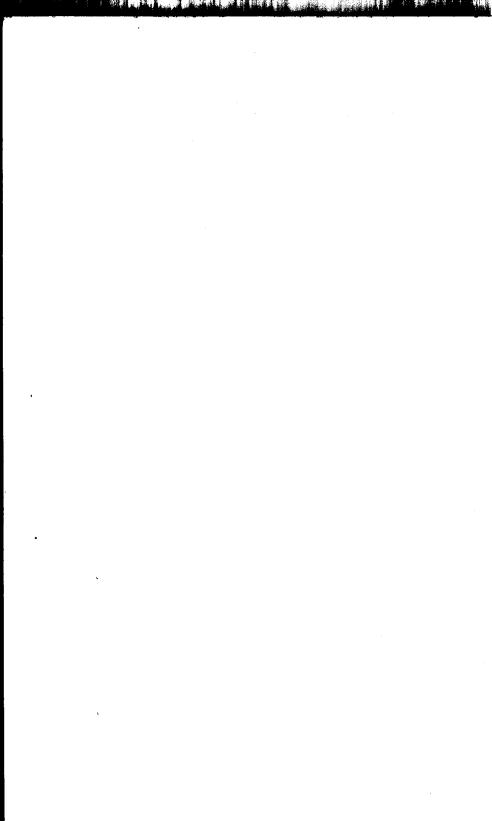
ABINGDONIAN

June 1975



A B I N G D O N I A N

Volume sixteen, number seven

June 1975

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Editorial

The New Extremism

J. B. Priestley once said that the English avoided the absurdities perpetrated by the people of the Continent, because they were less concerned with being rational than with being reasonable. The quality of reasonableness is not so evident in England today. The new extremism, which is evident in many areas of our national life has not failed to affect the politics of education. In particular the decision to do away with schools which are good and which people want for their children, just because they do not fit the particular pattern which for the moment is in fashion, does not commend itself to moderate and reasonable people. It cannot be to anyone's advantage that next term's new boys will be the last to enter Abingdon School under the Direct Grant regulations.

The irony of the present position is striking. Grammar schools of all kinds, and especially Direct Grant schools like Abingdon, have never been more popular. Where five years ago we had two boys trying for every place, we now have five. Even termly increases in fees have not deterred the hundreds of potential parents who have put sons down for the school in recent months. From talks with other Headmasters, I know that this pattern is the same wherever schools like ours exist. There are several reasons for our present popularity, but one towers over all the others. Again and again new parents, coming to enter their sons, tell me that they are doing so because the comprehensive alternative where they happen to live is not good enough. In other words, the first effect of the brave new world in state education is that increasing numbers of people are looking for good schools elsewhere.

I do not believe that these people are wrong, for I would always trust parents rather than politicians on any matter concerning children's education. If the country were asked by referendum to approve the educational changes of the last

decade, could there conceivably be other than a massive vote of no confidence. Parents know, if politicians do not, that good schools are precious, and that we need more of them, not less.

Happily Abingdon, unlike the Direct Grant Schools in other areas, will be able to ride out the storm with remarkably little change in its character. Mr. Prentice has already made it clear that local authorities will still be able to take up Free Places in schools such as ours, and there is every reason to expect that Oxfordshire, which believes in giving parents as much freedom of choice as possible, will continue to do so each year. So the door will still be open for the clever boy from a poor home. It has been the particular merit of the English educational system that it offered, in its Grammar schools, a top academic education to such boys and girls. As a nation we shall live to regret the destruction of these schools by successive governments. It is some small consolation that Abingdon, thanks to the wisdom of the Councillors of Oxfordshire, may still be able to offer the opportunities of a first-rate education to able boys, irrespective of their parents' means.

The New Dining Hall

The Dining Hall and new kitchens opened at the end of October. The old kitchen had seen 104 year's service and was totally inadequate for a school of more than 600 boys. The Dining Room was more recent. It served originally as a covered playground until it was glazed in when the number of boarders necessitated a move from the School's original refectory. Most boys probably do not know that even in Mr. Grundy's day that boarders ate in what is now the School House Games Room, and that the Headmaster himself served out every portion—so that he could be certain that every boy was properly fed, or, as some said, to make sure that no boy ate too much.

The new Dining Hall seats 200 people in comfort and allows us to feed up to 600 people in an hour on a cafeteria system. The popularity of the new system, and of the choice of dishes at most meals, seems proved by the big increase in the number of those opting to have lunch at school. The additional space has also been welcome. It has been used as an exam room for the Entrance Exam, as a dance hall for the Prefects' Dance, and as a pleasant place for Parents' Evenings and for the occasional Guest Night or Old Boys' Dinner. The old Dining Room is now a private study centre during the day, and the School House prep room in the evenings. The old back kitchen area houses the School Uniform Shop, the 'Vox' duplicating room, the cleaners' rest room, the Bursar's store and a small Careers Room. The old kitchen itself has been brightened up as far as possible and provides a display area for work done in art and for careers material.

The total cost was in excess of £90,000, all raised or still to be raised from the Appeal. The architect was Jon Barnsley, of Barnsley, Hewitt and Mallinson, and the builders Messrs. Drew of Abingdon.

Postscript

For my wife and myself this term sees the end of five memorable and happy years at Abingdon. We leave with very mixed feelings of which the strongest is still sadness at leaving so many friends among governors, staff and parents and so many interesting young men in the school. It is a tremendous satisfaction that the governors found Michael Parker among their 120 candidates and that he was the man they appointed. I had not known him beforehand, but having now had the opportunity of working with him I know the school will be in extremely capable hands. In saying goodbye I need hardly add, 'May Abingdon flourish', for it surely will.

WEKA

Michael St. John Parker

The Governors of Abingdon School have appointed Mr M StJ Parker, MA, as Headmaster, to succeed Mr WEK Anderson who will be leaving the School to take up his new position as Headmaster of Shrewsbury. Mr Parker will assume

his post in September 1975.

Mr Parker is 33 years old—the same age as Mr Anderson when he was appointed—and is married with four children—'two of each sort' he told us. He is no stranger to the Direct Grant system, having been educated at Stamford School, a school very like Abingdon, where he says 'I mixed classics with modern subjects in a way that is less common now' but 'history has always been my main love'. He went on to read history at King's College, Cambridge. After university, he taught at Sevenoaks School—a progressive independent ex-grammar school, at King's School, Canterbury—a public school where he became involved in both boarding and games sides of school life, and, for the last few years, he has run the history department at Winchester. He is joint author of The British Revolution: social and economic history 1750–1970 and author of a number of articles and pamphlets.

In retrospect of his school days, Mr Parker told Abingdonian 'I should say I was a keen but ineffectual cricketer, a completely mediocre rugger player, probably a bit of a bookworm'. But, Mr Parker is by no means a mere theorist; he enjoys a variety of practical hobbies and pursuits, and has been deeply involved in work for environmental pressure groups; 'relaxation', however, tends

to mean music, architecture, or the countryside.

Two principles dominate the way Mr Parker is approaching his new job—the importance of quality in the School and the value of local roots, the School as part of the larger community. He told us 'I shall regret the ending of the Direct Grant system, from which I myself benefited, and which has acted as a valuable bridge between the private and maintained sectors; but if there is to be no reprieve, then I am convinced that the value that Abingdon stands for, and the principle of preserving choice for parents, will be served by independence. As an independent school, Abingdon, situated where it is, must have exceptionally good prospects—saving, of course, the possibility of economic or political catastrophe which could overwhelm us all'.

With difficult times ahead, especially in education, the task of Headmaster will not be an easy one. With experience of independent and direct grant schools, Mr Parker is admirably suited for the task and we wish him the very best of luck with it. And we hope that he and his wife, Annette, and his family will thoroughly

enjoy their time at Abingdon.

The Common Room

The more usual time for saying good-bye to departing members of staff is, of course, the end of the Summer Term. But this year, the end of both the Michael-

mas and the Lent terms have seen changes.

In December, we said farewell to Mr David Harmsworth, who has gone to be Head of Classics at Benenden School in Kent. The fact that his new post will mean that he will in future be teaching young ladies did not seem to worry Mr Harmsworth at all—in fact he was looking forward to it. He has inevitably already been missed in many ways. So too has his wife, Clare, whom many will remember as one of our more attractive music teachers and, incidentally, as our first, full-time female appointment. At the end of the Christmas Term, the Music Department also lost John Frith who has taken up a post in Northampton and to whom we are grateful for all that he did for school Brass.

In place of Mr Harmsworth, the School was lucky to secure Andrew Hobson, fresh from research at Oxford, while to succeed Mr Frith we welcomed, in January, Derek Jones who came from the Army and Sedbergh School. Mr Hobson has already impressed us not only in the classroom but as an all-round schoolmaster and it is a pity that we shall be losing him to Eton College after an all too brief stay. Mr Jones too has early proved his worth. His keenness in building up the Brass activities especially the Wind Band is paying dividends and he has become an officer in the CCF, a badly needed recruitment.

The Lent term was distinguished by the retirement in March of the School Doctor, John Fisher, after an association with the School over many years. We are grateful to Mr Cobban, who probably knew Dr John best of anyone at School,

for the words of appreciation which appear below.

Dr Fisher is succeeded by Dr JCC Kendall, who as one of the 'Fisher school' already knows us well. Lent term also saw the post of School Chaplain, vacant since the illness of Peter Osborn in early '74, filled at last by the appointment of Andrew Lane. The Revd AH Lane, who was trained at Lancaster University and Cuddesdon, is already curate at St Helen's Church and therefore well known to most of us. For the present, he is continuing with his parish work and assisting at School but from next September, he will be definitely taking over 'the cure of souls' at the School though he will still act at St Helen's. In welcoming Mr Lane, we must thank Mr Randolph for all that he has done for the Chapel during the interregnum.

To those who have left us and to those who have joined us since Christmas,

we extend all good wishes.

During the Lent term, Mr Varley enjoyed leave of absence to study at Harwell and his place on the Physics staff was temporarily filled by Mr Richard Carter who has since gone to Merchant Taylors, Northwood. We also had with us a number of student teachers, Mr Briton (Chemistry), Mr Cale (History), Mr Cummins (French) and Mr Healy (Divinity). To all these we say 'thank you' for help given and in particular to Trevor Cale from Culham College, who has been resident for some little while at the Lindens and has acted as a house tutor in Crescent House. And in addition, of course, has founded the Roysse Company of the King's Army.

'Dr John Fisher's connection with the School goes back as far as 1933, when he came to Abingdon as assistant to Dr Bradbrooke, whom he succeeded in 1938 as official "school doctor"—an appointment which he held for nearly forty

years, with the exception of his war service with the Navy.

'When I took over from Mr Grundy in 1947 I soon had the opportunity of taking his measure for he had to cope with the birth of my second daughter, Diana, three weeks after the beginning of my first term. This is not the place to speak of the mounting debt I have owed since then to him as doctor, to him and to Mrs Fisher as friends. Here I want to emphasize that in spite of all his other commitments (during my closing years we chaired our respective benches, which made for good liaison!) he served the School with a generous and devoted loyalty. Day and night he was ready to hop over his garden wall at the drop of a hat or the ring of a telephone. Generations of old boys have good cause to be grateful for his ministrations.

'The fearsome array of letters after his name bear witness not only to his public service but also to his high technical qualifications. A good school doctor needs something more—human understanding and sympathy, discretion, common sense, complete involvement. By these—by any—standards John Fisher was a very good school doctor indeed. May he long remain young in body and in heart to enjoy the fresh air of Frilford untrammelled by responsibility!'

School Notes

Visits and Visitors

The School has had a full calendar of visits, especially from a very lively English Department as detailed under 'Drama'. Sixth-form biologists visited the Natural History Museum, an outing that resulted in one boy being left in London. Lower Sixth-form artists had the chance to view the vivid paintings of Turner in London while, nearer home, the Geography Department took some boys round the Hydraulics Research Station at Wallingford. Thirteen Sixth-form mathematicians attended a two day course in Oxford—hopefully, a valuable introduction to university work.

Visiting speakers have been distinguished in both terms. The Literary and Historians Societies have had Dr AL Rowse and Professor Scarisbrick as reported elsewhere. Dr Sinclair of Magdalen College gave us much food for thought when he spoke on 'Diet'. Sixth-form biologists heard Dr Phillipson speak on 'Ecology' and geographers Mr JRL Anderson's personal account of the discovery of America. Dr David Butler, Fellow of Nuffield College, gave an entertaining view of 'Elections' to the Sixth Form which included an interesting account of the birth and growth of the word 'psiphology'—the study of elections. And the Lower School, not to be outdone, took the seats of a jury in the infamous Loch Ness Monster case put forward by Mr Tim Dinsdale.

Miscellany

The Saturday evening boarders' entertainments have continued to bring outside speakers and films to the school. Both 'In the Heat of the Night' and 'Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid' have been shown.

A number of Sixth-formers attended a Historians Conference in Oxford where they heard Mr Clifton of Warwick University, speaking on 'Popery and No Popery in Seventeenth Century England'.

The English Department ran its third Winter School over the Christmas Holiday. Members of this school were joined by their counterparts from John Mason, St Helen's and The Bartholomew School, Eynsham, at this course, which consisted of lectures and discussions based around the works of Shakespeare. Mr Blocksidge, the organiser and chief coffee-maker, was able to bring many outside speakers to Abingdon.

Boys from the Fifth and Sixth forms entered the National Mathematics Contest. Several good scores were recorded and the following deserve an honourable mention: C. Skinner, C. Palarait, M. Whittingham and C. Barnes of the Sixth, and G. Nayler and A. Walker of the Fifth.

The Lent Term also saw Form 5R take part in an experimental examination to assess the feasability of a Common Entrance exam at 16 to replace both 'O' level and CSE. The papers involved were based on the SMP Mathematics syllabus.

'Vox', the boys' weekly magazine, has had a continuous production throughout both terms under a new management who were aided by the addition of a duplicator that TASS had kindly provided for their use,

The School entered three teams in this year's Stock Exchange Finance Game. The teams came from the fifth and sixth years. It is hoped that the boys have gained some insight into the fickle world of finance.

Bishop Oliver Alison, formerly Bishop of the Sudan, gave the address at the Lent Term Service. It was interesting to hear someone who has had much experience in cultures differing from our own,

The Boat Club ran a sponsored row in the Lent term to buy more equipment for the Club and in similar vein the TASS TIME scheme was initiated to raise funds for sailing dinghies, musical instruments and drama facilities.

The School had 672 boys on its roll at the start of the Christmas term, 470 dayboys and 202 boarders. This diminished in the Lent term with the leaving of Oxbridge candidates and the like, to 650 boys, 450 dayboys and 200 boarders.

Congratulations

Simon West seems to have continued his 'screen' career, now launching from films to television. After acting in the recent 'Swallows and Amazons' film, he takes the leading role in 'Sam and the River' a new Peggy Miller Children's drama

Ian Sealy has won a flying scholarship with the R.A.F. He joins a list of many boys from the school who have followed a similar course.

Simon Clift was recently picked to represent Great Britain in an under 18 Russian Reading Competition. He will be reading at 'The Olympiade' in Moscow next Summer. We wish him luck.

Charles Hobson and Adrian Marsden won places in the Royal Marines. They will take up their places after completing their 'A' Levels.

Roger Geere and Chris Applegate, and Old Boy Ian Weatherall were among boys to become Queen Scouts recently. They are all members of the Abbey Venture Unit in Abingdon.

Boys in the junior forms have had considerable successes in writing competitions. Simon Jones was a special award winner in the *Daily Mirror* National Children's Writing Competition, in which no fewer than six other boys won certificates of commendation. Graham Halsey had a play broadcast by the B.B.C., and Nicholas Holder had a play accepted for future broadcast. In the 'Abingdon Eisteddfod', organised locally, entries from Simon Jones, Daniel Butler and Simon Fenn won the first three prizes in the Senior Writing Competition.

As we go to press, we have just learned that Mr Baker along with one of our parents, Mr Geere, formed two-thirds of the Thames Valley Orienteering Club relay team which won the 'Over 43' class in the Scottish Senior Championships in early May. Congratulations to both and especially to Mr Baker, who is also the Welsh Champion in the same class.

It is with great regret that we record the death of Mark Andrew Venning who died on December 7th 1974. We offer our deepest sympathy to his parents.

Holiday Excursions

Skiing: Italy, Christmas 1974

A party conducted by Mr Fletcher took Upper School boys to the ski slopes of the Italian Alps. Despite numerous experiences of 'being treated rather like skittles' by more proficient skiers, all the party managed to pass a proficiency test after their stay. We were told that Christmas was 'a very strange and non-commercial event for everyone. Some members of the party even managed to go to midnight mass'. An enjoyable holiday was had by all, with the boys referring to their 'dear little Italian town' of Moena on their return.

Exchange with Ratsgymnasium, Bielefeld, Easter '75

A very successful second visit, run by Mr Hasnip and Mr McGowan. There seemed to be no language problem, rather as Mr McGowan told us—'a willingness to adapt and a willingness to learn'. As boys were staying with families rather than in a hotel they were encouraged to try and speak the language. The hosts always seemed prepared to go that extra mile when it came to giving one an educative and yet thoroughly enjoyable holiday.

Trips were arranged to Bonn and Cologne among other places. Although, as Mr McGowan added, 'perhaps the real value of the stay is derived from its less formal moments— comparing, contrasting, admiring, disapproving aspects of a

different culture and way of life'.

Skiing: Oberan, Easter 1975

A party of Fourth and Fifth formers spent the Easter week skiing in the Austrian Tirol. Skiing began immediately after the all night journey, and through the week it was only the T-bars stopping or darkness falling that ended a day's skiing. Oberan offered slopes suitable to the beginner, but nearby places were found for those who cultivated a 'flashier' mode. Over the week one began to accept the 'Barry Burles' style. Simon Brouard and Alistair Morfey also found it invigorating to fly past the 'pack'! Mark Owen found it necessary to achieve fame by removing his ski-instructor from the T-bar!

A very successful visit, in which boys always acted sensibly, with no injuries or problems—although a couple of members of the party tried to restore the flagging British economy by offering their passports to the local bartender!

Italy, Easter '75

Ably led by Messrs. Woodgett, Ayling and Blocksidge, a party left for Luton airport on April 1st. After a flight to Rome and a coach journey to Vico Equence, the party arrived at the hotel which was to become their base for the first five days of their stay. After excursions to Capri, Naples and Pompeii among other interesting places, their base moved to Rome. A diversion was arranged en route to see Vesuvius, where they were actually taken into the crater itself. Their guide insisted on proving that it was possible to light a cigarette from a hole in one of the rocks. In their three days at Rome, they also saw Nero's Golden Palace, Capitol Hill, and St Peter's (a few boys even managed to catch a glimpse of the Pope). A trip to be remembered by all those lucky enough to get a place.

Hammerbank, 1975

The south face of Hammerbank looked cold and damp to the second School party when they arrived but this first impression soon vanished on entering the hostel with its bright, warm rooms. The party had already completed a six mile walk on Loughrigg Fell before getting to their 'home'. On the next day, Sunday, after a short service, a walk around the Langdale Pikes soon tested the knowledge learned on Tuesday afternoons in the Lent term for conditions were cloudy and gusty. 'Easy' Gully, the recommended route to the top of Pavey Ark proved hazardous in the winter conditions and it took nearly an hour to climb over the steeper parts.

Because of damp kit, the following day was spent in Keswick and the afternoon in the National Park Centre at Brockdale. Thereafter, however, as the weather improved, walks continued as planned and the arduous route to Helvellyn along Striding Edge and that along the Crinkles to Bowfell were tackled with great spirit. During the stay, every group climbed a different set of peaks each walking about 40 miles and climbing 15,000 feet in the week. But in between the exercise, a table tennis tournament was organized in the hostel won by DA

Game.

The success of this expedition reflected well on the efforts of all but especially on Mr Haynes and the third formers with their early morning cups of tea.

Chapel Notes

First, a very warm welcome to our new Chaplain. More is said about Mr Lane on another page; here I shall say just that we are already enjoying getting to know him through his celebrating Communion for us and coming in as often as he can in preparation for taking on the new-style Chaplaincy in September.

During the long interregnum since Mr Osborn left in December 1973 we have been greatly indebted to the clergy who have taken services for us. The Rev. P. Doble, despite very heavy commitments at Culham College, yet found time to come in on Friday evenings from November to March, celebrate Communion and visit the Houses. His visiting and taking of services were very greatly appreciated and we are most grateful. Our thanks go also to the Vicar of Abingdon (the Rev. W. E. G. Payton, C.B.) and to the Rev. J. V. Andrews, the Rev. M. W. H. Kirby, the Rev. J. R. Packer and the Rev. J. W. Reynolds.

Preachers at the Term Services in St Helen's Church were the Headmaster and the Right Rev. O. C. Allison, C.B.E., formerly Bishop in the Sudan. Besides the Headmaster, the Vicar and Mr Doble, the following preached in Chapel on Sundays, in some cases taking the service as well: the Rev. R. Lloyd, Chaplain of the Dragon School; Mr D. M. Richards, Headmaster of Hereford Cathedral School; the Rev. A. Reid, Matthew Arnold School; the Rev. J. R. Packer, Ripon Hall and St Nicholas Church; the Rev. B. Morrison; the Bishop of Dorchester (the Right Rev. P. Walker); the Rev. R. M. Nicholas, Vicar of Dorchester; the Rev. T. S. M. Williams, Chaplain of Trinity College, Oxford; the Rev. A. E. Perry, Chaplain of Westminster College; the Rev. D. T. R. Wilcox, Minister of Abingdon Baptist Church; the Rev. F. L. M. Willis-Bund, Chaplain of All Souls' College. Mr Gabitass and a team of readers conducted the service on Remembrance Day.

Prepared by Mr Eden, with assistance from Mr Lane, the following were confirmed by the Bishop of Reading (the Right Rev. E. Wild) in St Helen's Church on Advent Sunday: M. I. Chapman, P. Edington, R. P. Emerton and J. E. Palmer.

Both at the Carol Service (once again in the familiar nine-lesson form) and at the Sunday services in Chapel, the Choir has continued to give a splendid lead to the congeregation, as well as singing an introit and anthem each week. To all its members, to Mr Johnson and to Mr McGowan we are very grateful.

Chapel flowers have been arranged by Mrs Anderson, Mrs Eden, Mrs Harrison, Miss J. Hasnip, Mrs Jackson, Mrs Mortimer, Miss Myatt, Mrs Potter, Mrs Reenan, Mrs Taylor, Mrs Varley and Mrs Wijetunge, who has also continued to look after the fair linen.

Chapel collections were for the following causes: Chapel Funds, £10.83; John Masefield Cheshire Home, £7.62; Royal National Life-boat Institution, £9.02; Oxford Samaritans, £8.09; Refugees in Cyprus, £8.26; the School's Voluntary Service Group, £11.20; Mental Health Trust, £8.61; Imperial Cancer Research Fund, £10.23; Australian grain for India and Bangladesh, £12.11; British Council for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled, £5.94; Help the Aged, £9.25; Spastics Society, £8.46; Church Missionary Society, £6.84; Prevention of Blindness Research Fund, £6.05; King George's Fund for Sailors, £8.84; Forces Help Society, £7.84; National Children's Home, £5.74; Feed the Minds, £6.91.

In the Michaelmas Term, we were twice visited by Mr Osborn. In November he sailed for Australia, where his address is: The Rev. P. G. Osborn, St Michael's House, Crafers, 5152, S. Australia,

Voluntary Service

Voluntary Service seems to be growing all the time and now has over 45 members who regularly visit a specific old person or couple around the town. Although sponsored by two masters, Mr Hammond and Mr Blocksidge, the service now places more responsibility on senior boys encouraging them on both the organizational and the social welfare side of things.

The service works in collaboration with the other schools and welfare bodies in Abingdon, and more integration is planned for the future. A paper collection was held but the fruits of this effort have not been forthcoming owing to the slump in the paper market. We live in hopes that even if the price of paper doesn't rise, our collection will soon gain antique value!!

RWK

School Music

A great deal of activity including a number of concerts took place in the Michaelmas and Lent Terms. Nearly three hundred boys now play one or more instruments and even more people have been involved in musical activities of one kind or another. In September, we welcomed six new part-time staff—Mrs Tubb (piano), Mrs Heathorn (piano), Miss Ramsey (oboe), Mr Luckett (brass), Mr James (flute) and Mrs Richens (bassoon) and in December, we said good-bye to John Frith for whose work in building up the brass and sponsoring the Jazz Band we remain grateful. His successor, Derek Jones came in January when we also welcomed Miss Thayer who teaches piano and classical music to the juniors. Both John Frith and Derek Jones are mentioned elsewhere in this issue.

The first concert of the Michaelmas Term was given by the reorganized Abingdon Singers of 25 voices—staff, boys and friends—in St Nicholas Church on October 12th. The programme included a Beethoven cello sonata, played by the versatile Messrs Goulding and Procter and a horn solo by Dukas from John Frith while the Choir, conducted by the Director of Music, sang works by Gibbons, Byrd, Mozart and Britten's difficult setting of WH Auden's words, Hymn to St Cecilia. The Abingdon Singers gave a similar concert at the beginning of the Lent Term on February 8th. This time it was a programme of French music, the main work being Maurice Durufle's rarely performed Requiem of 1947. The Choir gave a stylish and thoughtful rendering with Rosemary Thayer and Marcus Creed, our music student from the previous term, as soloists. The concert also included a sonata by Senaille and Faure's famous Elegie.

A new venture heard and seen by large audiences in the Court Room on October 18th and 19th was Lloyd-Webber's hit musical *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*. Performed by members of the first three years and produced by Mr Blocksidge, it was a lively show in which a good time was had

by all and in which promising performances came from Philip Todd (Joseph), Stephen Mulvey (Pharoah) and Jonathan Cloke and Andrew Forrest (Mr and Mrs Potiphar). The musical was preceded during the earlier part of the evening by some forty minutes of bashing and crashing in which the second year fought their way through home-made percussion music of a contemporary flavour.

By contrast, the Chapel Choir, Chamber Orchestra and Brass Ensemble gave an enjoyable programme of early Italian music in St Mary's Church, Oxford. This was on November 12th and the good sized audience heard the Choir sing challenging pieces by Allegri, Vivaldi and Palestrina. In Allegri's Miserere, the difficult first treble solo was well sung by Stephen Rogers. The Brass Ensemble played Gabrielli's famous Sonata Pian'e Forte and we heard Mark Murray give a stylish account of Corelli's Oboe Concerto and Martin Doble in a Trumpet Sonata by Albinoni. The concert ended in triumphant style with all performers taking part in Monteverdi's majestic motet Laudate Domium.

Later, on November 15th, there came a concert with a difference. The Jazz Band presented 'All that JAZZ', an attractive history of jazz from its beginnings to the present day. This was the final concert with Mr Frith in charge and he was responsible for the entire show—quite an undertaking. Outstanding performances were the vocal solos of Mrs Pat Simpson and Mr Procter's The Entertianer.

Perhaps the most successful venture of the Michaelmas Term was the performance of *Messiah* in St Helen's Church on November 29th. A choir of 300 voices, soloists and orchestra under the baton of Mr Johnson performed this great work with confidence and vigour. A packed audience heard most of this long work, its well known choruses and many of the famous solos which were performed by a quartet of local professionals. This performance of Handel's great Oratorio will be remembered by many for a long time.

The busy Michaelmas Term ended with an extravaganza in Trinity Methodist Church on December 10th. Among several enjoyable items were Britten's Ballade of Little Musgrave by the Male Voice Choir, Sibelius' famous poem Finlandia from the First Orchestra and the Chapel Choir's rendering of that major American masterpiece Comin' round the mountain.

In the Lent Term the two most important happenings were the Chapel Choir's concert in Dorchester Abbey on February 22nd and a performance of Haydn's oratorio *The Creation* in St Helen's Church on March 21st. It was the first time the Choir had performed in the Abbey and, in spite of the cold, they gave a most enjoyable programme of works by Vaughan Williams and Handel. The main work was Handel's setting of Dryden's *Ode for St Cecilia's Day* with Marilyn Jones and Richard Morton as the soloists. Early in the programme the orchestra accompanied Peter Wakefield (flute) in a promising performance of Mozart's *Andante* and we also heard Vaughan Williams' haunting *Five Mystical Songs* with the Choir, Mr Procter (piano) and Marcus Creed all in good form. The performance of Parts 1 and 2 of *The Creation* by full School Choral Society, orchestra and soloists was another very considerable success with the choir in good voice accompanied by the adult orchestra under Mr Johnson. The three soloists, Marilyn Jones, Philip Cave and Robert Morton, were greatly appreciated.

During the course of the term, there have been a number of Informal Sunday Evening Concerts held in the Music School—no fewer than seven such concerts altogether in the two terms. A feature of these concerts has been the inclusion of small group items, memorable amongst them being items by 'Frame', the Junior Wind Band, the Junior Clarinet Group and the Junior Brass Band, some of whom were making their concert debuts. The regular termly School Concert was held as usual in Trinity Methodist Church in which the various school ensembles performed works they had studied during term. The more successful items included Copland's An Outdoor Overture, Vaughan Williams' Folk Song

Suite, the Chapel Choir's singing of part songs by Gershwin, Jobim and Hal Mooney and the Boys' Choir's rendering of three of Paul Simon's hit numbers. The 2nd Orchestra under Mr Robinson dashed off Smetana's Rustic Dance with great enthusiasm, the Wind Band enjoyed The Blue-Tailed Fly and the Brass gave us Horoviz's Music Hall Suite.

Two further activities must be mentioned. The Music Club has had a number of lecture recitals by visiting artists. In the Michaelmas Term, there was a visit from the New Wessex String Quartet, an entertainment by the 'Edge' Jazz Quartet and an incredible session from Malcolm Ellingworth—reputed to be able to play 55 instruments—who ran through his repertoire, describing his instruments as he went. After Christmas, there was Philip Cooper at the piano and a lecture from Jeremy Montagu, expert on early instruments, who brought with him no fewer than 150 instruments. Finally, Julian Byzantine, one of Britain's leading guitarists, dazzled us with a performance of ancient and modern music.

The second activity has been the School Music Society, formed last September with the aim of supporting and encouraging the work of the Music Department. Over one hundred families as well as single members have joined and the Society now holds its own regular musical and social events. The opening event was a 'Cider and Song' evening at the Music School at the end of the Michaelmas Term. About sixty people gathered to sing songs old and new and even those who were not generally given to such activity were seen to burst into song as the cider flowed freely. The climax of the evening was a cabaret devised and ably performed by Tony Paddon and his company. In the Lent Term, a Cheese and Wine Party was held at which the principal guest, Major Patrick Rance, delighted us with a talk on English cheeses. The Society publishes its own termly magazine and also played host at a party for the music staff.

MDI

Drama

Over the last two terms, there has been much varied and skilful dramatic activity and a focal point of interest has been the adaptation of the Court Room as an all-purpose drama room. Three sets of black traverse curtains have been installed at the West end, providing a flexible system of wings, and plans are underfoot to buy new lighting equipment including a portable dimmer. Those concerned with drama in the school owe a great deal to the support of TASS and to the energy of Mr J L Robinson, parent and member of the Tass Council, who has provided some excellent staging. The room is still in need of many minor alterations but already there is evidence of rapid change.

The Lent Term saw several productions by members of Lower School. At half-term, Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat marked the start of combined musical and dramatic activities. The opening of the new dining-hall was marked in a light hearted fashion by a programme of readings and song on the theme of Cakes and Ale and at the end of the term a similar programme on the theme of Christmas was given in the Court Room. In each case, music and the reading of poetry and prose were of an impressively high standard. Christmas was used as a curtain-raiser for a short, timeless nativity play by the younger section of the Junior Drama Club, The Coming of the Kings. All the young

actors gave powerful performances in strong character parts and gained useful acting experience.

Meanwhile, in the Unicorn Theatre, the other section of the Junior Drama Club played *Billy Budd* for four nights. We are indebted to Mr Christopher Brown, a member of Radley College English Department for the following comments:

'This play takes place on board a British warship and for this the structure of the Unicorn Theatre was ideally suited.... The evening's climaxes were strong. The sudden urgency when a French ship is sighted, the growing power of the court scene were both well achieved.... The opening scenes below decks had plenty of verve.... Jackson's (Peter Bingham) strong entry convincing fear and illness made an excellent start....

'Budd (Simon West) conveyed well the mild and trusting nature of the part though his size made it difficult to communicate the man's strength or his inarticulate power. The First Lieutenant (Mark Andrews) and the Sailing Master (Ian Oakden) were strong and clear, retaining their roles of responsibility well, and the sequence that showed the embarrassment of the officious Midshipman (Simon Pennifer) was a pleasing change of tone. John Dewar, dominant in size, sustained the loathsome scheming of Claggart, the Master at Arms, well.

"The achievement of the evening was that of Martin Dennis. He always controlled the stage when he was on it. He made every word clear and understandable and he looked at the person to whom he was talking. There was the necessary eye-contact that makes a dialogue convincing. Indeed the more complex ideas of the play are voiced through Captain Vere and Martin Dennis was equal to them all. Brian Shelley's Seymour was at the same time an admirable foil—firm, responsible, troubled. Both were mature and sensitive performances.'

The older section also teamed up with the Modern Languages department to produce two French plays in the Court Room, Les Trois Coups and The Reluctant Doctor, the latter in translation. This is a new venture and one that must become an annual event. Les Trois Coups, a selection from the Thieves' Carnival by Anouilh, was played by the fifth form and produced some good indvidual performances. The Reluctant Doctor, by Molière, was brisk, cheerful and colourful and helped to produce a festive occasion.

The remaining boys in the Club have spent considerable time on a background course on theatrecraft. Each boy has experienced all the varied facets of play production. Sessions on make-up, lighting and the problems of stage management have been held and two successful trips arranged, firstly to tour backstage at the Playhouse in Oxford and then to spend a night in town to see *The Italian Straw Hat*, a comedy by Labiche.

The major event of the Lent Term, however, was undoubtedly the production, in the Court Room, of *Journey's End* by the John Roysse Players. Mr Rod McKinnon, at one time a producer with the Players, reviewed the play for us and had comments to make which were a mixture of praise and criticism. He wrote:

'It would be unfair to judge the performance of the present cast by the standards of their forerunners but this was a production which merited serious attention. Despite the obvious lack of experience and a certain gaucherie, the cast did, for me, project the essential spirit of the play. Journey's End marvellously captures the ethos of the First World War trenches and this production succeeded in bringing over that atmosphere, the bumbling and fumbling, the hard bitten and embittered, and above all the "nil carborundum' feeling that was shared by all. My chief criticism is that the cast—with one notable exception—did not give the impression of having immersed themselves in the characters they were portraying so that performances for some of the time tended to be stilted and self-conscious, with dialogue that on occasion lacked ease and timing.

Against that, however, can be set the qualities of vigour and enthusiasm and a number of episodes that achieved convincing authenticity—I am thinking particularly of the final scene which was full of pathos.

'The chief character in the play, Stanhope, was played by James Brett whose particular strength lay in conveying the anger and frustration of the man but his sensitive side never quite came through apart from the final scene. As Raleigh, the fresh young officer straight from home, Charles Hobson adopted a somewhat soberly earnest approach which I felt was too muted. Some naiver enthusiasm in the early stages would have been bracing and in this respect, I found Timothy Walker as the bantering "man from the ranks" delighfully engaging. His performance was totally convincing. Robin Kermode ably played the quiet and determinedly cool Osborne but why—with cigarettes being smoked all around him—did he find it impossible to light his pipe? Simon Morden, as Mason, rather overplayed the crockery joker to my taste, but he certainly had an appreciative audience.

'In all, this was a production which had much to commend it. Somewhere in the middle of it a great bundle of energy was galvanising its momentum and there is only one person to whom credit can be attributed for that—the inimitable Mr Blocksidge.'

Drama has flourished as a cultural activity enjoyed by all and a great number of play visits have been arranged. Some Third-formers saw *The Government Inspector* in the Christmas Term and an excited party marvelled at the Aldwych production of *Dr Faustus*, which was indeed inspiring. In the Lent Term, visits were arranged to *Death of a Salesman*, *The Birthday Party*, *The Caretaker*, *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, *Othello* and *Macbeth*, and all were greatly enjoyed.

JRG

Tass

It was with great pleasure that Mr. J. B. E. Alston was elected President for this year. Mr. Alston taught classics, was housemaster at Waste Court until his retirement, and for many years took an active part in all school games.

The Society now has a membership of over 850, and it is hoped that parents and members will write to their M.Ps. without delay in order to try to save the Direct Grant system. The Society was formed seven years ago for this very purpose when our existence was threatened. Now the danger is very real indeed and no effort must be spared to bring every possible pressure to bear in defence of direct grant schools. To this end a special TASS sub-Committee has been formed to co-ordinate not only the protest of our own school and Society, but, in conjunction with the other local Direct Grant schools, to co-operate in regional and national protests.

Requests for grants under the Initiative Awards scheme have been considered by the Finance Committee, and the following allocations have been made:

- (a) £800 for drama equipment, including scaffolding etc. and tiered seating for the Court Room,
- (b) £100 towards outward bound equipment,
- (c) £100 towards the Boat Club Appeal,
- (d) £200 to the library,
- (e) £100 towards the cost of a jumping pit for athletics.

Good, outgrown outward-bound equipment, particularly anoraks, is needed, and Mr. Haynes would be grateful for any contributions of this nature.

It has been decided to hold another Fete in 1976. A social evening will be held at Lacies Court from 7.30 p.m. on June 27th 1975. Wine and food will be served to the accompaniment of music by the Abingdon School Music Society.

In order to come into line with the academic year it has been decided to hold the next A.G.M. on the 29th September 1975 instead of during the Lent term. Please book these two dates.

MEW

The Grundy Library

This has been a difficult period for the Library—the need for economy meant that for this year the Library grant was halved at a time when book prices were rising rapidly. However a very generous grant has been made by TASS, and this combined with care and economy means that we shall be able to meet all essential requirements and the interests of the general reader.

Unfortunately it has been necessary to reduce drastically the number of magazines and periodicals. The bill here had risen to well over £150 a year and perhaps the time had come to reconsider our policy—any society or group of boys who want a particular magazine may be asked to contribute a part of the annual subscription.

Apart from TASS, gifts to library have been made by Barclays Bank—an essay prize won by C. Cunningham, Mr Hammond who gave a copy of his latest book, and Mr Harmsworth.

KGH

School Council

In the Michaelmas Term, the Council had only three meetings and none of these were particularly effective. There seemed indeed to be a general feeling of apathy due mainly to the lack of interest in Form representatives. The Chairman was Nick Kay and the secretary Scott Wilson. Subjects discussed included the condition and use of the dayboys' changing room and the possible provision of a Sixth Form bar. The Lent Term saw a change of secretary with the election of Andrew Noble but the Chairman remained Nick Kay. This was a much livelier term and useful discussions occurred on Boarders' mufti and the provision of lower school common rooms. Some critics argued for the abolition of the Council but its usefulness was proved when the bomb hoax scare showed that the Council was a most effective channel of communication between the headmaster and the boys. The Staff were in the main represented by Mr Fletcher and Mr Green.

AN

Combined Cadet Force

Over the last two terms, all sections of the Corps have been busy and many cadets have attended different courses including diving, flying and sailing. There have also been a number of individual experiences and successes. AP Marsden has been awarded a Royal Marine Scholarship, CWP Hobson a Royal Marine reserved place and IM Sealy a Flying Scholarship. Field Days have been marked by exercises somewhat more varied than usual and therefore, we hope, more interesting.

Adventure Training was again held this year at Carsphairn in the Easter holiday. The weather was extremely changeable and we experienced two sunny days at the beginning, followed by forty-eight hours of very strong, cold winds—when the tents threatened to take off—and then snow, sleet, rain and mist until the day of departure which was gloriously warm and summer-like. On the whole, however, the walking was pleasant and the fells remarkably dry. One patrol did experience six hail-storms while crossing Windy Standard but this was the worst. The two overnight hikes proved very enjoyable, especially the camp fires, and one hike was accomplished in record time. During the night at Afron Reservoir the snow fell heavily and so the short walk back next morning was cancelled and everyone went into Ayr for the afternoon for a taste of civilization.

On the second day, we were joined by PWS Cox and PF Thompson, two OAs, who with the help of several cadets, succeeded in doing their Duke of Edinburgh 50-mile Gold Award walk over a period of four days—and they had half a day to spare at the end. This year we missed Mr Fairhead but in his place we welcomed two non-CCF masters, Mr Goulding and Mr Hobson, Mr Hobson's black labrador, Rommel, was the great success of the week. Mr Reynolds also joined us for the first time.

Army Section: The Signal Section, although only five in number, have undertaken an overhaul of their equipment, carried repairs and fixed up an old petrol generator to charge their batteries. They are now preparing to enter the National Net. The Gunners have not gone to OUOTC this year but have been training at home with assistance from BSM Onions, attached to the Para School at RAF Abingdon. Last year's recruits have trained hard and are now ready for their proficiency tests. In addition, a few useful courses have been run with help from RAF Abingdon, including instruction in the techniques of Advanced Resusitation.

Royal Naval Section: This year, cadets have been very willing to take part in activities other than those on Tuesday afternoons. Great strides have been made in lunch hours with the making of a cargo net, a bosun's chair and even in doing extra drill. Week-ends, half-terms and holidays have been used. Six cadets went, in Michaelmas Term, for a three-day sail from Portsmouth to Weymouth and back. So successful was this cruise that the boat has been booked for a ten-day trip in the Summer. Also six intrepid novice canoeists successfully completed a twelve-mile paddle in spite of capsizes. The Lent term activities have led up to two events. Firstly, there was a very good Field Day involving two forced marches and an overnight exercise and secondly, fifteen cadets successfully passed both written papers in the Proficiency exam, the best results for a long time.

The section is grateful to PWS Cox (OA) for the donation of a valuable book which will be most useful in the coming terms.

RAF Section: It was quite a good year in all respects, with a high level of activity from all concerned.

Mr Biggs joined the section at the beginning of the year. Under his guidance Proficiency exam results have been excellent this year with 100% pass rates in both ordinary and advanced level. This fully engaged the fifth formers in the section, while the lower sixth have been busily constructing a lightweight one-man hovercraft.

The choice of venues for field days has been exceptionally good. In the Christmas term we visited the Imperial War Museum in London, and last term and this term RAF Brize Norton and RAF Lyneham respectively. During the latter two visits we saw servicing bays, films, air traffic control and various RAF transport aircraft.

On a more interesting and unusual front, Simon Hills has been selected to go to the United States this summer for $3\frac{1}{8}$ weeks on an International Air cadet exchange between the RAF and the USAF. He will be visiting various USAF stations and departments as their guest. Meanwhile, at home Ian Sealy will take up his flying scholarship this summer, for four weeks at the Midland Aviation Centre, near Birmingham.

The RAF Easter camp this year was at RAF Valley in Anglesea, Wales. Some 20 cadets went with Flt.Lt. Wiltshire and P/O Biggs, to spend their time seeing a mountain rescue station, Nuclear Power station, air sea rescue work and of course some flying.

We have had cadets on two gliding courses, to RAF Halton last summer and RAF Swanton Morley this Easter. Both unfortunately suffered from terrible weather and hence no cadet was able to finish the course.

Finally, Air Experience flying, which has suffered for the last twelve months from government defence cuts, much to everybody's disappointment, is now slowly starting up again, and we hope it may continue unhindered by lack of money and weather.

Societies

Judging by the notice-boards, School societies would seem to be flourishing at the moment. However, the contrary seems to be indicated by the lack of reports.

As usual, the Film Society had a full programme in both terms with several well supported meetings. In Michaelmas, members were treated to John Schleisinger's excellent 'Midnight Cowboy', Joseph Losey's 'The Go-Between' and Robert Altman's 'Mash'. Four meetings were held in the Lent term with the following films shown—Hitchcock's classic thriller 'Frenzy', Daphne du Maurier's psychic masterpiece 'Don't Look Now', 'Love and Pain and the Whole Darn Thing' and John Huston's admirable 'Fat City'. The last two, although well received by the critics, were unfortunately appreciated less by some of the more 'commercial-cinema' orientated members. A limited number of members were able to see 'Discrete Charms' in Oxford due to the help of the sponsor, Mr Alton.

For younger members of the School, the Junior Electronics Club, which met on Mondays has been well received. Radio receivers and other circuits were constructed and now, with the acquisition of some computer circuits, it is hoped that a study of logic circuits can be made together with the building of simple timing and computing circuits.

The year began for the Sixth Form Society with a trip to Bristol Ice Rink which was extremely successful. This was followed by a marginally successful disco at Larkmead and the term finished with a well delivered lecture on the 'Occult' at St Helen's. Lent Term events consisted of a very good disco at John Mason and various other half completed plans among which a theatre trip to London and a film at Fitzharrys failed to materialise.

The Philatelic Society found new life under its sponsor, Mr Parker, and this together with more lunch-time meetings meant a very lively two terms. In contrast, the Junior Debating Society, somewhat hampered by the drama commitments of its members, found time only for three debates and one 'Any Questions' meeting. However, the Magical Society has forged ahead since its inception at the end of 1973. A visit to the Junior Magicians' Convention in Reading proved most successful. In February, the fifteenth meeting of the society was held and at this John Whittington gave a preview of his act which he later presented in London at the 'Young Magician of the Year' Competition.

The Historians were treated to a very interesting talk by Miss Jill Harries of Somerville College, on 'Nixon and Watergate' which painted a fairly black picture of American politics. In the Lent term, Professor Scarisbrick came to talk on 'Henry VIII' and those members who attended gleaned a lot of information not found in their 'A' Level text-books.

The Sailing Club was reformed earlier in the year under the sponsorship of Mr Cale. It is now affiliated to the Abbey Sailing Club and this should enable members to take a full part in club life and receive sailing training. At present the School has no boat of its own and is relying on the generosity of the Abbey Club, but it is hoped that some of the money being raised by TASS Time will be used to purchase a boat and the Club is keeping its eyes skinned for a 'Firefly'. Great keenness is being shown for this worthwhile alternative to normal games.

'A Historian's View of Shakespeare' was the title of a talk by Dr AL Rowse to the Literary Society. It proved to be an interesting insight into the life of the dramatist and his ambitions.

'The Kings Army'

Exactly one year ago, Roysse's Company first raised their standard to the defence of his most sovereign Majesty on the field at Abingdon. The tattered remnants of that blue and white flag still remain as witness to the auspicious day, and the Company has continued to raise its standard against the perfidious enemies of King and Church.

During the summer holidays, the Army functioned at the siege of Berkeley Castle and when the Earl and Countess of Devon called on Royalist forces to defend Powderham Castle, Alan Arm zealously answered the summons and arrived days early. The Earl, however, was highly pleased by such a display of loyalty.

The battle of Kingston Bridge in October was a tough one but victory came to the righteous. Then, on January 26th, the Company took part in the solemn march down Whitehall in memory of the barbarous murder of our sacred Majesty. Over 200 of the King's Army were there and Roysse's Company were chosen to act as the guard at the statue of the King whilst the two pages, Anthony Jacques and Gerard Sergeant, laid the wreath on behalf of the Army. Roysse's Company afterwards removed to Windsor and laid their own wreath against the chancel wall of St George's Chapel. Such a ceremony attracted a large number of very curious tourists and a shout of 'God save the King' added to their hewilderment.

Burnish your swords, sharpen your pikes and prime your muskets. We are back to the cry of 'One and All'. Vivat Rex.

TJC

SPORT

Hockey

First Eleven

With no member of the previous year's Eleven back, there was inevitably a lack of experience in the side and it was not unexpected that in terms of results the 1st Eleven record was only modest. In practice they often played their best hockey, in matches they lost against stronger sides and played less well against weaker opposition. For example, I have never seen a School team play more fluent and constructive hockey in mid-field as in the Bradfield fixture but, unfortunately, this was not translated into goals. A weakness in the circle was a constant limitation, as was an inability to maintain the best form for the full seventy minutes. The Oxford Festival, in which we played five matches in three days at the end of term, proved clearly where the strengths and faults of the side lay. King's, Rochester and Framlingham were good sides—we led both with less than ten minutes to go but had to concede equalising goals. We played poorly against Warwick and were lucky to draw and we lost against two sides—Bryanston and Bristol—whom we ought to have beaten.

Despite such disappointments, however, it is to the side's credit that morale remained high and it was a pleasure to be associated with such a spirited side whose work rate was always high. Alan Arm's goalkeeping confounded all critics and he well deserved his full-colours. Full-colours were also well earned by Chris Baumann and Nicholas Malein, a solid and reliable pair of backs. Baumann's clean striking of the ball and Malein's strong tackling often caught the eye. At centre-half, Charles Lowe hit the ball beautifully and sprayed some fine passes to the wings but he lacked pace and I suspect his best position will be full-back. Nicholas Shephard, Chris Barnes and, in reserve, Bill Homewood were competent wing-halves and gave good support to their forwards. Barnes' crossfield passing improved greatly but Shephard never fully overcame his difficulty in hitting the ball really hard. The crossfield pass cannot be hit too hard and failure to do this consistently was a weakness of the team in attack.

Peter Noble, a greatly improved player, played some delightful hockey on the left wing combining well with Charles Hobson. Hobson and Michael Stimpson, the inside forwards, also did well and worked admirably in defence. Hobson scored the most goals although he lacks pace at present while Stimpson on occasion showed how much the side relied on him. David Thomas tried hard at centre-forward and increasingly developed the art of running off the ball. Andy Plant showed a strong competitive instinct on the right wing and, when he was injured, Michael Howat proved a useful substitute. In general, the build up of attacks from mid-field developed considerably over the season but the timing of the telling through ball and the absence of enough hard passing plus a weakness in front of the goal were some of the reasons for failure to score more.

Many thanks for their help to Baumann, Lowe and Mr Bagshaw in their respective capacities as captain, secretary and groundsman, and congratulations on Full-Colours to Baumann, Stimpson, Malein, Noble and Arm. Half-Colours were awarded to Lowe, Hobson, Shephard, Barnes, Thomas, Plant, Howat and Homewood.

The team was: AP Arm; NA Malein; CJ Baumann (Capt.); NJ Shephard; CR Lowe; C Barnes; AN Plant; MW Stimpson; D Thomas; C Hobson; PA Noble.

Results

Hockey Association: Wed 5 Feb (h): Won 3—Radley College: Sat 8 Feb (h): Lost 0—Magdalen College School Wed 12 Feb (a): Lost 0—	30 Jan (h): Won 1—0
Radley College: Sat 8 Feb (h): Lost 0— Magdalen College School Wed 12 Feb (a): Lost 0—	1 Feb (h): Drew 0-0
Magdalen College School Wed 12 Feb (a): Lost 0—	5 Feb (h): Won 3—2
	8 Feb (h): Lost 0-4
Downing College, Cambridge: Wed 19 Feb (a): Lost 1—	
Culham College: Sat 22 Feb (a): Won 6—	22 Feb (a): Won 6—1
Oxford School Wed 26 Feb (h): Won 1—	26 Feb (h): Won 1—0
Bradfield College: Sat 1 Mar (a): Lost 1—	1 Mar (a): Lost 1—3
Solihull School: Sat 8 Mar (a): Lost 1—	8 Mar (a): Lost 1—2
Old Abingdonians: Sat 15 Mar (h): Lost 1—	15 Mar (h): Lost 1—3
Bloxham School: Wed 19 Mar (a): Lost 0—	19 Mar (a): Lost 0-1
Oxford Public Schools Hockey Festival	
King's Rochester: Mon 24 Mar (h): Drew 2—:	24 Mar (h): Drew 2—2
Warwick: Mon 24 Mar (h): Drew 1—	24 Mar (h): Drew 1—1
Bryanston: Tues 25 Mar (h): Lost 1—	25 Mar (h): Lost 1—3
Framlingham: Tues 25 Mar (h): Drew 2—	25 Mar (h): Drew 2—2
Bristol G.S.: Wed 26 Mar (h): Lost 1—	26 Mar (h): Lost 1—3

Matches against Pangbourne, K.A.S., Wantage and High Wycombe School were cancelled.

Second Eleven

Lack of regular players from last season meant a season notable more for enthusiasm and enjoyment than results. The team, a pleasant unit, improved throughout the term and were never put out by defeat nor unduly worried by cancellations but they never got their game together with any consistency.

There were two basic weaknesses in their play. The major one was that the forward line lacked bite once in the shooting position and the other that the defence 'though it looked very steady had an unfortunate habit of conceding goals in quick succession over brief periods of play. Thus in the St Edward's match, four goals were conceded in a ten minute spell in the first half, and in the Leighton Park and Oxford School games the same time interval produced three goal deficits. In the latter match in fact, the side played well after a disastrous start to pull back two of the goals but were unable to get the equaliser: indeed, in the second half, the opposition scarcely escaped from their own half.

Another main disadvantage the side suffered from is endemic to 2nd Elevens: regularly losing the best players to cover absence in the first team. This prevented the side settling down and meant that one or two of the players rarely played in the same position twice in a row.

On the credit side, the match against Solihull was played with determination and aggression and the team looked most useful.

Individually, Lanham improved throughout and by the end of term was a distinctly useful centre-half. Thackwray and Homewood on the right made many useful tackles and interceptions 'though both tended to commit themselves to the tackle too early too often. Howat, once he arrived, added width and penetration to the forward line but Davis and Allen, full-back and goal-keeper, perhaps best characterised the side, producing some excellent play but making elementary mistakes. All in all, however, the team showed more potential than we had anticipated.

The team was: AJ Allen; RS Chapman, IM Davis; JP Gotelee, WJ Homewood, MG Howat; MJ Hurry, NP Kay, DJ Lanham; SW Morden, RA Navsaria, KR Reid, IS Thackwray.

Results

Pangbourne College:	Wed	22 Jan	(a):	Cancelled	
St Edward's School:	Thurs	30 Jan	(a):	Lost 0-6	
Newbury School:	Sat	1 Feb	(a):	Cancelled	
Leighton Park School:	Wed	5 Feb	(a):	Lost 1—4	
Radley College:	Sat	8 Feb	(h):	Lost 1—2	
Shiplake College:	Wed	12 Feb	(h):	Cancelled	
Magdalen College School:	Wed	19 Feb	(h):	Lost 0—2	
Oxford School:	Wed	26 Feb	(h):	Lost 2—3	
K.A.S., Wantage:	Wed	5 Mar	(a):	Cancelled	
Solihull School:	Sat	8 Mar	(h):	Won 3—1	
R.G.S., Wycombe:	Wed.	12 Mar	(h):	Cancelled	
Bloxham School:	Wed	19 Mar	(h):	Lost 0-2	

Colts Eleven

To judge by results, this was not a very good season, but there was only one match, against Radley, in which we were outplayed, while most of the rest, were lost or won, by narrow margins. Particularly pleasing was the defeat of M.C.S., and the most exciting game was against Solihull, when the lead changed hands several times. It was a fact that the team played its best hockey against better opposition and several games were lost against less skilful opponents, where the speed and determination of the other side made up for comparative lack of skill. This Colts team needed more speed, in getting the ball away and in moving to the ball—too often the fifty-fifty ball went to the opponent. Apart from this rather crucial fault, the defence was usually pretty sound, and Jones-Walters at centre-half, set a fine example as captain and worked extremely hard. The forwards were not so successful, rarely combining to produce penetrating movements, although as individuals they possessed plenty of speed and skill.

The Final team was: J Baragwanath; M Herring, M Hitchcock; AM Robinson, LM Jones-Walters (Capt.), AG Hillary; DA Thomas, DC Rimmer, CM Sackett, RG Gilbert, GA McGreery.

Also played JJ Stephen, MP Hills, DA White, CT Reid.

Results

St Edward's School:	Thurs	30 Jan	(a):	Lost	47
Newbury School:	Sat	1 Feb	(h):	Lost	13
Radley School:	Sat	8 Feb	(a):	Lost	06
Magdalen College School:	Wed	12 Feb	(a):	Won	21
Reading School:	Sat	1 Mar	(h):	Lost	12
Solihull School:	Sat	8 Mar	(a):	Drawn	4-4
Bloxham School:	Wed	19 Mar	(h):	Drawn	2-2
A Colte 'P' VI match was played a	Dadley on	9th Eah	which we	lost nam	rowly

Junior Colts Eleven

Three wins is something of a record and, as this was their first term of match hockey, the players in the side can look forward to good results further up the school. There was also more depth than usual and it was in fact the 'B' Eleven which opened the winning run.

Players keen to be goalkeepers was a new and welcome experience. Robinson came on well and it was a pity that King was out with knee problems as he too was most promising. The captain, Holding, was the only member of the team who had played much hockey before and his example was often an inspiration. Hobbs covered much ground as centre-half and Slingsby is becoming a solid and effective centre-forward. Burles confounded all by coming back with three goals in the last match after being dropped in the penultimate one.

Regular members of the team were: Robinson; C Holding (Capt.), PA Cowlett; PNC Gale, SJ Hobbs, SJ Brouard; JR Benjamin, BW Burles, MJ Howes, JW Slingsby, RJ Regan, RA Johnson. Also played: R Allen, IT Jones, G Mitchell, MS King.

RCBC

Results

St Edward's School	Thurs	30 Jan	(a):	Lost	0—5
Radley College:	Sat	8 Feb	(a):	Lost	1-2
Magdalen College School:	Wed	19 Feb	(h):	Lost	0—6
Reading School:	Sat	1 Mar	(h):	Lost	1—3
Solihull School:	Sat	8 Mar	(h):	Won	2—1
Bloxham School:	Wed	19 Mar	(h):	Won	3—2
Oxford School:	Thurs	20 Mar	(h):	Won	4—2

The 'B' XI lost to Radley College 'B' 0—5 and beat Reading School 'B' 4—2. The matches against Pangbourne, Newbury, Shiplake and KAS, Wantage were cancelled.

Rugby Football

First Fifteen

This season has been an intense one with the first ever half term tour taking us down to Wales to try our luck against two strong sides. In many ways this was the high point of the season as the latter half of term did not give us as much success as perhaps we deserved.

The problem we thought we would have this term was a weak front row, but Nigel Litchfield came back and Nick Tresidder tried his hand at prop and between them they provided the support needed for Richard Balkwill to make the most of his fast reflexes. This unit was the base upon which our success was forged as became evident when through injury this combination was split up and we found it very hard to gain possession of our own ball in the set scrummages.

Our two locks Anthony Thresher and Lawrence Despres provided the shove needed by the front three. Anthony did not have one bad game and was a source of inspiration to the others: congratulations to him for earning a place in the S.E. England side as a No. 8 no less.

The back row got off to a good start, but became less effective when Patrick Cook was injured in the third game of the season and was really out for the rest of the term. His drive and enthusiasm were sorely missed, particularly towards the end of the season.

At half back Martin Wartke and Angus McPhail were the key to success or failure. Martin playing out of position at scrum half showed himself to be a genuine natural athlete. His co-ordination, speed off the mark, well timed pass and determination provided the team with the blend of skills that made the most of the possession the forwards gained. Angus kicked well at outside half and served as well as a valuable goal kicker.

The remainder of the threequarters had a mixed sesaon. Paul Ashby and Mike Stimpson started well but lacked confidence towards the end. Both could be devastating in attack when they made up their minds to run at the opposition and use their natural deceptiveness.

Simon Walker and Andy Murdock on the wings made a real contribution to the scoring power of the side. Both are fast and hard and Andy's swerve and pace were missed time and again after his injury just after half term.

At full back Bobby Price caught well and ran in attack with real determination and elusiveness. He caught the eye in every game and played a large part in the success of the team.

We were unbeaten before half-term for the first time in over ten years and won eight of our first nine games. This was a great achievement and the manner in which we just lost 3—6 to Radley summed up this half of the season. The forwards were getting plenty of set ball and the three-quarters were running in tries after classic passing movements. After the Radley game, we played High Wycombe and after eight minutes were reduced to 13 men. With a great show of character we turned the tables on the opposition and won 16—9. Thereafter reaction was to be expected and we played poorly against Reading although we won. Things improved against Pangbourne but then the front row was affected by injury and against Thame we could gain little ball. This was a time when Patrick Cook's drive was needed. Against Newbury we were again reduced to 13 and went down 3—4. The Old Abingdonians next took their toll on us and two more players were put out for our last match against Warwick. In this game, we had seven reserves playing and did well to hold our own until half-time but then went down 3—15.

So the season started very well but finished with less success than we might have had. Everyone gave of their best and with the Colts of last year now blooded we can look forward to next season with confidence.

DGC

The team was selected from: RJ Price; S Walker, PS Ashby, MV Stimpson, AW McPhail, MG Wartke, JRA Allen, PD Cook, JN Oakley, CD Robinson, AJ Thresher, LGP Despres, NJ Tresidder, RA Balkwill, NA Litchfield, PD Boon, AN Plant, T Allen, RW Taylor, SJH Cromie, MJ Hurry.

Results:

Dean Close School:	Sat	28 Sept	(a):	Won	16—3
Bloxham School:	Wed	2 Oct	(a):	Won	35—3
Solihull School:	Sat	12 Oct	(h):	Won	28-11
Oxford School:	Wed	16 Oct	(a):	Won	31—6
Magdalen College School:	Sat	19 Oct	(a):	Won	230
Gwendraeth School:	Fri	25 Oct	(a):	Won	2110
Tregyb School:	Sat	26 Oct	(a):	Lost	9—14
Radley College:	Sat	2 Nov	(a):	Lost	3—6
RGS, High Wycombe:	Sat	9 Nov	(a):	Won	16—9
Reading School:	Sat	16 Nov	(h):	Won	14-4
Pangbourne College:	Wed	20 Nov	(h):	Won	29—14
Thame School:	Wed	27 Nov	(h):	Lost	10-16
Newbury School:	Sat	30 Nov	(a):	Lost	34
Old Abingdonians:	Sat	7 Dec	(h):	Lost	12-16
Warwick School:	Wed	11 Dec	(h):	Lost	315

The Welsh Tour

This, the first tour ever made by an Abingdon side, was greeted with both excitement and trepidation. We were to play Gwendraeth and Tregyb, schools whose baffling pronunciation added to their already considerable aura, the former

having produced such names as Barry John and Carwyn James.

We all expected to find forwards averaging 6 ft 6 ins and 15 stone of the classic no neck variety and 'backs who ran like a combination of John Williams and Gerald Davies and our arrival at Gwendraeth didn't dispel our fears. The whole school turned out to see us and we heard whispers and giggles that produced an atmosphere of jollity like that at a public execution. When we ran out in our pink and white the mirth erupted into laughter. But this was short lived. We fought hard and found considerable success in the pack, Mike Stimpson, at fly-half for the first time, played well kicking with great accuracy and although we were very impressed by their young 'backs our own combination proved strong enough to give us a well earned victory which silenced the Welsh who were as amazed as we were at our success.

In the evening, we were taken to a local rugby club where Carwyn James was kind enough to talk to us in a question and answer type session. Afterwards we returned to the Croft Guest House which proved to be a major success of the tour, our rooms being most comfortable and the proprietor and his wife most hospitable and friendly. Our breakfast next morning was enormous and set us

up for the match against Tregyb.

This game we unfortunately lost. We were probably suffering from the hard day's travelling and match of the day before and, although the pack won much loose and tight ball, our 'backs were unable to get together effectively. It was in this game that we saw how important it is to concentrate all the time on basics and to have a 'back line used to playing with one another—we had three of our regular 'backs injured before the start of the tour. However, we were complimented by the Tregyb forwards on being one of the hardest and best packs they had encountered. This was a great tribute especially to our very young back row and our relatively inexperienced front row.

In the afternoon, we were the guests of Llanelli RFC, where we were shown the museum and invited to make use of all facilities, some of us discovering that the bar is probably second only in length to the London Irish bar. We also watched Llanelli beat Cross Keys 45—13, in a match that was both instructive and entert aining. And in the evening, we sampled the highspots of Llanelli night-life, Early on Sunday morning, we left for home arriving in Abingdon some

four hours later, tired but very happy.

Perhaps the thing that impressed us most was the friendliness of everyone, together with the fact that everybody was prepared to talk with us about rugger. Everything seemed to be oriented towards the game—even the girls wanted to talk about it. We have a lot to thank Dennis Nicholas and his brother for—they not only arranged the whole tour but sponsored us with great wit and charm. Thanks, too, must go to David Crawford and Roger Fletcher who were prepared to give up their half-term and took their lives in their hands conducting us round Wales. It was a great tour and one hopefully to be repeated.

PDC

Second Fifteen

The playing record of the side does not fully reflect the potential of this year's 2nd XV, and when one considers the spate of injuries that resulted in over 30 players representing the side and the inexperience of the forwards the 3:1 ratio of wins to losses was a commendable achievement. The backs lacked the heavy

scoring power of last season, but Paul Boon managed 18 tries and Nick Kay showed great opportunism towards the end of the season. Andy Plant, when not required by the 1st XV, provided the penetration in the centre whilst Dennis Lanham proved a sound full-back with an attacking flair. Nick Shepherd and Robin Scibilia linked effectively at half-back and the former became the most reliable place kicker in the side. The forwards, five of whom will be back next year, were always a force to be reckoned with and the experienced back row of Henry Cromie, Malcolm Waterfall and Gordon Woods added scoring power, including an try each in three matches. The scrummaging was not very good, despite the speedy striking of Nick Hazeldine, but Giles Pott and Charles Lowe competed well in the lines-out, and Russell Taylor and Marcus Hurry were always quick and effective in the loose.

In all but the two heavy defeats by Thame and Warwick the team combined well and the mauling and rucking were particularly effective. Andy Plant was a quiet, competent captain and thoroughly deserved his half colours—there was a noticeable lack of midfield authority in his absence and it was only a lack of maturity that was missing in an other wise promising season. The technical accomplishments of the side bode well for the future of rugby at the school, but the most pleasing aspect of the season was the willingness to learn and the enthusiasm and endeavour which characterised the whole of Game 1.

IRF

The team was mainly selected from the following: DJ Lanham; PD Boon; SP Johnson; NP Kay; AN Plant; JRA Allen; NJA Shepherd; R Scibilia; PR Clarke; NJ Hazeldine; MJ Hurry; CR Lowe; GAN Pott; CD Robinson; RW Taylor; SJH Cromie; MR Waterfall; GF Woods; DC Eccles.

Other players included: CS Orchard; AJE Allen; AD Byrne; SJ Lawson; DC Rimmer; GA McCreery; CWP Hobson; DA Thomas; M Holding; C Bartlett.

Results:

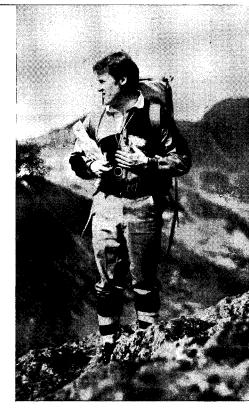
Dean Close School	` Sat	28 Sept	(h)	Won	22-14
Bloxham School	Wed	2 Oct	(a)	Won	20-4
Shiplake College 1st XV	Sat	5 Oct	(a)	Lost	4—10
Solihull School	Sat	12 Oct	(h)	Won	22-12
Oxford School	Wed	16 Oct	(h)	Won	37—0
Magdalen College School	Sat	19 Oct	(h)	Won	166
Radley College	Sat	2 Nov	(a)	Lost	0—10
Gosford Hill School 1st XV	Wed	6 Nov	(h)	Won	48—0
RGS, High Wycombe	Sat	9 Nov	(a)	Won	22—0
Reading School	Sat	16 Nov	(h)	Won	150
Pangbourne College	Wed	20 Nov	(a)	Won	36—0
Lord Williams's School, Thame	Wed	27 Nov	(a)	Lost	0-32
St Bartholemews School, Newbury	Sat	30 Nov	(h)	Won	22—9
John Mason School 1st XV	Wed	4 Dec	(h)	Won	14—6
Sporting Club of South London	Sat	7 Dec	(h)	Won	136
Warwick School	Wed	11 Dec	(a)	Lost	0-48

Played 16; Won 12; Lost 4; Points For 291, Against 167.

Third Fifteen

Another very good season in which enjoyment of the game has been the keynote. Results were good, six victories to five defeats but only in the Radley match were we beaten at all decisively. The team was competently led by Paul Thompson











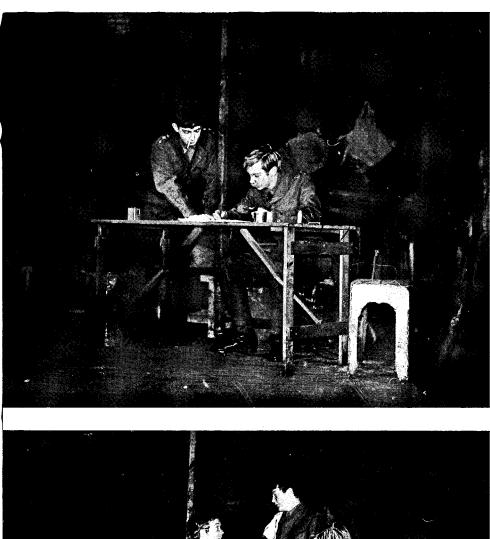














from the middle of the front row and he was very effectively supported by a pack which could hold its own with the best opposition: indeed three of our forwards, Cromie, Waterfall and GF Woods, moved up to the second fifteen in the second half of the season. At half-back, we had something of a problem. Betts proved a strong and proficient stand-off but too often found himself playing with a different scrum-half. Indeed this position was never filled to complete satisfaction although Thomas, our final choice, made himself into a very adequate player. Hobson, at full-back, was always cool and reliable and improved with every game. Of the backs, Courtenay was a tower of strength and we were glad that work for exams led him to play for us rather than a more senior side but the others all had their good matches. Perhaps Byrne—willing and able to play in most positions—was the most improved member of the team, and well deserved his late game in the second fifteen at the end of the season. All in all, a team enjoyable to coach and, on its day, to watch in action.

The following played for the side: CWP Hobson; AD Courtenay, S Wilson, JP Barton, AD Byrne, CS Orchard, SPG Hammond; PA Betts, DA Thomas; SJ Lawson, PF Thompson (Capt), BAL Peck, PM Watson, CJ Bartlett, DC Eccles, MR Waterfall, SJH Cromie, GF Woods, M. Holding, S de Lusignan and C Taylor.

Results:

Dean Close School:	Sat	28 Sept	(a):	Lost	9—12
Bloxham School:	Wed	2 Oct	(h):	Won	383
Solihull School:	Sat	12 Oct	(h):	Won	309
Magdalen College School:	Sat	19 Oct	(a):	Won	62—6
Radley College:	Sat	2 Nov	(a):	Lost	6-30
Oratory School:	Wed	6 Nov	(h):	Won	18—0
Reading School:	Sat	16 Nov	(h):	Lost	010
Pangbourne College:	Wed	20 Nov	(h):	Cance	led
Bearwood College:	Sat	23 Nov	(a):	Lost	47
Thame School:	Wed	27 Nov	(h):	Lost	0—12
Newbury School:	Sat	30 Nov	(h):	Won	280
Warwick School:	Wed	11 Dec	(h):	Won	84

Fourth Fifteen:

Three matches were played and those turning out put up very creditable performances and deserved a better fixture list.

The following played for the side and some of them also on the odd occasion for the Third Fifteen: IC Thackwray; GN Green, RG Geere, RW Holder, M Arbrines, NP Kay, CL Applegate; SW Morden, MR Osborne; C Taylor, GK Jones, PA Bywater, SEC Crouch, AJ Capel, Aubrey Capel, CJ Scott and SF Wakeford.

Results:

Marlborough College:	Thurs	26 Sept	(h):	Lost	10-22
Shiplake College:	Sat	5 Oct	(a):	Won	11—6
Radley College:	Sat	2 Nov	(h):		

DOW

Colts Fifteen:

Despite the occasional victory, the team was out-played quite regularly by opponents who possessed more flair, imagination and natural ball-playing skill. That the players did not give up, but applied themselves to the tasks of learning skills, is therefore to their credit. All in all, however, this was a Colts' side slow to learn basics. Overlaps must be created, or grasped when they arise, but the backs were too often sluggish in their reading of a situation. The forwards were themselves too often disposed to 'go it alone' when only concerted activities, on which considerable time was lavished in practice, could guarantee a regular supply of good ball.

The pack was the more settled unit, however. Dewar was a dependable prop, Sowden a rugged mauler, and McCreery a spirited hooker. In most matches enough ball was won to produce tries, although the forwards rarely looked like scoring themselves from set moves. The backs did not really run hard enough at their opponents, and the timing and dexterity of passes was at fault. Not enough courage was seen in tackling at times. Young was a balanced runner who could with confidence do much more; Rimmer generalled the side sensibly from halfback; and Semmence, with application, could be a promising scrum-half. Despite many defeats, the side showed honesty and concern in its self-criticism and a good many players will make useful contributions in the future.

JRG/HJPG

The following played: RG Gilbert; TD Oliffe, AM Young, LM Jones-Walters, RM Tourret, MA Kelly, DC Rimmer, TC Semmence, PJ Eccles, DJ Driver, GA Light, RD Watson, JK Dewar, GA McGreery, AH Cook, DG Light, CP Sowden, SF Williams, RN Freeman, AJ Furley, MR Hyman, RJ Humm and TF Booth.

Results:

Oratory School: Marlborough College: Bloxham School: Solihull School:	Sat	28 Sept	(a):	Lost	6—21
	Thurs	26 Sept	(h):	Lost	0—34
	Wed	2 Oct	(a):	Won	20—10
	Sat	12 Oct	(a):	Lost	0—38
Magdalen College School: John Mason School:	Sat	19 Oct 23 Oct	(h)	Lost	0—37
Radley College:	Wed Sat	2 Nov	(h): (h):	Won Lost	18—4 0—40
Reading School: Pangbourne College:	Sat	16 Nov	(a):	Lost	0—26
	Wed	20 Nov	(h):	Won	10—3
Bearwood College:	Sat	23 Nov 30 Nov	(a):	Lost	4—12
Newbury School:	Sat	11 Dec	(a):	Won	10—4
Warwick School:	Wed		(a):	Lost	0—53

'B' Fifteen:

Marlborough College:	Thurs	26 Sept	(h):	Lost	48
Solihull School:	Sat	12 Oct	(a)	Won	26—6
Radley College:	Sat	2 Nov	(h):	Lost	0-64

Junior Colts Fifteen

This year's Junior Colts had the attributes of physique and a fair amount of spirit. Skill, however, was at a premium and the lack of it was particularly marked in the midfield play. The forwards' success stemmed from a remarkably solid and efficient frontrow, which more than made up for any deficiencies further back. The find of the season was Mitchell who did very well in his first term at

scrum half. Otherwise, our strength outside lay on the wings where Edwards particularly used his speed and power to advantage especially in the win over Radley. Too often, however, the narrowness of our pitch prevented the backs' talents being used to the full.

The side was well led by Spittles who displayed an extremely mature and positive approach to his responsibility. In addition, he developed an ability to place-kick which he demonstrated most impressively on the 1st XV pitch.

Whether this particular year continue to improve depends very much on their ability to apply themselves to training and team co-operation; when they put their mind to it they can be very good indeed,

HE

The following played regularly for the team: C Holding, NS Edwards, BW Burles, JB Jones, JD Robinson, MS King, G Mitchell, PG Spittles (Capt.), GM Gnapp, JW Slingsby, RA Joy, RS Harries, KW Larsen, MD Andrews, BR Hodkinson and M Swan.

Results:

Marlborough College:	Thurs	26 Sept	(a):	Lost	0-22
Dean Close School:	Sat	28 Sept	(h):	Won	580
Bloxham School:	Wed	2 Oct	(h):	Drawn	12—12
John Mason School:	Wed	9 Oct	(a):	Won	29-24
Solihull School:	Sat	12 Oct	(h):	Lost	4-41
Magdalen College School:	Sat	19 Oct	(h):	Won	24—0
Oxford School:	Thurs	24 Oct	(a):	Won	51—0
Radley College:	Sat	2 Nov	(h):	Won	124
RGS, High Wycombe:	Sat	9 Nov	(h):	Won	19—0
Reading School:	Sat	16 Nov	(a):	Won	23-4
Pangbourne College:	Wed	20 Nov	(a):	Lost	13—16
Bearwood College:	Sat	23 Nov	(h):	Won	28-4
Thame School:	Wed	27 Nov	(a):	Won	3—0
Newbury School:	Sat	30 Nov	(a):	Won	42—0
Warwick School:	Wed	11 Dec	(a):	Won	18—4
Leighton Park School:				Won	13—9
'B' Fifteen Results:					
Marlborough College:	Thurs	26 Sept	(a):	Lost	030
Solihull School:	Sat	12 Oct	(a):	Lost	0—52

Junior Fifteen:

Radley College:

Cokethorpe School:

The team soon established themselves as a formidable side. A successful Fifteen, however, is always tempted to rest on its laurels and the strain begins to tell on the players who do most of the work. This led to a decline in standard and to two defeats in mid-season. A major reshuffle followed and the overall standard improved to such a degree that by the end of the season 828 points were amassed in 25 matches.

Sat

Wed

2 Nov

13 Nov

(h):

(h):

Lost

Lost

3—10

3-30

With fewer fixtures during the Lent Term and the rest of the School changing to hockey, there is a danger of junior rugger going off the boil. However, it was during this period that the team produced its best rugby, winning all 9 matches. Solihull School provided the perfect climax to the season—an accomplished win

by an Abingdon side which knew how to play good, open rugger because it had practised long and hard enough to achieve this end.

John Madgwick was a most competent captain, setting a fine example, and his speed and perfectly timed side-stepping accounted for his 180 points this season. Peter Douglas, vice-captain, set himself the highest standards and asked for nothing less from his forwards. The fearless tackling and sound kicking of Stuart Cameron at full-back, the determined running and tackling of the two wings, Philip Ashby and Andrew Carrie, and the skill of Graham Halsey at outside-centre in drawing his men all impressed greatly. At half-back, Bruce Gow was an unselfish fly-half, spearheading many a fine movement and we were fortunate in having a scrum-half of the calibre of Ben Messer, excellent at timing his pass and cool under pressure. Nicholas Williams and David Merriman, props, and Alastair Robertson, the hooker, made up a strong front row. Williams in addition, proved a very good place-kicker and must be congratulated on scoring 190 points in the season. The other forwards, Gary Rogers and Michael Hurry in the second row and Michael Dacre and William Hoggarth, wingforwards, showed great promise while Tim Robson, playing in almost any position, was the most improved member of the side.

The 'B' Fifteen also had an enjoyable and successful season, winning 6 of their 8 matches.

My thanks to all those who helped with the refereeing and to the parents who turned out so frequently to support the team—they certainly encouraged the good team spirit so important in junior rugby.

JD D-H

The final arrangement was: SD Cameron; PDJ Ashby, JS Madgwick, GR Halsey, ALS Carrie; WB Gow, BJ Messer; DG Merriman, AJF Robertson, NG Williams, G Rogers, MA Hurry, MJ Dacre, WA Hoggarth, PP Douglas, TD Robson.

Also played: RS Drew, MJ Howlett, PH James, PW Hammond, PJ Davidson.

Results:

Marlborough College:	Thurs	26 Sept	(h):	Won	16-12
Oratory School:	Sat	28 Sept	(h):	Won	46-4
Bloxham School:	Wed	2 Oct	(a):	Won	206
John Mason School:	Wed	9 Oct	(a):	Won	70—12
Solihull School:	Sat	12 Oct	(a):	Won	2018
Magdalen College School:	Sat	19 Oct	(a):	Won	34—0
Oxford School:	Thurs	24 Oct	(h):	Won	46—0
Radley College:	Sat	2 Nov	(a):	Lost	9—20
RGS, High Wycombe:	Sat	9 Nov	(h):	Won	32—0
Reading School:	Sat	16 Nov	(a):	Lost	616
Pangbourne College:	Wed	20 Nov	(a):	Won	168
Bearwood College	Sat	23 Nov	(h):	Won	22-4
Thame School:	Wed	27 Nov	(h):	Won	2510
Newbury School:	Sat	30 Nov	(h):	Won	38—8
Leighton Park School:	Wed	4 Dec	(h):	Won	76—10
Warwick School:	Wed	11 Dec	(h):	Won	8-4
Oratory School:	Sat	18 Jan	(h):	Won	280
Borlase's School, Marlow:	Sat	25 Jan	(a):	Won	3010
Borlase's School, Marlow:	Tue	4 Feb	(h):	Won	326
Newbury School:	Sat	8 Feb	(h):	Won	244
Cokethrope School:	Wed	19 Feb	(h):	Won	680
=			- •		

Burford School:	Wed	26 Feb	(a):	Won	620
Henley RFC:	Sun	2 Mar	(a):	Won	320
Solihull School:	Sat	8 Mar	(h):	Won	4210
Matthew Arnold School:	Mon	10 Mar	(h):	Won	260

Minors Fifteen:

After two outstandingly good seasons, this one seemed bound to be disastrous for we started with a group of players that lacked experience or real flair. The cards were stacked against us too in other ways: we lost most of our practices in both terms, either because of bad weather, or because we have the lowest priority in the use of separate pitches, and almost all of our matches were played in wet and muddy conditions. These do not suit the style of play we aim at, and we had too small a scrum to establish real superiority 'up front'.

In spite of all this, our overall record was very pleasing, with two-thirds of all our matches won, especially as more than 60 members of the Lower School (almost half of those eligible) played in at least one fixture. Two factors especially explain this. Firstly there was a very promising first-year intake: four first-formers established themselves in the First Team backs, and added much-needed dash and drive, and another four played well in the Second Team scrum. Secondly, everyone worked very hard to improve his game within the context of the team; the emphasis was so much on teamwork this year that I shall mention no individual by name (except, as he is not named below, another first-former, Peter Hall, an American visitor who looked a 'natural' but unfortunately left at Christmas).

The First Team won only one match easily, against Burford; on (significantly) one of the few dry days we had the team played brilliant Rugby to score ten fine tries. The more usual ration was one well-executed try per match, and many of the matches could have gone the other way had the team's work-rate and spirit been less. Of the four defeats, three were attributable entirely to our opponents' greater phsysique, size being so crucial at this level; the Reading match was between two well-balanced teams, and we could well have won it in the second half, for we were on the attack throughout and spurned a penalty in front of the posts with only a few minutes left.

The Second Team came on well too, even after losing its best first-formers to the First, and they were only outplayed at Reading—and even then only in the scrum, as the result shows. The two defeats were due to extraneous factors and best forgotten.

MW

Final Teams:

1st XV: JA Littlewood (Capt.); TJC Haworth, IF Viney, GD Harper, RJ Adair; IC Graham, GP Lanham; GES Wilson, PJ Burren, ASJ Patchett; DCP Griffith, AN Trigle; CF Hubbard, RF Benjamin, T Jefferson.

2nd XV (from): J Cook; CG Egelstaff, AH Linley, WK Mellor, KS Schmaltz: MS Fulwell, AJ Round (Capt.); NCJ Yaxley, PA Capelin, TJ Reenan; NCH Wormell, RAF Simpson, BRJ Rhys; IM Simpson, ME Emerton, JV Partridge, DA Game.

267

Results:

Acsuus.					
1st Fifteen:					
St Hugh's, Faringdon:	Wed	9 Oct	(a):	Won	18—8
Millbrook House	Wed	16 Oct	(h)	Drew	4-4
Pinewood School:	Sat	19 Oct	(h)	Drew	0-0
Oratory School:	Wed	23 Oct	(a)	Won	22—6
Prior's Court School:	Sat	9 Nov	(h)	Won	84
Lord William's, Thame	Sat	16 Nov	(a):	Lost	718
Audley House School:	Sat	30 Nov	(h)	Won	6—4
Dragon School 2nd XV:	Sat	7 Dec	(h):	Won	104
St. Bartholomew's, Newbury:	Sat	8 Feb	(a)	Won	220
John Mason School:	Thurs	13 Feb	(a):	Lost	4—24
Burford G. School:	Wed	26 Feb	(a):	Won	42—0
Reading School:	Sat	1 Mar	(a):	Lost	46
High Wycombe R.G. School:	Wed	5 Mar	(a):	Lost	18—0
William Borlase, Marlow:	Fri	7 Mar	(h):	Won	200
Berkhamstead School:	Sat	15 Mar	(a):	Won	8—0
2nd Fifteen:					
Carmel College 1st XV:	Mon	4 Nov	(h):	Won	44_0
Oratory School 1st XV:	Wed	6 Nov	(h):	Won	22—0
Lord William's, Thame:	Sat	16 Nov	(a):	Lost	48
Dragon School 4th XV:	Sat	7 Dec	(h):	Won	22-4
St. Bartholomew's, Newbury:	Sat	8 Feb	(a):	Won	14-0
Cothill House 1st XV	Wed	19 Feb	(h):	Won	12-0
Reading School:	Sat	1 Mar	(a):	Won	10—0
High Wycombe R.G. School:	Wed	5 Mar	(a):	Lost	08
William Borlase, Marlow:	Fri	7 Mar	(h):	Won	200
Berkhamsted School:	Sat	15 Mar	(a):	Won	86
Other matches:					
3rd XV v. Carmel College 1st XV	Mon	18 Nov	(h):	Drew	4-4
'A' XV v. Matthew Arnold 1st XV:	Tues	21 Jan	(h):	Lost	4-14
'A' XV v. Oratory Prep 1st XV:	Sat	29 Jan	(h):	Won	10-6
3rd XV v. Summerfields 2nd XV:	Wed	12 Feb	(h):	Drew	00
3rd XV v. Summerfields 2nd XV:	Sat	8 Mar	(a):	Lost	06
U12 'A' v. Bearwood Coll, 1st XV:	Wed	19 Mar	(h):	Won	180
Waste Court v. Pangbourne 1st XV:	Sat	22 Mar	(a):	Won	12-6

Cross Country

Michaelmas Term:

With 52 boys opting for Crosscountry, there was a wide range of age and ability. Most of the boys enjoyed two runs a week although several fell well short of this; many, too, did well enough to be given a chance of running in School matches. In this respect, Hillary, Allen and Stephenson in particular emerged and enjoyed the challenge of team competition in what was to them a new sport. Two separate groups existed—those who joined just for an occasional run and those who were more serious. It was interesting to see some boys moving from the first to the second group as they improved in performance.

The First Team was captained by David Lynn with John Gotelee as his secretary. Six matches were held. In the first at Millfield we finished 5th as against 8th last year but in a slower time and Richard Hingley had the 7th fastest time overall. The regular fixture against Stowe and Bradfield went our way again and Hingley did well once more to win in 20.25. In this match over the Sunningwell course we fielded three teams of 5 so that a lot of boys gained competitive experience. Our 'B' team came 4th and our 'C' team 6th. At the difficult Schools v. Freshmen match, we simply had to have all the best runners available but with Lynn and Gotelee injured we were beaten by the University and also by Dr Challenors' and Haberdashers' Aske's, Cullen (4th) and Hingley (6th) did best here. Our home match, won against Winchester, was combined with a Colts' match and nine boys out of sixteen did personal bests, with Cullen recording an outstanding 20.10. At the Wycombe relay, Cullen, Lynn and Hingley gave us 2nd place at halfway but we dropped to 5th at the end. The last match was against the best team Marlborough-now coached by Bruce Tulloch-have had for years and 'though we lost fairly decisively we beat the three other teams competing.

On the last Saturday of term, Hingley, Cullen and Owen ran in the Berks, Bucks and Oxon Championships at Windsor and helped to win team silver medals for Oxford City AC. In the Berks AAA Championships, held concurrently, Hingley and Cullen did well enough to earn selection for that county. Both opted to retain their Berks qualification—in spite of Abingdon now being in Oxford-shire—and Hingley was thus able to go up and collect the individual bronze medal for Berkshire.

The following ran in other matches: AG Hillary, CP McKenzie, DGA Stephenson, JC Barnes, ADA Walker, DM Byfield, AG Morfey, MNK Saunders, CH Allen, PA Noble, IS Cullen, SA Young, JV Parsons, M Owen, DP Lynn, PC Moore, S Wilson, NI Tait, IR Holding, PD Corina and SD Holdaway.

Results of other matches:

Colts v. Oxford Schools (h): Wed 9 Oct: Sch. (37); Oxf. (45)

Colts v. Westminster School: Thurs 24 Oct (h): West. (114); Sch. (116)

Wilts & Border League: Wed 13 Nov (a): 4th out of 28 teams Oxon Trial: Sat 23 Nov (a): Owen and Morfey selected

Instead of the Inter-House Races at the end of term, this year we held Inter-Form Races. Attendance was compulsory for all forms below the Sixth and great keenness was shown. In the First Form race, Mr Baker's son, Richard, led the field home with the second fastest time ever. The Junior race, for 2nd and 3rd Forms, produced an extraordinary finish with MI Chapman, SJ Mulvey and J Littlewood sprinting for a tie-finish. In the Senior race for 4th, 5th and Sixth Forms, Cullen did just enough to win as his chief rivals from the Sixth had opted not to run. Nonetheless, his time was the second fastest ever for a fifth-former.

The First Form Race was won by Form IG with Form IW second; the Junior Race was won by Form 2J with Form 2C second and Form 3G third; and the Senior Race went to Form 5H followed by Form 5E and 5Y.

For the record, existing best times are: First Forms—MD Andrews (1971) 7.18; 2nd/3rd Forms—NKA Smart (1965) 8.53; 4th/5th Forms—RC Hingley (1973) 17.03; 6th/VIth Forms—CF Vernon (1972) 16.01.

Lent Term:

Injuries and loss of form meant that results in this Lent Term were below expectations. However, with one exception, all our matches were difficult ones and in

fact the 6th position gained in the Tortoises Relay was a very fine effort when one

remembers the quality of opposition.

In the area championships at Westminster College, we had to defend the Milton Trophy and it is difficult to see how we lost it as we dominated three of the age-groups. In the event, the races were held on a miserable afternoon over a muddy course and having the correct footwear was a crucial factor. Hingley, despite a long training run the day before, had a notable first-ever win over Bridgeman of King Alfred's. Cullen had another close struggle but lost a shoe near the end and had to settle for second. The other boy to gain an individual certificate was Bell who finished narrowly ahead of Baker. Eight runners were selected to represent the Vale of White Horse in the Inter-Area at Banbury—Hingley, Lynn, Geere, Moore (under 20), Cullen, Morfey, Owen and Walker (under 17).

For the Tortoises Road Relay, everybody, for a change, was fit so we had our strongest team. The 'A' team of Lynn, Hingley, Moore and Cullen ran particularly well and were over a minute faster than last year, though in 6th position again. The 'B' team with Owen just breaking 15 minutes on his lap were ten

places up on last year and nearly three minutes faster.

Five boys gained selection for Oxfordshire in the All-England at Derby, and Hingley, Morfey, and Owen all gained valuable experience there although they found the opposition very tough. Lynn and Cullen were unable to make the trip to Derby at the last moment but earlier in the term, Cullen had run in the National Championships for Oxford City AC at Luton where he was 87th with Walker 301st.

Full Colours were awarded to IS Cullen and RG Geere and Half-Colours to S Wilson, AG Morfey, AD Walker and M Owen. The captain this term was DP Lynn and the secretary PC Moore.

The following competed for the First Team: IS Cullen, S Wilson, RC Hingley, DP Lynn, RG Geere, AG Morfey, PC Moore, AD Walker, M Owen and GK Iones

The following took part in other matches: AG Morfey, M Owen, GK Jones, AD Walker, MI Chapman, SJ Mulvey, RC Hingley, IS Cullen, DP Lynn, RG Geere, G Mitchell, RPA Martin, KS Schmaltz, RW Baker, PC Moore, JV Parsons, CH Allen, AM Young, AG Hillary, SD Napier-Munn, JA Littlewood, RJ McMahon, DJ Bell, DK Robinson, TG Fellows, RM Hawes and AT Black.

Results:

First Team Matches:

Dr Challenor's Relay: Sat 25 Jan (a): 'A' Team 6th; 'B' Team 16th (20 teams)

Clifton College Schools Invitation: Sat 15 Feb (a): 5th (Cullen 3rd)

Tortoises Road Relay: Wed 26 Feb (a): 'A' Team 6th; 'B' Team 14th (34 teams)

Old Abingdonians: Sat 15 Mar (h): 1st

King Alfred's School and MCS: Wed 19 Mar (h): 2nd

Other Matches:

Vale of White Horse Champs: Wed 29 Jan (a): 2nd (10 teams):

U/20—Hingley (1st); Lynn (4th); Geere (5th); Moore (6th)

U/17—Cullen (2nd); Morfey (4th); Owen (6th); Walker (8th)

U/15—Schmaltz (24th)

U/13—Bell (3rd); Baker (4th); Robinson (7th)

Oxon AAA Champs: Sat 1 Feb (a): U/16—Morfey (2nd); Owen (3rd) Oxon Inter-Area: Sat 8 Feb (a): U/20—Lynn (3rd); Geere (11th)

U/17—Cullen (1st); Morfey (6th); Owen (9th); Walker (13th) Colts v. King Alfred's Sch.; Sat 19 Mar (h): Lost

All England Schs Champs: Sat 22 Mar (a): U/20—Hingley (253rd: 3rd for Oxon) U/17—Morfey (269th); Owen (310th)—3rd and 6th for Oxon

On Monday, 10th February, the Schools' Inter-Form Road Relay was contested and, as an extra flavour, prizes were offered to the best teams from each year. All the 1st, 2nd, 3rd Forms and nearly all the 5th and VIth Forms took part but the 4th and 6th Forms were poorly represented. The winning Form was VIT (Moore, Gotelee, Lawson, Lynn) and 4M (Gale, Gnapp, Martin, Owen) did well to come ahead of 5H. Iain Cullen set an intermediate lap record of 8.21 and other best times were recorded by Walker (8.45), Lynn (8.54), Gotelee (9.03), Owen (9.04), Wilson (9.04) and Moore (9.07). A guest Staff team with Mr Pritchard and Mr Baker doubling up were the actual winners, the former managing to put up lap times of 8.14 and 7.53.

Again for the record, the best time recorded for this event are: Forms 6/VI—NKA Smart (1969) 7.53; Forms 4/5—IS Cullen (1975) 8.21; Forms 1/2/3—M Owen (1974) 9.21. The best team was Bennett House (Crawford, Vernon, Balbernie, Smart) in 1969: 34.59.

NAFP

Rowing

During the first half of the Lent Term the Boat Club was able to put in some useful practice, and five eights were soon boating as well as several crews of beginners. After Half Term river conditions were appalling and such practice as was possible became more a matter of physical fitness and survival: technique took second place, to some extent, and the crews were not as polished by the end of term as we should have liked. Generally, however, enthusiasm was maintained and we hope for success in the Summer.

Two fours went to the Henley Head, one Junior and one Novice. The latter returned with the Novice Pennant and the Junior IV was third in its class.

We sent four eights to the Schools' Head at Putney on March 20th. The Colts Eight distinguished themselves by putting up our fastest time, finishing 52nd. The 2nd Eight was 57th, 4 seconds behind them; the 2nd Colts Eight came 67th and the Junior Colts 68th. These results were satisfactory, if a little disappointing. The then First Eight did not compete

Gryphon Boat Club entered four crews in the Abingdon Head in the holidays, and filled 4th, 6th, 7th and 9th places in the Schools section out of 9 entries. We congratulate Stephen Holdoway who in rowing in an Abingdon Rowing Club composite Junior Colts IV on winning the Junior Colts pennant at this event. His crew has also won Junior Colts at their first regatta, and great things are expected of them in the future.

The Sponsored Row in aid of Boat Club funds took place on the last Wednesday of term. Those who took part performed gallantly in unpleasant conditions and we hope that a substantial sum will have been raised, although it would seem at first sight that a number of boys did not find enough sponsors soon enough. The Appeal to past members of the Club has been reasonably successful although this was hampered by the fact that many OAs seem to have moved without letting the School know their whereabouts. However, those who have responded have been exceedingly generous and we are very grateful indeed to them. The Appeal will remain open and any past member of the Club who has not yet sent a contribution and would like to do so is asked to write to me, making his

cheque payable to the 'Abingdon School Boat Club'. A list of contributors is appended. We are also most grateful to TASS for their generous contribution and good wishes for the success of the Appeal.

RGM

Crews

Junior IV: Bow PR Clarke; 2, AJ Capel; 3, CJ Scott; Str, RJ Price; Cox, R Short.

Novice IV: Bow, JA Heard; 2, NR Lemoine; 3, T. Walker; Str, JK Dewar; Cox, DF Lindesay.

2nd VIII: Bow, De Lusignan; 2, MR Beers; 3, MR Hyman; 4, IM Sealy; 5, BAL Peck; 6, MR Twine; 7, DC Homewood; Str, M Holding; Cox, SWN Rogers.

Colts 'A' VIII: Box, DA Halliday; 2, DM Lewis; 3, CP Sowden; 4, SF Williams; 5, JJW Breekon; 6, ME Lintott; 7, DM Byfield; Str, R Tauwhare; Cox, DF Lindesay.

Colts 'B' VIII: Bow, JJ Phillipson; 2, CJ Humm; 3, M Freeman; 4, CF Spence; 5, AH Cook; 6, PG Johnston; 7, AJW Furley; Str, RJ Perkins; Cox, M Forsyth.

Jun. Colts VIII: Bow, AJ Bryant; 2, RJ Steed; 3, PG Spittles; 4, RP Emerton; 5, JM Sowden; 6, RA Joy; 7, J. Younge; Str, RV Scriven; Cox, D Angwin

Boat Club Appeal:

S Walker

1st list of Contributors.

* denotes ex-coaches

D M. COTIFOT
JS Hutchins
IW Moss
DEP Jones
RE Parkes
*EHF Sawbridge
*GM Helliwell
GW Dodge
RM Reed
JM Beere
Dr WS Ogden
*RD Baynes
BAF Burn
WM Marshall
JAR Willis
JR Morse
IA Oliver
WW Budden

Lt Col RA Clay Major HR Leach I Navler RR Bailey JH Light PF Booth **RG** Whittington *JJ Horrex SP Sewry **HG Williams** *J Blagden Air Vice Marshal King Mrs. Forsythe C Calvert-Fisher AG Foden DJ Jessett JL Platnaner Abingdon School Society

WW Budden Abingdon School Society

Badminton

This year we have been plagued by considerable problems of organization, caused by the lack of our own courts for practice and match play. In spite of this, the year has probably been the most activic and successful the club has ever had—at least, as far as the teams and their members are concerned. Those who have

not managed to get into a team have not had such a good deal. To them, and particularly to those who continued to play with enthusiasm and dedication, I can only apologise, and say there was little we could have done about it. Next year, the Old Gaol Courts should be ready for use, and, providing finances allow, this should allow us much more court time. Meanwhile, we were very appreciative of the hospitality given to us by John Mason and St Helen's in offering us the use of their sports halls.

The outstanding team achievement was the winning by the 1st VI of the Berkshire Schools League for the third year in succession. They managed it in yet another nail-biting Final, this time against Desborough School. We now have to move officially into Oxfordshire and try our luck with the League that has just been formed there.

The Under 16 team has also had a very successful season, reaching the League semi-final in spite of having a depleted side in the Lent Term. At that point, they lost in a very disappointing manner to a well-drilled, but not especially talented side. However, there are some very promising players coming up, and the future looks fairly bright. John Hester played regularly for the 1st VI, although still under 16, and Nigel Talboys improved so much during the season that he too became a serious contender for a place in the 1st VI. He still has another year to go in the junior age group, so provided he continues to apply himself with the sort of dedication he has shown so far, he should have a very successful career.

It goes without saying that there are a lot of very talented players in the 1st VI, but they have often threatened to do themselves less than justice, either through over-confidence or unwillingness to practice seriously. However, when it has really mattered, they have always pulled something out of the bag, so perhaps it is rather niggardly to suggest criticism. John Samsworth, Keith Halsey and Matthew Savastano have been invaluable members of the club over a long period, and we shall miss them a lot next year, as also Jeremy Taylor, who left school at Christmas.

I have left until last any reference to Adrian Luto, our Captain, County player, County champion of both Oxon and Berks in his age group, and inspiration to the side for several years. With any luck, even now we shall not have seen the last of him, if he returns for the Michaelmas term. Without him, the school team would certainly have been much weaker over a long period, and he has given the younger players in the club a standard to aim at, even if they are very unlikely to come within a mile of it. His achievements this year have justly reflected the immense amount of enthusiasm and dedication that he has brought to the game. He won both the Oxon and Berks Junior Singles Championships, and also the Doubles titles, partnering John Samsworth in the Oxon tournament; he played regularly for the Berkshire Senior 2nd team, and capped it all by playing for the Berkshire 1st team when they visited Holland during the Easter holidays. I for one am extremely grateful for all that he has done over the years, and if these thanks and farewells seem a little premature, I wanted to get them in before he disappeared from our ken.

I should also like to thank Mr Ayling for all the hard work he has put into the running of the club. He has been a great help at a very difficult stage in the club's progress, and I hope that next year, with the inauguration of the new courts, all this year's frustrations will be behind us.

DCT

The 1st VI was selected from: A Luto, J Samsworth, K Halsey, J Taylor, J Hester, M Savastano, WL Yeo, N Tattersfield.

The 2nd VI was from: N Tattersfield, N Talboys, R Navsaria, C Robinson, R Scibilia, S Talboys, SL Hui.

The Under 16 VI from: J Hester, M Taylor, N Talboys, P Gale, M Rivers, K Forsyth, A Morfey, R Martin, S Marshall

Results:

Tresuits.					
First VI—					
Henley School:	22	Oct	(a):	Drawn	31-31
Henley School:	15	Nov	(a):	Won	41-21
Wallingford School:	5	Dec	(a):	Won	$4\frac{1}{2}$ — $2\frac{1}{2}$
Wallingford School:	28	Jan	(h):	Won	$5\frac{1}{2}$ — $1\frac{1}{2}$
Desborough School:	8	Mar	(a):	Won	43
'A' VI—					
Borlase School, Marlow:	22	Nov	(a):	Won	61
RGS, High Wycombe:	27	Nov	(a):	Lost	$3\frac{1}{2}$ $-5\frac{1}{2}$
Oxford School:	26	Feb	(a):	Won	63
RGS, High Wycombe:	5	Mar	(a):	Lost	2—5
Second VI—					
RGS, High Wycombe:	9	Oct	(a):	Won	61-21
Borlase School, Marlow:	10	Mar	(h):	Won	61
Under 16 VI—					
Wallingford School:	7	Nov	(a):	Lost	3-4
John Mason School:	11	Nov	(a):	Won	6å , å
St Birinus School, Didcot:	25	Nov	(a):	Won	6 1 - 1
John Mason School:	29	Nov	(h):	Won	7—0
Wallingford School:	6	Dec	(h):	Won	41-21
Borlase School, Marlow:	22	Jan	(a):	Lost	$1\frac{1}{2}$ $-5\frac{1}{2}$
St Birinus School, Didcot:	28	Jan	(a):	Won	7—0
RGS, High Wycombe:	12	Feb	(a):	Won	5—4
Borlase School, Marlow:	28	Feb	(h):	Lost	3-4
Ashmead School:	5	Маг	(a):	Lost	1151

Orienteering

About 30 boys have taken part in orienteering events these last two terms and though the prime reason for orienteering is the enjoyment of a challenge in the countryside, a number of boys are distinctly bitten by the sport's competitive aspect.

Roger Geere has run into good form and after gaining his M17 and M19 Gold Badges has been getting valuable experience by entering the longest courses at a number of recent events. Two boys became our first holders of Championship Badges—the hallmark of consistency at the highest level: William Baker (M13) who was 3rd in the Southern Championships and also gained his M15 Gold Badge; and Richard Thompson (M12) who was 5th in the British Championships, and also won the November Classic and gained his M13 Gold Badge. Richard Baker (M12—Gold) clearly has great potential—witness his wins at Whiteleaf and in the SW and Wales Championships—but as yet his navigation lacks consistency. The best team result was our M12 win at the Southern Championships.

This Easter the Thames Valley Orienteering Club, of which the school has group membership and of which Mr. Baker is chairman, was responsible for organising the biggest international orienteering competition ever held in this country—over 1,500 competitors. Grateful thanks are due to all those staff, members of the school and their families, and orienteering O.A.s who helped with the organisation and loan of equipment. The event received very favourable press comment.

RHB

Chess

This has been a remarkably successful season, considering that the Club is, in theory, going through a transitional period; in fact, all our teams have been challenging for trophies, even if at the time of writing we stand a chance in only one.

Perhaps our most surprising success was in the Sunday Times Tournament, in which our team reached the Zone Final, before losing to Bedford Modern (who had come second in the country with almost the same team the year before); two of our opponents, High Wycombe and Reading, are very strong at present, and since Christmas all our players have been aged between 12 and 15, so that the scores were most creditable.

In the Berkshire League (Western Section) our Senior Team, which grew younger during the season as the older players dropped out, came second equal; the deciding match, against St Bartholomew's, was very close indeed. Our teams dominated the Under-15s again, as our 'B' team came second, losing only to the 'A' team. Thanks to a change in the rules we were able to put a combined team in for the Final play-offs for the County title; this won one 'leg' of the two, and apparently lost the other, to Windsor School, but we have just discovered that Windsor did not in fact win their section, and so we might be able to win the title after all in the Summer. The only player to win both of his matches was Geoffrey Brown, a first-former of outstanding promise.

Geoffrey was also unbeaten as Captain of our Under-13 team, which played in the Oxford League, and was runner-up to Magdalen College School; with almost the whole team eligible again next year we hope to go one better.

We sent a large contingent to the Berkshire Chess Congress in the Christmas holidays, but won no major titles, although our Under-15s 'packed' well near the top and Andrew Smith won a 'plate tournament'.

Our internal competitions have gone to 'outsiders': in the Christmas Term, Leagues were won by Jonathan Davies and Richard Schofield; in the Easter Term Richard Baker won the new and attractive cup presented for first-year Chess by the parents of Mark Venning, one of our most promising Juniors, who died shortly after winning his important match against the Dragon School. The remaining competitions were unfinished, unfortunately.

At Christmas Philip Marley left, after a long and distinguished (even if interrupted) career in the Club; he developed into a far better player than I once expected, and was unbeaten in his last term. The new Captain is John Stephen, who has taken over Board One with considerable success for a 15-year-old; Martin Spoor, another 15-year-old, is Secretary.

- The Senior Team was selected from: PD Marley, JJ Stephen, ME Spoor, S de Lusignan, RS Chapman, IR Holding, KM Fenelon,
- The U/15 'A' Team was: MD Andrews, RS Harries, R Allen, GP Alcock, PD Corina.
- The U/15 'B' Team was: PA Gregg, GD Brown, JPF Davies, H de Lusignan, SJ Moore or WA Hoggarth,
- The U/13 Team was selected from: GD Brown, AH Smith, MA Venning, JV Partridge, RW Baker, NM Chisnall, GMVP Carey.
- The Sunday Times Team was picked from: PD Marley, JJ Stephen, SJ de Lusignan, ME Spoor, RS Harries, MD Andrews, GD Brown, JPF Davies.

Results:

Berkshire League-

Senior Team

beat Larkmead School 4—1; beat John Mason School 5—0; lost to Newbury School 2—3; beat KAS, Wantage 5—0; drew with Carmel College 2½—2½.

Under 15 'A' Team

beat John Mason School 4—1; beat Carmel College 5—0; beat Newbury School 4—1; beat KAS, Wantage 4—1; beat Abingdon School 'B' 3½—1½.

Under 15 'B' Team

beat John Mason School $4\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$; beat KAS, Wantage 5-0; beat Carmel College 4-1; beat Newbury School $3\frac{1}{2}-1\frac{1}{2}$.

In the County Final first leg, the U/15 team beat Waingel's Copse School 3\frac{1}{2}-1\frac{1}{2}.

Oxford League—

Under 13 Team

beat Gosford Hill School 5—1; beat Larkmead School 5—1; beat John Mason School 5—1; beat St Andrew's School, Cowley $4\frac{1}{2}$ — $1\frac{1}{2}$; beat Northway School $4\frac{1}{2}$ — $1\frac{1}{3}$; beat Dragon School 4—2; beat Fitzharrys School 5—1; lost to Harlow School 2—4; beat Bayswater School 4—2; lost to MagdalenColl. School 2—4.

Sunday Times Tournament-

Round One: beat Oratory School $5\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$; Round Two: beat Waingel's School 5-1:

Round Three: beat RGS, Wycombe 4—2; Round Four: drew with Reading School 3—3 (qualified on age count); Round Final: lost to Bedford Modern $1\frac{1}{2}$ — $4\frac{1}{2}$.

Other Matches-

An all age Team beat RGS, Wycombe 6—5; an U/15 Team beat Bearwood College 6—0; an U/13 Team lost to John Rankin School 1—4; but beat Summerfields $3\frac{1}{2}$ — $1\frac{1}{2}$; the U/15 Team lost to Windsor School 2—3; an all age Team beat Berkhamsted School $7\frac{1}{2}$ — $2\frac{1}{2}$; an U/18 Team beat Larkmead School 4—1.

LISTS

Officers of the School: Lent and Summer 1975

School Prefects:

PA Noble (Head of School and of School House)

NJ Tresidder (Head of Crescent House)

GAN Pott (Head of Larkhill House)

DA Thomas (Head of Waste Court House)

CJ Baumann
APS Luto
GF Woods
RA Balkwill
M Taylor
PJ Brodie
MW Stimpson
PM Evans
RW Holder
SM Hills
CM Wait
NA Litchfield
RG Geere

House Prefects

School House: DJG Mushens, SC Comerford, SA Young, R Gunaratnam.

Larkhill: JP Barton, NA Clark. Waste Court: IM Sealy, JC Johnston

School House: AP Arm, JP Gotelee, JC Barnes, MSA Phillips, GN Green, DC Eccles, RS Chapman, AF Jackson, NR Lemoine, NP Kay, CR Lowe, JV Parsons, IS Thackwray, CD Robinson.

Dayboys: PS Ashby, PA Betts, PD Boon, AJ Capel, PR Clark, CJ Cunninghame, AN Davies, MP Doble, NR Halliday, KD Halsey, MG Howat, IB Lennox, A Murdock, NJA Shephard, RWT Stockwell, NI Tait, NJ Tattersfield, AJ Thresher, GC Walters, MG Wartke, AN Plant, J Samsworth, D. McCutcheon, CS Orchard, S Wilson, B Kochan.

Games Officers:

Michaelmas Term:

Captain of Rugger: PD Cook Secretary of Rugger: PS Ashby Captain of Cross Country: DP Lynn Secretary of Cross Country: JP Gotelee Captain of Badminton: APS Luto Secretary of Badminton: J Samsworth

Lent Term:

Captain of Hockey: CJ Baumann
Secretary of Hockey: CR Lowe
Captain of Boats: RJ Price
Secretary of Boats: T Walker
Captain of Cross County: DP Lynn
Secretary of Cross Country: PC Moore

Summer Term:

Captain of Cricket: MW Stimpson Secretary of Cricket: DJ Lanham Captain of Boats: J Price Secretary of Boats: T Walker Captain of Athletics: A Murdock Secretary of Athletics: MG Wartke Captain of Tennis: GC Walters Secretary of Tennis: AN Plant Secretary of GGC: MW Stimpson

Abingdonian

Editorial Board: RW Kermode, CWP Hobson, SJ Clift, GD Morris and DO

Willis.

Photography: DP Lynn.

OA Editor: AA Hillary. Treasurer: DO Willis.

Hello Goodbye

Left Christmas 1975

VIH: SJH Cromie, AW McPhail, JN Oakley, BJ Polley, PM Watson.

VIE: PF Thompson.

VIB: PD Cook, AH Courtenay, S Walker. VIT: JRA Allen, VT Pugh, PD Marley.

VIC:P de Lusignan, JMG Taylor, MRD Waterfall.

Shell: AD Byrne, SF Waterford.

2B: MA Venning (died).

1G: PT Hall.

Left Easter 1975

3M: AF Beasley, A Pope.

Came Easter 1975

6P: SL Hui, WL Yeo. 3M: CPS Bromhall.

O.A. Notes

Births

Day: on 27 August 1974 to Pamela, wife of Christopher Day (1965), a son, Stephen.

Henson: on 14 June 1974 to the wife of Trevor Henson (1960) a son, Matthew John.

Langton: on 5 December 1974 to Lesley, wife of David Langton (1956), a daughter, Joanne Kate.

Welch: on 2 December 1974 to Janette, wife of Richard Welch (1962), a son, Thomas Richard

Marriages

Brett—Bigelow: on 1 September 1974 at Princeton, New Jersey, Nicholas Brett (1968) to Alice Bigelow.

Faires—Smith: on 28 July 1973 David Faires (1967) to Elaine Smith.

Hills—Ralston: on 26 October 1974 at Surbiton, Andrew Hills (1967) to Frances Ralston.

Deaths

EG Ballard (1911–1917). Teddy Ballard died on 31st December 1974 and he is sadly missed by his friends in the School and town. His kindly and sincere interest in the School and his helpfulness in repairing anything from the School House bell to mowers and tractors was always much appreciated. The John Roysse Lodge in particular and the community in general are the poorer for his departure and we mourn his loss.

RCF Saxby (1913-1921). We much regret to record the death of R Saxby on 9th October 1973.

WH Stevens, ARCS, FRIC (1918–1923). For many years WH Stevens was interested in the School and the OA Club, of which he was President 1936–37. He read Chemistry at Imperial College, London and made his career as an Industrial Chemist in the paper and rubber industries. Latterly he had practised as an independent Consultant to Industry, retiring eventually in 1970. He was Hon. Secretary of the Association of Consultant Scientists from that body's foundation in 1958 until 1968. We send condolences to his widow and his two sons, HB and WNR, both OAs.

Many will remember David Street who was School Chaplain during the 1960s and many others will remember his wife as Sister Margaret Bright. They are now running a big new Youth Community Centre at Hartlepool and their address is 77 Thornhill Gardens, Hartlepool, Co. Cleveland. They would welcome any contact with old Abingdonians either by letter or a visit.

Another step up the ladder, on which we congratulate him, for KG Walker (1942), who is now Area Administrator to the newly formed Buckinghamshire Area Health Authority and also National Secretary to the newly formed 300 strong Association of Chief Administrators of Health Authorities.

Congratulations also to Lt.-Col. Tony Clay, RA (1948), who was awarded the OBE in the New Year Honours List.

Trevor Henson (1960) wrote to say that IBM are closing their data centre in Newcastle in September and that he will either have to move to their Manchester office or get another job in the Newcastle area.

Alastair Matson (1961) married last year, is in property management at the moment but he plans to go into teaching after obtaining the proper qualifications through the Open University. Brother Ian Matson (1963), married with two children, is working as a mechanical engineer near Melbourne, Australia.

Richard Welch (1962) has been busy building his own home into which he moved last summer, and he has just been accepted as prospective Liberal candidate for South West Herts. which covers the Rickmansworth/Bushy area.

Peter Blackburn (1967) wrote from Milan to say that he and Ted Dexter played for MCC (Milan Cricket Club) against Geneva last Spetember on Milan's ground, beautifully situated in the hills between Lakes Lugano and Como. He referred to 'a short, majestic innings' but did not make quite clear whether this was his or Ted's.

Ian Campbell (1967), with an Oxford D.Phil. to his credit, is teaching Biology in the Medical Faculty of Saudi Arabia's University of Riyadh at a huge salary with petrol at 8p a gallon.

Richard Conibear (1967) has a flat overlooking the harbour at Cremorne in New South Wales and is working as a consultant programmer—whatever that is,

From David Faires (1967) came news that he is working in the Consumer Protection Department of the Bucks. County Council and hoping to qualify in a couple of years as what used to be called an Inspector of Weights and Measures. His wife teaches history in Aylesbury.

Vivian Ramsey (1968) wrote to say that he is now married and is on an eighteen month detachment to Tripoli, Libya, where he is supervising the building of the new University of Tripoli.

Congratulations to Jeremy Ridge (1970) whose friends will be delighted to hear that his persistence has been rewarded and that he has got a place for October 1975 at the Royal Free Hospital.

Graham Milton (1970), recently promoted Ft/Lt at RAF Valley, Anglesey, hopes to leave shortly to train as a helicopter pilot. Also at Valley, doing a course on Hunters, is Paul Hardwick (1964).

Richard Willis (1971) recently spoke on Radio Oxford about the forthcoming British Speleological Expedition to New Guinea. He considers himself fortunate in having been chosen as one of the biologists who will help to explore the subterreanean environment beneath the Hindenburg Range in the heart of Papua, one of the most remote and unexplored areas of the world. The expedition which leaves in June and will be away for six months hopes also to establish a new record for the deepest cave system.

Congratulations too to Kevin Barnard (1974) who was a member of the Keble College University Challenge team last November.

Christopher Murray (1971) is now looking for a job with one of the big oil firms and is getting married in the summer to a girl from Ceylon who is on the same course as he is.

Christopher Clayton (1973) is now reading Economics at Brunel University, Uxbridge.

Addresses

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Evans, Clive: Grosvenor House Hotel, Charter Square, Sheffield S1 3EH.

Faires D: 8 Kenilworth Drive, Aylesbury, Bucks.

Foulkes P: 22 The Mount, Guildford, Surrey. Henson M: 55 Moira Close, Tottenham, London, N. 17.

Holmes WG: 58 Wellington Road, Bromsgrove, Worcestershire.

Howard HT: Flat No. 8, 77 Musters Road, West Bridgford, Nottingham. Leach DJ: Hill Cottage, 241 Chipstead Way, Woodmansterne, Banstead, Surrey.

Matson AG: 8 Croft Close, Wokingham, Berks.

Moll R (Rev.): E. Beernaeststraat, 46, 8400 Ostende, Belgium.

Murray C: 2 Tremala, West Looe Hill, Looe, Cornwall. Parks S: 23 Ilbley Road, Caversham, Reading, Berks. Ramsey VA: 53 Nightingale Grove, London SE13 6ER.

Robinson AE: 10 Orchard Road, Share, nr. Guildford, Surrey.

Shellard PM: 31 Edwin Close, Didcot, Berks.

Stevens HB: 17 The Paddock, Headley, Borden, Hants. Stevens WMR: 306-535 Royal Road, Winnipeg, Canada.

Welch R: Gallery House, Duddenhoe End, nr. Saffron Walden, Essex.

Williams HS: The Coach House, Cookhams, Sharpthorne, East Grinstead,

Sussex.

Willis Dr AW: 48 Fir Tree Walk, Westone, Northampton.

NOTE ON PHOTOGRAPHS

(Opposite page 262), four photographs of Staff relaxing—Dr John Fisher on holiday, Mr Gabittass at Hammerbank, Lt-Col Cole of the King's Army, Mr Reynolds 'swanning'.

(Centre left), photographs of Hammerbank, 'hair-raising' trick on Founder's Day, and Skiing.

(Centre right), 1st XV v. Old Abingdonians, first year practice, and 1st XI Hockey.

(Opposite page 263), 'Journey's End'.

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