; Society of St Francis, £6-2-0; Hostel of God, £7-10-7; Chapel funds, £6-4-7; Historical Churches Appeal Fund, £7-16-7; British Legion Appeal Fund, £4-3-6; East Pakistan Disaster Fund, £35-9-5; Bishop's List for Ordinands, £20-11-9; and

elter, £9-18-6. The collection from the Carol service, which was divided between the Children's Society and St Helen's Church, amounted to £53-1-4. Chapel flowers were provided and arranged by Mesdames Eden, Potter, Ansp, Mortimer, Leigh-Bennett, Anderson and the Sacristans, the boys Forms 3B, 3D and 3V, and the Chaplain. The third forms have continued provide an interesting variety of weekday worship in Chapel from time to time, while Alan Brown and a number of helpers have done well in minor chapel in Trinity Methodist Church.

Two events during the term have helped to remind us that our Christian life is not bounded by the narrow confines of school religion. On the first day of term the funeral of Gerald Smithson was conducted by the Chaplain in St. Michael's Church; the lesson was read by Mr Hillary and the choir sang. On the last Saturday of term there was the marriage of Mr Vivianacey-Johnson (OA) with Miss Louise Greenwood conducted in the Chapel by the Chaplain. The Chapel was most beautifully decorated with purple flowers toning with the Advent altar frontal. The bridegroom found himself sitting in exactly the same seat as he had occupied when he first came into chapel as a new boy not so very long ago. Our prayers go with them, as they do with Anne Smithson and her family.

Music

First, sad news—Miss Barnwell has retired at the end of the year after teaching the clarinet for several years. She has worked tirelessly and devotedly towards building up the woodwind department; more than that, she has done so both in the face of ill-health and with a personal interest and enthusiasm which has gone far beyond the limits expected of a peripatetic teacher. We have twenty clarinet pupils in the school. During Miss Barnwell's time with us there has always been a waiting list. Ours is a great loss but at the same time the overall sentiment must be gratitude; a gratitude which we hope to express personally to her on 14th February—at the first Music Society Concert of the Spring Term.



The Christmas term provided a varied but constant stream of music making. With Richard Pike at the Music Society's helm, the two chamber music concerts included items both by the experienced and the inexperienced—the old and the young. It is essential that instrumentalists at all levels should have the opportunity of learning to perform in public—perhaps 'project' is a better word—and I hope that a similar balance may be preserved in the future. The Society's Concerts in the past have tended to be too ambitious in that young or comparatively inexperienced players have quite naturally been shy of performing in them. The third and final concert was held in the Court Room on the final Sunday of term. This very informal get-together has grown popular enough for ticket holders only to be admitted. The performers rose to the occasion. Bryan Kelly did us the honour of accompanying the Junior Choral Society's spirited

performance of his Carol Suite under Bernard Hall-Mancey's direction. David Robbins and his band played it cool, Glen Miller style, achieving tremendously polished playing. A thought provoking carol from Nicholas Talbot and Simon Clift, calypso style, blended well with two jazz items also 'home-made', and the Carol Suite rounded off a generally lovely evening's fare.

I should like to pay especial tribute to both the achievement and loyalty of the chapel choir. It contains many new faces but is certainly the best for three years. In one's inevitable struggle against a general atmosphere of apathy that surrounds many voluntary activities, the spiritedness of the choir stands out like a shining beacon. Thanks must go to the parents of several day-boys from as far away as Cumnor, who have organised transport at odd hours come rain or shine.

Why is there not the same impetus in the Choral Society? There is the same attraction that the chapel choir offers plus the surely tempting aspect of sex. We are supported by members of both Our Lady's Convent School and St Helen's, and rehearse in rotation at the three respective schools. Let's hope that as people get to know each other, and the impact of the St Matthew Passion makes itself felt on us, collectively as well as individually, we shall establish a rapport akin to that achieved at last year's choral society concert.

The Subscription Concerts are back on their feet, after last season's poor attendance. Two concerts have been much enjoyed; a piano recital by Alan Schiller (a Fanny Waterman protégé, by the way; the last time I heard him he was letting rip through Beethoven's first piano concerto—ten-year-old whose feet didn't get anywhere near the pedals!) and a masterly performance by the Alan Civil Horn trio.

The North Berkshire Youth Orchestra made its debut on Radio Oxford twice, in fact, since a recording of its Christmas Concert was repeated after Christmas. The Orchestra is well supported by the school and is branching out from Symphonies to the 'big band sound'. 'Rhapsody in Blue' next Easter will be the ultimate test.

Congratulations all round to many who have achieved successes; particularly to Mark Evans, who retains his place in the NYO and to Jeremy Pike, who has recently finished a Passacaglia commissioned by the Leicestershire Schools Symphony Orchestra. ARL

The Alchemist

CJW Owen



Having celebrated their twenty-first birthday last year Mr Griffin and the School Dramatic Society entered the Seventies and their (old style) adulthood not, as some had hoped, with Brecht, Arden or Stopard, but with their first production of Ben Jonson. The choice had not been warmly welcomed in many quarters, even though advance information had it that the two very substantial leading parts were particularly suitable for the two most experienced actors in the school. But the proof of this particular, and, it was feared, rather stodgy pudding lay firmly in the production, where we found a delightfully fast-moving performance. Combining the elements of well-executed

farce with amusing and penetrating characterisation, a sharp and eloquent commentary on human behaviour in any century or society, and an original ending to send us home wondering if formal justice does not sometimes give us better than we really deserve.

The biggest problem that 'The Alchemist' presents to its producer is that of making its language comprehensible to a present day audience, unused to the idiom and the intensity of Jonson's speech. Although later than nearly all Shakespeare, the play, as a most concise and helpful programme note informed us, contained a high proportion of contemporary London slang and there were many words whose sense remained obscure. The cast could have helped us over some of the smaller stumbling blocks by adopting a slightly more animated or mimetic delivery to hint at the nature of an unusual word but there were several moments when they did not seem at all sure of the meaning themselves. Often they spoke much too quickly. Timing of cues was excellent but timing within speeches much less effective. More pauses, pointing of meaning, savouring of words would have helped the audience tremendously. Instead there was a tendency to vary delivery by speaking either loudly or more loudly and several of the cast, especially in the longer speeches, rode heavily on the formal stress pattern of the verse with even spacing and too-regular emphasis. Their speaking grew more intelligible as the play went along and all were better in shorter speeches but a good deal was lost before the first interval.

This apart, I absolutely fell for the production. The setting was magnificent, delightful to look at with or without its Dalek-Furnace, and whereas often on the professional stage the whole frame rocks with every tug at the door handle, this one was so sturdily contrived that it never swayed an inch. It offered a good variety of exits and entrances, all employed with thoughtful skill as the action accelerated. From the very first entrance, a most effective one, the play moved at a tremendous and rapidly increasing pace. Cues were taken up sharply and movements executed with the split-second timing that contributes so much to enjoyment. The cast were extremely fluent and it should be noted that some of the parts were very substantial indeed. Costumes were superb, very gay with some delicious reds and greens and possibly the most colourful so far in the Abbey Hall productions. Make-up and the handling of properties both scored highly and, above all, one noticed a meticulous attention to detail in every movement and object.

All the cast did something well. Jonson gave every character a clearly-defined but not a limiting individuality and all had a chance to feel their

way into their roles and express these essential natures. The three mountebanks, changing roles for each victim, had to do many things well and were all good at adapting their voices, mannerisms and even the personalities to the changing situations. Most was demanded here of Andre Wood (Face), by turns Cockney rogue, swaggering gallant, Teutonic furnace-blower and ingratiating steward. He switched on and off wit and assurance and, finding that much more was demanded of him in sheer acting and characterisation than had been asked in his 'romantic hero' appearances in the past, he raised his performance significantly. His movement was particularly graceful and intelligent.

Douglas Henderson (Subtle) portrayed a slightly younger alchemist than expected and the con-man was more credible as a result. As his brief appearance as Little Malcolm indicated, Douglas has a convincing past streak on the stage and this has tempered the natural gifts for the comic that in the past he has developed through his 'amiably muddle-headed servant' and his 'doddery old man' roles. We shall remember him as a comedian but he reminded me here that his range is considerably less narrow than it might seem. Some more play on the rivalry of Face and Subtle over Dol—there was one most amusing use of it—might have given extra interest to the action and helped the third member of the trio in the quieter moments. After a difficult beginning, when she was neither in the action nor out of it, Hilary Perry played this bawdy but amusing slut most intelligently. She became absolute mistress of the cunningly contrived landing and staircase, was superb in her set piece as the Queen of Faery and had a beautiful scene with Sir Epicure Mammon. At one moment his hands fluttered around her waist and in the next she was gone, imperceptibly freeing herself from him and gliding to the other side of the stage.

Nicholas Minns (Sir Epicure) was a great favourite with the audience. Engaging rather than voluptuous, he moved richly and delicately about the stage. Fresh faced and eager, like the gossamer and damask he yearned for. Dapper, Deservedly popular, too, was Gareth Pearce (Ananias, the Deacon), master of the subtle inflection, the half-gesture and the oily smirk. There were indeed, many moments to cherish as the procession of rogues and simpletons unrolled until, when we expected an honest and upright judge to resolve our chaos, Jonson twisted his knife by sending a last villain, rubicund and smiling but as corrupt as all those who had gone before. From them all my own most vivid recollections are of Charles Nasmyth (Dapper) stumbling across the stage from his privy-prison, his face seeming to turn green as he went, and a very amusing little scene among the neighbours and townspeople with David Harvey especially striking in accent, posture and appearance.

In this production Mr Griffin gave substance to the dramatist whom we invariably compare with Shakespeare but too rarely see. He reminded me what a very good play 'The Alchemist' is and proved what many had doubted, that a school cast could both convince and entertain in Ben Jonson. In the light of all this we might ask briefly what we expect of our major school plays. I don't think we look for a new reading or interpretation but rather that we hope for a lively yet straightforward representation of what is best in the chosen work. One must then ask which are the works best chosen. The Abingdon School Society has now presented twenty-four plays, seventeen of which were written before or during the seventeenth century and only one of which—and that in no other way contemporary—has been written during its lifetime. Many schools are now turning to contemporary dramatists or theatrical documentary for their annual pro-

uctions and our own drama festival last March showed how much today's sixth formers enjoy acting Halliwell or Pinter. Near as we are to theatres in Oxford and London there must be several members of the School play audience, both young and old, who do not visit the theatre many times in a year. Are they best served with productions of the English classics or ones which reflect new developments in the theatre, particularly young people's theatre, today?

Such questions are intriguing but Mr Griffin shows that they are also largely theoretical. When a play is handled as this year's "Alchemist" was, built lovingly and skilfully around the available resources, they cease to matter. Mr Griffin obviously has the rare and happy knack of bringing the best out of all those who work for him. Lucky is the producer who can count on such devotion from his cast and that enormous team whom we never see on the night, but he is not lucky beyond his deserts for he is the very man who, in the first place, has inspired it.

'Down in the Valley' . . . Dolgoed



The first party to go to Dolgoed last term was the Junior Scouts Training Squad, who spent an active weekend stocking up the cottage with firewood, decorating the kitchen, staining the boards of one room, and also managed to put in a fair bit of walking. The Lower Sixth Human Movement option spent 3 days at Dolgoed at the beginning of November.

Having completed a series of pilot studies the group wanted to put theory to the test in unfamiliar territory. Each member of the group was completing a project with such grand-sounding titles as "the effect on weight, pulse rate, body core temperature, sleep, and motor fitness from food deprivation over a limited time", and "disorganization of the internal clock mechanism by deprivation of certain sensory stimuli (e.g. vision)".

Most of the first complete day was spent climbing Cader Idris and preparing to bivouac for the night. Although most of the group successfully cooked without utensils (have you tried lining a melon skin with aluminium foil to boil water?), the torrential rain defeated all but two when the campsite became a river bed within minutes. Even with this minor set-back the group completed their projects and everyone returned in high spirits.

A mixed party spent the first four days of the holiday at Dolgoed consisting of a serious artist, a sixth former who wanted to see the place, and nine fourth-formers who wanted more time to explore than they had in the previous summer. The (hoped-for) snow did not arrive, and so a fair amount of walking was accomplished, including the ascent of 'Aran Fawddy'—a mountain which may replace Cader soon as the place for a good climb, and also a climb up Snowdon by its shortest route.

Three days after Christmas twelve sixth-formers led by Mr Hammond left for Dolgoed and passed an enjoyable week there. Although cold there

was (still) no snow low enough for winter sports, but snow higher up enhanced the climbing of Cader and Snowdon to reveal some marvellous views in the clear sunshine. A few of the party went to see the 'sunker forest', and the Ratgoed and Aberllefenni slate mines were explored. Little work could be done on the road due to the frost, but the main 'work' was in keeping alive in comfort.



We never fail to be amazed at the reluctance with which society secretaries prepare their reports for this article. This Michaelmas no more than half the registered number of societies (and some do not deserve that name) submitted reports on their actions. Is this some measure of the keenness of these societies to function? We know nothing of the Film, Astronomical, Junior Knowledge and surprisingly even the regular St Edmund Society and are therefore led to believe they have gone into temporary hibernation.

As the new school year began it was good to note the emergence of the Inter Schools Arts Society which began with a showing of 'A Man for All Seasons' at the Convent. Other meetings were Professor Crawford on Chinese Ceramics and the Abingdon Dramatic Society on their recent production of 'The Importance of Being Ernest'. Although popularity waned in the latter stages a reasonable start has been made to this new joint society.

The Literary Society had a successful term with three meetings. At the first, Peter Bradley expounded on the qualities of Bob Dylan and Cher with an excellent paper and extracts from records. Richard Landy was first to the next meeting, reading a paper on the poetry of Hardy. At the last meeting Gareth Pearce gave a paper, and led a discussion on Marlowe. The quality of the papers and discussions is shown by the fact that every meeting broke up long before argument had flagged. After a long period of inactivity the Historians managed to stagger to its feet again. There was only one meeting when Gareth Pearce (again) came to the rescue with a paper on Bismarck, which gave rise to some highly interesting discussion. However, the society secretary seems optimistic for the future with the possibility of a couple of outside speakers as well as internal meetings. The Athenaeum, for its part, carried on in its usual style with two outings. The first was to the Oxford Playhouse to see the Playhouse's production of Othello, with Alan Badel as Othello and Lee Montague as Iago. This production was disappointing, but the second outing to the Cambridge

theatre in London to see the National Theatre Company production of the 'Beaux Stratagem' with Maggie Smith and Robert Stevens was most rewarding. It is sad to note that even the Play Reading Society has been dogged by poor attendance which gave rise to only two meetings. The first was to read 'Epitaph for George Dillon' by John Osborne and at the other 'Amphitryon 38' by Giraudoux. But those who have attended have agreed that the evenings have been well spent. Unfortunately the Economists also seems to be going through a bad period at the moment with only two internal meetings being the fixtures all term. At the first Richard Landy spoke on 'Trade Unions', when he traced their history and gave his ideas on Trade Union reform. At the other Scott Gray gave a lengthy but extremely informative and interesting talk on the extent to which Russia really is a socialist state. Meanwhile the Modern Languages Society had a successful term with full use being made of the Playhouse. The first meeting was a joint outing to 'Kean' by Jean-Paul Sartre. This was the British première of this striking play which was highlighted by the masterful performance of Alan Badel (again), in the title role. Parties also went to 'Turandot', Brecht's last play, performed by the Experimental Theatre Club and 'Amphitryon 38' performed in German by the University.

The Scientific Society had two full meetings. Mr MI Fuller from Esso Research addressed a well-attended meeting on 'Air Pollution', mentioning some of Britain's major pollutants of the atmosphere and suggesting ways in which industry can combat them. At the second Dr S Bradley of Pembroke College gave an illustrated lecture on the Electron microscope.

A society which appears to be holding its own quite well among the Schools of Abingdon is the Folk Music Society. They took part in four activities this term, which included three lively and impressive meetings at John Mason High School; at which Abingdon School was conspicuous by its absence of performers. At each meeting guest artists were numerous including, Gypsy Dave, Mike Such and Bob Grant. In mid-November a party went to a concert given by Fairport Convention at Oxford which was regarded as a moderate success by the twenty boys who attended. Although the lack of progress on the new hard surface has been a disappointment this term, the Physical Education Society has been actively functioning. An illustrated lecture by Douglas Haston about the Southern ascent of Annapurna II was enjoyed by the few who attended. Members of the society were entertained by Oxford University playing the England basketball squad at the Oxford University Sports Centre. Although the final function was restricted to Mr Brodie's upper sixth option sets, the witnessing of an introductory lesson and demonstration of karate, including the simultaneous breaking of six tiles was both dramatic and informative.

Despite the rather cold and short winter afternoons, the Building Club has completed some construction work begun for Mr Eden and started replacing a rather worn out path at Lacies Court with a dry, crazy paved one. They have also begun repairing a rather decrepit garage over at Heathcot and all in all the club has had its usual successful term. The Angling Club having been revived unfortunately came upon hard times with pollution and adverse weather conditions, so that their one competition didn't turn out too well. That other marine society the Sailing Club has also run into trouble with a total lack of support for what promises, with the aid of a new boat, to be a good club. The Philatelic Society has had two successful stamp booklet exchanges with Malvern College and Berkhamstead School, as well as regular meetings with a much grown membership continuing through the term. The Model Railway Society has

celebrated its first anniversary and continued making track for its layout in the Conservatory.

The **Royse Society** met on three occasions to hear papers from Scot Gray on Communism, Robert Cash on Advertising and to hold a symposium on Humour.

Of the activities of the **Music Society** not very much is known owing to very scant report but it seems they enjoyed two Sunday evening concert organised by Richard Pike and Robert Cash. After a painful rebirth the **Photographic Society** has made great progress in the instruction of the use of the dark room and how to enlarge. A few senior boys have also been into Oxford to see some photographic shows to complete a happy term.

Finally the **Inter-Schools Social Society** held two dances—the first was arranged on a discotheque basis in order to establish the financial security which provided the group for the very successful second dance at John Mason School.

OA Club London Dinner

will be held on

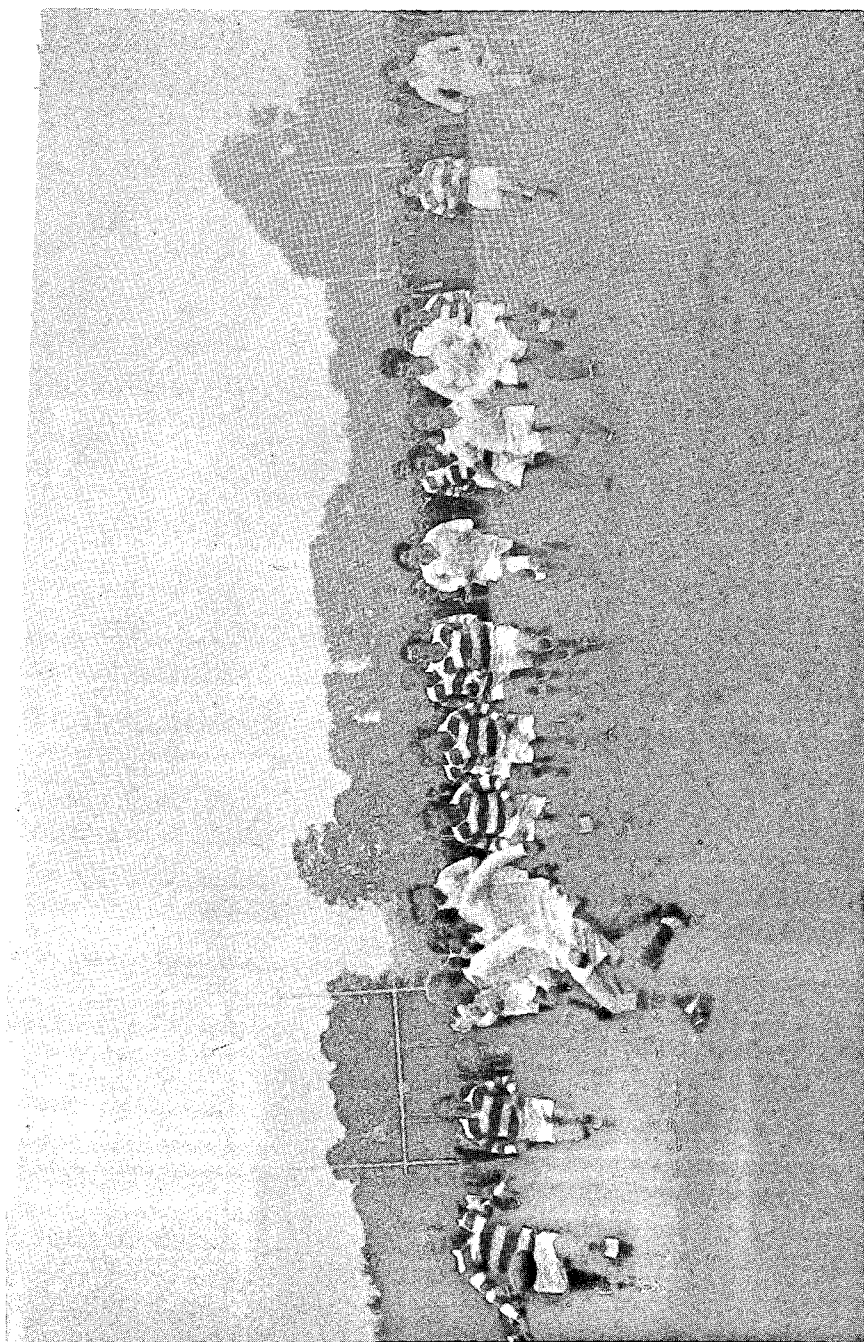
Friday 5 March 1971

at The Public Schools Club, 100 Piccadilly, London W1

Reception 6.00 pm for 7.00 pm

Tickets: 45/- (£2.25p) each (including gratuities) obtainable from
SA Paige, 67 Blackheath Park, London SE3

If sufficient numbers notify Tony Hillary by 1 March, he will book transport to leave Abingdon at 4.00 pm sharp.



First Fifteen



Graham Pike—almost 100 points

SPORTS SECTION

Rugby football



First Fifteen. All in all, it can be said to have been a moderate season. Certainly any side that opens its account with a run of four defeats cannot help but go into the next few matches in a somewhat tentative manner. We are bedevilled at the moment by having the Radley match as our first fixture so that this local derby takes the edge off the next match against Oxford. We were also unfortunate at this stage to meet one of the best Warwick sides for some years and then to narrowly lose in the last minute to Solihull. Thereafter, apart from a defeat in the pouring rain by an unbeaten Reading side, we managed to hold our own.

The basic problem has been a double one. Firstly, a lack of experience and rugby know-how in the positions where it matters—at prop, at number eight forward and in midfield; and secondly, injuries—far too regular now to be dismissed as bad luck. This year, we lost Snodgrass, Cox, Mackenzie, Evans and Baker for a considerable number of games and one or two more for the odd match. The ability of muscles and limbs to stand up to the strains of increasingly hard Schools Rugger depends not upon the current season's training but also upon the sort of existence that the player leads at home and in the holidays. Car driving and increasingly passive forms of entertainment do not enhance anyone's chances of getting through the season unscathed.

So to the team. The pack at its best was good, but lacking in size it depended entirely upon its skill and tenacity in the loose. Technically, the front row was weak and we tried any number of combinations to give the captain something steady to strike from. Baker, Gray, Searle and King shared these positions and behind them Butcher, Dunkerley and Mackenzie were the chief contestants at lock. The real skills in the scrum were at hooker where Rowley, and at flank forward where Paddison and Evans, stood out for their ability to feed the ball to our advantage in the rucks. Shellard at 'number eight' started well but perhaps it was his lack of physique that prevented him from improving. When Evans was injured, Shellard moved over and made way for Harden who played well but who was more impressive in his first game than in subsequent ones.

At half back, we had to manufacture a new partnership. With experienced scrum halves' attentions focused on higher things we had to find a new one and Deane's natural ability cried out for the place. It became his alone especially when Ward's unfortunate eye injury curtailed his improvement in the second Fifteen. First Pike and then Price were tried at fly-half but the former's size and penchant for running back into the pack suggested that his best position was at centre while Price showed considerable promise as a

handler and kicker. Pike needs more experience in the centre but when h isn't trying to take on too much, he shows real class and could develop int a fine threequarter; to this must be added the fact that his place kickin helped him to amass nearly a century of points—a formidable contributio indeed. In the other centre position, Pollard too showed great potential. A yet, he is very raw but his occasional games on the wing suggest that h could be a very formidable player in attack and defence next year. On th right wing, Jordan's form was very disappointing as his pace was sufficien to take him past a lot of cover but his handling let him down and havin lost confidence his game deteriorated sadly. The left wing was shared by Cox and Graham Smith until it became necessary to move Cox into the centre to stiffen the defence. In fact Cox was the only one, along with Murphy, who could be relied upon to put his opposite number down and he was certainly the most consistently direct runner. Our last line of defence was Murphy who gave many a heart stopping display at full-back. At his best he was a crushing tackler and a forthright runner. But he was rather temperamental and to see him coping with a rolling ball was rather like watching a Hitchcock film.

As captain, Rowley was a great success on the field where his encouragement and example injected more urgency into the side than we have often seen in the past. Off it he seemed to lack sufficient confidence to assert himself. Pike was a thoroughly efficient secretary and the admin. side of the game ran extremely smoothly. Our thanks to them both.

Once again we owe a debt to Gerald Smithson, this time sadly a posthumous one. However, we were lucky in having Michael Hill and Stephen Boyers to step into the breach and continue his good work—they have maintained and marked out the pitches immaculately.

At the end of term, Price was elected secretary for 1971 and we wish him and the new captain more success next season. HE

During the season, Full Colours were awarded to MT Evans, MS Paddison, GF Pike and JQ Rowley. Half Colours were awarded to TR Baker, G Butcher, RE Deane, JC Dunkerley, SB Gray, PJ Harden, NR Pollard, PD Price, JJ Shellard and GR Smith.

The team was selected from: DGW Murphy; NRH Pollard, JL Cox, GF Pike, CJ Jordan, GR Smith; PD Price, RE Deane; TR Baker, JQ Rowley (Captain) D King, RJ Searle, SB Gray, JC Dunkerley, G Butcher, MS Paddison, MT Evans, JJ Shellard, PJ Harden and MR Mackenzie.

Also played: TJ Hughes and AR Snodgrass (once); NJ Minns (twice).

Results

Radley College	Sat 26 Sept	(a)	Lost 0—9
Oxford School	Sat 3 Oct	(a)	Lost 16—21
Warwick School	Wed 7 Oct	(h)	Lost 13—22
Solihull School	Sat 10 Oct	(a)	Lost 8—9
Magdalen College School	Wed 14 Oct	(a)	Won 29—9
Pembroke College	Sat 17 Oct	(h)	Won 25—11
St. Bartholomew's, Newbury	Sat 31 Oct	(h)	Won 22—5
RGS, High Wycombe	Sat 7 Nov	(a)	Draw 6—6
Pangbourne College	Wed 11 Nov	(h)	Draw 11—11
Reading School	Wed 18 Nov	(a)	Lost 6—19
Old Abingdonians	Sat 21 Nov	(h)	Won 20—9
Bloxham School	Wed 25 Nov	(a)	Won 13—0

Second Fifteen. Another very good season, the overall record being only slightly less impressive than last year. Our three defeats, against Radley, Newbury and High Wycombe, were fairly decisive but the scores against us were not high and were off-set by some big wins, notably over MCS, Wallingford, Reading and Bloxham.

The success of the fifteen stemmed from a good, hard working pack well led by Murray. The fact that Butcher was early promoted to, and King,

Searle and Harden all played a fair number of games for, the senior side gives some indication of the pack's calibre; Hughes too played on the odd occasion for the Fifteen. It would be invidious to single out individuals for particular mention—the whole pack, built around the regular members, Short (hooker), Corner, Longdon, Lawless, Hughes and Murray, worked well in tight and loose to give a liberal supply of ball to the backs. Only in the line-outs where jumping was poor did the scrum seem relatively ineffective and this was noticeable against the heavier packs of Radley and Newbury. At fly-half, DCP Smith played intelligently, kicking effectively and getting his backs smoothly away. He was partnered by Russell Ward, a fearless and very promising scrum-half, until injury to Ward's eye in the Newbury game led to the promotion of Brook from the third Fifteen. Brook did extremely well and can look forward to a good season next year. Of the backs, Minns and Nicholl were reliable tacklers and hard runners but real scoring power was shown by the wings, GR Smith and Sykes. These two did very well and Smith thoroughly deserved his promotion to the Fifteen. Bennett came up from the third side to take his place and provided plenty of punch in the line. Mayall at full-back though no tackler and inclined to wait for the bunch, kicked and ran to some purpose often joining most successfully in the three-quarter movements.

All in all, it was an excellent side and if I again commend especially the scrum—including those such as King and Harden, promoted to the 1st Fifteen, Luker and Newell, promoted from the 3rd Fifteen, and Cuthbert who played in the odd game—it is only to give credit where credit is due. Well captained by John Nicholl, this was a lively, enthusiastic team who delighted in the game and always gave of its best. Half Colours awarded to Nicholl at the end of term were in a sense as much a recognition of the whole team's worth as of its captain's.

DOW

The team as it last played was: DW Mayall; MT Bennett, JP Nicholl, NJ Minns, KG Sykes; DPC Smith, TJ Brook; NJ Luker, CH Short, CL Corner, DN Longdon, RC Newell, CI Murray, M Lawless, TJ Hughes.

Also played: DB King (9 times); RA Ward (7 times); GR Smith (6 times); RJ Searle (4 times); GB Butcher, WH Cuthbert, PD Price (twice); CC Fathers, AM Higgs, CJ Lightfoot, NR Pollard, DM Steele (once).

Results

Oxford School	Sat 3 Oct	(h)	Won 17—0
Warwick School	Wed 7 Oct	(a)	Won 5—3
Solihull School	Sat 10 Oct	(a)	Won 11—6
Magdalen College School	Wed 14 Oct	(h)	Won 32—3
Radley College	Sat 17 Oct	(h)	Lost 0—16
John Mason School 1st XV	Wed 28 Oct	(h)	Won 14—10
St Bartholomew's, Newbury	Sat 31 Oct	(a)	Lost 3—14
RGS, High Wycombe	Sat 7 Nov	(a)	Lost 3—17
Wallingford Grammar School	Wed 11 Nov	(h)	Won 29—5
Shiplake College 1st XV	Sat 14 Nov	(a)	Draw 3—3
Reading School	Wed 18 Nov	(h)	Won 22—0
Bloxham School	Wed 25 Nov	(a)	Won 33—0

Third Fifteen. In a strong fixture list, the team enjoyed its best season for several years. We ended the term with a record of 129 points for, and 84 points against, winning five of our ten School matches.

No 3rd Fifteen can expect to field a fixed team and injuries as well as merited promotions posed numerous problems, most of which were eventually solved, while good players from the 4th Fifteen were continually staking their claim to places in the side.

Under the experienced and skilled captaincy of TD Johnson on the wing and with Steele and M Evans as wing forwards, the team was well managed; they provided the leadership but so often the real powerhouse was Higgs

and Newell in the second row who welded an effective and strong scrum. At scrum half, Brook frequently provoked a scintillating game—he was hard to replace when he was promoted into the 2nd Fifteen. Among the half-backs and threequarters Bennett, Lightfoot Pearce and Broughton all passed the ball quickly, resourcefully and played with a forceful and imaginative spirit. Hazeldine, a firm and safe full-back, never hesitated and never failed us. On his day Cuthbert became a prolific goal kicker.

Following a substantial win over Marlborough, we were perhaps unlucky to lose to Warwick and Bearwood—although in the latter match we had the bulk of the play. At Radley we took command of the rucks and set scrums, winning so much of the ball that a win became inevitable—that was the zenith of our achievement; for although we went on to victories over Newbury, Reading and Pangbourne, there were a couple of matches which slipped from our grasp due to poor handling and a failure to co-ordinate.

NKH

The team was: RA Hazeldine; MT Bennett, CJ Lightfoot, GD Pearce; TD Johnson (Captain), MS Broughton, TJ Brook (until Newbury); CC Fathers, A Clarke, NJ Luker, AM Higgs, RC Newell (until High Wycombe), DM Steele, RG Willis, M Evans, WH Cuthbert.

Also played: ME Smith (5 times); C Habgood, WD de F Peck, HT Tresidder (3 times); N Rutishauser (twice); S Chislett, PJ Harden, DN John, M Lawless, SV Radnor and PJ Todd (once).

Results

Marlborough College 4th XV	Sat 3 Oct	(a)	Won 12—0
Warwick School	Wed 7 Oct	(h)	Lost 9—12
Bearwood College 2nd XV	Sat 10 Oct	(a)	Lost 3—12
Magdalen College School	Wed 14 Oct	(a)	Cancelled
Radley College	Sat 17 Oct	(a)	Won 11—3
Cokethorpe School 1st XV	Wed 28 Oct	(a)	Lost 0—20
St Bartholomew's, Newbury	Sat 31 Oct	(a)	Won 12—8
RGS, High Wycombe	Sat 7 Nov	(a)	Lost 0—3
Pangbourne College	Wed 11 Nov	(a)	Won 30—0
Abingdon Harlequins	Fri 13 Nov	(h)	Lost 11—12
Reading School	Wed 18 Nov	(h)	Won 35—0
St Edward's School	Tue 24 Nov	(a)	Lost 6—22

Fourth Fifteen. The team played enthusiastic rugby but all too often with a gentlemanly unconcern for the finer points of the game. In the Radley and St. Edward's matches the backs were intercepted by their opponents and spent much of the time in defence. However the pack performed creditably under adverse circumstances and the side was well led by John. The backs had some good moves but were not disciplined enough and were often incorrectly aligned. The pack's main weakness was poor covering by the back row. Nonetheless against Pangbourne the team made full use of its advantages when it discovered that these existed and were rewarded with a notable victory. The players enjoyed their rugby, spirits were high at all times and it is a pity that the other two fixtures had to be cancelled.

NKH

Those who played were: DW Hanney; C Habgood, DN John (Captain), AW Davies, SV Radnor, WD de F Peck, PJ Harris, MC Osborn, PA Bosworth, RC Potter; MI Kendall, DA Gould, BE Jones, RG Godfrey, RC Rogers, N Rutishauser, AJ Madin, P Webb, ME Smith, HT Tresidder, NQ Searle and DN Plail.

Results

Radley College	Sat 17 Oct	(a)	Lost 5—38
RGS, High Wycombe	Sat 7 Nov	(a)	Cancelled
Pangbourne College	Wed 11 Nov	(a)	Won 29—0
Shiplake College 2nd XV	Sat 14 Nov	(a)	Cancelled
St Edward's School	Tue 24 Nov	(a)	Lost 0—55

Colts Fifteen. The squad from which this team was chosen contained a much larger number of competent and keen ball players than usual and it was evident from the first practice that we had the makings of a side that could play rugby of a high standard. Despite an early success against Radley, however, this potential took some time to be fully realised in terms of scoring and the backs took a long time to learn to overcome close marking and hard tackling. Injury was a nuisance too especially at Solihull where an exciting game was spoiled.

The last half of the season provided the most attractive rugby, in particular the games against Newbury, Pangbourne and Solihull. Luther gave better service from a pack who all worked very hard in the loose though somewhat erratically in the tight and the line-out, and this provided the threequarters with the extra room they needed.

Griffiths was a very good captain. Always driving his team on, but humble about his own mistakes, he set the tone for a side that was eager, ready to learn, and enjoyed their rugby. He took some time to get into his stride at fly-half though and he was too easily flustered under pressure. Towards the end of the season he learned to think more quickly and this flexibility spread to the centres where the handling was often remarkable but the tackling equally often too weak. Both wings were strong runners and Atkinson was the dependable and enterprising sort of full-back that anyone would be glad to have behind him.

We are all grateful to the Headmaster and to Mr Peter Davies for their enthusiastic help in coaching. PVM

The final team was: AC Atkinson; RI Macdonald, CP Hey, PM Abraham, JA Urban-Smith; RH Griffiths (Captain), DJ Luther; DC Hares, PAW Rogers, JDC Turner, TC Parker, ECJ Lilley, JD Peirson, MJ Jones, MWJ Carr.

Also played: AW Smart (5 times); JD Halliday (4 times); DB Spong (4 times); AN Rayson (once); DWJ Hanney (once).

Results

Radley College	Sat 26 Sept	(a)	Won 19—12
Warwick School	Sat 3 Oct	(a)	Lost 3—15
Bearwood College	Sat 10 Oct	(a)	Lost 11—12
Magdalen College School	Wed 14 Oct	(h)	Lost 3—10
Wallingford Grammar School	Wed 21 Oct	(h)	Won 14—6
St Bartholomew's, Newbury	Sat 31 Oct	(h)	Lost 8—13
RGS, High Wycombe	Sat 7 Nov	(a)	Won 24—3
Pangbourne College	Wed 11 Nov	(h)	Won 24—0
Reading School	Wed 18 Nov	(a)	Won 6—3
Solihull School	Sat 21 Nov	(a)	Lost 5—23
Bloxham School	Wed 25 Nov	(h)	Lost 6—9

Junior Colts Fifteen. This season, as far as possible, this team played as a squad and developed well into an organized and disciplined side. The lessons learnt in the match versus Radley helped the team through what could have been a complacent season.

Although out-weighted by many teams, the pack rucked and worked particularly hard for loose possession and were often able to counter-attack themselves or start their backs in second phase play. Coaching was directed more towards principles than ploys although the backs creating the overlap by looping was occasionally used to advantage. Tackling was the main weakness of the squad, many players looking so much better in attack and with the ball in their hands. The overall success of the season was probably best described by the Bloxham coach who said that he had never seen a team wanting the ball so much.

Outstanding players in the squad were the captain, Oakley, who was unfortunately injured three matches before the end of the season, ARP Mushens, Courtney and Gibaud. Cook who excelled towards the end, went

with Mushens, Courtney and Gibaud to the Berkshire Under 15 County trial and the latter two are to be congratulated on making the County Squad.

On Wednesday, 7th October a Seven comprising Oakley, Courtney, NI Francis, Hobson, PR Lilley, Mushens and Gibaud travelled to Reading to compete in the seven-a-side tournament for the Alderman Hartley Russel Trophy. Oakley captained the side which did extremely well winning the Final by 19 points to 3 points. DAB/SC

The team was selected from: JN Oakley; MF Freeman, IL Manning PR Forsythe, S Walker, AH Courtney; CBD Driver, RJ Frost, ND Francis SMJ Hobson; SK Fabes, JG Black, PD Cook, JD Griffin, N Jefferson CJ Todd, SR Greenwood, GF Woods, ARP Mushens, PRJ Lilley, JP Jordan, HC Gibaud, RA Woods, KP Taylor and M Ormerod.

Results

Oxford School	Sat 3 Oct	(a)	Won 32—0
John Mason School	Wed 7 Oct	(a)	Won 8—5
Magdalen College School	Wed 14 Oct	(h)	Won 32—0
St Bartholomew's, Newbury	Sat 31 Oct	(h)	Won 19—6
Radley College	Sat 17 Oct	(h)	Lost 0—10
RGS, High Wycombe	Sat 7 Nov	(h)	Won 27—3
Thame Grammar School	Sat 14 Nov	(h)	Won 11—8
Wallingford Grammar School	Wed 11 Nov	(a)	Draw 21—21
Bloxham School	Wed 25 Nov	(h)	Won 42—0

Junior Fifteen. Once again the policy of giving match experience to a good number of the Junior squad was adopted and twenty-four boys represented a moderately successful Junior Fifteen. On their day, the side played purposeful and attractive rugby with a number of excellent tries being scored by combined handling movements involving backs and forwards. Indeed the main memory of the season was the outstanding backing up of Allen and Thresher in particular. The tackling of these two and of Murdoch, Tresidder, Rance and Malein also caught the eye but, particularly when the opposition was strong, this was not a department of the game in which the team distinguished itself.

Price and Wartke linked quite well at half-back. Price, like his brother of the First Fifteen, has a natural feel for the fly-half position and Wartke will be more effective when he lets the ball out quicker. Rance, with a plucky display against Radley, seemed to have solved the full-back position—five were tried—but unfortunately suffered an injury which put him out of action for the rest of term. Both wingers, Malein and Ashby, ran strongly but suffered from unsettled centre threequarter positions; in fact the threequarter line never quite achieved the fluency one had hoped for. The pack, well led by Carlisle and Thresher, never stopped trying and greatly improved their rucking technique as the season progressed.

Convincing wins were achieved against John Mason, MCS, Newbury and High Wycombe. Both the Wallingford and St. Edward's games might well have gone the other way but Radley, Marlborough and an older and bigger Cokethorpe XV deservedly beat us. NHP/RJL

Regular members of the team were: JRA Allen, AM Carlisle, PS Ashby, IM Cowan, NA Malein, A Murdoch, JA Peck, RJ Price (Captain), NJA Shephard, PJ Stevens, JMC Taylor, AJ Thresher, M Wartke.

Also played: CJ Baumann, RA Balkwill, PA Betts, AGP Cairns, SC Comerford, NP Gale, PA Noble, MA Rance, MW Stimpson, S Wilson, GW Woolley.

Results

Oxford School	Sat 3 Oct	(h)	Draw 8—8
John Mason School	Wed 7 Oct	(a)	Won 44—3
Solihull School	Sat 10 Oct	(h)	Won 9—3

Magdalen College School	Wed 14 Oct	(a)	Won	26—3
Radley College	Sat 17 Oct	(a)	Lost	3—33
Cokethorpe School U/15 XV	Wed 28 Oct	(a)	Lost	3—36
St Bartholomew's, Newbury	Sat 31 Oct	(a)	Won	37—0
RGS, High Wycombe	Sat 7 Nov	(h)	Won	37—0
Wallingford Grammar School	Wed 11 Nov	(a)	Lost	0—14
Marlborough College	Sat 14 Nov	(a)	Lost	0—18
St Edward's School	Sat 21 Nov	(h)	Lost	3—8

On Wednesday, 25th November a 'B' XV played a game against Radley College. Played away from home, this match proved a fairly comfortable win, 13—3. The team was: AC Cairns; PD Boon, AN Davies, PA Betts, T Savastano; SP Johnson, MW Stimpson; SC Comerford, PA Noble, RA Balkwill, DR Lynn, DBA Godfrey, CJ Baumann, AN Plant, S Wilson.

Minors Fifteen. The Minors' game this year started off with few natural forwards and halves, and no players of outstanding talent, although the overall standard of the game was quite reasonable. As a result 24 boys have represented the School already, and it was only at the end of term that a regular line-up began to take shape.

The team's poor record can be ascribed to two main factors. With an average weight of a mere 6½ stone, they have usually started at a disadvantage, especially against Solihull (whom we played after only two practices) and Thame; in the latter game, played in appalling conditions of wind and rain, the Minors played bravely. The Preparatory School sides, with their greater experience of the game, have showed up a lack of skill and slowness of thought in our play, although there has been a tremendous improvement during the term. Without doubt the best games were against New College and the Dragon School, in which (despite the low scores) both sides played entertaining, open Rugger and were well matched.

Peter Hallum was the outstanding player; a brave and skilful full back for most of the term, he was switched experimentally to fly half, and at once injected more life and purpose into the three-quarters; William Homewood filled the gap at back admirably. Chris Madin was the most dangerous of the threequarters, while Tony Allen led the forwards well and was perhaps the player who learned most in the term. MW

The team was: WJ Homewood; CWP Hobson, DJ Lanham, CJ Madin, AL Knibbs; PD Hallum, R Scibilia; LGP Despres, NJ Hazeldine, AJE Allen, CJ Bartlett, SW Morden, DA Thomas, CJ Scott, RW Taylor.

The following also played at least twice: SPG Hammond, DC Eccles, CS Orchard, JC Barnes, R Brown.

Results

Solihull School	Sat 10 Oct	(h)	Lost	0—22
Prior's Court School	Wed 28 Oct	(h)	Lost	3—8
New College School	Sat 7 Nov	(h)	Won	3—0
Thame Grammar School	Sat 14 Nov	(h)	Lost	0—14
St Hugh's School	Wed 25 Nov	(a)	Lost	0—16
Dragon School	Sat 5 Dec	(h)	Lost	0—3

House Matches. The long run of Blacknall House as cock house in the Senior Knock-out Competition ended this season. Tesdale House proved to be fairly easy winners of the Lin Cup, the previous holders being eliminated in the opening round. In the event, the final between Tesdale and Bennett turned out to be a not particularly inspiring game. In fact it was a somewhat one-sided affair although it need not have been because Bennett had some players who if not very talented were certainly experienced. In the first half, Tesdale scored 24 points without reply through tries by GR Smith (2), MT Evans (2) and Macdonald with 3 conversions and a penalty by Pike. The second half was more even. Jones and Griffiths gained tries for

Bennett, one being converted, to which Tesdale could only reply with 3 tries by King, Nicholl and Pike, two of these being kicked over by Pike. The final score was: Tesdale 37, Bennett 8.

This season it was decided to amend the traditional League competitions and to substitute in their place two new leagues on the pattern of the junior 'heavy' and 'light' leagues experimented with by Mr Eden last Lent Term. Thus each House was asked to produce three teams, one 'heavy', two 'light', based upon weight and body area and cutting across the normal senior and junior house divisions. Some hard work on the part of Mr Brodie resulted in all boys being categorised into either 'heavies' or 'lights'. The Toplis and Robinson Cups awarded in the old League competitions were re-allocated to the new leagues. Although there occurred a number of snags in this new scheme, the experiment was a success and in the 'lights' league especially a great deal of keenness became apparent. Certainly more boys played more meaningful rugby and the often one-sided matches of the old League were no longer seen. Lessons learnt this time should enable us to make improved arrangements next Michaelmas Term. At the conclusion of the competitions, the Toplis Cup was awarded to Tesdale House who won the 'heavies' league with 11 points as against Blacknall's 6, Bennett's 4 and Reeves' 3. The 'lights' league and the Robinson Cup also went to Tesdale House who gained a narrow victory of 15 points over Reeves House's 14. Bennett came third with 10 points and Blacknall last with 9.

The annual match between Dayboys and Boarders was played on Saturday, 5th December, and was an excellent game played at a fast pace throughout. Nicholl scored first for the Boarders, Pike making sure of the extra points, and the Dayboy answer came after a vigorous assault with an unconverted try from Jordan. Next came the best try of the match. From a good movement involving backs and forwards, Jordan scored under the posts for Deane to convert so giving the Dayboys a half-time lead. In the second half, the Boarders came back into the game with great determination and a fine penalty from Pike enabled them to level the score. Keeping up the pressure, the Boarders then went further ahead when Pike scored and converted his own try. There was to be no further scoring by the Boarders but the Dayboys, in spite of continuous efforts, were only able to gain another try from Sykes following a nice run down the line. Final score: Boarders 13 points, Dayboys 11 points.

The Place Kicking Competition attracted rather fewer entries this term. The general standard of kicking however was good in spite of the very cold weather. Last year's holder of the Bosley Cup, GF Pike, was forced to take second place to PD Price and indeed he had to share that second place with M Lawless. The fourth place went to JJ Shellard.

At the beginning of the Christmas holidays, some ten members of the Fifteen played in the Berkshire County Under 19 Trial. In many ways the trial games were unsatisfactory; certainly most of our players failed to impress through no fault of their own. As a result GF Pike was selected to play in the County games during the holidays, PD Price for one particular game and NR Pollard as reserve. We hope they had a successful time.

A scratch game played on Boxing Day morning against the local Abingdon RFC proved rather disastrous but understandably so since the School played short and included several very young boys in their side.

News of OAs still playing rugby has been less than is usually the case. Quite a number appear fairly regularly in the Abingdon sides but in addition we have noted that Mike Nurton has again helped Hertfordshire and appeared on the odd occasion for Bedford whilst David Ray is now playing for Esher, for whom Frank Booth is coach, and for Berkshire.

DOW

Cross Country

Quite an enjoyable term but once again our numbers have been small and not all who opted for the sport also opted for regular hard training. However the absence of some seniors of proven worth gave chances to several newcomers and it has been encouraging to see their progress.

JSP Mushens has been an enthusiastic captain and has set a fine example. CF Vernon has run consistently well and will do even better when he is prepared to do more attacking in the early stages. RHL Savory and RG Wood both had a number of valuable runs but as yet perhaps lack the confidence to force the pace when the tactical situation demands it. Of the rest CM Clayton, CP Taylor and BC Waters all improved considerably during the term.

Full colours were awarded to AME Brown; half colours to CF Vernon and RHL Savory.

The following ran for the team: AME Brown, JSP Mushens, RHL Savory, CF Vernon (7); CM Clayton, CP Taylor, RG Wood (6); BC Waters (3); PE Scott (2); AJM Crocker (1).

Results

King Alfred's, Wantage	Sat	3 Oct	(h)	Won	33-50
Millfield Road Relay	Sat	10 Oct		12th	(30 teams)
RGS High Wycombe/St Catherine's Coll	Wed	21 Oct		2nd	59-52-60
Marlborough	Sat	7 Nov		Lost	49-29
Bradfield/Stowe	Sat	14 Nov	(h)	3rd	71-39-65
Westminster College	Sat	21 Nov	(h)	Won	10-41
Westminster College/Oxford City AC	Sat	28 Nov		2nd	34-70-10

Inter House Cross Country

As usual the first form race was held round Albert Park. By the end of the first lap DM Bradfield's fast pace had spread-eagled the field and he went on to come home an easy winner by some 50 metres.

Competitors in the other races, held over the Rye Farm Course, had to contend with far wetter and muddier conditions though we have certainly known them worse. Except among their Juniors, Houses had not been very successful in building up enthusiasm and in seeing that adequate training was done. Here, as in so many spheres, there is no substitute for exhortation by example! Perhaps the mist and the drop in temperature on the actual day of the race also played a part in reducing the number of competitors to an all time low. Of 380 eligible to run in the Senior and Intermediate Races, only 164 did so, and over 350 House Points went begging.

In the Junior Race GN Green had a comfortable victory by 20 seconds. PAW Rogers attacked boldly in the Intermediate Race and was only caught by DC Hares half way round the last lap. Their times were the second and fourth fastest in the history of the race. As expected JSP Mushens won the Senior Race fairly easily but only after having been given a surprise by the attentions of CP Taylor who ably demonstrated what good tactics it is to go fast at the start and try to keep up with the leaders. As Taylor tired on the second lap, AME Brown came through to be runner-up for the second year in succession.

RHB

Details of the House Competition

	Bennett	Blacknall	Reeves	Tesdale
Senior	1487 (1)	1044 (3)	919 (4)	1480 (2)
Intermediate	1305 (2)	1614 (1)	917 (4)	983 (3)
Junior	1084 (4)	1183 (3)	1471 (1)	1387 (2)
1st Form	274 (4)	334 (3)	389 (1)	351 (2)
Totals	4150 (3)	4175 (2)	3696 (4)	4201 (1)

The first ten home in each race were:

- Senior: JSP Mushens (17:24), AME Brown, CP Taylor, RHL Savory, DK Rice, CM Clayton, RH Griffiths, PD Price, RG Wood, DPC Smith.
- Intermediate: DC Hares (17:57), PAW Rogers, GW Woolley, JDC Turner, JP Jordan, JD Halliday, JD Griffin, BC Waters, SK Fabes, AH Courtenay.
- Junior: GN Green (9:12), RD Woolley, S Wilson, JP Gotelee, RJ Price, MW Stimpson, MG Wartke, CJ Madin, AP Marsden, PS Ashby.
- 1st Form: DM Byfield (7:40), GA Light, TDW Olliffe, NJ Holder, GA McGreery, DG Light, MA Kelly, JR Lang, RJ Humm, MR Green.

Badminton

This term we were very privileged to be offered coaching by Mrs. Judy Hashman, ten times all-England Ladies' Singles Champion. By the end of term almost everyone in the club had had at least one coaching session with her. She will be able to come for the first half of next term as well, and we are all most grateful to her for the enthusiasm and interest she has shown.

Mrs. Hashman's coaching has been a revelation to many of us, who were rather nonplussed over questions of positioning and placing of shots, especially in doubles play. There has also been a noticeably greater variety of shots played, since people no longer rely exclusively on the smash to gain points.

Our First VI had a very successful season, winning four matches and losing only to AERE Harwell. All three regular pairs had their moments of triumph, and there was very little to choose between them. The Second VI, on the other hand, looks rather weak compared with previous years; they won one and lost one match. Clearly there are opportunities here for ambitious young players.

My thanks are due to JCH for all the hard work he has put in this term, and his willingness to supervise matches at home and away; also to Nicholas Beeching and Robin Oswald for their work as Captains and Malcolm Bricknell Secretary.

The regular First VI was: NJ Beeching (Captain), JRD Oswald, HJ Manning, P Bobin, MJ Bricknell, MC Harding. All these players have been awarded Half-Colours.

DCT

Results:

First VI

RGS High Wycombe	Wed 7 Oct	(h)	Won	9—0
AERE Harwell	Thur 22 Oct	(a)	Lost	2—7
Reading School	Wed 11 Nov	(a)	Won	6—3
Henley GS	Wed 25 Nov	(a)	Won	6—3
Oxford School	Thur 3 Dec	(a)	Won	9—0
Second VI				
RGS High Wycombe	Wed 7 Oct	(a)	Won	6½—2½
Reading School	Wed 11 Nov	(h)	Lost	4—5

Orienteering

It has been an enjoyable and successful term. Twenty-three individual runners competed in one or more of the eight events at which the School was represented and between them they chalked up a total of six 'bronze'

times, sixteen 'silver' times, and five 'gold' times in their respective classes. We were remarkably lucky with the weather—somehow it seemed to stop raining just for our event on more than one occasion—so the miserable aspect of the sport was much reduced.

We had a very encouraging start to the season at the St John's College Badge Event where seven of our nine runners had 'silver' times and Robin Chapman, our youngest runner, made a very creditable début running solo for the first time.

The Oxford Junior Championships at Shotover attracted sixteen runners from the School (and the Anderson family). Simon Whipple is to be congratulated on winning the event and thus keeping the title of Oxford Junior Champion within the School for another year, and credit is also due to Adrian Courtney for coming second on the short course.

Seven of us joined Mr Baker on a weekend 'double' in the New Forest. We competed in the Hallowe'en Night Event on the Saturday evening and camped nearby overnight. The evening yielded 'gold' times to Simon Whipple and Alan Brown, while in the November Classic the next morning Simon Whipple again got a 'gold' time.

These results in themselves ought to dispel the fears of last term's report regarding the future of the School's orienteering club, but, more important, I think everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves, and this after all is the whole idea. And though we can be pleased if more people join us on our Sunday jaunts, I can see no reason to feel dispirited if they prefer their Sunday joints. Meanwhile the future looks bright. Simon Whipple is obviously in full flight with Hereward Tresidder consistently just behind him, while at the lower end of the School Robin Chapman and Adrian Courtney have a fine future ahead of them as they gain experience and maintain determination.

Once more our very sincere thanks are due to Mr Baker for all the trouble he takes in organising and transporting us and to Mr Fairhead for giving us there on a couple of occasions. AMEB

The following competed during the term: AME Brown† (8 times) 2B, 1S, G; HT Tresidder† (6) 3S, 1G; S. Whipple† (5) 2G; DB Howat† (4) 1B, S; Kendall (4) 1S; I Tissier (4) 2B; R Chapman (3); A Courtney (3); JC Henderson* (3) 1B; DK Rice (2) 1S; AM Higgs (2) 1B, 1S; Rennie (2) 1S; JSB Frere, DM Steele, R Searle, CP Taylor, AJM Crocker, JSP Tushens, Sackett, de Lusignan, Holder and Walker.

B—bronze time; S—silver time; G—gold time;

†—silver badge; *—bronze badge.

ives

nce last season a shelter has been constructed by the Building Club. Now at those watching or waiting to play are not wholly at the mercy of the elements it has become possible to arrange matches.

Considering their lack of experience, the members of the team acquitted themselves very respectably. They greatly benefited from playing against the formidable opposition provided by UCS Old Boys, Oxford University and Marlborough. HTR

The team was: PM Cowley, NK Darroch, M Milanovitch and JR Swinson. RP Klepzig and MP Taylor also played.

University College Old Boys	Sat 3 Oct	(h)	Lost 42—120
Oxford Old Abingdonians	Wed 21 Oct	(h)	Won 120—21
Common Room	Sat 7 Nov	(h)	Won 86—51
Marlborough College 'A' Team	Sat 14 Nov	(a)	Lost 87—144
Oxford University	Wed 2 Dec	(h)	Lost 54—117

Golf

This Michaelmas term was the first for the society under the patronage of a golfing headmaster. Activities this term were sadly limited to personal games and our annual match against the OA Golf Society.

The memorable match was played at Friilford Heath Golf Club on 14 October, the school team consisting of NGW Seaver, T Wright, H Manning, M Bricknell, D Rice and S Chislett with the very notable additions of the Headmaster himself and the Chairman of the Governors, Mr GRF Bredin.

Unfortunately for the school the OA's put forward their usual excellent team and proceeded to demonstrate their abilities by soundly beating their opponents in three out of the four four-ball matches. Terry Wright and Howard Manning saved our complete defeat by winning their match, making the final result 3 : 1 against the school.

Despite the extremely competent assistance of the distinguished non-pupil players the team showed the signs of the weakening caused by the absence of two veteran stalwarts who left last term, Geoffrey Legouix and Robin Macdonald whose handicaps of 6 and 13 had kept the team average at 12 as opposed to the present average of 16.

The advent of a Headmaster who is a golfer to the extent of being able to play to a handicap of 8 on the Scottish courses is of course a great stimulus to the Society, a fact which was reflected at the beginning of term by a large increase in the number of members among whom are several promising young players.

NGS

REPORTS



CCF

The Corps was very glad to welcome the Headmaster and to have him carry out his first inspection. We hope that next time he will see an improved march past.

Details of the term's activities will be found below—here we shall merely high-light a few items—the Army's improved exam results (and many thanks to Captain Taylor and the training team for arranging at short notice a rescrub for six cadets who had failed the drill)—Remembrance Day with Fl/Lt Hammond ably taking over the role of Guard Commander from Capt Fairhead (who, being faced with other commitments couldn't make it this year)—another successful weekend Field Day.

Now we look forward—to Arduous Training, and summer camps (the Army in Germany for the first time), and to the start of the new Army training syllabus.

A final thought—last year we had some very good NCOs—in all sections—and most of them have now left the school. This means opportunities for the keen and efficient.

RN Section



The section is now rather unbalanced due to a large intake last term which comprised half the strength. Thus for Field Day it was split into two halves. The senior half travelled down to HMS Sultan on the Sunday, and camped overnight. The next day was spent in rigging a Jackstay across one of the old moats. This was eventually accomplished, although not without several duckings. After clearing up, we then crossed by ferry to join the junior half. They had had an interesting tour round HMS Victory and HM Dockyard, including a boat trip around the naval ships in harbour.

The rest of the term was spent in normal instruction, with more boat-work than usual because of the weather. When the weather deteriorated at the end of term, a start was made on the necessary maintenance of the woodwork. In addition 7 cadets (out of 8) passed Proficiency, several with good marks, and most of the new entry passed their AB test. CMR

Army Section



The term centred upon an extended Field Day exercise involving the whole section. We bivouacked, carried out a night patrol exercise, struck camp and moved carrying out a rearguard and search and attack exercise. By relating this long weekend to the Proficiency examination on the following day we were able to considerably improve the results. The taking of the whole section out for two nights put a considerable strain upon our adventure training equipment, but these longer Field Day exercises do have far more purpose than a mere day outing, and in the summer we will go to wilder country. In particular I would welcome suggestions for an Initiative Test.

For the future another important innovation will have a great effect upon the Section. The introduction of the new Proficiency Syllabus following upon the APEX experiments will give scope for a greater variety of projects, and will make it possible for us to test cadets more practically and more immediately because the examinations will be taken section by section and not all at once. The standard will rise but the syllabus will prove much more interesting and demanding. We now look forward to our first Summer Camp in Germany, as well as the Arduous Training in Scotland and at Easter a 'conventional' camp at Crowborough. The first programme for this looks very promising, and those unable to go to Germany should have a full and interesting time.

Finally, the section has acquired a small brass cannon which is to be presented to the cadet gaining the highest marks during the year in the proficiency test. TGKF

RAF Section



We welcomed P/O Michael Wiltshire, of the Oxford University Air Squadron, to the Section at the beginning of term. Very quickly he has proved his ability and value to us by helping on Tuesday parades and Field Days.

Field Day was held at three Stations. A substantial group visited RAF Lyneham and had a long flight in a Hercules over the South Coast. A second party took a very close look at Concordia at RAF Fairford, saw her take off and land later in the day, and visited various activities of the Station. The small remaining part of the Section had a day at No. 1 Parachute Training School, RAF Abingdon.

Our two week-end camps took place in the Lyford area. For some the latter camp took the form of a two-day event beginning in the Uffington Coxwell area, camping at Lyford and finishing off at School. Two cadets have now completed their Silver Standard Expeditions and are well on the way to obtaining their Duke of Edinburgh's Award, while towards the end of term fifty cadets flew in RAF White Waltham's Chipmunks. NKI

34th Abingdon Scout Group

The first Group event this term was a parents' evening held at the beginning of October. A good crowd sampled various stands and sideshows manned by the scouts, and the meeting concluded with a short camp-fire. In the middle of November another jumble sale was held; some of the £40 profit will go towards lightweight camping and hiking equipment.

The Troop: Adrian Courtenay, Christopher Wait, Michael Poole and Martin Noble were appointed patrol leaders at the beginning of term, and attended the National Patrol Leaders' Council at Gilwell Park over the first weekend of term. Later on Andrew Catton and David Clayton were made up to patrol leaders—in time for the District Patrol Leaders' Training Weekend at Youlbury at the beginning of November.

Ten third-formers spent a long weekend (including field day) at Dolgoed at the end of September. Five patrols camped together at Youlbury at the beginning of October, and just under half the troop spent the last weekend of November in the Camp Headquarters at Youlbury when pioneering was the main theme. Most of the troop assisted at the parents' evening; a party went to the London Gang Show just after half-term: a small but hard-working band distributed leaflets for various charities and for our own jumble sale; and a representative detachment was on parade on Remembrance Sunday.

Mr Jones of Radley has kindly agreed to run another First Aid Course and the four meetings since half-term have been attended by half the troop—on and off. Last, but not least, seven full troop meetings have been held (with an average attendance of 36), including a highly complicated, but very successful, wide game organised by GH Maunder. We have been pleased to welcome Maunder, Mr Bosworth and Mr Owen (from Culham College) to our troop meetings and thank them for their assistance. DRS

The Grundy Library



This term has seen the bringing together of the old Junior School Form Libraries into the nucleus of a junior section of the School Library. There can of course be no hard division between a book which is suitable for a junior section and one which is not, but we hope that a junior section of some 800 books combined with most of the books on loan from Berkshire County Libraries will act as

focal point for younger boys and introduce them to the methods of a junior library.

The US Embassy has again made a generous gift of some thirty books of American life and literature to the library, and during the term we received gifts of books from I Attree (OA), N Hands-Clarke (OA), M Andrews (OA) and J Hounam (OA), PN Bennett (OA), DC Henderson (OA), Mrs. Judy Hashman and the British Association of Synthetic Rubber Manufacturers, to whom I should like to express our grateful thanks.

KGH

Chess Club



A wide variety of matches has been played this term at different levels, and in all 33 individuals—over 5% of the School!—have represented the Club. Considering this, the overall record of 19 wins in 23 matches is most satisfactory.

The Senior Team has proved invincible, which is not surprising considering the experience of the top board Gareth Pearce, Christopher Marley and Howard Manning—all three have had long experience of senior Chess, and play among the top five boards in the County team. Equal credit must go to Jeffrey Mushens and Timothy Niblett, neither of whom has lost a game this term on the lower boards; the former is maturing into a very good player, and thoroughly deserved the Chess Tie he was awarded at the end of term.

In fact, the Berkshire League has not given the team sufficient challenge this year, even when we started the experiment of resting the best players towards the end of term. As yet the Sunday Times tournament has proved easy going as well, and we are through to the fourth round for the first time since 1962; we look forward to some demanding competition in the next term. This year we entered a Second Team in this as well, which beat Brakenhale School in the First Round, but lost on the age-handicap; we might have won, had not there been a misunderstanding over the use of the Chess Clock.

But as the First Team ages, the question of their successors becomes more urgent. The Under-Fifteen team has had a good record in the Berkshire League, marred only by an extraordinary collapse against Carmel College Preparatory School, a team whose subsequent record has proved far inferior to ours. This has ruled out any chance of winning the League. No one in this team has lost more than once, and Anthony Mushens is undefeated. All the same, it would be more satisfactory if there was wider spread of ability in the Middle and Lower School; other junior teams have not done so well, and there is too big a gap between Robin Chapman and the rest.

Chess Club has been quite well attended throughout the term, and Leagues were won by John Valentine, who has made a lot of progress recently, Ian Thackwray and Iain Holding. Ian and Simon de Lusignan are probably the best second-formers, promising more than they have yet achieved, Iain and Martin Spoor are certainly the best first-formers unearthed so far.

The First Team is: GD Pearce, CJ Marley, HJ Manning, JSP Musher, TB Niblett. WJ Pollard joins the team for Sunday Times matches.

The Under Fifteen Team is: M Ormerod, PH Evans, ARP Musher, RS Chapman, DJG Mushens.

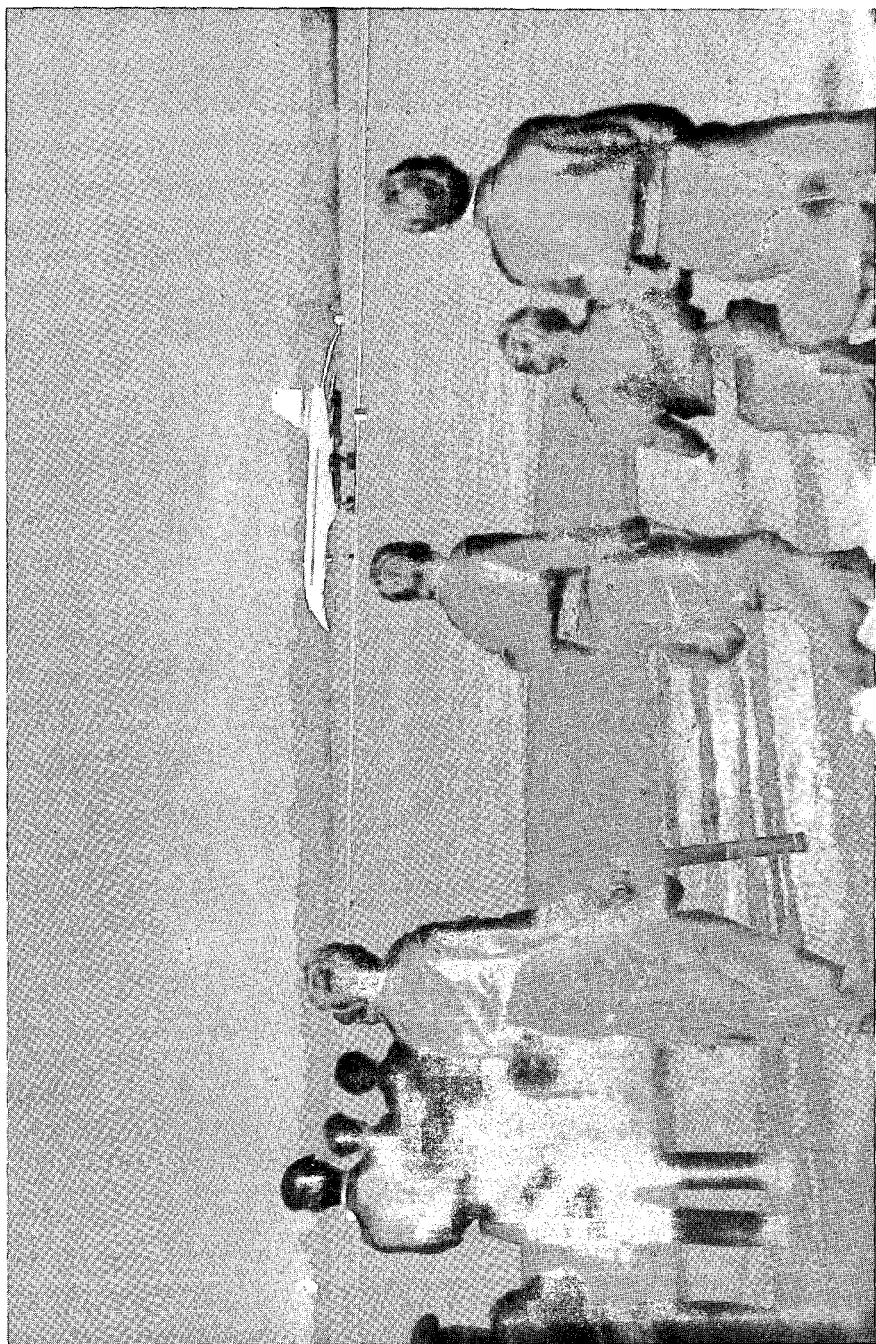
The First Team	beat the Common Room	5½—
	beat Carmel College (Berks League)	4½—
	beat Leighton Park School (BL)	4—
	beat Windsor Grammar School (Sunday Times)	5—
	beat Theale Grammar School (BL)	4—
	beat Leighton Park School (ST)	4—
	beat Reading School (BL)	5—
	beat Alfred Sutton School (BL)	5—



Dolgoed



Christmas Concert



	beat Newbury Girls' Grammar School (BL)	5—0
	beat Stoneham School (BL)	4—1
	beat Carmel College (ST)	4—2
n 'A' VI	beat King Alfred's, Wantage	5½—½
ie Second VI	beat Brakendale School (ST)	3½—2½
ie Under-15 Team	beat Leighton Park School (BL)	3½—1½
	drew with Carmel College (BL)	2½—2½
	lost to Carmel College Preparatory School (BL)	2—3
	beat Reading School (BL)	3½—1½
	beat Alfred Sutton School (BL)	3½—1½
	beat Park House School (BL)	4½—½
ie Under-15 'B' Team	beat Larkmead School	5½—½
	lost to John Mason High School	11½—3½
ie Under-13 'A' Team	beat Segsbury School Under-15s	3—2
	lost to King Alfred's, Wantage, Under-15s	2—3

TASS

Since the last Tass Report in May 1970 much has happened. The heating of the Swimming Pool, to which the Society contributed £757, was completed in time to enable the pool to be used in comfort at the end of the swimming season. A tangible expression indeed of the way in which the Society can help the School.

But the great event of the Summer Term was the Tass Ball, a very enjoyable and successful occasion, to which the Cobban family was invited guests of the Society—a demonstration of our gratitude for all that Mr Cobban had done for us as Headmaster.

In the Michaelmas Term, Tass again provided teas for all the new boys and their parents and, partly as a result of this, we have welcomed into membership 76 new friends. Membership now stands at 589. In December, too, another very successful Christmas Bazaar was held and out of the £52 raised, the Society will be paying its own tribute to the late Gerald Withnison with the purchase of new cricket screens, suitably inscribed; and addition will be launching a Tass Initiative Award Scheme, whereby boys may submit proposals for projects or original activities of any kind in the hope of being awarded financial assistance. The first Initiative Awards will be made early in 1971.

At the end of last Summer, the Membership Secretary, Mrs. Marion Sheffeld, resigned on leaving the district. Her devoted and efficient handling of membership records and applications was a tremendous help in the first years of the Society's existence and we are very grateful for what she did. She has succeeded as Membership Secretary by Mrs. Frances Sullivan, to whom all subscriptions and applications for membership should be sent at the school.

MW

Bridge Club



The Bridge Club had a quiet term, with no tournaments whatsoever. The 1st VI maintained their unbeaten record, with two wins, against St Helen's and St Katherine's and one against Stowe. However in a mixed pairs with St Helen's School against two Reading schools the combined Abingdon and Helen's lost rather heavily. Next term there are several tournaments in which we have to defend our last year's winners.

1st IV: AJM Crocker, MD Bricknell, HJ Manning, GD Pearce.

Played for 2nd IV: JL Cox, NG Seaver.

AJM



Errata

One of the most depressing parts of editing a magazine is to be informed during the first week of issue, of the mistakes left in (we do not, however, boast to match up to the claim made in the errata column of the October 1968 issue).

Apologies to the angry victims, and here is a list of those blunders:

p97: Contents list! The editorial is on the same page, not, as stated, on page 47.

p125: D Harvey coxed the Junior Colts VIII and not G Hamlin.

p139: DM Steele was omitted from the list of School Prefects.

p141: Exam results—G Hartnell was credited with only two 'A' levels and actually passed three. For SP Gray read SB Gray and add on another Maths 'A' level. RC Cash was given one extra 'A' level (Biology) that he did not take.

p142: 'Hello' to ME Lintott and KMR Forsyth, not the misspelt version.

Finally we spotted a past error they all missed—the May 1969 issue claimed to be, correctly, volume fourteen number eight. But the November issue of that year? Also volume fourteen number eight!

ists

he Governing Body, January 1971

airman: GRF Bredin Esq, CBE, MA.

ce-Chairman: JH Hooke Esq.

Officio:

ie Mayor of Abingdon (HJ Paxton Esq).

ie Recorder of Abingdon (PW Medd Esq, OBE, MA, JP).

ie Member of Parliament (ASM Neave Esq, DSO, OBE, MC, TD, MP, MA).

ie Chairman of Abingdon RDC (WJ Palmer Esq).

representative:

JS Brogden Esq; JEJ Francis Esq, MA; D Mettrick Esq; AED Penn Esq, MA (Berkshire County Council).

H Kitto Esq (Oxfordshire County Council).

derman J Jones; JWH Beasley Esq; Alderman RA Rogers (Town Council of Abingdon).

E Hart Esq (Abingdon RDC).

RF Bredin Esq, CBE, MA; Sir George Pickering, FRS, MD, FRCP (The Master and Fellows of Pembroke College, Oxford).

l Hooke Esq (The Master and Governors of Christ's Hospital, Abingdon).

ofessor JC Holt, MA, DPhil (Reading University).

B Tayler Esq, MA, DPhil (The Master and Fellows of St Catherine's College, Oxford).

o-optative:

Booth Esq, MA, DPhil, FRIC, JP; RB McCallum Esq, MA, LID;

r George Sinclair, CMG, OBE, MP; RE Eason Esq, TD, MA.

lerk to the Governors and Bursar: Captain IG Mason RN.

Officers of the School

chool Prefects

r Shellard (Head of School) (LC) CJ Murray (Head of Boarders) (S)

r Cox (Head of Dayboys) (D)

M Steele (D)

TR Baker (W)

ME Browne (LC)

KJ Barnard (D)

J Searle (D)

AR Cuninghame (D)

R Snodgrass (C)

RK Gyselynck (L)

NL Savory (D)

GF Pike (C)

P Loosemore (D)

PJ Todd (W)

J Jordan (D)

AT Winnington (D)

Q Rowley (S)

JC Dunkerley (S)

C Griffiths (D)

MT Bennett (S)

ouse Prefects

escent House: AJM Crocker, AM Higgs

arkhill: PJ Harden, CM Stake

chool House: MR Mackenzie, JRD Oswald, MS Paddison, TJ Hughes,

AW Wood, RS Conibear, DGW Murphy, MA Neville, P Bobin, PR

Clarke, NJ Moth, F Maude

Vaste Court: JSP Mushens, JR Cowlin

Dayboys: PGK Staniland, CA Wallace, GD Pearce, DB Howat; MT Evar
PA Bosworth, DN Longdon, AC McMillan, RG Willis, PM Cowley, I
Polley, PT Alder, DM Howes, HJ Manning, SJ Cantwell, RJ Pike, J
Barrett, RA Landy, CJ Marley, WJ Pollard, N Seaver.

Games Officers

Hockey: GF Pike (Captain), JQ Rowley (Secretary)
Boats: MS Paddison (Captain), P Scott (Secretary)
Athletics: CJ Jordan (Captain), AJM Crocker (Secretary)
Tennis: IF Gardiner (Captain), JRD Oswald (Secretary)
Cross Country: JSP Mushens (Secretary)
Secretary of GGC: JJ Shellard

Abingdonian

Editor: Tim Baker
Sub-Editors: Francis Maude, Stephen Loosemore, Tony Winnington, Pet
Rigby, Nick Moth
Photographic Editor: Nick Moth
OA Editor: AA Hillary
Treasurer: DO Willis

Hello Goodbye

Left December 11th 1970
VIH: IC Browne, JM Dyke, JSB Frere, DC Henderson.
VIR: PCS Bradley, NJ Minns.
VIS: SB Gray, RC Newall, JP Nicholl, SR Soffe.
VIT: NJ Beeching, RC Cash.
6O: ADS Chalker.
5M: AM Calvert.
2B: GD Yapp.
Came January 8th 1971
MH Longdin.

DA Notes

would be invidious, and I think against the wishes of all those generous people who have responded to our appeal, to publish a formal list of subscribers to the Gerald Smithson Memorial Fund. May I, on behalf of Gerald's family and those who joined with me in signing the original letter, express most sincere gratitude to all who have between them sent me no less than £1,630? There is to be, also, a fund-raising Memorial Cricket match, organised by the Abingdon Cricket Club, in June and I hope that one who can will give it all possible support.

Old Boys of many generations will join in wishing a happy retirement to Mrs Boyles, who has worked in School House for well over thirty years. She is beginning to find the journey up to School rather too much in the winter but we hope that she will still be able to help out sometimes when the weather improves. She still takes a lively interest in 'her Old Boys' and has some amusing reminiscences of several who now fill the rôle of sedate and respected parents when visiting their sons. Quite spontaneously, as a mark of affection and gratitude for years of service, the present boys in the house clubbed together to buy her a very nice little memento of her happy connection with the School.

AHH

Births

Gunn: on 20 November 1970, to Anne, wife of JM Gunn (1959), a daughter, Sophie.

Poole: to the wife of Richard Poole (1966), a daughter.

Robey: on 3 October 1970, to Christine, wife of David Robey (1961), a son, Mark David.

Marriages

Cross: on 3 October 1970 at St Alban's, Streatham, George Hall (1962) to Jane Cross.

Hodge: on 11 July 1970, Michael Hodge (1964).

Johnson-Greenwood: on 5 December 1970, in the School Chapel, Vivian Lacey-Johnson (1970) to Louise Greenwood.

Rymills: on 4 April 1970 John Owen (1965) to Hilary Rymills, one time pupil at St Helen's.

Gordon Brown (1947) wrote from New Guinea, where he is pursuing his career as part of the administration, though expecting before long the advent of self government. Sadly he had to report the death of his wife in 1969. His parents have now gone out to Australia, where they have taken charge of Gordon's two young children.

From Sidney Linnegar (1954) came news that his wife is recovering from a serious operation which is going to make her go carefully for some time yet. We wish her a full recovery and good luck to Sidney in his efforts to retain the cup he won last year for his Irises. He is on the Committee of the British Iris Society and has had articles published both in America and England.

JM Gunn (1959) is in his second year at Sheffield University, where he is reading Biochemistry. The birth of his daughter is recorded elsewhere.

Keith Haarhoff (1960) has accepted an appointment with Scientific Control Systems as a Marketing Consultant.

LA Edwards (1962) has been working in Boston, Massachusetts, for the past two years and hoped when he wrote to be starting soon on a Business Studies Course at Harvard.

GA Hall (1962), recently married, is in the South Asian Department of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

News from Andrew Oxley (1962) was that his brief career in Local Government had come to an end and that he had so far failed to secure re-election. He has, however, qualified as a Cost and Works Accountant and is in charge of the Costing and Management Accounting for the head end of the Stockbridge and Tinsley Park Works of the British Steel Corporation, with a staff of twenty-two to help him. As the works produce about a million tons of steel a year this sounds a pretty big assignment. In his spare time he is Secretary and Sunday XI Captain of the Sheffield Bankers' Hockey Club.

Tom Barrett (1964) again captained a successful Reading University Cricket XI last summer and is to be congratulated on playing four games for Berkshire.

Michael Hodge (1964), who was married on Founder's Day last year, has been working for the last three years for a pharmaceutical firm on the toxic and teratogenic effects of various drugs used in pregnancy. He and his wife have now decided to apply for Voluntary Service Overseas and I should think that they will be accepted with alacrity, he for hospital work and she as a qualified teacher of English. Michael records meeting Andrew Exton (1964), who was his best man, and Richard Poole (1966), married with a daughter, and working for BOAC as a Surveyor at Heathrow.

Cavell Portman (1964) is Morley and Son's sales representative for the South West and is based in Exeter. He is hoping to be married early this year and is busy househunting. His one big regret is that he has had to give up rowing, since no one 'down there' seems very keen.

A nice letter from the Post Office about Trevor Havelock (1965), who has taken up an appointment as a graduate Executive Engineer with the Post Office. They are very interested, they say, in any other sixth formers "of the same high calibre" who might like to apply for a university studentship and it sounds a good thing for the ambitious would-be engineer.

Richard Morris (1965) after a spell of UK leave in August is now based in Nepal, expecting to go on to Sarawak. He will be back in UK finally in July 1971.

John Owen (1965) is working at the Harris Plating Works, Great Missenden, as Chief Estimator and is studying metal finishing one day a week. His marriage is recorded elsewhere.

Paul Snowley (1965) has landed the job as Head of Biology from 1st January at Clitheroe Royal Grammar School, a school of about 400 boys and with a traditional atmosphere, similar to that of Abingdon, he says. Happily for him this involves no change of address.

Alan Williams (1965) will be doing his term of teaching practice for Nottingham University at Newark Grammar School next term.

Andrew Willis (1965) has now finished his final medical exams and is living at St Albans. Brother James (1962) has just joined a practice at Stratford and wife Lesley (née Dunthorne) is expecting her first baby.

Brother Peter (1960) is a registrar at the Middlesex Hospital. Congratulations to them all.

Philip Gilbert (1966), now a MA of Aberdeen University, is teaching in the language laboratory department of the Michelin Tyre Co. at Clermont-Ferrand in France. He too has done very well.

David Tanner (1966) is working for his Certificate of Education at London University, having graduated at Bristol, and will be doing his term of teaching practice at Sutton Grammar School.

Peter Blackburn (1967) has arrived at Funtua in Northern Nigeria and is enjoying life there "in spite of a heavy teaching programme". He hopes to get down to Lagos and even Togo to see a little more of the surrounding country and to meet some different people.

Interesting news of Graham Macdonald (1967) was that he had passed his H.N.D. in maths, statistics and computing and has decided to do a third year at college with a view to becoming a graduate of the Institute of Maths. He worked hard (and earned a lot of money!) on the motorway at Rugby in the summer holidays.

Jonathan Batey (1968), in his final year at Worcester College, Oxford, wrote to say that he is at the moment undecided between applying to do a DPhil at Oxford and reading for the Certificate of Education there. Presumably the final decision will be much influenced by the quality of his degree.

John Bowles (1969) is reading for a BSc Economics degree at the Birmingham College of Commerce, attached to the campus of the University of Aston, and IMF Fifield (1969) is reading Business Studies at the Oxford Polytechnic.

The following went up to University in October 1970:

- Cambridge: RS Barrett (Clare: Law); JP Cox (Christ's: Medicine); DW Galbraith (Jesus: Engineering); JW Jefferson-Loveday (Emmanuel: Medicine); CJ Nichol (Clare: Engineering); RA Potter (Churchill: Veterinary Science); RAC Turner (Jesus: Scholar: Botany).
NS Coulbeck will be taking up his English scholarship at St John's in October 1971.
- Oxford: CG Day (St Catharine's: English); JG Dowling (Christ Church: Law); RW Hamilton (Pembroke: Medicine); AE Lewis (University: Scholar: PPE); DE Lightfoot (Oriel: Engineering); DG Nasmyth (Pembroke: Scholar: Medicine); DH Parry (Jesus: Lawrence Scholar: English); JR Weir (Pembroke: Scholar: Biochemistry).
- Aberdeen: RD Hodkin (Geology).
- Bristol: KP Brown (Medicine); RJ Grant (Medicine); GG Hartnell (Medicine); DI Smith (Law).
- Cardiff: CJ Bovey (Economics).
- Lancaster: GBM Milton (Biology).
- Leeds: NAG Smith (Medicine).
- Liverpool: GM Lyons (Biochemistry).
- London: St Mary's Hospital: RD Phail (Medicine); TJG Healy (Medicine); University College: PN Bennett (Psychology).
- St Andrew's: JL Hounam (English).
- York: DN Baumann (Economics); PJ Lenny (Social Studies).

- News of others who left last October is as follows:
- TJ Allington is repeating his A levels at The Oxford College of Further Education.
- SB Barrett has been signed on at AERE Harwell as a Scientific Assistant and is meanwhile applying for a University place in 1971.
- SEW Boyers is spending this year—very valuably from the School's point of view!—working on the grounds and has a place for next October at St Paul's Teachers' Training College, Cheltenham.
- JWS Chalker is as happy as ever at Maidenhead College of Art and seems to be making good progress.
- RJ Crane is at a school in London doing his A levels again.
- PF Egelstaff has gone off to Canada.
- CR Gibaud, who did well in his A levels last July, but lacked the vital Maths (4) level, is applying for a University place in 1971.
- MJ Hill is another who is helping us out as a groundsman before going in April to take up his three year appointment as reserve wicket-keeper with the Hampshire County Cricket Club.
- MI Johnstone is at the Oxford College of Further Education repeating his A levels.
- RS Kirby is on a similar mission at the Carshalton Technical College.
- V Lacey-Johnson, whose marriage is recorded in this magazine, is working for Barclays Bank at Eastbourne.
- S Lambert and RW Leary, who left early, are continuing their full-time studies at the North Berks College of Further Education and at Bristol Technical College respectively.
- RS Leonard is to be congratulated on getting into Cranwell and will undoubtedly be very happy as a regular RAF officer.
- RB Luff, who confessed to four haircuts before being accepted, has fallen on his feet it seems as a trainee computer operator with Wingate in London.
- SCM Parks carries our best wishes with him in his transfer to Reading School.
- JAF Ridge, who typically has been manning a mobile discotheque and also working when needed as a hospital porter, is starting this month on the task of restoring his shattered academic image at a London establishment.
- MG Simpson has joined the Oxford branch of the Trustee Savings Bank.
- CR Teall, who is taking a year off (we're not quite sure from what or with what in mind)—is applying for a University place in 1971.
- MC Varley has joined Barclays Bank and is working at their Rugby branch. He is not as yet quite certain that this will suit him as a permanent career.
- MR Ward, who went up to Exeter University this October to read Economics has decided to change his course. He has got a job at a prep school in Woking and is going back to Exeter next October to read English.
- JM Whittington and SA Woods are both applying for University places in 1971.

Addresses

Bailey RR: 25 Withington Court, Abingdon.

Bowles JM: 12 Baldwins Lane, Hall Green, Birmingham 23.

Gerring Dr D: PO Box 751, Sechart, BC, Canada.

Hodge MC: Flat 8, Ray Mead Road, Maidenhead.
King, Rev MQ: 85 Hawkshead Place, Newton Aycliffe, Co Durham.
Lamberton, IC: Dudley Hotel, Lansdown Place, Hove, Sussex BN3 1HQ.
Linnegar S: 5 New Road, Ruscombe, Twyford, Reading.
Oxley AJ: 99 Folds Lane, Sheffield S8 0EJ.
Partridge DS: Eden Cottage, May's Green, Harpsden, nr Henley-on-Thames,
Oxon.
Portman CH: 22 The Grove, Hill Head, Fareham, Hants.
Riddick, Capt DWG: HQ 6 Armoured Brigade, BFPO 106.
Smith DI: 23 Bassett Crescent East, Bassett, Southampton SO2 3FN.
Stevens, Maj HB: 13 Knollys Road, Aldershot, Hants.
Thompson RP: 1 Jordan Close, Beacon Place, Lichfield, Staffs.
Welch RP: 1 Hall Lane, Great Hormead, nr Buntingford, Herts.

OA Club Notes

Old Boys' Day was held last term on Saturday 21 November. The Rugger match was followed in the evening by the Annual Dance, which was held at a new venue, the Northcourt Centre. Members had a further opportunity of meeting the Headmaster and Mrs Anderson, and many old friendships were renewed. The Dance, although successful, was only sparsely attended, and the organisers were somewhat disappointed with the support. The usual grateful thanks are due to Germaine Bevir for her flower arrangements.

At the November Committee Meeting, Duncan West expressed his wish to retire as Hon. Treasurer of the Club. The President thanked him for his efforts on behalf of the Club in this capacity since 1959 and Martin Iredale was elected to succeed him after the end of the current financial year.

Thanks are due to JH Hooke for organising a most successful golf fixture against the School. It is hoped that this fixture will become an annual event.

Summary of Sports Fixtures

HOCKEY — first eleven

January

- Wed 20 v Magdalen College (away)
- Sat 23 v Solihull School (home)
- Wed 27 v Pangbourne College (home)
- Sat 20 v St Bartholomew's, Newbury (home)

February

- Wed 3 v St Edward's School (away)
- Wed 10 v Hockey Association (home)
- Wed 17 v Oxford University Occasionals (home)
- Sat 20 v Oxford School (away)
- Sat 27 v KAS Wantage (home)

March

- Wed 3 v RMA Sandhurst (away)
- Sat 6 v Old Abingdonians (home)
- Wed 10 v RGS High Wycombe (away)
- Sat 13 v Wallingford GS (home)
- Wed 17 v Bloxham School (home)

CROSS COUNTRY

January

- Mon 18 Inter House Road Relay
- Sat 23 St Edward's/Bloxham (away)
- Wed 27 North Berks CC Championships

February

- Wed 3 Oxford School (home)
- Sat 6 Inter Schools CC Championships
- Thur 11 Radley College (away)
- Sat 13 Old Abingdonian's Match (home)
- Wed 17 Magdalen College School (home)
- Sat 20 Marlborough/RGS High Wycombe (home)
- Tue 23 Oxford University Tortoises Schools Road Relay
- Wed 24 Culham College (away)
- Sat 27 Berks Inter Area Championships

March

- Sat 6 Culham Road Relay
- Sat 13 Kingswood Road Race