

The
ABINGDONIAN

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Michaelmas Notes

We welcome Mr Michael Johnson as our new Director of Music and Wing Commander Harrison who replaces Captain Mason as Bursar and we wish them both well in their posts. Further reference to both appears later in this issue.

Halfway through the term, we said good-bye to Miss Rene Farr who has had to leave us in order to look after her sick father. We extend to her the gratitude of the School and the thanks and good wishes of many boys for her work over the years, first as Matron of School House and more recently at the Lodge. Mrs Pamela Wjitunge is now in charge of the Lodge while in School House, Mrs Jackson has come from Eton to replace Mrs Walsh as Matron. We hope they will enjoy their new responsibilities. At the same time, we send our good wishes to Mrs Riviere and hope she will shortly be recovered to full health.

We record with regret the recent death of Mrs Geoffrey Tudor. Mr Tudor was on the teaching staff for a short time in 1948-49 and according to School records revived Cross Country running, which is now firmly established as one of our more successful sports. We offer him our sympathy.

Visitors

The Bielefeld party came over during the term bringing their orchestra with them. This change from the normal pattern of events meant that for a lot of the time, the Germans could not be with their Abingdon counterparts—unless they wanted to endure lessons in English. But they managed to keep themselves occupied during the day with either football or their musical instruments. The orchestra did a number of concerts, one of them free for the lower forms who found the music entertaining and the female musicians intriguing. The usual international football match was played which England won convincingly, although this was hardly surprising with Bielefeld fielding a girl at centre-half. Everyone enjoyed the visit even if the change of routine made life a little more than hectic.

The Oxbridge candidates benefited from the visits of Mr Michael Whitehead from St Anthony's College, Oxford. He came each Tuesday to discuss General Paper topics.

Mr TEB Howarth, former High Master of St Paul's School, came to talk to the Masters' Common Room and preach in Chapel on one weekend during the term.

Christopher Wood (OA) and Mr Tony Smythe came to speak on 'Skin Diving' and 'A Journey to Waygels Peak' respectively. A Flamenco guitarist entertained boarders by demonstrating the different styles of flamenco.

Outside Visits

Twelve members of the Lower Sixth Economics Set were shown round the Houses of Parliament on Thursday, 6th December, by Sir George Sinclair. They spent an hour and a half taking a detailed look at the chambers of both Lords and Commons, as well as the Central, Peers' and Members' lobbies. Over lunchtime, a small group took the chance to visit the Public Gallery of the Stock Exchange. During the afternoon, the whole party spent their time either in the Commons' or the Lords' Gallery. It was a worthwhile day for all.

A mixed group of Sixth Formers saw the Russian film of 'King Lear' (with English sub-titles) in Bicester and thought it most rewarding. Another party made a trip to a disappointing performance of 'Dr Knock' in Oxford.

Senior biologists spent a day at Harwell where they learnt about radiation and its effects on heredity patterns in animals.

Miscellany

'Winter School' was held again this year at Whitefield towards the end of the Christmas holiday. This course is designed to introduce English students to a fresh view of their set books. Sessions took the form of a talk and discussion, the discussion often proving as valuable as the lecture. Dr Ingram's talk on 'The Waste Land' provided a lively discussion and Mr Dennis, speaking on Alexander Pope, supplied many new ideas about Pope's satire. Clearly 'Winter School' is an extremely useful event and our thanks go to the lecturers and to Mr Blocksidge, the organiser.

The new Options system for Sixth Formers started in the term. New subjects such as Vehicle Maintenance and Philosophy were introduced and proved very popular. The new system is more flexible and varied than the old one and enables many to take up English as a fourth 'A' Level.

The new Option in Vehicle Maintenance is largely the result of hard

work by Mr Varley. After an appeal to parents and various local business concerns many generous gifts were received. British Leyland donated an almost new Austin Maxi engine and about £100 worth of literature and slides. The Army gave an engine—suitably painted together—and many parents donated old engines and spare parts. These engines are to be dismantled, cleaned up and it is hoped reassembled in a fashion roughly similar to the originals.

Another change has been in the running of School rugby. Mr Willis who has looked after this aspect of School life since 1946 has handed over to Mr Crawford who also takes over the coaching of the Fifteen. Mr Eden will be employing his coaching talents more generally although he has been assisting during the season with Game I. Other moves have followed. Mr Fletcher now takes the 2nd Fifteen, Mr Willis moving down to be in charge of the 3rd Fifteen. Mr Gabitass has inherited the mantle of Mr Moody with the Colts and Mr Drummond-Hay that of Mr RC Coleman with the Juniors. Mr Hammond remains with the 4th Fifteen, Mr Bodey with the Junior Colts and Mr Woodgett with the Minors.

The School bell tower was repaired during the term. The repair was carried out to the woodwork which had rotted during the past 103 years.

At Half-term, School House Dining Room staged a dinner for a number of Old Abingdonians launching an appeal for money to buy **The Lindens**. The guests were pleased to find the same tables still in use but on the evidence of the evening thought the food distinctly improved.

The girls of Headington School, Oxford played host to a number of senior boys at their school dance during the term.

Birkbeck/ISCO Aptitude Tests were taken by the Fifth Forms. These tests are designed to find the most suitable type of job for people by looking at their character, intelligence and abilities.

'Vox' revived yet again this term winning many readers with its ever sensational editorials. However whether desirable or not the magazine fulfils a role as an extra line of communication within the School. Its boast about beating apathy could give it one claim to fame but when Summer comes, 'Vox' will probably disappear and be forgotten until its exhumation once more in September.

Oxbridge

We offer congratulations to the following, who were successful in the Scholarship or Entry Examinations to Oxford and Cambridge: Robin Wait (Scholarship in Biochemistry, Balliol); David Polkinhorne (Abingdon Scholarship in Engineering, Pembroke, Oxford); Brian Waters (Exhibition in Natural Sciences, Corpus Christi, Cambridge); John Evans (English, Worcester); Christopher Hey (Modern Languages, Trinity Hall); Christopher Lawson (Medicine, Keble); Ian Manning (Natural Sciences, Downing); Robert McGreevy (Physics, Lincoln); Christopher O'Neill (Classics, Balliol); Timothy Parker (PPE, Pembroke, Oxford); Frank Rae (Physics, Merton); Howard Russell (Classics, Queen's, Cambridge); Christopher Stockwell (PPE, Balliol); Michael Thompson (Modern Languages, Queen's, Oxford); Julian Turner (English, New College); Timothy Niblett (Mathematics, Pembroke, Oxford); Hugh Kellett (Modern Languages, Exeter College).

Mark Ormerod was also offered a place at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, provisional on his A Level results, and Sue Akass, who joined us

from St Helen's for some of her teaching is to be congratulated on her place at St Hilda's to read English.

Staff Changes

The end of Michaelmas Term saw three more departures from the Staff, one by retirement and two on taking up new appointments.

Peter Osborn, Chaplain since 1968, will shortly be taking up a similar post as Chaplain to the Royal Naval School for Girls at Haslemere. During his time with us, the Revd Osborn has made his mark. His dedication to the School Chapel, his interest in and encouragement of School Drama, his great charm and his very real concern for all earned him the affection of boys and staff alike. We wish him every happiness in his new venture and are delighted that he seems well recovered from his recent illness.

Ian Mason, Bursar and Clerk to the Governors, leaves us for what is presumably the plum job for Bursars—he becomes Bursar to the Bursars' Association. Captain Mason intends to live at Gosport within sight and sound of the sea where so much of his distinguished naval career was spent and it is good to know that we shall see him occasionally. The School will remain always grateful for Captain Mason's careful guidance of its continued expansion in buildings and amenities.

Ron Coleman, 'Taffy' to many OAs, has been with us for 26 years and the School will not be the same place without him. Countless boys are indebted to Mr Coleman for teaching them to swim and life-save, all of us have admired his exceptional craftsmanship in the Woodwork Shop—indeed the laying of the Inner Common Room floor remains a permanent reminder of this to the Masters' Common Room—and on the games field, in the Gym or on his devoted golf course, his cheerful, vigorous personality will be sorely missed. How many of us will be capable of doing a hand-stand when we come to retire? Mr Coleman's last job for the School was the excellent reconstruction of the old, stone hutment on Lower Field, a typically skilful piece of work which has provided useful extra accommodation for equipment. It is only right that we should also say good-bye to Mrs Brenda Coleman. Her many gifts and great kindness, especially when the Colemans were at Waste Court and subsequently the Lodge, will be remembered affectionately by many Old Boys. We wish them both a long and happy retirement.

The gap left on the PE staff by the departure of Mr Coleman had, of course, already been filled by the arrival in the Michaelmas Term of Mr Drummond-Hay. So far as Woodwork is concerned, there will be no immediate successor. Woodwork has been gradually phased out of the timetable curriculum and its future is dependent upon long term planning and the possible development of an Arts and Crafts Centre.

The new Bursar is Wing Commander Ronald Harrison, more recently Regional Commander, Careers Information Service, Royal Air Force. He has ideas on any improvements or modernization he may consider necessary, is interested in fishing and cricket and hopes to keep an eye on CCF activities. After two naval bursars, it will be interesting to observe the approach of a 'blue-bob' to the complex challenges of a School Bursar's job.

The vacant post of Director of Music goes to Michael Johnson. Mr Johnson, a graduate of London University and the Royal College of

Music, comes to us from Peter Symonds School, where he has successfully run the music for several years. Among his objectives for the School are 'a county class orchestra' and a choral society of some 150. Mr Johnson's enthusiasm will undoubtedly spread throughout the music scene.

We wish both W/Cmdr Harrison and Mr Johnson and their ladies a happy time at the School.

In addition, we have with us this term a number of student masters from Oxford University Education Department. They are: Nicholas Fennell (Russian and English); Jeremy Goulding (Divinity); Andrew Houghton (Classics); Alistair Morgan (Mathematics); and Michael Orton (Biology).

We also welcome Mrs Esther Baxter who is assisting with French teaching in the absence of Mrs Madelaine Graham.

Chapel Notes

Term began and ended in St Helen's Church. The Headmaster preached at the service on the first day of term. For the Carol Service with which term ended Mr Eden, Mr McGowan and Mr Procter chose readings (very well read, under Mr Fairhead's direction), hymns and carols more appropriate than the traditional service to a date so long before Christmas.

The following visitors preached during the term: the Rev A Thatcher, D.Phil., Minister of Abingdon Baptist Church; Dr IG Lennox, physician and parent; Mr TEB Howarth, Senior Tutor of Magdalene College, Cambridge. We are very grateful to them, and also to the following clergy who have helped us during Mr Osborn's absence: the Rev JV Andrews, the Rev M Kirby, the Rev JR Packer, the Rev WEG Payton and the Rev DL Pope.

Theatre Roundabout (Sylvia Read and William Fry) visited us in November to give a performance of 'My Brother's Keeper' that brought a message which not even the discomfort of Chapel seating could obscure.

On Remembrance Day (not easy to make meaningful to those now at school) we again held our own short Service of Remembrance in Chapel before attending the Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial in the town.

The Bishop of Reading, the Right Reverend Eric Wild, conducted the Confirmation Service on Advent Sunday, 2nd December, when the following were confirmed: MJ Abrines, CH Allen, PM Aston, MRR Beers, MC Bezant, SG Boatright, JK Dewar, DJG Driver, PJ Eccles, RG Feltham, RG Gilbert, CL Hennah, JNS Lintott, RJ Little, PJ Maggs, SRL Miller, G Mitchell, NJ Mitchell, AG Noble, KC Peterson, MTL Rivers, AM Robinson, RV Scriven, MRD Waterfall, MR Wise.

The Royal Foundation of St Katharine again provided an interesting Sixth Form Challenge Week-end in London, which AP Arm and MR Crofton-Briggs attended.

Chapel Collections were for the following causes: Pakistan Floods Disaster Fund, £8.96; Chapel Funds, £13.84; John Masefield Cheshire Home, £4.70; Shelter, £5.89; National Association for Mental Health, £5.49; Oxford Samaritans, £7.21; Oxfam's Ethiopian Appeal, £10.90; the Society of St John the Evangelist, £5.79; the Bishop's List, £26.87; Help the Aged's Christmas Appeal, £4.35.

Miss Farr and her successor at the Lodge, Mrs Wijitunge, have very kindly looked after the fair linen. They deserve our very warm thanks, as do those who have arranged the Chapel flowers: Mrs Anderson, Mrs

Varley, Mrs Taylor, Mrs Walsh, Miss Farr, Mrs Hasnip, Miss Myatt, Mrs Eden, Mrs Potter and Miss J Hasnip.

It was very sad that Mr Osborn should have been struck down by illness and kept away from School for so much of his last term as Chaplain. The task of School Chaplain is no easy one, as attentive listeners to Mr Osborn's farewell sermon will have realised—some, doubtless, for the first time. Gone are the days when respect for the cloth gave the Chaplain an advantage over his colleagues in terms of the cooperation and courtesy that could be expected from his flock. Instead, opposition and obstruction have often taken their place. Although, as Mr Osborn said, the more open expression of dissent now fashionable is in some ways to be welcomed, it imposes an extra strain on the man called upon to exercise simultaneously the functions of schoolmaster and Father in God. No one could have worked harder than Mr Osborn, often in the face of bitter disappointments. His absence for most of last term made people realise what they had taken for granted and often failed to appreciate. It was fitting that on his last Sunday as Chaplain the number of communicants at the First Communion of the newly confirmed was the largest on this occasion since 1963. We thank Mr Osborn most sincerely for his five years of devoted care and service and wish him well in his new work.

HTR

Music Notes

Last term saw the arrival of two new members of staff in the Music School: Mr John Frith, who replaced David Robbins as brass teacher, and Mr David Robinson who replaced Stephen Fairlie (strings), which, with the departure of Anthony le Fleming in Summer combined to make me the longest serving member of the department with a long service record of one term.

Two concerts were given during the term: one informal concert on Sunday, October 21st, for which all credit should go to Adrian Courtenay who arranged the programme which included a first performance: John Frith's 'Chinese Songs' sung by Pamela Frith and accompanied by John at the piano.

The Second concert was held in Trinity Methodist Church on Tuesday, December 4th and had items from all aspects of the Schools music. The band played 'Fanfare for Brass' by Lovelock, and the Tuesday evening Choral Society performed a group of English Madrigals and Christmas music by Victoria and Buxtehude. The concert also included solo items for strings, clarinet, oboe and organ.

In the absence of a Director of Music, Chapel Choir was very ably taken by Mr McGowan as was shown by the end-of-term Carol Service: a change from the usual 'Nine Lessons and Carols', as this year it was an Advent Service, the carols and readings selected and arranged by Mr Eden and Mr McGowan.

All in all a term's work with no great revelation or major undertakings, but a lot of good groundwork was begun for the future.

MDP

TASS

Once again a most successful Christmas Bazaar was held during the Michaelmas Term, thanks for which go to Mrs Tattersfield and all her

helpers. It raised over £470.

Unfortunately soaring prices made the £2000 allocated by TASS towards squash courts well below the sum required, and the Committee decided reluctantly that it was quite impossible to go ahead with the project. After much investigation into school requirements it was felt that a new school minibus was top priority and £1700 was given for this purpose. The minibus has already been purchased. The remaining £300 was divided as follows:—

£100 to buy a new film loop project; £100 towards a new engine for the coaching launch; £100 towards athletics equipment.

This means that the Society has now contributed £6537 to the needs of the school in the seven years of its existence.

In view of the fact that two Award-winners had been unable to follow up their projects, three reports only were due to be given at an Awards Evening. It was decided therefore to combine this event with the AGM which will be held in the Court Room on Thursday, January 31st. At the AGM an amended Constitution for TASS will be considered, the aim being to give parents greater participation in Committee affairs. A Newsletter will be circulated to members after the AGM giving details of the new Constitution, if approved.

Forthcoming events include:—

A Brains Trust; a Summer Fete to be held at School on May 11th, and a TASS Ball (dinner dance) to be held on November 22nd.

Those wishing to join the Society should write to The Treasurer, TASS, Abingdon School.

MEW

The School Council

The Michaelmas term saw the 1st anniversary of the School Council's inauguration and some would say that by now the novelty of having such a body has worn off. Certainly the five meetings held during the term were not as well attended as they should have been, but even so a capacious amount of business was dealt with. Topics ranging from the School's rule concerning drinking in public houses, and whether there ought to be a pupil representative on the Board of Governors, to a toaster for the Lower Sixth Form Common Room, were discussed. The Headmaster attended the last meeting of the term and the Council was able to discuss the term's business with him.

Chris Jones was re-elected as Chairman and Simon Hills elected as Secretary. SMH

Business Game

Last term the first round of the Business Game was played, attracting an entry of 260 schools. Our company consisted of a board of thirteen Upper Sixth formers and it played against three other schools, whom it beat.

In the Game, each company tries to maximise the profit it makes from selling a non-seasonal consumer durable. Every round is divided into five periods, for each of which the board must make decisions relating to the

selling price and the allocation of cash resources. These decisions, with those of the other three companies, are submitted to a computer which processes them and produces a 'print-out' for each company, which contains the total market statistics, the specific company's sale and production analysis, and a balance sheet. On the basis of this the following period's decisions are made.

We were not entirely successful in balancing production with demand, but due to our policy of high pricing and marketing, we established a commanding lead early in the Game and our final profit of £5 million was double that of our nearest rival. Competition in the second round promises to be much stronger. MO

Hamlet

We are indebted to Dr JS Wilders of Worcester College, Oxford for the following comments:

The John Roysse Players' production of Hamlet was honest, enthusiastic and allowed us to share with the actors the excitement of bringing a great work to life. It was also instructive. Patrick Cook's impressive performance as the Prince was not only authoritative but made consistent sense of this most difficult of all fictional characters, and the use of the Unicorn stage gave us a chance to learn more about the Elizabethan theatre.

There are, of course, as many different interpretations of Hamlet as there are actors capable of playing the role: Gielgud's wounded poet, Olivier's renaissance prince, David Warner's disillusioned student. Patrick Cook's version was unlike these and just as convincing. He was apparently a freshman home from Wittenberg for his first vacation, reacting to the death of an adored father and to his uncle's smug veneer with a petulant cynicism. The basis of his character—a sound one—was a nagging and explosive disgust with life which yet allowed him to be charitable to his fellow-human beings, actors in the same tragic farce. It was very much a Hamlet of the generation gap, a young man sickened by the mess made of things by his elders and by the Rosencrantzes and Guildensterns who act unquestioningly as tools of the political establishment (today they would be appearing at the Watergate enquiry). The sort of questions which trouble Shakespearean critics—is Hamlet really mad or putting it on? Does he delay and, if so, why?—tended to vanish in this production, because Cook presented him as an adolescent who didn't really understand himself, and who slipped out of one role into another—from good companion into lunatic into avenger—instinctively without himself providing a reason. He was like a lot of young men of Cook's own age.

Living, as we do, in an age which is alien to poetry and particularly poetic drama, we now speak Shakespeare's lines either for sense or verbal music but seldom for both. The John Roysse Players chose sense, which is the better choice if one has to be made, and the text was thoroughly intelligible. There were enough mistakes on the night I saw it, however, to show that some of the major actors could alter or drop a word without knowing that they had mangled a blank verse line, and the prompter (or directors) should have corrected them after each performance.

We shall never know what Shakespeare's Globe Theatre was really like, though the experts believe it was a great deal larger than Abingdon's



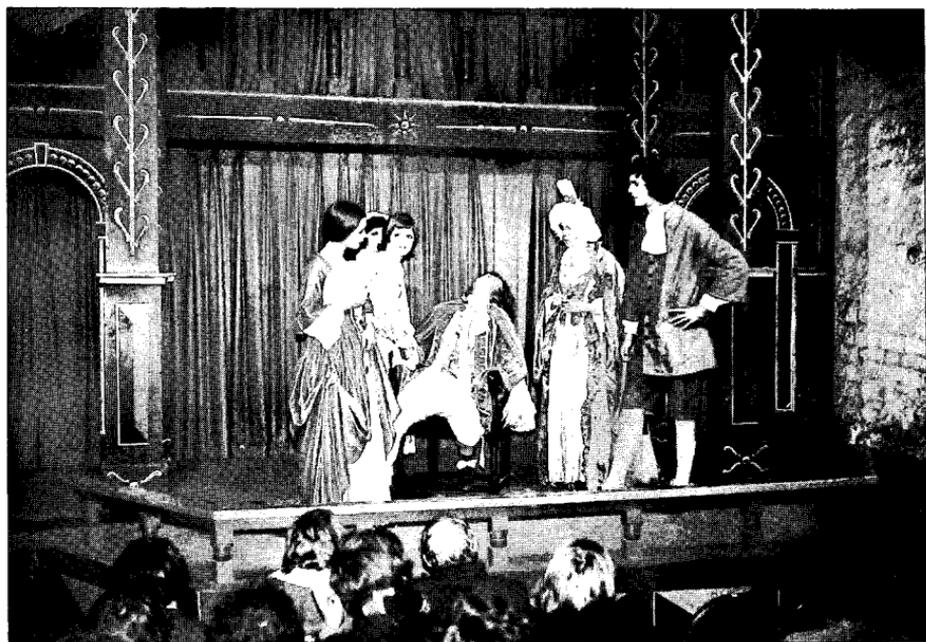
First XV in action (O.A. match)



Second XV in action



"Hamlet"



"Beaux Stratagen"

Unicorn (one scholar believes it held 3,000 people). It was interesting to see, however, that two or three actors could form a convincing crowd, that soliloquies can easily be spoken to an audience only inches away, and that the upper stage offers possibilities denied us in a modern theatre. The first appearance of the ghost, and the eavesdropping of Claudius and Polonius on Hamlet, both played 'above', were among the most striking visual effects. Mr Blocksidge and Mr McKinnon, the directors, failed, however, to seize the most valuable opportunity offered by this particular theatre. They chose not to present the play continuously without pauses between scenes (as is perfectly natural on this type of stage, and as Shakespeare's company almost certainly did) but to break the flow of the action with pauses and lighting changes at the end of each scene. This gave the actors the needless task of reviving the action after every pause. No doubt the directors, otherwise in control of this immense project, had good reasons for their decision, but it looked like a golden opportunity rejected.

Many of the other major roles were impressively played: John Griffin's insecure, conscience-stricken King, the best of the performances vocally, Andrew Carlisle's steady, warm Horatio, consistently reliable without being dull, Anthony and David Mushens' Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, genial, shifty chaps and rightly indistinguishable from one another, Jane Goss's Queen (can such an apparently sexually weary woman really have been a schoolgirl?) and Hillary Waters' Ophelia, constricted at first but surprisingly liberated in her madness.

Such a difficult play as this with such a large and inexperienced cast could have been Blocksidge and McKinnon's folly. In fact they proved it not only practicable but enlightening and continuously absorbing to watch.

The Beaux Stratagem

Mr Jon Gabbitass reports:

"The George Farquhar Appreciation Society brought its brief, popular season to a conclusion at the Unicorn theatre with the finest achievement of their idol, **The Beaux Stratagem**. The company's belief in the unrivalled excellence of its dramatist was, apparently, matched only by its lack of confidence in its production, for it was seen fit to provide an expensive and thick programme, which positively oozed the devotion and subtle idolatry of its Farquharphiliac devotees. Here, the cognoscenti could lavishly indulge their enthusiasm for such recondite subjects as early 18th Century slang, gloat and drool over the life history of their hero, and intellectualise about the fundamental comic optimism of the play, while the layman was invited to shed a bitter tear at this, the last public appearance of the Society.

The overwhelming propaganda that heralded the production boasted that, like a well-known brand of Vodka, the effect would be shattering and that no-one would be quite the same again. Certainly it seemed true that no two performances would ever be quite the same. A spirit of happy-go-lucky playfulness was evident on the evening I attended. The First half was characterised by tremendous zest and confidence, the second by some hesitant pauses, in which characters groped either in the depths of some esoteric emotion, or searched their memories for forgotten lines, and fell into at least one bout of prolonged, uncontrollable giggling. Perhaps the

cast were exhausted by their efforts when, mingling freely in the interval with the audience, they had to fight on equal terms for the few coffees provided. Or perhaps for actors and devotees too the effect of Farquhar really is shattering.

The characterisation of the play is little more than skin-deep, but there are many strong smaller parts, excepting the vapid Sir Charles. The ladies all gave lively performances. Mrs. Sullen spoke with vigorous determination, and although a little underrehearsed on the more difficult turns of phrase or twists of tongue, suggested a spirited defiance of her boorish, brute husband. Dorinda (Mrs Hancock) drew out with sensitivity the more serious nature of a character horrified at the mercenary marriage before her. Restoration Comedy is often frankly realistic and disenchanting on the subject; Wycherley's satire is scathingly bitter, while in the *Way of the World* scraps and echoes of the Milton divorce tracts intrude into the conversation. There is no innovating by Farquhar here, then, more a characteristic dabbling with potential seriousness, and an intention to swerve away from it before it grows too powerful. The programme note spoke well of Farquhar's optimism, and the hideous marriage of the beast, Sullen, to his town lady (Mr Jones and Mrs Molesworth), produced some sparkling scenes, when they stood back to back chanting insults before agreeing to part; and some memorable comic imagery, when Mrs Sullen described her drunken spouse as 'dead as a salmon in a fishmonger's basket . . . and his face as greasy as his flannel nightcap'.

Lady Bountiful was a decidedly eccentric mother to the oaf, wearing a bonnet of startling appearance, with something like a menu card stuck on top of it. It was disappointing that Cherry (Mrs Bryant) disappeared so early; her scenes with Archer were assured and sprightly, and full of mischief. Archer and Aimwell were convincing as young men relentlessly in search of local talent; Archer the energetic rake (Mr Clift) took all wind-falls and pretty faces at an easy stride, while Aimwell (Mr Turner, and once a crack marksman) was, like Archer, less plausible when in love, and there is certainly considerable implausibility in the plot. Aimwell, in fact, could not gaze starstruck for long in the eyes of the fair sex without a grin inching up his cheeks. An appropriate response for the triteness of the characterisation, no doubt. The antidote to sentiment and mawkishness was Sullen himself, clutching a head split in everlasting hangover, and wedded to his matrimonial ball and chain.

The remainder of the cast provided very strong support. Mr Kafka's Foigard, with a touch of the Crumlin Road, hid behind his crucifix with believable blarney. Here was a bog-trotting Fenian mixing it in the intrigue with relish. Angus McPhail's Scrub, with his slow, manual arithmetic, and pronounced interest in the front row of the pit, made the usual rural idiot, testimony to centuries of village inbreeding, very funny. Finally, Mr Owen suggested delightfully an astonishing lack of menace in the 'travellers' of the day. With his melodramatic gestures and ineptitude, he seemed to promise a happy deliverance.

Those of us who stumbled home from the Siberian interior of the theatre, sure never to be quite the same again, were thankful for an evening of relaxed, end-of-term good humour. George Farquhar was well and truly appreciated."

Swallows and Amazons

Nobody actually expects to be a film star; it is just one of those things that happen to a very small minority of people. I am no different, and so when an opportunity to be interviewed for a part in the film 'Swallows and Amazons' came to me I took it gladly.

During the next month I attended three interviews in London at the offices of T.P. Films Ltd. After these interviews I was asked to go to Burnham-on-Crouch to a sailing school, to test my sailing ability. There were twenty three other children at this stage; I had come a long way from a month before, when there had been over two thousand applicants. I thoroughly enjoyed this 'holiday', but I still thought I had not a chance in the world for the part of John, for which I had applied.

I remember clearly the day I received the wonderful news. We were having dinner and the telephone rang. My mother answered the call and when I heard the message, I stood in a happy daze saying absolutely nothing. I certainly never finished that meal.

Two weeks later I was off on the most incredible adventure that has ever happened to me. Suzanne Hamilton (Susan), Stan Cerendon (Roger), Kit Seymour (Nancy), Lesley Bennet (Peggy), Jane Cerendon (Chaperone) and I all took the train from Euston to Grange-over-Sands in Lancashire, where a minibus picked us up. We drove to Ambleside, at the head of Lake Windermere, where we were due to stay in a guest house for the seven weeks of filming. The other two members of our party, Sophie Neville (Titty) and Daphne Neville (the second chaperone), met us at our superb accommodation. I did not sleep much that night.

Ambleside is a delightful town and as I love the Lake District, I was soon at home among the mountains and the wonderful fresh air. I do not intend to bore you with a complete account of my adventures, but to give you an idea of the fun I had and the experiences I went through, I have taken a few excerpts from the diary I maintained while I was there. For the first few days we were just settling in, having a really good time getting to know everyone. We met Virginia McKenna (Mother) during this period. Then we began to work on the film . . .

Day 4. May 14th

We were all up early today for the first day of filming. The minibus took us to Halverthwaite, where there is an old steam railway. The railway runs from Halverthwaite to the lower extremity of Lake Windermere through lovely scenery, typical of the area.

We met our teacher on the bus and she seemed very nice. Our school is a lovely double decker bus and I did 4 hours school work today. Filming was great fun on the train, but the cameras were a bit cramped in the narrow carriages. None of us had to learn lines and Claude (the Director) made it very easy. The pieces were only about a minute long although it took some hours to film. Work lasted until about 6.30pm when we came home and had dinner.

Day 12. May 22nd

We all watched 'Cider with Rosie' on television last night because Sophie and Stan were acting in it. Claude also directed it and I was very impressed. I am not tired this morning and quite ready for work on the island. We went in the minibus and I know the route off by heart although

it is quite far. I enjoyed lessons and also work, when I had to do some sculling into the secret harbour. But during the middle the sun went in and we had to wait over half an hour to start shooting again. I have made a lot of friends in the camera crew and I have a good time with them.

Day 28. June 7th

Today was another sunny day and when the minibus picked us up at 8.00am we were all very excited. In Bowness, our location for the day, we saw and met all the 'extras' on their coach and then us 'Swallows' went off to the pier. Our first shot was on the pontoon, of me rowing, after chasing the 'Amazons'. Then we left Roger to look after the boat and we set out to buy some provisions and a length of rope.

Meanwhile a 'native' (who was played by Mr. Price, the proprietor of our guest house) had come up to Roger and asked him about his boat, but he soon went away. The town was full of people and the Assistant Directors had quite a job keeping everyone out of the way. The police helped by holding the traffic up and I enjoyed it all very much. I got slightly sun-burnt today and I shall have to put on some cream.

Day 37. June 16th (Just to show it was not all hard work!)

Claude had promised us a day in Blackpool today! When we were ready, Jean picked us up and we set off. First of all we walked down Blackpool's Golden Mile to the fun fair and had a great time! I went on lots of rides including the 'Big Dipper', the 'Ghost Train', and the 'Wild Mice'.

We had tickets for Blackpool's 'Tower Circus' and everyone went. It lasted two hours and it was great. We went back to the fun fair again later but it was soon time to go and when I went to bed I was very tired.

Now, four months later, I have seen the finished product that took so long to make. I certainly cannot express my thoughts about it. Everything is nearly back to normal except that I have been asked to go to the BBC studios. One thing is sure in my mind: I shall never forget one second of those seven weeks of being a filmstar. SJ West

John Roysse and The Mercers' Company

Miss J Imray, Archivist of the Mercers' Company, had occasion recently to go through the volume of minutes covering the period 1560—1595 and, in the course of this, noticed two entries relating to John Roysse which for interest's sake are reproduced below.

General Court, 21st November 1560:

"As concerning a bill of parcels of the devise of one John Roysse brought to this Assembly, who would have many things done for him by this fellowship after his death, which thing shows large, tedious and vain-glorious circumstances to be more travail, labour and pain with unthankful business than to be any commodity, praise or meritorious, either of the giver's behalf or of the Company's part, or them that shall have it, both of the commodity that it shall rise, and come of as of the distribution of the same: this Assembly have agreed that the same matter shall be further treated and paused upon as yet, and he that hath made this offer to commune deliberately with Master Wardens therein that the same may be

more better understood at large and the ambiguity and doubtfulness thereof resolved, and as Master Wardens shall understand and feel the meaning of the mind of the same party, Master Wardens to make relation thereof to the Company at their next meeting and they then to proceed therein as they shall think best after their wisdoms and sad discretions".
Court of Assistants, 8th August 1571:

"Motion was had at this Court touching the government and rule of the school at Abingdon late erected by John Roice (sic), some time a brother of this fellowship, which he by his last will and testament ruled should be in the order and government of this fellowship. Because by the abstract of the will shown to the Court the mind of John Roice could not be well understood, it was agreed that Stockbridge, the Clerk, should make further search to have a sight of the will, to compare it with the abstract, so much as concerned the school, and to make a perfect copy of it so that the Company may know how to answer the executors".

Probate was obtained on John Roysse's will on 30th July 1571 by Mr Justice Southcote and Roysse's son-in-law, Dr Thomas Martin, the executors. John Roysse was buried at Abingdon on 2nd August 1571. Miss Imray comments that as was so often the case in the 16th Century, an entry was made suggesting that there should be some kind of follow-up, but nothing further appears in the minutes and one is left in some doubt as to the outcome. NKH

Societies

(Due to lack of space in the last issue, the reports on the Summer Term's activities of Societies were not printed. These have been included here.) Only one or two societies have had to cancel meetings due to problems created by the energy crisis. Most have been very active this last term and several very popular, new societies have been formed. The most important of these is **Mechanics Club**, started in conjunction with the new sixth form Vehicle Maintenance option for those in the senior school interested in car engines.

The option was over subscribed by about 300%, but out of this misfortune came the Mechanics Club for those who were unlucky and not able to take part in school time. Both the option and the club were great successes and most of the boys who participated would not now be afraid to 'have a go' if their car broke down. A bright future is seen for the club.

Two other societies that were started anew this last term were the **Senior Debating Society** and its Junior counterpart. The senior society had many difficulties during the term. Arrangements with Carmel College fell through due to a clash with the School play, and a meeting arranged with St Helen's died to a whisper due to a lack of speakers. The one good meeting of the term was internal. Paul Evans spoke for the motion 'This house believes that it is privileged', which was carried with a very small majority. Due merit must go to Robin Chapman who doggedly fought against the obvious odds the motion presented him. Mr Harmsworth was the chairman.

The **Junior Debating Society** had greater success and held four meetings during the term. At the first a debate on the motion 'This house believes that classical music is better than pop', resulted in the motion being rejected. At the second meeting a similar result was reached on the motion

'This house believes the Royal Navy to be superior to the Royal Air Force'. At a balloon debate, out of five characters speaking, Long John Silver's Parrot was thrown from the balloon. The fourth meeting of the term was a general questions session with a panel trying to give answers.

The **Scrabble and Crossword Club** was refounded this term and its weekly meetings at first attended by a small elite grew in numbers as the term proceeded, due to better publicity. At an extra meeting of the club towards the end of term. Dr John Sykes, National 'Sunday Times' Crossword Champion for the last two years, came to give a very interesting talk and demonstration to a large audience. In the course of the evening he solved the day's 'Times' crossword in ten minutes and answered a large volume of questions. The club plans next term to expand into some of the more difficult board games.

Bridge remained a popular game throughout the summer and autumn terms despite the scant attendance at the normal weekly meetings of the **Bridge Club**. The club managed to organise a fairly regular trip to the local Cheshire Home. Unfortunately there is only one player there and so the club has volunteered to supply three players to form a game each week. The other activity of the club has been several visits to the Duplicate Bridge Club at the Harwell Social Club. These evenings were greatly enjoyed by all those who went, although they had little success.

The **Royse Society** held three meetings in the summer term. Johnny Pierson read a paper on 'Something Political' and Timothy Niblett read one on 'Dreams'. The third meeting was an evening on the river punting which was enjoyed by all. Last term the society held two meetings, the third, a paper by Andrew Clift, was cancelled due to power cuts. At the first, Brian Waters read an excellent paper entitled 'Pernicious Anaemia in Amphioxus' reviewing many of the crises (energy, ecological and environmental) that are now facing the human species. A valuable discussion followed the paper. At the second meeting the society's members enacted Shakespeare's 'Macbeth'. This was great fun and everybody enjoyed themselves. The society wishes to thank the Headmaster and Mrs Anderson for providing two such enjoyable evenings.

Last summer term, the **Jazz Club** held only one meeting due to exam difficulties. The meeting featured Richard Joseph and Chris Stake, two OAs. This term the club again only held one meeting, featuring Poot; however the club also had three outings into Oxford to see Rory Gallagher, Yes and Strider. Next term plans for a concert by Nektar are at present halted due to difficulties over a hall for the event.

The **Scientific Society** held two meetings last summer term. At the first Mr Swales spoke on 'Genetics and Animal Breeding', showing how far this science has advanced since 1950. At the second, Mrs Ellison of Reading Museum spoke on some of the many scientific techniques used in modern archaeology. This term the society was fairly active holding three meetings during the term. At the first, R McGreevy, N Malein, P Marley and M Waterfall read their Ball Science Prize Essays on the Energy Crisis. This was a very interesting evening, the prize eventually going to P Marley after a very close decision. Dr John Guillebaud, a researcher in the Oxford United Hospitals and a man very deeply concerned and involved in many conservation and over-population societies, came to give a very enjoyable and well illustrated talk at the second meeting on 'The Environment Crisis and the future of Spaceship Earth'. This was a joint meeting with St Helen's

Scientific Society and was well attended. The third meeting of the term was a talk by Dr Robins, a researcher in Reading University's Chemistry department, on 'Plants as organic chemists—a review of some of the perfumes, dyestuffs and drugs found in plants'. Although the meeting was poorly attended, the talk was extremely interesting and there were some nice demonstrations of dyeing and samples of smells.

The **Inter School's Sixth Form Society** has expanded since last year and now includes Larkmead and Fitzharry's. Its membership is colossal. The first activity of last term was a trip, like last year's, to Richmond Ice Skating Rink. Four coaches were only just adequate for transporting the large number who went. The trip was a great success. The second event was a discotheque held in St Helen's new hall. This also was a great success with the whole hall being completely filled with dancers. The third meeting of the term, a film, had to be cancelled because of power difficulties.

Mr Cale took over the sponsorship of the **Cullen Society** after the departure of Antony le Fleming. During the term the society certainly fulfilled its aims to listen to the wide variations of aspects of music. At the first meeting Colin Todd read a paper on Mahler's 3rd Symphony. This was appreciated by all those present. The second meeting was a complete contrast to the first with Andrew Clift giving an interesting paper introducing the skill of Robert Fripp, Peter Sinfield and the rest of the excellent musicianship of King Crimson. The group's variations and musical ability were demonstrated fully to the society's members. Next term there are plans for an outside visit, perhaps to Ronnie Scotts or to the Royal Festival Hall.

At the first of three **Literary Society** meetings, Dr Wilders of Worcester College came to talk on the background to 'A Winter's Tale'. This broadened into a discussion on the nature of Shakespearian tragedy and comedy. At the second meeting Jon Stallworthy gave a most interesting introduction to his experiences as a poet, giving real and practical insight into the humanity of poets. Robn Wait presented an informative and useful introduction to the symbolism used by William Blake.

The **Change Ringing Society** is running with the help of a similar society at John Mason. The society catered for Founder's day, the School Carol Service, the town's nativity activity and the end of term services of both schools. The **Philatelic Society** has maintained a high membership and continues with its regular meetings and approval swapping. The **Wargaming Society** has been fairly active even though it lacks a room for permanent use. Regular weekly meetings were held through most of last term. The **Aeronautical Society** has done little in this term but plans for next term are already under way. The **Photographic Society** is also preparing itself for new activity with a cleanout of the dark room.

SPORTS REPORTS

Rugby Football

This has been a good season. The combined team result is as follows: played 75, won 45, drawn 1, lost 29; points for 1,277; points against 1,084.

The first three teams, the Juniors and the Minors have been the most successful teams in terms of wins against losses. However both the Colts and the Junior Colts have made their contributions to the club. The Colts have won 4 matches whereas last year as Junior Colts they failed to win any. The Junior Colts, too, have been an object lesson to all by turning out, trying hard and keeping their morale high even though their results were not too good. To be happy and zestful when on top is easy; to maintain morale when being beaten is very difficult.

The first and second formers have demonstrated that there is plenty of talent for future coaches to work on and we are now in a position to conceive and implement a common coaching policy. If we are successful in this scheme, the overall standard of play in the club should improve greatly.

First Fifteen

The Fifteen has had a rather mixed season. In terms of wins against losses it has been successful but in terms of the manner in which it has won it has been less successful, particularly at home.

The first problem was one of creating a belief that winning was possible and to break the apparently accepted habit of the School team allowing itself to be robbed of victories which should rightly have been theirs. As the season progressed so the realization grew that luck is created, and success is dependent upon your own efforts.

Once this psychological barrier was broken we settled down to a constructive phase, trying to read the game, trying our ploys, trying to dictate the play. Against Solihull, we demonstrated that we had a powerful pack but we also showed that we lacked a certain tactical sense. Two or three breaks on the blind side could have secured the match for us. Radley provided the stiffest opposition of the term. Their forwards were strong and we saw little of the ball. A penalty at a crucial time could have swung the match for us but we failed to kick it and a loss resulted. Warwick was a great victory despite the absence of one or two of their stars. We played with authority and maturity and were worthy winners.

With a good pack and attacking backs we have had the ingredients of success. Worthy of a mention are the five who have been awarded Full Colours: Patrick Cook, Nick Francis, Anthony Mushens, John Griffin and Ken Taylor. In every match they have done their job solidly and well and it has been on this firm foundation that success has been forged.

Next year could be as good if the lessons of this term are remembered and we can find some hard front row forwards.

Those who played for the Fifteen were: RJ Price, CDG Driver; S Walker, MG Wartke, A Murdock, ND Francis, PS Ashby; PR Forsythe, JP Seaver; IL Manning; ND Jefferson, AR Mushens, RA Balkwill, JD Griffin, RA Woods, AJ Thresher, KP Taylor, MWJ Carr, JN Oakley and PD Cook (Capt).

Results:

Dean Close School; Sat 29 Sept (h); Won 30—4

Lord Williams's School, Thame; Wed 3 Oct (a); Lost 14—26

Solihull, Sat 13 Oct (h); Lost 9—11

Magdalen College School; Sat 20 Oct (h); Won 17—0

Oxford School; Wed 31 Oct (h); Won 17—3

Radley; Sat 3 Nov (h); Lost 9—16
Pangbourne; Wed 7 Nov (a); Won 24—13
RGS High Wycombe; Sat 10 Nov (h); Won 11—0
Reading; Sat 17 Nov (h); Won 18—3
Bloxham; Wed 28 Nov (h); Won 18—9
Warwick; Wed 5 Dec (a); Won 26—11
Old Abingdonians; Wed 12 Dec (h); Drew 6—6

During the Christmas vacation, the School played the traditional game against Abingdon RFC on Boxing Day morning. This time we proved too strong for the Club side and won fairly easily by 21 points to 0.

Final record for the season: Played 12; Won 8, Drawn 1, Lost 3; Points for 210, Points against 102. DGC

Second Fifteen

It is good to see the toils of honest endeavour rewarded by success, and considerable success was achieved during the season. Their excellent record was based on the solid virtues of teamwork and discipline, especially in the pack where the forwards soon realised their individual limitations and concentrated on working as a unit. As a result they gained an ascendancy over many packs who were their physical superiors, and were only beaten by a very well-drilled Radley eight. The backs possessed great pace and penetration and in the latter half of the season combined well to inflict heavy defeats on good sides. Boon was the leading try scorer with 14, closely followed by Walker and Courtenay with 12 apiece, and McPhail did well to score 105 points, mainly with his accurate kicking. Forsythe led the side with great dedication and received his half-colours for his contribution.

An indication of the strength of the side is the defeat of four school First Fifteens, although the best rugby was probably played against RGS High Wycombe, despite losing Walker with a broken nose after he had scored five tries. The Midland double was achieved with hard fought victories over Warwick and Solihull, and the Radley match was in contention until the final whistle. To win is not everything, however, and the open, attacking approach the team adopted has undoubtedly helped foster an exemplary team spirit which has enhanced a memorable season.

The team was mainly selected from the following: CGD Driver; PD Boon, AD Courtenay, AN Plant, S Walker, JRA Allen; PR Forsythe, AW McPhail; PJG Stephens, SK Fabes, CM Jones, IB Cowan, SG Boatright, JP Jordan, JN Oakley, NJ Tresidder, AJ Thresher, JP Seaver, SJH Cromie. Also played: NA Litchfield; MW Stimpson; CH Kellett.

Results:

Dean Close School; Sat 29 Sept (a); Won 52—0
Lord Williams's School, Thame; Wed 3 Oct (h); Won 50—18
Shiplake College 1st XV; Wed 10 Oct (h); Won 27—8
Solihull School; Sat 13 Oct (h); Won 17—9
Gosford Hill School 1st XV; Wed 17 Oct (a); Won 12—9
Magdalen College School; Sat 20 Oct (a); Won 20—0
Oxford School; Wed 31 Oct (h); Won 33—0
Radley College; Sat 3 Nov (h); Lost 9—15
Pangbourne College; Wed 7 Nov (h); Won 39—6
RGS, High Wycombe; Sat 10 Nov (h); Won 46—10

Cokethorpe School 1st XV; Wed 14 Nov (a); Won 39—11
 Reading School; Sat 17 Nov (a); Won 31—6
 Warwick School; Wed 5 Dec (h); Won 12—9
 Sporting Club of South London; Sat 8 Dec (h); Won 28—4
 John Mason School 1st XV; Wed 12 Dec (a); Won 12—9
 Played 15; Won 14, Lost 1; Points For 427, Against 114.

JRF

Third Fifteen

A very successful season, perhaps the best at this level for a very long time. As a result, we all enjoyed our matches and improved as the season progressed. For the first time ever, the side possessed backs of real talent. Stimpson, in the centre, was often the man of the match, although Shephard at scrum-half and Betts at fly-half were a useful combination and Freeman, Halliday and, until injury, Johnson were strong, hard runners. The pack, if at times a little slow around the field, played well in the tight and provided enough ball. Occasionally, too, as in the match against MCS, the back row, where Woods and Waterfall were good, came into its own. The team was well captained by Litchfield who, along with several others, would in an average season have been 2nd Fifteen players.

The following played in the side: JG Black; GN Green, MR Freeman, NR Halliday, MW Stimpson, SP Johnson, RG Geere; PA Betts, NJ Shephard; NA Litchfield (Capt), PF Thompson, IK Weatherall, PM Watson, GAN Pott,, GF Woods, MR Waterfall and SJ Pallett.

Also played: AP Arm, AD Courtenay, SJH Cromie, M Crofton-Briggs, SG Boatright, PM Evans, JM Evans, JP Jordan, GR Terry, NJ Tresidder, MR Twine.

Results:

Marlborough College; Sat 29 Sept (a); Lost 8—24
 Lord Williams's School; Wed 3 Oct (a); Won 16—10
 Bearwood College; Wed 10 Oct (h); Won 18—8
 Solihull School; Sat 13 Oct (a); Won 12—0
 Magdalen College School; Sat 20 Oct (h); Won 58—0
 Pangbourne College; Wed 7 Nov (a); Won 19—3
 Reading School; Sat 17 Nov (h); Won 11—8
 Radley College; Wed 21 Nov (h); Lost 4—27
 Bloxham School; Wed 28 Nov (a); Cancelled
 Newbury School; Sat 1 Dec (h); Cancelled
 Warwick School; Wed 5 Dec (a); Lost 0—10

Fourth Fifteen

Those who did not play in the 3rd Fifteen took part in three fixtures at 4th Fifteen level against Shiplake College (Lost 15—20), Radley College (Lost 0—68) and Warwick School (Lost 0—33). Captained by Pallett and, for the Warwick game, by Terry, the games were enjoyed although a little too hard. Next season we hope to arrange a fuller fixture list for this side.

Those playing were: CF Vernon, CP Hey, GN Green, RG Geere, PM Evans, JM Evans, NJ Dawson, RW Holder, ME Weston, CL Applegate, M Crofton-Briggs, GR Terry, SJ Lawson, AJ Capel, GK Jones, DJ Mushens, S. Pallett, A Arm, RW Taylor, CJ Bartlett, IS Thackwray, S de Lusignan.

DOW/NKH

Colts Fifteen

This was a season of slow starts and silly mistakes, of real determination undermined by sloppy tactical appreciation. At times the main strategy seemed to be to offer tempting invitations to the opposition to score and then to press back furiously when it was all too late. Yet, as the side acquired confidence and belief in itself and improved its skills and fitness, the defensive weaknesses were tightened and some good performances given. Winning, more through grit than skill, against Dean Close went to the head, and the side proceeded to beat Bearwood College in a close, exciting contest, 23—20, before slumping to a shrewd, fine Solihull team, 0—54. Heavy defeats were inevitable for a side so used to defence as a first resort, and even at the end of the season Warwick, having been handed an early try on a plate, were allowed to romp away in grand style.

Credit must go to the pack. Only in the final game did they yield in the set scrums, although usually outweighed. The speedy hooking of Hazeldine and the timing of the squeeze-shove by the whole pack had some accomplished, professional looking opponents floundering in retreat. Despres was prominent in the loose and set a fine example, Lowes and, in the line-out, Lowe were good and the back row performed with zest.

Half-backs Scibilia and Lanham, often poor in practice, functioned with increasing smoothness in matches. Scibilia needs to grasp his chances and Lanham to concentrate all the time. Centres Kay and Hurry gave the team intellectual edge, Kay knifing through with great effect in the Pangbourne match. The wings had to withstand much pummelling by some enormous opponents but all did well. At full-back, the Captain, Hallum, always fielded well and ran hard 'though his defence was a bit unsure except in the Reading match when he made some devastating crash tackles. The Reading match was the Team's best. 12—0 down after ten minutes, they nonetheless pressed back hard and were 12—6 down at the end. Another five minutes would surely have earned a draw. The side owed much in this and every match to the tireless scheming of Allen at prop, who had mature tactical appreciation and controlled our forward play to great effect.

The side scraped to four wins out of a possible nine. All team members contributed a willing dedication to fitness and a healthy sense of fun. They deserved success by their toleration of criticism and desire to learn from it.

The following played: PD Hallum (Capt); CS Orchard, NP Kay, MJ Hurry, CWP Hobson, DA Thomas, SF Wakeford; DJ Lanham, R Scibilia, SPG Hammond; LGP Despres, NJ Hazeldine, AJE Allen, RW Taylor, CR Lowe, RG Lowes, CD Robinson, CJ Scott.

Results:

Dean Close School; Sat 29 Sept (h); Won 26—10
Bearwood College; Wed 10 Oct (h); Won 23—20
Solihull School; Sat 13 Oct (h); Lost 0—54
Magdalen College School; Sat 20 Oct (a); Lost 3—4
John Mason School; Wed 31 Oct (h); Won 13—12
Radley College; Sat 3 Nov (a); Lost 3—36
Pangbourne College; Wed 7 Nov (a); Won 26—0
Reading School; Sat 17 Nov (a); Lost 6—12
Warwick School; Wed 5 Dec (h); Lost 0—48

The matches against Bloxham School and Newbury School were cancelled. On Sat 13 October a Colts 'B' Fifteen was fielded against Solihull School (a) and was lost 10—18. The side was captained by SW Morden who was supported by JA Brett, RW Taylor, AD Bryne, JM Steele, JC Johnston, SP Hammond, BAL Peck, DC Eccles, S de Lusignan, CJ Bartlett, IS Thackway, M Holding, SE Crouch. JRG

Junior Colts Fifteen

In many ways this has been a disappointing season. Even before the first match, the team lost its most spirited forward and probable scrum leader, Cook, who broke his collar bone. In the early part of the term, too, the opposing teams were allowed to dominate play during the first half of the matches and only in the second half did we play with any real determination. Perhaps this may be attributed to the high proportion of away fixtures but, I think, the comment 'they are too gentlemanly', heard after the Radley match, is nearer the truth.

In general the forwards played efficiently but often without sufficient hardness. When he was not injured, Dewar played with great determination as did the wing-forwards, Freeman and Furley, who show good promise for the future. The captain, Rimmer, was an effective link as scrum half, setting a high standard of play, particularly in defence. Unfortunately the three-quarters did not become really effective until the end of the season. Eccles was a brave and rather overworked full-back.

The season finished with an encouraging game against Warwick when the team played well, being beaten by size rather than skill.

A 2nd Fifteen, captained by G Light, played several matches with good spirit, easily winning their first game against Solihull School.

The following represented the team: PJ Eccles, RJ Perks; DM Byfield, RD Watson, TD Oliffe, IS Cullen, DJ Driver; AM Young, DC Rimmer, RG Gilbert, TC Semmence; AH Cook, GA McCreery, JK Dewar, SF Williams, CP Sowden, RJ Humm, MR Hyman, AJ Furley, RM Turret, D Light, RN Freeman.

Results.

Lord Williams's School; Sat 22 Sept (h); Lost 16—18

Dean Close School; Sat 29 Sept (a); Lost 10—16

Bearwood College; Wed 10 Oct (a); Lost 12—58

Solihull School; Sat 13 Oct (a); Lost 0—62

John Mason School; Wed 17 Oct (a); Lost 6—24

Magdalen College School; Sat 20 Oct (a); Lost 0—30

Radley College; Sat 3 Nov (h); Lost 6—52

Pangbourne College; Wed 7 Nov (h); Won 12—10

RGS, High Wycombe; Sat 10 Nov (a); Lost 0—24

Reading School; Sat 17 Nov (a); Lost 30—36

Bloxham School; Sat 28 Nov (a); Cancelled

Newbury School; Sat 1 Dec (h); Cancelled

Warwick School; Wed 5 Dec (h); Lost 3—32

'B' Fifteen matches were played against Solihull School (Won 52—0), Radley College (Lost 6—18) and against Cokethorpe School 'A' (Lost 4—24). SCB

Junior Fifteen

The Juniors this year were expected to do well and they certainly lived up to this expectation, winning nine of their twelve matches and gaining a

total of 229 points for the loss of only 89. Our most impressive victories were against Marlborough, Solihull and Warwick, and the Radley match was a very close contest. It was unfortunate that we lost against Radley as we played the better rugby.

Mathew King did an excellent job in captaining the team from fly-half. His calmness and determination to run with the ball spear-headed some good attacking rugby and his fearless tackling encouraged his three-quarters to give the opposition little chance of moving forward. The forwards were always asked for maximum effort by Philip Spittles and he was certainly never let down. I cannot remember a single game where the forwards failed to dominate the opposition in every phase of the game.

The success of a junior rugby fifteen is determined not only by its capabilities and individual skills, but to a much greater extent by the team's spirit, determination, and enjoyment of the game. The team this season possessed all these three qualities.

It is not possible in this report to give a full account of everyone's contribution to the team, but every member of the team deserves special recognition for all their efforts in helping each other to gain such good results.

The final arrangement of the team was: C Holding; JD Robinson, BW Burles, NS Edwards, SJ Hobbs, MS King (Capt), ARA Johnson, JW Slingsby, GM Gnapp, PG Spittles (VCapt), RA Joy, KW Larsen, G Mitchell, MPG Swan, MO Andrews.

Also played: CJH Wort; PA Cowlett; RS Harries.

Results:

Thame School; Sat 22 Sept (a); Lost 16—30
Marlborough College; Sat 29 Sept (a); Won 6—4
Bearwood College; Wed 10 Oct (a); Won 52—3
Solihull School; Sat 13 Oct (h); Won 24—10
John Mason School; Wed 17 Oct (h); Won 26—0
Magdalen College School; Sat 20 Oct (h); Won 11—0
Radley College; Sat 3 Nov (h); Lost 6—11
Pangbourne College; Wed 7 Nov (h); Won 24—0
RGS, High Wycombe; Wed 10 Nov (a); Lost 4—6
Reading School; Sat 17 Nov (h); Won 18—14
Bloxham School; Wed 28 Nov (h); Won 14—0
Warwick School; Wed 5 Dec (a); Won 28—11

The Junior 'B' XV also had a good season winning two matches and losing two. Unfortunately three of their matches were played against junior 'A' XV's. Their best victory was against Radley 'B' XV, for it was at this level that Radley suffered their only defeat. The 'C' and 'D' XV's also played Radley. Both teams were beaten at home; however the 'D' XV won their return match at Radley.

JDED-H

Minors Fifteen

This, the team-building part of the season, has gone very well, and the promise shown last year is being fulfilled, as the record shows. Indeed the defeat at Pinewood was the only one inflicted on a Minors First Team in 1973, and it was a combination of very unfortunate circumstances that caused this 'maverick' result. It was unfortunate that two matches that we had hoped to win for a change, against St Hugh's and Audley House, were

cancelled because of unsuitable pitches.

An important factor in the team's success has been the fact that, unusually, we have had a ready-made pair of halves who are building up a real understanding. John Madgwick has developed marvellously, both as a player and a Captain, and the three-quarters are slick and inventive. The only fear for next term must lie in the forwards; have they the weight and speed needed to win the possession that the backs will undoubtedly turn into tries?

The team at present is: PH James; DAM Scott, GR Halsey, SD Cameron, PDJ Ashby; JS Madgwick, BJ Messer; MJ Dacre, NG Williams, TD Robson; RS Drew, MR Wise; AJF Robertson, G Rogers, WA Hoggarth.

Results:

Lord Williams's, Thame; Sat 22 Sept (h); Won 14—0
Pinewood School, Shrivenham; Sat 20 Oct (a); Lost 0—8
Prior's Court; Sat 10 Nov (a); Won 29—0
Dragon School 2nd XV; Sat 8 Dec (a); Won 42—0

The Second XV had two matches: on November 24, they lost to Millbrook House 3—26, and on December 8, they beat the Dragon School 4th XV 12—6. MW

In the Christmas holidays, Ian Bye (Form 2B) played scrum-half for the Oxford RFC Mini XV against Henley. The game, in which he did well enough to get reported on in the **Oxford Mail**, was a 'curtain raiser' to the County semi-final match.

House Rugby Report

The House knock out competition was a fiercely contested affair. In the first round Tesdale beat Blacknall and Bennett beat Reeves. In the final Tesdale were worthy winners by 16 points to 6. In all the matches it was encouraging to see thinking rugby being played, and the ploys that had been used by the varying School teams being put into practise.

There was a Senior and Junior House League competition for those who were not regular members of School teams. The Senior competition did not work very well and there were no clear winners. However in the Junior league there were two teams from each house, and a very good competition took place. Reeves won the competition, Tesdale were 2nd, Bennett were 3rd, and Blacknall 4th. DGC

Crosscountry

This term featured a definite shift from the more conventional inter-school matches to the higher standard multi-team events. Thus in their 5 matches the first team recorded 50 wins and 10 defeats. Also in the Mike Sully races at Bristol there were over 1,200 entries in the 9 various age groups. For me the highlight was the third place, earning bronze medals, in the Wycombe relay where all six runners had to give their utmost in a desperately close race against top-class opposition. Not far behind, though, was the extraordinary win against Stowe and Bradfield when Vernon, Woolley, Turner and Isahak were all unavailable, and yet the team packed home five in the first six.

Apart from the school matches, several boys competed in Oxford City AC fixtures gaining valuable experience. For instance, DP Lynn and

JP Gotelee are now not far behind boys like Kirby and Wise of Bracknell AC, and RC Hingley and M Owen demonstrated their improvements by dominating their respective Inter-House races.

It is with sadness that we say goodbye to John Halliday, Brian Waters, Julian Turner and John Evans, whose departures signify the end of an era when the team had great depth, much ability and a tremendous competitive spirit. Luckily, good men still remain with Chris Vernon having just completed his ninth term as a first team runner, a marvellous achievement. Two of his runs this term deserve especial mention: firstly, when he ran against the Oxford University Freshmen and beat them all (later he competed as a guest in the Oxford University Trials and did well enough to represent their third team against Cambridge); and secondly, when he dropped to fourth place going up the hill in the Wycombe relay with 500 yards to go but summoned up one last effort to recapture third place.

Three others who have formed the nucleus of the team also remain: David Lynn, John Gotelee and Richard Hingley. All have trained really hard this term, and their own healthy personal rivalry has often meant their having a race between themselves in matches with the opposition long since forgotten far behind.

The following competed for the first team: JD Halliday, BC Waters, RC Hingley (5 times); CF Vernon, DP Lynn, JP Gotelee (4); JDC Turner, SA Young, MD Isahak (2); JM Evans, SK Fabes, GW Woolley, PC Moore, SR Martin (1). The captain was CF Vernon, and the secretary JD Halliday.

Results:

Sat 6 Oct	Millfield Road Relay — A team 8th, B team 14th (34 teams)
Wed 24 Oct	v Oxford University Freshmen, Westminster College, St Edward's (at Oxford) 2nd (4 teams)
Sat 3 Nov	v Stowe, Bradfield (at Stowe) 1st (A32, S 65, B 78)
Sat 10 Nov	RGS High Wycombe Relay (away) 3rd (22 teams)
Wed 28 Nov	v RGS High Wycombe (home) 1st (A 25, W 59)

Other matches

More boys have opted for crosscountry this term and in fact 34 have run for the school at some level or other. I extend my thanks to Geoffrey Graham for help with the training, to Roger Baker for officiating at matches, and to Derek Skinner for working out results.

The following ran in the other matches: MNK Saunders (6 times); AG Morfey (5); RC Hingley, MD Isahak, M Owen (4); SA Young, RP Martin, ADA Walker (3); DP Lynn, PC Moore, JC Barnes, PNC Gale, GA Light (2); JP Gotelee, SK Fabes, GW Woolley, AH Courtenay, JP Barton, PA Noble, AP Marsden, NR Lemoine, CP McKenzie, MR Perry, T Walker, MR Green, RM Tourret, RJ Regan, SD Cameron (1).

Results:

B team:

Wed 24 Oct	Wilts & Border League (at RAF Abingdon)	6 boys ran. No team result
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U/16 Colts:

Wed 10 Oct	v Oxford School (home)	Lost 31—48
Sat 17 Nov	v Marlborough, Millfield (at Marlborough)	2nd (Mi 66, A 95, Ma B 125)

U/15 Colts

Thur 1 Nov v Winchester College, Westminster School (at Winchester)
2nd (3 teams)

Joint team

Sun 11 Nov Mike Sully Races (at Bristol)

U/18 12th (12 teams); U/16 No team; U/14 14th (21 teams)

Sat 8 Dec Berks AAA Inter-Club Champs (at Maidenhead)

U/18 5th (6 teams); U/16 6th (10 teams); U/14 4th (11 teams)

Inter-House Crosscountry

In the First Form race, J Littlewood won an exciting sprint to the finish from KS Schaltz, and equally close were P Lovering and T Jefferson. M Owen was a clear winner of the Junior race from AG Morfey. These two have trained really hard and had many keen struggles throughout the term. Outstanding in the Intermediate race was RC Hingley who won by the unprecedented margin of 2 minutes and cut 20 seconds from Gotelee's record of last year. The previous Saturday he was fifth in Berkshire and could well make the county team next term. That CF Vernon should do a slower time in winning the Senior race is explained by the fact that the wind whipped up later on and the ground was churned up by the previous races.

Teams:	Bennett	Blacknall	Reeves	Tesdale
1st Form	435 (4)	905 (1)	874 (2)	633 (3)
2nd/3rd Forms	1864 (3)	2295 (2)	1693 (4)	2710 (1)
4th/5th Forms	1667 (1)	1316 (2)	1209 (3)	908 (4)
6th/VIth Forms	333 (1)	112 (4)	254 (2)	165 (3)
	<hr/> 4299 (3)	<hr/> 4628 (1)	<hr/> 4030 (4)	<hr/> 4416 (2)

Positions: The first ten in each race were:

1st Form: 1 J Littlewood (7:27), 2 KS Schmalz, 3 P Lovering, 4 T Jefferson, 5 WK Mellor, 6 PN Wilson, 7 MB Willett, 8 JA Batchelor, 9 TBM Screech, 10 RF Benjamin. (73 finished)

2nd/3rd Forms: 1 M Owen (9:09), 2 AG Morfey, 3 G Mitchell, 4 PNC Gale, 5 WA Hoggarth, 6 SJ Hobbs, 7 SD Cameron, 8 RP Martin, 9 NS Edwards, 10 JR Benjamin. (151 finished)

4th/5th Forms: 1 RC Hingley (17:03 Record), 2 MD Isahak, 3 AP Marsden, 4 IS Cullen, 5 PA Fenton, 6 MNK Saunders, 7 RW Taylor, 8 ADA Walker, 9 NR Lemoine, 10 DC Rimmer. (127 finished)

6th/VIth Forms: 1 CF Vernon (17:04), 2 DP Lynn, 3 BC Waters, 4 RG Geere, 5 CS Orchard, 6 JC Barnes, 7 JP Barton, 8 SR Martin, 9 DC Eccles, 10 AJ Capel. (22 finished) NAFF

Badminton

The term had hardly started before the Club was faced by a crisis over playing facilities. The Old Gaol courts in Abingdon were no longer available owing to the proposed development of the Old Gaol into a Sports Centre. However the Club survived by playing on the courts at John Mason School on Fridays and at Larkmead School on Saturdays. Both have four courts. Next term it is also hoped to use the courts in St Helen's School Sports Hall on Thursday afternoons.



"Swallows and Amazons"

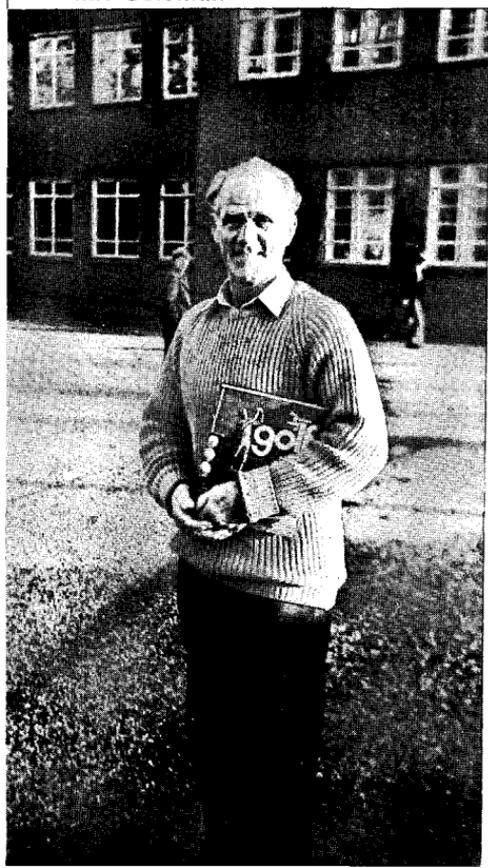


Simultaneous Chess by G. D. Pearce (O.A.)



The building site of the new dining Hall

Mr. Coleman



Sixth form skating



The 1st VI saw only one change from last season's team. Keith Halsey has come in for Wojciechowski who left last summer. The team soon settled down with Luto and Ghorpade playing the singles matches and Samsworth and Morris playing in their established pairing, Baumann's experience and Halsey's accurate serving made a good third pair. So far the team is unbeaten and obviously has a good chance of reaching the Berkshire Schools' League Unlimited Finals again. Baumann has now left and it is going to be difficult to fill the gap. The team must avoid the over confidence which only naturally develops after an eighteen month run without defeat.

For the first time a 2nd VI (Abingdon 'B') was entered in the Berkshire School League. Although they had only one victory during the term—a fairly easy win over Eton 1st VI—this is no discredit since the team has without exception met 1st Team opposition. However, despite setbacks, they were never discouraged and enthusiasm never lagged. It was always difficult to separate the abilities in this keen team squad.

The U/16 team was very inexperienced and much rested on Stephen Rowley's shoulders. Results were on the whole quite good against more experienced opposition.

Throughout the Club, there is no lack of keenness for playing but a marked lack of enthusiasm for training. Some members of the 1st VI have trained spasmodically on their own and a few training sessions have been arranged. However, if the School's position in the County League is to be maintained fitness must be high on the list of priorities.

Adrian Luto and John Samsworth have both played for the Berkshire U/18 team and the former for Berkshire. Stephen Rowley was selected for the Berkshire Schools' Trials. Chris Morris has been an efficient Secretary. Mr Ayling has joined the Club whilst Mr Taylor's enthusiasm threatens to outlive that of all the rest of us together. Our thanks go to both masters, especially since we now play so many away matches and Land-rover trips are undoubtedly nerve racking.

Full Colours have been awarded to CDN Morris, KD Ghorpade and J Samsworth and Half Colours to KD Halsey.

The teams were: 1st VI—A Luto (Capt), K Ghorpade, J Samsworth, C Morris, AW Baumann and K Halsey. 2nd VI—NP Gale, AP Reimer, PJ Kafka (Capt), SR Greenwood, DS Mason, DN Polkinhorne, RL McGreevy, C Baumann, S Rowley and JM Taylor. U/16 VI—S Rowley (Capt), J Hester, NJ Tattersfield, RW Kermode, JT Whittington, DA Blackburn, AJ Fauch and JW Gardner. APSL

Orienteering

For those who like maps, the open air and a challenge, orienteering is infectious, and about two dozen boys and as many parents, brothers and sisters have taken part in a number of events this term.

Our best results came from the younger members. RJ Thompson (M12) had two wins (including the November Classic); WG Baker (M13) had one. In the British Championships they came respectively 7th and 15th in their classes. DA White (M13) had two 'gold' runs towards the end of term and R Geere improved considerably on the more testing M17 courses.

RHB

REPORTS

Chess

This season started well, with a convincing victory over High Wycombe, and first places for our team in all three sections of the County Jamboree. Since then, though, our record has been a little disappointing. There have been two factors that have contributed to this: we have had to default occasionally, through players not turning up, and some team-members have hardly ever attended Chess-Club; thus the Juniors have not been encouraged enough by their betters, and the feeble performance of the Seniors against Carmel was directly due to lack of practice.

The Junior 'A' team, although not quite as convincing as expected, look like winning their Section of the League (at present, somewhat surprisingly, the 'B' team are second!). But future prospects are not bright, judging by the wretched record of our Second-form team in the new Under-thirteen section; they will be 'pushed' to beat the First-formers when they clash next term!

League competitions were won by Philip Marley (Senior), Martin Spoor and John Stephen (Junior), and Simon Moore (Second Form); Andrew Smith won a First-form Lightning Tournament.

Finally, the end of an era has come, with the departure of Timothy Niblett, the last member of our Zone-winning Sunday Times team; he has served the Club successfully for many years, and we wish him well.

Results:

'Sunday Times' matches:

The Senior Team had a walk-over in the first round.

beat Reading 'B' 5—1

beat Bearwood College 5—1

The Junior Team drew with St Joseph's, Swindon 3—3

(Lost on Board-count)

Berkshire League:

Senior 'A' Team

lost to Carmel College 2—3

beat John Mason HS 4½—½

beat King Alfred's, 4½—½

Wantage 4½—½

beat Kennett School, 5—0

Thatcham 5—0

Junior 'A' Team

beat Carmel College 4—1

beat John Mason HS 3—2

beat King Alfred's, 4½—½

Wantage 4½—½

beat Kennett School, 5—0

Thatcham 5—0

beat Larkmead School 4½—½

Minors 'A' Team

lost to John Mason HS 2—3

lost to John Rankin PS 2—3

lost to King Alfred's, 2—3

Wantage 2—3

Senior 'B' Team

drew with Carmel

drew with King Alfred's,

Wantage 2½—2½

beat Kennett School,

Thatcham 4—1

lost to St Barts, Newbury 1—4

Junior 'B' Team

beat Carmel College 4—1

lost to King Alfred's

Wantage 2—3

beat Kennett School,

Thatcham 5—0

beat St Barts, Newbury 3—2

beat Wallingford GS 3—2

Minors 'B' Team

lost to Carmel Prep School 2—3

beat King Alfred's,

Wantage 3½—1½

College 2½—2½

Other Matches:

An all-age team beat High Wycombe RGS 11—7

An Under-14 team lost to Bearwood College 3½—4½

An Under-14 team beat Henry Box School, Witney 6—0

Fifteen members of the Club, a record, entered for the Berkshire Chess Congress during the Christmas Holidays. Our most successful entrant was Kevin Fenelon, who as a new boy had been, clearly, misplaced in our Under-15 Second Team; he came a most creditable second in that section, and was undefeated. Five others finished 11th equal or above—a satisfactory display of depth. In other sections we performed disappointingly; the best performances came from Philip Marley, 4th in the open, and Andrew Smith, awarded a consolation prize in the Under-11 section. MW

Grundy Library

At last this term the new author catalogue has been completed, the librarians have given a great deal of time to its preparation, and we hope it will be useful.

During the Christmas holiday several librarians came in for three days to make a full book check: this will enable us this term to see how many books have been lost in the last two years and to replace the more essential ones.

New spotlights have been installed to replace the old table lights—a great improvement which will make evenings of work in the library much more agreeable.

We are very grateful for gifts to the library from Mr Parsons, Mr Crome and Christopher Hey. KGH

Combined Cadet Force

No-one could accuse the Michaelmas Term of being an ordinary one—and not only because of the Crisis.

Fl/Lt Fox has transformed the Stores, a number of cadets saw a very fine Fire-power demonstration at Bovington on Field Day, while another group had a very interesting day at Sandhurst. We had a very good demonstration of unarmed combat by a team from Bicester, as a result of which some 80 cadets decided they would like to have a go at it, and about 20 have done so—we hope to arrange further classes this term—some ten cadets went gliding at Bicester on a Saturday afternoon, and a further group failed to get off the ground because of bad weather—again we hope to arrange more trips of this kind.

But the Crisis—and the IRA—have taken their toll. For the first time for many years there was no armed guard at the Cenotaph on Remembrance Sunday—the Military Authorities would not take the risk. And petrol shortage has caused the suspension—temporary we hope—of Air Experience Flying.

Despite this, we are optimistically pushing on with arrangements for Arduous Training, and camps and courses. At the time of writing (mid-January) there are a few vacancies for the RAF camp at Easter, but the Arduous Training list is full, and the response to projected canoe courses, and camps in Malta, has been well beyond expectations. We hope no cancellations are forced on us.

LCJG

Scouts - 34th Abingdon Group

Activities have been rather limited since the departure of Geoffrey Maunder during the first half of the summer term, and it now appears as though the Group will have to close down until some new scout leaders are forthcoming. Because of this uncertainty over leadership, no new members are being admitted at present.

At the beginning of the Michaelmas term most of the troop camped at Youlbury over the Field Day weekend; and also attempted a cycle exercise—with varying degrees of success. A cooking evening towards the end of term was well attended; but the other meetings were not so popular—in particular there has been a noticeable lack of enthusiasm (apart from a few patrol leaders) to tidy up after the weekend camp. As an experiment we have been meeting on Wednesday afternoons: but this does not seem to have been successful.

The patrol leaders for this term have been Graham Nayler, David Poole, Martin Spoor, Martin Hingley and John Hester.

DRS

Hello-Goodbye

Left December 1973

VIH: AW Baumann, JD Halliday, CP Hey, CH Kellett, TC Parker.

VIB: JM Evans, JDC Turner.

VIE: CE O'Neill, HC Russell, WE Thompson.

VIT: A Clift, CW Lawson, DJ Sarwar, PR Wait.

VIC: TB Niblett, FA Rae, CEV Stockwell, BC Waters, SEG Young.

5G: S Rowley.

5E: D Lucas.

Came January 1974

6P: R Gunaratnam.

3C: GR Colquhoun, DA Greig, IC Oakden, E Parker-Jervis, NMJ Swan.

LISTS

The Governing Body, January 1974

Chairman: Sir George Sinclair, CMG, OBE, MP

Vice-Chairman: AB Taylor Esq, MA, DPhil

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Clerk to the Governors and Bursar: Wing Commander R Harrison.

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School Prefects

Head of School: S Walker

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MWJ Carr	IL Manning
PD Cook	PD Marley
CDG Driver	SAJ Pallett
ND Francis	JP Seaver
PR Forsyth	JMG Taylor
SR Greenwood	PM Watson
N Jefferson	MR Crofton-Briggs
CM Jones	

House Prefects

Crescent House: JD Griffin, CJ Todd, RA Woods

Larkhill: I Cowan

Lacies Court: CJ Todd

Waste Court: TG Roberts

School House: SG Boatright, SK Fabes, RJ Frost, KS Ghorpade, HC Gibaud, MR Freeman, RL McGreevy, JN Oakley, DN Polkinhorne, GR Terry, M Waterfall, SJH Cromie, RW Kenyon, WJ Little.

Dayboys: S Bailey, A Courtenay, K Cross, P de Lusignan, N Gale, I Gillis, J Hamlin, SV Harries, J Jordan, N Litchfield, N McGuire, N Malein, S Marsden, CN Morris, BJ Polley, AP Reimer, DJ Scott, KPM Taylor, IK Weatherall, G Woollen, GF Woods, G Woolley, CF Vernon, PF Thompson, PA Kafka.

Games Officers

Captain of Hockey: ND Francis

Secretary of Hockey: JP Seaver

Captain of Crosscountry: CF Vernon

Secretary of Crosscountry: SK Fabes

Secretary of GGC: AW McPhail

Abingdonian

Editorial Board: PM Watson, PD Marley, DO Willis

OA Editor: AA Hillary

Treasurer: DO Willis

Photographs: P Noble

O. A. Notice

Owing to **The Abingdonian** moving to a new printer and difficulties connected with the present crisis, there are no **OA Notes** in this issue. We apologise for this and assure you that normal practice will be resumed in the Summer magazine.

In the meantime, we remind you of the following events for your diary:
March 22 1974

London OA Dinner in the Public Schools Club

June 22 1974

AGM and Abingdon Dinner in the Council Chamber, Abingdon

July 13 1974

Founders Day: Reception at 6.00pm for OAs and their ladies in Cobban House

Membership of the East India, Sports and Public Schools Club

The Headmaster holds a number of application forms for membership. If any OA would like to join please apply for details to the Secretary, 16 St James Square, SW1Y 4LH. Old Boys under 25 may join on the Headmaster's proposal and without payment of entrance fee. These should write to the Headmaster.

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